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## Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

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October 1, 2024

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Council Members**

**FROM: Windy Schoby, Idaho**

**SUBJECT: Completion of Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation**

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Presenter:** Casey Pozzanghera (Idaho Department of Fish (IDFG) and Game Natural Resource Program Coordinator- Lands/Mitigation), Steve Elam (IDFG- Staff Biologist), Virginia Preiss (Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)), and Matt Schwartz (BPA)

**Summary:** Representatives of Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Bonneville Power Administration will brief the Council on the closeout of Project #1995-057-00, *Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation* as part of the Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation settlement between BPA and Idaho.

**Relevance:** The Council Fish and Wildlife Program supports implementation of projects that acquire and protect habitat as mitigation for construction, inundation and operational losses affecting habitat for fish and wildlife.

**Workplan:** Program Performance workplan task 4.2: Council staff is currently working on evaluating the performance of the Fish and Wildlife Program and will be providing a categorical assessment of the wildlife lands program at the November Council meeting.

## Background:

The Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Project (SIWM) objective is to mitigate for habitat lost as a result of the construction and inundation of Deadwood, Black Canyon, Minidoka, Anderson Ranch, and Palisades Federal Columbia River Power System (FRCPS) projects. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) project was implemented in 1997, with an agreement between the IDFG and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Similarly, SIWM was implemented on contract with BPA by, the Shoshone Bannock Tribe (SBT), and the Shoshone Paiute Tribe (SPT) and is on-going.

The Idaho share of wildlife mitigation from construction and inundation of southern Idaho dams (i.e., Palisades, Black Canyon, Minidoka, and Anderson Ranch) was set at 33,290 acres, of which 16,645 acres (50%) was to be settled with Idaho to mitigate the impacts on wildlife. Over the first 19 years 8,722 acres were acquired by Idaho Department of Fish and Game. In 2014 the State of Idaho and BPA entered into a 10-year wildlife mitigation agreement designed to fulfill the remainder of the mitigation for the impacts on wildlife. The agreement also included operational impacts of Deadwood Dam on fish and wildlife habitat (665 acres).

### The Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Agreement (SIWMA)

- Provided for protection and enhancement of at least 8,588 acres of wildlife habitat, with acquisition goals over 10 years.
- Gave the state control of acquiring and managing wildlife habitat lost as a result of federal dams in southern Idaho.
- Protected the state's fiscal interests by establishing a dedicated endowment fund to ensure Idaho can manage these lands for future generations.

BPA paid the Idaho Department of Fish and Game \$40 million over a 10-year period to support the administration, operation and maintenance, and restoration and acquisition of wildlife habitat as appropriate for southern Idaho wildlife mitigation.

Of the total, approximately \$22 million was used for restoration, acquisition and stewardship costs associated with new projects (11,095 acres), \$4 million was used to administer the program over the 10 years, and the remaining \$14 million was placed in a state endowment fund to pay for perpetual management of approximately 8,700 acres that was already protected by the mitigation program.

Lands acquired under the SIWM MOA totaled 11,095 acres- surpassing the minimum mitigation acreage of 8,588 by over 2,500 acres.

The agreement fulfills half of the mitigation for the impacts of hydropower development in southern Idaho. The other half of the land is being mitigated by the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone Paiute Tribes, who also work with BPA to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat as part of their own mitigation programs. (Project #1995-057-02, *Shoshone-*

*Bannock Wildlife Mitigation, Project#1995-057-03 Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation-Shoshone-Paiute Tribes)*

More Info:

[2014 Briefing to Council on State of Idaho/BPA Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Settlement 2014](#)



# **BPA and IDFG Complete Mitigation Under Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Agreement**



Update to NPCC – Oct. 9, 2024







## **BPA Fish and Wildlife Personnel**

**Scott Armentrout** – Vice President

**Dorie Welch** – Deputy Vice President

**Jason Sweet** – Executive Manager

**David Kaplowe** – Implementation Manager,  
Idaho & Montana

**Matt Schwartz** – Land and Wildlife Program  
Lead

**Virginia Preiss** – Land and Wildlife Program  
team member, Project Manager (Presenter)





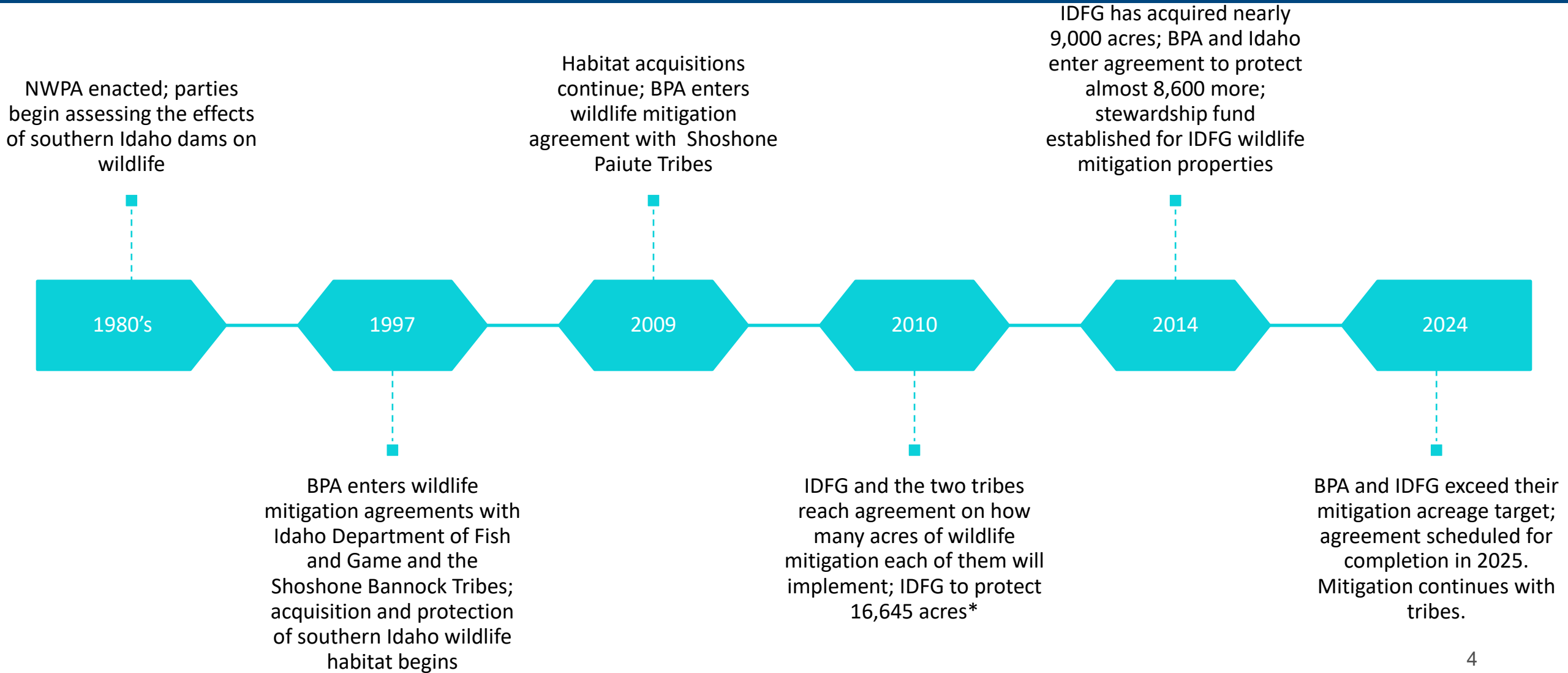
# Background: Origins of the Project

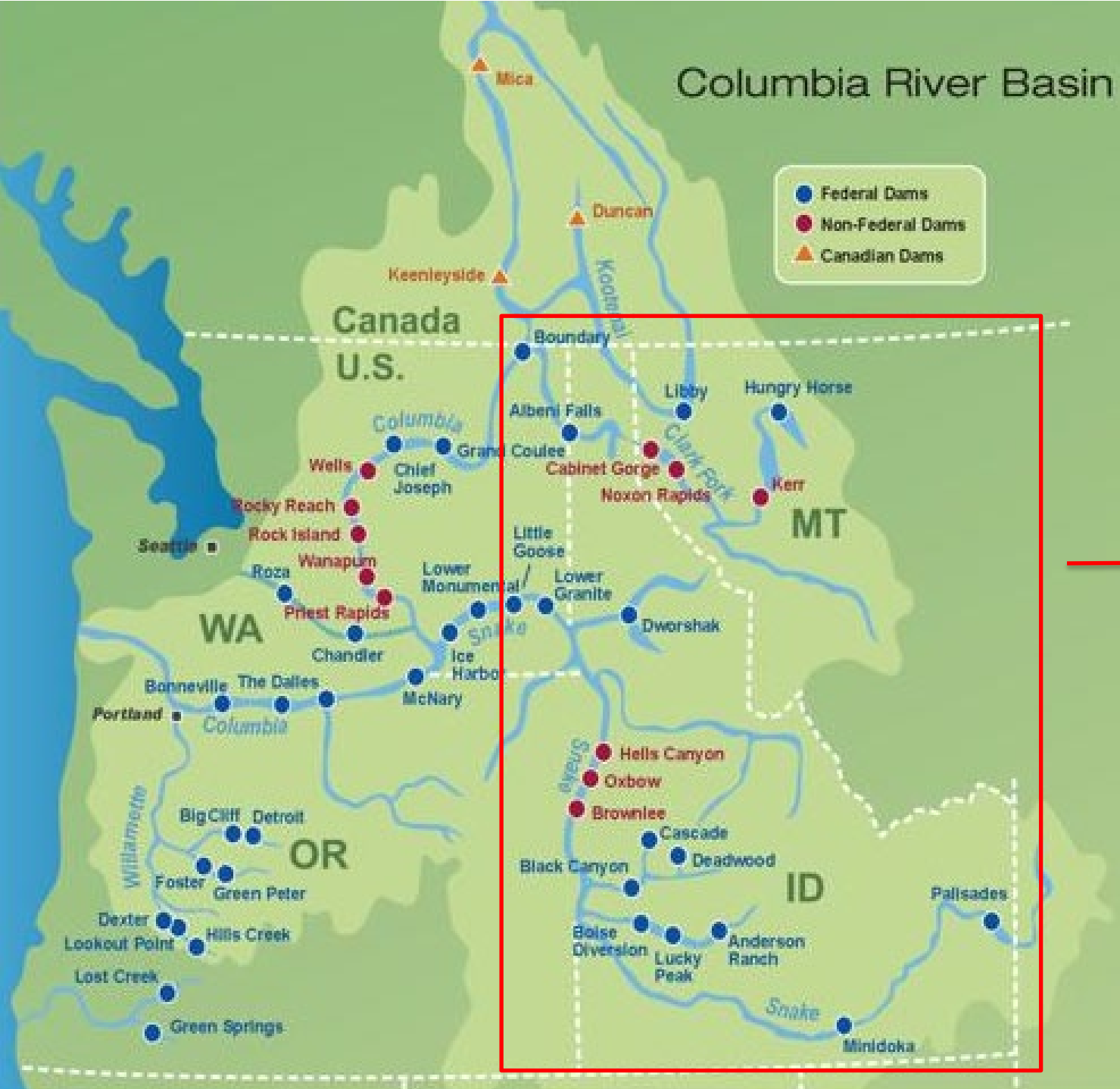
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Construction of four federal hydropower dams in southern Idaho, and the reservoirs they created, affected approximately 33,290 acres of wildlife habitat in the state.

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In 1980, the Northwest Power (NWPA) gave BPA responsibility to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by construction and operation of federal hydropower dams in the Columbia River Basin.







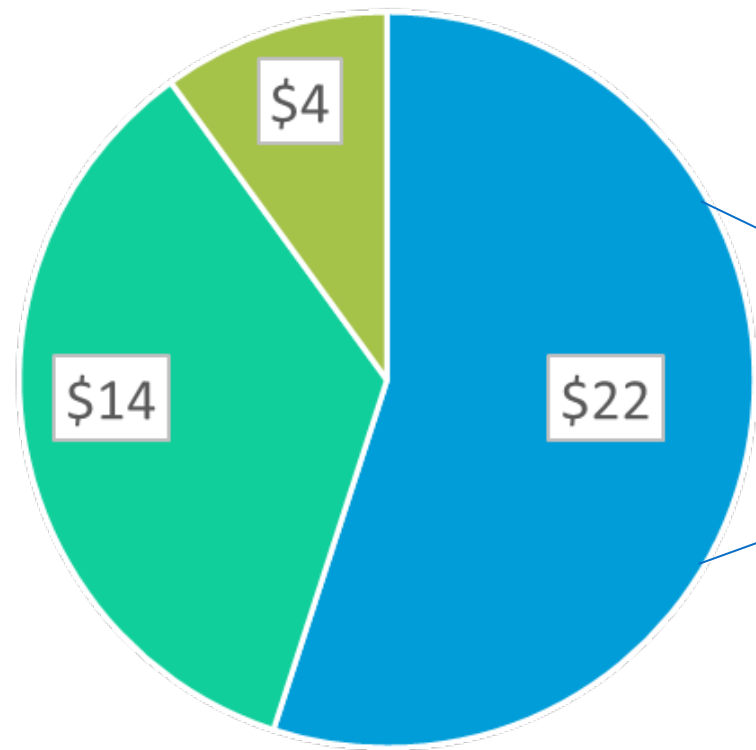


# 1997 Agreement

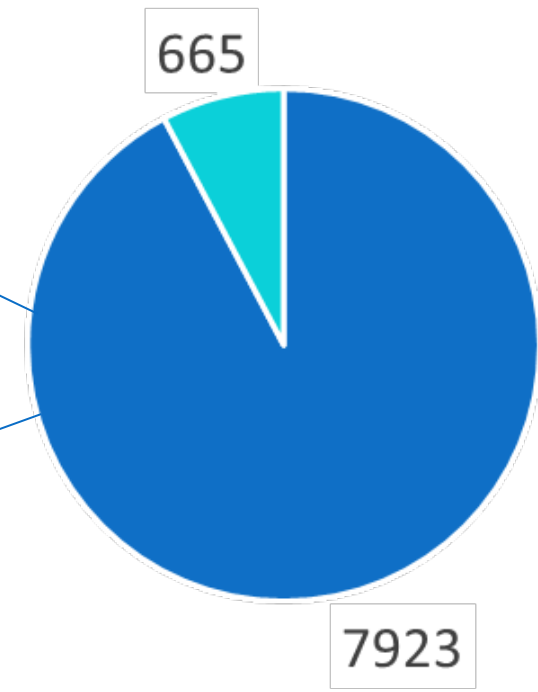
- The construction of southern Idaho dams and the inundation from their reservoirs affected approximately 33,290 acres.
  - Idaho share: 16,645 acres
- Under the 1997 agreement, IDFG used BPA funding to acquire and manage over 8,722 acres of habitat.

Funding commitment  
in millions (\$)

- Acquisition funding
- Stewardship funding
- Administrative funding



Acreage obligation  
acres



- Construction and Inundation
- Operational

From 2014-today, BPA has committed \$40m to acquiring and managing 8,588 acres in southern Idaho.



## IDFG personnel

Jim Fredericks—Director

Jon Rachael— Deputy Director of Field Ops

Shane Roberts— Wildlife Bureau Chief

Sal Palazzolo— State Habitat Manager

Casey Pozzanghera— Land and Mitigation  
Program Coordinator (Presenter)

Steve Elam— Mitigation Staff Biologist  
(Presenter)



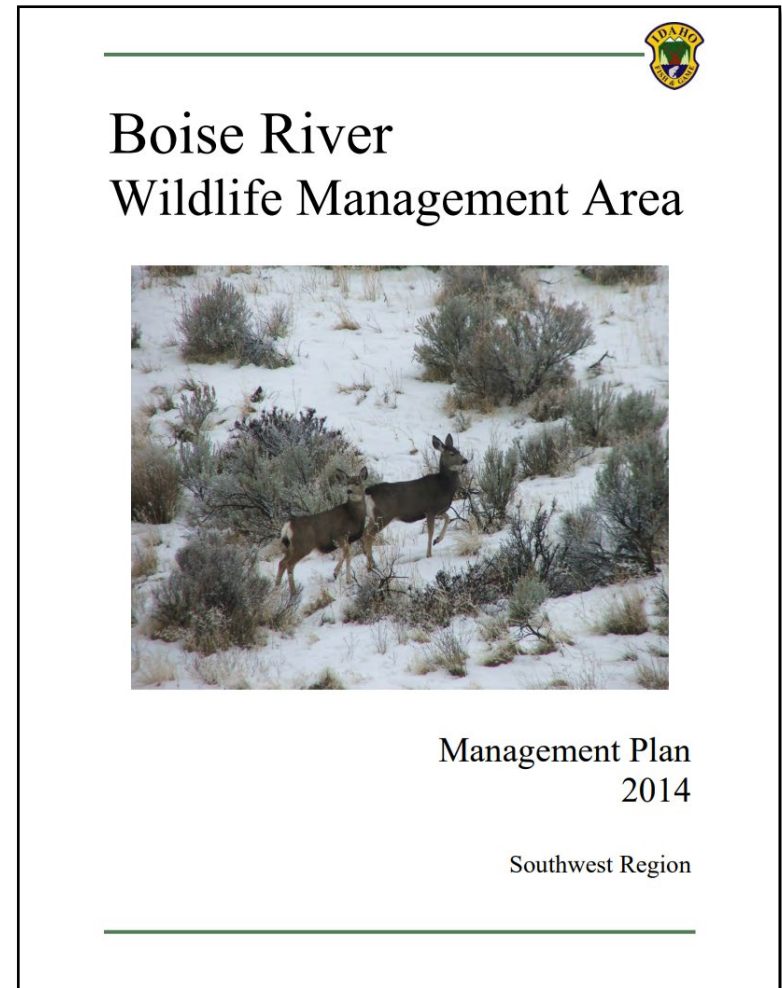




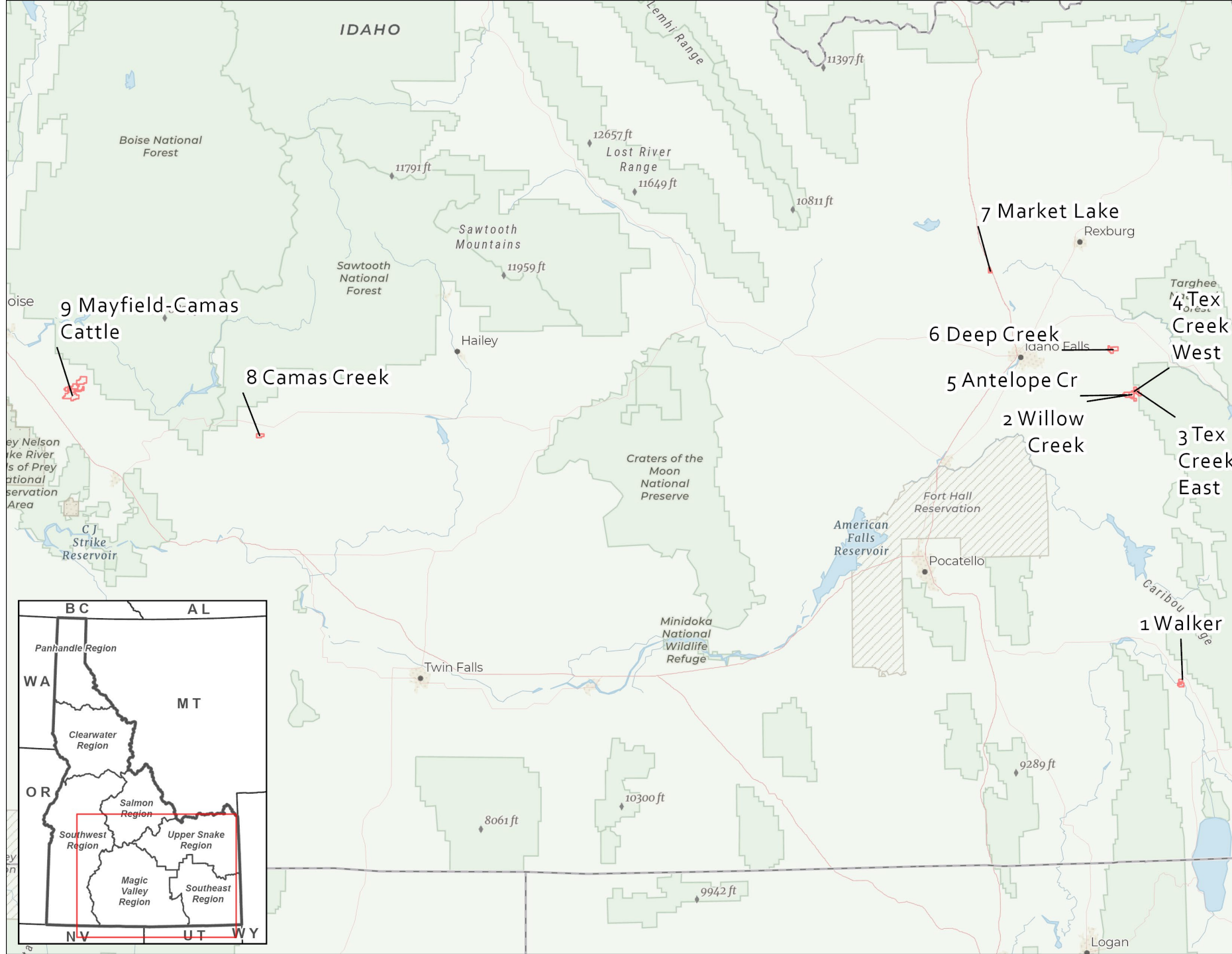
# Land Acquisition Strategy



1. Key habitats for game animals and fish
2. Access for recreational use of fish and wildlife
3. Mitigation for unavoidable impacts to fish and wildlife resources
4. Habitats identified in state or regional fish or wildlife conservation plans
5. Additions to existing wildlife management areas, easements or ownerships









# Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation 2014 MOA

## Property Overview



### Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation 2014 MOA

*2014 Agreement: Acquire 8,588 acres with \$22,000,000*

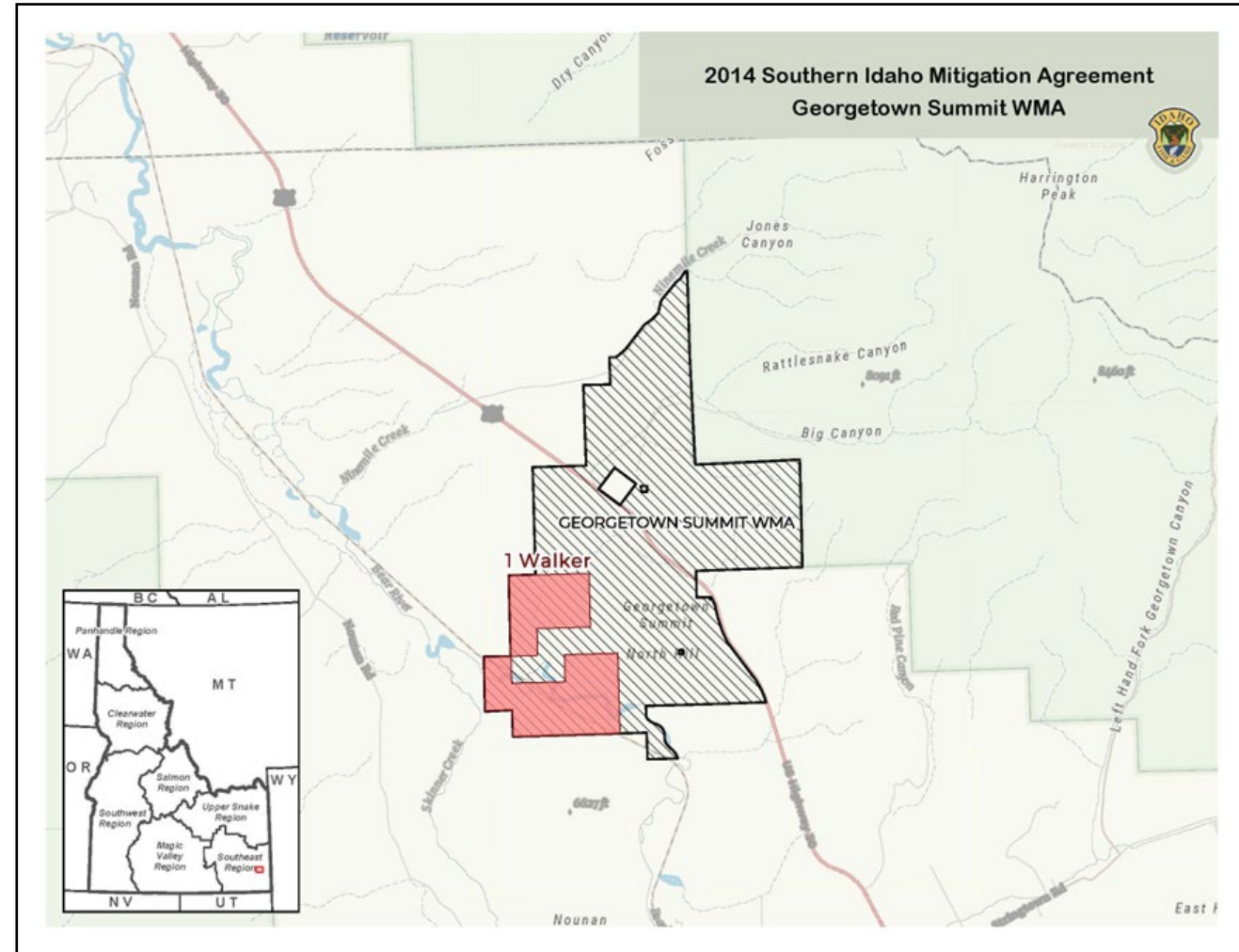
| Completed Projects              | Date       | Acres            | Acquisition         | Stewardship        | Total               |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Walker (GSWMA)                  | 3/4/2016   | 760.00           | \$445,500           | \$1,411,128        | \$1,856,628         |
| Antelope Cr (TCWMA)             | 11/15/2019 | 640.00           | \$820,000           | \$768,000          | \$1,588,000         |
| Willow Creek (TCWMA)            | 11/15/2019 | 912.64           | \$1,140,000         | \$1,095,000        | \$2,235,000         |
| Market Lake (MLWMA)             | 1/6/2021   | 489.40           | \$775,500           | \$587,280          | \$1,362,780         |
| Camas Creek (CMWMA)             | 3/4/2021   | 641.80           | \$885,000           | \$768,000          | \$1,653,000         |
| Deep Creek - Rack Brown (TCWMA) | 8/27/2021  | 1,172.12         | \$1,778,000         | \$1,406,544        | \$3,184,544         |
| TexCreek West - Croft (TCWMA)   | 9/1/2021   | 239.29           | \$300,000           | \$286,944          | \$586,944           |
| TexCreek East- Jeffery (TCWMA)  | 8/27/2021  | 707.08           | \$883,850           | \$848,496          | \$1,732,346         |
| Mayfield (BRWMA)                | 2/1/2024   | 5,533.68         | \$7,860,000         | \$0                | \$7,860,000         |
|                                 |            |                  |                     |                    |                     |
| <b>Total Completed</b>          |            | <b>11,095.84</b> | <b>\$14,887,850</b> | <b>\$7,171,392</b> | <b>\$22,059,242</b> |

**2,507.84 acres over obligation**



# Walker Property

- 760 acres credited to SIWM Agreement
- Georgetown Summit WMA
- Bear Lake County
- Primary purpose:
  - Wildlife habitat and riparian protection

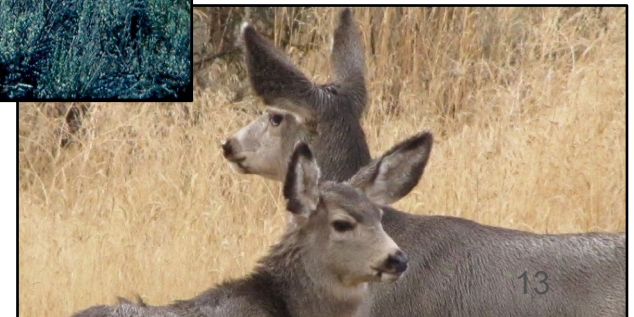






# Walker Property

- Year round big and upland game habitat
- Transitional range
- 2 miles Bear River riparian corridor
- Conversion of agricultural fields to native habitat communities

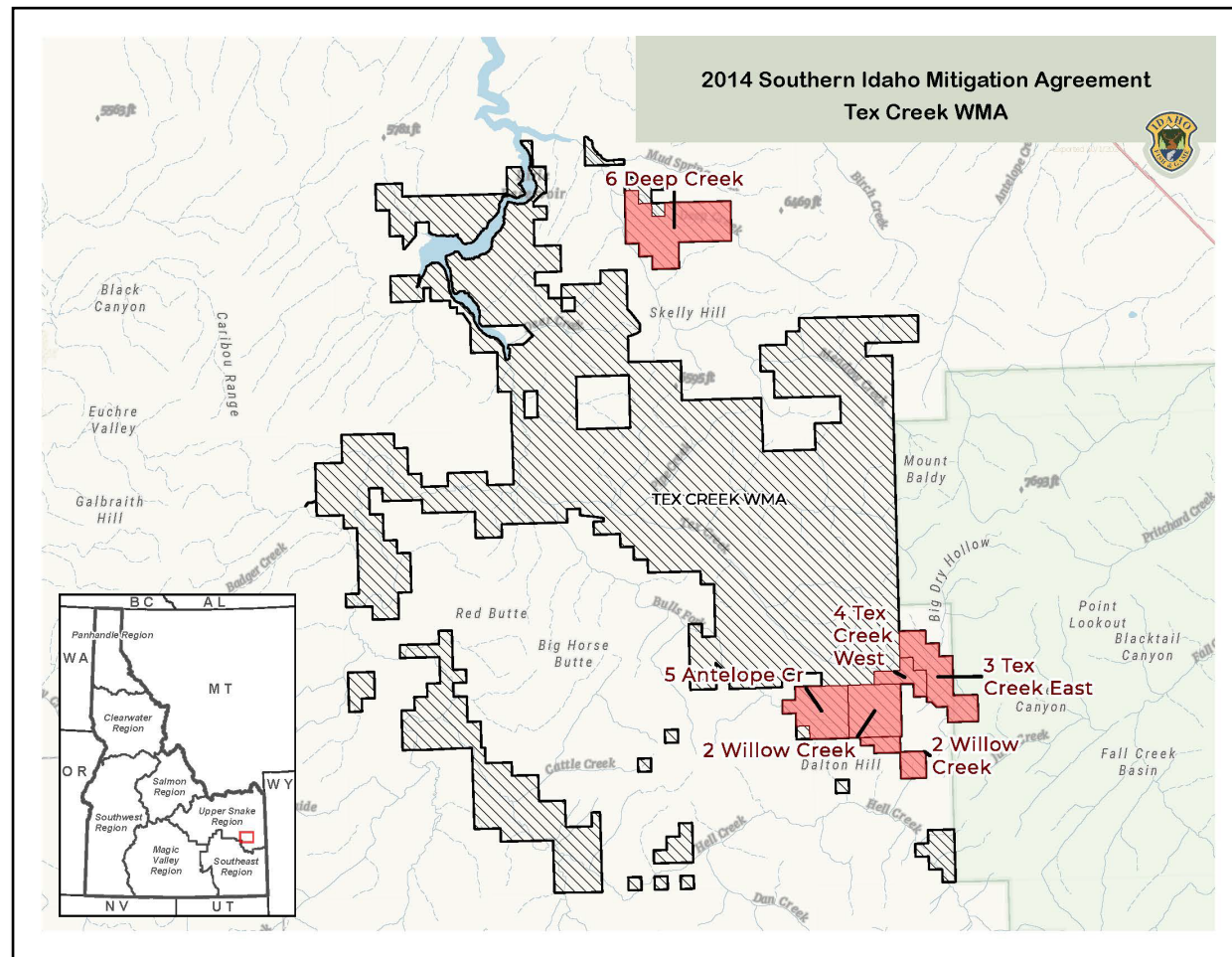




# Tex Creek Complex



- 3,671 acres credited to SIWM Agreement
- 5 unique properties from 2019 - 2021
- Tex Creek WMA
- Bonneville County
- Primary purpose:
  - Big Game winter and transitional range





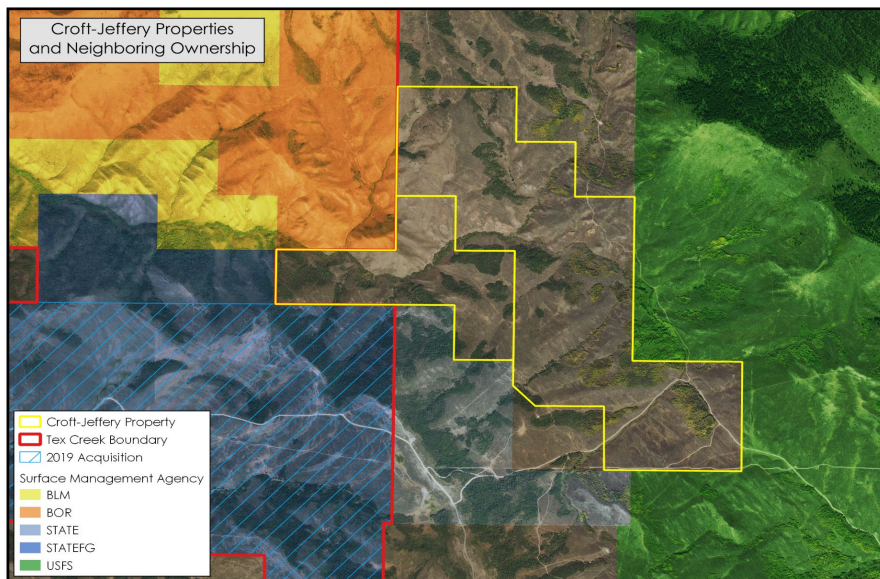






# Tex Creek Complex

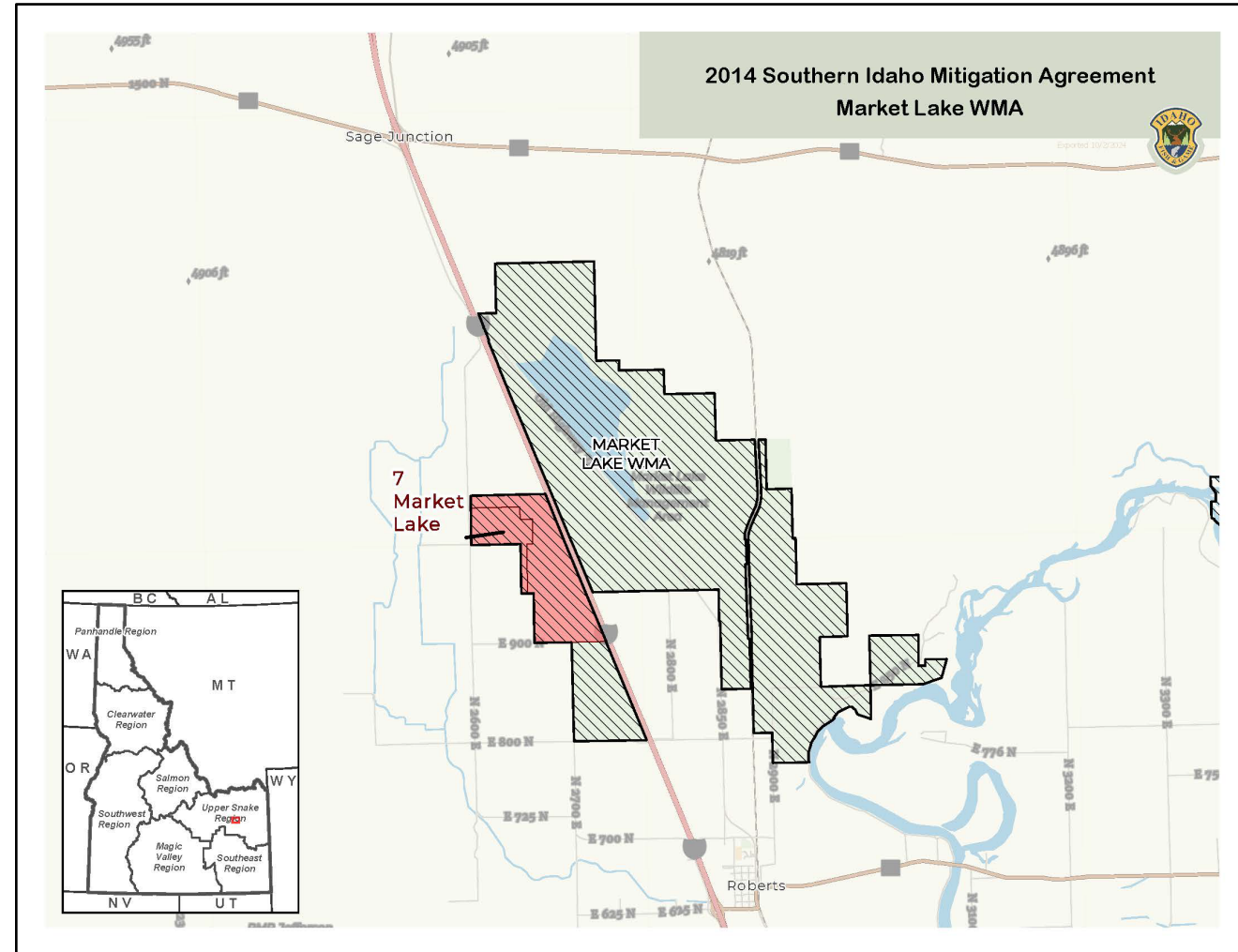
- Enhances habitat connectivity with surrounding public lands
- Addresses significant loss of CRP in the area





# Market Lake Property

- 489 acres credited to SIWM Agreement (649-acre total acquisition)
  - Partnered with Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever
- Market Lake WMA
- Jefferson County
- Primary Purpose:
  - Wetland waterbird habitat







# Market Lake Property

- Enhanced spring migration and waterbird foraging habitat
- Nesting habitat
- Moist soil/shallow flood management
- Waterfowl hunting
- Wildlife viewing

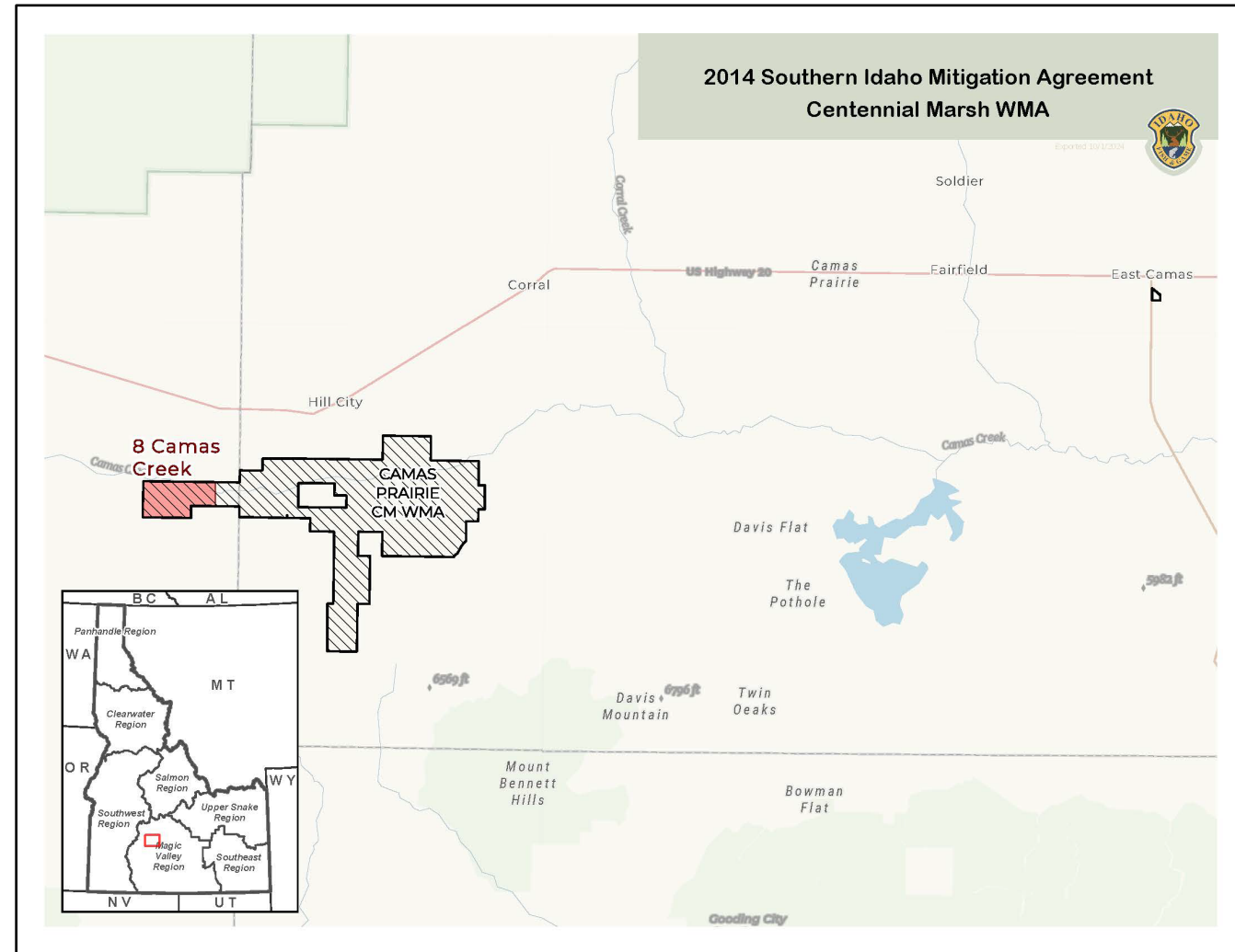




# Camas Creek Property



- 642 acres credited to SIWM Agreement
- Centennial Marsh WMA
- Elmore County
- Primary purpose:
  - Wetland marsh



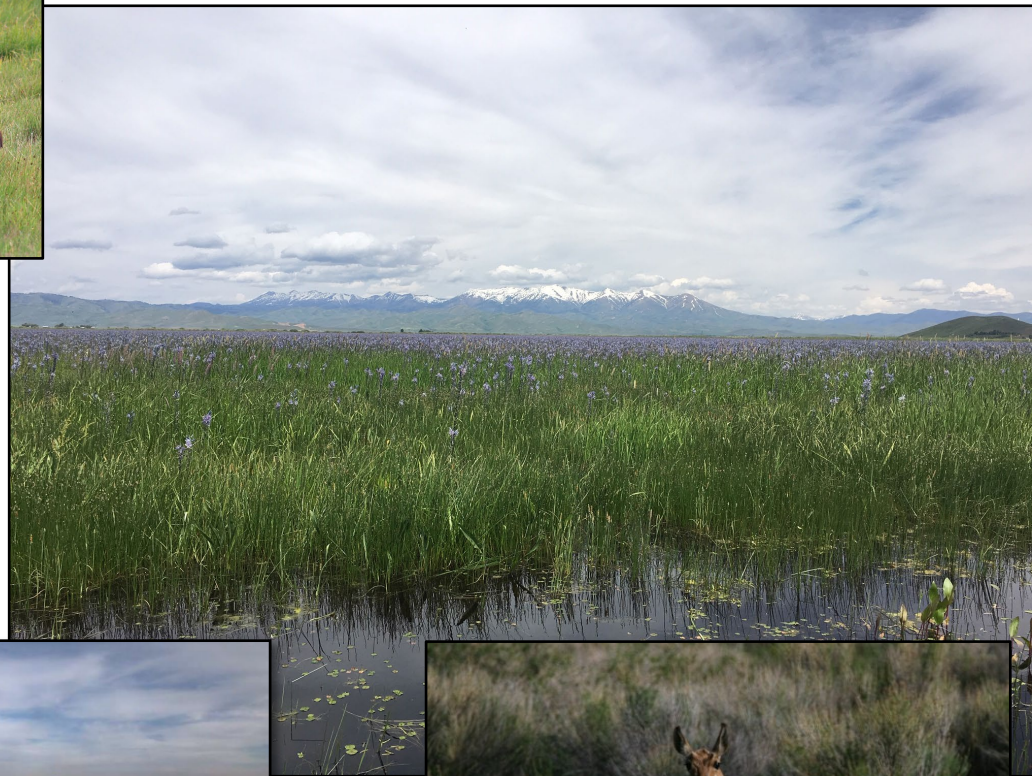




# Camas Creek Property



- 1.5 miles of Camas Creek
- Migratory birds
- Big game travel corridor
- Wildlife viewing
- Agriculture to wetland habitat restoration projects







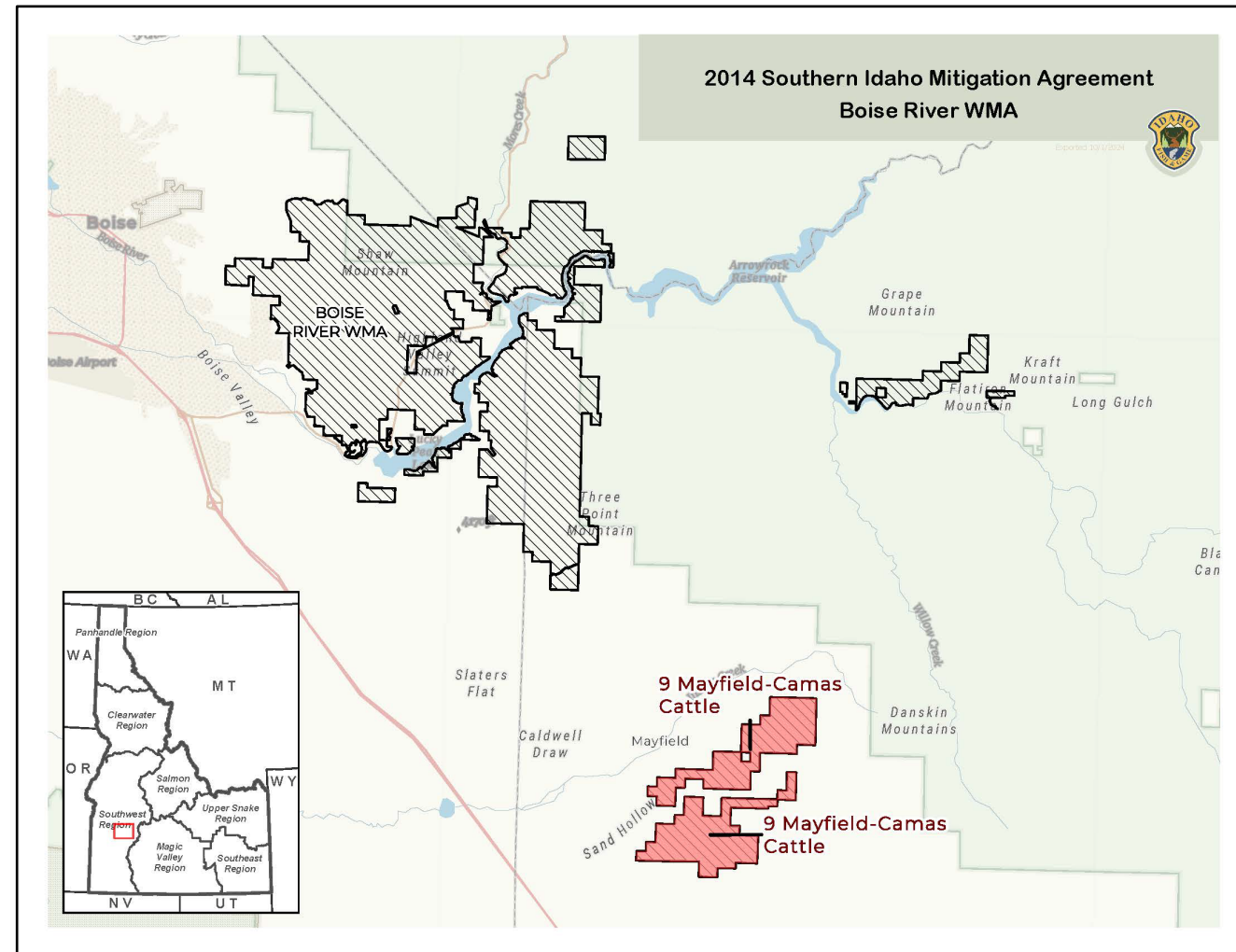




# Mayfield Property



- 5,534 acres credited to SIWM Agreement
- Boise River WMA
- Elmore County
- Primary Purpose:
  - Big Game winter range

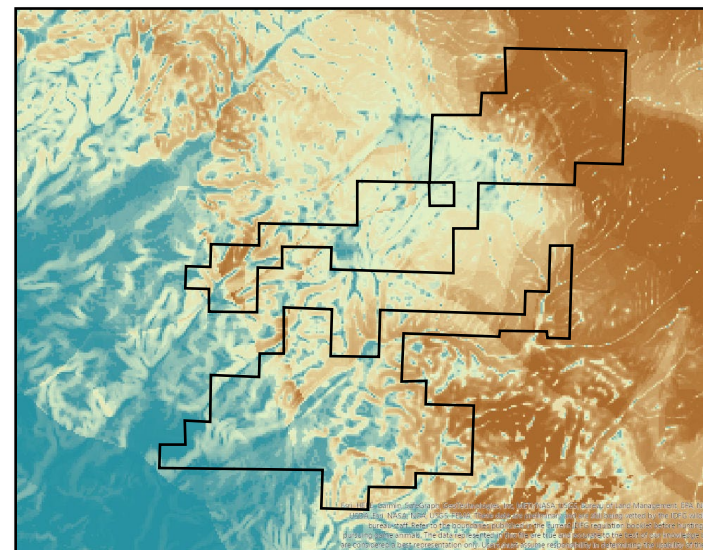




# Mayfield Property



- Elk and Mule Deer winter range
- Upland bird habitat
- Prevented additional habitat fragmentation in highly coveted development area
- Hunting opportunities





# IDFG Perpetual Stewardship



- Properties to be managed under WMA plans
- Full time regional staff dedicated to O&M

## Stewardship Costs

- Acreage under 1997 MOA: 8,722
- Acreage under SIWM MOA: 11,095 acres
- Annual operating rate target: \$42/acre
- *Calculated annual O&M costs = \$840,000*





# Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Trust



- BPA stewardship contributions: ~\$21,000,000
  - \$14,000,000 at beginning of Agreement
  - \$7,000,000 throughout 2014 MOA
- Required balance to be self sustaining at conservative 3.5% growth:
  - $840,000/0.035 = \underline{\$24,000,000}$
- September 2024 Stewardship Account balance: \$40,014,275
  - Restoration work
  - Future acquisitions





# Benefits of the Agreement

## Impacts on IDFG Land Program

- Stewardship
- Reduced budgetary restrictions
- Enhanced capacity with BPA staff
- Increased administrative burden
  - Federal acquisition process  
AND state processes
- Landowner hesitancy to work with multiple government entities

## Impacts to the State of Idaho

- Habitat protection
- Public access
- Future acquisition potential



# Benefits of the Agreement



- Benefits of the agreement to BPA
  - BPA's mission to provide mitigation of the FCRPS impacts on fish and wildlife, and providing an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply.
  - Collaboration and partnership with Idaho Fish and Game
    - Broader and more collaborative approach to permanent mitigation



# Roadmap to Completion

- All acquisition activities have been completed
  - Mitigation acreage has surpassed goal while staying on budget
- Administrative tasks to wrap up
  - 8 properties purchased under the 1997 Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Memorandum of Agreement need to be recorded as covenants to replace or amend the executory interests on these properties, by end of FY25



# Key Take Aways



EXCEEDED ACREAGE  
OBLIGATION



PROJECTED TO COMPLETE  
AGREEMENT ON BUDGET



COLLABORATIVE  
APPROACH TO MITIGATION



# Questions

