



March 4, 2009

WAYNE HAMMON, DIRECTOR  
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  
700 W STATE ST  
BOISE, ID 83720

Dear Director Hammon:

**Idaho Soil  
Conservation Commission**

PO Box 790  
2270 Old Penitentiary Road  
Boise, ID 83701-0790

Phone (208) 332-8650  
Fax (208) 334-2386

[scc.idaho.gov](http://scc.idaho.gov)

**Governor**  
C.L. "Butch" Otter

**Commission Members**

Dwight Horsch  
J. Morgan Evans  
Richard Rush  
Joe Davidson  
Bill Flory

**Administrator**  
Jerry Nicolescu

The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission is hereby notifying the Division of Financial Management of the possibility of requesting Federal funding under the provision of "*The Federal American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*".

Per Idaho Executive Order No. 2009-06,  
*Every State Agency shall review and evaluate whether it would request Federal funding under any provision of the Act. If an agency determines it is eligible and desires Federal funding under a provision of the Act, it shall notify the Administrator of DFM within fifteen day of enactment of the Act, but no later than noon on March 4, 2009, and provide the following information:*

a. *The amount of Federal funding desired under the Act*

- 1) Idaho Water Quality Program for Agriculture cost share payments for implementation of Best Management Practices:

FY2010	\$825,000
<u>FY2011</u>	<u>\$723,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,548,000</b>

- 2) Funding for ten (10) new projects on the Idaho Water Quality Program for Agriculture Project Priority List, to be implemented over the next three years:

**FY2010-2011 \$2,592,000**

- 3) Groundwater Nitrate Priority cost share payment for Irrigation Water Management and Nutrient Management:

FY2010	\$2,112,000
<u>FY2011</u>	<u>\$4,424,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,536,000</b>

- 4) The Agricultural and Grazing Components of thirty (30) approved projects for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). These projects have been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality:

**FY2010-2011 \$9,000,000**

- b. ***The title(s) and section(s) of the Act under which the funding is provided***
- TITLE I – AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
  - TITLE IV – ENERGY AND WATER  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, CIVIL DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
  - TITLE VII – INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- c. ***The requirements and deadline for applying for Federal funding***  
Currently there are no published requirements and deadlines for Federal funding applications
- d. ***The requirements associated with the desired funding, including but not limited to spending limitations, State match of cost-share requirements, percentage limitations and timeframes***  
Within the working relationship between the partnership, each entity develops their own area cost share rates, with no participant receiving greater than a combined 90% cost share
- e. ***When the Federal funding would end***  
Federal funding is expected to end September 30, 2011
- f. ***Whether additional spending authority would be necessary to expend the Federal funds***  
If funds from the Act are forthcoming, it would require the authorization of additional spending authority
- g. ***Whether any additional State employees are necessary to oversee or administer the Federal funds, and if so, how many***  
It is anticipated there would be no need for additional State employees
- h. ***A plan detailing how the funds will be spent and how the agency will address the absence of Federal funding after it ends***  
Documentation is attached, indicating expenses by program. When the Federal funds are expended, the increased program activity will revert back to pre-stimulus funding and activity levels.

Also attached is an example of a project proposal, project description, and project implementation schedule.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/S/

Jerry Nicolescu,  
Administrator

JN/cpy

**AGRICULTURAL WATER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM  
EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER  
PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL**

**Idaho Soil Conservation Commission  
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Gooding Soil Conservation District  
North Side Soil and Water Conservation District  
Wood River Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Partnership Capacity**

**Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (SCC)**

The SCC is established under Idaho Code Title 22, Chapter 27, Section 18. The SCC provides leadership and assistance for natural resource conservation programs through state statutes and agreements with other local, state, and federal agencies. The SCC provides support and service to the state's 51 Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs), and through the SCDs, to private landowners and land users to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance Idaho's natural resources through nonregulatory technical, financial, and educational programs at the local level.

The SCC administers at the state level, water quality and water resource programs implemented locally by SCDs and their constituent project participants. The programs are the Water Quality Program for Agriculture, Conservation Improvement Grants, and the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program, which provides low interest loans for conservation practices. The SCC has technical staff located statewide to lead planning and implementation efforts for the agricultural components of TMDLs. The two SCC field staff positions located in Jerome and Twin Falls, respectively, will coordinate with NRCS in supplementing technical assistance to projects funded through AWEF. The SCC will also provide funding, training and technical oversight for support field staff employed by the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD).

Through the SCC/IASCD/SCD partnership, working with NRCS, water quality/water quantity treatment has been provided to over 203,000 critical acres of agricultural land, 80 miles of riparian area, and 100 livestock confinement facilities between July 1, 2000 and January 28, 2009. These accomplishments have been made possible by integrating state, private landowner, and federal funds, largely EQIP. This funding integration has expanded the treatment abilities of each program and accelerated implementation of water quality, water resource, and habitat treatment in critical watersheds.

**Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD)**

IASCD is a voluntary, non-profit association of Idaho's 51 SCDs cooperating in the wise use and management of Idaho's natural resources. IASCD works closely with the SCC on issues of policy and natural resource concerns, and provides a forum for address of

erosion and sediment control, water quality, forestry, research, conservation and environmental education, resource planning, wildlife and pasture and range. Through a memorandum of agreement and funding from the SCC, IASCD employs technical field staff, located statewide in NRCS field offices for the purpose of developing and implementing TMDL implementation plans for agriculture. IASCD will direct appropriate field staff to assist NRCS technical support to projects funded through AWEF.

### **Gooding Soil Conservation District, North Side Soil and Water Conservation District, and Wood River Soil and Water Conservation District (SCDs)**

SCDs are created under Idaho Code Title 22, Chapter 27, Section 19. SCDs are governmental subdivisions of the state, with broad authorities for conservation and the wise use of natural resources within their boundaries. Each SCD in the state maintains a five year resource conservation plan, each of which describes their individual resource priorities.

The Gooding SCD has the commitment, ability, and experience to coordinate water quality and quantity efforts among agricultural producers. Water quality/water quantity priorities included in their five year plan include addressing agricultural impacts on ground water quality, and supporting the TMDL process through planning and implementation projects. Examples of Gooding SCD project efforts include coordinating area ground water pumpers in facilitating the conversion of ground water irrigation systems to use of surface water on 2,841 acres, potentially retiring over 51 cfs of ground water, the address of ground water nitrates in the Bliss Group 1 Nitrate Priority Area, and bringing together multiple public entities, private entities, and funding sources in converting irrigation systems to use canal company waste water in lieu of spring water, benefiting water quality in the middle Snake River TMDL area.

The North Side SWCD annual work plan component of their five year plan lists water quality as priority number one. The stated objectives in achieving this priority include improving irrigation application efficiencies, and increasing the use of surface water to conserve ground water. Water quality and water quantity project accomplishments in recent years include working with ground water pumpers within the SWCD and in cooperation with the Gooding SCD, to convert ground water irrigation systems to accommodate use of surface water on 1,873 acres, potentially retiring over 20 cfs of ground water within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. Other significant water quality/quantity projects undertaken by the SWCD were the Scott's Pond planning and implementation projects. The Scott's Pond project was oriented to both ground and surface water quality, and resulted in address to over 3,000 acres of critical agricultural land in terms of agricultural nonpoint source water quality pollution.

The Wood River SWCD five year plan also includes water quality as a resource priority, specifically BMP planning and implementation, utilizing state, EQIP, and other federal funds. The SWCD also prioritizes the address of water quantity resources to enhance stream flows benefiting Magic Reservoir and the Little Wood River. Major water quality

projects sponsored by the Wood River SWCD are the Middle Little Wood River planning project, the Middle Little Wood River implementation project, and 700 Creek Drainage project. These projects have collectively provided pollution treatment to agricultural nonpoint sources on 5,795 acres in the Wood River watershed through a blending of state, private landowner, and federal funds.

Because of their shared priority watersheds, the Gooding SCD, North Side SWCD, and Wood River SWCD have a history of mutual support and cooperation on water resource projects.

## **Monitoring**

### **Surface water quality**

Surface water quality monitoring is being conducted through the IASCD monitoring program on water quality limited waterbodies (TMDL) and their tributaries in the project area. Depending upon the target pollutants within a waterbody, the monitoring components include: total suspended solids, substrate sediments, total phosphorus, and bacteria. These monitoring efforts are to be continued on the Little Wood River, Big Wood River, and Thorn Creek receiving waters of the projects. Monitoring will also be conducted on tributaries affected by the North Side Residue Management Initiative which impact the Middle Snake River, to document progress in meeting the TMDL reduction targets of sediment, nutrients, and bacteria.

### **BMP Effectiveness Evaluations**

Monitoring the effectiveness of agricultural BMPs in meeting natural resource protection objectives will be conducted according to protocols defined in *Idaho Agricultural Best Management Practices, A Field Guide for Evaluating BMP Effectiveness*, October 2003, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Using these guidelines, selected BMP installations within a project will be inspected for their relative efficacy in reducing target pollutants or addressing the specific resource and the results documented. These effectiveness evaluations will be conducted annually by SCC and IASCD field staff following practice installation on a minimum of ten percent of each practice.

### **Final Project Performance Report**

The SCC, in collaboration with its partners, will produce a final project performance report following completion of participant contracted items. The report will summarize by project:

- Practices installed
- Federal, state, and private funds expended
- Water quality monitoring trends
- Progress in meeting TMDL pollutant load reductions
- Reductions in delivery of nitrate-nitrogen to groundwater
- BMP effectiveness evaluation results
- Acres treated and linear feet of riparian area protected or enhanced

- Estimates of irrigation water savings
- Project impacts on the Eastern Snake Plain aquifer

### **Potential Ranking Criteria**

AWEP producer applications within individual projects will be prioritized and ranked consistent with existing EQIP protocols.

### **Cost-Sharing**

Practice costs will be based on the estimated actual cost per unit on which EQIP payment rates are determined. Cost-sharing of practices for all projects proposed will be at the rate of seventy five (75) percent of the costs thus established, to ensure full participation and accelerate contracting and implementation activities. All practices proposed will meet NRCS standards and specifications.

**IDAHO SOIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
GOODING SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Project: Thorn Creek Watershed

Project Sponsor: Gooding Soil Conservation District

Geographical Area HUC: 17040219

Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, Thorn Creek and Preacher Creek drainages of the Big Wood River watershed, located in Gooding County, Idaho

**Water Quality or Conservation Issues:**

Surface water

The Big Wood River is a 303(d) waterbody listed for the pollutants of sediment, nutrients, ammonia, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, and flow alteration. Water quality issues arise from irrigation induced erosion during the rotational period into annual crops. Inefficient irrigation applications from the existing surface irrigation systems are responsible for soil losses in excess of 'T' during the grain rotation, with subsequent sediment delivery to Thorn Creek, a tributary to the Big Wood River, as well as transportation of nutrients and bacteria to the receiving waters from grazing livestock. Thorn Creek is an impaired stream in terms of sediment and nutrients. To meet the beneficial uses of Thorn Creek, a 52.7% reduction in substrate sediments is required, as well as a 24.8% reduction of phosphorus.

Ground water

Declining levels of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer are a concern in regards to groundwater quantity. Surface irrigation impairs groundwater quality by increasing the leaching of fertilizer nitrates through the soil profile to the groundwater supply.

ESA Status

The project area contains important Sage Grouse habitat. Sage Grouse is a species under consideration for listing under the ESA

**Agricultural Water Enhancement Objectives/Activities**

The proposed treatment of this watershed is to attain a high level of irrigation water management by increasing irrigation application efficiencies through conversion from surface to sprinkler systems. These conversions will increase the average irrigation water application efficiencies from 35 percent with surface systems to 85 percent under sprinklers. The treatment also includes installation of fencing to facilitate livestock grazing management systems. The management of livestock grazing will protect riparian areas and vulnerable streambanks within the drainage, and reduce the delivery of sediment, nutrients, and sediment to Thorn Creek and the Big Wood River.

**Producer Information**

Potential participation - 10 producers

Total number of ag producers in the area - 18 producers

**Partners, roles, responsibilities, capabilities**

Gooding SCD - Private landowner liaison, local project administration

NRCS - Conservation planning, engineering of structural practices, contracting, BMP certification, annual status reviews

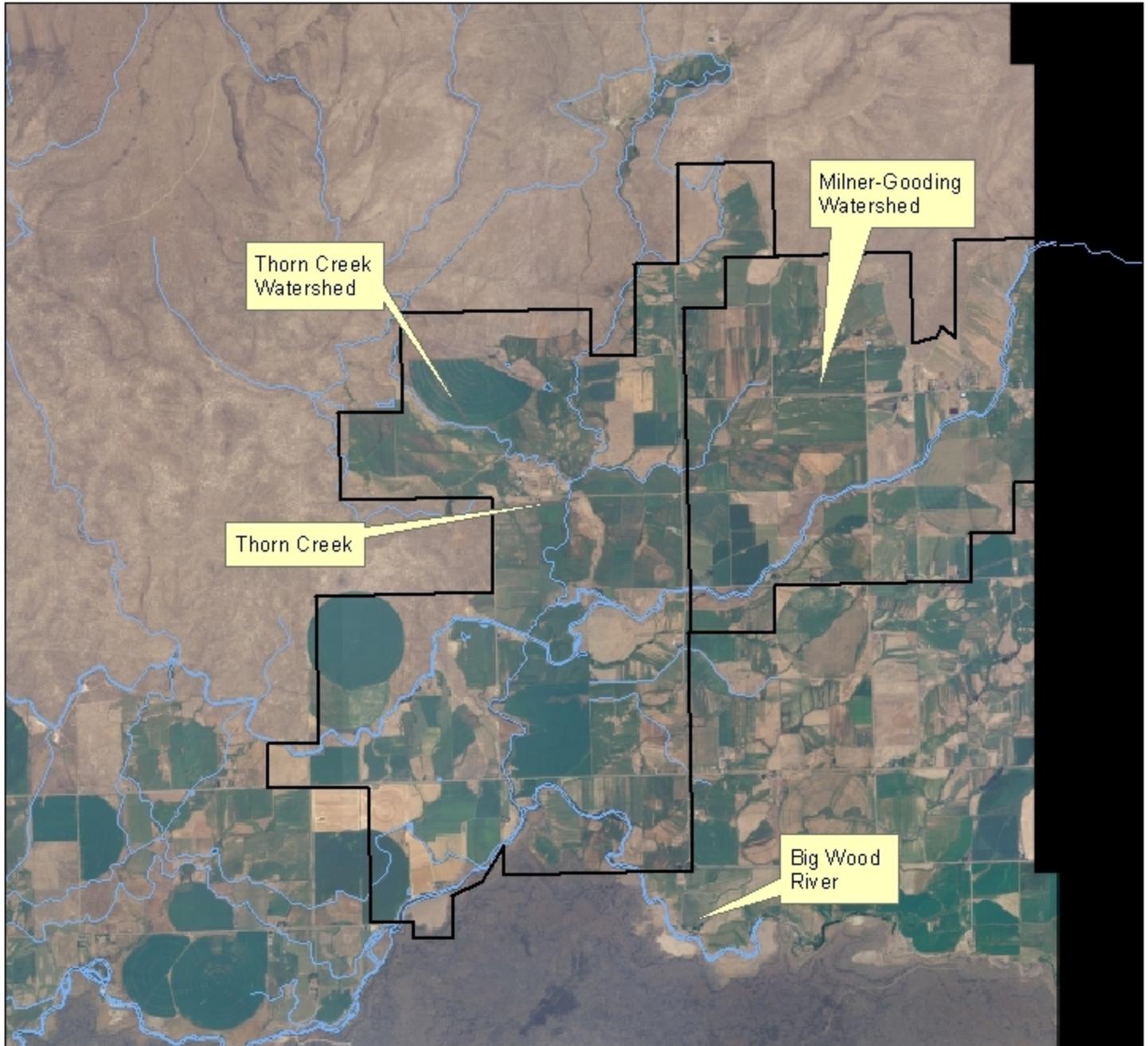
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts - Support for conservation planning, contracting, BMP design and inspection, annual status reviews, BMP effectiveness evaluations

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission - Training, engineering, BMP effectiveness evaluation oversight, financial assistance for IASCD technical support, project administration support

# Thorn Creek Watershed

Field Office: GOODING SERVICE CENTER  
Agency: USDA-NRCS

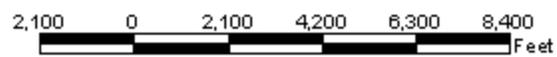
District: GOODING SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## Legend



-  Thorn C. watershed
-  Surface Waters



**TMDL Projects Ready for Implementation Feb 2009.xls**

	<b>Conservation District</b>	<b>Implementation Project</b>	<b>Estimated Project Cost</b>
1	Portneuf SWCD	Marsh Creek Watershed Project Phase 2	\$250,000
2	Caribou SCD	Bear River – Turner Canal Project	\$250,000
3	Caribou SCD	North Burton Creek/Bear River Streambank Project	\$200,000
4	Caribou SCD	Trout Creek/Whiskey Creek AFO Project	\$200,000
5	Bear Lake SWCD	Bloomington Irrigation/Streambank Project	\$75,000
6	Franklin SWCD	Bear River AFO Project	\$100,000
7	South Bingham SWCD	Danielson Creek Watershed Project	\$150,000
8	East Side SWCD	Willow Creek/Grays Lake Outlet AFO/Riparian Project	\$214,000
9	North/Central Bingham SWCD	Blackfoot River Riparian Corridor Project	\$250,000
10	Portneuf SWCD	McCammom/Dempsey Watershed Project	\$550,000
11	East Side SWCD	Rainey Creek Watershed Project	\$150,000
12	East Side SWCD	South Fork of the Snake River Riparian Corridor Project	\$125,000
13	Butte SWCD	Little Lost AFO Project	\$215,000
14	Butte SWCD	Antelope Creek/Big Lost AFO/Riparian Project	\$327,000
15	Lemhi SWCD	Lemhi TMDL AFO/Irrigated Hayland Project	\$520,000
16	Franklin SWCD	Riverdale-Mink Creek/Cub River Irrigation Project	\$1,050,000
17	Franklin SWCD	Banida Watershed Cropland Project	\$300,000
18	Oneida SWCD	Daniels Reservoir Watershed / Riparian Project	\$150,000
19	Clark SCD	Beaver/Camas Riparian/Rangeland Project	\$150,000
20	Twin Falls SWCD	Salmon Falls	\$500,000
21	East Cassia SCD	Raft River	\$700,000
22	Adams / Weiser River SWCDs	Little Weiser Streambank Stabilization	\$500,000
23	Benewah SWCD	St. Maries River	\$480,000
24	Idaho SWCD	South Fork Clearwater	\$250,000
25	Latah SWCD	Potlatch River	\$700,000
26	Latah SWCD	North Fork Palouse River Tributaries	\$400,000
27	Latah SWCD	South Fork Palouse River	\$120,000
28	Bonner SWCD	Pend Oreille Lake	\$80,000
29	Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD	Hayden Lake Stormwater Project	\$60,000
30	Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD	Hauser Lake Stormwater Project	\$30,000
		<b>Estimated Total Cost</b>	<b>\$9,046,000</b>

**WQPA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT PRIORITY LIST**

1/28/09

Priority no.	SCD	Project	TMDL	Funding				SCC List. Date	Date Funded
				State	Operator	Federal	Total		
1	Weiser River	Weiser Flat TMDL	Weiser Flat	\$23,535		\$12,900	\$36,435	1/30/08	
2	Butte SWCD	Big Lost River	Big Lost River	\$538,875	\$163,295		\$702,170	7/11/07	
3	Gooding SCD	Thorn Creek	Big Wood River	\$291,518	\$265,016	\$530,031	\$1,086,565	7/11/07	
4	Butte SWCD	Little Lost River	Little Lost River	\$170,124	\$51,552		\$221,676	7/11/07	
5	Gem SWCD	Lower Payette River	Lower Payette River	\$100,208	\$91,098	\$182,196	\$373,502	3/19/08	
6	Bruneau River	Bruneau/Grand View	Bruneau R./M. Snake-Succor	\$344,385	\$276,900	\$506,579	\$1,127,864	9/18/08	
7	Owyhee CD	Jump Cr., Succor Cr.	Jump Cr., Succor Cr.	\$295,153	\$301,767	\$240,135	\$837,055	1/28/09	
8	Squaw Cr. SCD	Squaw Cr.	North Fork Payette River	\$50,424	\$45,840	\$91,680	\$187,944	1/28/09	
9	Wood River SWCD	Pilger Project	Little Wood River	\$332,598	\$106,934	\$34,827	\$474,359	1/28/09	
10	Wood River SWCD	N. E. Richfield Project	Little Wood River	\$445,437	\$347,094	\$404,943	\$1,197,474	1/28/09	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$2,592,257</b>	<b>\$1,649,496</b>	<b>\$2,003,291</b>	<b>\$6,245,044</b>		

WQPA COST-SHARING ESTIMATES

2/19/09

	Project	Project No.	Budget		Closeout Date	BMP Pmts	BMP Projections, State Fiscal Year			
SWCD	Project	No.	BMPs	Admin	Date	Pmts	2009	2010	2011	2012
Camas SCD	<i>Soldier (Camas) Creek</i>	AG-45	\$415,560	\$248,210	2/14/11	\$366,660	\$3,375	\$3,968	\$0	
Caribou SCD	Twentyfourmile Creek	A-7	\$250,000	\$25,000	6/30/09	\$110,490	\$37,176	\$14,042		
Division II	North Idaho AFO Project	A-15	\$234,099	\$23,410	6/30/11	\$112,138	\$77,694	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Clark SCD	Medicine Lodge Creek	A-17	\$201,895	\$10,062	12/31/08	\$207,041	\$1,449			
Yellowstone SCD	Ashton Groundwater	A-19	\$128,688	\$12,869	6/30/09	\$93,195	\$10,000			
Lewis SCD	Camas Prairie Groundwater	A-20	\$48,750	\$4,875	6/30/10	\$19,312	\$11,712	\$22,507		
Custer SWCD	Pahsimeroi WQ Project	A-21	\$206,228	\$20,623	6/30/10	\$136,305	\$0	\$12,000		
Latah SWCD	Potlatch River WQ Protection	A-23	\$81,000	\$8,100	6/30/10	\$74,720	\$74,721	\$0		
Wood River SWCD	700 Creek Drainage	A-24	\$460,000	\$30,000	6/30/10	\$259,861	\$40,000	\$29,865		
Custer SWCD	Challis Creek WQ Project	A-25	\$82,440	\$8,244	6/30/10	\$0	\$0	\$7,000		
Latah SWCD	Cow Creek WQ Improvement	A-26	\$81,000	\$8,100	6/30/10	\$73,301	\$43,674	\$0		
Bonner SWCD	L. West Branch Priest River	A-27	\$117,890	\$11,789	6/30/10	\$15,777	\$10,000	\$5,000		
Gooding SCD	Malad River W Drain	A-29	\$80,000	\$8,000	8/31/09	\$101,440	\$21,780	\$14,940		
Owyhee SCD	Jump Creek, Succor Creek	A-31	\$383,363	\$38,336	6/30/11	\$301,243	\$120,000	\$70,000	\$68,727	
Idaho SWCD	Cottonwood Creek Phase 2	A-32	\$200,000	\$20,000	6/30/11	\$103,273	\$62,792	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Twin Falls/Bal. Rock	Salmon Falls Watershed TMDL	A-34	\$348,010	\$34,801	6/30/11	\$190,410	\$113,545	\$35,000		
Division I	IASCD Div. I TMDL Impl. Project	A-35	\$480,000	\$48,000	6/30/11	\$106,341	\$135,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	
Idaho SWCD	S. Fork Clearwater R. TMDL	A-36	\$348,139	\$34,814	6/30/12	\$69,209	\$15,000	\$65,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Idaho SWCD	Lawyer Cr. TMDL Imp.	A-37	\$394,125	\$39,413	6/30/12	\$103,469	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Lewis SCD	Lawyer Cr. TMDL Imp.	A-38	\$394,125	\$39,413	6/30/12	\$42,090	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Valley SWCD	North Fork Payette WQPA	A-39	\$272,444	\$27,244	6/30/12	\$128,573	\$28,000	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Gem SWCD	L. Payette River TMDL	A-40	\$43,892	\$4,389	6/30/12	\$16,672	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$0
Portneuf SWCD	Marsh Cr. Watershed	A-41	\$218,834	\$21,883	6/30/12	\$0	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$68,834
Yellowstone SWCD	Enterprise Canal	A-42	\$339,485	\$29,995	6/30/09	\$317,107	\$209,713			
West Cassia SWCD	Burley/Marsh Cr. Gr. W.	A-43	\$156,886	\$15,689	6/30/12	\$0	\$61,886	\$50,000	\$45,000	\$0
Lemhi SWCD	Lemhi WQ Project Ph. II	A-44	\$364,111	\$36,441	6/30/12	\$0	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Weiser River SCD	Weiser WQ Phase II	A-45	\$45,780	\$4,578	6/30/12	\$4,792	\$20,000	\$15,780	\$10,000	\$0
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$6,376,744</b>	<b>\$814,278</b>	<b>\$1,096,382</b>	<b>\$2,953,418</b>	<b>\$1,272,517</b>	<b>\$825,102</b>	<b>\$723,727</b>	<b>\$343,834</b>