

Meeting Date: January 11, 2006

Agenda Item No. 12

Agenda Item: Pheasants, HIP, CREP, and Farm Bill

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Jeff Gould

Background:

Clearwater Regional staff provided an update on the Clearwater Pheasant Initiative at the Commission meeting in November 2006. They described how the department's collective effort to facilitate cooperation between state and federal agencies, landowners, and local citizens during the past four years has helped to create good pheasant habitat in key areas of the region. Recognizing that this has been a successful effort in the Clearwater Region, the Commission asked (1) what the department is doing to improve pheasant habitat elsewhere in the state, and (2) how do we expand this approach to get more wildlife habitat enhanced on private land throughout Idaho? This presentation will highlight different work occurring throughout the state and how CREP and Farm Bill 2002 reauthorization pose significant opportunities to develop more fish and wildlife habitat on private lands.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

- Providing incentives and assistance to landowners to improve habitat on private lands is a strategy of the Department's Strategic Plan. This strategy helps achieve the goal of sustaining Idaho's fish and wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend.

Public Involvement Process:

- Not applicable

Justification:

- Provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners interested in developing and/or enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.
- Improved public relations with private landowners, agricultural community, NRCS and FSA.
- Increased fish and wildlife knowledge and technical skills available in NRCS offices.

Action Requested:

- Support future Department efforts to expand Federal Farm Bill and other private land habitat enhancement programs across Idaho.

Staff Recommendations:

Expand successful efforts taken in the Clearwater Region to other parts of the state.