



United States Department of Agriculture

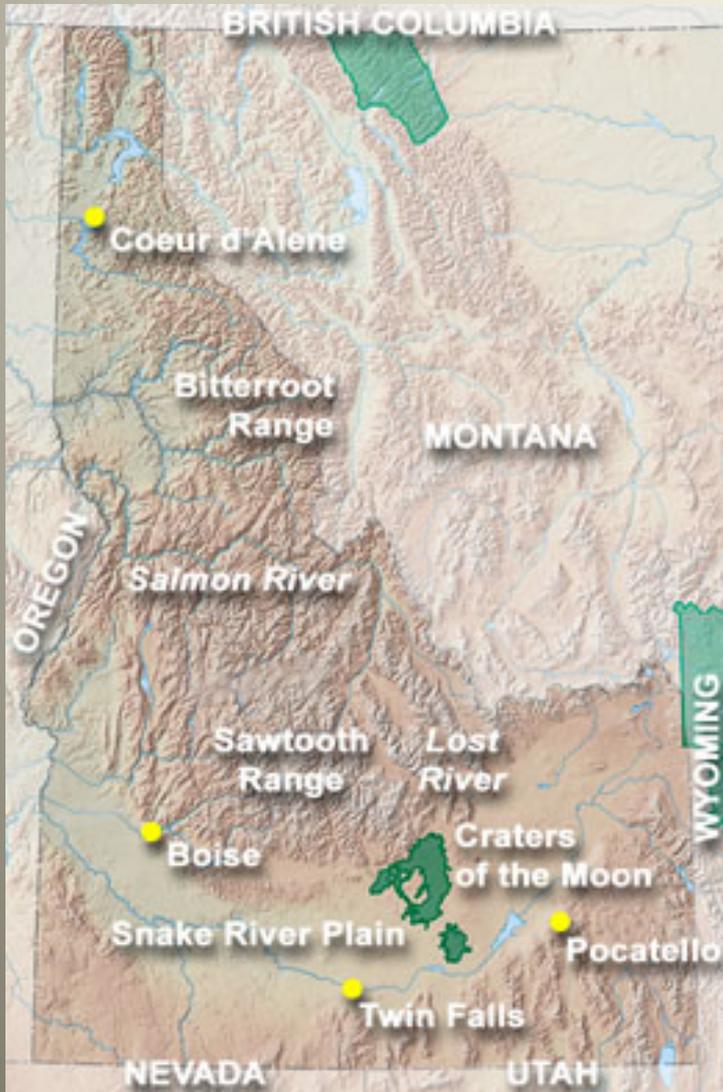
Natural Resources Conservation Service



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

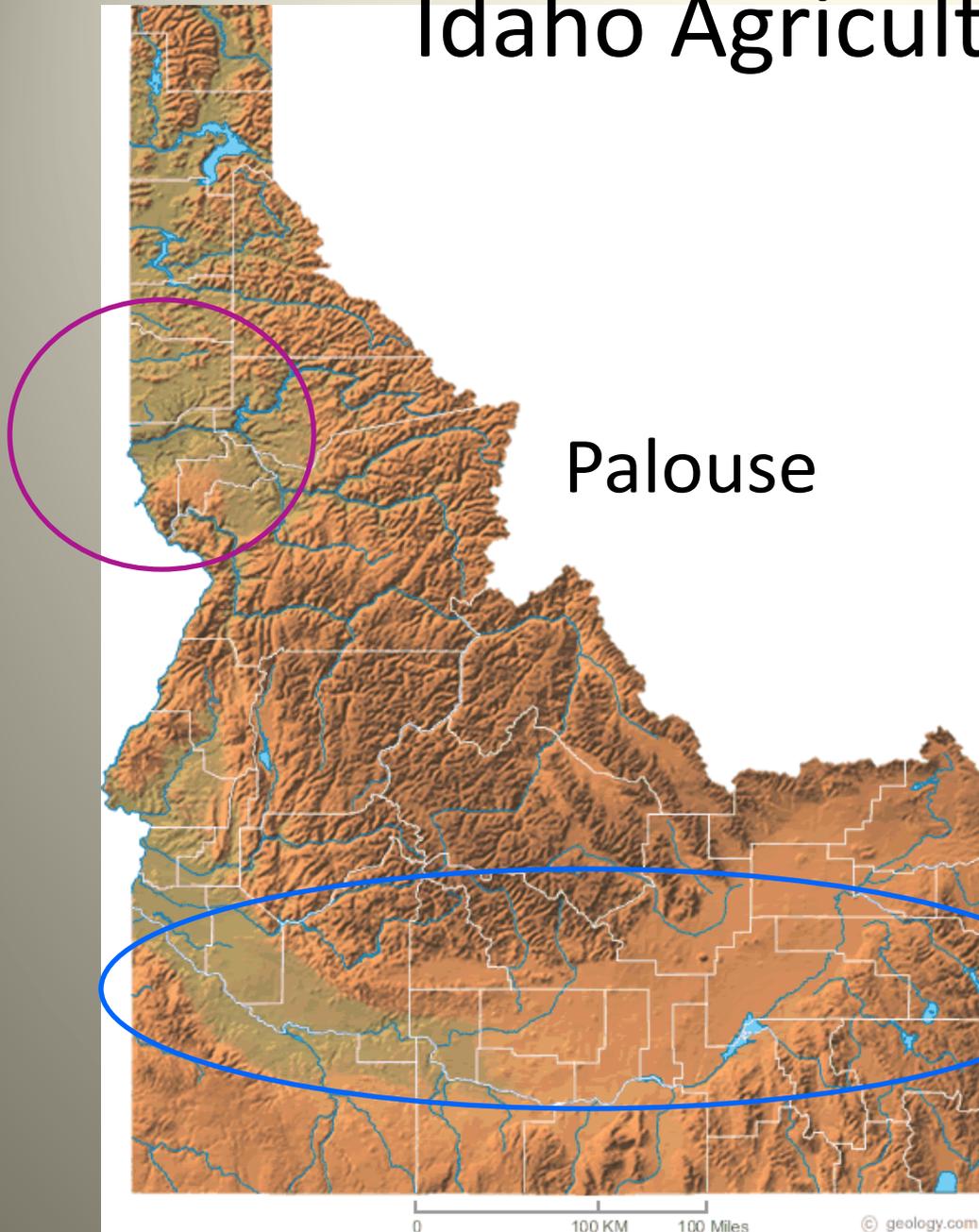
#1 National producer of potatoes, trout, lentils, Austrian winter peas

#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



Increasing Soil Health

- Egin Bench Cover Crop Project

To show how cover crops can protect soil from wind erosion

- Cover Crop Demonstration CI

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



forest stand improvement projects



Water Conservation /Aquifer Recharge

Portneuf Irrigating Company AWEF



- 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



St. Joe River

978 cubic yards of sediment out
of river (= 82 *dump trucks*)



Blackfoot River

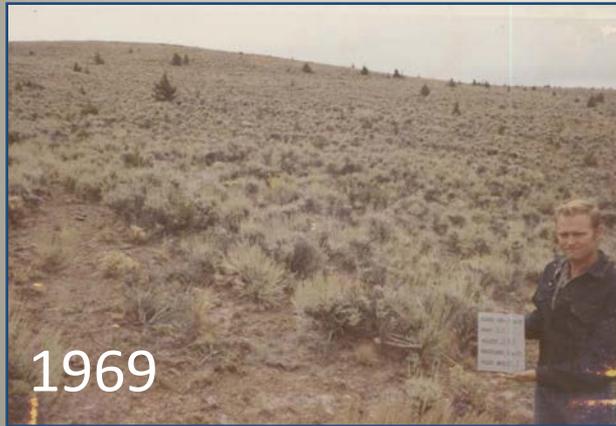


Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement

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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