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

Images from www.dfw.state.or.us and www.flickford.com
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)
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
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