IDFG Technical Assistance Program



MERRITT HORSMON

PANHANDLE REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MANAGER

13 JULY 2023



RTAMs – Connecting the Dots for Conservation

- ►Who we are
- ► What we do
- ► How we get it done



Our Mission

(Idaho Code Section 36-103)

All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall only be captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.

Who we are...Mission aligned & integration focused

Purpose – Assemble, develop, curate, and disseminate credible science-based knowledge to inform decisions to benefit fish, wildlife, and botanical resources, and associated recreation



FY 2020-2023 Annual Strategic Plan Core Value – Scientifically developed information is the foundation of fish and wildlife management and fundamental to IDFG's mission



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Who we are....

Terrestrial

Coordinator:

Bill Bosworth

Technical Assistance

Program

(TAP)

Coordinator:

Tom Bassista

Deputy Director of Policy and Programs Amber Worthington Wildlife Bureau **Bureau Chief: Habitat Program Manager:** Frank Edelmann Sal Palazzolo **Big Game** Idaho Fish and Wildlife **Movements & Migration Information System** (M&M) (IFWIS) Idaho Science & Aquatic Program Wildlife Coordinator: **Technology Policy**

Manager:

Angie Schmidt



Fellowship

Sarah Maher



Jacob Gray

Who we are & Deputy Director of Policy and **Programs Amber Worthington** What we do... Bureau Chief: Frank Edelmann Wildlife Bureau Habitat Program Manager: Technical Assistance Idaho Fish and Wildlife Program Information System (TAP) (IFWIS) Movements & Migration (M&M) **Terrestrial** Aquatic Idaho Science & Technology Program Coordinator: Coordinator: Policy Fellowship Manager: Bill Bosworth Tom Bassista Angie Schmidt Sarah Maher Spatial Ecology Regional Technical Data Management Project Management/ **MDF** Partner Botany Lead: GIS Lead: Web Lead: Assistance Development Lead: Lead: Wildlife Biologist: Lead: Lynn Kinter Jeff May Ben Studer Leona Svancara Michael Freyman Matt Boone Managers Jennifer Miller Sonya Knetter Region 1 Bryan Boson Jim Strickland Brock Lipple Patrick Perkins MDF Partner GIS Analyst Merritt Horsmon Software Engineer **Botany Data** Botanist GIS Analyst Developer Wildlife Biologist: Vacant Janice Hill Region 2 Chris Harrington Nikki Wade Katey Jones Clay Hickey Software Engineer Botanist Zoology Data GIS Analyst Region 3 Gretel Care Mike Cumberworth Ailvie Freestorm Brandon Flack Software Engineer Data Technician GIS Analyst Biologist: Vacant Charlotte Region 4

-Cumberworth

Data Technician

Bradley Dawson

_Region 5 Becky Johnson

_Region 6 Eric Anderson

Region 7 Jeff Richards

Inform and Influence Conservation Decisionmaking

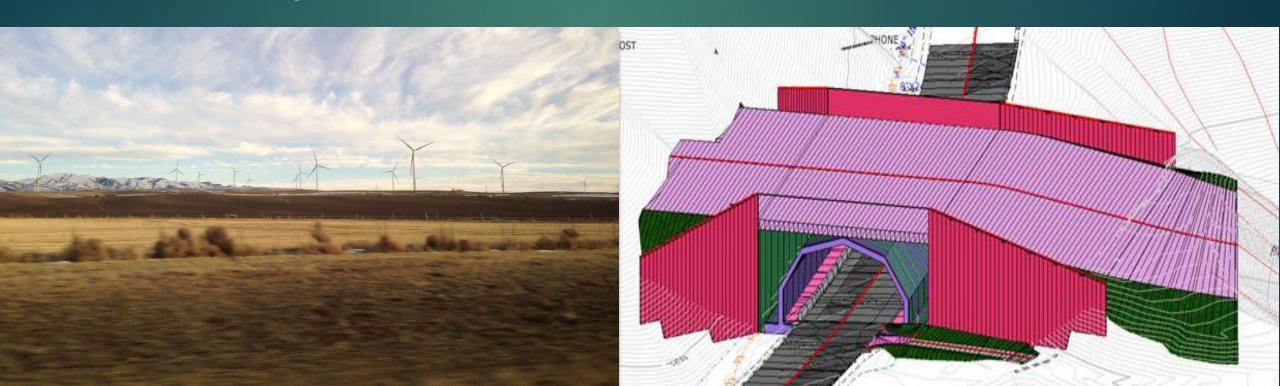
- ►Who we are
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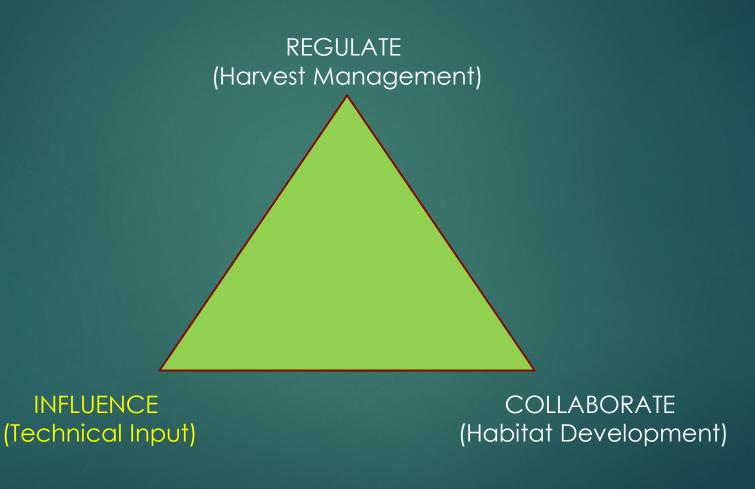
What we do...Information is our business

- ► IFWIS Curate central biological databases
- ► TAP Respond to technical assistance requests
- ► M&M Mitigate obstacles to wildlife movement





How TAP supports IDFG Mission



Technical Assistance Program

- Respond to proposed actions and policies
- Coordinated State responses
- Apply technical expertise and science-based information
- Coordinate input from programs and subject-matter experts.
- Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate (AMM)

Terrestrial Technical Assistance Priorities

- Participating in Federal Policy development to benefit Idaho
 - ► (Regulation proposals, ex: ESA, Programmatic NEPA)
- Seeking AMM for Energy and Mineral development projects
 - Energy (Renewables and electrification/climate)
 - Minerals (precious metals, strategic and critical minerals)
- Using Infrastructure improvements to benefit fish and wildlife
 - ► Highways, bridges, culverts, etc.
- Shaping Land-use
 - USFS Forest Plans, BLM Resource Management Plans, Travel Plans
 - County and city planning and development





Aquatic Technical Assistance Priorities

Water is Economic and Politically Sensitive

- All water rights-through DAG
- All FERC through OEMR





"Completion of the Snake River Basin Adjudication is a state accomplishment worth celebrating," U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said.

Regional Technical Assistance Managers

Data Driven



Solution/Strategy Oriented





Outcome focused

Influencing Outcomes for Conservation



Update with healthy connected landscapes
Public access for hunting, fishing and trapping
Economic prosperity
Win-win-win situation!

Minimum Stream Flow Legislation. The Parties to this Agreement agree to support the legislation set forth in Attachment B authorizing the IWRB to file applications for permit for minimum stream flow water rights ("MSF") on the following creeks:

Fish Screens. The Parties to this Agreement holding irrigation water rights on Big Timber Creek agree to grant access to IDFG to install and maintain fish screens on their irrigation diversions at no cost to landowners. IDFG may



We are making progress...

- Habitat Conservation
 - 155 miles of wildlife friendly fence
 - 66,000 acers of habitat improvement
- Telemetry Data Mapping
 - 22 mule deer routes
 - 23 elk routes
 - 6 pronghorn routes
- Transportation Projects
 - US30 mule deer crossings at Rocky Point
 - SH21 big game overpass at Lucky Peak
 - SH28 bridges and funnel fence
 - Copeland fencing extension and enhancement
 - McArthur Lake fencing project
 - G2S EIS



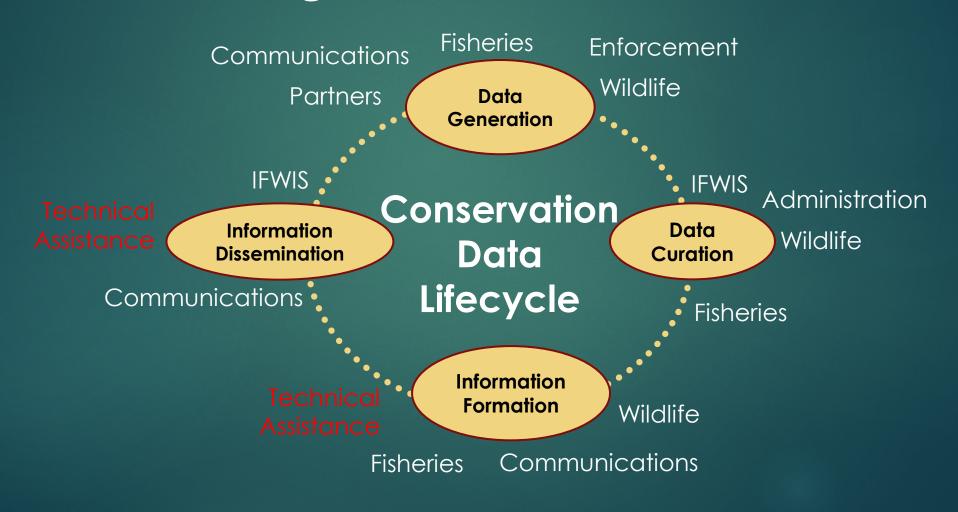
TSB – One Team–One Mission

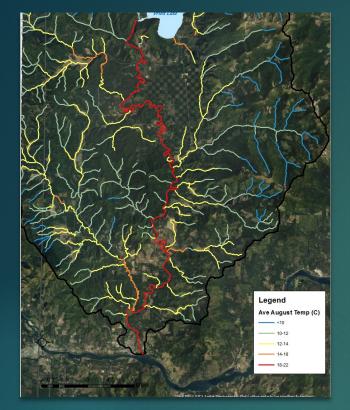
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How we get it done...Together

Connecting the Dots for Conservation









How does this relate to Priest River?



Thank You

QUESTIONS?