Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

CAMP Presentation

August 23

8/28/2007 Idaho Ground Water Appropriators
Selected ESPA Water Entities

ESPA - Selected Water Delivery Organizations

- Ground Water Districts
- Selected Water Districts
- ESPA Model Boundary

Irrigation Entities:
- A & B Irrigation District
- American Falls Reservoir District #2
- Burley Irrigation District
- Milner Irrigation District
- Minidoka Irrigation District
- North Side Canal Co Ltd
- Twin Falls Canal Co
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- CREP is a subset of the 39 Million acre Conservation Reserve Program (Farm Bill)
- CREP was part of the 1996 Farm Bill but was amended in 2002 Farm Bill
- CREP is a State and Federal Joint partnership
- Funding through Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) not through Congress
- 26 States have CREPs’, three states have more than one CREP
- Idaho is one of three states with an irrigated CRP
CREP Proposal

- 100,000 acres on the ESPA
- Funding is 80% federal and 20% state funding
- State funding can include in-kind services
- For planning purposes the average price per acre for this proposal will be $160/yr. at 15 years
- FSA payment of $124-134/yr plus state funding for other 20%
- Main purpose of the CREP is water conservation and habitat improvement
CREP Criteria

- Water must be measured, monitored and reported
- Habitat consideration
  - CP 4 (native grass and legumes)
  - CP 12 (native shrubs and grasses)
  - Must meet objectives of water or habitat conservation purposes
  - Ground water irrigation only because surface water supplies could not protect conserved water
  - Must meet CRP guidelines and rules
Challenges of CREP

- IGWA had to propose a one-time $30/acre special incentive payment (SIP) before National Farm Service Agency would accept Idaho’s CREP, State of Idaho has provided a loan for the $3 M.
- August 2006, over 200,000 acres signed up for CREP.
- CRP rules and regulations have limited full participation.
- Only 1/3 of Idaho’s crop land can be a Conservation Priority Area for CRP unless designed by Sec. of Ag or Congress.
Challenges (continued)

- Three counties not able to participate: Power, Bannock, and Bonneville are over the 25% acreage limit for CRP.
- Payments are limited to $50,000/yr per entity.
- Land not in Conservation Priority Areas has to be highly erodible to qualify for CRP.
- Hay or pasture land is excluded from CRP unless it was planted during 1996-2001.
- CREP eligible ground must have been irrigated in last 24 months.
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<th>Counties</th>
<th>Acres Offered</th>
<th>Approved</th>
<th>Returned</th>
<th>Ineligible</th>
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Idaho Ground Water Appropriators
Potential Solutions

- Exempt CREP acres from CRP limitation acres
- Exempt highly erodible from CREP
- Raise the yearly payment from $50,000 to a higher amount
- Allow hay and pasture land into CREP
- Allow irrigated ground that has been irrigated within the last five years
- Have an inflation escalator for the yearly payment
Potential Solutions

- Working with Senator Crapo to make changes in new farm bill
- Get an exemption from Secretary of Agriculture or Congress on Conservation Priority Areas
- Get State Legislature to fund additional payments for lands not qualifying for CREP
- Explore other Federal Programs such as Nature Resource Conservation Service/EQIP program
- Look at private funding for addition CREP acres or alternatives
End of Presentation

Questions
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