

Idaho NRCS - Projects and Programs for Water Conservation and Optimization

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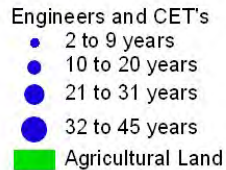


NRCS

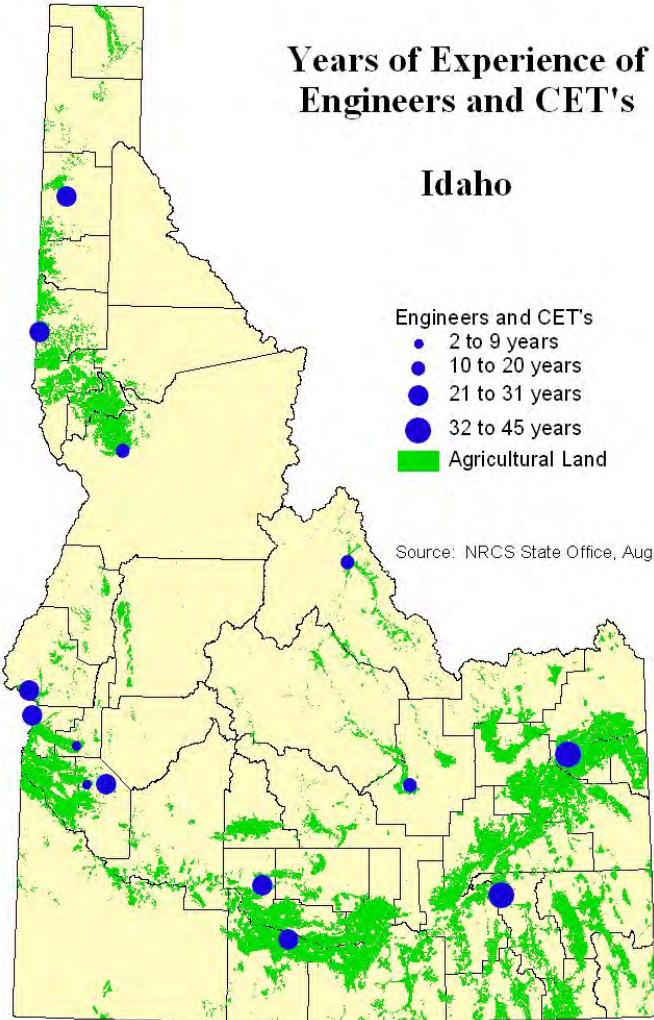
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Years of Experience of Engineers and CET's

Idaho



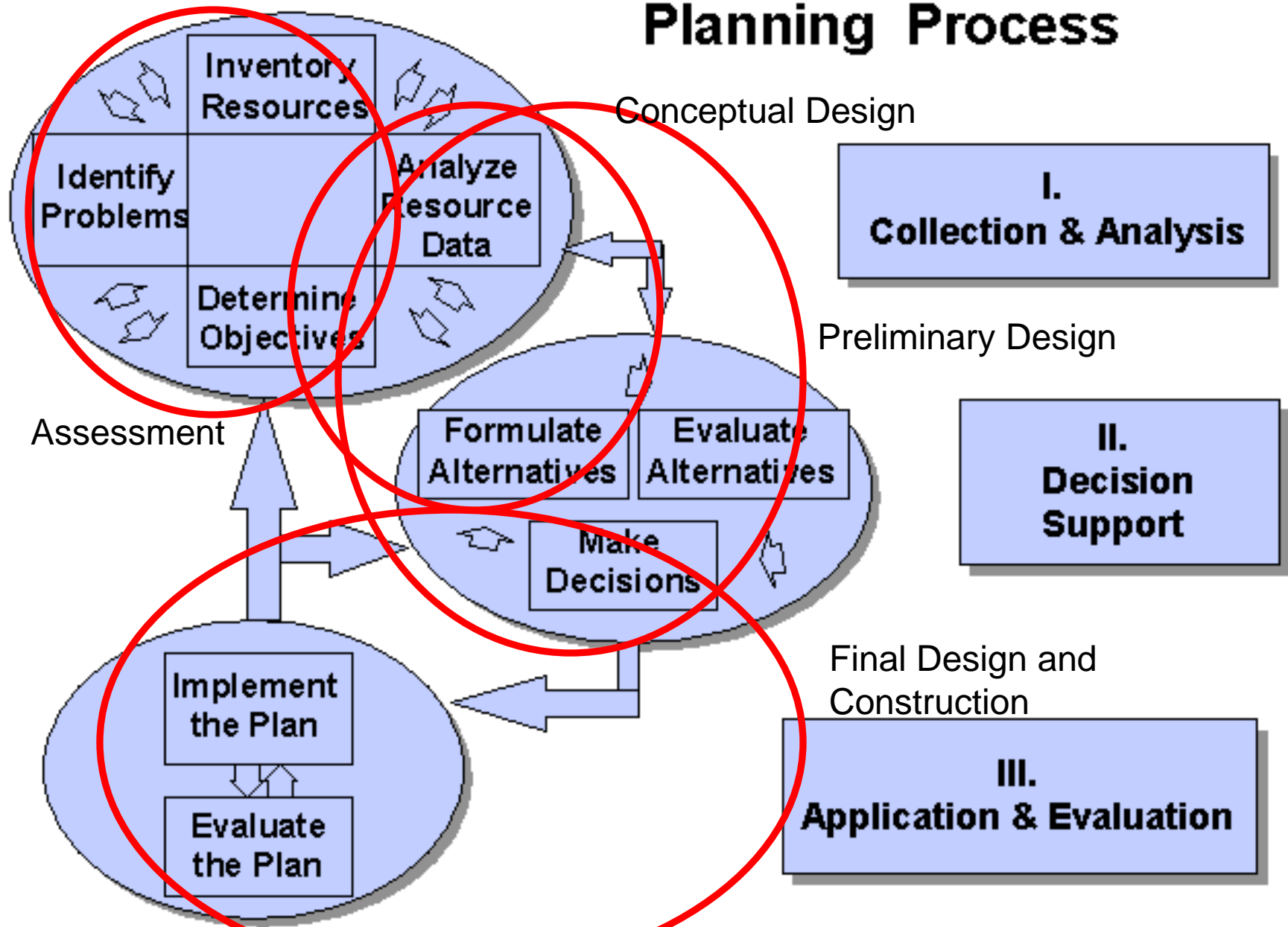
Source: NRCS State Office, August, 2005



Idaho NRCS Organization

- NRCS has an office in most counties in Idaho
- We work through locally elected Soil and Water Conservation District boards
- NRCS works with individual landowners to improve their Soil, Water, Air, Plant and Animal Resources
- We often partner with local Irrigation Districts, Land Trusts, Interest Groups and local governments to plan larger, multi-owner projects

Planning Process



An illustration of the dynamic nature of the planning process.

NRCS Planning Process Group Projects

- Setting objectives and goals is the most important part, and the hardest to get correct (Phase I and Conceptual Design steps),
- This leads to realistic and rigorous alternative analysis (Phase II and Preliminary Design),
- Getting Phase I and Phase II right, make final design efficient and effective. Also makes for good Stakeholder buy-in, participation and funding source interest,
- The process can be very iterative.



NRCS Programs That Involve Water Management

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), \$19M in Financial Assistance, FY 2010
- Wetland Reserve Program, \$5M in Financial Assistance, FY 2010
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), pay to quit pumping ground water and plant to grass

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- EQIP applications are ranked according to:
 - National EQIP Priorities
 - State EQIP Priorities
 - Local EQIP Priorities
- National (example):
 - considerable reductions of non-point source pollution
 - conserve a considerable amount of surface or ground water
- State (example):
 - will the practice assist in TMDL implementation
 - will the practice convert to 100% gravity pressure
 - will the practice benefit a Groundwater Management Area

Technical Issues with Water Resources Projects

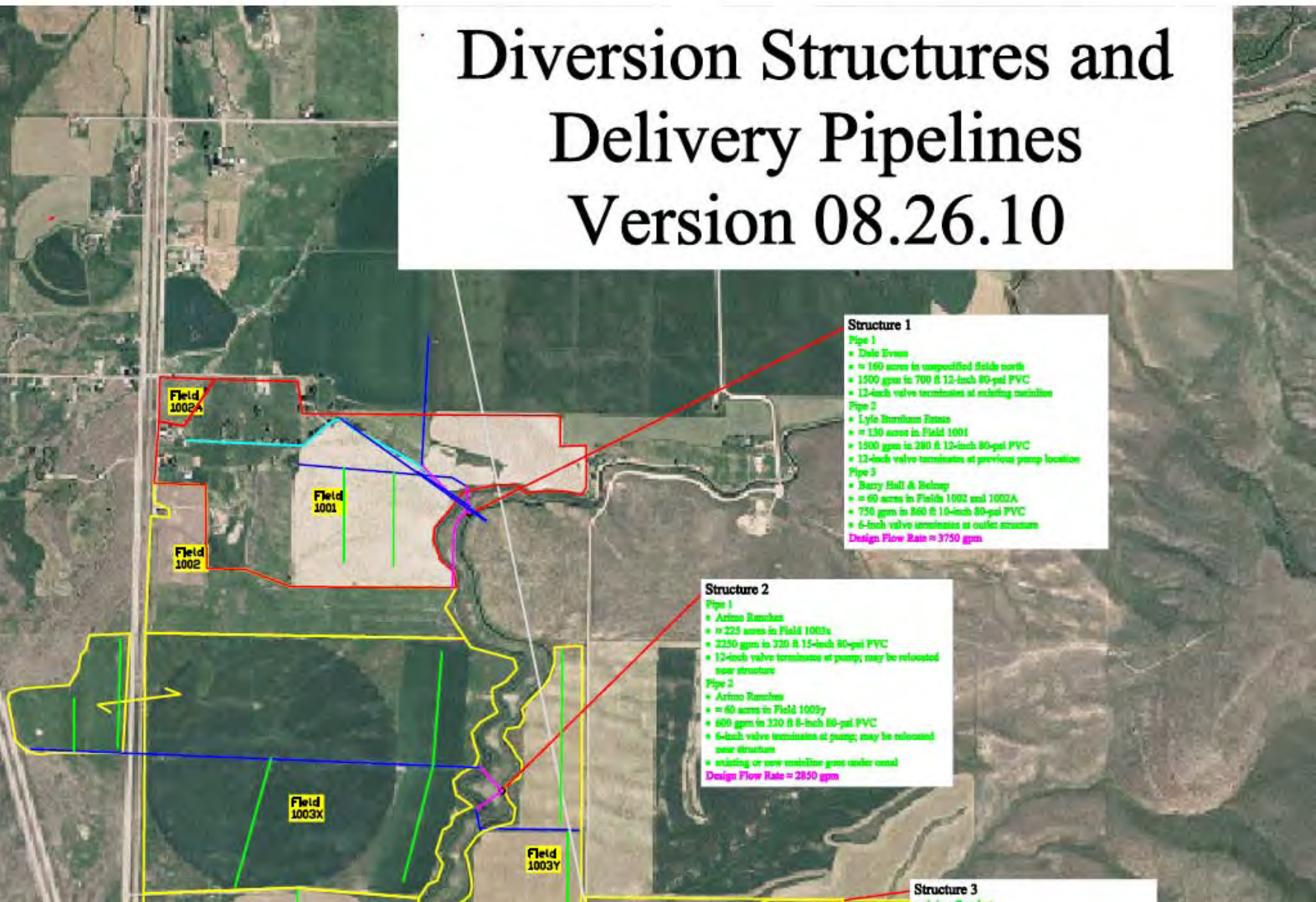
- There needs to be a strong analysis of alternatives. This takes time and money local groups and project funders often don't want to invest,
- Informing a stake holder group is essential, but there has to be a small technical group that makes the final decision about which alternative to select,
- The expected benefits have to be agreed upon using quantitative descriptions wherever possible.

Hallmarks of successful projects

- Strong local leadership to keep the process focused and the momentum high,
- The technical leadership group has to be very cognizant of the process. Permits, clear communication with local groups, and construction management need great attention to detail,
- A project can't be all things to all people.

NRCS project examples

Diversion Structures and Delivery Pipelines Version 08.26.10



NRCS project examples



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