



# Idaho Water Transactions Program

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Presented by Helen Harrington

Date May 26, 2010

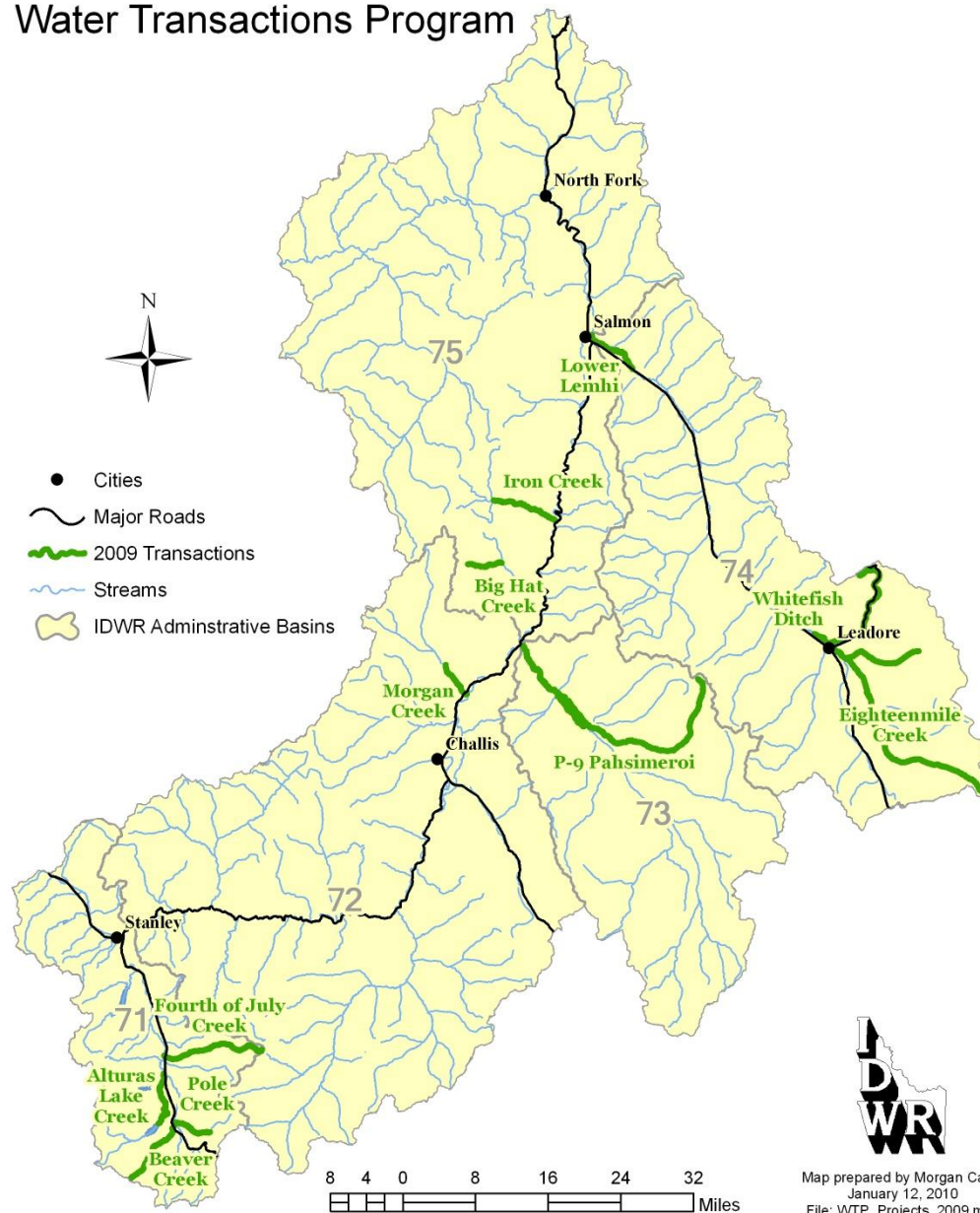


# The Water Transaction Program Philosophy

- Improve ESA-listed fish habitat by increasing stream flows and reconnecting tributary streams
- Respect private property rights using a voluntary cooperative approach
- Respect the values of irrigated agriculture
- Work locally using market-based strategies to maintain local economies and traditional land uses
- Take a balanced approach



# Upper Salmon River Basin Water Transactions Program



Map prepared by Morgan Case  
January 12, 2010  
File: WTP\_Projects\_2009.mxd

# Iron Creek

A change in point of diversion in 2007 resulted in an additional 7 cfs in Iron Creek throughout the irrigation season. In 2009, adult Chinook salmon were observed spawning in Iron Creek for the first time in decades.





# Pole Creek



2004 – pre-project



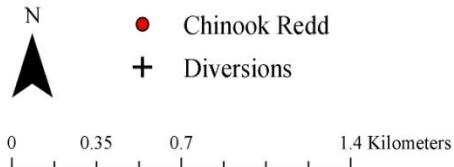
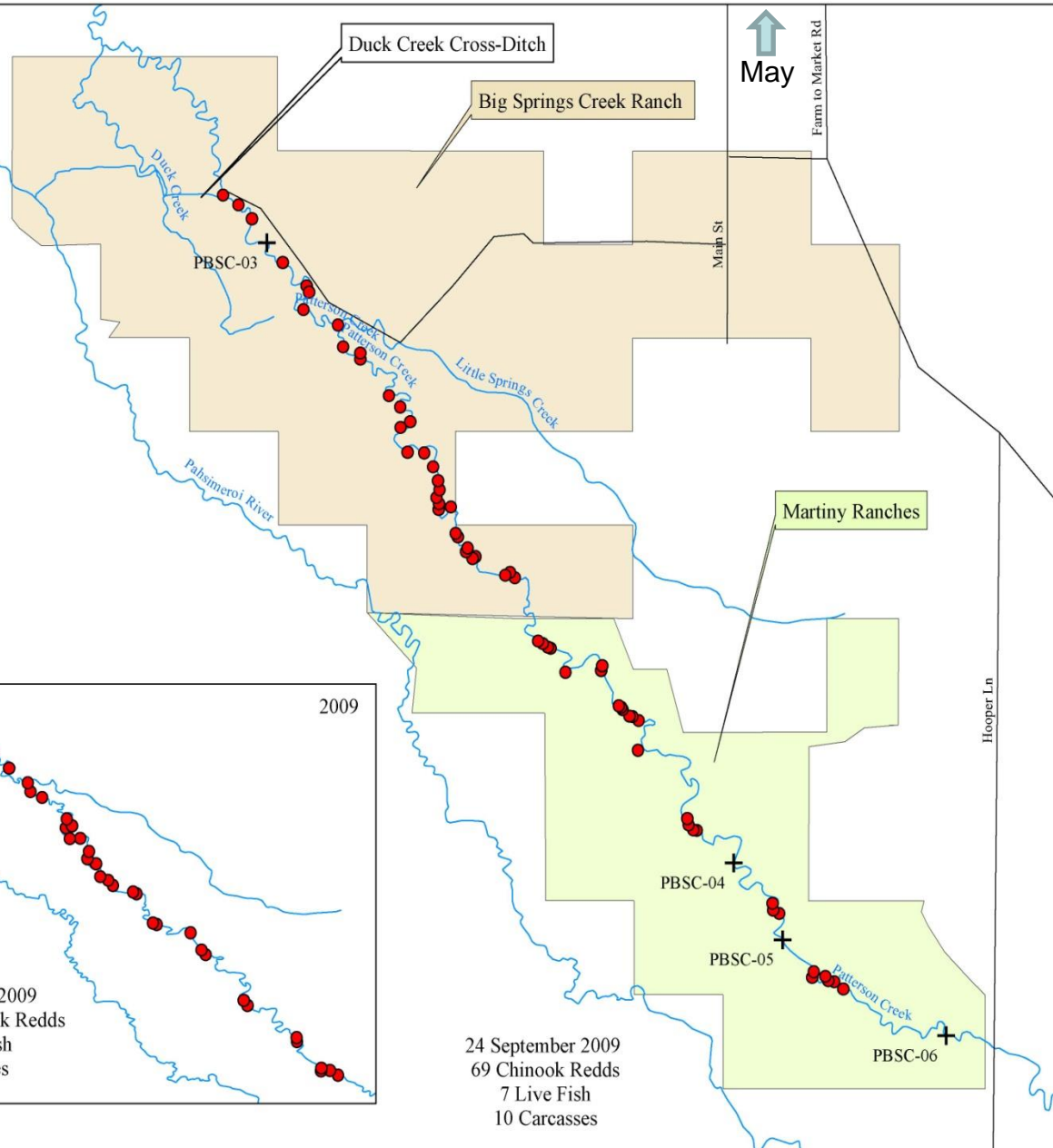
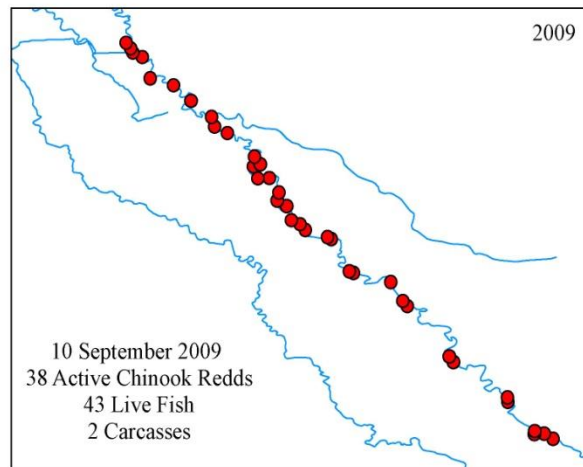
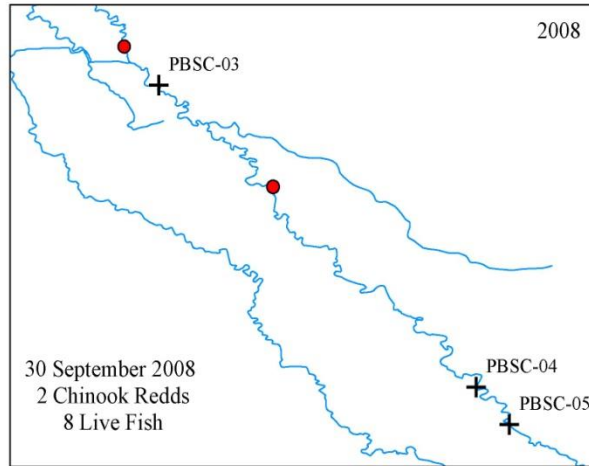
2009 – post-project

A full-season minimum flow agreement has resulted in a minimum flow of 5 cfs in Pole Creek for the past 5 years.



# Patterson Big Springs Chinook Redds

2009 Chinook Redd Counts  
After Reconnection of Lower  
and Upper Big Springs-Patterson  
Creek Following the  
P-9 Ditch Project



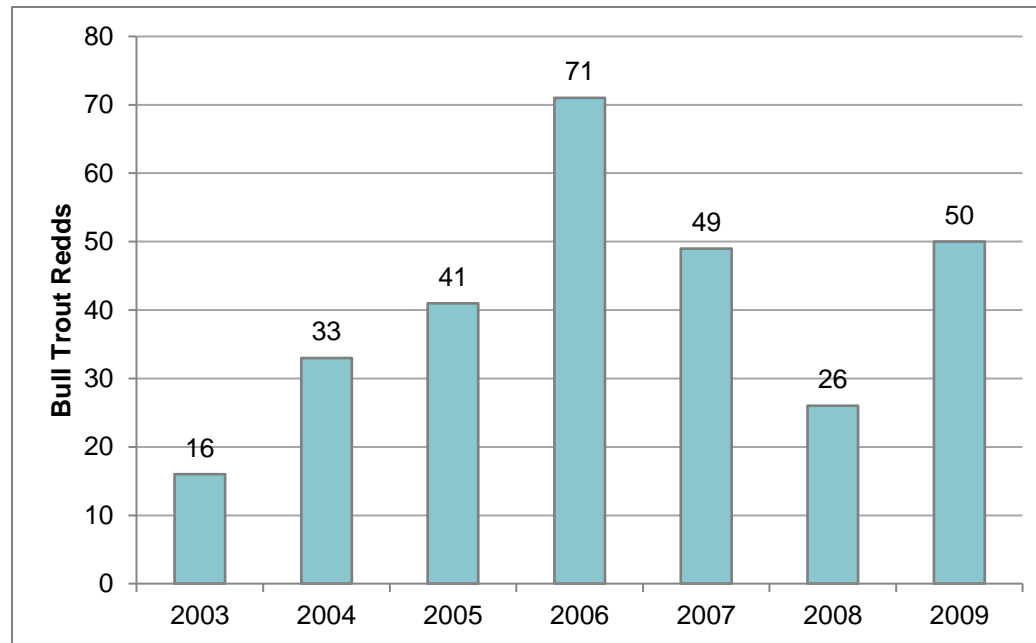
24 September 2009  
69 Chinook Redds  
7 Live Fish  
10 Carcasses



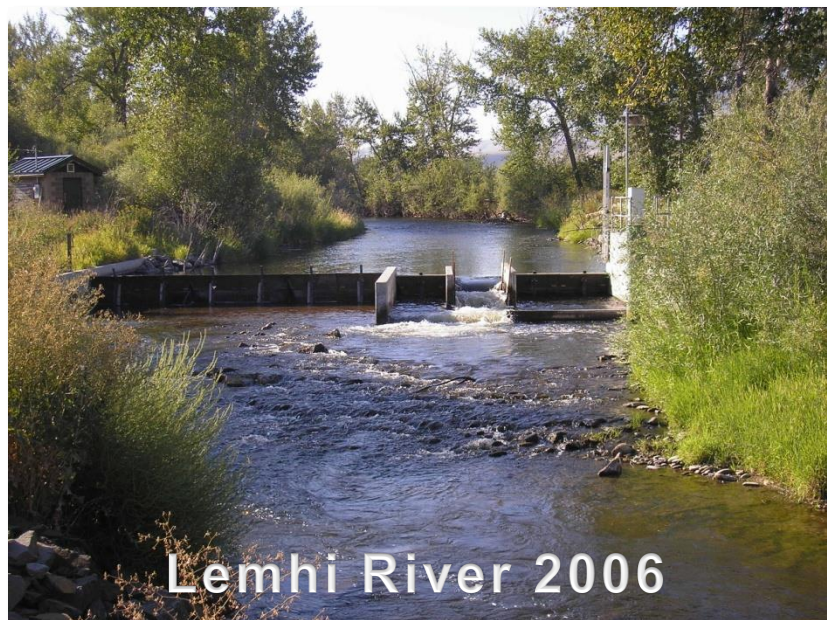
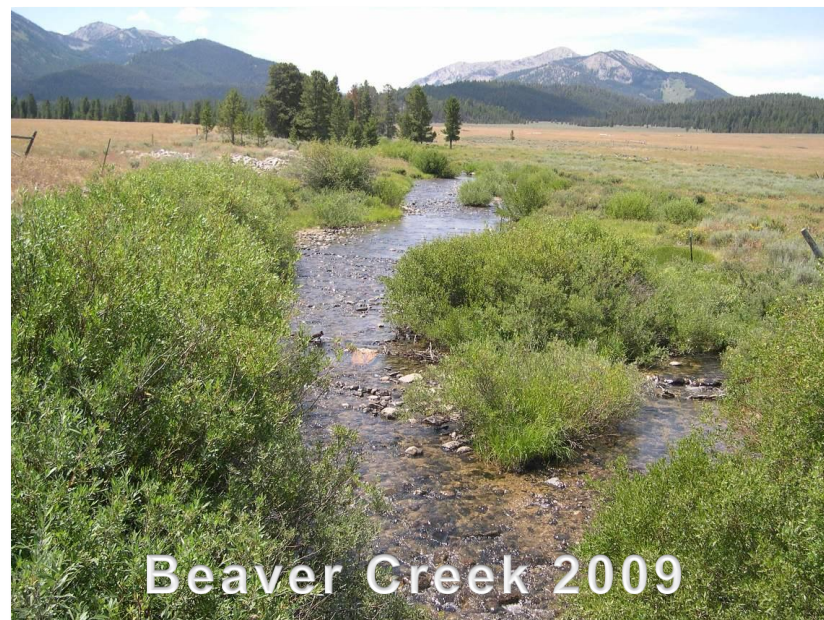
# Fourth of July Creek



A full-season lease over the last 6 years has resulted in a 3 cfs flow improvement in Fourth of July Creek. An increasing trend in fluvial bull trout redd numbers has been observed by IDFG. A 20-year lease was negotiated in 2009.

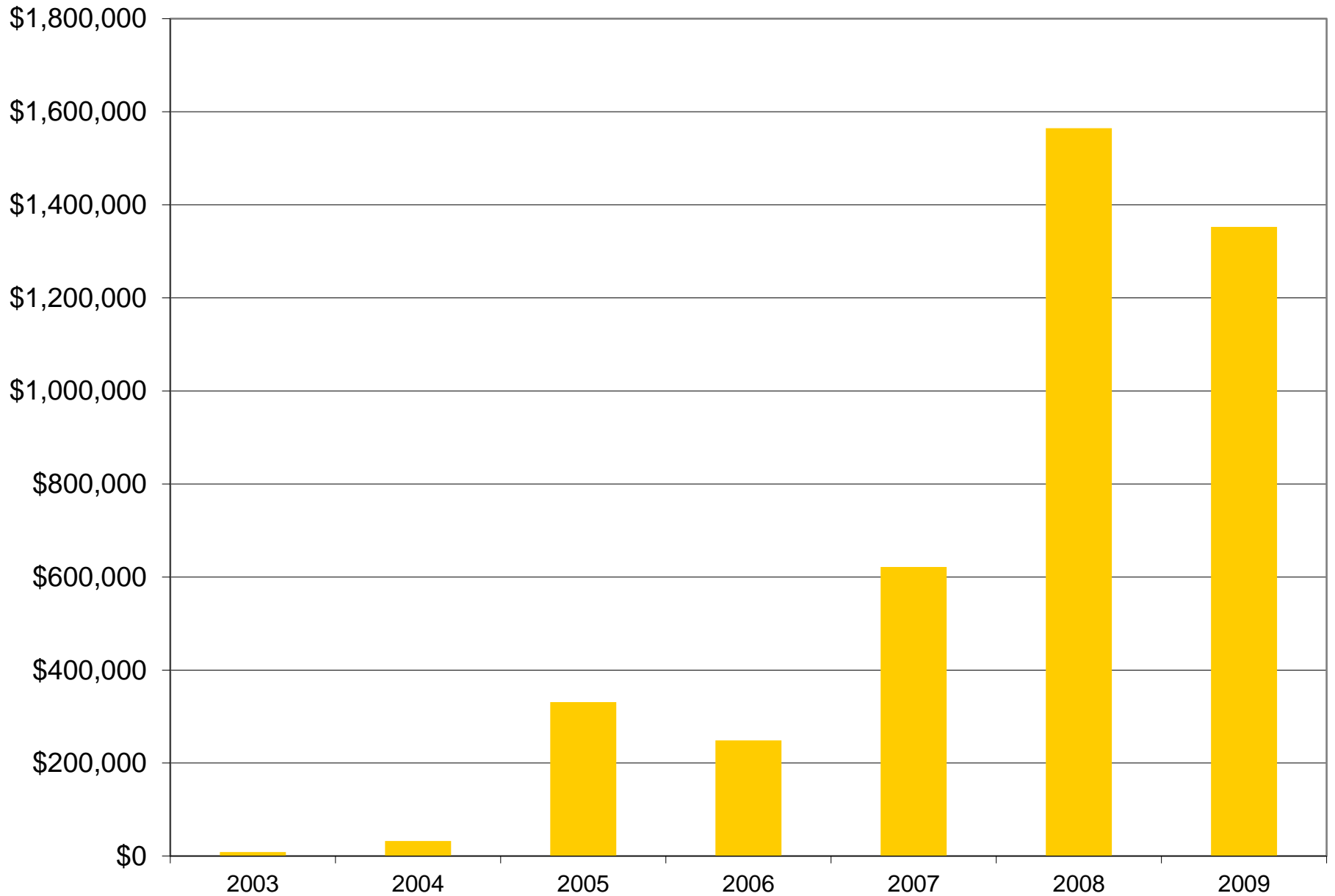








## Idaho Water Transaction Funding



# Strategies

## *Term or Permanent Transactions*

- Leases – full or partial season
- Agreements Not to Divert
  - Minimum Flow Agreements
  - Change in Source
- Conservation Easements
- Purchases/Donations