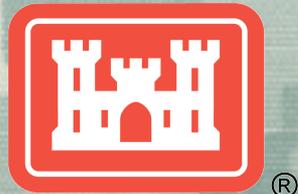


Walla Walla District SWIF Policy Implementation

4 April 2012



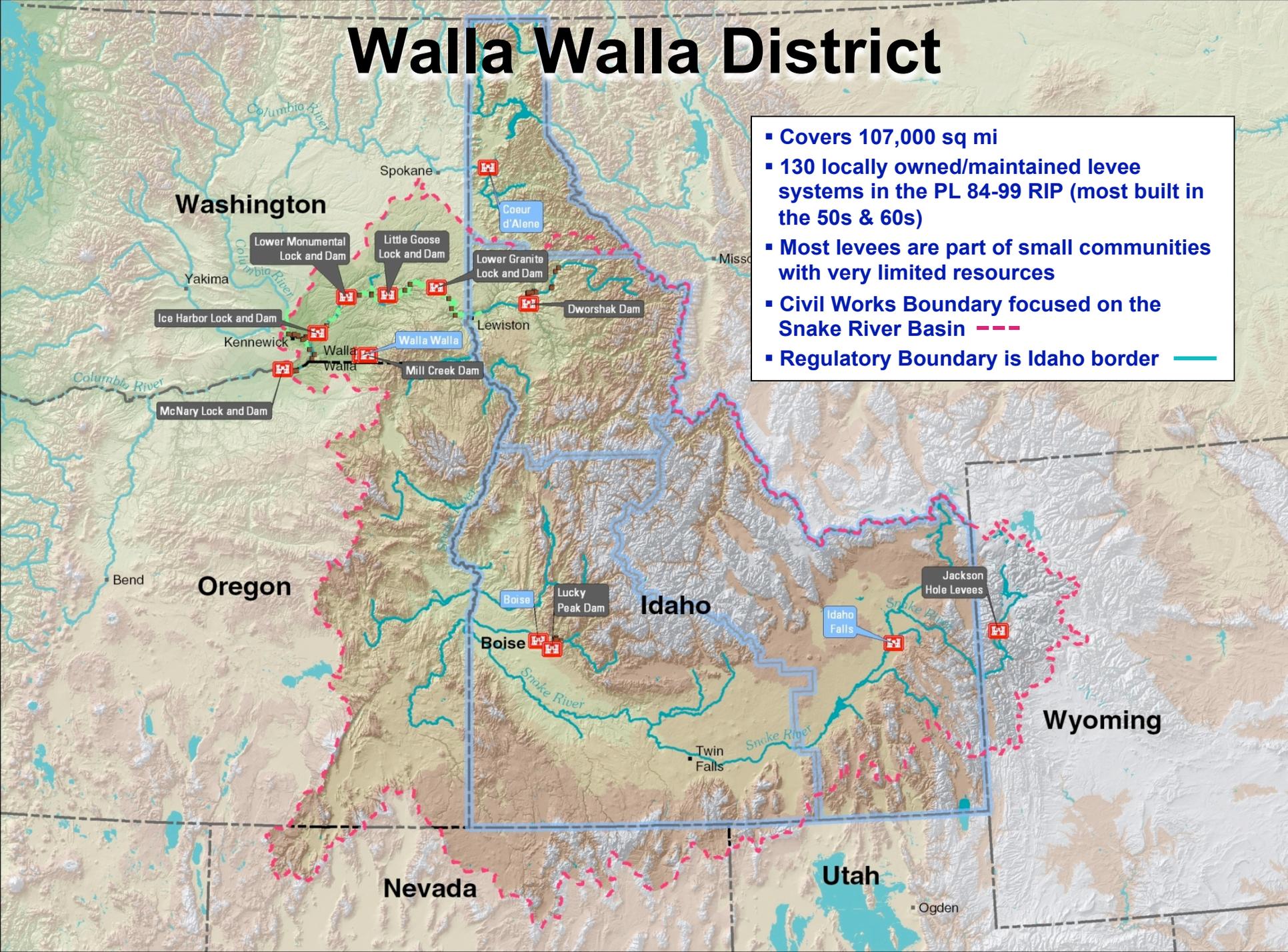
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US Army Corps of Engineers
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Walla Walla District

- Covers 107,000 sq mi
- 130 locally owned/maintained levee systems in the PL 84-99 RIP (most built in the 50s & 60s)
- Most levees are part of small communities with very limited resources
- Civil Works Boundary focused on the Snake River Basin - - -
- Regulatory Boundary is Idaho border ———



Challenges and Opportunities

- **Challenges:**

- ▶ Resources:
- ▶ Differing opinions
- ▶ Immediate issues vs. long-term solutions

- **Opportunities:**

- ▶ Partnering
- ▶ State grants
- ▶ Corps Continuing Authorities and General Investigation Programs
- ▶ Agencies can find common ground



SWIF Policy Implementation

Myths

- **Myth #1:** Federal and State agencies refuse to work together.
- **Myth #2:** Competing authorized purposes don't allow agencies to provide sponsors with viable options.



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SWIF Policy Implementation

Lessons Learned (so far)

■ Sponsor

- ▶ Must accept that solutions may not be easy or cheap.
- ▶ Should have a “long-term solution” approach
- ▶ Worst-first approach allows focus – use it to your advantage.

■ Agencies (Federal and State)

- ▶ Sort out Interagency interaction up front
- ▶ Focus on what the sponsor needs to get back in the programs.
- ▶ Must be willing to arrive at a solution that is acceptable to all involved (i.e. “good-enough”).

■ ETL (i.e. Corps Standards) or Variance?

- ▶ What’s the goal? Define it early.



SWIF Letter of Intent (Lol)

New Action

- **Suggestions based on first Corps acceptance of a Lol:**
 - ▶ The Lol is not the final product (i.e. SWIF Plan).
 - ▶ Discuss what the Lol and SWIF involve up front.
 - ▶ Provide as much information as possible.
 - ▶ Document progress already made.

- **SWIF Planning**
 - ▶ Start the SWIF Plan development as soon as possible.
 - ▶ Who will lead the Interagency group?



