

# OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION

**C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**  
Governor



P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0195

**NATHAN A. FISHER**  
Administrator

300 North Sixth Street, Suite 101  
Boise, Idaho 83702

March 4, 2009

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

The Office of Species Conservation (OSC) humbly offers several project proposals for your consideration for funding through the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

**Project #1 attached is the "Owyhee Eco-Region Field Coordinator."**

Funding for this would pay for an existing position in the Owyhee area to implement "shovel-ready" projects for the protection of the Endangered Bruneau Hot Springsnail, the installation of practices to improve water quality, and to eradicate noxious aquatic species in the Bruneau River. The current employee understands this is temporary funding to complete on-the-ground activities.

OSC is prepared to implement this program or any other program you deem vital to the economic and environmental enhancement of Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan Fisher".

Nathan Fisher  
Administrator

Attachment of Project #1



**March 4, 2009**

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

**From: Nate Fisher**

**RE: Request for Funding under the "Federal American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009"**

**Organization Completing Application:**

Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

**Contact person(s) in organization including email address and phone number:**

Nate Fisher, Administrator  
300 North 6th Street, Suite 101  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
(208) 334-2189

**Project Name:**

Owyhee Eco-Region Field Coordinator

**Amount of federal funding desired under the Act:**

\$160,000.00

**Title(s) and section(s) of the Act which the funding is provided:**

TITLE VII – INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

**Requirements and deadlines for applying for federal funding:**

USFWS has not yet disclosed their granting process. It is understood that the usual and accustomed process and accompanying forms (SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, SF-424A, Budget Information-- Non-Construction Programs, SF-424B, Assurances-- Non-Construction Programs, CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying, SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable), A current copy of the negotiated indirect cost rate with a Federal agency if applicable) will be required.



**Requirements associated with the desired funding, including but not limited to spending limitations, state match or cost share requirements, percentage limitations, and timeframes:**

USFWS -- \$280 million nationwide allocated to a specific project list that is still in D.C. so not shared at this point. \$115 million of this will fund construction and restoration at refuges. Other funds will go to supporting existing partnerships. Discretionary funding through their habitat joint venture program will be available.

**When would federal funding end?:**

2 years from the date that the funds are received.

**Will additional spending authority be necessary to expend the federal funds?:**

We believe there is adequate existing spending authority available, as this is an existing position within the State's budget.

**Are additional state employees necessary to oversee or administer the federal funds?:**

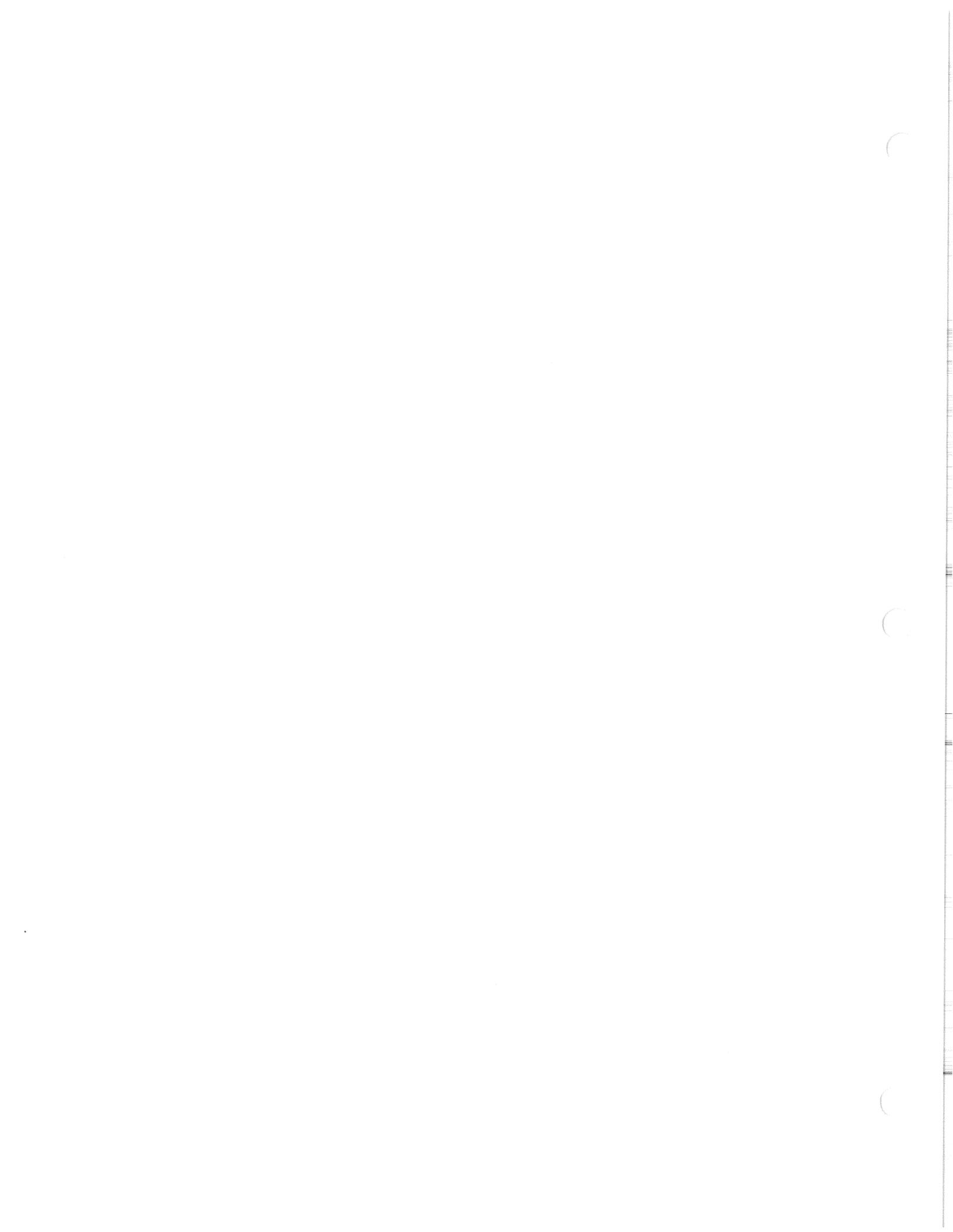
No additional state employees would be needed to oversee or administer these funds.

**How will funds be spent and how will the agency address the absence of federal funding after it ends?:**

Funding would be used to maintain employment of a Water Quality Resource Conservationist currently employed by the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts. This position has been funded since 2002 and is in jeopardy of being eliminated this year. The current employee understands this is temporary funding to complete on-the-ground activities

This position is currently in the midst of "shovel ready" projects, and we believe it is important that work continue to meet the state's goals. The shovel ready projects include:

- 1) Water conservation efforts for the Bruneau Hot Springsnail (Endangered Species). Over a dozen water conservation projects have been completed in the area, and at least two more projects are in the pipeline for this year. This person is responsible for the implementation of water conservation projects.
- 2) Control of invasive noxious plant. Last year, hydrilla, a rapidly-spreading noxious plant, was discovered in the Bruneau River. This plant not only threatens the Bruneau River ecosystem, but also downstream to the Columbia River system. This person is responsible to work with the Department of Agriculture and the community for plant-eradication programs.



- 3) Surface water quality in the Owyhee Eco-Region. There have been five approved water quality plans (TMDLs) developed for the region. Now is the time to implement practices (BMPs) to improve water quality, such as fencing, offsite watering, prescribed grazing, etc. This person is responsible for the implementation of surface water quality projects.
- 4) Implement Eastern Owyhee Cooperative Weed Management Area programs. This person is responsible for programs to eradicate noxious weeds in the Owyhee Eco-Region.
- 5) Habitat Restoration for sage grouse. This person will be responsible for the development of, and implementation of, sage grouse restoration activities.

**Other information or recommendations for the governor:**

Since the listing of the Bruneau Hot Springsnail in 1998, tension and animosity have been the two major outcomes for the local communities and Idaho's leaders. Farmers and ranchers have feared the full force and effect of the ESA since the listing, and the State of Idaho has taken the lead in preventing wholesale shutoff of irrigation water originating from the geothermal hot spring. Since this coordinator position has been in place over the last five year, many successful projects have been implemented and much of the animosity has been ameliorated. We hope to maintain this upward trend.



# OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION

**C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**  
Governor



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Boise, Idaho 83702

March 4, 2009

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

The Office of Species Conservation (OSC) humbly offers several project proposals for your consideration for funding through the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

**Project #2 attached is the "Resident Aquatic Species Recovery."**

Funding for this would pay for shovel-ready projects for aquatic species in Idaho, outside of the areas of salmon recovery projects. OSC provides funding for salmon recovery in the Salmon and Clearwater Basins; yet, other important native species, such as the Threatened bull trout and Sensitive redband trout need protection in northern and southwestern Idaho. A series of potential lawsuits from environmental organizations (30-day NOIs) have heightened the need to undertake projects to protect the species and Idahoans' use of our natural resources.

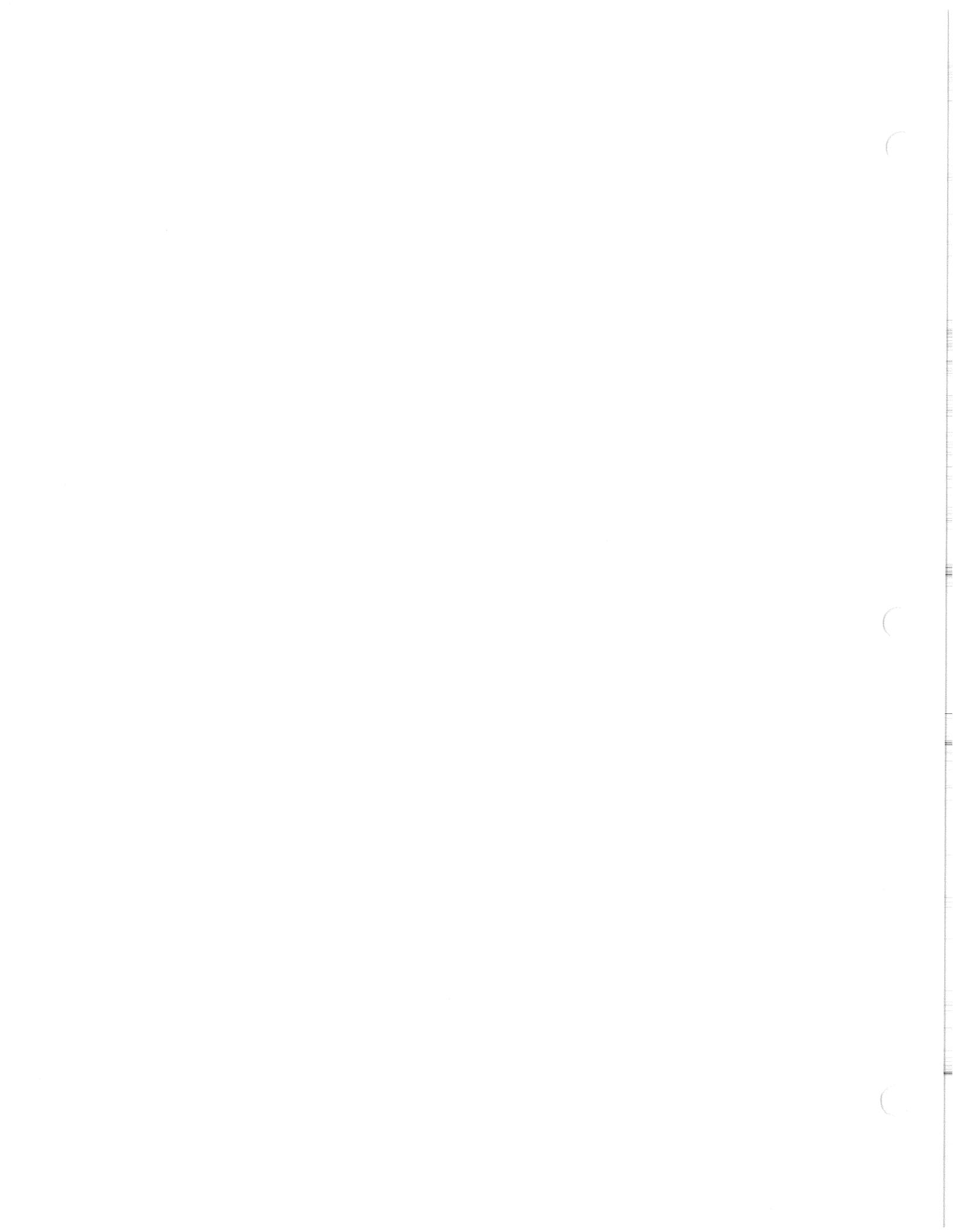
OSC is prepared to implement this program or any other program you deem vital to the economic and environmental enhancement of Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Fisher".

Nathan Fisher  
Administrator

Attachment of Project #2



March 4, 2009

To: Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter

From: Nate Fisher

RE: Request for Funding under the "Federal American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009"

**Organization Completing Application:**

Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

**Contact person(s) in organization including email address and phone number:**

Nate Fisher, Administrator  
Governor's Office of Species Conservation  
300 North 6th Street, Suite 101  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
(208) 334-2189

**Project Name:**

Resident Aquatic Species Recovery

**Amount of federal funding desired under the Act:**

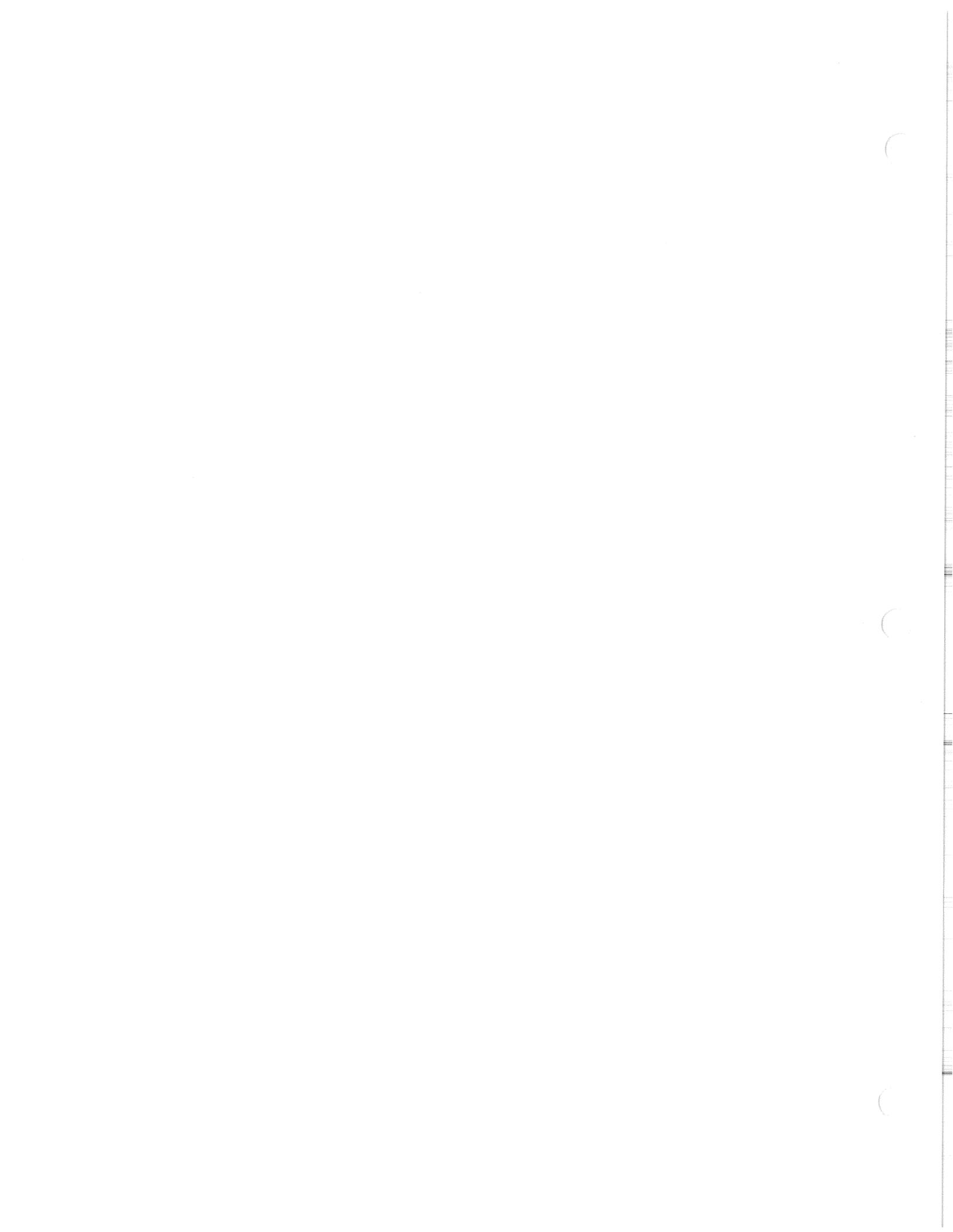
\$500,000

**Title(s) and section(s) of the Act which the funding is provided:**

TITLE VII—INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES

**Requirements and deadlines for applying for federal funding:**

USFWS has not yet disclosed their granting process. It is understood that the usual and accustomed process and accompanying forms (SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, SF-424A, Budget Information-- Non-Construction Programs, SF-424B, Assurances-- Non-Construction Programs, CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying, SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable), A current copy of the negotiated indirect cost rate with a Federal agency if applicable) will be required.



**Requirements associated with the desired funding, including but not limited to spending limitations, state match or cost share requirements, percentage limitations, and timeframes:**

USFWS -- \$280 million nationwide allocated to a specific project list that is still in DC so not shared at this point. \$115 million of this will fund construction and restoration at refuges. Other funds will go to supporting existing partnerships. Discretionary funding through their habitat joint venture program will be available.

**When would federal funding end?:**

2 years from the date that the funds are received.

**Will additional spending authority be necessary to expend the federal funds?:**

Yes.

**Are additional state employees necessary to oversee or administer the federal funds?:**

No additional state employees would be needed to oversee or administer these funds.

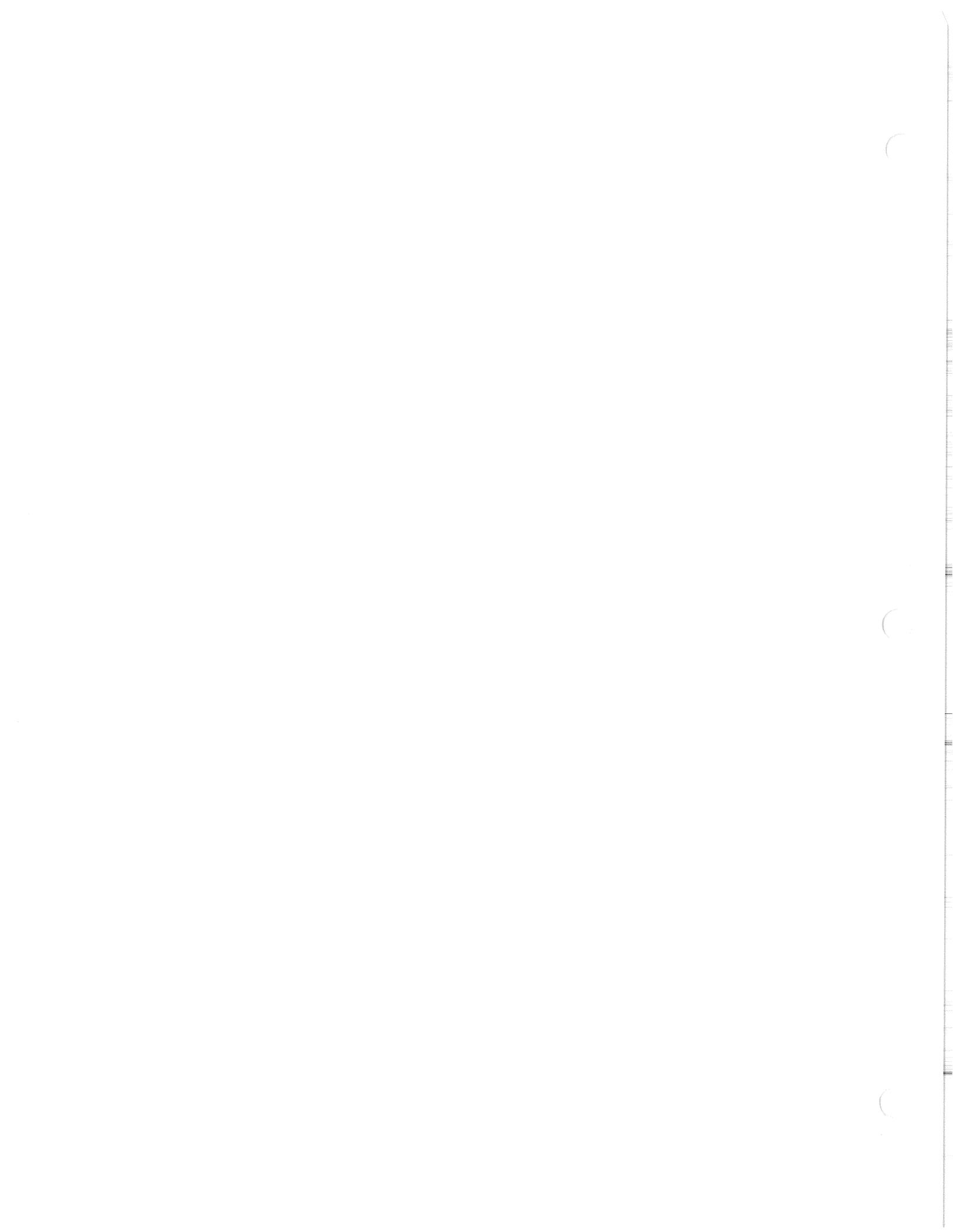
**How will the funds be spent and how will the agency address the absence of federal funding after it ends?:**

Through a grant application process under a new program funding would be allocated for habitat improvements for listed and non-listed resident fish and other aquatic organisms that are so important to the citizens of the state of Idaho. This funding will promote the conservation of freshwater aquatic fish and organisms through projects including: riparian vegetation improvements, stream bank stabilization, culvert replacements, fish screens, livestock fencing projects, and water developments for the watering of livestock away from streams. Projects on federal, state and private land would be eligible for funding under this program.

"Shovel ready" projects that could receive potential funding under a new program:

*Pass Creek Allotment - Salmon/ Challis National Forest.*

Permittees on this allotment are currently under threat of litigation brought forth by the anti-grazing environmental group, Western Watersheds Project (WWP). WWP wants livestock moved off of the allotment immediately as the organization believes that current grazing practices are impacting a non-native population of bull trout in the area. Permittees have done many things to alter their grazing practices to improve the range and protect bull trout habitat, but WWP contends



that the Salmon/ Challis National Forest continues to be violation of the Endangered Species Act by authorizing grazing on the allotment. If livestock are removed from the allotment, severe economic impacts would ripple through the area.

Under a new program administered through OSC, funding would be allocated for riparian fencing and temporary water development on federal land to divert livestock away from streams thus alleviating their threat to bull trout and habitat and would allow permittees to stay on their grazing allotments.

*Indian Mountain and Council Mountain allotments– Payette National Forest*

Since 2004, the Indian Mountain Grazing Association and Council Mountain permittees have been maintaining two exclosures at the headwaters of the Little Weiser River on the Payette National Forest. The exclosures are designed to keep livestock from entering key bull trout spawning areas in the late summer/ early fall. However, because of circumstances outside of the permittees' control (ie: wolves pushing elk and livestock through the fences), livestock will occasionally break through exclosures. WWP has been focused on this area as well and has demanded that the Payette National Forest make changes to their grazing program to better protect the bull trout in this area.

Funds under the program would be allocated for fencing improvements on the allotments to prevent livestock from entering the exclosures and thus nearly eliminating any threat that livestock pose to spawning bull trout. Funding for this project will also provide some economic relief to permittees who have been maintaining the fences out of their own pockets.



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March 4, 2009

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

The Office of Species Conservation (OSC) humbly offers several project proposals for your consideration for funding through the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

**Project #3 attached is the "Wolf Depredation Compensation."**

Funding for this would augment existing federal funding for the State's wolf depredation account. As of this year's funding, the State could only provide approximately 43 cents on the dollar for the depredation of livestock in Idaho. With the increase of wolf populations in Idaho, and with the increase of livestock depredation, Idaho's livestock community has seen decreases in the amount of compensation. Without delisting of the wolves in Idaho, and subsequent State management, OSC believes the federal government is responsible for fully compensating Idahoans for the damage caused by wolf depredation.

OSC is prepared to implement this program or any other program you deem vital to the economic and environmental enhancement of Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Fisher".

Nathan Fisher  
Administrator

Attachment of Project #3



**March 4, 2009**

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

**From: Nate Fisher**

**RE: Request for Funding under the "Federal American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009"**

**Organization Completing Application:**

Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

**Contact person(s) in organization including email address and phone number:**

Nate Fisher, Administrator  
Governor's Office of Species Conservation  
300 North 6th Street, Suite 101  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
(208) 334-2189

**Project Name:**

Wolf Depredation Compensation

**Amount of federal funding desired under the Act:**

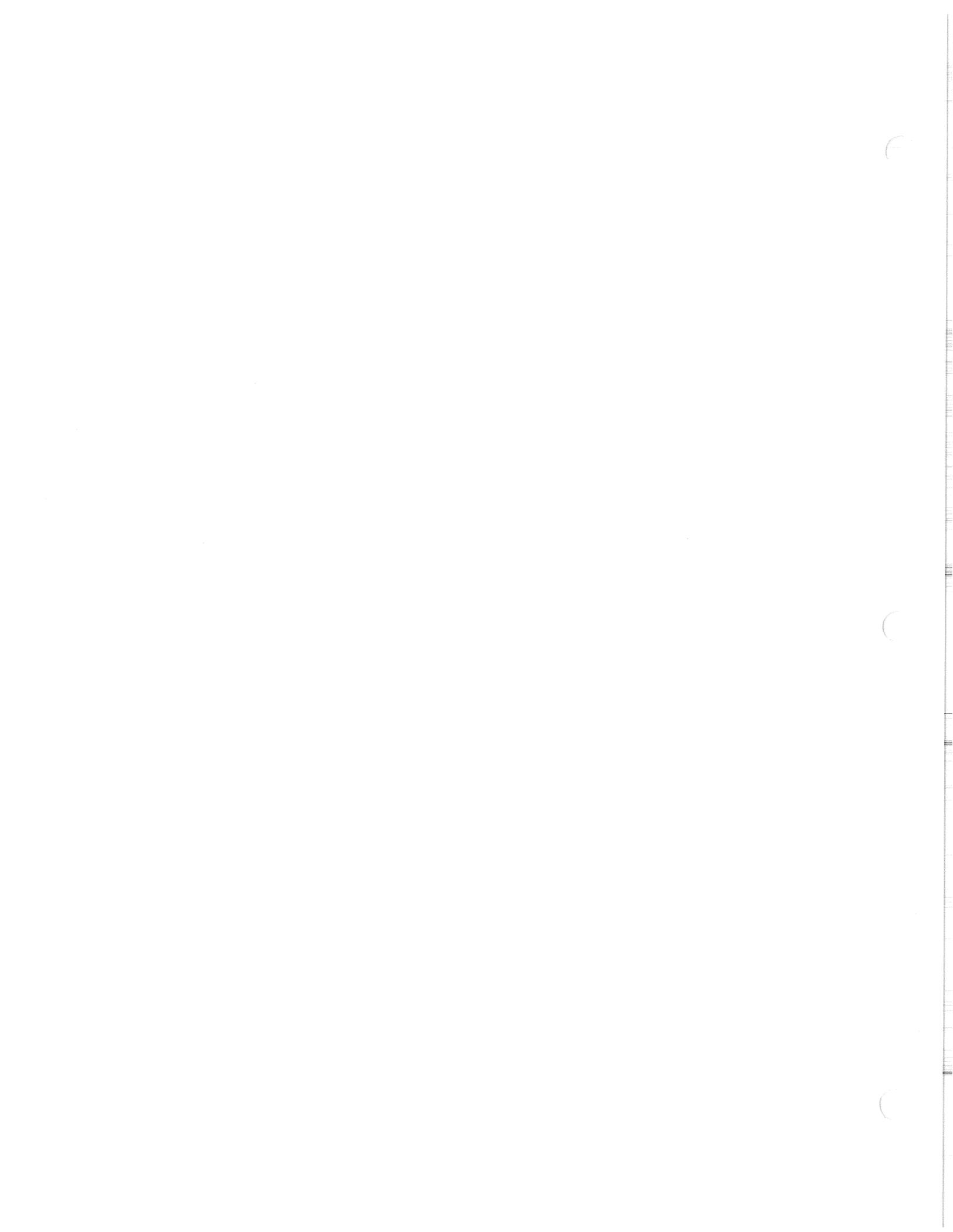
\$500,000

**Title(s) and section(s) of the Act which the funding is provided:**

TITLE VII—INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES

**Requirements and deadlines for applying for federal funding:**

USFWS has not yet disclosed their granting process. It is understood that the usual and accustomed process and accompanying forms (SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, SF-424A, Budget Information-- Non-Construction Programs, SF-424B, Assurances-- Non-Construction Programs, CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying, SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable), A current copy of the negotiated indirect cost rate with a Federal agency if applicable) will be required.



**Requirements associated with the desired funding, including but not limited to spending limitations, state match or cost share requirements, percentage limitations, and timeframes:**

USFWS -- \$280 million nationwide allocated to a specific project list that is still in DC so not shared at this point. \$115 million of this will fund construction and restoration at refuges. Other funds will go to supporting existing partnerships. Discretionary funding through their habitat joint venture program will be available.

**When would federal funding end?:**

2 years from the date of receipt of the funds.

**Will additional spending authority is necessary to expend the federal funds?:**

Yes.

**Are additional state employees necessary to oversee or administer the federal funds?:**

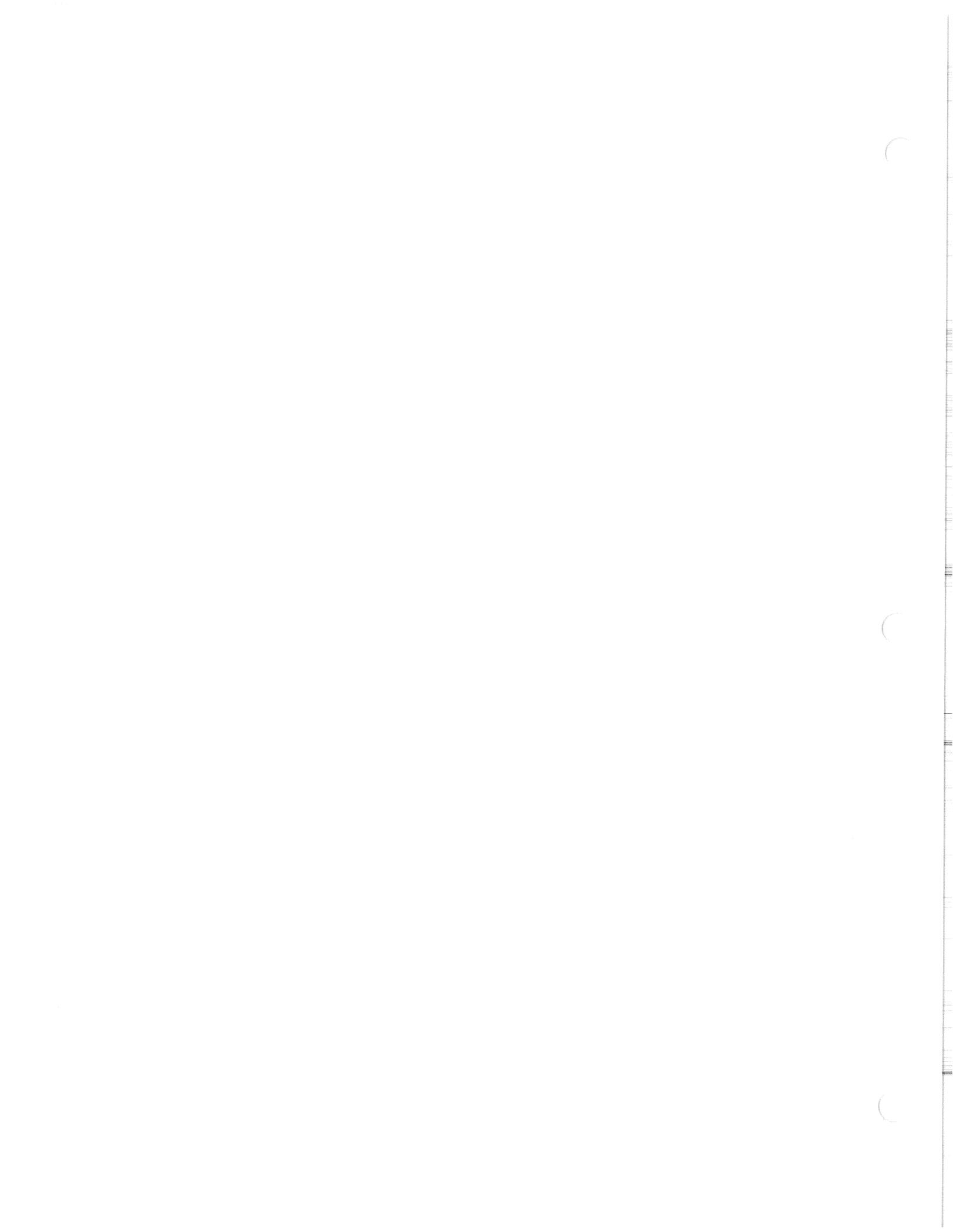
No additional state employees would be needed to oversee or administer these funds

**How will the funds be spent and how will the agency address the absence of federal funding after it ends?:**

Funding would be in addition to our Congressionally appropriated wolf management and monitoring funds. Since 2001, the State of Idaho has received federal funding for wolf recovery and management. The state of Idaho's position has always been that because the federal government brought wolves into Idaho against the state's wishes, the federal government has an annual obligation to fund wolf recovery and management, including compensation for livestock losses due to wolf depredation.

While biologically recovered, wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains have yet to be removed from the federal list of endangered and threatened species. As a result, Idaho's wolf population continues to grow by about 15% each year and today, roughly 850 wolves in 89 packs call Idaho home. Of those 89 packs, nearly 1/3 of them have been implicated in livestock depredation.

Through the efforts of OSC, the State of Idaho receives roughly \$700,000 in federal funding every year for wolf management activities. Of that amount \$100,000 is used for wolf depredation compensation through a program administered by OSC. As one would expect, \$100,000 does not go very far considering the increase in wolf depredation cases every year. For the 2008 grazing season, livestock producers who applied for compensation were paid 41 cents on the dollar for their losses.



Adding another \$500,000 in stimulus funds to the Idaho Wolf Depredation Compensation program will enable the program to expand to meet the needs of our livestock producers who continue to carry the economic burden of a growing wolf population.



## OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor



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NATHAN A. FISHER  
Administrator

300 North Sixth Street, Suite 101  
Boise, Idaho 83702

March 4, 2009

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

The Office of Species Conservation (OSC) humbly offers several project proposals for your consideration for funding through the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

**Project #4 attached is the "Upper Lemhi River Restoration."**

Money for this would fund the shovel ready restoration of a portion of the upper Lemhi River, which is historic Chinook salmon spawning and rearing habitat. A portion of this program has already been funded through another fisheries program of OSC. All necessary design and permitting requirements have been completed, including formal consultation with the germane federal agency. This project is supported by the community of landowners and water users in the Lemhi River watershed.

OSC is prepared to implement this program or any other program you deem vital to the economic and environmental enhancement of Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Fisher".

Nathan Fisher  
Administrator

Attachment of Project #4



**March 4, 2009**

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

**From: Nate Fisher**

**RE: Request for Funding under the "Federal American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009"**

**Organization Completing Application:**

Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

**Contact person(s) in organization including email address and phone number:**

Nate Fisher, Administrator  
Governor's Office of Species Conservation  
300 North 6th Street, Suite 101  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
(208) 334-2189

**Project Name:**

Upper Lemhi River Restoration

**Amount of federal funding desired under the Act:**

**\$773,866**

**Title(s) and section(s) of the Act which the funding is provided:**

TITLE II— COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS,  
RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for "Operations, Research, and Facilities",  
\$230,000,000.

**Requirements and deadlines for applying for federal funding:**

\$150 million nationwide to be allocated through a short turn-around highly competitive process beginning as early as tomorrow (through an RFP). Grants will range from \$1.5-10 million using the Community-based Restoration Grant criteria. It is understood that the usual and accustomed process be followed and forms provided (SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, SF-424A, Budget Information-- Non-Construction Programs, SF-424B, Assurances-- Non-Construction Programs, CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying, SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable), A current copy of the negotiated indirect cost rate with a Federal agency if applicable) as per standard requirements.

**Requirements associated with the desired funding, including but not limited to spending limitations, state match or cost share requirements, percentage limitations, and timeframes:**

NOAA will post process and details Friday, March 6, 2009.

**When would federal funding end?:**

2 years from the date that the funds are received. It is anticipated that this project will be complete by October 31, 2010.

**Will additional spending authority be necessary to expend the federal funds?:**

NO.

**Are additional state employees necessary to oversee or administer the federal funds?:**

No additional state employees would be needed to oversee or administer these funds.

**How will the funds be spent and how will the agency address the absence of federal funding after it ends?:**

This shovel ready project rehabilitates 1 km of historic Chinook salmon spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Lemhi River. This river reach was channelized for agricultural, and thus contains long swift riffle sections with no pool habitat, very little woody debris or other complex habitat, and homogenous substrate that is not suitable for Chinook salmon spawning and rearing. In spring 2007 an evaluation was completed to identify habitat issues and propose several alternatives for restoring natural function to this river reach. This project, "Upper Lemhi River Stream Habitat Restoration Project" funded by the PCSRF (# 004 06 SA) has recently completed Phase I of the following rehabilitation plan: 1) evaluation/planning, 2) project design, and 3) project construction

and implementation. The IDFG was provided an alternatives analysis document, and the landowner selected an option that will restructure the river reach to a natural state. Funding is now being requested for implementation.

The preferred alternative selected by the landowner prescribes a suite of conservation strategies and restoration alternatives to improve the quality of Chinook salmon spawning and rearing habitat. The current river configuration will be realigned to make use of a portion of the historic channel. A new channel will also be constructed in the downstream section of the restoration reach.

The proposed channel rehabilitation project will create pools and other slow water habitats, develop lateral habitats where the stream margins and the riparian vegetation meet, and redistribute bedload material to provide suitable gravel for spawning. This will significantly improve habitat conditions for Chinook salmon spawning and juvenile rearing because this section of the Lemhi River is located within the primary salmon production area. As rearing conditions improve, the number of juveniles surviving in the Lemhi to presmolt and smolt stages is expected to increase. Other anadromous and stream resident/fluvial salmonids will also benefit from this project.

The community of landowners and water users in the Lemhi River watershed has demonstrated on-going support for conservation efforts and habitat improvements in the watershed. This project supports the Lemhi Section 6 Agreement that will provide water users in the Lemhi basin incidental take coverage for ESA listed fish. The Lemhi Agreement is being negotiated by several entities that include Lemhi watershed landowners and representatives of Water District 74.

Additionally this bundle includes Little Springs Creek (LSC) pond restoration. This is a spring-fed Lemhi River tributary near Leadore, Idaho which provides rearing and spawning habitat for ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead. LSC stream temperatures are un-naturally warmed by an irrigation pond which fully captures and subsequently warms the water from an LSC spring source before it reaches LSC.

The objective of this project is to stabilize LSC stream temperatures by re-establishing the natural connection between the spring source and LSC and eliminating the warm water influence created by the pond without removing the pond. This will be accomplished by: 1) Creating a new channel connecting the spring source to LSC, 2) Placing a control structure at the pond inlet to direct approximately half the spring discharge down the new channel, 3) Placing a control structure at the pond outlet to draw cooler water from below, 4) Dredging the pond to increase depth, and 5) Planting native species along the new stream channel bank.

This is a shovel ready project and if funded through NOAA's Community Based Restoration program which will fall under the Programmatic Biological and Conference Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for the NOAA Restoration Center Restoration Program in the Pacific Northwest.

Below is NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NOAA Fisheries) programmatic biological and conference opinion (Opinion) concluding formal Endangered Species Act consultation on the NOAA Restoration Center's (NOAA RC) Restoration Program in the Pacific Northwest as described in NOAA RC's environmental assessment (EA) dated August 13, 2001. This Opinion considers **Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)**, Ozette Lake sockeye salmon, Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon (*O. keta*), Upper Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*), Snake River Basin steelhead, Lower Columbia River steelhead, Middle Columbia River steelhead, Columbia River chum salmon, **Snake River fall-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*)**, Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon, **Snake River spring/summer-run Chinook**, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, Upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook salmon, Upper Willamette River Chinook salmon, Upper Willamette River steelhead, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon, and Lower Columbia River coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), and Oregon Coast coho salmon, two species proposed for listing under the ESA.

**NOAA Fisheries determined that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species described above, or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat.**

An incidental take statement provides non-discretionary terms and conditions to minimize the potential for incidental take of listed species. However, the incidental take statement does not become effective for Lower Columbia River coho salmon and Oregon Coast coho salmon until NOAA Fisheries adopts this conference opinion for as a biological opinion, after the listing is final.

This document also serves as consultation on essential fish habitat (EFH) for coho, pink and Chinook salmon, groundfish, and coastal pelagic species under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 600).

Pursuant to the MSA, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) has designated EFH for three species of Federally-managed Pacific salmon: Chinook (*O. tshawytscha*); coho (*O. kisutch*); and Puget Sound pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*) (PFMC 1999). NOAA Fisheries has determined that the proposed habitat improvement activities may adversely affect EFH for these species in the short term. However, these potential short-term adverse effects to EFH will be avoided, minimized, or otherwise offset through the incorporation of the conservation measures described as the terms and conditions in the Opinion.

If you have any questions regarding this Opinion, please contact Megan Callahan-Grant of the NOAA Restoration Center's Oregon Field Office at 503.231.2213.

## OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION

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Administrator

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March 4, 2009

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
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Dear Governor Otter:

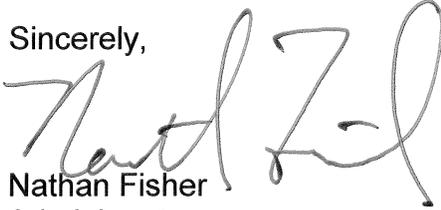
The Office of Species Conservation (OSC) humbly offers several project proposals for your consideration for funding through the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

**Project #5 attached is the "Potlatch River Restoration and Monitoring."**

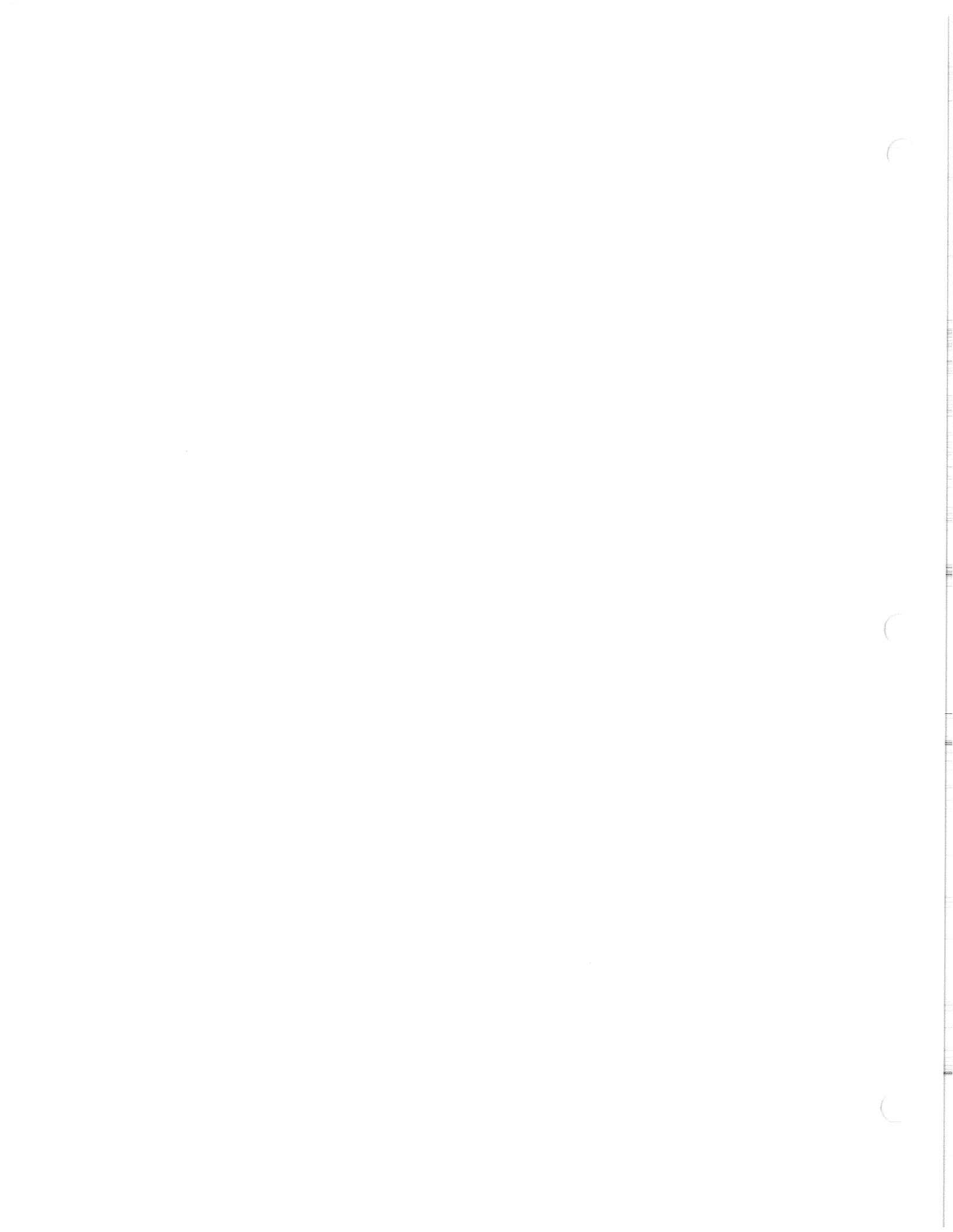
Money for this would fund the shovel ready restoration of a portion of the Potlatch River, which is historic Steelhead salmon spawning and rearing habitat. Three components of this restoration program include a bridge replacement, introduction of woody debris into the water channel to reclaim its natural state, and a monitoring program to assess its effectiveness.

OSC is prepared to implement this program or any other program you deem vital to the economic and environmental enhancement of Idaho.

Sincerely,

  
Nathan Fisher  
Administrator

Attachment of Project #5



**March 4, 2009**

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

**From: Nate Fisher**

**RE: Request for Funding under the "Federal American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009"**

**Organization Completing Application:**

Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

**Contact person(s) in organization including email address and phone number:**

Nate Fisher, Administrator  
Governor's Office of Species Conservation  
300 North 6th Street, Suite 101  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
(208) 334-2189

**Project Name:**

Potlatch River Restoration and Monitoring

**Amount of federal funding desired under the Act:**

**\$799,477**

**Title(s) and section(s) of the Act which the funding is provided:**

TITLE II— COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS,  
RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for "Operations, Research, and Facilities",  
\$230,000,000.

**Requirements and deadlines for applying for federal funding:**

\$150 million nationwide to be allocated through a short turn-around highly competitive process beginning as early as tomorrow (through an RFP). Grants will range from \$1.5-10 million using the Community-based Restoration Grant criteria. It is understood that the usual and accustomed process be followed and forms provided (SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, SF-424A, Budget Information-- Non-Construction Programs, SF-424B, Assurances-- Non-Construction Programs, CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying, SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable), A current copy of the negotiated indirect cost rate with a Federal agency if applicable) as per standard requirements.

**Requirements associated with the desired funding, including but not limited to spending limitations, state match or cost share requirements, percentage limitations, and timeframes:**

NOAA will post process and details Friday, March 6, 2009.

**When would federal funding end?:**

2 years from the date that the funds are received. It is anticipated that this project will be complete by December 31, 2010.

**Will additional spending authority be necessary to expend the federal funds?:**

NO.

**Are additional state employees necessary to oversee or administer the federal funds?:**

No additional state employees would be needed to oversee or administer these funds.

**How will the funds be spent and how will the agency address the absence of federal funding after it ends?:**

This shovel ready project replaces a highly traveled bridge crossing Pine Creek which is major spawning tributary to the Potlatch River. Approximately 0.17 miles from the mouth is Pine Creek Bridge on Cedar Creek Road. The road and bridge is owned and maintained by Latah County Road District. The bridge has an old and deteriorating concrete pad in the stream channel that has become a migration barrier to juvenile and adult steelhead. The concrete pad has become undermined and water now flows under the pad creating subsurface flow except during high spring flows. Adult steelhead carcasses have been collected above the bridge, trapped in pools unable to maneuver

around the concrete pad after high water. Juvenile steelhead cannot migrate below the bridge after high water and become trapped in isolated pool habitat that can reach lethal temperatures during the summer months. Latah County Road District supports this project.

A bundled portion of this shovel ready project will improve in-stream habitat and channel complexity in the East Fork Potlatch River through the addition of large wood to the stream channel. Legacy timber management practices in riparian corridors have created a deficiency of instream wood and a significant time lag for natural recruitment of trees as future sources of LWD. Work will provide immediate detectable changes associated with in-stream habitat, channel morphology and complexity. A number of studies conducted on the Potlatch River watershed have outlined limiting factors for steelhead production within the basin. Schriever and Nelson (1999) determined modification to the hydrograph, increased water temperatures, and a lack of large woody debris to be limiting factors in the basin. The EF Potlatch has a low pool/riffle ratio resulting in limited over-winter habitat. This results in lower than expected production of yearling and older juvenile steelhead. This project will increase available pool habitat.

Additionally funding requested in this proposal will expand the umbrella watershed monitoring effort within the Potlatch River drainage. The project will utilize PCSRF funds for personnel and NOAA Intensively Monitored Watershed funds for infrastructure purchasing. The framework of this project will provide:

- 1) insight into Potlatch River steelhead production and productivity on a variety of scales, ranging from basin wide to individual stream reaches
- 2) a monitoring component for the numerous habitat restoration projects currently on the ground
- 3) the ability to actively adapt management to new findings
- 4) comparison of steelhead population dynamics of two lower Clearwater River ecotypes (Upper and Lower Potlatch River)
- 5) increase knowledge base of regulatory agencies resulting in greater protection of steelhead and steelhead habitat within the Lower Clearwater River MPG
- 6) increase knowledge and protection of all Lower Clearwater River steelhead

The Potlatch River watershed contains the most significant population of wild A-run steelhead remaining in the lower Clearwater River drainage. Limited information is available regarding the Potlatch River population and lower Clearwater steelhead as a whole. Furthermore, given the drastic differences between the upper and lower Potlatch River in biotic communities and habitat types, understanding both subwatersheds is extremely important regarding steelhead protection and enhancement within the drainage. As habitat enhancement activities are conducted within the watershed, it will be important to have adequate baseline and response data to provide a measure of success regarding both biotic and abiotic factors. The proposed work would provide a two tier approach of monitoring both fish populations and habitat health within the entire Potlatch River watershed.

This is a shovel ready project and if funded through NOAA's Community Based Restoration program which will fall under the Programmatic Biological and Conference Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for the NOAA Restoration Center Restoration Program in the Pacific Northwest.

Below is NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NOAA Fisheries) programmatic biological and conference opinion (Opinion) concluding formal Endangered Species Act consultation on the NOAA Restoration Center's (NOAA RC) Restoration Program in the Pacific Northwest as described in NOAA RC's environmental assessment (EA) dated August 13, 2001. This Opinion considers **Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)**, Ozette Lake sockeye salmon, Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon (*O. keta*), Upper Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*), Snake River Basin steelhead, Lower Columbia River steelhead, Middle Columbia River steelhead, Columbia River chum salmon, **Snake River fall-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*)**, Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon, **Snake River spring/summer-run Chinook**, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, Upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook salmon, Upper Willamette River Chinook salmon, Upper Willamette River steelhead, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon, and Lower Columbia River coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), and Oregon Coast coho salmon, two species proposed for listing under the ESA.

**NOAA Fisheries determined that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species described above, or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat.**

An incidental take statement provides non-discretionary terms and conditions to minimize the potential for incidental take of listed species. However, the incidental take statement does not become effective for Lower Columbia River coho salmon and Oregon Coast coho salmon until NOAA Fisheries adopts this conference opinion for as a biological opinion, after the listing is final.

This document also serves as consultation on essential fish habitat (EFH) for coho, pink and Chinook salmon, groundfish, and coastal pelagic species under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 600).

Pursuant to the MSA, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) has designated EFH for three species of Federally-managed Pacific salmon: Chinook (*O. tshawytscha*); coho (*O. kisutch*); and Puget Sound pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*) (PFMC 1999). NOAA Fisheries has determined that the proposed habitat improvement activities may adversely affect EFH for these species in the short term. However, these potential short-term adverse effects to EFH will be avoided, minimized, or otherwise offset through the incorporation of the conservation measures described as the terms and conditions in the Opinion.

If you have any questions regarding this Opinion, please contact Megan Callahan-Grant of the NOAA Restoration Center's Oregon Field Office at 503.231.2213.

