



Idaho Agriculture and the Columbia/Snake River System

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Coalition for Idaho Water

Formed by **Idaho Grain Producers Association** and the **Idaho Water Users Association** in the 1990s

Members include:

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| Far West Agribusiness Association | Idaho Onion Growers' Association |
| Food Northwest | Idaho Recreation Council |
| Food Producers of Idaho | Idaho Sugarbeet Growers Association |
| Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission | Idaho Wheat Commission |
| Idaho Association of Counties | J.R. Simplot Company |
| Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts | Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association |
| Idaho Barley Commission | Northwest Farm Credit Council |
| Idaho Cattle Association | Payette River Water Users Association |
| Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association | Port of Lewiston |
| Idaho Dairymen's Association | Potato Growers of Idaho |
| Idaho Eastern-Oregon Seed Association | Snake River Multi-Use Advocates |
| Idaho Farm Bureau Federation | Treasure Valley Water Users Association |
| Idaho Irrigation Pumps Association | United Onions USA |
| Idaho Mint Growers Association | Water District No. 65 Advisory Board |
| Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association | Committee of Nine |

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Why are we having this conversation today?

1. Columbia River System Operations EIS (draft due February 2020)
2. Columbia Basin Partnership (Phase #2 completed June 2020)
3. Governor's Salmon Workgroup (Report due December 2020)
4. Washington Governor's Orca Taskforce (Draft report on LSRD issued December 2019)

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Discussion Topics

- Water
- Hydropower
- Wheat/Navigation
- Economic Impact



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Water Development Provides Significant Value to Idaho's Economy

	Blaine Project	Minidoka Project	Owyhee Project	Palladaslee Project
Crops	\$624,575,000	\$704,104,000	\$155,250,000	\$650,900,000
Livestock	\$645,000,000	\$387,144,000	\$93,150,000	\$355,448,000
Power Generation	\$13,975,000	\$6,339,200	\$0	\$31,413,000
Flood Prevention	\$183,287,500	\$9,961,600	\$755,550	\$20,942,000
Recreation	\$33,002,500	\$28,300,000	\$4,830,000	\$16,640,400
TOTAL	\$1,499,840,000	\$1,135,848,800	\$253,985,550	\$1,075,343,400

Bureau of Reclamation (2017)

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Many of Idaho's Thriving Ag Industries Rely on Water

- Barley: \$253 million (2019)
- Potatoes: \$1.1 billion (2019)
- Sugarbeets: \$322 million (2019)

(Eborn & Taylor, 2020)

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Snake River Water Rights Agreement

1990's: Nez Perce Tribe Instream flow claims raised concerns about management of Idaho's waters for ag users



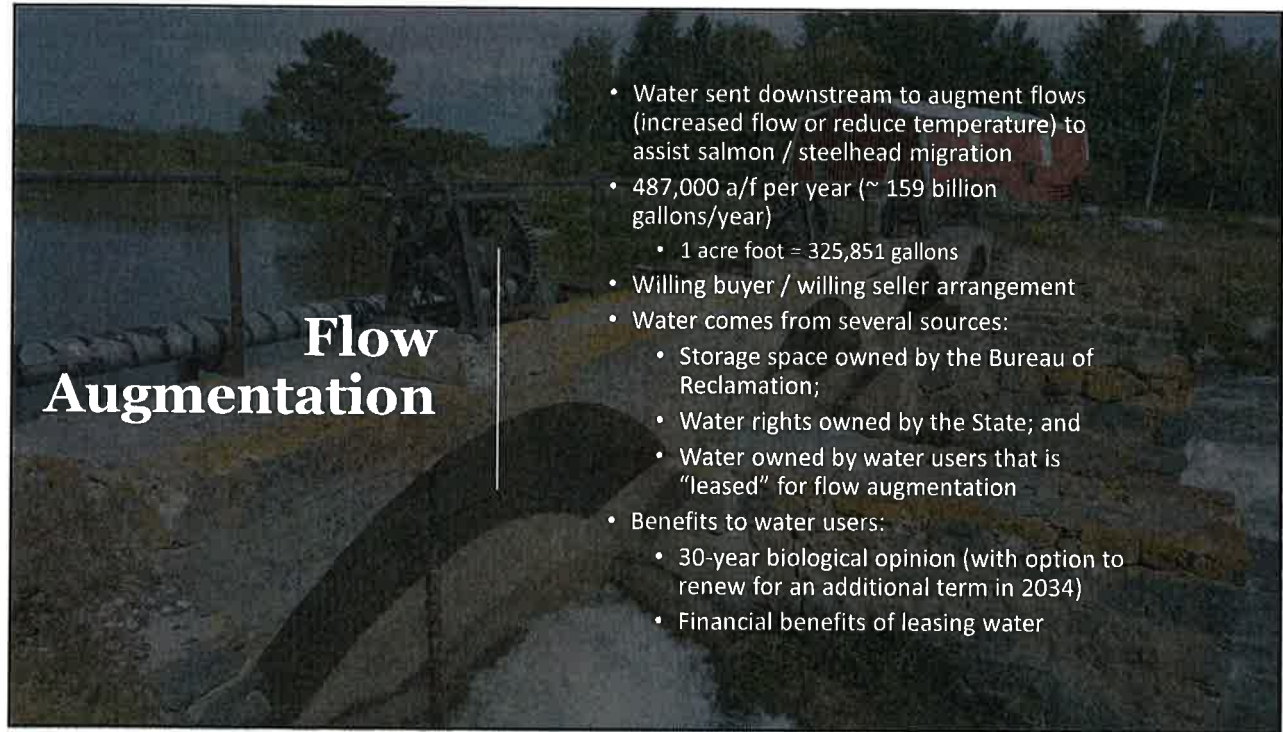
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Snake River Water Rights Agreement

2004: Snake River Water Rights Agreement (aka "Nez Perce Agreement")

- Parties: State of Idaho, Nez Perce Tribe, Water users
- Tribal Component: Quantified water rights, established trust fund for water and fisheries resources
- Salmon/Clearwater Initiative: Provides instream flows and establishes a fund for habitat improvements
- Snake River Component: Established flow augmentation program


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Flow Augmentation

- Water sent downstream to augment flows (increased flow or reduce temperature) to assist salmon / steelhead migration
- 487,000 a/f per year (~ 159 billion gallons/year)
 - 1 acre foot = 325,851 gallons
- Willing buyer / willing seller arrangement
- Water comes from several sources:
 - Storage space owned by the Bureau of Reclamation;
 - Water rights owned by the State; and
 - Water owned by water users that is "leased" for flow augmentation
- Benefits to water users:
 - 30-year biological opinion (with option to renew for an additional term in 2034)
 - Financial benefits of leasing water

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Hydropower Generation

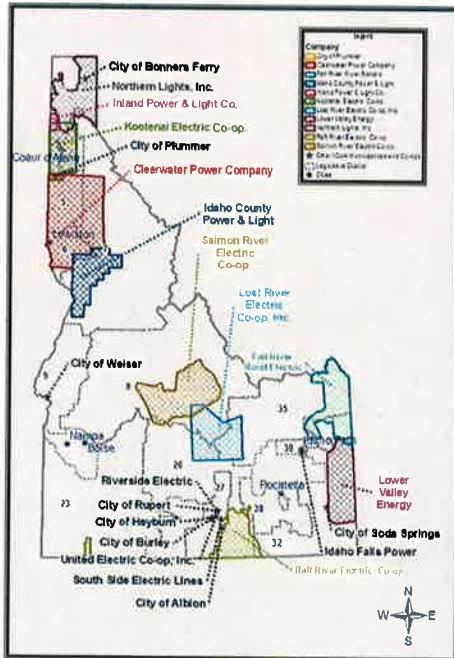
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IDAHO CONSUMER-OWNED UTILITIES ASSOCIATION

- ICUA represents 11 rural electric cooperatives and 11 municipal power companies that provide power to over 137,000 Idahoans across our State.
- Our utilities include; Raft River Electric in Malta, City of Albion, Clearwater Power in Lewiston, Idaho Falls Power, City of Soda Springs, Fall River Electric in Ashton, Idaho County Light & Power in Grangeville, City Of Plummer, Lost River Electric in Mackay, and many others.
- ICUA member utilities deliver electricity to consumers "at cost" and no member operates on a "for profit" basis.
- Our utilities are self-regulated by their elected boards of directors and city councils – not regulated by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.
- The Bonneville Power Administration supplies over 96% of the wholesale electric power that ICUA member utilities deliver to their customers.

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The Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association



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Value of the System to Public Power Consumers in Idaho and PNW:

- **Hydropower is renewable.**
- **Hydropower is flexible and reliable.**
- **Hydropower ratepayers support fish and wildlife programs.**
- **Hydropower is affordable.**

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Hydropower is Renewable

- **Hydropower is the original renewable resource for the Northwest.**
- **Northwest hydropower produces no carbon emissions, thereby significantly reducing the total carbon footprint of the region's energy production.**
- **Hydro's share of the Northwest's carbon-free electricity production – 80%.**

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Hydropower is Flexible and Reliable

- The four lower Snake River dams produce over 1,000 average megawatts (3,000 megawatts nameplate) of reliable, carbon-free energy.
- The dams act as a massive, clean battery for intermittent wind and solar power. These important resources must be complemented by the hydro system that is able to quickly increase generation when the wind wanes or decrease when it blows harder.
- Capacity is becoming increasingly important to the PNW as loads continue to grow. For much of the year BPA relies on the lower four Snake River dams specifically to help meet peak demands for energy.

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Hydropower Ratepayers Support Fish and Wildlife Programs



- Total cost of BPA Fish & Wildlife actions since inception (1978-2018): nearly \$17 billion.
- For Idaho's public power consumers, up to 20% of their average utility bill goes toward these programs.
- Funds go towards improved fish passage technology, habitat restoration, hatchery programs, predation control, etc.

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Hydropower is Affordable

- According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Idaho specifically and the PNW in general consistently have the lowest power rates in the nation.
- Carbon-free, renewable hydropower is the primary factor keeping our rates so low compared to the rest of the United States.
- Low-cost power is a major contributing factor to Idaho's economic expansion.

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Idaho Wheat Facts

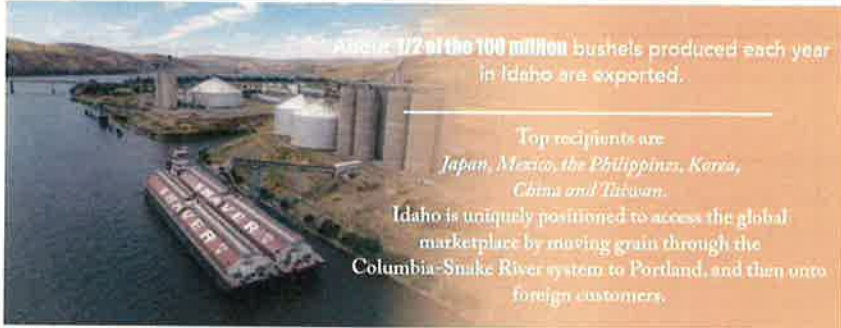
Idaho has one of the most consistent harvests of any wheat-growing area.

Wet springs and warm, dry summers combined with rich volcanic solids create ideal conditions for our high-quality wheat. Nearly **2/3 of Idaho wheat** is grown under irrigation, allowing for Idaho growers to manage the crop to customers' specifications.

Total Cash receipts in 2019 were roughly **\$500 million**.

2nd Largest Crop

42 of Idaho's counties grow **Wheat**. *Custer and Shoshone are the only outliers.*

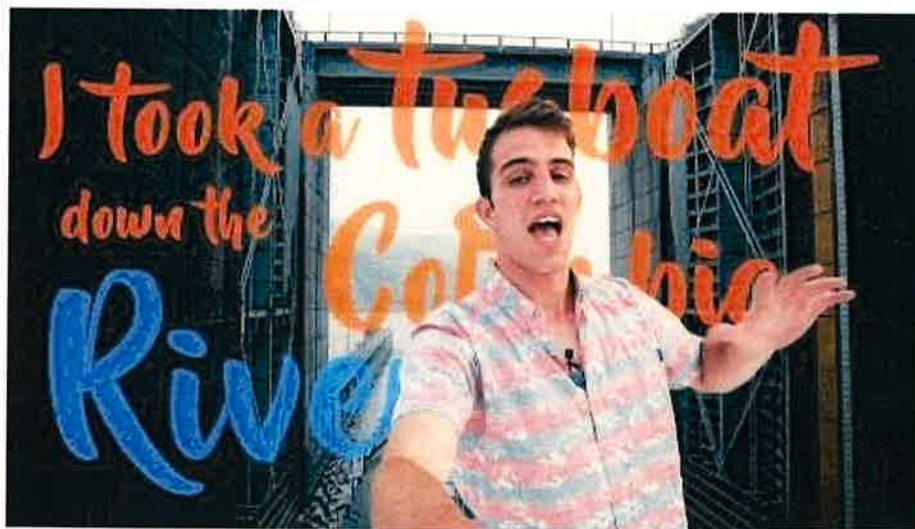


The **other 50 %** of Idaho's wheat crop stays in the U.S. and ends up in popular foods and brands, like *Pepperidge Farms Goldfish crackers, Wheat Chex & Wheaties cereal, Barilla pasta and Mission tortillas.*

In 2019, **Idaho was the highest-yielding state** in the nation. **Idaho ranked 6th** among wheat-producing states at more than **100 million bushels**. *(among states producing at least 5 mil bushels with an average of 87 bushels per acre)*

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Snake River – Columbia River Transport System



<http://www.idahowheat.org/down-the-river>

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Barging

- Most environmentally-friendly mode of transportation
- Provides Idaho wheat growers cost-effective access to international markets
- Nearly 10% of the nation's total wheat exports move by barge through the four dams on the Snake River

The 4,500 farm families who grow Idaho wheat and barley rely on the river system to get their crop to market.



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*The Snake is more than a river.
It's a lifeline.*

Dams and locks make the Lower Snake River navigable for barges that move Northwest products to port — averaging 500 million tons each year for the past decade.

For more information visit snakefordams.com and nwriverpartners.org

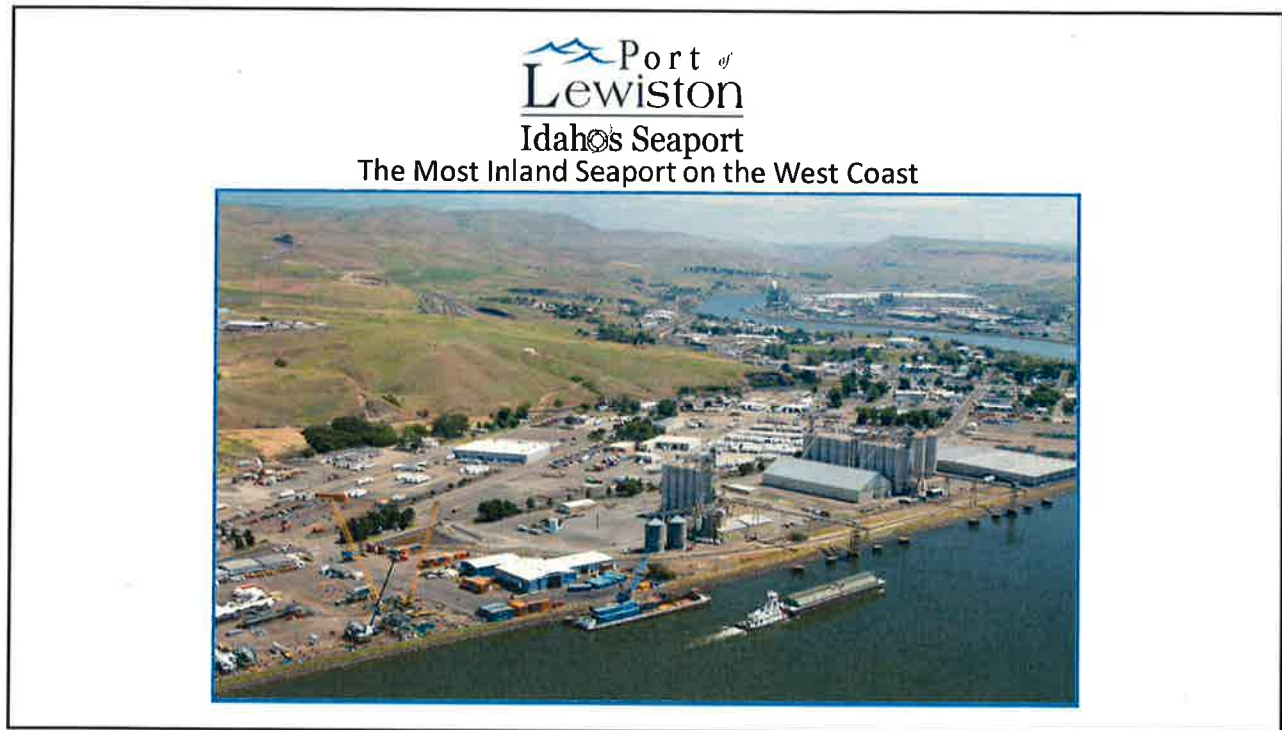


In the last three years, Idaho growers and the Port of Lewiston have hosted 46 loyal wheat customers from eleven countries (including the Chinese Trade Fair), pictured. These countries represent 70% of the world's population. Snake River dams allow Idaho farmers to compete globally and feed the world.



Brought to you by Idaho Wheat Commission, Lewistown Terminal, Inc., Port of Lewiston

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National Transportation Impacts & Regional Economic Impacts Caused by Breaching Lower Snake River Dams

- Each year, nearly 10% of all U.S. wheat exports move by barge just on the Snake River.
- Total commodities shipped on the Columbia-Snake System have remained fairly constant over the past decade, averaging 3.79 million tons per year (2007-2016).
- Removal of the lower snake river dams will cost the nation \$4 billion over 30 years. This does not include dam removal or power replacement costs.
- Grain shippers indicate that breaching the lower Snake River dams will increase transportation and storage costs by 50% to 100%.

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National Transportation Impacts & Regional Economic Impacts Caused by Breaching Lower Snake River Dams

- **Over 1,100 family farms may be at risk of bankruptcy. Average regional net farm cash income of \$42,825 in 2017**
- **Over \$1 billion in investment needed to address transportation, railroad, grain storage, highways and local infrastructure**
- **Increases in CO₂ and other harmful emissions by over 1.25 million tons per year. Adding 181,889 cars**

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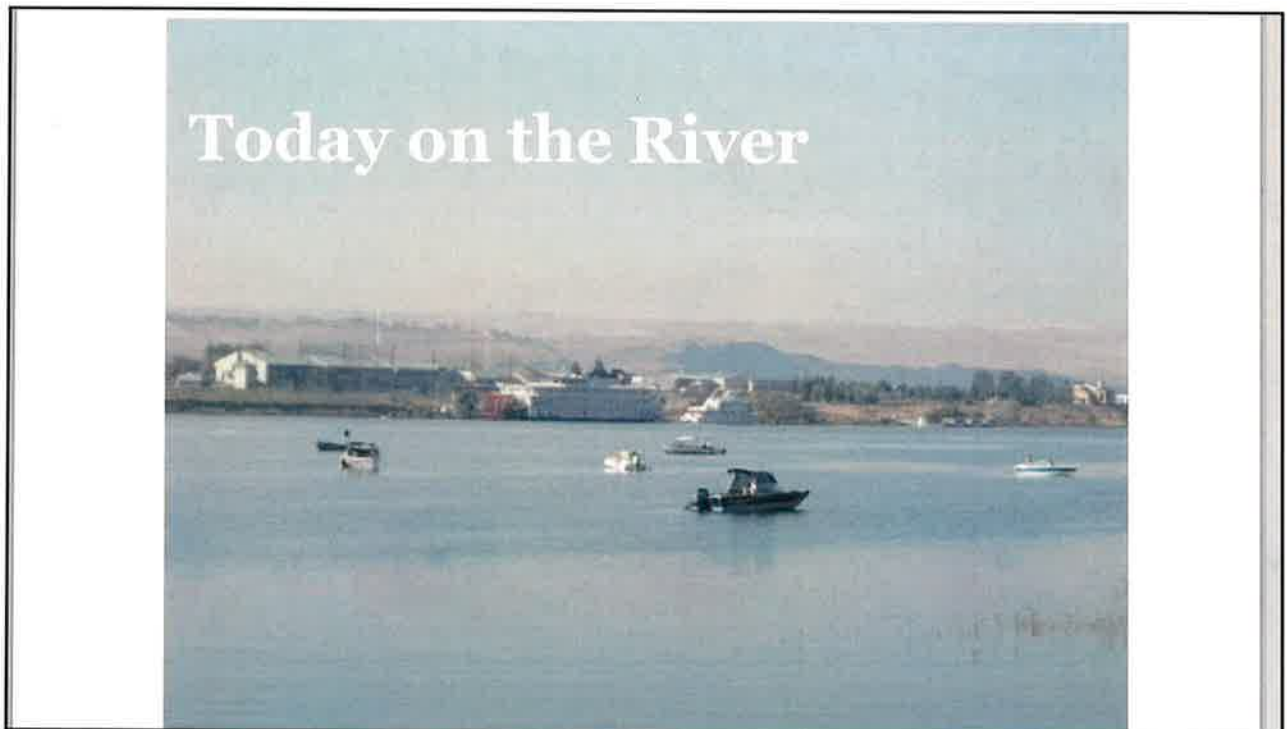
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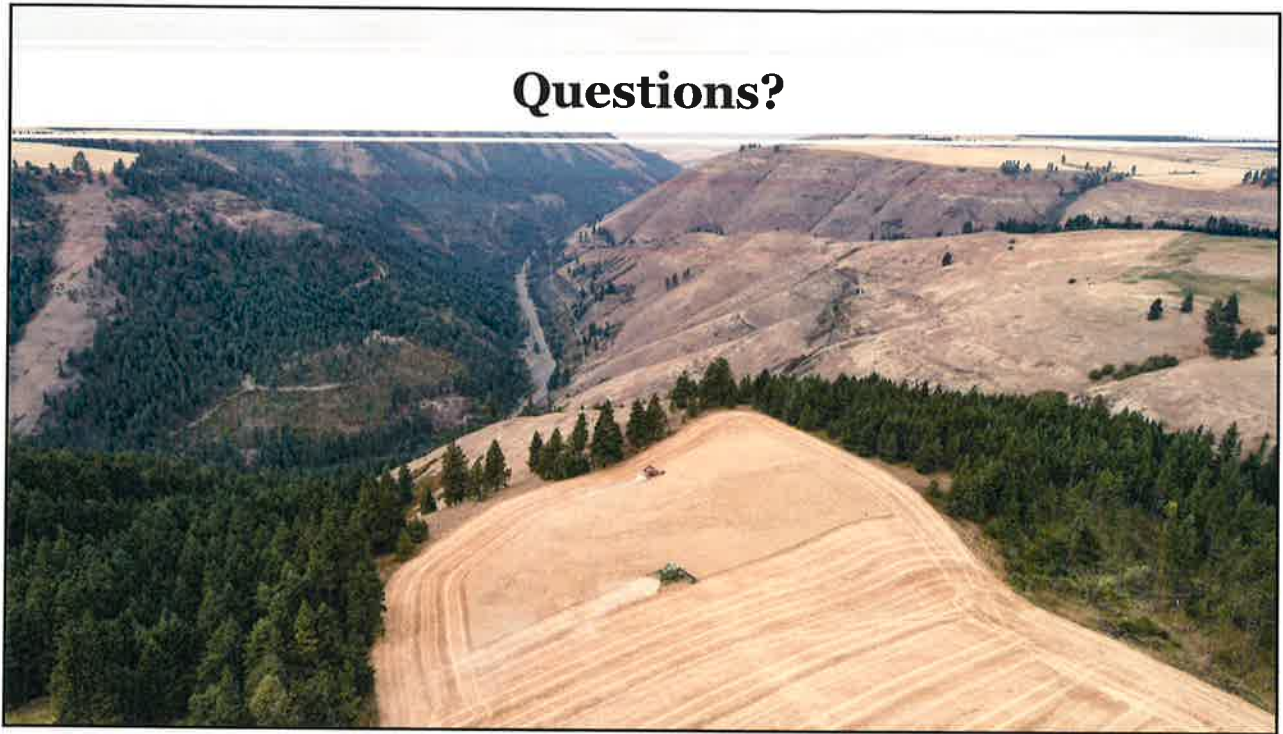
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