

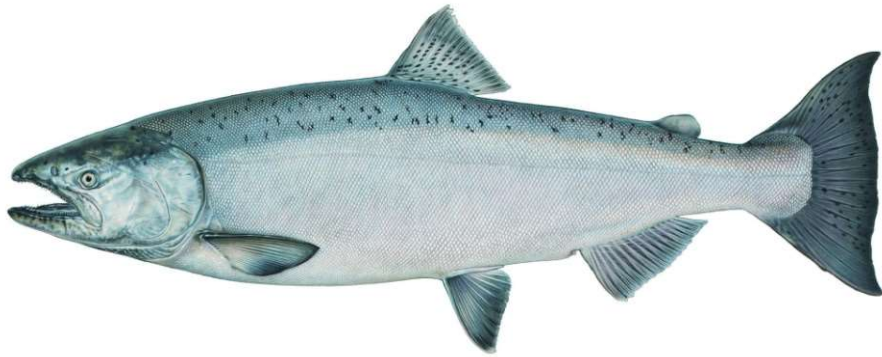
Idaho Water Transactions Program Upper Salmon Basin Strategic Plan

Morgan Case July 13, 2015

Upper Salmon River Basin

- **Issue:** Local economies depend on the diversion of tributary water, but diversions can dewater streams and lead to migration barriers and habitat degradation for Endangered Species Act listed fish.
- **Solution:** Implement a voluntary program that compensates water right owners for changes in irrigation practices that protect the local economy while providing the flows required for recovery of ESA-listed species in accordance with Idaho water law.

ESA – Listed Species



Chinook Salmon



Steelhead



Sockeye Salmon



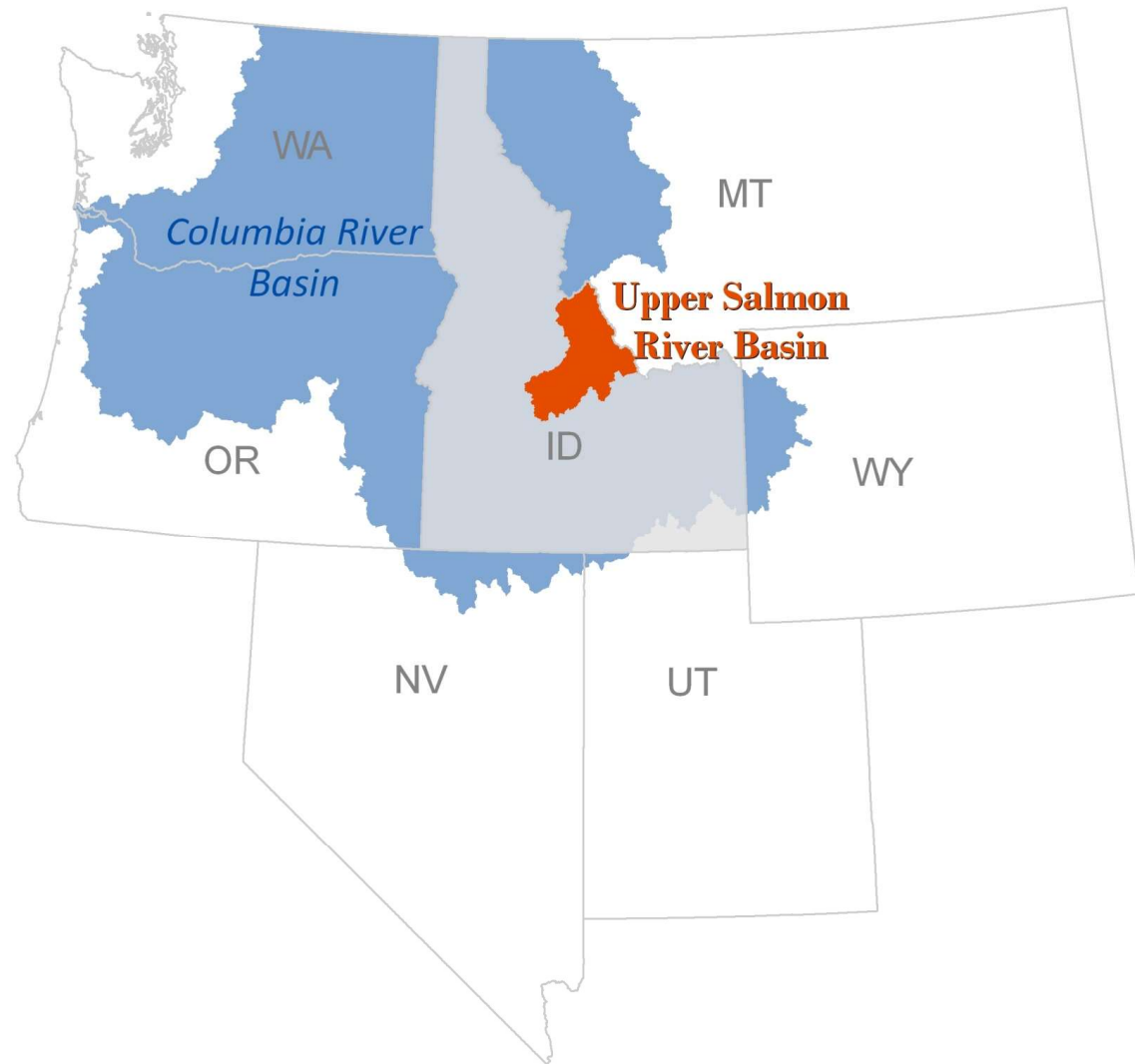
Bull Trout

State of Idaho Obligations

- Idaho Code 42-1506 and 42-1765A - Lemhi MSF and Rental Pool
- Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004
Incentives to improve fish habitat (flow included)
 - ▣ 35 cfs permanently protected in the Lower Lemhi River
 - ▣ 4 Lemhi River tributaries reconnected by 2010
 - ▣ 10 Lemhi River tributaries reconnected by 2024
- Idaho Fish Accords – flow restoration in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi (Biological Opinion)

Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program

- Established in 2002
- Improve tributary flows in the Columbia Basin
- BPA funding
- NFWF administered
- IWRB became a Qualified Local Entity in 2003



Water Transactions Philosophy

- ❑ Improve ESA-listed fish habitat with flow restoration
- ❑ Respect private property rights using a voluntary cooperative approach
- ❑ Respect the values of irrigated agriculture
- ❑ Use market-based strategies
- ❑ Take a balanced approach



Program Funding

- CBWTP
 - ▣ Columbia Basin
 - ▣ BPA funded
 - ▣ NFWF administered
 - ▣ NPCC

- Accord Water Transaction Fund
 - ▣ Lemhi and Pahsimeroi
 - ▣ \$7.6 million 2008-2017

- PCSRF – individual grants

Benefits for State of Idaho

- ❑ Maintain local economies
- ❑ Protect individuals from third party ESA “takings” lawsuits
- ❑ Recovery of ESA-listed species & state management
- ❑ Improved recreation opportunities
- ❑ Improved natural resources for the State
- ❑ Warm fuzzies/cold slimies

Progress to Date

- 75 transactions
- 137 cfs flow
- 23,785 AF instream in 2013
- Over 746,000 AF protected
- \$6.1 million
 - Bonneville Power Administration
 - CBWTP
 - Accords
 - Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund

Upper Salmon River Basin
Water Transaction Program



Lower Lemhi River

- ❑ Late-season leases – Reclamation
- ❑ Early-season minimum flow agreements & Late season leases
- ❑ Full-season minimum flow agreements
- ❑ Permanent Easements
- ❑ 25-35 cfs target met
- ❑ Integrated monitoring



