April 2014 AAQTF Meeting Boise, Idaho

WELCOME TO IDAHO!
A Quick Orientation to Idaho

- Mountainous state: 2/3 mountains, 1/3 Snake River Plain
- Salmon River bisects the state into north and south
- Hell’s Canyon - deepest gorge in North America
- The Frank Church River-of-No-Return Wilderness - largest Wilderness Area in the lower 48
- World class white water rafting
- World famous Sun Valley Ski Area
Idaho is rich with Natural Resources
Idaho’s Major Industries

1. Manufacturing
2. Health Care
3. Tourism
4. Agriculture
5. Food Processing
6. Timber
7. Mining
Idaho Agriculture Today

#1 National producer of potatoes, trout, lentils, Austrian winter peas

#2 Barley, sugar beets, alfalfa hay, plums

#3 in milk production, hops, mint, onions
Idaho Agriculture Regions

Palouse

Snake River Plain
NRCS PROJECTS ACROSS THE STATE

Priorities:

• Increasing soil health
• Addressing forest health issues
• Water - Water conservation
  - Improving water quality
• Protecting and improving sage grouse habitat
Increasing Soil Health

Pocatello area, 2008

Twin Falls area, 2012

Corn planted into cover crop

Strip-till sugar beets
Increasing Soil Health

• Egin Bench Cover Crop Project
  To show how cover crops can protect soil from wind erosion

• Cover Crop Demonstration CIG
  Compares 4 systems:
  - Fallow
  - Green manure cover crop,
  - Grazed cover crop
  - No-till with cover crop

• Green House Gas Initiative
  Planting 8,170 acres of cover crops in north central Idaho
Improving Forest Health

Before - 2700 trees/acre

After - 222 trees/acre

Forest stand improvement projects

Fuel reduction project

Fuel break project
Water Conservation /Aquifer Recharge
Portneuf Irrigating Company AWEP

- 13.5 miles of pipeline
- Reduces annual power needs by about 650 hp
- Increases water staying in the Portneuf River by 2,000-5,000 acre feet/year
Improving Water Quality
Streambank Restoration

Coeur d’ Alene River

Blackfoot River

St. Joe River
978 cubic yards of sediment out of river (= 82 dump trucks)

2009

2005

2013

2008
Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement

Cassia County Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration Project

Landscape-scale project to improve sage grouse habitat

Removing juniper to meet the desired future condition

36 years of woodland succession
Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement

Sage Grouse Initiative

Rock Creek Project
• Mechanical juniper removal
• Low intensity prescribed to burn cut trees

Grassland Reserve Program
• In 2013, 16,210 acres accepted into permanent easements
• Since 2010, 60,000 acres of easements
Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement

2013 Fire rehabilitation

*Unique opportunity to use end-of-fiscal year 2013 funds*

In 2013, wildfires burned 71,336 acres of privately-owned land across the state

**Typical practices to rehab land**
- Rebuild fences
- Deferred grazing plans
- Repair stock water systems
- Re-seed burned areas
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