

**WaterSmart: Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) for FY
2013 Grant Application Technical Proposal**

Establishment of the Boise River Enhancement Network



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1 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

June 10, 2013

Applicants: Land Trust of the Treasure Valley (LTTV), Idaho Rivers United (IRU), Trout Unlimited (TU), Ecosystem Sciences Foundation (ESF) and South Boise Water Company (SBWC).

City, County, State: Boise, Ada County, Idaho

The lower Boise River watershed suffers from a serious loss of ecological resilience and a lack of a cooperative watershed enhancement effort. A diverse group of stakeholders has been cooperating for over two years to characterize these problems. The group determined that a lack of partnerships and coordination was hindering stakeholder ability to address critical watershed issues, including habitat loss, floodplain development, water pollution and ecosystem function. Watershed management and enhancement can only be successful if it is a cooperative effort; the applicants seek to create a framework for that cooperation in a watershed that has various and often divergent stakeholders. The applicants are seeking funding to establish the Boise River Enhancement Network (BREN); a self-sustaining network to help stakeholders connect, coordinate and cooperate. Funding from this grant will be used to accomplish the following work over a two-year time period: establish a structure and operating process, create an organizational sustainability plan, conduct outreach to establish broad-based participation, provide communication services, develop enhancement project concepts, identify and prioritize enhancement needs, and create an integrated enhancement plan. This work will be accomplished quickly and efficiently without the need for new staff or infrastructure.

This project is expected to take two years and be completed by September 30, 2015.

2.0 BACKGROUND DATA

2.1 WATERSHED DESCRIPTION

The lower Boise River watershed in southwest Idaho is approximately 1,307 square miles or 836,876 acres (Figure 1). From Lucky Peak Dam, the lower Boise River flows 64 miles northwest to its confluence with the Snake River. Elevations range from 6,000 feet above sea level in the foothills of the Boise Front Range to approximately 2,200 feet at the mouth of the Boise River. The semi-arid climate is characterized by hot, dry summers and cold winters. In Ada County, land ownership is approximately 47% private and 45% federal, while Canyon County is approximately 93% privately owned. Rangeland comprises almost 51% of the watershed; irrigated croplands and pasture together comprise 31%. Over one-third of the population of Idaho lives in the watershed.

Historically, willows and cottonwoods dominated the lower Boise River's riparian overstory, while alder, willow, birch, hawthorn and other shrub species dominated the understory. These

historic riparian habitats were due to the dynamic flows and spring flooding that occurred in the watershed.¹

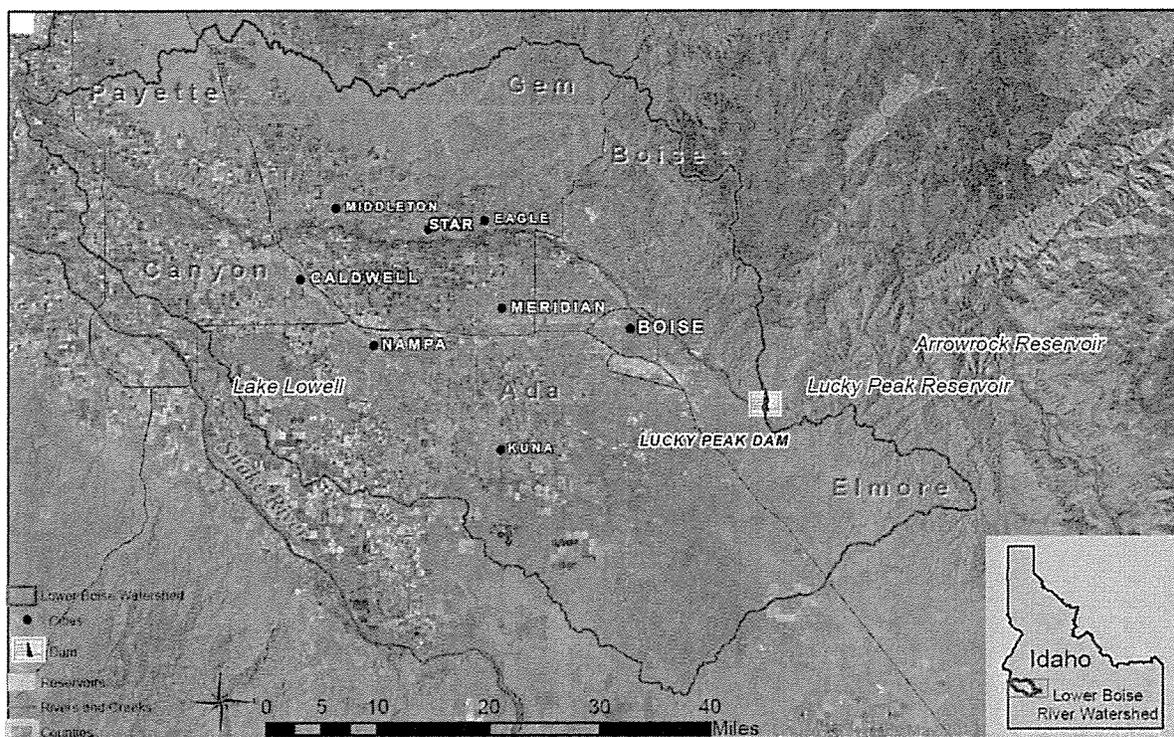


Figure 1. The lower Boise River Watershed in southwestern Idaho.

The Boise River once supported large runs of salmon and steelhead. These fish have been extirpated from the watershed. Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed bull trout have also been extirpated from the lower Boise River. Native coldwater species including trout and whitefish inhabit the lower Boise River between the City of Star and Lucky Peak Dam. From Star to the Snake River, the river supports a coldwater fishery only seasonally, but supports introduced sport fish year round, including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and channel catfish.

Functional riparian zones and wetlands adjacent to the Boise River and tributaries provide pollution control as well as habitat for fish and wildlife. More than 150 species of birds use the watershed, including a variety of waterfowl species and neotropical migrants. In 2013, three pairs of bald eagles were identified nesting in the lower Boise River watershed. At least 37 species of mammals occur in the lower Boise River watershed. Species like beaver and mink live in the river or side channels. Other species live in the riparian forests and uplands. Both the Boise River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and the Fort Boise WMA provide critical habitat

¹ MacCoy, D.E. 2006. Fish communities and related environmental conditions of the lower Boise River, southwestern Idaho, 1974–2004: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2006-5111, 36 p.

for resident and migrating birds and animals. Over 7,000 mule deer and nearly 500 elk winter in the low elevation mountains of the Boise River WMA.

2.2 WATER SUPPLY SOURCE

About 90% of the surface water used in the lower Boise River watershed originates as snow in the higher elevations of the Boise River basin, the majority of which is stored in three reservoirs: Anderson Ranch and Arrowrock (owned by the United States Bureau of Reclamation [Reclamation]) and Lucky Peak (owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers). These reservoirs are operated for the purposes of flood control, irrigation and recreation, and combined, can store over 1,109,000 acre-feet (AF) of water. Over 95% of the lower watershed's drinking water comes from aquifers. There is a well-documented exchange of water between the lower Boise River and the shallow aquifer.

2.3 WATER RIGHTS

Lower Boise River watershed irrigators hold senior surface rights, some obtained as early as 1860. Irrigators also hold rights to the majority of the stored water in the reservoirs. The lower Boise River above the City of Star is fully appropriated during the irrigation season (April-October) and close to fully appropriated during the rest of the year. The river does not have a state-designated minimum stream flow, however Reclamation and Idaho Fish and Game hold storage rights in Lucky Peak reservoir that are set aside for stream maintenance. Surface water rights have been adjudicated. Thirty-two municipal providers also hold water rights in the watershed. Neither administration of groundwater rights nor the implementation of conjunctive administration is currently underway in the lower Boise River watershed.

2.4 CURRENT WATER USES

Water use falls into two categories: domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial (DCMI) and irrigation. In 2010, total DCMI demand was estimated at 228,535 AF (14%), while irrigation water demand was estimated at 1.45 million AF (86%). It is expected that DCMI demands will increase in the future and irrigation demands will decrease, both due to urban growth.²

2.5 WATER ISSUES FACED IN THE WATERSHED

2.5.1 Endangered Species

No federally listed threatened or endangered species or candidate species are reported by the Idaho Conservation Data Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or NatureServe (2013) to be present within the lower Boise River and adjacent areas.

2.5.2 Environmental Issues

The lower Boise River watershed suffers from a critical loss of ecosystem function that has been identified by local, state and federal resource agencies as well as stakeholders. Stakeholders were surveyed by the applicants in 2011 and a majority (90%) of survey takers believes the

² Idaho Water Resource Board, Treasure Valley Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan. April 2012.

health of the Boise River needs to improve. They ranked floodplain and ecosystem function, nutrient load and habitat as most important, followed closely by hydrology, sediment load, channel capacity and fisheries (see Appendix F). The applicants plan to address many, but not all of these issues. This strategic decision was reached collectively and is based on the fact that some needs are being addressed in other venues and that certain issues are more appropriate for collaboration at this time.

Ecosystem Function - The natural disturbance regimes that maintain habitats and biological communities in the watershed have been replaced by human management. Ecosystem function, including water temperature regulation, water pollution prevention and flood control are also affected by the loss of natural disturbance.

Water Quality - Beneficial use of the lower Boise River and a number of the tributaries is impaired because of chronic temperature, sediment and phosphorus pollution.

Habitat - Fish and wildlife habitat in the watershed has been dramatically altered by dams, channelization, water pollution, and long term hydrologic and sediment modifications. Projected population increases will further decrease the quality and quantity of the riparian and aquatic habitat.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANTS

The Land Trust of the Treasure Valley (LTTV), Trout Unlimited (TU), Ecosystem Sciences Foundation (ESF), Idaho Rivers United (IRU) and South Boise Water Company are partnering to apply for CWMP funding. Tim Breuer, Executive Director of the LTTV will manage the project. These organizations, and many others, have been informally cooperating for over two years to increase opportunities to improve the water quality and ecological resilience of the lower Boise River watershed. The applicants are affected stakeholders in the watershed; they represent diverse perspectives; are grassroots; and, are capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources and improving the functioning condition of the river. The applicants will use this funding to develop a consensus decision making process and develop appropriate operating procedures and structure to ensure the BREN is a sustainable and effective watershed group.

3.2 ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS

The LTTV is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works to conserve natural, scenic, recreational and farm lands of the lower Boise River watershed. The LTTV owns land and easements along the Boise River and has conducted community based conservation planning for communities in the lower Boise Watershed.

IRU is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Boise, Idaho whose members' use and enjoyment of the Boise River is significantly impacted by water quality and quantity. IRU is capable of promoting sustainable use of water resources through their established education, outreach and citizen advocacy programs.

The South Boise Water Company is an irrigation ditch company with water delivery authority incorporated in the state of Idaho in 1917 that diverts water from the lower Boise River for multiple uses. Company shareholders affect, and are affected by, the quality and quantity of the Boise River, and the Company promotes the sustainable use of water resources.

The Ted Trueblood Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc. is a subsidiary of TU, a national conservation organization, a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The 800 members of this Chapter conserve, protect and restore trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds through habitat restoration projects and education programs in southwest Idaho.

Ecosystem Sciences Foundation is a 501(c)(3) international environmental science and design organization dedicated to bridging the gap between scientific disciplines and resource management strategies. The Foundation advocates the wise application of science and design to protect the environment and uses a collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach to solving watershed management challenges.

3.3 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The applicants seek funds to establish a watershed group and accomplish a number of tasks to address critical issues in the lower Boise River watershed. The applicants and many stakeholder organizations with a shared concern for the lower Boise River watershed have been working together for over two years without any outside financial support. These groups focused on creating and building relationships and planned and hosted a well-attended workshop, *From Vision to Reality: Enhancing the Lower Boise River* (2011). Workshop participants identified the need for continued cooperation (see Appendix F), and many organizations and individuals rose to the challenge and began to lay the foundation for a sustainable cooperative network. The participants chose a name, adopted a mission statement and vision, created a contact list, established an online communication hub and sponsored a variety of programs. Now it's time to establish a formal process and structure and begin cooperative planning, and this funding will provide the needed financial assistance to accomplish these objectives.

The preliminary goals, objectives and approach - all of which incorporate lessons learned from previous cooperative efforts in the watershed and are carefully crafted to be achievable - fit the unique needs of the local community and build a sustainable cooperative watershed group.

The requested funds will be used to:

- 1) Cooperatively develop a structure and operating process for the BREN that defines participation, establishes roles and shares responsibilities. In year two, the BREN will create a sustainability plan.

- 2) Plan and conduct outreach to increase effectiveness by building and diversifying participation. A key outcome will be to understand the issues stakeholders want to address and the critical services stakeholders would like the BREN to provide.
- 3) Improve and expand the BREN's communication services, including advanced use of online Common Community Interest Networking, interactive map development using Google Earth, and online publication of a monthly newsletter.
- 4) Working with stakeholders to assemble information about critical watershed issues, identify and prioritize enhancement needs and project concepts and use that information to create a comprehensive enhancement plan.

3.4 APPROACH

To meet the unique needs of the stakeholders of the lower Boise River watershed, the applicants and other participants are taking a tailored approach to establishing the watershed group and meeting the goals described in this proposal. The goal is to establish a watershed network that serves the stakeholders and increases opportunities for public and private enhancement project collaboration; it is not to establish an organization that does enhancement work. Neither is it a goal to tackle all critical or controversial issues. The BREN will bring stakeholders together to conduct planning, develop project partnerships, promote watershed enhancement, and perform other work that assists stakeholders. This tailored approach will build trust, sow seeds of cooperation and inevitably reduce conflict throughout the watershed. The applicants have the expertise to meet the goals and objectives of this proposal, so a staff person will not be hired. The Project Manager, Tim Breuer, will contract the work to the applicants and others, as described in the budget proposal.

3.4.1 Mission Statement and Group Process Establishment

The BREN has developed a mission and vision statement:

We are a network of people that live, work and play in the Boise River watershed dedicated to promoting the ecological enhancement of the river. The Boise River is recognized as a valuable resource by all communities in the Treasure Valley. Boise River Enhancement Network participants envision a healthy Boise River that enriches the Valley's quality of life. Imagine a Boise River that:

- *Helps meet our communities' desire for outdoor recreation and economic vitality;*
- *Provides irrigation and drinking water to communities;*
- *Flows through natural and restored fish and wildlife habitat;*
- *Offers clean water for swimming and fishing; and,*
- *Inspires people to better understand and appreciate the river and engage in stewardship efforts.*

IRU will facilitate an inclusive process expected to take 24 months to answer structure, process and sustainability questions including: How will the BREN be governed? Should the BREN incorporate? Should the BREN have members? How do we ensure sustainability of the BREN? How should the BREN raise money?

3.4.2 Information Gathering

A wide-variety of information will be compiled to create a sustainable group and a cooperative enhancement plan. Information about stakeholder concerns, coordination needs and enhancement project concepts will be gathered via the outreach program led by the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRRI) and LTTV. Ecological data gathering will be led by TU and ESF. Several decades of data from federal, state and local government agencies are available and some has already been used by stakeholders in prior planning efforts. The information will be compiled in a central library. The BREN will also find out if stakeholders are planning or implementing enhancement projects and what issues they are addressing. Project concept information will be gathered from other watersheds too. The information will be integrated to create a coherent understanding of the lower Boise River watershed.

3.4.3 Conducting Outreach/Participant Establishment

The LTTV and the IWRRRI will lead the effort to connect new participants to the BREN. The initial approach will be to hold personal meetings with the stakeholders. BREN events such as field trips, workshops, celebrations and professional development will be cooperatively planned. A wide array of opportunities for involvement, ranging from online photo sharing to leadership, will be offered to meet every stakeholder's unique needs. The BREN's role is to help the stakeholders, and the outreach approach will be adaptive as new needs are identified.

3.4.4 Identifying Watershed Needs and Concerns

The group has already identified a primary unmet need – insufficient partnerships and coordination in the watershed (Appendix F). Exploring how the BREN can best help stakeholders will be a primary objective of the group structure and outreach activities. IRU and others will facilitate meetings and conversations to determine how much and what kind of structure, communication, and services are right for the stakeholders. Participants will also be invited to work together to assemble existing data and examine project concepts to identify and reach consensus on priority needs for ecological enhancement. The approach will be to start with personal meetings (such as landowner outreach by the LTTV staff) and educational stakeholder engagement activities and continually encourage increased stakeholder involvement in cooperative group decision making and leadership.

3.4.5 Developing a Watershed Enhancement Plan

The existing vision statement (see 3.4.1) identifies long-term goals for the BREN. To achieve this vision, the BREN will integrate stakeholder skills and expertise to form a 5-10 year plan containing concrete goals and prioritized actions to achieve those goals. The BREN's plan to enhance the lower Boise River watershed will highlight the variety of environmental and networking issues in the watershed; the river and tributaries, and associated issues; the differences and similarities in issues throughout the watershed; along with potential solutions and stakeholder perspectives.

The enhancement plan will outline the watershed and its ecological, political and regulatory setting. To effectively address critical watershed issues, the constraints and opportunities for water and habitat management must be understood, so existing data and plans will be analyzed to identify as many constraints, opportunities and data gaps as possible. Through outreach to stakeholders, agencies, organizations and individuals, enhancement strategies that effectively address issues of high concern will be identified. The plan will then articulate how the BREN can support those strategies. Developing a focused plan that builds on the strengths of the BREN will be instrumental.

Some stakeholders have efforts underway to enhance the lower Boise River watershed. The process of constructing the watershed plan will facilitate joint or synergistic efforts by multiple stakeholders to enhance the watershed. The BREN's goal is not to perform specific habitat restoration projects. It will, however, support efforts identified by the plan. Watershed management and enhancement can only be successful if it is a cooperative effort; the BREN seeks to create a framework for cooperative planning in a watershed that has various and often divergent interest groups, cities, counties, irrigation districts, flood control districts, as well as state and federal agencies.

All of the activities proposed by the BREN will lead to the creation of a conceptual plan the first year. The second year will be dedicated to seeking and incorporating input on the conceptual plan from diverse stakeholders. Data gaps and missing issues, stressors and restoration concepts will be identified and addressed, as possible. The final plan to be completed by the end of the second year will be adopted by consensus.

3.4.6 Creating a Plan of Action for Implementing Activities

The applicants have drafted a plan of action in order to be ready to proceed when funding is received.

Task	Subtask	Responsible Entity	Timeframe							
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
Finalize contracts for year-one tasks		LTTV	■							
Structure, internal process and sustainability	1. Convene committee	IRU	■							
	2. Meet regularly to draft a proposal	IRU		■	■					
	3. Get feedback on proposal, edit and adopt	IRU				■				
	4. Draft a sustainability plan	All entities							■	■
	5. Get feedback on plan, edit and adopt	IRU							■	■
Outreach/Stakeholder Involvement and Education	1. Work with applicants and others to develop a 2-year outreach plan. Evaluate and modify after year one.	IWWRI, LTTV, SBWC	■					■		
	2. Hold meetings, programs, and field trips.	IWRRI, IRU	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	3. Develop and share information about critical issues and network offerings.	IWRRI, IRU		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	4. Host an event to share Plan	IRU							■	■
Improve communication services	1. Complete upgrade of online community interest website.	MV	■							
	2. Publish Monthly Newsletter	MV		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	3. Launch Interactive map	MV				■				

Assemble existing baseline condition studies and existing project plans, then prioritize enhancement needs.	1. Compile existing data and plans.	TU																	
	2. Summarize and analyze information.	ESF, TU																	
	3. Find out who is doing what to address issues.	TU, LTTV																	
	4. Identify opportunities to address critical issues.	ESF																	
	5. Solicit participation and input.	TU, LTTV																	
Identify existing river enhancement concepts and provide the opportunity to develop new concepts.	1. Perform watershed analysis.	ESF																	
	2. Work with stakeholders to identify and prioritize watershed management concepts.	TU, LTTV																	
	3. Identify concepts that have worked in similar watersheds, including land or easement acquisition.	ESF, TU, LTTV																	
Development of a watershed restoration plan	1. Compile results of information gathering and prioritize reasonable and feasible activities.	ESF, TU, LTTV																	
	2. Draft Conceptual Plan and gather feedback.	ESF																	
	3. Respond to comments and input on conceptual plan, fill data gaps, etc.	ESF																	
	4. Write and facilitate adoption of Final Plan	ESF																	
Write annual report		All entities																	

4.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA

4.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA A: WATERSHED GROUP DIVERSITY AND GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

4.1.1 Subcriterion No. A1 Watershed Group Diversity

Diversity has been a priority for the group from the beginning. The 2011 *From Vision to Reality* workshop was collaboratively organized by 13 different groups (including the applicant partners represented here); 68 organizations attended the workshop, including individuals from every applicable sector listed in FOA Section I. B. (see Appendix F). A diversity of stakeholders has attended work sessions, committee meetings, programs and field trips since the 2011 workshop. For example, the Committee that drafted the vision statement included staff from Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), IRU, IWRRI, Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands, TU, LTTV, Boise State University, Ada County Highway District and Idaho Wildlife Federation. The diversity of applicants and letters of support (see attached) demonstrate that group leaders are continuing to expand group diversity and illustrates the high level of interest in these issues.

Upon receipt of the requested funding, IWRRI will lead a cooperative outreach planning effort that will enable us to reach additional stakeholders and increase participant activity in the BREN. Our efforts will target the following stakeholders, identified through our work to date as providing a diverse representation of interests in the watershed; interests that need to cooperate to enhance ecological resilience:

- Farmers (all farmers are irrigators);
- Private landowners whose actions directly affect the river or tributaries;
- Researchers and scientific community at University of Idaho and Boise State University;
- Researchers and scientists affiliated with the Great Basin LCC;
- Public land managers (cities, counties, state and federal); and,
- Surface supply providers, some of whom operate hydro plants in the watershed.

The interest of stakeholders in watershed enhancement varies; for groups like Ducks Unlimited, for example, enhancement is a core mission, while for others, like the Ada County Highway District, enhancement work is required. Given the complexity of issues when private land, water rights and regulatory requirements are involved, it is worth the time needed to develop the right message and select the right messenger(s). The BREN will develop outreach strategies and opportunities for participation that are tailored to these people and groups.

The success of outreach is limited without a clear next step. The BREN will provide a wide array of collaborative next steps, including opportunities to:

- Discuss, draft and provide feedback on the BREN organizational structure and process;
- Attend and/or present programs or host field trips;
- Write articles for the monthly newsletter and use interactive features of the website;
- Develop enhancement project concepts and work with others to identify critical needs and synergistic opportunities;
- Plan a large event to involve stakeholders; and,
- Create a watershed enhancement plan.

4.1.2 Subcriterion No. A2 Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of the BREN is the lower Boise River watershed in Ada and Canyon counties, hydrologic unit code 17050114 (see Figure 1). The entire watershed faces critical habitat, floodplain, water quality and ecosystem function issues; however, water quality differs markedly over the 64 miles of river in the watershed, degrading as it flows downstream. The loss of natural floodplain is widespread and the vast majority of the watershed's storm and wastewater are generated in Ada County. Agricultural development has replaced much of the native vegetation in Canyon County, but far less infrastructure occurs in the floodplain.

Agencies and organizations that serve both counties have already been involved, but the majority of the interest is from Ada County, with its larger population. Critical watershed issues will not be resolved until stakeholders from both counties work together to leverage expertise, funding and community support. The BREN will use its current contacts in Canyon County to outreach to and involve more landowners, farmers and local governments in that county by:

- Arranging presentations from Canyon County stakeholders and field trips to Canyon County sites;
- Meeting with Canyon County landowners, farmers and irrigators; and,
- Using the website and newsletter to spotlight Canyon County opportunities and successes.

4.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA B: ADDRESSING CRITICAL WATERSHED NEEDS

4.2.1 Subcriterion No. B1- Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Loss of ecosystem function throughout the watershed is a critical issue. Changes in flow regimes coupled with land use practices have had a profound effect on vegetation and have created severe limitations on fishery productivity. Much of the riparian zone has been significantly altered and cottonwood stands are not regenerating. Many floodplain wetlands have been filled and are now dominated by non-native, weedy species including Russian olive, false indigo, reed canary grass and purple loosestrife. Similarly, modifications to stream banks, floodplains and side-channels, such as levees, riprap and housing developments have fundamentally changed fish and wildlife habitat. Riparian corridors composed of native vegetation are the best remaining habitat available for native fish and wildlife species, but population trends strongly suggest that the Boise River and associated habitats will continue to be pressured by development.

U.S. Geological Survey and Idaho DEQ studies indicate that water quality of the Lower Boise River has been degraded by elevated nutrient levels, suspended sediment, bacteria concentrations and other pollutants. The Idaho River Macroinvertebrate Index³ shows that water quality of the entire Lower Boise River is poor, and water quality and fish habitat degrades as it flows downstream. The Lower Boise River from Middleton to the confluence with the Snake River is impaired by total phosphorus negatively impacting ecological and recreational conditions (Table 1).

³ MacCoy, D.E. (2006)

Table 1. Water Quality

§303(d) Listed Stream Segments	Four segments of the Boise River (Lucky Peak Dam to Barber Diversion)
Beneficial Uses Affected	Cold water biota, primary and secondary contact recreation, domestic and agricultural water supplies, salmonid spawning
Pollutants of Concern	Low flow alterations, sediment/siltation, phosphorus (Total), fecal coliform, temperature, physical substrate habitat alterations
Sediment and Bacteria TMDL Approved by U.S. EPA	January 2000
Estimated Completion for Phosphorus TMDL	2014
Multi-Pollutant TMDL for Snake River (at and below confluence with Boise River) Approved by U.S. EPA	2004

The ability to enhance ecosystem function, water quality and other elements in the watershed is hindered by limited cooperation and planning. The absence of a watershed protection and enhancement authority, along with a number of unresolved differences on the issues facing the watershed is a significant challenge. Fifty-seven percent of *From Vision to Reality* survey participants said the biggest challenge to restoration/enhancement work on the lower Boise River was the lack of partnerships and coordination, followed by the lack of an integrated watershed-scale plan. This critical need for cooperation and joint planning will be addressed with the establishment of the BREN.

4.2.2 Subcriterion No. B2- Contributions that Address Watershed Needs or Issues

Establishment of the BREN will positively contribute to the management of critical watershed issues, including enhancing collaboration.

- Ecosystem function, aquatic and riparian habitat, floodplain, and land development.** The group will collect, assemble and analyze data pertaining to these issues – a task that has not been done before. The results of this work will be easy to access through the BREN’s Common Community Interest network website (<http://boiseriverenhancement.net>) and will allow a vitally needed integrated analysis of the watershed. Identification of data gaps will help our academic and scientific community participants make research plans. The group’s collaborative work to determine reasonable and feasible enhancement project concepts will draw diverse stakeholders together with management agencies and create a new forum for addressing these critical issues – a forum that integrates people and ideas throughout the watershed for the first time. These are essential steps in creating an effective and achievable enhancement plan for the watershed. The completed plan, based on science and developed by diverse stakeholders, will help generate needed public and private support for enhancement projects.
- Water Quality.** The work described above will positively contribute to improvement of water quality. In addition, and specifically in support of ongoing efforts to achieve established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) targets, the BREN will provide a unique, inclusive, consensus-based, watershed-wide forum to build and support vital connections among stakeholders, especially private landowners whose actions can directly decrease point and non-point pollution. TMDL creation can be divisive and time

consuming, leaving existing organizations with limited ability to foster collaboration – a role that BREN can effectively fulfill.

- **Enhancing Collaboration.** The BREN is being established to enhance collaboration and overcome the current challenges of limited partnerships and coordination. The BREN’s vision of a healthy Boise River is drawn from existing community comprehensive plans and is clearly welcoming to stakeholders from diverse perspectives. The goal of the BREN is not to promote a certain approach or strategy – it is to create a forum for people to discover shared concerns and develop cooperative approaches. Group process and structure will be developed cooperatively, and the group will hold meetings and events throughout the watershed, meet one-on-one with landowners, invite stakeholders to be active participants in the BREN, and continually be responsive to the needs and concerns of participants.

4.3 EVALUATION CRITERIA C: IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

4.3.1 Subcriterion No. C1- Project Planning

By establishing a diverse, collaborative watershed group that gives a voice to all stakeholders and facilitates cooperative planning, the establishment of BREN will conform to and help meet the goals of the following plans:

Implementation Plan for the Lower Boise River Total Maximum Daily Load, 2003, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Of note are the Plan’s strategies to integrate TMDL implementation activities and the federal Phase II storm water requirements, and to use habitat improvement projects. The Plan recommends that appropriate partnerships be formed to support and complete projects that improve habitat in the watershed and to improve efficiency through resource sharing and optimizing effectiveness by focusing on watershed priority areas.

The Compass -Idaho Fish and Game Strategic Plan, 2005, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). The establishment of BREN will clearly support this agency’s overarching goals of sustaining Idaho’s fish and wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend by collaborating with interested and affected parties to conserve native fish, wildlife and plants and developing partnerships to restore, enhance and conserve fish and wildlife habitats.

Boise River Resource Management and Master Plan, 1999, City of Boise. Of note are the Plan’s policies to identify resource management and river habitat enhancement priorities to protect or enhance habitat, manage recreation and ensure public safety. This Plan will be updated in 2013/14, and a number of applicants and supporters are serving on the Advisory Committee.

Fisheries Management Plan 2013-2018, 2013, IDFG. This Plan commits IDFG to working with stakeholders to identify, fund and implement high-priority aquatic habitat restoration projects and to actively support projects that enhance water quality and fish habitat.

Idaho State Water Plan, Idaho Water Resource Board, 2012. The Board supports cooperative efforts like the BREN to address many water issues and reduce conflict. Of special note is the Board’s interest in protecting riparian and wetland habitats through voluntary watershed based conservation strategies developed and implemented through collaboration with water users, land managers, local governments, and state and federal agencies.

4.3.2 Subcriterion No. C2- Readiness to Proceed

The work plan proposed by the applicants is the result of two years of cooperative work, including the 2011 *From Vision to Reality* workshop (see Appendix F); the adoption of a name, mission and vision statement; creation of a website; and, many outreach and educational activities. The applicants and other participants have cooperatively developed a work plan and assigned responsibilities for implementation upon receipt of the funding. Part of the rationale for distributing tasks among applicants and relying on existing infrastructure and staff is to avoid delays that would arise by hiring a staff person, finding office space, setting up accounting, and other start-up needs. The Project Manager, Tim Breuer, Executive Director of the LTTV, will enter into agreements with the co-applicants who will provide leadership and expertise to ensure accomplishment of the work plan: IRU, ESF, TU (Mountain Visions [MV] is a proposed sub-contractor- see Appendix E Budget Proposal). The IWRRRI will work collaboratively with applicants on outreach and education (see letter of support attached). These entities will conduct tasks as outlined in the schedule presented in 3.4.6. The Funding Plan (Appendix D), Table 1, details the in-kind funding that has been committed by the various groups. The additional effort required will be met by in-kind donations from the project applicants and collaborators; as a result, no additional funds will be needed to complete the proposed activities.

4.4 EVALUATION CRITERIA D: WATERSHED GROUP/LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES (LCC) NEXUS

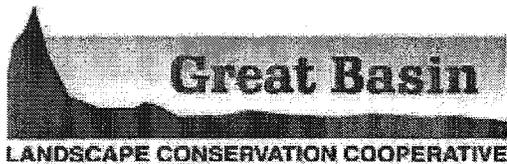
The entire Boise River watershed straddles two Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) regions: the Great Basin to the south and Great Northern to the north. The Lower Boise River watershed project area for BREN (from Lucky Peak Dam to the Snake River, see Figure 1 in Section 2.1 above) is within the Great Basin LCC boundaries. The BREN project area is located in the lower watershed, where uplands are characterized by the sagebrush ecosystem and the lowlands are characterized by the cottonwood and willow dominated riparian areas often associated with the Great Basin. Since the Great Northern LCC is based in Boise, applicant partners have engaged Todd Hopkin's (Science Coordinator of the Great Basin LCC) and Sean Finn's (Science Coordinator of the Great Northern LCC's) input on developing a successful model for BREN. There are many shared goals between the Great Basin LCC and BREN.

BREN and the Great Basin LCC seek to form a framework for linking science and technical expertise with management and applied actions for the benefit of the lower Boise River watershed. In the face of changing climatic and economic conditions, both organizations seek to promote actions that preserve and enhance natural resources and promote communication and education to enhance stakeholder understanding of important resource issues. If funded, BREN will integrate the Great Basin LCC staff, expertise and experience into the management of the lower Boise River watershed and promote stakeholder participation in the Great Basin LCC (see the attached letter of support from the Great Basin LCC).

APPENDIX A- LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support for the BREN were received from the City of Star, Ada Soil and Water Conservation District and the Golden Eagle Audobon Society; however, due to limited space, they are not included in the application package. Letters of support from the following entities are included:

- 1) Great Basin LCC
- 2) Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative, representing federal, state and local entities
- 3) Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation, Inc.
- 4) Idaho Department of Fish and Game- Southwest Region
- 5) Ada County Highway District
- 6) LeNir, Ltd. (Douglas Fowler, Harris Ranch Development)
- 7) Boise City Canal Company
- 8) Ada Soil and Water Conservation District



Michelle Maher
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center, Bldg 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, CO

May 28, 2013

Dear Ms. Maher and the Application Review Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of the application of several organizations that are applying for funding through the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program to establish the Boise River Enhancement Network.

The proposed Boise River Enhancement Network is a diverse coalition seeking to improve the water quality and ecological resilience of the lower Boise River. This network will bring together stakeholders to conduct outreach, collaboratively identify and prioritize river enhancement projects and create an integrated enhancement plan for future efforts.

The mission of the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) is to enhance the understanding the effects of changing climate and other natural and human impacts across the region and to promote the coordination of science-based actions to enable human and natural communities to respond and adapt to those conditions. After conversations with the project proponents and review of their proposal, I feel that the Boise River Enhancement Network could also help forward the mission of the Great Basin LCC, while acting as a locally-focused watershed group. We support this proposal and encourage you to consider funding this thoughtfully crafted partnership effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard F. Kearney". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Richard F. Kearney
Chair, Great Basin LCC Steering Committee

www.greatbasinlcc.org



May 14, 2013

Michelle Maher
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Maher and Application Review Committee members,

I am writing this letter in support of the application of local organizations to receive financial assistance through the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) to establish the Boise River Enhancement Network (BREN).

The Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative (IRTI) is a coalition of state and federal agencies and not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing Idaho citizens and visitors with expanded recreation opportunities. Idaho has a multitude of land management agencies and recreation providers whose roles can be extremely confusing to the public. People do not recreate by agency. By working jointly, the coalition is able to provide information and services in a more effective manner. Financial support for BREN through the CWMP is in alignment with IRTI's goal of erasing agency lines when it comes to public enjoyment of outdoor recreation.

Our organization is in full support of BREN's efforts to establish a network that will provide important communication, coordination, and education to all stakeholders with the goal of enhancing this vital Idaho watershed.

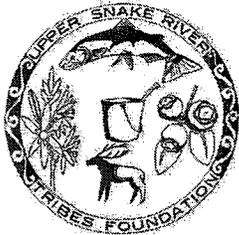
Sincerely,

Vicki Jo Lawson
IRTI Coordinator

IRTI PARTNERS

Bureau of Land Management Bureau of Reclamation Idaho Department of Commerce Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board
Idaho Recreation and Parks Association Idaho RV Campgrounds Association Idaho State Department of Agriculture Idaho
Transportation Department National Park Service U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Forest Service University of Idaho

5557 Warm Springs Avenue Boise, ID 83716 | P.O. BOX 33720 Boise, ID 83720-0365 | p: 208.698.3741 | f: 208.334.3741
<http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/idaho-recreation-and-tourism-initiative/>



UPPER SNAKE RIVER TRIBES FOUNDATION, INC.

413 W. Idaho Street, Suite 101, Boise, Idaho 83702

Tel (208) 331-7880

May 16, 2013

Michelle Maher
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Maher and Application Review Committee members:

I am writing this letter in support of the application of local organizations to receive financial assistance through the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) to establish the Boise River Enhancement Network.

The Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation (USRT) works to ensure the protection, enhancement, and restoration of natural and cultural resources, activities, and rights of the Compacting Tribes, reserved by the Treaties and Executive Orders, protected by federal laws and agreements, or are the subject of aboriginal claims asserted by the Tribes. The health of the Boise River watershed has great importance to our members as it holds traditional/cultural significance.

The Boise River Enhancement Network will do an important job in bringing stakeholders together and helping them work together for the benefit of the watershed. The Foundation's interest in the fish and wildlife of the Boise River will be well served by a strong cooperative Network.

USRT is pleased to support cooperative work to improve the health of the Boise River. We encourage you to fully fund this CWMP proposal.

Sincerely,

LeeJuan Tyler
USRT Commission Vice Chairman



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
SOUTHWEST REGION
3101 South Powerline Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

May 21, 2013

Michelle Maher
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Maher and Application Review Committee members:

I am writing this letter in support of the application of local organizations to receive financial assistance through the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) to establish the Boise River Enhancement Network.

The Boise River is a defining component of the southern Idaho landscape. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game manages for a diverse and popular fishery in the Boise River. However, downstream portions of the River have been dramatically altered over the last 100 years. Water quality has suffered in this portion of the River as well, leading to a radical departure from historic habitat conditions and fish assemblages.

One objective of the Department identified in our *Fisheries Management Plan, 2013-2018* is to seek improved land and water management practices that significantly protect and enhance fish habitat. One program identified to help meet that objective is to collaborate with other agencies and private entities to protect and enhance flows, fish habitat, and remove migration barriers. The Department believes that the Boise River Enhancement Network will help IDFG meet its goals by improving networking opportunities, allowing for joint planning, and advancing communications between stakeholders.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game supports this cooperative effort to enhance the Boise River watershed to improve existing conditions and we urge you to provide the requested funding.

Thank you. Please contact me at (208) 465-8465, or via e-mail at rick.ward@idfg.idaho.gov if you have any questions.

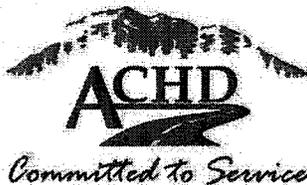
Sincerely,

Rick Ward
Environmental Staff Biologist

cc: Gold file

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

Equal Opportunity Employer • 208-465-8465 • Fax: 208-465-8467 • Idaho Relay (TDD) Service: 1-800-377-3529 • <http://ifcandgame.idaho.gov/>



Sara M. Baker, President
John S. Franden, Vice President
Rebecca W. Arnold, Commissioner
Mitchell A. Jaurena, Commissioner
Jim Hansen, Commissioner

May 13, 2013

Michelle Maher
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Maher and Application Review Committee members:

I am writing this letter in support of the application of local organizations to receive financial assistance through the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) to establish the Boise River Enhancement Network.

The Ada County Highway District (ACHD) is an independent government agency responsible for planning, construction, maintenance and improvements to Ada County's local roads and bridges. ACHD maintains and operates approximately 2,100 miles of roads and streets in Ada County, with an estimated value of three billion dollars. ACHD is a holder of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) Phase I and Phase II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, both of which include stringent conditions to ensure compliance with sediment, bacteria and nutrient pollution regulations to protect the Boise River and tributaries.

ACHD's stormwater management responsibilities are increasing and new opportunities to achieve water quality goals through formal partnerships and informal networking are welcome. ACHD staff have benefited from participation in the informal networking opportunities that the applicants have provided.

ACHD's interest in searching out new solutions and new strategies to efficiently solve water quality challenges will be helped by the establishment and work of an all-inclusive Network.

We support this proposal and encourage you to provide the requested financial support.

Sincerely,

Erica Anderson Maguire
Stormwater Quality Program Coordinator



April 30, 2013

Michelle Maher
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Maher and Application Review Committee members:

I am writing this letter in support of the application of local organizations to receive financial assistance through the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) to establish the Boise River Enhancement Network.

LeNir, Ltd. is a real estate project management business currently managing development of Harris Ranch located on the Boise River in Boise, Idaho. The Harris Ranch plan consists of 2,567 residential units and over a million square feet of commercial/retail development. We are responsible for managing 1100 acres including 1.4 miles of river front. One of our core principles is protection and restoration of our natural environment. The residents of our community place a high value on living in harmony with a healthy watershed and river. LeNir Ltd. has worked closely with a number of partners over the past 8 years to improve the health of the watershed and river. These include but are not limited to the Alta Harris Creek (a side channel to replace trout spawning habitat) establishment of a non-profit, sustainable wildlife mitigation association.

We rely on these partnerships to provide the ecological and engineering expertise we need and the opportunity to leverage our efforts into something bigger. We feel our work has just begun. There is much we plan to accomplish, and development of a strong cooperative watershed group, the Boise River Enhancement Network, will be of great assistance. We will be able to share our experience and learn from others, we will be able to design our projects so that they work in concert with other projects and we will be able to help create a plan that addresses the needs of the entire lower Boise River watershed. We've benefited from our association with the informal Network and would like to see them receive funding to develop further.

LeNir Ltd. is in full support of this significant effort to enhance this vital Idaho watershed so that it can recover lost ecological health and be resilient to the challenges of the present and future.

Sincerely,

4940 East Mill Station Drive, Suite 101-B, Boise, ID 83716
www.lenirttd.com • 208-344-1131

**BOISE CITY CANAL COMPANY
P.O. BOX 2157
BOISE, IDAHO 83701**

May 30, 2013

Michelle Maher
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Maher and Application Review Committee members:

I am writing this letter in support of the application of local organizations to receive financial assistance through the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) to establish the Boise River Enhancement Network. The Boise City Canal Company is an irrigation ditch company that supplies water to 600 users. We are primarily an urban canal running through numerous yards. We currently have 7 original water wheels operating on our canal that still supply water to properties. These water wheels are a small example of the rich history of our canal and water right dating back to 1865 when the orchards and farms were watered with these wheels. We provide water to individual homeowners along with Boise City Parks and Recreation Department, Boise School District and United Water which provides drinking water to residents of all of Ada County. Our canal is enjoyed by our shareholders and adjacent property owners and they all realize what a treasured resource it is. The Boise River is our water source and highly valued by our community. We wish to cooperate and fully support any effort to manage the river and surrounding environment that will continue to benefit the community in the future.

We hope you will fund this proposal to link all of us interested in the river so that we can spend our enhancement resources more effectively for the common good.

Sincerely,

Michael Harrison
Water Manager
Boise City Canal Company



Ada Soil & Water Conservation District

9173 W. Barnes Drive, Ste. C
Boise, ID 83709

Phone: (208) 378-5729 Fax: (208) 378-5753
www.adaswcd.org

Board of Supervisors

Chairman
Glen Edwards
5042 W. Amby Rd.
Nampa, ID 83687

Vice-Chairman
Kene Fortier
4735 Moonlake Dr.
Meridian, ID 83646

Supervisor
Lynn McKee
1387 W. Beacon Light Rd.
Eagle, ID 83616

Supervisor
Paul Claverley
9396 W. Pandion Ct.
Garden City, ID 83714

Supervisor
Charlie Baum
18024 Goldenridge Way
Boise, ID 83714

Supervisor
Jodie Enkline
5280 Castle Dr.
Boise, ID 83703

Supervisor
Paul Woods
3668 La Fontana Way
Boise, ID 83702

Staff

District Manager
Scott Koberg

Administrative Assistant
Diane Miller

Michelle Maher
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80225

May 29, 2013

Dear Ms. Maher and Application Review Committee members:

I am writing this letter in support of the application of local organizations to receive financial assistance through the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) to establish the Boise River Enhancement Network (BREN).

The Ada Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a governmental subdivision of the state of Idaho that has been leading non-regulatory efforts to conserve, sustain, and enhance natural resources in Ada County since 1948. The Lower Boise River and its tributaries have always been considered high priority conservation planning areas within our District. For 65 years we have cooperated with private landowners, local organizations, and all levels of government to promote conservation and wise use of natural resources using a voluntary, incentive based approach.

Partnerships and cooperation are critical to successful project implementation. The Ada SWCD supports the concept of establishing the Boise River Enhancement Network to strengthen stakeholder collaboration and enhance cooperative implementation efforts throughout our watershed. We welcome the opportunity to participate in the Boise River Enhancement Network to help identify partnership project opportunities and create a sustainable watershed enhancement organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Koberg".

Scott Koberg
District Manager, Ada SWCD

APPENDIX B- APPLICANT AND WATERSHED GROUP RESOLUTION

Five entities make up the applicants for this grant: the LTTV, IRU, TU, ESF and the South Boise Water Company. The eligibility of these entities was described earlier in the application. The LTTV is the fiscal agent for the applicants, and, therefore is the entity with the legal authority to enter into an agreement with Reclamation. The LTTV's Board of Directors have adopted a resolution that meets all of the eligibility requirements for Task A (Establishment of a Watershed Group) as stated in Section III.G.3 of the grant application and has reviewed and approved the application as submitted (see below).

The LTTV is committed to working closely with Reclamation to meet established deadlines pertinent to this agreement and to collaborate in the management of Phase I activities to ensure that program objectives are being achieved.

	PO Box 106 Boise, ID 83701	(208) 385-7927 www.lttv.org
<i>Conserving nature close to home.</i>		
Resolution for Boise River Enhancement Network Grant Proposal		
June 10, 2013		
The Land Trust of the Treasure Valley Board of Directors has agreed to be the applicant for the Boise River Enhancement Network grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's <u>WaterSmart</u> grant program. The Land Trust Board of Directors also agrees to provide fiscal sponsorship and grant administration. This includes working with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a financial assistance agreement.		
The proposed in-kind contributions by the Land Trust are funded as part of the Boise River Stewardship project.		
By: 		
Its: Board President		

APPENDIX C- REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

There are no required permits or approvals associated with this phase of planning for the BREN.

APPENDIX D- FUNDING PLAN

Funding Sources	Funding Amount
<i>Non-Federal Entities</i>	
Land Trust of the Treasure Valley	\$5,000*
Ecosystem Sciences Foundation	\$10,000*
Idaho Rivers United	\$3,000*
Trout Unlimited	\$5,000*
IWRRI	\$5,000*
Mountain Visions	\$5,000*
BREN Coordinating Committee	\$13,000*
<i>Non-Federal Subtotal:</i>	<i>\$46,000*</i>
<i>Other Federal Subtotal:</i>	N/A
<i>Requested Reclamation Funding:</i>	\$100,000
<i>Total Project Funding:</i>	\$146,000 (w/ in-kind)

*in-kind contributions

APPENDIX E- BUDGET PROPOSAL

Budget Item Descriptions	Computation		Applicant (\$)	USBR (\$)	Other Fed (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
Salaries and Wages	<i>\$/Unit</i>	<i>Quantity (@24 months)</i>	(inkind)			
Program Manager - LTTV Exec Dir	50/hour	12 hr/month	5,000	9,600		14,600
LTTV Stewardship Coordinator	20/hour	6 hr/month		3,400		3,400
BREN Coordinating Committee in-kind time	22/hour	12 people x 2 hr/month	13,000	0		13,000
ESF analysis/planning staff	75/hour	21 hr/month	10,000	28,000		38,000
TU analysis/planning staff	50/hour	19 hr/month	5,000	18,000		23,000
IRU facilitation/education staff	25/hour	18 hr/month	3,000	8,000		11,000
Fringe Benefits	<i>n/a</i>		0	0	0	0
Travel						
Outreach visits and meetings	.565/mile	30 round-trips x 120 miles		2,000		2,000
Equipment	<i>n/a</i>		0	0	0	0
Supplies/Materials						
Office supplies, printing	500/year	2 years		1,000		1,000
Contractual/Construction						
Mountain Visions	50/hour	500 hr/2 years	5,000	20,000		25,000
IWRRI	50/hour	100 hr/1 year	5,000	0		5,000
Other						
Reporting, Fiscal administration	10%/year	2 years		10,000		10,000
Total Direct Costs			46,000	100,000	0	146,000
Indirect Costs	<i>n/a</i>		0	0	0	0
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (2-years)			46,000	100,000	0	146,000

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Salaries and Wages: As the fiscal agent for this grant, the staff of the LTTV is assuming the primary role in the administration, tracking and reporting on the activities of the BREN. The greatest share of staff time will be devoted to outreach and constituent relationship-building. Serving as the Program Manager, the Executive Director expects to spend approximately 12 hours per month on these activities at \$50/hour, with the assistance of the part-time Stewardship Coordinator, providing 6 hours per month at \$20/hour.

A Coordinating Committee has been meeting regularly over the past year and will continue to do so. Time required for participation in this group of a dozen people is approximately 2 hours per month. The national average 2012 unescalated federal volunteer rate of \$22/hour¹ has been used to estimate the 2-year in-kind value of this commitment at \$13,000.

Each of the grant applicants will be providing significant staff time and have been listed at their respective hourly rates: ESF, TU and IRU. The primary duties of applicants include planning, education, data analysis, event facilitation and outreach.

Fringe Benefits: N/A. Staff are responsible for their own taxes and health insurance.

Travel: The LTTV Executive Director, and to a lesser extent, the Stewardship Coordinator will reach out to key organizations and landowners along the extent of the lower Boise River, a reach which stretches 64 river miles. Travel includes meeting onsite with these entities, as well as participation in town meetings and watershed networking events. The total travel cost, using personal vehicles, has been estimated at the 2013 unescalated federal reimbursement rate of \$0.565/mile for a 2-year total of \$2,000. Additional mileage is likely and will be considered an in-kind donation.

Equipment: None. Applicants and other cooperators are already fully-equipped and will donate the use of equipment, as needed. The BREN website costs have been covered under the proposed sub-contractor (MV), who is responsible for the development of this critical asset.⁵

Materials and Supplies: \$1000 for two years will cover the basic miscellaneous office supplies, along with expected printing costs for watershed event advertising and meeting documents.

Contractual: The Project Manager will contract with existing groups and businesses to provide expertise and carry out specific goals of the 2-year project and complete the watershed enhancement plan. This includes MV, who will handle all major communication strategies including all website maintenance and upkeep (both paid and in-kind time). IWRRI will assist in in-kind relationship-development work, particularly with the irrigators. Both organizations' in-kind 2013 labor rate is \$50/hour for proposed staff.

¹ http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/pressroom/value_states.cfm

⁵ Note that 'contractors' refer to a subset of applicants who will subcontract to the LTTV to complete activities proposed in this application.

Reporting: The LTTV will take the lead in coordinating the final progress report writing. Staff additionally will draft financial and quarterly reports throughout the 2-year project period, and offer administrative support as needed. This has been estimated at the allowed rate of 10% of the total grant request.

Other: None.

Indirect Costs: None.

Total Cost: Total project costs over the 2-year period, including in-kind donations, will be \$146,000, with \$100,000 requested from Reclamation.

APPENDIX F- FROM VISION TO REALITY WORKSHOP OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

From Vision to Reality

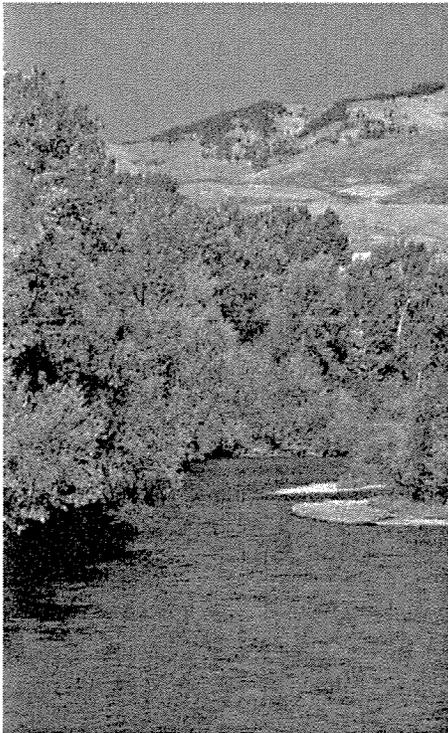
Report on Workshop Outcomes and Results

October 16, 2011

Enhancing the Lower Boise River

Results from the Workshop for Stakeholders and Practitioners

To increase opportunities for public and private ecosystem enhancement of the lower Boise River by establishing networks, building knowledge, envisioning possibilities and tackling challenges.



The Lower Boise River runs through southwest Idaho's Treasure Valley and provides numerous benefits to the community. The river supplies water for agricultural and domestic uses, recreational opportunities, habitat for fish and wildlife, and transports wastewater and storm water, as well as providing a suite of other ecosystem and economic services. In early 2011, interested local stakeholders came together to plan a workshop on environmental enhancement opportunities on the Lower Boise River. All interested individuals and organizations were welcome to participate to foster an open and inclusive planning process. An Organizing Committee that included non-profit and for profit staff, volunteers and agency representatives agreed on the goal of the workshop, "To increase opportunities for public and private ecosystem enhancement of the Lower Boise River by establishing networks, building knowledge, envisioning possibilities and tackling challenges."

Process

The process started with a series of planning meetings that involved not only the Organizing Committee, but guest experts that included local practitioners and consultants, representatives from the agriculture and irrigation community, University faculty, consultants and recreationists. It was immediately apparent that there was a high level of interest in environmental enhancement and a wide range of familiarity with Lower Boise River issues. To help overcome the knowledge gaps, the Organizing Committee sponsored a series of eight lunch lectures. These lectures investigated pertinent issues that would not be possible to address in detail at the workshop and provided a foundation for the workshop. The topics included water rights, hydrology and geomorphology, habitat, local case studies, water banking, and integrated watershed management. Most of the lectures were recorded and posted online to increase accessibility and disseminate the information to the largest possible audience (available at: <http://www.idahorivers.org/protectrivers/boiserver.aspx?page=lunchlectures>).



Organizations Represented at Workshop:

Ada County

Ada County Highway District
Ada Soil & Water Conservation District
Advocates for the West
American Water Resources Association, Idaho Section
Bennett Engineering
Boise Flood Control District # 11
Boise Parks & Recreation
Boise Project Board of Control
Boise Public Works
Boise State University
Boise Valley Flyfishers
Boise Watershed Education Center
Brown and Caldwell
Bureau of Reclamation

Canyon County

Cantra Consulting
City of Boise

City of Boise, Dept of Parks and Recreation

City of Caldwell

City of Eagle

City of Garden City

City of Meridian

Double Eagle History

Ducks Unlimited

Ecological Design, Inc

Ecosystem Sciences Foundation

Edsworth and Assoc., Landscape Architects, Inc.

Energy Resource Group

Foreign Associates

GeoEngineers, Inc

Golden Eagle Audubon Society

Great Northern Landscape Conservation

Cooperative

HDR

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Idaho Department of Water Resources

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands

Idaho Outdoor Journal

Idaho Rivers United

Jane Ruhling Communication Arts

Land Trust of the Treasure Valley

Lentz Ltd

Lower Boise Watershed Council

McMillen LLC

Mountain Visions

NESE

Murray, Smith & Associates, Inc

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Pioneer Irrigation District

Quadrant Consulting, Inc.

REI

Resource Systems Inc.

Riser Network

South Boise Water Co.

SPP Water Engineering

Slovans Historical Research Associates

Student Conservation Association

Ted Treublood Chapter Trout Unlimited

The Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC

The College of Idaho

The Nabana Conservancy

The Wetlands Group

U.S. EPA

US Center for Ectohydroaics Research

US Boise/US EPA #10

University of Idaho

Upper Snake River Tribes

URIS

US Army Corps of Engineers

US Bureau of Reclamation

US EPA, Region 10

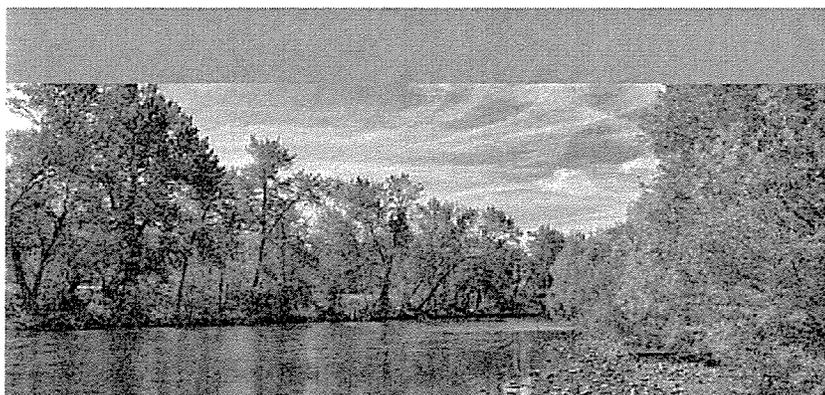
US Fish and Wildlife Service

US Geological Survey

Water District No. 63

Waterfront District HOA

WestWater Research



Workshop synopsis

The workshop was held on October 18th and it brought 106 of the area's practitioners, decision makers and active citizens together for a substantive discussion about the challenges and opportunities for environmental enhancement of the Lower Boise River. The focus was on the future, with the presentations and small group discussions designed to help participants form a vision for enhancement of the Lower Boise River. In the morning, local natural resource experts and river ecosystem enhancement practitioners talked about the need for enhancement and the lessons learned from completed enhancement efforts. After lunch, attendees heard about existing opportunities for financial and technical assistance for enhancement. Boise State University President, Dr. Bob Kustra, delivered the keynote address in which he discussed his positive experience spearheading a collaborative effort to clean up the Illinois River in his time as Lieutenant Governor of that state. He lauded the Boise River and offered his and the University's support and encouragement to the efforts of the workshop participants. The final presentation was a lively discussion of next steps among eight diverse stakeholders. Like the lunch series, the workshop presentations were recorded and posted online for increased access (available at: <http://www.idahorivers.org/protectrivers/boiseriver.aspx?page=lunchlectures>).

Break out sessions were held in the morning and afternoon where participants engaged each other in loosely structured small group discussions. These groups enabled individuals to express their ideas and increased networking and information exchange. Key questions designed to elicit suggestions for realistic next steps were discussed at both sessions.

Results

Break out session results: The break out sessions provided not only a forum for interchange between professionals, but also an opportunity to record their ideas. The questions and participant's answers are presented on the following pages. Due to the large variety of recorded answers, several were consolidated into closely related themes for ease of interpretation.

Online Survey Results: The online survey provided a standardized question and answer platform that enabled data to be gathered to inform future efforts, as the Organizing Committee realized that the workshop was not an end in itself but rather the beginning of a long-term effort. As with the break out session results, due to the large variety of recorded answers, several were consolidated into closely related themes for ease of interpretation. The results are presented on the following pages.

Next Steps

The workshop brought a breadth of experiences, expertise, ideas, and desires into an open and inclusive discussion forum. The vast majority of participants gave the Workshop high ratings and indicated significant interest in continuing cooperative efforts for environmental enhancement. Many members of the Organizing Committee are continuing to meet to organize opportunities for further networking, education, visioning and problem solving. Please contact Boiseriverenhancement@gmail.com to be added to the From Vision to Reality: Enhancing the Lower Boise River mailing list.

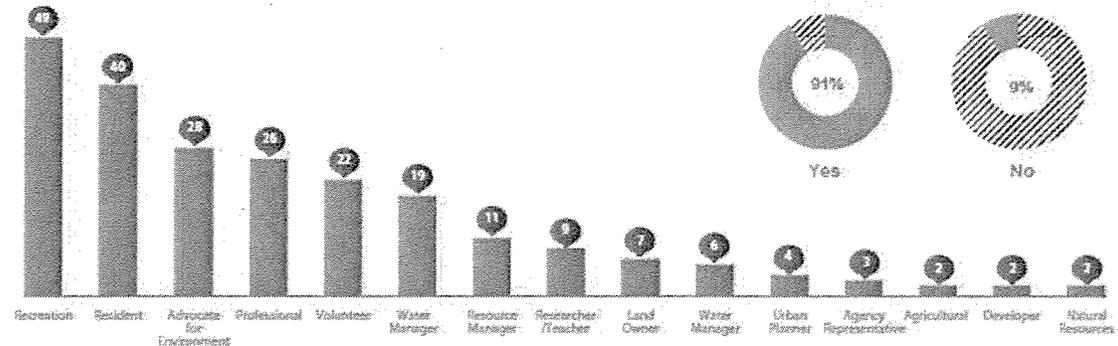
Lower Boise River 'Vision to Reality' Workshop Survey Results

Data sources are based on the results of a survey questionnaire. The graphics reflect the results of 100 of the 184 people that were invited to take the survey.

Interest in the River

What is your stake or interest in the Lower Boise River?

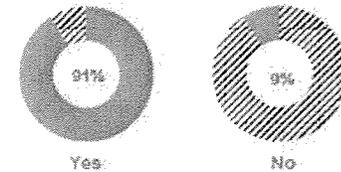
NUMBERS OF RESPONSES



Willingness to Contribute

Are you interested or willing to contribute further to restore or enhance the Lower Boise River?

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS



Your Role

What is your role and what actions have you performed on the Lower Boise River?

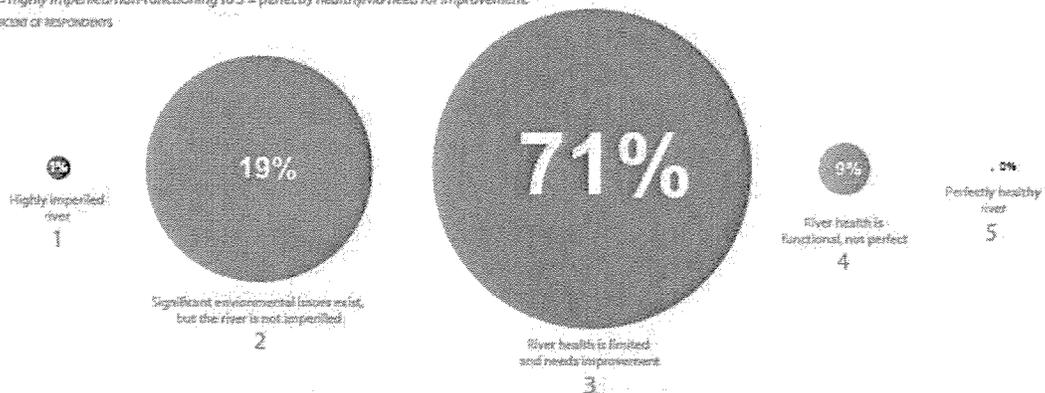
PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS



River Health

How do you rate the health of the Lower Boise River - on a scale of 1-5?
1 = highly imperiled/non-functioning to 5 = perfectly healthy/no need for improvement.

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS



Infographic design by
Ecosystem Sciences Foundation

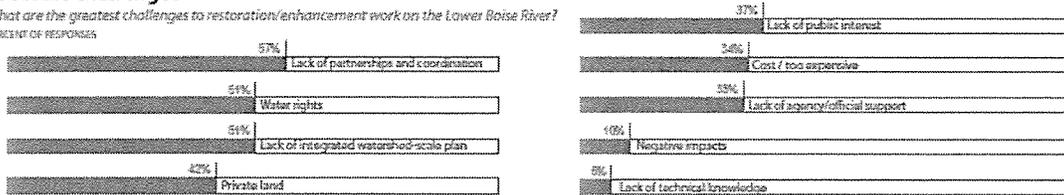
Lower Boise River 'Vision to Reality' Workshop Survey Results

Data sources are based on the results of a survey questionnaire. The graphics reflect the results of 100 of the 134 people that were invited to take the survey.

Greatest Challenges

What are the greatest challenges to restoration/enhancement work on the Lower Boise River?

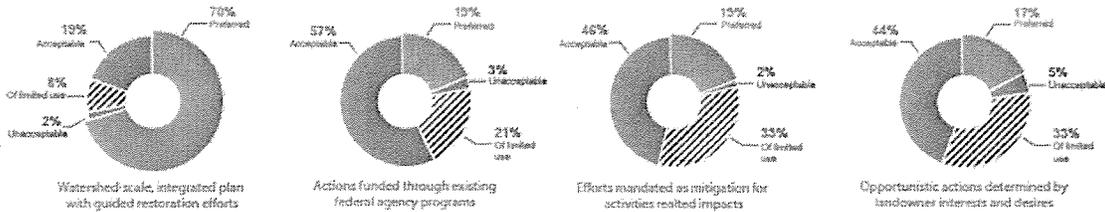
PERCENT OF RESPONSES



Approaches to Restoration

Please rate the following approaches to restoration/enhancement on the Lower Boise River (Preferred, Acceptable, Of Limited Use, Unacceptable).

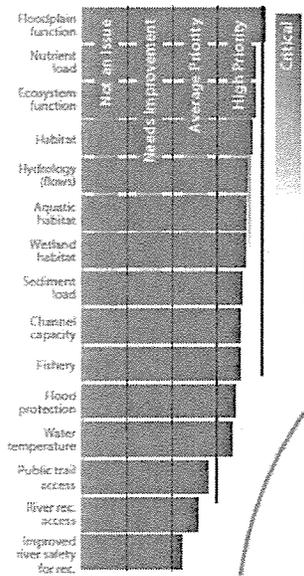
PERCENT OF RESPONSES



What Needs Improvement

Rate the following Lower Boise River issues based on their importance or need.

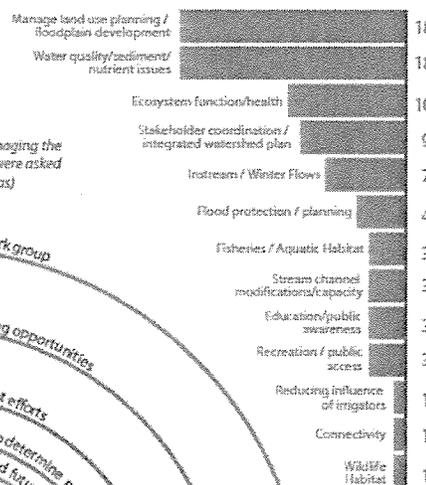
AVERAGE RATING BASED ON PERCENT OF RESPONSES



Important Issues

What is the most important issue for the Lower Boise River?

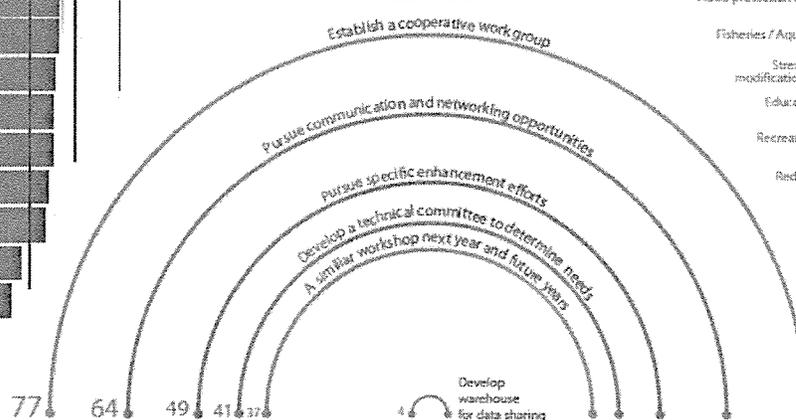
NUMBER OF RESPONSES



Next Steps

What are the "next steps" for managing the Lower Boise River? (Participants were asked to suggest a range of ideas)

NUMBER OF RESPONSES



Infographic design by:
Ecosystem Sciences Foundation



May 14, 2013

Michelle Maher
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 67, Room 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Maher and Application Review Committee members,

I am writing this letter in support of the application of local organizations to receive financial assistance through the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) to establish the Boise River Enhancement Network (BREN).

The Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative (IRTI) is a coalition of state and federal agencies and not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing Idaho citizens and visitors with expanded recreation opportunities. Idaho has a multitude of land management agencies and recreation providers whose roles can be extremely confusing to the public. People do not recreate by agency. By working jointly, the coalition is able to provide information and services in a more effective manner. Financial support for BREN through the CWMP is in alignment with IRTI's goal of erasing agency lines when it comes to public enjoyment of outdoor recreation.

Our organization is in full support of BREN's efforts to establish a network that will provide important communication, coordination, and education to all stakeholders with the goal of enhancing this vital Idaho watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "V. Jo Lawson".

Vicki Jo Lawson
IRTI Coordinator

IRTI PARTNERS

Bureau of Land Management Bureau of Reclamation Idaho Department of Commerce Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board
Idaho Recreation and Parks Association Idaho RV Campgrounds Association Idaho State Department of Agriculture Idaho
Transportation Department National Park Service U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Forest Service University of Idaho