

Executive Update



A special update for Idaho conservation leaders ♦ Fall 2004

Idaho NRCS Announces 2005 CSP Watersheds

Idaho NRCS held a press conference announcing the 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP) watersheds on Nov. 3 in the Boise State Office.

Sara Braasch, NRCS regional assistant chief for the West, made the announcement to several attendees from the media and conservation partner organizations.

"We hope this is the kind of incentive that rewards these producers for the great conservation work they have already done," Braasch said.

Kent Foster, executive director for the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts also shared comments.

"On behalf of Idaho's Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) and some 24,000 farmers, we see CSP as a cornerstone of Idaho's conservation programs," Foster said. "This program rewards producers who have already paid a big price for putting conservation on their land."

Foster also said CSP could help address species of concern and he was pleased the watersheds were spread out across the state.

About 2,100 producers in 15 watersheds across Idaho will have the opportunity to apply for CSP this winter. CSP is a voluntary program rewarding those producers meeting

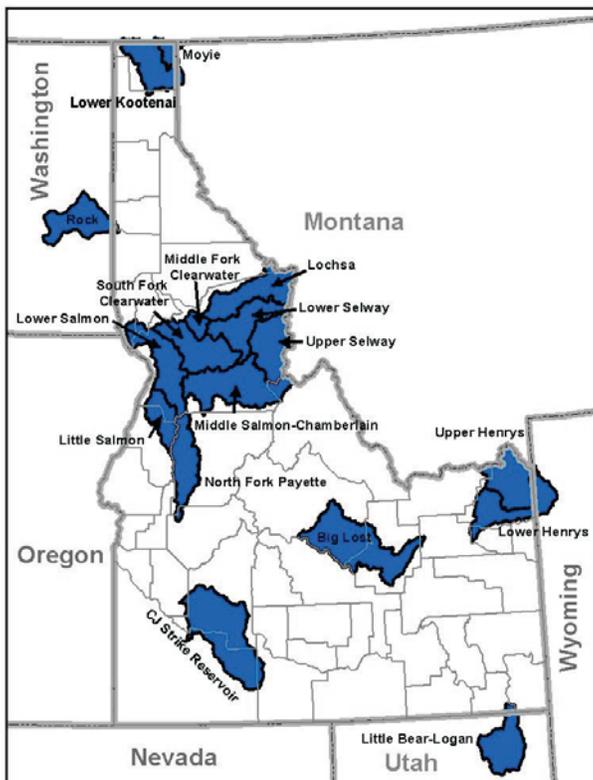
the highest conservation standards on their land. NRCS plans to offer CSP in all of the state's watersheds over the next eight years.

"We're really excited about this program," said **Lloyd Knight**, executive vice president of the Idaho Cattle Association. "It provides an opportunity for AFO/CAFO producers to be recognized for their hard work."

CSP will require an extensive informational campaign to get the word out to farmers and ranchers. Idaho NRCS plans to share program information through direct mail postcards, media stories, radio PSAs and public meetings.



Sara Braasch, NRCS regional assistant chief, announces Idaho's 2005 CSP watersheds in a recent press conference.



How Can Producers Qualify?

The new Conservation Security Program (CSP) rewards farmers and ranchers for practicing good stewardship on their land.

They may qualify if:

- They farm/ranch in a selected 2005 CSP watershed.
- They follow nutrient, grazing, residue, pest and/or irrigation water management plans promoting soil and water quality (as applicable to operation).
- They keep written records to better manage their operation (at least two years for program application).
- They are interested in enhancing wildlife habitat on their land.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
9173 W. Barnes Drive, Suite C
Boise, ID 83709
www.id.nrcs.usda.gov

Richard Sims
State Conservationist
(208) 378-5700

Jody Fagan
Public Affairs Specialist
(208) 685-6978

Conservationist's Corner



Richard Sims
State Conservationist
Idaho NRCS

What is all this hub-bub about nutrient management planning? Maybe a better question is: Is anyone concerned about water quality? I am, especially as I see the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality continuing to designate portions of our state as Nitrate Priority Areas.

That is why I have made nutrient management a top initiative. Two years ago, I directed each NRCS office to work toward having a certified nutrient management planner. Today, an employee in every office has completed all the required training by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service.

I am proud that we have the tools to help private landowners find solutions to our state's water quality concerns. We are prepared to address Idaho's AFO/CAFO waste concerns and fertilizer use in all crops.

Recently, I read the Potato Growers of Idaho's new Integrated Pest Management Standards Checklist. This is a great example of an industry stepping up and making their producers aware of management practices to address water quality challenges.

I believe Idaho's water quality concerns are too great for any one of us to make a large impact. However, if we all work together, much can be accomplished. In addition, as we move toward a new paradigm with the Conservation Security Program (CSP), this type of proactive work will be needed from anyone interested in qualifying for USDA conservation dollars.

NRCS Program Applications Due Jan. 14

An initial 2005 allocation of nearly \$15 million in financial assistance will be available to Idaho farmers and ranchers applying for NRCS programs by close of business Jan. 14, 2005.

The funding includes all NRCS conservation programs except for the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program and the Conservation Security Program. Local USDA Service Cen-

ters are accepting applications now.

Program available through this allocation include Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), EQIP for Ground & Surface Water, Wetland Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

Another application period may occur later in 2005.

Lundquists Protect Family Farm

The Lundquist family is one of Idaho's pioneers when it comes to protecting their farm through the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, a new program of the 2002 Farm Bill.

The Lundquist's recently signed 843 acres into the program. Their farm is located on the South Fork of the Snake River, at the head of one of America's most wildlife rich canyons.

NRCS entered into a cooperative agreement with the Teton Regional Land Trust, who processed the acquisition and found the other 50 percent of funding to secure the easement.



NRCS District Conservationist **Dennis Hadley**, congratulates the Lundquists for their conservation efforts during a family-sponsored BBQ in Swan Valley.

Driggs NRCS Receives R.N. Irving Award

Steven Ray, NRCS district conservationist in Driggs, recently received the R.N. Irving Award for his accomplishments in a one-person office for 2003. State Conservationist **Rich Sims** presented him the award during the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) annual meeting in Moscow Nov. 7-9.

Ray has provided customer service to everyone coming through the door, completed nine contracts in the Teton WQPA, assisted with the Teton River Sub-basin TMDL implementation plan, worked with conservation partners to solve an e.coli bacteria problem on Woods Creek and worked on waste improvements for dairies. In



addition, he provided planning for 13 new CRP contracts, three new CCRP contracts, 12 new EQIP applications and 12 WHIP applications.

R.N. Irving was the first SCS State Conservationist in Idaho and was instrumental in organizing Idaho's soil conservation districts.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits the discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice and TDD). To file a complaint, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th & Independence Ave., SW, Washington D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.