

**GUIDE TO STATE AND FEDERAL  
PERMITS FOR MINING  
RELATED PROJECTS WITHIN  
THE STATE OF IDAHO**

**This guide is intended to provide information regarding key agency contacts and environmental permits needed to develop a mining operation.**

**This guide is not intended to be a total listing of required permits. Laws and regulations may change and other requirements which are not addressed may be applicable. If you do not understand exactly what is required, contact the specific agency or agencies involved with your project.**

**To use this guide effectively, determine whether you will be operating on land administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Lands or on private land. After determining land ownership, review the major headings at the top of each page. You must also review the section titled MISCELLANEOUS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.**

**Based on land ownership, determine which activity description applies to your operation, then review that section to obtain specific information regarding permits, agency contact, and general information. Agency contacts, telephone numbers, and locations are provided at the end of this guide.**

**For questions of land ownership, contact the local county courthouse, State Office of the Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Department of Lands.**

**Within this document, the following abbreviations will be used:**

**BLM -- Bureau of Land Management**

**COE -- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**DEQ -- Dept. of Health and Welfare, Division of Environmental Quality**

**EPA -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**IDL -- Idaho Department of Lands**

**IDWR -- Idaho Department of Water Resources**

**USFS -- U.S. Forest Service**

**USFWS -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**NMFS -- National Marine Fisheries Service**

**MINING OR EXPLORATION ON LANDS ADMINISTERED BY THE  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**ACTIVITY: EXPLORATION OPERATIONS AFFECTING LESS THAN FIVE  
ACRES**

Type of Permit: BLM Notice of Intent  
IDL Notice of Exploration or Placer Permit

Agency Contact: Minerals specialist at the appropriate BLM district office (Map No. 5).  
Mineral resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

Gen. Information: A complete notice must be submitted to the appropriate BLM District Office 15 days  
prior to commencing operations (see 43 CFR 3809.1-6), and;

IDL requires a notice be submitted to the state or appropriate area office within 7  
days of beginning exploration. Placer exploration exceeding 1/2 acre requires a  
permit; 60-90 day review, \$50.00 application fee/10 acres, bond required.

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**ACTIVITY: MINING OPERATIONS AFFECTING LESS THAN 5 ACRES**

Type of Permit: BLM Notice of Intent  
IDL Reclamation Plan or Placer Permit

Agency Contact: Mineral specialist at the appropriate BLM district office (Map No. 5). Mineral  
resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

Gen. Information: A complete notice must be submitted to the appropriate BLM district office 15 days  
prior to commencing operations (see 43 CFR 3809.1-6), and IDL requires a  
reclamation plan or placer permit. Allow 60 days for IDL reclamation plan approval;  
no fees, bond required. Allow 60 to 90 days for placer permitting; \$50.00 application  
fee/10 acres, bond required.

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**ACTIVITY: MINING OR EXPLORATION AFFECTING MORE THAN 5 ACRES**

Type of Permit: BLM Plan of Operation  
IDL Reclamation Plan or Placer Permit.

Agency Contact: Mineral specialist at the appropriate BLM district office (Map No. 5). Mineral  
resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

Gen. Information: Plan of operation must be submitted to BLM district office; 30 day review period.  
Operations may not begin without an approved plan (see 43 CFR 3809.1-6) and IDL  
requires a reclamation plan or placer permit. Allow 60 days for IDL reclamation  
plan approval; no fees, bond required. Allow 60 to 90 days for placer permitting;  
\$50.00 application fee/10 acres, bond required.

**MINING OR EXPLORATION ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS**

**ACTIVITY:                    NON-MECHANIZED EXPLORATION**

**Type of Permit:**                    No notice required  
No notices or permits required by IDL

**Agency Contact:**                    Minerals specialist at appropriate National Forest (Table No. 1).

**Gen. Information:**                    A complete notice must be submitted to the appropriate Ranger District prior to commencing operations. Operator will be notified within 15 days if a plan of operation is required (see 36 CFR 228.4).

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**ACTIVITY:                    MECHANIZED EXPLORATION**

**Type of Permit:**                    Plan of Operation with USFS  
IDL Notice of Exploration

**Agency Contact:**                    Minerals specialist at appropriate National Forest (Table No. 1).  
Mineral resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

**Gen. Information:**                    For the Forest Service, a plan of operation must be filed with appropriate Ranger District before operations begin; 30 day review period with extensions if necessary (see 36 CFR 228.4).

IDL requires an operator to submit to them a copy of the Forest Service plan of operation. Surface exploration exceeding 5 acres, or 10 non-contiguous acres, requires a reclamation plan; 60 day review, bond required. Placer exploration exceeding 1/2 acre requires a permit; 60-90 day review, \$50.00 application fee/10 acres, bond required.

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**ACTIVITY:                    MINING OPERATIONS**

**Type of Permit:**                    Plan of Operation with USFS  
IDL Reclamation Plan or Placer Permit

**Agency Contact:**                    Minerals specialist at the appropriate National Forest (Table No. 1).  
Mineral resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

**Gen. Information:**                    For the Forest Service, a plan of operation must be filed with appropriate Ranger District before operations begin; 30 day review period with extensions if necessary (see 36 CFR 228.4), and a reclamation plan or placer permit is required by IDL.

IDL reclamation plan approval allows 60 days; no fees, bond required. Allow 60 to 90 days for placer permitting; \$50.00 application fee/10 acres, bond required.

**MINING OR EXPLORATION ON PRIVATE LANDS**

**ACTIVITY**

**EXPLORATION**

Type of Permit:

IDL Notice of Exploration

Agency Contact:

Mineral resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

Gen. Information:

IDL requires an exploration notice be filed with the appropriate office within 7 days of commencing motorized operations. Placer exploration that exceeds 1/2 acre, including access roads, must obtain a placer permit; 60-90 day review, \$50.00 application fee/10 acres, bond required. Surface exploration that exceeds 5 contiguous, or 10 non-contiguous, acres must obtain a reclamation plan. See MINING CONDUCTED ON PRIVATE LANDS

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**ACTIVITY:**

**MINING**

Type of Permit:

IDL Placer Permit  
IDL Reclamation Plan

Agency Contact:

Mineral resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

Gen. Information:

IDL approves surface mine reclamation plans within 60 days, weather permitting; no fee required, bonding required not to exceed \$1800.00 per affected acre. IDL approves placer mine permits within 60-90 days, weather permitting; \$50.00 application fee/10 acres, bonding required for actual cost of reclamation.

**MINING OR EXPLORATION ON IDAHO STATE LANDS OR RIVERBEDS**

**ACTIVITY: CASUAL EXPLORATION ON IDAHO STATE LANDS**

Type of Permit: No permitting necessary; optional lease or location

Agency Contact: Mineral leasing specialist at IDL state office (Map No. 3).  
Mineral resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

Gen. Information: All state-owned lands not withdrawn, leased, or located are open for casual exploration without a permit from IDL. IDL does not require a permit for casual exploration on state-owned lands not withdrawn, leased or located.

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**ACTIVITY: CASUAL/RECREATIONAL EXPLORATION ON NAVIGABLE RIVERS**

Type of Permit: No permitting necessary; optional lease or location.  
See MISCELLANEOUS PERMITS -- IDWR.

Agency Contact: Mineral leasing specialist at IDL state office (Map No. 3).  
Mineral resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

Gen. Information: All navigable rivers not withdrawn, leased, or located are open for casual/recreational exploration without a permit from IDL. IDL does not require a permit for casual exploration/recreational mining on navigable rivers not withdrawn, leased or located.

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**ACTIVITY: MOTORIZED EXPLORATION/MINING ON IDAHO STATE LANDS**

Type of Permit: Mineral Location or Mineral Lease and written approval of exploration or operating/reclamation plan.

Agency Contact: Mineral leasing specialist at IDL state office (Map No. 3).  
Mineral resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

Gen. Information: IDL requires an approved mineral location or lease application with fees, rents, and bonds, prior to conducting motorized exploration or mining Idaho state lands. Exploration/operation activity requires 60 days advance notice, no fees, bond may be required.

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**ACTIVITY: MOTORIZED EXPLORATION/MINING ON NAVIGABLE RIVERS**

Type of Permit: Mineral Lease and written approval of exploration or operation plan and IDL Placer Permit, if using a suction dredge with an intake larger than eight (8) inches, or motorized equipment.  
See MISCELLANEOUS PERMITS -- IDWR

Agency Contact: Mineral leasing specialist at IDL state office (Map. No. 3).  
Mineral resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).

Gen. Information: Approved lease document required with appropriate fees, rents, and bonds. Exploration/mining activity requires 60 days advance notice, no fees, bonds required.

**MISCELLANEOUS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

**ACTIVITY: OPERATION OF A SUCTION DREDGE WITH NOZZLE INTAKE DIAMETER OF EIGHT (8) INCHES OR SMALLER.**

Type of Permit: IDWR Stream Channel Alteration Permit.  
Agency Contact: Stream protection specialist at appropriate IDWR regional office (Map No. 2).  
Gen. Information: Nozzle diameter of five (5) inches or less -- one stop recreational permit, good for year issued.  
Nozzle diameter of more than five (5) inches -- joint state-federal stream channel alteration permit; review time based on complexity of the project.

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**ACTIVITY: OPERATION OF A SUCTION DREDGE WITH NOZZLE INTAKE DIAMETER LARGER THAN EIGHT (8) INCHES**

Type of Permit: Joint State-Federal Stream Channel Alteration Permit.  
IDL Placer Mine Permit.  
Agency Contact: Stream protection specialist at appropriate IDWR office (Map No. 2).  
Mineral resource technician at appropriate IDL area office (Map No. 3).  
Gen. Information: Stream channel alteration permit application review time based on complexity of permit. IDL requires 60 - 90 days for issuance of placer permit; \$50.00 application fee/10 acres, bond required.

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**ACTIVITY: USE OF SURFACE OR GROUND WATER IN MINING OR EXPLORATION OPERATION**

Type of Permit: IDWR Water Right  
Agency Contact: Water rights resource agent at appropriate IDWR regional office (Map No. 2).  
Gen. Information: IDWR appropriation application review activity requires 6-8 weeks providing the application is not protested; fee based on rate of diversion. A groundwater construction permit is required to drill a well.

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**ACTIVITY: MINING, EXPLORATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE HIGHWATER MARK OF A STREAM CHANNEL OR OPERATIONS AFFECTING SURFACE WATERS**

Type of Permit: IDWR Stream Channel Alteration Permit  
Agency contact: Stream protection specialist at appropriate IDWR office (Map No. 2).  
Gen. Information: Joint state/federal stream channel alteration permit required; review time based on complexity of project.

**MISCELLANEOUS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

**ACTIVITY:** **STORM-WATER WHICH CONTACTS RAW, INTERMEDIATE, OR FINAL PRODUCTS; OR WASTE MATERIAL/PROCESS WASTE; OR PROCESS WATER WHICH DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATERS**

Type of Permit: EPA 402 Permit (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit)

Agency Contact: Environmental Protection Agency, Attention: Appropriate Agent, 422 West Washington, Boise, Idaho 83702, telephone (208) 334-9505 (Map No. 6). Also contact the stream channel protection specialist at appropriate IDWR regional office (Map No. 2).

Gen. Information: Application must be made 180 days prior to discharge; no fees.

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**ACTIVITY:** **LAND APPLICATION OF MINE OR MILL WASTEWATER**

Type of Permit: No permit; approval from the Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Environmental Quality

Agency Contact: Appropriate area office of DEQ (Map No. 1).

Gen. Information: Groundwater monitoring for water quality required. DEQ will review plans to ensure compliance with water quality standards.

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**ACTIVITY:** **DISCHARGE OF DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL INTO WETLANDS OR BELOW THE ORDINARY HIGHWATER MARK OF ANY SURFACE WATER.**

Type of Permit: Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit

Agency Contact: Appropriate COE office (Map No. 6).

Gen. Information: Permit review times vary depending on complexity of project. Unavoidable impacts to wetlands must be mitigated.

**ACTIVITY:** **USE OF CYANIDE IN MINERAL RECOVERY, MINING, OR EXPLORATION OPERATIONS**

Type of Permit: DEQ Cyanidation Permit

Agency Contact: Appropriate DEQ area office (Map No. 1).

Gen. Information: Application fee of \$100.00; 4-6 month permit review process, minimum \$25,000.00 bond required. On public lands it is advisable to submit an application after an environmental assessment or draft environmental impact statement has been completed.

**AGENCIES REQUIRING REVIEW, COMMENT OR CONSULTATION**

**ACTIVITY:**                    **CONSTRUCTION OF SEWAGE OR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

**Type of Permit:**                No permit; review of design plans and specifications is authorized under Idaho Code title 39, chapter 118.

**Agency Contact:**             Appropriate DEQ area office (Map No. 1).

**Gen. Information:**             No fee; environmental review and approval of plans and specifications are coordinated, when applicable, with dam safety reviews by the IDWR. Plans and specifications are reviewed by a DEQ engineer before construction. With some exceptions, the plans must be certified by an engineer licensed to practice in Idaho.

For placer mining, information provided under Rule 021 of the Rules Governing Placer and Dredge Mining Operations in Idaho will provide adequate information for DEQ review.

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**ACTIVITY:**                    **REGIONS WHERE THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES MAY BE IMPACTED BY ANY ACTIVITY MINING RELATED.**

**Type of Permit:**                No permit; National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has a mandate to conserve and restore populations and critical habitat for Snake River salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to conserve and enhance populations of other anadromous fishes such as steelhead. NMFS's primary authorities for related actions in Idaho include the ESA, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) also has authorizations and mandates specified under the ESA, FWCA, CWA, and NEPA as well as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Generally, anadromous fish and their supporting habitat responsibilities rest with NMFS, and the USFWS is responsible for ensuring that federal activities include appropriate consideration of resident fish and wildlife and their habitats.

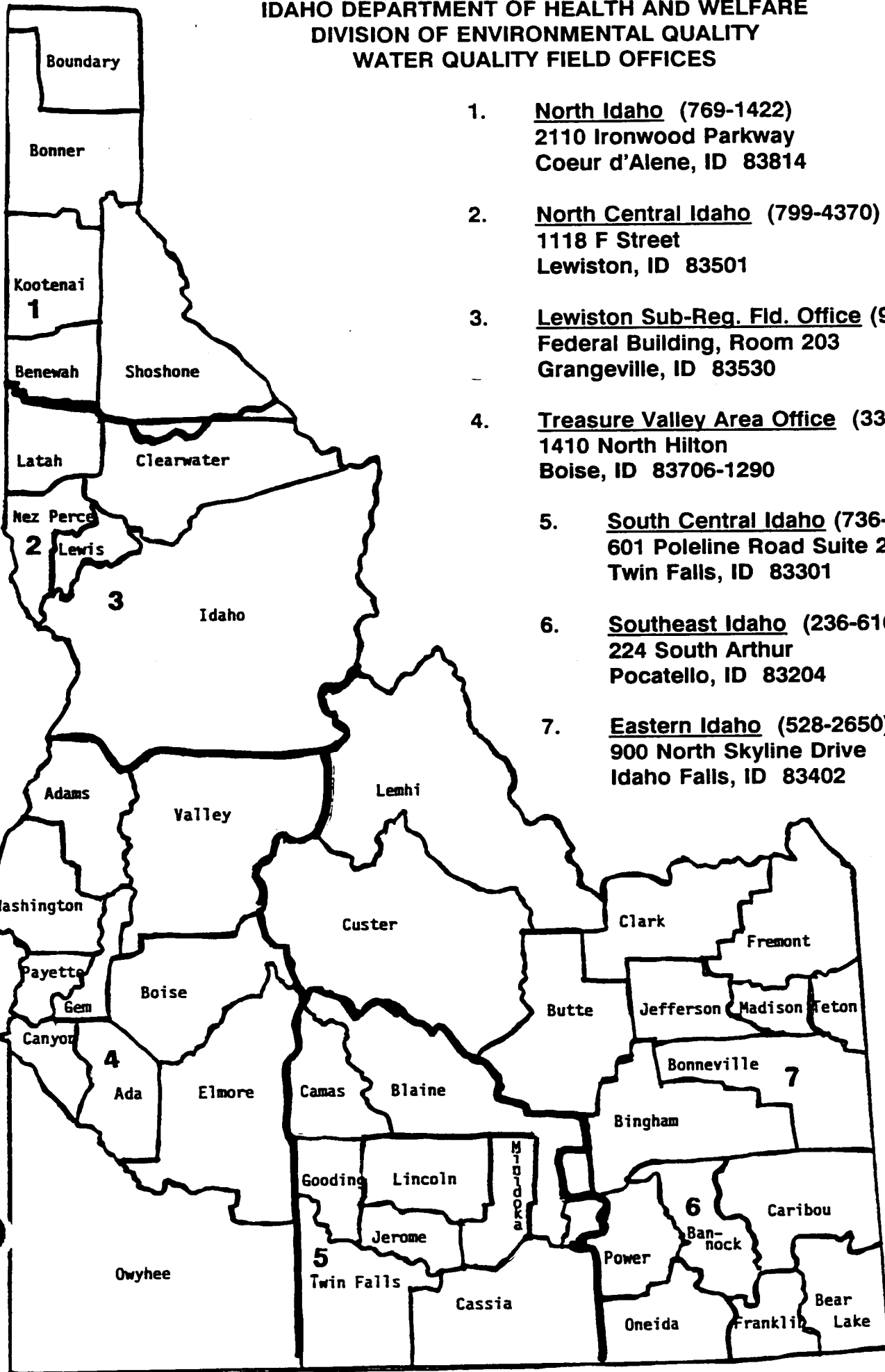
**Agency Contact:**             National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service both maintain field offices in Boise, Idaho.

**Gen. Information:**             No fee; the agencies' authorities and responsibilities are met through participation in the NEPA analysis of proposed plans and the FWCA review and conditioning of Corps of Engineers and EPA permits. All federal agencies are required to consult with NMFS or USFWS to ensure that actions undertaken or permitted by their agency will be consistent with the provisions of the ESA. Private sector actions that require a federal permit must be coordinated through the permitting (action) agency to ensure that the act of enabling the action through a federal permit complies with ESA requirements. Most project proposals can be modified or the enabling permits conditioned to meet the mandated resource concerns of NMFS and USFWS.



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE  
 DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
 WATER QUALITY FIELD OFFICES

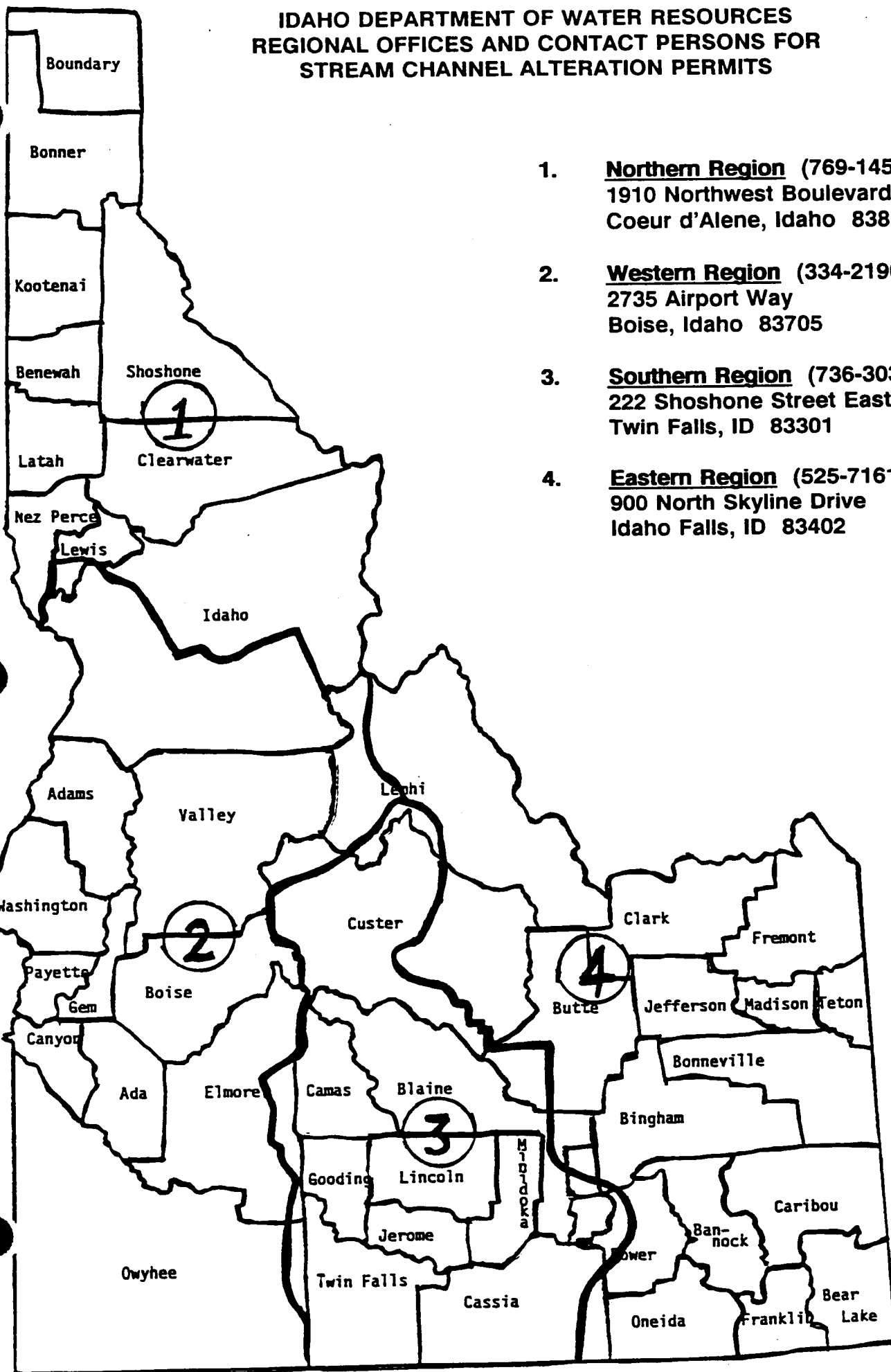
Map #1



1. North Idaho (769-1422)  
 2110 Ironwood Parkway  
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
2. North Central Idaho (799-4370)  
 1118 F Street  
 Lewiston, ID 83501
3. Lewiston Sub-Reg. Fld. Office (983-0808)  
 Federal Building, Room 203  
 Grangeville, ID 83530
4. Treasure Valley Area Office (334-0502)  
 1410 North Hilton  
 Boise, ID 83706-1290
5. South Central Idaho (736-2190)  
 601 Poleline Road Suite 2  
 Twin Falls, ID 83301
6. Southeast Idaho (236-6160)  
 224 South Arthur  
 Pocatello, ID 83204
7. Eastern Idaho (528-2650)  
 900 North Skyline Drive  
 Idaho Falls, ID 83402

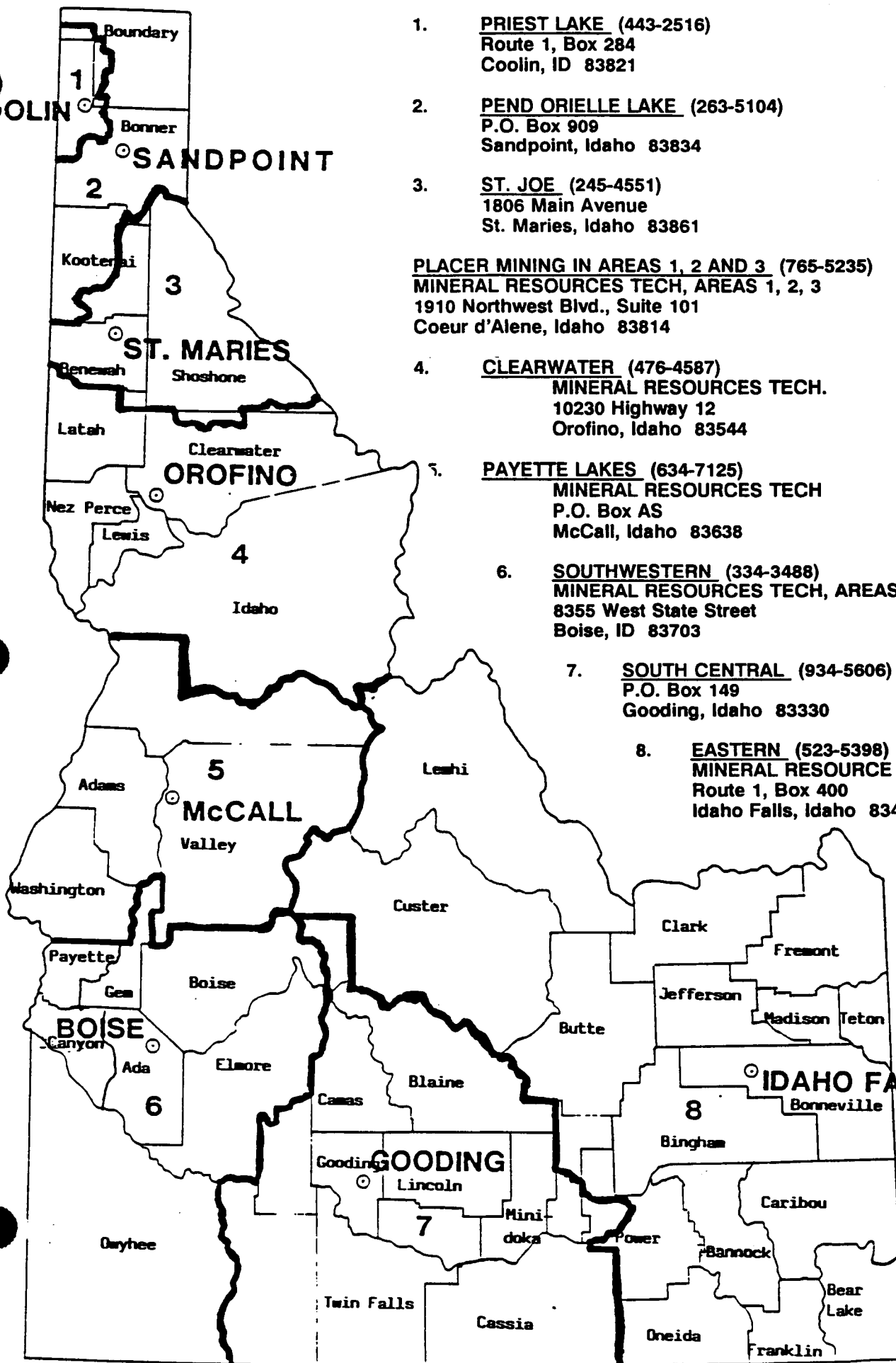
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
REGIONAL OFFICES AND CONTACT PERSONS FOR  
STREAM CHANNEL ALTERATION PERMITS

Map #2



1. **Northern Region** (769-1459)  
1910 Northwest Boulevard, #210  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
2. **Western Region** (334-2190)  
2735 Airport Way  
Boise, Idaho 83705
3. **Southern Region** (736-3033)  
222 Shoshone Street East  
Twin Falls, ID 83301
4. **Eastern Region** (525-7161)  
900 North Skyline Drive  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
Mineral Regulatory Areas



1. PRIEST LAKE (443-2516)  
Route 1, Box 284  
Coolin, ID 83821

2. PEND ORIELLE LAKE (263-5104)  
P.O. Box 909  
Sandpoint, Idaho 83834

3. ST. JOE (245-4551)  
1806 Main Avenue  
St. Maries, Idaho 83861

PLACER MINING IN AREAS 1, 2 AND 3 (765-5235)  
MINERAL RESOURCES TECH, AREAS 1, 2, 3  
1910 Northwest Blvd., Suite 101  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

4. CLEARWATER (476-4587)  
MINERAL RESOURCES TECH.  
10230 Highway 12  
Orofino, Idaho 83544

5. PAYETTE LAKES (634-7125)  
MINERAL RESOURCES TECH  
P.O. Box AS  
McCall, Idaho 83638

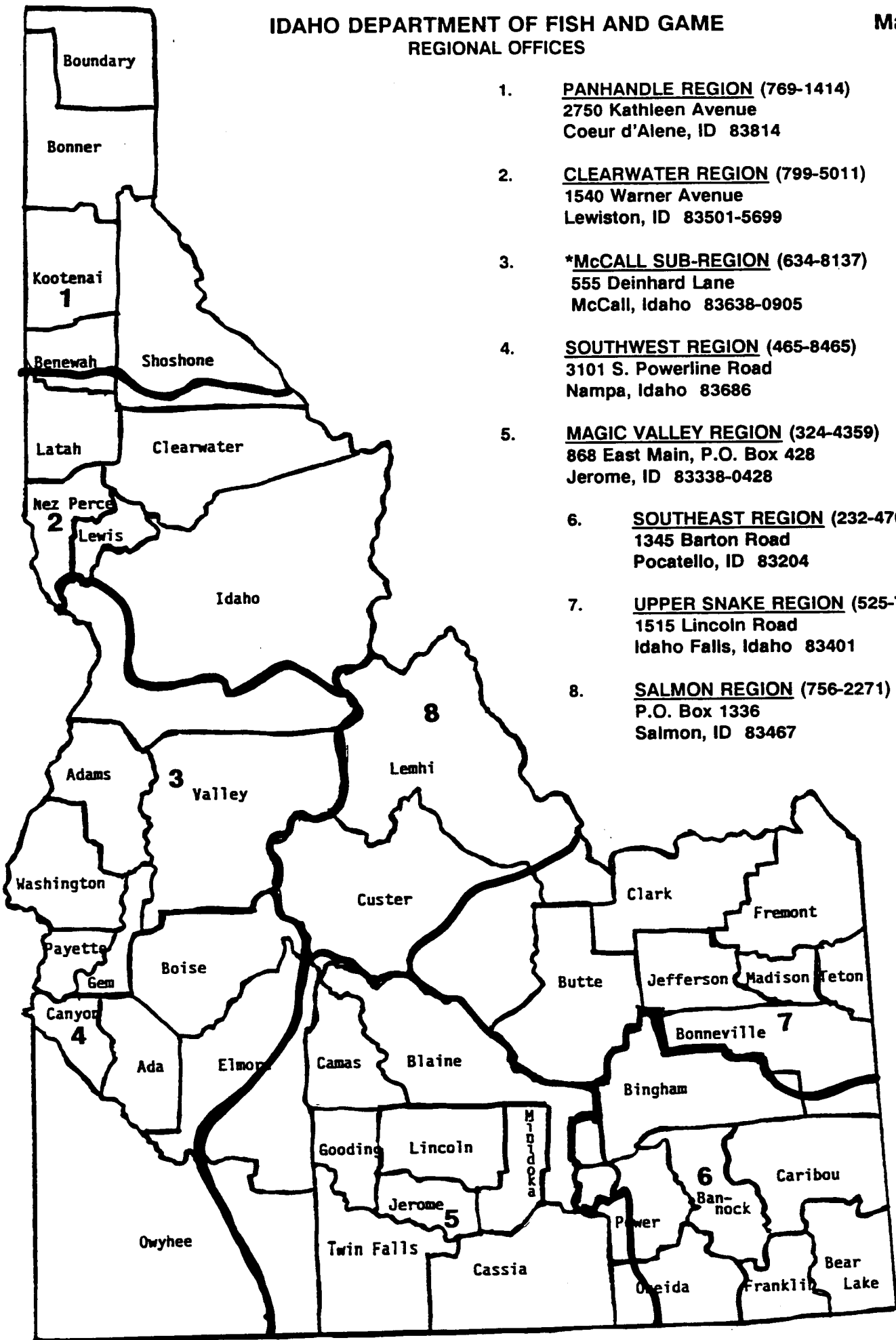
6. SOUTHWESTERN (334-3488)  
MINERAL RESOURCES TECH, AREAS 6, 7  
8355 West State Street  
Boise, ID 83703

7. SOUTH CENTRAL (934-5606)  
P.O. Box 149  
Gooding, Idaho 83330

8. EASTERN (523-5398)  
MINERAL RESOURCE TECHNICIAN  
Route 1, Box 400  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REGIONAL OFFICES

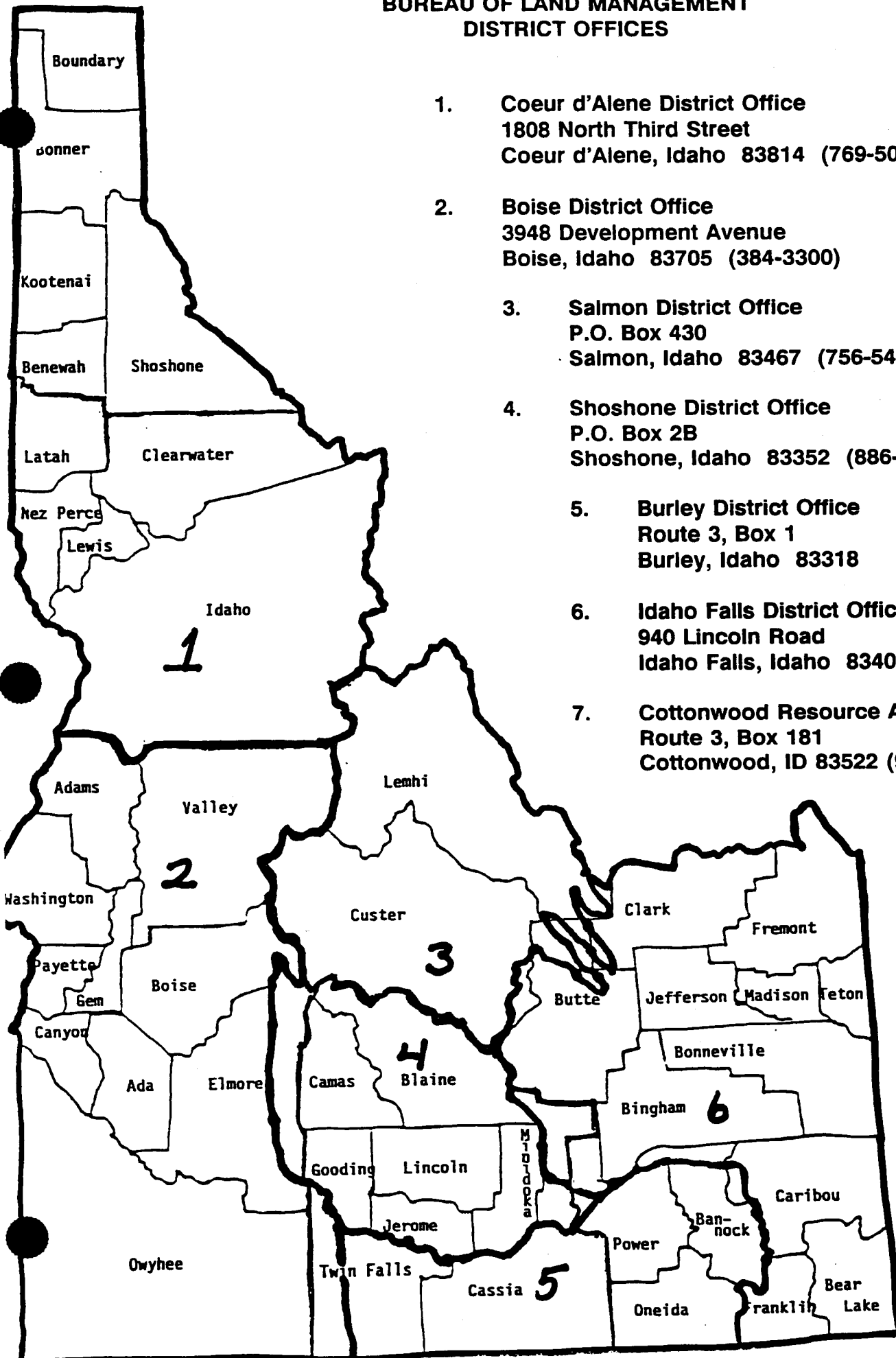
Map #4



1. PANHANDLE REGION (769-1414)  
2750 Kathleen Avenue  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
2. CLEARWATER REGION (799-5011)  
1540 Warner Avenue  
Lewiston, ID 83501-5699
3. \*McCALL SUB-REGION (634-8137)  
555 Deinhard Lane  
McCall, Idaho 83638-0905
4. SOUTHWEST REGION (465-8465)  
3101 S. Powerline Road  
Nampa, Idaho 83686
5. MAGIC VALLEY REGION (324-4359)  
868 East Main, P.O. Box 428  
Jerome, ID 83338-0428
6. SOUTHEAST REGION (232-4703)  
1345 Barton Road  
Pocatello, ID 83204
7. UPPER SNAKE REGION (525-7290)  
1515 Lincoln Road  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401
8. SALMON REGION (756-2271)  
P.O. Box 1336  
Salmon, ID 83467

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT OFFICES

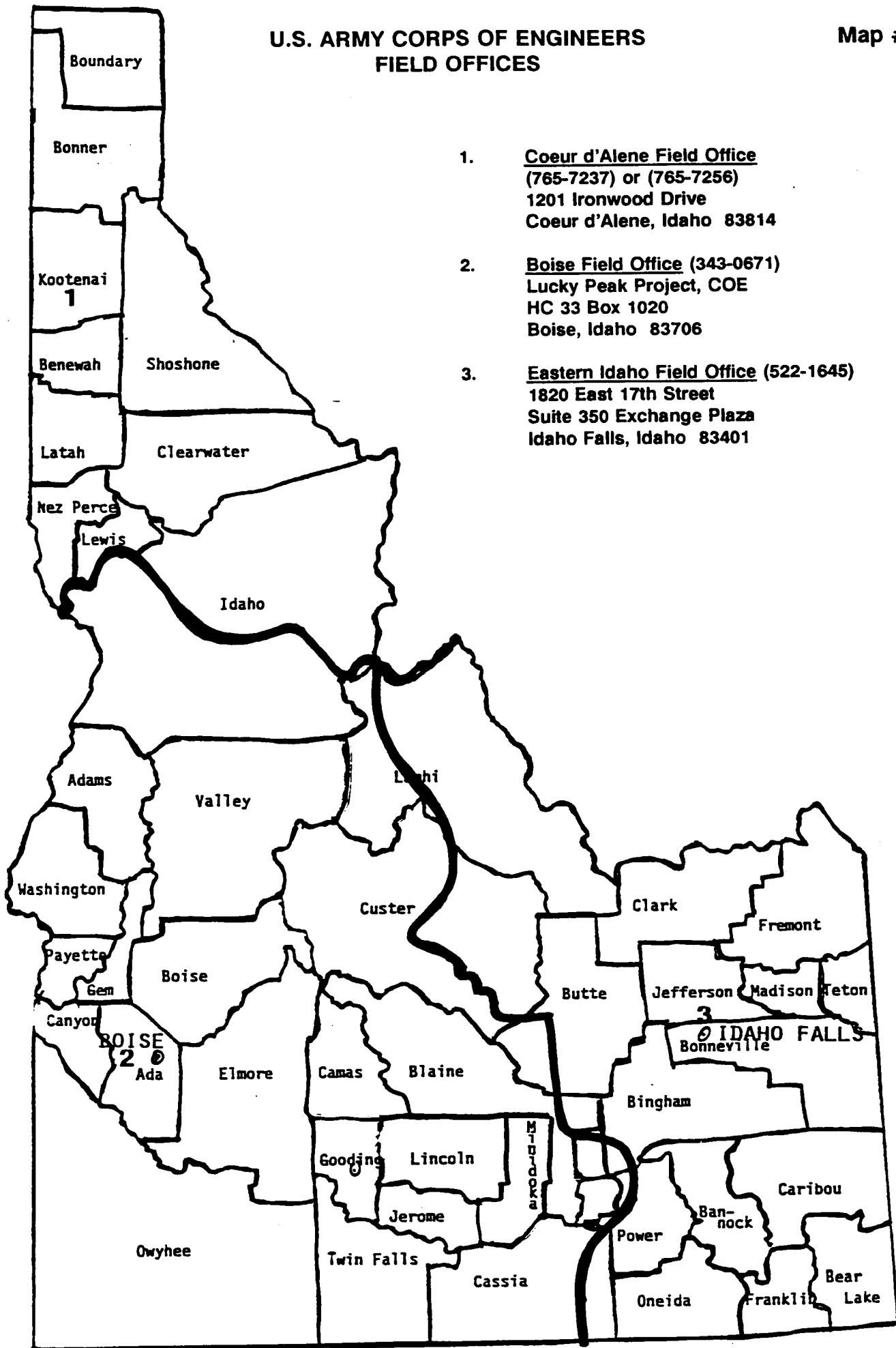
Map #5



1. **Coeur d'Alene District Office**  
1808 North Third Street  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 (769-5000)
2. **Boise District Office**  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705 (384-3300)
3. **Salmon District Office**  
P.O. Box 430  
Salmon, Idaho 83467 (756-5400)
4. **Shoshone District Office**  
P.O. Box 2B  
Shoshone, Idaho 83352 (886-2206)
5. **Burley District Office**  
Route 3, Box 1  
Burley, Idaho 83318 (678-5514)
6. **Idaho Falls District Office**  
940 Lincoln Road  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401 (524-7500)
7. **Cottonwood Resource Area**  
Route 3, Box 181  
Cottonwood, ID 83522 (962-3245)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
FIELD OFFICES

Map #6



1. Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
(765-7237) or (765-7256)  
1201 Ironwood Drive  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
2. Boise Field Office (343-0671)  
Lucky Peak Project, COE  
HC 33 Box 1020  
Boise, Idaho 83706
3. Eastern Idaho Field Office (522-1645)  
1820 East 17th Street  
Suite 350 Exchange Plaza  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

# NATIONAL FORESTS OF IDAHO

Table #1

The personnel at the following national forest offices will direct you to the appropriate geologist:

## BOISE NATIONAL FOREST

1750 Front Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
(208) 364-4100

## CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST

Federal Building, Suite 187  
250 South 4th Avenue  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201  
(208) 236-7500

## CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

Highway 93 North  
HC 63 BOX 1671  
Challis, Idaho 83226-9304  
(208) 879-2285

## PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

106 East Park Street  
P.O. Box 1026  
McCall, Idaho 83638  
(208) 634-0700

## SALMON NATIONAL FOREST

Forest Service Building  
Highway 93 North  
P.O. Box 729  
Salmon, Idaho 83467  
(208) 756-2215

## SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST

2647 Kimberly Road East  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301-3200  
(208) 737-3200

## TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST

420 North Bridge Street  
P.O. Box 208  
St. Anthony, Idaho 83445  
(208) 624-3151

## CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

12730 Highway 12  
Orofino, Idaho 83544  
(208) 476-4541

## NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

Route 2, Box 475  
Grangeville, Idaho 83530  
(208) 983-1950

## IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST

3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-8363  
(208) 765-7223

**OTHER U.S. AGENCIES**

**TABLE #2**

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

422 West Washington (208) 334-1450  
Boise, Idaho 83702

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

4696 Overland Road, Room 576 (208) 334-1931  
Boise, Idaho 83705

**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

525 N.E. Oregon Street, Suite 500 (503) 230-5400  
Portland, Oregon 97232