Idaho Water Transactions Program

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

*Term or Permanent Transactions*

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