

## 2008 Conservation Security Program

### Idaho

*You've been taking care of your natural resources on your land for years ...*

*Now you have the chance to be financially rewarded for your work.*



### A New Kind of Program

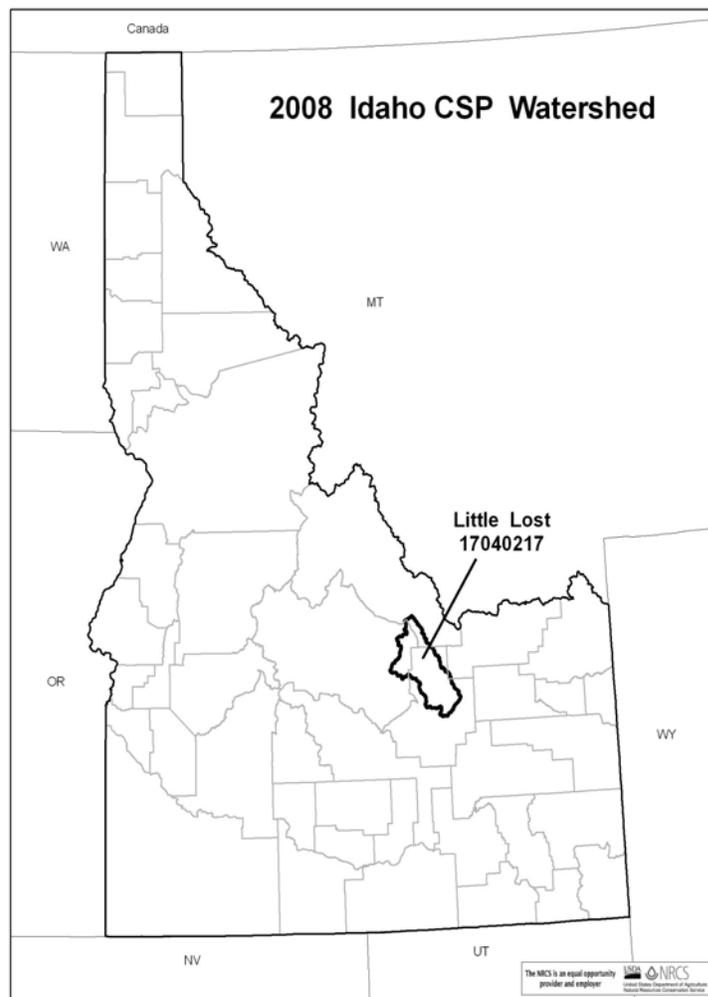
The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program rewarding those farmers and ranchers meeting the highest conservation standards on their land. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the program.

CSP provides financial and technical assistance to promote conservation on private and Tribal cropland, pasture and rangeland. The program also provides assistance to help producers maintain stewardship and implement additional conservation enhancement activities.

### One Watershed Selected

Producers in one Idaho watershed will have the opportunity to apply for CSP this year. The 2008 watershed is the Little Lost which is located near Howe and Arco, Idaho. This means farmers and ranchers in Butte, Custer, Lemhi and Clark counties may be eligible for CSP (if the majority of their land is in the above watershed).

**Since eligibility criteria is strict, producers in future watersheds may want to start preparing their CSP application now in order to qualify.**



## How CSP Works

- ❑ A sign-up will occur in the selected watersheds sometime this spring.
- ❑ Producers review the one-page “Conservation Security Program Basic Eligibility Checklist” factsheet to determine their initial eligibility.
- ❑ Then, producers may complete the CSP Self Assessment Workbook and the Idaho Conservation Recordbook which ask for descriptions of their conservation activities and copies of farm records. These materials are available at local NRCS offices or on the Idaho NRCS website at [www.id.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov).
- ❑ Eligible producers in the selected watersheds submit an application to their local NRCS office.
- ❑ Based on the application, description of conservation activities and a follow-up interview, NRCS will determine the producers' enrollment category.

## Eligibility

**The producer and operation must meet the basic eligibility criteria:**

- ❑ The land must be privately owned or Tribal land, and the majority must be located within one of the selected watersheds.

- ❑ The applicant must be in compliance with highly erodible and wetland provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act, have an active interest in the agricultural operation and have control of the land for the life of the contract.
- ❑ The applicant must share in the risk of producing any crop or livestock and be entitled to a share in the crop or livestock marketed from the operation.

**All applicants must meet the following minimum tier eligibility:**

- ❑ For Tier I, the producer must have addressed water and soil quality to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) standards on part of the agricultural operation prior to acceptance. (Tier I is a 5 year contract.)
- ❑ For Tier II, the producer must have addressed water and soil quality to FOTG standards on the entire agricultural operation prior to acceptance and agree to address the wildlife resource by the end of the contract period. (Tier II is a 5-10 year contract.)
- ❑ For Tier III, the producer must have addressed all resource concerns to a resource management level that meets FOTG standards on the entire operation and agree to additional enhancement activities. (Tier III is a 5-10 year contract.)

## CSP Contract Payments

CSP contract payments include one or more of the following:

- ❑ An annual stewardship component for the existing base level conservation treatment.
- ❑ An annual existing practice component for the maintenance of existing conservation practices.
- ❑ An enhancement component for exceptional conservation effort and additional conservation activities that provide increased resource benefits beyond the prescribed level.

## For More Information

For more information about CSP, contact your local NRCS office or visit the web at [www.id.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov).



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