

Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Program

1995-05-700

1995-05-701



Presented to:

ISRP

March 3, 2009



- Congress passed the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation act in 1980
- It directed BPA “to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife to the extent affected by the development and operation of any hydroelectric project of the Columbia River and its tributaries”



Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Program

Goal: Fully mitigate for the wildlife losses from hydropower in Southern Idaho

- **Replacement of lost Habitat Units**

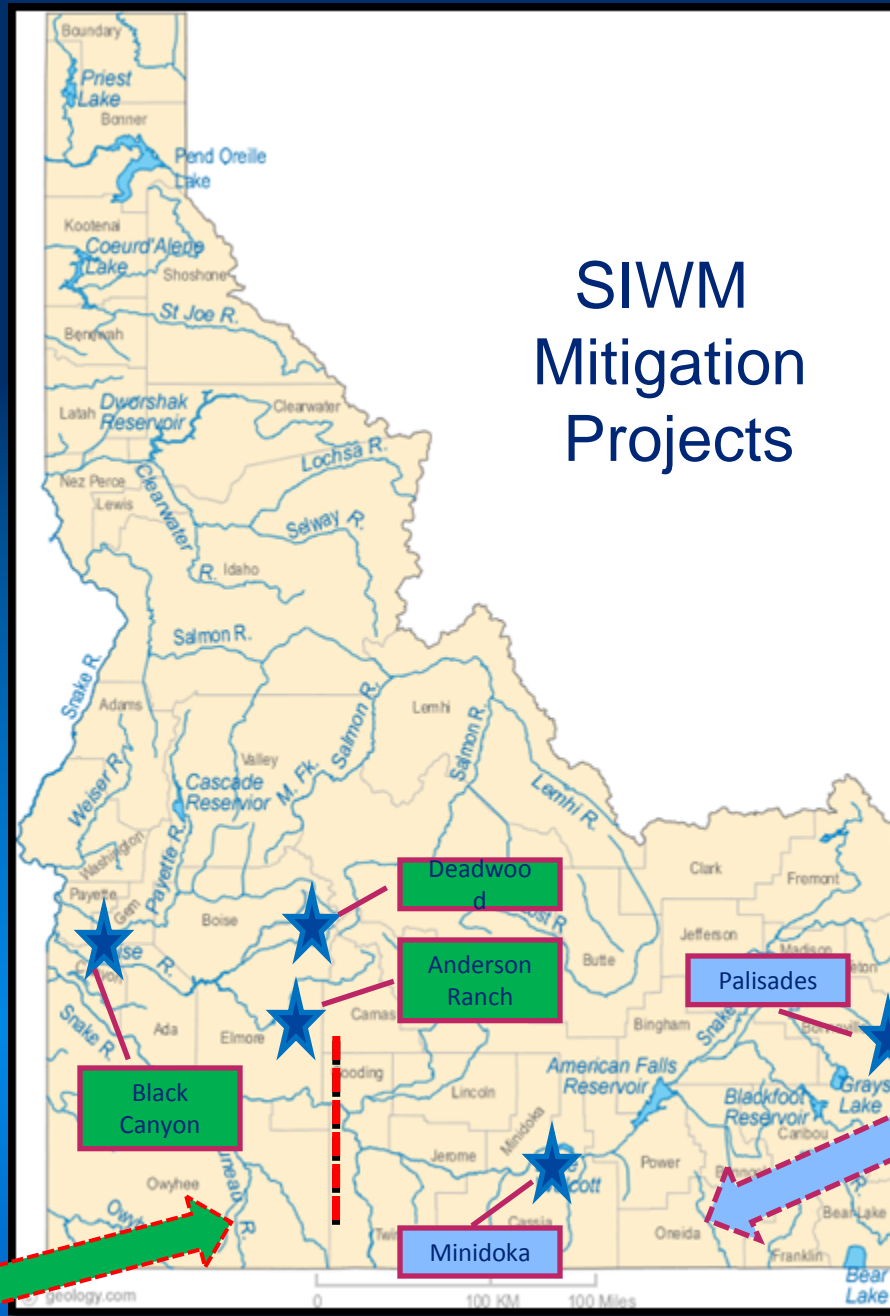
The purpose of new mitigation implementation activities is to assist BPA and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council with meeting the mitigation debt identified in the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

- **Protection and enhancement of acquired Habitat Units**

The purpose of managing these properties and administering the program is to protect BPA's investment in past mitigation implementation.



SIWM Mitigation Projects



Middle Snake Province

Upper Snake Province



Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Program

Project	HU's loss	Credited HU's	Remaining HU's
Palisades	37,068	16,093	20,975
Minidoka	10,503	6,873	3,630
Anderson Ranch	9,619	2,423	7,196
Black Canyon	2,230	62	2,168
Deadwood	7,413	3	7,410
Total	66,833	25,454	41,379

62% remains to be mitigated

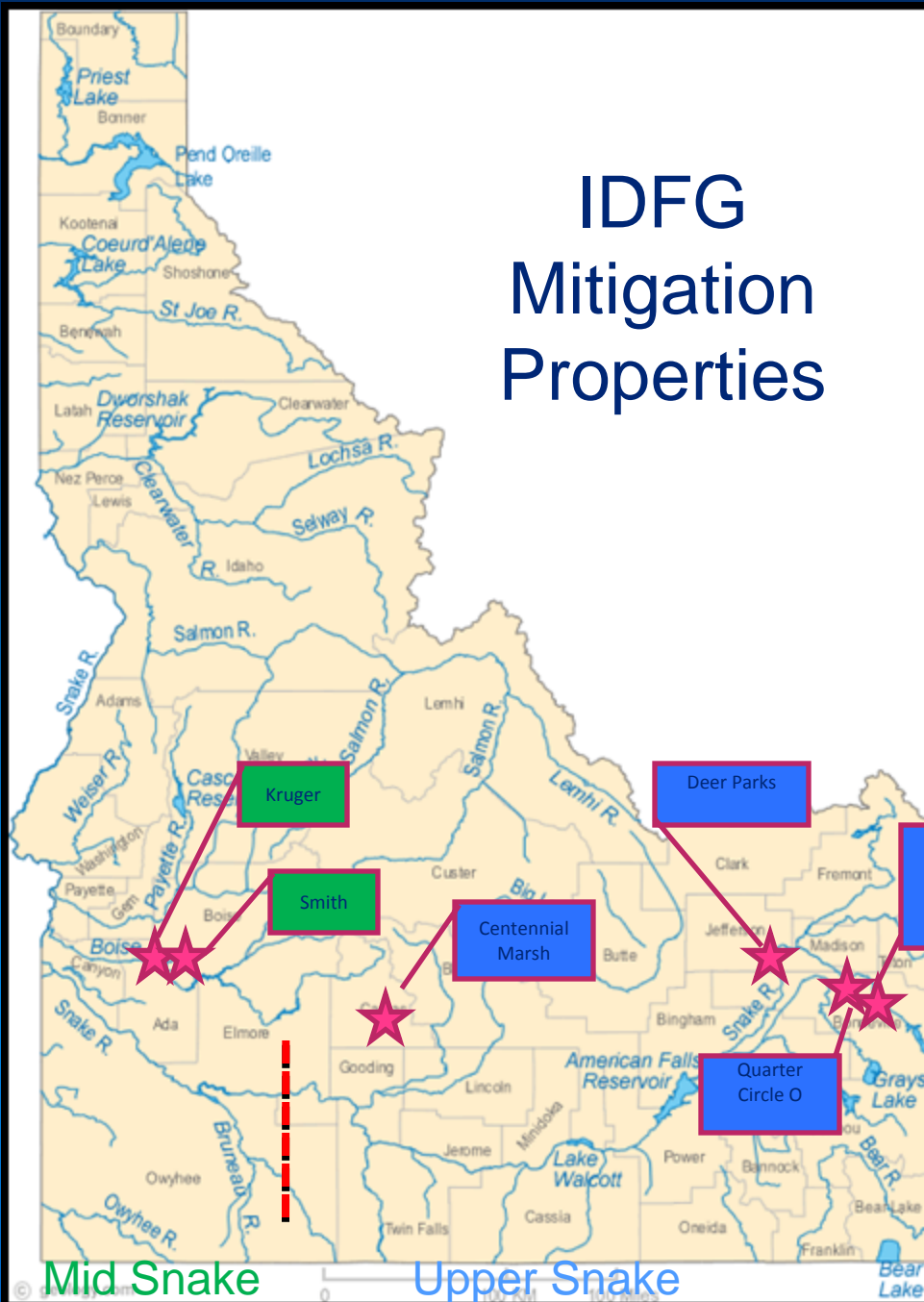


SIWM Habitat Type and Associated species

Habitat Type	Associated species
Wetland Aquatic 13,599 HU loss 5,976 remaining	Canadian Goose, Mallard Redhead, Western Grebe, River Otter, Mink
Upland Priority 15,165 HU loss 10,761 remaining	Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sage Grouse, Mule Deer
Forested Wetlands 5,566 HU loss 4,278 remaining	Black Capped Chickadee, Ruffed Grouse
Shrub-Scrub 1,720 HU loss 1,344 remaining	Marsh Wren, Yellow Warbler
Uplands 3,651 HU loss 3,651 remaining	Blue Grouse, Spruce Grouse, Ring-neck pheasant
Forested Riparian 24,506 HU loss 14,114 remaining	Bald Eagle (Wintering & Breeding)
Coniferous Forest 2,626 HU loss 2,623 remaining	Yellow –rumped Warbler



IDFG Mitigation Properties

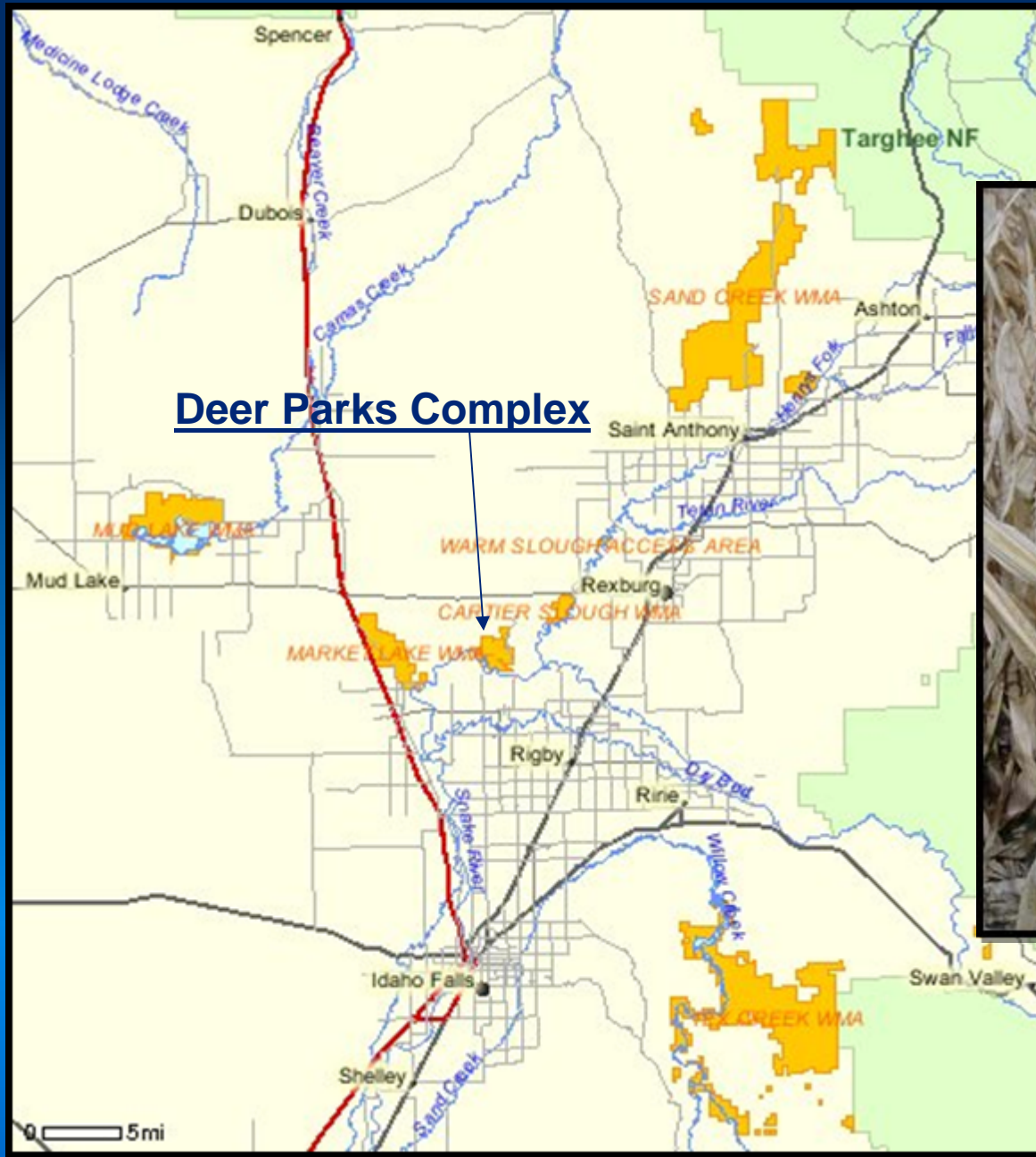


Deer Parks Complex

1997 – 2002

3,209 acres 8,660 HU's

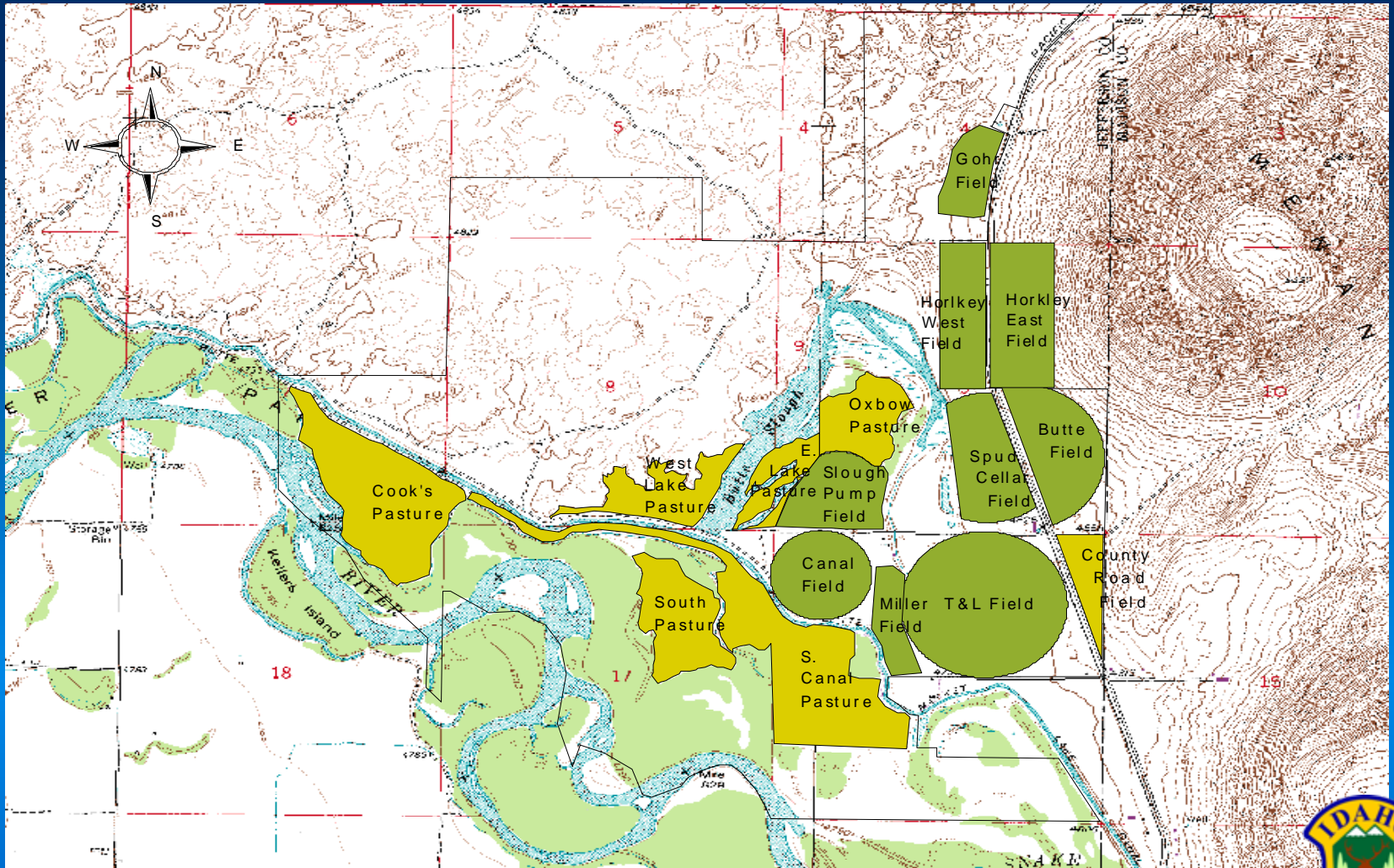




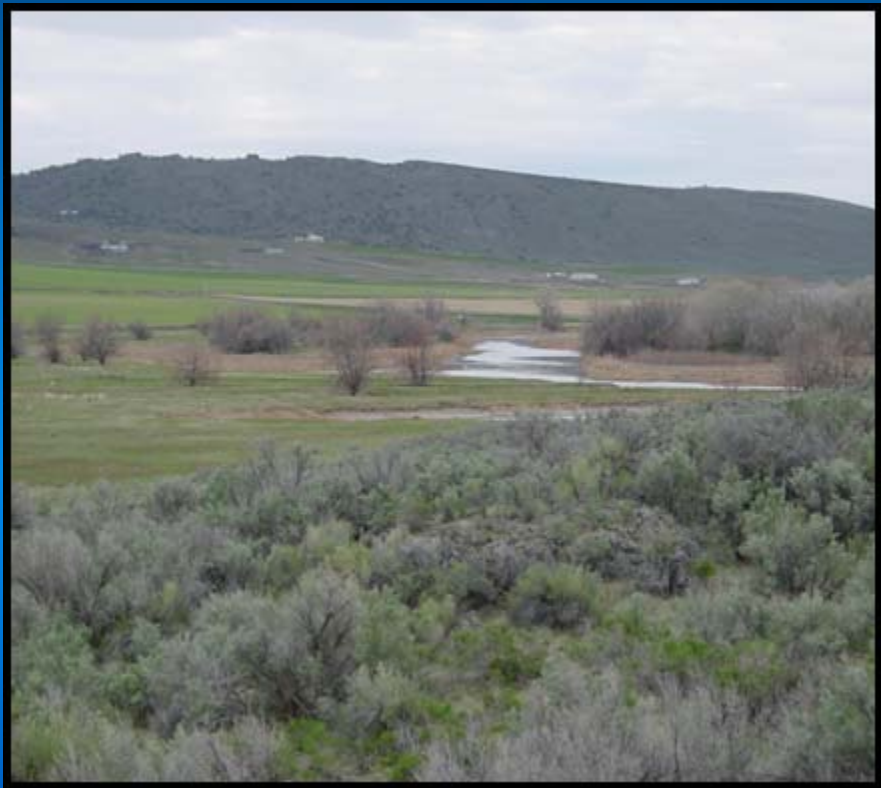
Deer Parks Complex



Deer Parks Property



Deer Parks Property



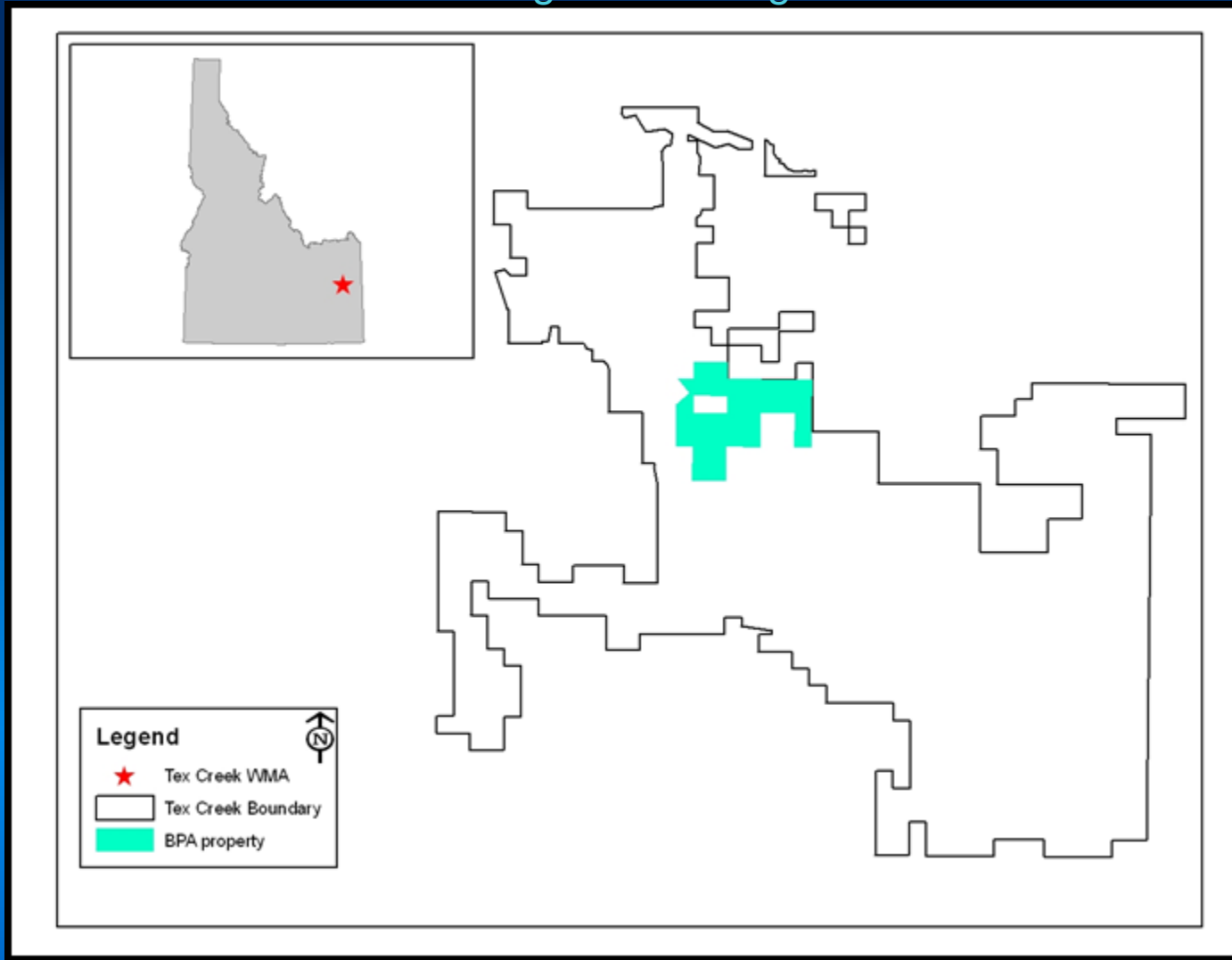
Deer Parks Property



Quarter Circle O Property

Tex Creek Total acreage 31,000

Mitigation acreage- 718



Quarter Circle O Property

Acquired in 1997

718 acres

1,254 HU's



Centennial Marsh

2002 – 2008

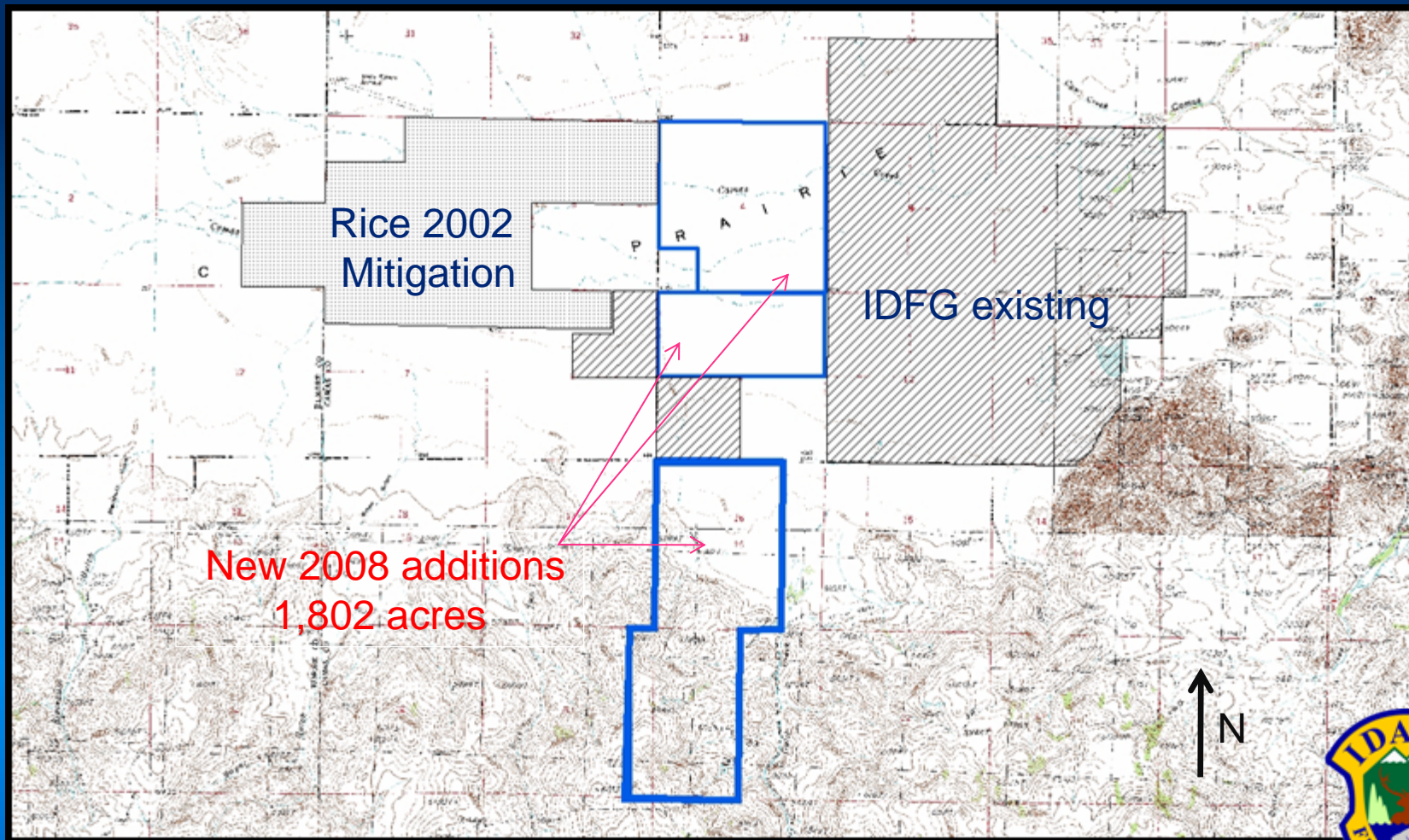
3,168 acres 2,414 HU's



Centennial Marsh

Total Acres 6,268

Mitigation – 3,168 acres





Boise River

Kruger & Smith

1999 -2008

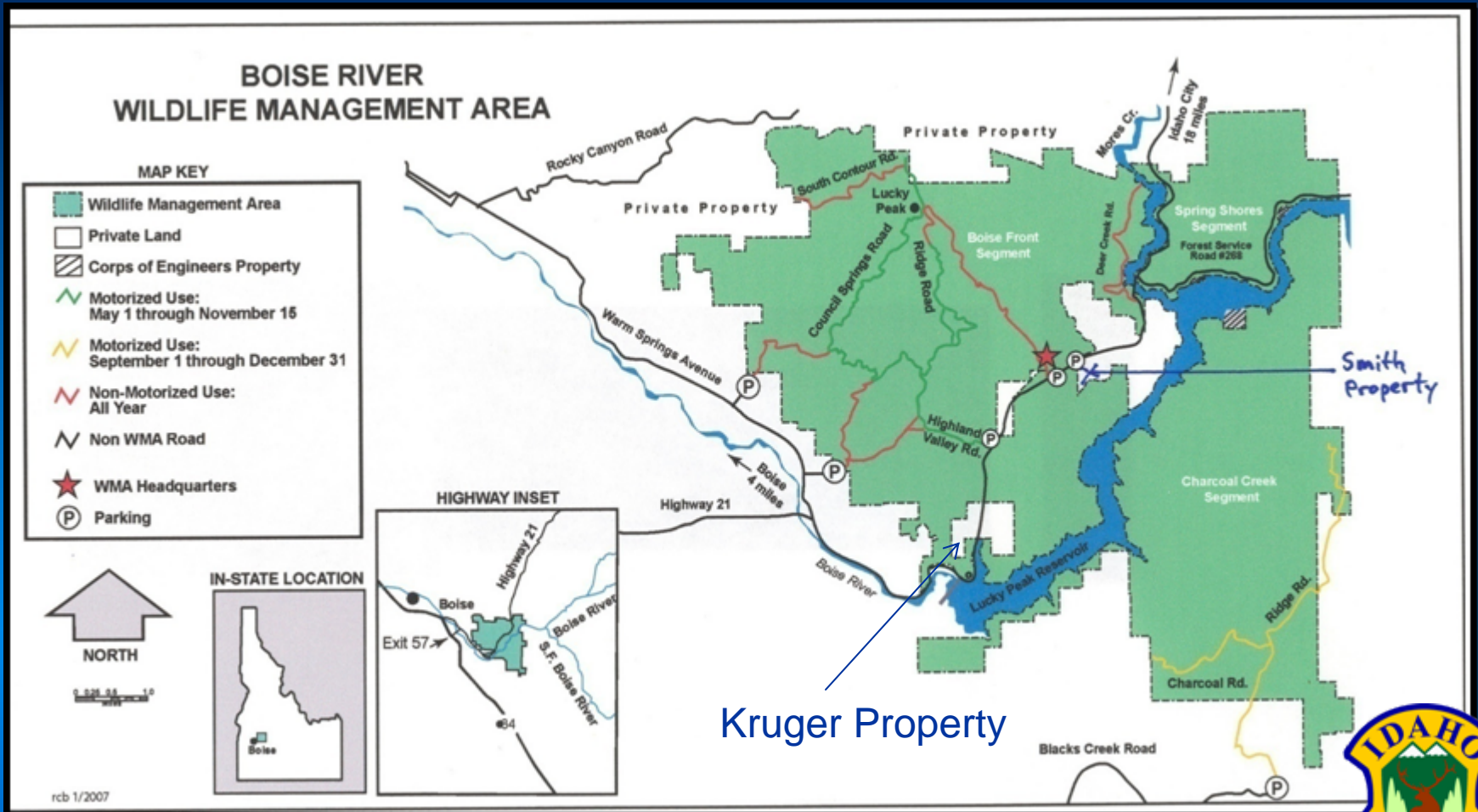
225 acres 86 HU's



Boise River WMA

IDFG – 19,000 acres

Mitigation – 225 acres



Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Projects

(Unnasch *et al.*, 2003)

Plan Objectives

1. Track progress toward full mitigation of the HU losses identified in hydroelectric project impact assessments.
2. Evaluate the success or failure of management activities.
 - periodic mapping of the vegetation to assess changes in the distribution and extent of all plant communities at each site
 - periodic reassessment of the number of habitat units at each mitigation site (HEP monitoring empowers the interpretation of changes in targeted wildlife populations)
 - Monitoring trends in the composition and structure of targeted plant communities
 - Monitoring population parameters (relative abundance, distribution, and population trends) of selected target and non-target land birds and waterfowl species
 - Maintain a photographic record for permanent monitoring sample points



Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Projects

(Unnasch *et al.*, 2003)

3. Ensure that all monitoring data collected are sufficient to detect a 2.5% annual change over the span of ten years with a statistical power of 80%. This annual rate of change equates to a total change of 20% from starting conditions after the ten-year period.
4. Adopt standardized monitoring methodologies that are compatible with monitoring at larger scales and the scientific literature. This will maximize the usefulness of the data collected within the NWPPC Fish and Wildlife Program as well as at regional or national scales.





SIWM Project needs:

- **Slow implementation of mitigation:**
At current rate it will take an additional 50 years to complete mitigation
- **Review timeframe and process of time sensitive acquisitions requirements:**
Lowest priority, Appraisals, Hazards materials, Cultural resources
- **BPA withholding monitoring funding:**
Wildlife based surveys
- **Increased cost per acre of sensitive habitat types:**
Forested Riparian, Forested Wetlands, etc
- **BPA capital and expense requirements:**
> \$1,000,000 or pooled with other acquisitions within same FY



FUTURE DIRECTION

Fully mitigate for the wildlife losses from
hydropower in Southern Idaho

- Replacement of lost Habitat Units
- Protection and enhancement of acquired Habitat Units



All Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation program partners are pursuing a permanent settlement with the Bonneville Power Administration.

