Idaho’s Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Demand Reduction Working Group

Neeley Miller, Idaho Department of Water Resources

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CREP is an enhancement of existing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Over 800,000 acres of dry farmland enrolled in CRP
- Program participants in almost every Idaho county

CREP combines CRP with a state match to bring program to irrigated ground

CREP Agreement enacted by Governor Risch and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Johanns in May of 2006
Goals of CREP:

- Set aside up to 100,000 acres of irrigated crop land to reduce consumptive water use from the ESPA by up to 200,000 acre-feet annually, for a period of 15 years

- CREP Agreement also references environmental and energy conservation benefits
CREP Eligibility:

- Land Must be within the “ESPA CREP Area”
- Land must have been irrigated by ground water or surface streams with no direct surface connection to the Snake River for 4 out of the 6 years from 1996-2001
- Land must have been irrigated within 24 months prior to offer submission or have been included in an IDWR-approved mitigation plan
- Land must be physically and legally capable of being irrigated in a normal manner at the time an offer is submitted
CREP Eligibility (continued):

- Program participant must enter into an “Agreement not to Divert Water” with the State of Idaho
- Land must have Erodibility Index of 8 or greater or be located within a Conservation Priority Area
- No more than 25% of a county’s cropland may be in CRP/CREP programs
CREP enrollment as of summer 2009:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Acres Approved by FSA County Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bingham/Power</td>
<td>7,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonneville</td>
<td>154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassia</td>
<td>2,245</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elmore</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gooding</td>
<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson/Clark</td>
<td>1,889</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerome</td>
<td>586</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln/Blaine</td>
<td>524</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minidoka</td>
<td>5,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Falls</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,741</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conservation Reserve Enhance Program (CREP) Summary

Graph showing total acres over time from Feb-07 to Jun-09. The total acres range from approximately 15,000 to 25,000, with a peak around Feb-08.
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - County Figures

- Bingham
- Bonneville
- Cassia
- Elmore
- Gooding
- Jefferson/Clark
- Jerome
- Lincoln/Blaine
- Minidoka
- Twin Falls
Potential State-level changes to CREP aimed at increasing enrollment:

- Water right transfers that are associated with CREP applications are now expedited – **completed**
- Increase State incentive payment – **could potentially be done through CAMP process**
- Others?
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