



FISCAL YEAR 2025

Monteview Canal Company

Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization and Conservation Project

WATERSMART: WATER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS

Section I: Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

Title Page

**WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2025
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R24AS00052**

Project Title

Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization and Conservation Project

Applicant

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November 13, 2024

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Executive Summary

Date: November 13, 2024

Applicant Name: Monteview Canal Company

City, County, and State: Monteview, Jefferson County, Idaho

Applicant Category: Category A: Organization With Water Delivery Authority

Estimated Project Duration: 20 months

Estimated Completion Date: June 2027

Located on Federal Facility: Yes

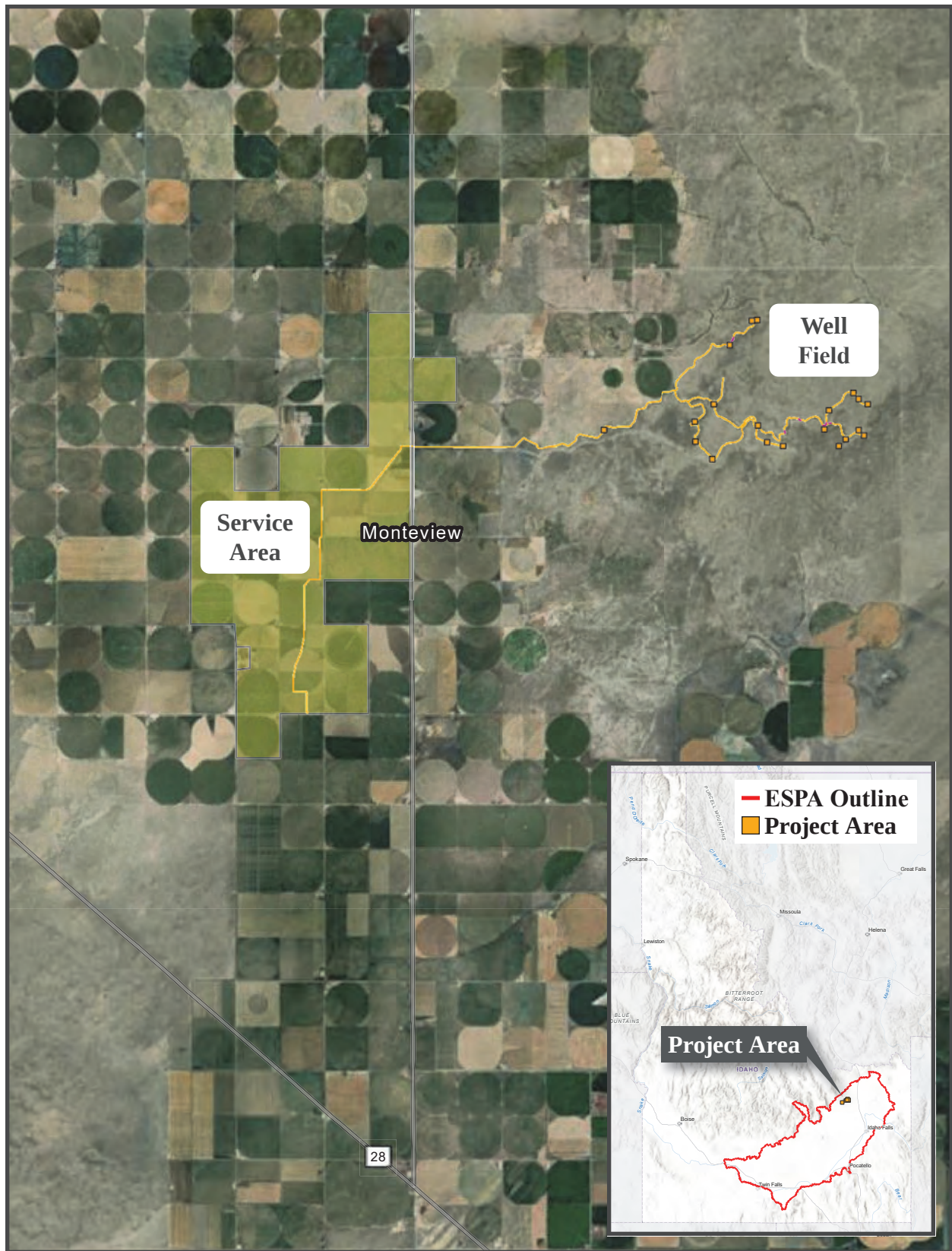
Project Summary

The Monteview Canal Company, in Jefferson County, Idaho, will install a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) liner along its 10-mile earthen irrigation canal to decrease seepage and allow a more efficient use of limited groundwater supplies. The project is expected to save approximately 3,883 acre-feet per year which result in increased groundwater supply sustainability throughout southeastern and south central Idaho by reducing withdrawals from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA).

Project Location

The Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization and Conservation Project is located in Monteview, Idaho. As shown in **Figure 1**, the project starts at the well field which is located about five miles east of the Monteview service area at approximately 43°59'N and 112°25'W. The canal extends a little more than 10 miles to the west and south from the well field through the Monteview service area to the project endpoint which is located at approximately 43°56'N and 112°33'W.

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map



Source: Idaho Department of Water Resources, Water Right Locator.

Project Description

Project Sponsor

The Monteview Canal Company was originally established as a mutual canal and irrigation company in 1950 to provide irrigation water to farms located in Monteview, Idaho. The company officially became a nonprofit 501(c)12 organization in 1984, and the day-to-day operations of the canal company are managed by the Monteview Canal Company Board of Directors.

Existing Operations

The Monteview Canal Company has a unique water delivery system that is used to sustain 4,455 acres of productive agricultural land in Jefferson County. The company currently operates a well field with 15 pumps located approximately five miles from its service area. Groundwater is pumped to an open channel, unlined irrigation canal and then conveyed up to ten miles to farms in the Monteview service area (**Figure 1**). A detailed map showing the location of each of the 15 pumps along with the other relevant features is included as **Appendix F. Detailed Map**.

Water Rights

The company supplies groundwater using the company's 14 water rights. The priority dates for these water rights range from February 1925 to October 1962. The total allowable diversion rate for all water rights combined is 89.10 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 15,592.50 acre-feet per year. The company does not have any other water rights or other long-term water supplies.

Project Need

There is an urgent need for this project because we are losing approximately 17.4% of our water to seepage before it even reaches the farms. While it is quite common for unlined, open channel irrigation canals to seepage, our water losses are intensified due to the types of soils located within the canal alignment. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) online web soil survey, the majority of the soils within the canal alignment east of the farm fields are categorized as extremely stony with a mixture of moderately coarse and gravelly soils that have a high rate of water transmission and a very low capacity to hold water (**Figure 2**).

The web soil survey of the project area indicates that 36% of the soils in the canal alignment east of the farm fields consist of soils categorized as hydrologic soil group A, and 62% is categorized as hydrologic soil group B (**Table 1**). Group A soils have a high infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. These soils consist mainly of deep, well drained to excessively drained sands or gravelly sands with a high rate of water transmission (**Figure 3**). Group B soils have a moderate infiltration rate when thoroughly wet and mainly consist of moderately deep or deep, moderately well drained to well drained soils that have a moderately fine to moderately coarse texture with a moderate rate of water transmission.¹ A copy of the Natural Resources Conservation Service web soil survey is included in **Appendix A. Supporting Documentation**.

Figure 2. Stony Canal Surface

Source: Ardurra.

Table 1. Soil Types and Hydrologic Soil Groups

Soil Type	Percentage of Area	Hydrologic Soil Group
Malm-Rock outcrop complex	35.30%	B
Matheson sandy loam, 1–6% slopes	20.50%	A
Malm-Matheson-Rock outcrop complex	17.60%	B
Matheson-Malm sandy loams	15.30%	A
Bondranch-Rock outcrop complex	1.40%	D
Montlid-Heiseton complex	9.20%	B
Modkin-Rock outcrop complex	0.40%	B
Matheson loam	0.30%	A

Source: USDA. NRCS. Web Soil Survey, 2024.

Figure 3. Highly Permeable Soils



Source: Ardurra

Crops Grown in Service Area

Farms in the Monteview service area grow some of Idaho's most marketable commodities. These include alfalfa, barley, wheat, and corn with alfalfa being the most dominant. Improving our water delivery efficiency will allow these farms to continue to be fully productive. This is important because, while the online web soil survey shows that the canal passes through harsh soil conditions to reach the farms, it also shows that the farms themselves are located on soils considered to be prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance if irrigated.²

Without this project, the farmers could suffer devastating losses when yields are drastically reduced during drought years or if they are forced to reduce the number of acres they farm. Reducing productivity of these farms would impact Idaho's economy and our thriving agricultural industry. It would also significantly impact our local economy and the people who rely on these farms for their livelihood and employment. Completing this project is vital for these farmers and will ensure this essential farmland can be fully productive for decades.

Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer

In many cases, incidental recharge due to canal leakage is seen as beneficial. However, this is not the case when the water source is groundwater rather than surface water. This is because the significant amount of push water that needs to be pumped just to maintain sufficient pressure throughout the delivery system just puts an additional strain on the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) and reduces the amount of water available for other groundwater users.

According to the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer is a regionally significant aquifer that supports approximately 21% of Idaho's economy—resulting in an estimated annual value of \$10 billion.³ The aquifer is also the sole source of drinking water for nearly 400,000 people in southeastern and south central Idaho.⁴ According to the Idaho Department of Water Resources, groundwater levels in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer have declined considerably for decades, which has led to a cumulative decrease in groundwater storage, decreased spring flows, and changed Snake River flows, resulting in insufficient water supplies within the Snake River system.⁵ The 2009 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan was developed by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to help stabilize the aquifer. One of the goals included in this plan is to reduce groundwater withdrawals by approximately 250,000–350,000 acre-feet per year.⁶ The aquifer's historical water supply-and-demand imbalance is also addressed by the 2015 settlement agreement between the Surface Water Coalition (SWC) and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators (IGWA). According to this agreement, groundwater users are required to reduce pumping or recharge 240,000 acre-feet annually.⁷ Completing this project will allow Montevue to contribute to this goal and will help groundwater users in the region meet the severe cutbacks required by the settlement agreement.

Technical Project Description

The proposed project involves lining the earthen irrigation canal with a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) canal liner. The project starts at the well field, which is about five miles east of the Montevue service area, at approximately 43°59'N and 112°25'W. It then continues along the historical canal alignment for about 10 miles to the west and south as it passes through the Montevue service area to the project endpoint located at approximately 43°56'N and 112°33'W. The existing canal alignment will be graded, backfilled, and compacted to meet grade requirements of the final design prior to installation. The liner installation will be performed in sections, and work will advance incrementally along the canal. The liner will extend five feet from the sides of the canal bank and will be anchored to keep the liner secured in place. The conceptual design drawings are included as **Appendix B. Conceptual Plans**.

Materials

The project will require approximately 1,768,800 square feet of high-density polyethylene canal liner. The type of liner that will be used is a reinforced composite geomembrane comprised of a 40 mil reinforced geomembrane with a specialty woven HDPE scrim. This product is extremely resistant to punctures and tears, and all seams can be fusion welded for a permanent watertight seam. A copy of the technical data sheet for the liner is included with **Appendix A. Supporting Documentation**.

Project Approach

Montevieu Canal Company has a project team in place to complete all planning, design, and engineering tasks as well as all project management, grant administration, and reporting tasks.

Project Management

Montevieu Canal Company board members Mike Cope, Loyd Engberson, and Wes Wadsworth will manage the project for the canal company and will coordinate with the selected engineering firm to complete all progress and financial reports. They have all lived and farmed in the area for decades and have extensive experience completing irrigation operations, maintenance, and construction projects which will help them to ensure this project is completed on time and within the proposed budget.

Design and Engineering

Montevieu Canal Company will select an engineering firm using a qualifications-based procurement method to provide engineering and design services. The selected engineer will serve as the as the technical lead for the project and will work closely with the Montevieu Canal Company team and the construction contractor.

Construction

All construction work will be performed by a general contractor that is qualified and experienced in earthwork and canal improvement projects. Contractor selection will be made as part of a competitive bid selection process. The selected contractor will supply all staff, equipment, and materials required to complete the construction work.

Summary of Work to Be Completed

The following items are required to complete the proposed project:

1. Survey and Design

A detailed topographic survey will be completed to identify existing high-water marks, document data needed to define the canal geometry, and identify other critical topographic data. The survey data will be used by the engineer to develop the final design.

2. Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

Montevue has contacted local Reclamation staff to discuss estimated costs and timeline for completing all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. According to these conversations, an environmental assessment will likely be required due to the length of the canal and its location. Additionally, a cultural resource survey may also be required due to the age of the system and will be completed either prior to or in conjunction with the environmental assessment. Montevue will work with local Reclamation staff to ensure all environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements are completed in a timely manner before beginning any ground disturbing activities.

3. Easements and Rights-of-Way

Approximately five miles of the existing canal alignment is located in property owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the agency will likely require an environmental assessment to be completed in order to revise the existing right-of-way easement. Montevue expects to complete the environmental assessment with the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency, and the Bureau of Land Management as the cooperating agency. The location of the BLM easement is shown in the detailed map included as **Appendix F**.

4. Permitting

A Construction General Permit (CGP) for Discharge Activities will be required from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Montevue will obtain this permit, along with any other required permits or approvals, before performing any ground disturbing activities.

5. Excavation and Site Preparation

The canal will be dewatered and excavated to remove any existing silt, debris, or similar materials so it can be reshaped prior to installing the liner. The canal will then be allowed to dry prior to completing backfill and earthwork.

6. Backfill and Earthwork

The existing canal will be graded, backfilled, and compacted to meet grade requirements of the final design and to ensure proper soil density and moisture levels. The final grade will be checked against the construction survey stakes.

7. Liner Installation

This project requires approximately 1,768,800 square feet of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) canal liner which will be placed in accordance with the plan drawings and specifications.

Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A. Quantifiable Water Savings

1) Describe the amount of estimated water savings.

Conservative estimates indicate approximately 17.4% of the groundwater pumped is lost due to seepage and evaporation, and Montevieu will be able to save an estimated 3,883 acre-feet per year as a direct result of this project. This is approximately 1,264,962,835.48 gallons of water which is enough to fill 1,916 Olympic-size swimming pools each year. These calculations are included in **Appendix A. Supporting Documentation.**

2) Describe current losses. Please explain where the water that will be conserved is currently going and how it is being used.

Current losses are seeping into the ground and are likely ultimately returning to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer where it eventually becomes available for use by other groundwater users. According to Enhanced Snake Plain Aquifer Model, Version 2.1, the current model of the aquifer's retention rate indicates 50% of seepage water is returned to the Snake River via spring flows within eight months where it could then be used as natural flow. There are no known benefits associated with pumping excess groundwater—even if this water eventually returns to the aquifer—other than to maintain sufficient pressure throughout the delivery system. It is more beneficial to eliminate the source of seepage and reduce groundwater withdrawals in the first place so this water can remain in the system and remain available for use by others.

3) Describe the support or documentation of estimated water savings.

The estimated water savings was determined based on the following calculations:

- The current diversion rate was calculated based on historical measurements taken at the weir located at the end of the well field. According to these measurements, the average diversion rate is five acre-feet per acre for a total of 22,250 acre-feet per year.
- Alfalfa is the most dominant crop grown in the Montview service area, so the peak consumptive use rate was determined based on the typical irrigation requirement of 3.3 acre-feet per acre for alfalfa (peak, no cutting) for farms in this area.⁸
- Irrigation efficiency was calculated based on the assumed efficiency for each irrigation method used and the number of acres irrigated by each method. Approximately 3,730 acres are irrigated using overhead, center pivot irrigation systems which are assumed to be 85% efficient.⁹ The remaining 720 acres is flood irrigated which has an average efficiency of 50%.¹⁰ The weighted average of these efficiencies is 79.4%. Therefore, based on the existing configuration of irrigation systems, the current consumptive use within the Montevieu service area is 4.10 acre-feet of per acre. This means 18,258.87 acre-feet per year is required based on current irrigation methods used.

- Evapotranspiration losses were calculated using the evapotranspiration value of 2.91 acre-feet per acre for shallow water systems in the Montevideo service area. Based on the canal's surface area of 33.33 acres, 96.89 acre-feet of water is lost each year to evapotranspiration.
- Water losses due to seepage was calculated by taking the total water diverted and subtracting the amount of water required by the crops and evapotranspiration losses which is 3,894.24 acre-feet per year.
- Seepage losses for canals lined with high-density polyethylene liners are assumed to be 0.03 acre-feet per acre.¹¹ This means seepage losses for the lined canal would be 11.68 acre-feet per year, which is a difference of 3,882.56 acre-feet per year.

These calculations are summarized in **Table 2**, and additional details and calculations supporting how current seepage losses and water savings were determined are included in **Appendix A. Supporting Documentation**.

Table 2. Seepage Rate Calculations

Total Acres Irrigated	Current Diversion Rate	Peak Consumptive Use	Current Consumptive Use	Losses Due to Evaporation	Seepage Losses Per Year
4,450	5.00 af/acre	3.26 af/acre	4.10 af/acre	96.89 af/year	3,883 af/year

4) Please address the following questions according to the type of infrastructure improvement you are proposing for funding.

(1) Canal Lining/Piping

a. How has the estimated average annual water savings that will result from the project been determined?

The estimated average annual water savings that will result from the project was determined based on the difference between the seepage losses for the current system, which are estimated to be 3,894.24 acre-feet per year, and the projected seepage losses for the lined canal, which are estimated to be 11.68 acre-feet per year. The result is an estimated water savings of 3,882.56 acre-feet per year. All relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data is included in **Appendix A. Supporting Documentation**.

b. How have average annual canal seepage losses been determined?

The average annual seepage losses were determined by taking the known diversion volume of 22,250 acre-feet per year and subtracting the required amount of water based on the efficiency of the current irrigation methods used, which is 18,258.87 acre-feet per year, and subtracting estimated evapotranspiration losses of 96.89 acre-feet per year. As a result, seepage losses were determined to be 3,894.24 acre-feet per year.

c. What are the expected post-project seepage or leakage losses, and how were these estimates determined?

The post-project seepage losses are expected to be nearly zero. This estimate was determined based on data provided by the manufacturer of the impermeable liner. A copy of the technical data sheet for the liner is included with **Appendix A. Supporting Documentation**.

d. What are the anticipated annual transit loss reductions in terms of acre-feet per mile for the overall project and for each section of canal included in the project?

The annual transit loss reductions are anticipated to be 388.26 acre-feet per mile.

e. How will actual canal loss seepage reductions be verified?

The actual canal loss seepage reductions will be verified by comparing pre-project and post-project diversion rates. This testing will be performed by measuring the flow rate at the weir located at the end of the well field in order to account for flows from all of the wells. The reduced post-project diversion rate will reflect the canal loss seepage reductions because less water will need to be pumped while still being able to deliver the same volume of water to the farms. The canal loss seepage reductions can be verified by the resulting reduction in energy use due to reduced pumping.

f. Include a detailed description of the materials being used.

A high-density polyethylene (HDPE) canal liner will be used to line the canal. This material was selected because neighboring canal companies have found it to be effective, durable, and affordable. A copy of the technical data sheet for the liner is included with **Appendix A. Supporting Documentation**.

(2) Municipal Metering

N/A

(3) Irrigation Flow Measurement

N/A

(4) Turf Removal

N/A

(5) Smart Irrigation Controllers, Controllers with Rain Sensor Shutoff, Drip Irrigation, and High-Efficiency Nozzles

N/A

(6) High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures

N/A

(7) Commercial Cooling Systems

N/A

Criterion B. Renewable Energy

Subcriterion B.1 Implementing Renewable Energy Projects Related to Water Management and Delivery

N/A

Subcriterion B.2 Increasing Energy Efficiency in Water Management

Describe any energy efficiencies that are expected to result from implementation of the water conservation or water efficiency project (e.g., reduced pumping).

If quantifiable energy savings is expected to result from the project, please provide sufficient details and supporting calculations. If quantifying energy savings, please state the estimated amount in kilowatt hours per year.

The quantifiable energy savings that is expected to result from the project is estimated to be 725,121 kilowatt hours (kwh) per year due to reduced pumping. This was estimated by taking the annual average electricity consumption for the 15 pumps that are currently being operated less the expected reduction in electricity consumption as a result of pumping 17.4% less water per year. These calculations are included in **Appendix A. Supporting Documentation.**

How will the energy efficiency improvement combat/offset the impacts of climate change, including an expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

N/A

If the project will result in reduced pumping, please describe the current pumping requirements and the types of pumps (e.g., size) currently being used. How would the proposed project impact the current pumping requirements and energy usage?

Monteview currently operates 15 deep well pumps that range in size from 80hp to 225hp and have an average depth of 100 feet. The proposed project is expected to reduce pumping requirements and energy usage by an estimated 17.4% based on prioritization of the most efficient and productive pumps.

Please indicate whether your energy savings estimate originates from the point of diversion.

N/A

Does the calculation include any energy required to treat the water, if applicable?

N/A

Will the project result in reduced vehicle miles driven, in turn reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

N/A

Describe any renewable energy components that will result in minimal energy savings.

N/A

Criterion C. Other Project Benefits

(1) Resilience and Sustainability Benefits

Describe recent, existing, or potential drought or water scarcity conditions in the project area.

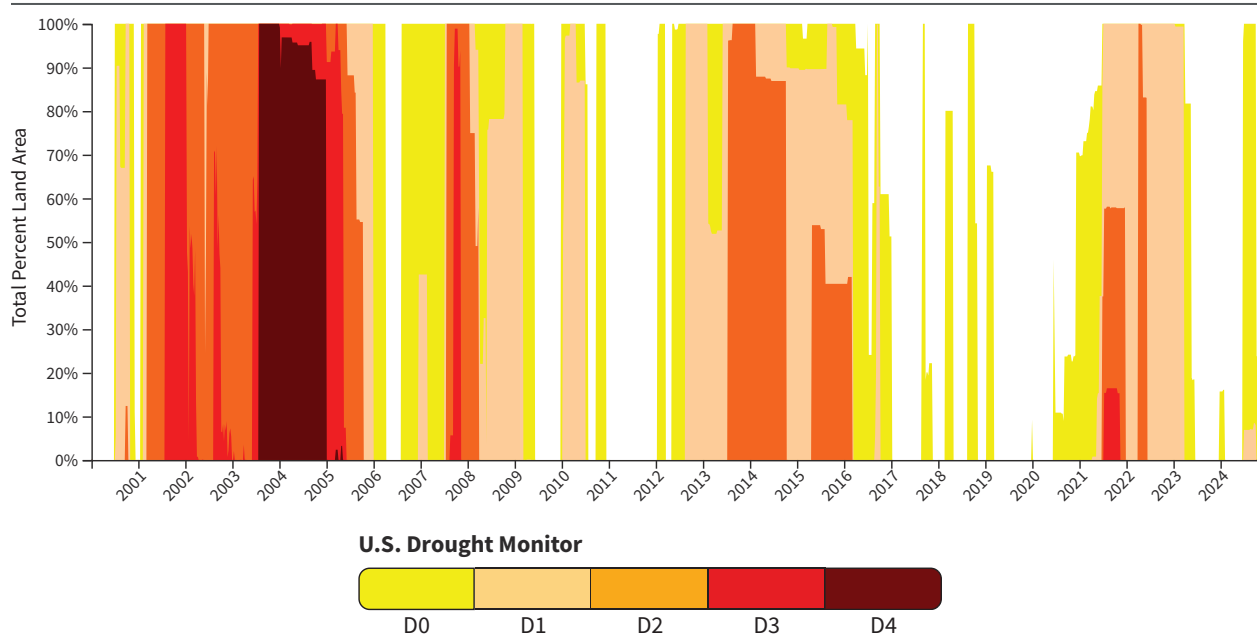
Current Drought Conditions

The project area is located in Jefferson County, Idaho, which is currently experiencing abnormally dry conditions (D0). According to U.S. Drought Monitor, the county is just now recovering from moderate drought conditions (D1) that started the week of July 2, 2024, and lasted for 14 weeks.¹²

Historical Drought Conditions

Historical drought conditions for Jefferson County from 2000 to 2024 are illustrated in the time-series graph from the U.S. Drought Monitor shown in **Figure 4**. According to the State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan, there have been 11 state drought declarations or USDA Agricultural Disaster Declarations for Jefferson County since 2020 which means the county has a moderately high number of previous occurrences and losses associated with drought.¹³

Figure 4. Historical Drought Conditions, 2000–2024



Source: U.S. Drought Monitor, Drought Conditions for Jefferson County, October 17, 2024.

Is the project area experiencing, or recently experienced, drought or water scarcity?

Yes, predictions earlier this year indicated water shortages were expected for the 2024 irrigation season. This resulted in the director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources issuing a curtailment order for many groundwater users this May that affected an estimated 500,000 acres of farmland. According to state officials, this curtailment order was issued due to a 2015 agreement between surface water users and groundwater users within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer region.¹⁴ This agreement was approved after more than a decade of legal battles due to years of increased demand, low snowpack, and drought conditions depleting Idaho's groundwater levels that have impacted surface water levels within the Snake River system. The curtailment order lasted about three weeks when water users were able to reach an agreement for the 2024 irrigation season. Curtailment orders, like the one issued earlier this year, are expected to be both more frequent and more severe in the coming years as demand for water increases due to ongoing drought conditions and the excessive heat waves that have become all too common for the region in recent years.

Describe any projected increases to the severity or duration of drought or water scarcity in the project area.

Climate change is likely to make drought conditions in Jefferson County more frequent and prolonged in the future. This projection is based on the forecasted increase in the average number of days per year with a heat index greater than or equal to 95°F, as well as an expected increase in the average number of dry days per year, because these conditions are likely to result in more frequent and prolonged droughts. According to the NOAA Climate Explorer site, the historical observed average number of days above 95°F for Jefferson County between 1961 to 1990 was 2.07 days. This is expected to increase to an average of 17.8 to 23 days per year by 2040.¹⁵ The historical observed average number of dry days per year for Jefferson County between 1961 to 1990 was 251 days. This is expected to increase to an average of 255 to 256 dry days per year by 2040.¹⁶

Additionally, the State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan states that Idaho can expect a drought of varied severity to occur at least every two years with the possibility of an increase in frequency due to the impacts from climate change.¹⁷ This overall probability is based on historical changes to Idaho's climate and the historical record of state drought declarations. According to the State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan, most of Idaho has warmed one to two degrees (°F) in the past 100 years, and county drought declarations occurred in 16 of the 23 years between 2000 and 2022.¹⁸

Explain and provide detail of the specific issue(s) in the area that is impacting energy sustainability, such as reliance on fossil fuels, pollution, or interruptions in service.

According to the State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan, decreased flow in the Snake River reduces the amount of energy Idaho Power can produce and induces stress on the energy grid. Idaho Power controls 17 hydroelectric facilities along the Snake River and its tributaries that make up the company's largest source of electrical generation.¹⁹ This project will help to reduce the amount of stress placed on the energy grid. This is especially important during the summer months when high demand and high temperatures already strain the region's electricity grid.

Please describe how the project will directly address the concern(s) stated above.

This project will implement an important proactive water management strategy identified in the 2009 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to help address variability in climatic conditions, including drought. This strategy is to reduce groundwater withdrawals by approximately 250,000 to 350,000 acre-feet per year. The project is expected to conserve an estimated 3,883 acre-feet of groundwater per year which is approximately 1.1% to 1.6% of this goal.²⁰

Additionally, according to the 2015 settlement agreement between the Surface Water Coalition and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, groundwater users in the region are (collectively) required to reduce pumping or recharge 240,000 acre-feet annually.²¹ Completing this project will allow Monteview to meet the severe cutbacks required by this agreement while still allowing the farms in the Monteview service area to remain fully productive.

Will the project directly result in more efficient management of the water supply?

Yes, the project will directly result in more efficient use of water supplies. Lining the canal will eliminate the need to pump the significant amount of push water required just to maintain sufficient pressure throughout the delivery system. This will reduce the strain on the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and immediately increase the amount of water available for other groundwater users.

Please address where any conserved water as a result of the project will go and how it will be used, including whether the conserved water will be used to offset groundwater pumping, used to reduce diversions, used to address shortages that impact diversions or reduce deliveries, made available for transfer, left in the river system, or used to meet another intended use.

The water conserved as a result of the project will remain in the aquifer until it is put to a beneficial use by other groundwater users. The water will not be transferred or used to develop new acreage.

The water conserved will likely be used for either municipal or agricultural uses. According to the 2009 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan, the aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for both cities and most rural residents. However, agriculture is the largest consumptive user of water in the region, and approximately 889,000 acres are irrigated using groundwater.²²

Indicate the quantity of conserved water that will be used for the intended purpose(s).

This project is expected to result in an immediate water savings of approximately 3,883 acre-feet per year. This water will remain as groundwater within the Upper Snake River system where it will be available to meet the needs of groundwater users for use as drinking water, in crop production, or as needed for regional water stability.

Provide a description of the mechanism that will be used, if necessary, to put the conserved water to the intended use.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) manages the state's water supplies and is responsible for allocating and distributing water. In Idaho, groundwater is allocated based on the first in time, first in right principle which means that the water conserved by this project will be allocated to other groundwater users according to priority date.

Will the project assist States and water users in complying with interstate compacts?

N/A

Will the project help to prevent a water-related crisis or conflict? Is there frequently tension or litigation over water in the basin?

Yes, according to the State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan, water supply shortages have resulted in significant legal actions and uncertainty that have had significant societal and economic impacts on both the agricultural industries and the businesses and communities built around agriculture.²³ This is especially true for water users in the Snake River Basin where there has been a longstanding conflict between surface water users and groundwater users. Decades of back-to-back drought conditions and decreased river flows have only served to make these legal battles more commonplace. As previously mentioned, this conflict was recently reignited and the director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources issued an order to curtail groundwater rights this May affecting an estimated 500,000 acres of farmland. This project will allow Montevue to conserve a significant amount of groundwater which will help groundwater users in the region meet the severe cutbacks required by 2015 settlement agreement between the Surface Water Coalition and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators and help prevent future curtailment orders like the one issued this May.

Additionally, according to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan, the state expects an escalation of conflict between water users and increased litigation if the water management strategies and conservation measures outlined in the plan are not implemented.²⁴ The project is expected to conserve an estimated 3,883 acre-feet of groundwater per year which is approximately 1.1% to 1.6% of the demand reduction goal included in this plan.

(2) Ecological Benefits

Will the project benefit species (e.g., federally threatened or endangered, a federally recognized candidate species, a state listed species, or a species of particular recreational, or economic importance)?

Ongoing drought conditions and record heat waves, along with increased demand for groundwater, have had a major influence on decreased water quality and quantity within the cold-water springs where the Banbury Springs limpet (*Idaholanx fresti*) and the Bliss Rapids snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*) are found.²⁵ The Banbury Springs limpet has been listed as endangered since 1992 and is only found in four springs along the Snake River in Idaho. The main threats to the Banbury Springs limpet are habitat modification and habitat loss due to decreased groundwater quantity and quality. The Bliss Rapids snail has been listed as threatened since 1992 and has only been found along the middle section of the Snake River in Idaho. Decreased spring discharge is identified as the main threat to the Bliss Rapids snail.

The Snake River Aquatic Species Recovery Plan developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists the actions needed to restore these species to the point where they are secure, self-sustaining components of their ecosystem leading to eventual delisting. These actions include stabilizing the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer to protect discharge at levels necessary to conserve the listed species cold-water spring habitats.²⁶ Completing this project will allow Monteview to contribute to the recovery of these species by reducing groundwater withdrawals which will increase water levels in the tributary springs that both of these species rely on.

Will water remain in the system for longer periods of time? If so, provide details on current/future durations and any expected resulting benefits.

Yes, this project is expected to decrease groundwater withdrawals by a total of 3,883 acre-feet per year, and the water conserved will remain in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer until it is put to a beneficial use by other groundwater users in the region. Expected benefits include increasing the amount of groundwater available to other users. According to the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), 1.1 million acre-feet of groundwater is used each year. Approximately 95% of this water is used for irrigation, and the rest is used for drinking water, commercial uses, or for livestock. An additional 7.1 million acre-feet of water is discharged from the aquifer each year and eventually travel to the west side of the Snake River Plain where it rejoins the Snake River via tributary springs.²⁷

This project is expected to increase aquifer levels by a total of 3,883 acre-feet per year. This increased groundwater interaction will improve water quality and reduce surface water temperatures which is crucial for the health of the Snake River ecosystem. High water temperatures in the Snake River take a devastating toll on native salmonid species, and increasing aquifer levels is vital in helping to maintain optimal water temperatures. Increasing water levels in the aquifer will also increase spring flows and extend the duration of flows within these tributary springs during dry periods.

Will the proposed project reduce the likelihood of a species listing or otherwise improve the species status?

As previously stated, this project will improve the habitat of federally-endangered Banbury Springs limpet (*Idaholanx fresti*) and the federally-threatened Bliss Rapids snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*).

Please describe any other ecosystem benefits as a direct result of the project.

This project will allow Montevieu to create a more efficient water delivery system which will result in reduced groundwater withdrawals and help to stabilize the aquifer. In connected groundwater and surface water systems, like the Snake River system, increased aquifer levels can enable base flows and environmental flows to be maintained during dry years. This will result in improved natural flows in the Snake River which will benefit its dynamic ecosystem and help improve water quality. Gravel-bed river floodplains like the Snake River ecosystem are among the most ecologically important habitats on the continent. Their subterranean habitat is the foundation of a food chain that creates biodiversity in the entire valley, by nourishing microbes and aquatic insects, and plant life such as willows, cottonwood, and aspen, which in turn sustain fish, birds and beavers, elk and caribou, and consequently wolves and grizzly bears.²⁸

(3) Climate Change**Describe how the project addresses climate change and increases resiliency.**

As previously discussed, climate change is likely to make drought conditions in Jefferson County more frequent and prolonged in the future. This project will directly improve long-term drought resiliency for the farmers who rely on Montevieu for their water supply by eliminating water losses due to seepage. Reducing the amount of groundwater Montevieu pumps from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer will also relieve stress on groundwater supplies. This will increase the amount of water available to other groundwater users and allow this water to be used for more productive purposes. According to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan, reducing groundwater withdrawals is an important in order to improve drought resiliency throughout the region.²⁹

Does the project seek to improve ecological resiliency to climate change?

This project seeks to improve ecological resilience to climate change by decreasing groundwater withdrawals from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. The aquifer is hydraulically connected to the Snake River and its tributaries which means that springs discharging from the aquifer help sustain fish and wildlife habitat and provide important water quality benefits.³⁰ This will help fish, wildlife, plants, and the surrounding ecosystem survive prolonged periods of drought and cope with other impacts of climate change.

Does the proposed project seek to reduce or mitigate climate pollutions such as air or water pollution?

This project will improve water quality throughout the Snake River system as a result of conserving 3,883 acre-feet of groundwater each year. Increased aquifer levels has been shown to improve water quality by diluting and treating pollutants. Additionally, in connected groundwater and surface water systems, like the Snake River system, using less groundwater also helps to maintain safe water levels in the river and its tributary springs. This can reduce the concentration of pollutants in these surface waters, improve water quality, and help maintain colder temperatures crucial for the health of the Snake River ecosystem. This is especially important because low flows during summer months negatively impact water quality and often results in higher water temperatures as well as increased levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, pesticides, and sedimentation. These conditions can promote the development of harmful algae that prefer warm, stagnant water with a high nutrient load. The local fish and wildlife populations will benefit from increased stream flows and improved water quality.

Does the proposed project include green or sustainable infrastructure to improve community climate resilience?

N/A

Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?

N/A

Criterion D. Disadvantaged Communities, Insular Areas, and Tribal Benefits

Subcriterion D.1 Disadvantaged Communities

According to the White House Council on Environmental Quality's interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, the project will be constructed in census tract number 16051960100 which has a population of 3,645 people (**Figure 5**). This tract is considered a disadvantaged community because it meets the following burden thresholds and the associated socioeconomic threshold.

Expected Agriculture Loss Rate

Economic loss to agricultural value resulting from natural hazards each year is in the 91st percentile.

Energy cost

Average annual energy costs divided by household income is in the 90th percentile.

Lack of Indoor Plumbing

Share of homes without indoor kitchens or plumbing is in the 95th percentile.

Low Income

People in households where income is less than or equal to twice the federal poverty level, not including students enrolled in higher education, is in the 74th percentile.

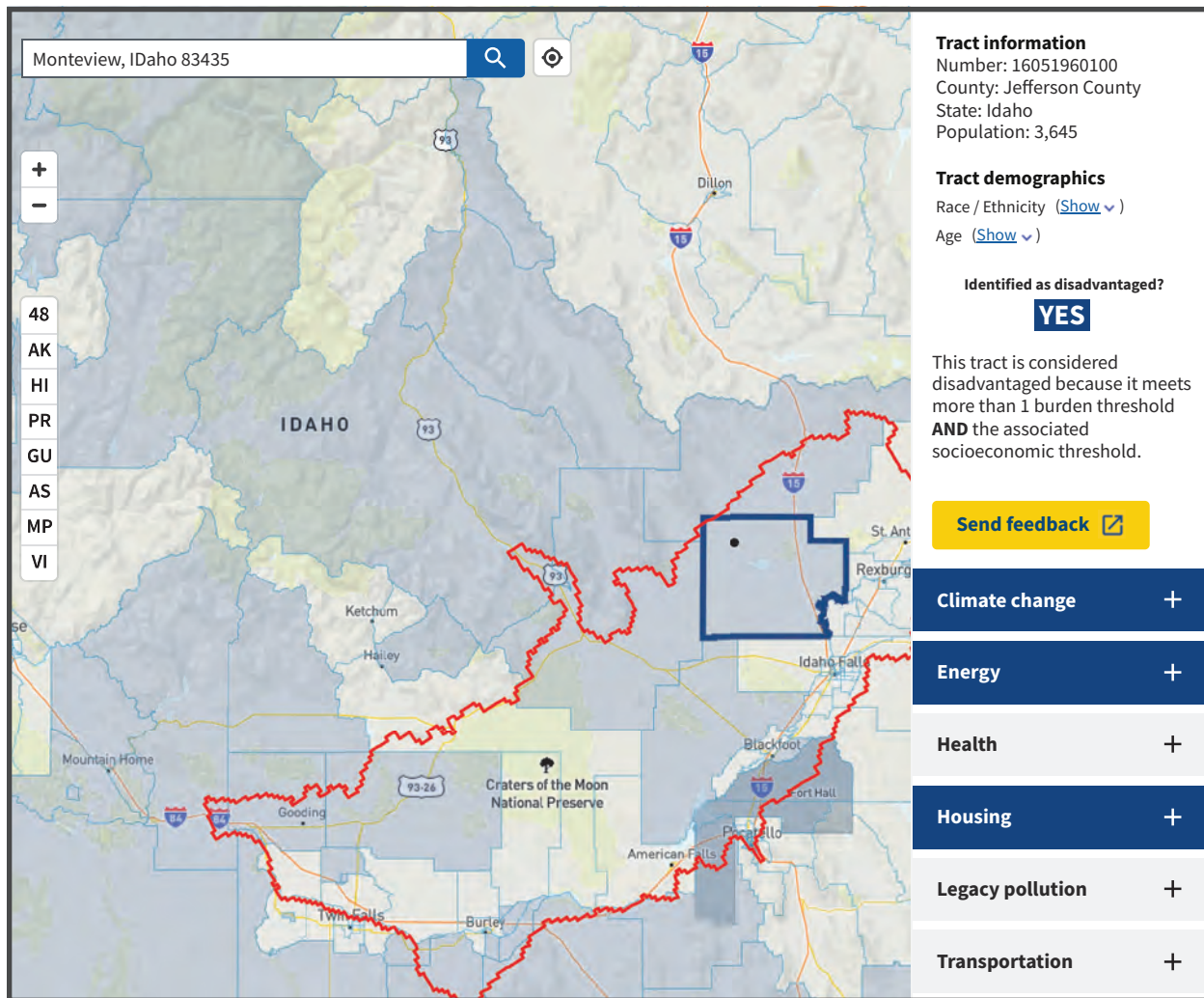
Other Benefiting Disadvantaged Communities

The surrounding disadvantaged communities that will also benefit from this project are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Disadvantaged Communities

Census Tract No.	County	Population
16023970100	Butte County	2,581
16011950300	Bingham County	5,884
16011950400	Bingham County	7,186
16011940000	Bingham County	2,643
16063950100	Lincoln County	5,350
16053970200	Jerome County	4,508
16053970300	Jerome County	5,959
16053970400	Jerome County	3,212

Figure 5. Map of Disadvantaged Communities



Describe how the proposed project will serve or benefit a disadvantaged community.

The project will benefit these disadvantaged communities as a result of the following outcomes:

- This project will reduce withdrawals from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer by conserving approximately 3,883 acre-feet of water every year. This will increase the water supply available to other groundwater users in these communities because they are also located within the Eastern Snake Plain region.
- The proposed project will preserve local jobs and be an economic benefit to these communities. This is particularly important because these communities are sparsely populated rural areas with relatively few economic opportunities, and agriculture is responsible for 12.5% of Idaho's gross domestic product and one in every eight jobs.³¹
- The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for most cities and rural residents in the region, and this project will increase groundwater levels in the aquifer by approximately 3,883 acre-feet per year.³²

- This project will help reduce the likelihood of water curtailment and the possible loss of irrigation rights for many other groundwater users in these nearby communities. The economic impacts of curtailment would be devastating given that agriculture is the top industry in Idaho and one of the primary sources of income in the region.³³
- By increasing the supply of groundwater, this project will improve drought resiliency for these communities. According to the 2023 State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan, socially vulnerable populations are most likely to be impacted by drought conditions. This includes potential impacts to people's health and safety as a result of low water flows, poor water quality, and poor air quality as well as the potential risk of diminished living conditions, compromised food and nutrition, and increased incidence of illness and disease.³⁴
- This project will benefit the region by significantly reducing the strain on the electrical grid because this project will reduce our electrical use by an estimated 725,121 kilowatt (kw) per year due reduced pumping. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, this is enough electricity to provide power for 67 homes each year.³⁵

Subcriterion D.2 Tribal Benefits

Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project increase water supply sustainability for an Indian Tribe? Will the project provide renewable energy for an Indian Tribe?

The proposed project will indirectly benefit the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall due to the reduction in groundwater used for Monteview farms. The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer is hydraulically connected to the Snake River and its tributaries, and, by reducing groundwater withdrawals, this project will increase both the amount of surface water and groundwater available in the Fort Hall area.

Does the proposed project support Tribal led conservation and restoration priorities, and/or incorporate or benefit indigenous traditional knowledge and practices?

Idaho Tribes have long advocated for the restoration of salmon and steelhead populations in the Snake River—the largest tributary in the Columbia River. This project will benefit these fish populations as well as other, non-listed species. By decreasing groundwater withdrawals, this project will result in increased flows in the Snake River and its tributaries which will improve the habitat of federally-listed Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Snake River fall Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and Snake River Basin steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

Does the proposed project directly support tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other Tribal benefits such as improved public health and safety through water quality improvements, new water supplies, increased renewable energy, or economic growth opportunities?

The proposed project will support Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts by increasing the water supply available in the Fort Hall area that is available for future domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial uses.

Does the proposed project support Reclamation's Tribal trust responsibilities or a Reclamation activity with a Tribe?

As part of the Columbia and Snake River Salmon Recovery Program, Reclamation's responsibilities as part of the 2004 Nez Perce settlement agreement includes maintaining minimum flows within the Snake River Basin to improve tributary habitat and hatcheries for salmon and steelhead. One of the components of this program includes leasing water from Idaho water banks for Snake River flow augmentation.³⁶ The proposed project will support Reclamation's responsibility to maintain minimum flows within the Snake River by reducing groundwater withdrawals as this will result in increased surface flows because these systems are hydraulically connected.

Criterion E. Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements

Describe any planned or ongoing projects by farmers or ranchers that receive water from the applicant to improve on-farm efficiencies.

According to our local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) resource conservationist, the most common on-farm practice implemented in this region is converting from flood irrigation to center pivot irrigation systems. We have reached out to the farmers in the Montevue service area and about 85–90% have applied for or have already used Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding to complete on-farm irrigation efficiency projects. The remaining farmers are interested in applying for NRCS funding and technical assistance to complete similar projects.

Provide a detailed description of the on-farm efficiency improvements.

The on-farm efficiency improvements that have been completed have typically involved converting from flood irrigation to center pivot sprinkler systems along with the pumps and mainlines required for these upgrades.

Have the farmers requested technical or financial assistance from NRCS for the on-farm efficiency projects, or do they plan to in the future?

About 85–90% of the farmers have already received technical or financial assistance from NRCS and have completed or are currently implementing on-farm efficiency projects. Most of the remaining farmers in the Montevue service area plan to request technical and financial assistance from NRCS for similar on-farm efficiency projects in conjunction with the proposed project. There is a lot of competition in this region for NRCS funding, and being selected for this WaterSMART grant would increase the likelihood that farmers in the Montevue service area receive funding due to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) WaterSMART Initiative (WSI) collaboration. Additionally, Montevue is currently working with the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District to designate the Montevue service area as a priority area to increase the likelihood of receiving assistance.

If available, provide documentation that the on-farm projects are eligible for NRCS assistance, that such assistance has or will be requested, and the number or percentage of farms that plan to participate in available NRCS programs.

A letter from the local NRCS office confirming the on-farm projects are eligible for NRCS assistance and that funding assistance has been requested as well as the percentage of farms that plan to participate in available NRCS programs is included with **Appendix A. Supporting Documentation**.

Applicants should provide letters of intent from farmers and ranchers in the affected project areas.

The farmers who are interested in applying for NRCS funding have indicated they intend to apply for Fiscal Year 2027 funding but have not provided formal letters of intent.

Describe how the proposed WaterSMART project would complement any ongoing or planned on-farm improvement.

According to our local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) resource conservationist, having a reliable water source will make converting to sprinklers even more effective. Additionally, there is a lot of competition in this region for NRCS funding, and being selected for this WaterSMART grant would increase the likelihood that farmers in the Monteview service area receive funding due to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) WaterSMART Initiative (WSI) collaboration.

Will the proposed WaterSMART project directly facilitate the on-farm improvement?

Yes, completing this project is expected to reduce our electricity consumption by an estimated 725,121 kilowatt hours (kwh) per year which will save the company approximately \$34,262 per year. This will allow Monteview to reduce shareholder assessments accordingly which will help make any additional on-farm improvements more affordable.

Will the proposed WaterSMART project complement the on-farm project by maximizing efficiency in the area? If so, how?

N/A

Describe the on-farm water conservation or water use efficiency benefits that are expected to result from any on-farm work.

N/A

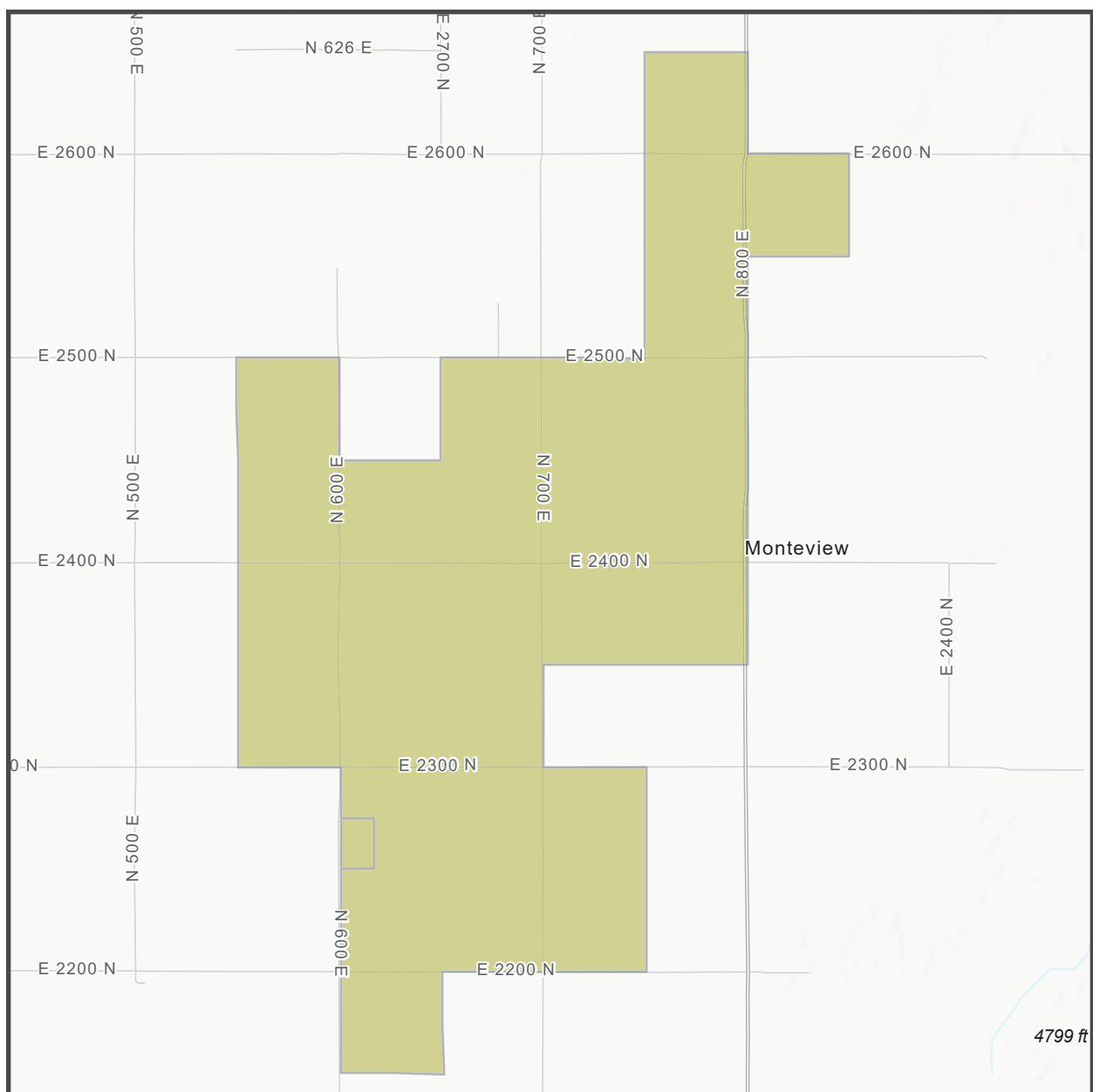
Estimate the potential on-farm water savings that could result in acre-feet per year. Include support or backup documentation for any calculations or assumptions.

According to the Idaho Department of Water Resources, typical consumptive irrigation requirements for alfalfa (peak, no cutting) near Howe, Idaho, is 3.3 acre-feet per year. The current application rate required for alfalfa using flood irrigation is increased by 50%, and the application efficiency of center pivot irrigation systems is 85%.³⁷ If an additional 10% of the 4,455 acres in the Monteview service area is converted to center pivot irrigation systems, the potential on-farm water savings is estimated to be 103.32 acre-feet per year. These calculations are summarized in **Appendix A. Supporting Documentation.**

Please provide a map of your water service area boundaries.

The Monteview service area is shown in **Figure 6.**

Figure 6. Montevue Service Area



Source: Idaho Department of Water Resources, Water Right Locator, 2024.

Criterion F. Readiness to Proceed

If selected, Montevieu is prepared to proceed as soon as funding is awarded. The current implementation plan for the major tasks and milestones is as follows:

Task 1: Finalize Financial Assistance Agreement

Montevieu will meet with Reclamation to finalize the financial assistance agreement.

Timeline: This is expected to take place by May 2025 and should be completed by November 2025.

Deliverables: The signed financial assistance agreement.

Task 2: Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

Montevieu has contacted local Reclamation staff to discuss estimated costs and timeline for completing all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. According to these conversations, an environmental assessment will likely be required due to the length of the canal and its location. Additionally, a cultural resource survey may also be required due to the age of the system and will be completed either prior to or in conjunction with the environmental assessment. Montevieu will work with local Reclamation staff to ensure all environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements are completed in a timely manner before beginning any ground disturbing activities.

Timeline: This is expected to begin by June 2025 and should be completed by November 2025.

Deliverables: A completed environmental assessment with a finding of no significant impact, and the revised right-of-way easement.

Task 3: Easement Acquisition

The majority of the project is located on property owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the agency will likely require an environmental assessment to be completed in order to revise the existing right-of-way easement. Montevieu expects to complete the environmental assessment with the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency, and the Bureau of Land Management as the cooperating agency.

Timeline: This is expected to begin by June 2025 and should be completed by November 2025.

Deliverables: The revised right-of-way easement.

Task 4: Project Management, Administration, and Reporting

Montevieu has a team in place to complete all project management, grant administration, and reporting tasks. This includes ongoing communication and coordination, invoicing, and payment processing as well as budget and schedule reviews.

Timeline: This task is ongoing until project completion.

Deliverables: All invoices, payments, and related deliverables will be processed on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. A SF-425 Federal Financial Report form will be submitted on a semi-annual basis, interim performance reports will be submitted at least twice a year, and the final performance report and Federal Financial Report will be submitted upon completion.

Task 5: Thirty-Percent Design

The 30% design will define the major design elements needed to refine the scope, schedule, and budget.

Timeline: Preparation of the 30% design is currently in progress and is expected to be completed by November 2024.

Deliverables: The 30% design package.

Task 6: Topographic Survey

A survey of the project area will be completed in order to refine the design of the proposed project and advance it to the final design stage.

Timeline: This is expected to begin by December 2024 and should be completed by February 2025.

Deliverables: Completed survey data.

Task 7: Sixty-Percent Design

The project design will be refined to reflect all survey data. This task also includes preparing detailed cost estimates and impacts calculations as well as preparing refined plan, profile, section, and detail drawings with the level of detail needed to obtain all required permits and approvals.

Timeline: This is expected to begin by March 2025 and should be completed by May 2025.

Deliverables: The 60% design package.

Task 8: Permitting

A Construction General Permit (CGP) for Discharge Activities will be required from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and Montevue expects to begin the permitting process upon completion of the 60% design package.

Timeline: This is expected to be submitted to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for review by June 2025, and this permit is expected to be obtained by November 2025.

Deliverables: All required permits and approvals.

Task 9: Ninety-Percent Design

The 90% design package will reflect any updated data and any changes needed as a result of comments and feedback received from permitting agencies or during the NEPA process.

Timeline: This is expected to begin by December 2025 and should be completed by February 2026.

Deliverables: The 90% design package.

Task 10: Final Design

The final design package will include the bid-ready specifications, all required permits and approvals, and any other documents required to bid the project for construction.

Timeline: Work on the final design package is expected to begin by March 2026. The final design documents, including budget, schedule, and permits, are expected to be completed by May 2026.

Deliverables: The final design drawings and all related documents.

Task 11: Construction Contracting and Bidding

Monteview plans to have bid documents prepared upon completion of the final design in order to complete the bid process and start construction at the end of the 2026 irrigation season.

Timeline: Bid solicitation is planned to begin by June 2026 with the selection process completed by August 2026. Notice to Proceed is expected to be issued by the end of September.

Deliverables: Abstract of bids received and successful bid proposal.

Task 12: Construction and Installation

Construction work will include mobilization, site preparation, excavation and earthwork, and all other activities required to install the canal liner.

Timeline: Construction is expected to begin by October 2026 and should be completed by April 2027 with start-up testing and verification completed prior to the start of the 2027 irrigation season. As-built drawings are expected to be completed by June 2027.

Deliverables: Construction progress pay estimates, start-up testing and verification, notice of completion, and as-built drawings.

Describe any permits that will be required and the process for obtaining such permits.

A Construction General Permit (CGP) for Discharge Activities will be required from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The selected engineer will apply for this permit upon completion of the 60% design package.

Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project.

The conceptual design has been completed, and these drawings are included as **Appendix B. Conceptual Plans**. The 30% design is currently underway and is expected to be completed by the end of November 2024.

Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the project.

No new policies or administrative actions are required to implement the project.

Describe the current design status of the project. If additional design work is required prior to construction, describe the planned process and timeline for completing the design work.

As shown in **Table 4**, the planned process and timeline for completing the design is as follows:

- The survey is scheduled to begin by December 2024 and is expected to be completed by February 2025.
- The 60% design package is expected to be completed by May 2025.
- The 90% design is expected to be completed by February 2026.
- The final design is expected to be completed by May 2026.

Please also include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates.

An estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and completion dates, is included as **Table 4**. This schedule reflects discussions with local Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management offices regarding the expected timeline for environmental and cultural compliance.

Table 4. Estimated Project Schedule

Tasks and Milestones	Start	End
Milestone #1: Funding, Environmental Compliance, and Easement Acquisition		
Financial Assistance Agreement	May 2025	November 2025
Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance	June 2025	November 2025
Easement Acquisition	June 2025	November 2025
Milestone #2: Planning and Design		
30% Design	September 2024	November 2024
Survey	December 2024	February 2025
60% Design	March 2025	May 2025
Permitting	June 2025	November 2025
90% Design	December 2025	February 2026
Final Design	March 2026	May 2026
Milestone #3: Construction		
Construction Contracting and Bidding	June 2026	August 2026
Notice to Proceed	September 2026	September 2026
Mobilization	October 2026	November 2026
Earthwork	November 2026	January 2027
Construction and Installation	February 2027	April 2027
Inspection	November 2026	April 2027
Record Drawings & Closeout	May 2027	June 2027

Criterion G. Collaboration

Is there widespread support for the project?

The Monteview Canal Company Board of Directors and its water users fully support this project. The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) also supports this project and recently selected this project for an Aging Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$2 million.

There is also broad support from municipal, commercial, recreational, and agricultural water users throughout all of Idaho for projects that conserve water. This is especially true for projects that conserve groundwater within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer region because the aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for the nearly 400,000 people living in southeastern and south central Idaho. This is in addition to the support for projects of this nature included in the 2009 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan, 2012 Idaho State Water Plan, 2001 Idaho Drought Plan, and 2023 State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan as well.

What is the significance of the collaboration or support?

The broad support for this water conservation project from the Monteview Canal Company Board of Directors and the Idaho Water Resource Board reflects just how important it is for the farmers who rely on Monteview for their water supply as well as other water users in the region.

The widespread support for projects that conserve groundwater within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer region is also fairly significant. This is because there is an urgent need for groundwater users in the region to conserve water in order to help reduce the long-term historical imbalance in aquifer inflows and outflows resulting from decades of back-to-back droughts and increased demand. Completing this project will help provide increased water supply sustainability for Monteview water users while also helping groundwater users in the region to collectively meet the targeted reductions in groundwater use.

Will this project increase the possibility or likelihood of future water conservation improvements by other water users?

Success of this grant application and this project will absolutely increase the likelihood of other canal companies deciding to implement similar water conveyance improvement projects in Idaho. This is especially true within the local community of agricultural water users. In fact, Monteview decided to implement this project because of the recent success of similar projects in the region. Additionally, completion of this project will encourage Monteview farmers to install more efficient irrigation systems and make these improvements more affordable.

Will the project benefit multiple sectors and users?

Yes, this project will benefit several sectors, such as municipal, industrial, environmental, recreational, and commercial water users, that rely on the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer or the Snake River for water. The proposed project will directly benefit the farmers who rely on Monteview for irrigation water because it will allow Monteview to be able to withdraw less water from the aquifer to irrigate the same acreage. This will improve the sustainability of agriculture in the Monteview service area.

The project will also indirectly benefit the wider community because the water conserved will remain in the aquifer which will increase the amount of water available to other groundwater users in the region. The following are just a few examples to illustrate the types of sectors and water users that rely on the aquifer and why it is so important to stabilize this indispensable water supply:

- About one-third of Idaho's population resides on the Eastern Snake Plain, and the aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for these cities and most rural residents in the region.³⁸
- Idaho has 3.3 million acres of irrigated land, and approximately three million acres are irrigated by the Snake River system.³⁹
- Springs discharging from the aquifer help sustain fish and wildlife habitat and provide important water quality benefits.⁴⁰
- As of 2006, approximately 21% of all goods and services within Idaho—at an estimated value of \$10 billion annually—are produced in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer region.⁴¹
- More than 10,000 km² of irrigated land is used to produce hay, wheat, barley, potatoes, and dairy products for global companies such as Anheuser-Busch, General Mills, and Clif Bar.⁴²
- The Snake River supports recreational trout fisheries worth \$100 million.⁴³

Please attach any relevant supporting documents.

Letters of support are included as **Appendix C**.

Criterion H. Nexus to Reclamation

Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or operations and maintenance (O&M) contract with Reclamation?

No, Montevue does not have a water service, repayment, or operations and maintenance (O&M) contract with Reclamation.

If the applicant is not a Reclamation contractor, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means?

No, Montevue does not receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means.

Will the proposed work benefit a Reclamation project area or activity?

Yes, the proposed project will benefit Reclamation's Upper Snake River Basin area water supplies. By reducing groundwater withdrawals by 3,883 acre-feet per year, this project will increase stream flows via groundwater return flows which will help Reclamation meet minimum stream flows and flow augmentation requirements.

Is the applicant a Tribe?

No, the applicant is not a Tribe.

Performance Measures

Monteview Canal Company will use the following procedures to quantify the actual benefits of the proposed project. The actual canal loss seepage reductions will be verified by comparing pre-project and post-project diversion rates. This testing will be performed by measuring the flow rate at the weir located at the end of the well field in order to account for flows from all of the wells. The reduced post-project diversion rate will reflect the canal loss seepage reductions because less water will need to be pumped while still being able to deliver the same volume of water to the farms. The canal loss seepage reductions can be verified by the resulting reduction in energy use due to reduced pumping.

Endnotes

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- 7 State of Idaho. Idaho Department of Water Resources. “Settlement agreement entered into June 30, 2015 between participating members of the Surface Water Coalition and participating members of the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc.” Accessed October 1, 2024. <https://idwr.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/legal/swan-falls-settlement/20150630-Settlement-Agreement.pdf>.
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- 10 Water Footprint Calculator. “Why All Farms Don’t Use Drip Irrigation.” April 28, 2022. <https://www.watercalculator.org/footprint/farmers-use-drip-irrigation/>.
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Section II: Additional Application Information

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)?

The proposed project will be constructed within the existing canal alignment and involves minimal ground disturbances, construction, or increases to human activity that would potentially impact the surrounding environment. All impacts resulting from construction are expected to be temporary and are not expected to have a significant impact on air quality, climate, water quality, or other environmental resources.

Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area.

The existing canal alignment will be graded, backfilled, and compacted to meet grade requirements of final design prior to installing the liner.

Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.

Soil will be disturbed within the grading limits shown in the conceptual design drawings (**Appendix B. Conceptual Plans**). The construction contractor will be responsible for managing temporary impacts to the surrounding environment through the use of best management practices, and all applicable environmental compliance measures will be followed to ensure the environment and animal life are not improperly disturbed. This includes following a temporary erosion and sedimentation control (TESC) plan, a site-specific fugitive dust control plan, a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP), a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures (SPCC) plan, or any other prevention plans required. If necessary, all disturbed areas can be revegetated with native species, as applicable, to restabilize the soil in these areas, reduce erosion, and help to prevent sediment and pollutants from entering into nearby surface waters.

Air Quality

The proposed project would not have a significant adverse impact on air quality, affect Jefferson County's attainment status, or violate any air quality standards. While construction of the proposed project would temporarily result in a very minimal increase in criteria air pollutants, the short-term increase in emissions would be normal for construction activities.

Best management practices can be used to reduce emissions, minimize the potential for fugitive dust, and prevent erosion as a result of construction activities. This includes limiting of unnecessary equipment idling, requiring vehicles and equipment to be kept in good working order, and, when possible, recycling of construction materials associated with the project.

Water Quality and Quantity

The proposed project is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on water quality or quantity; cause a substantial alteration of existing drainage patterns that would result in flooding or erosion; cause water quality standards established by federal, state, local, or tribal regulatory agencies to be exceeded; contaminate the public drinking water supply; or conflict with or interfere with the implementation of a water quality control plan or groundwater management plan. While wetlands and Waters of the United States are potentially present within or near the project boundaries, any impacts to these water resources would be temporary and considered normal for construction activities.

Animal Habitat

The proposed project is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on animal habitat. While construction of the proposed project could potentially disturb habitat areas and other biological resources in the project area, any impacts would be temporary and considered normal for construction activities.

Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?

No threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat, is expected to be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation online system, the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is a candidate species that may potentially be present in the project area. There are no critical habitats in the project area.

Additionally, Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) is a migratory bird of conservation concern (BCC) that may potentially be present within the project area during the month of June. However, no construction activities are expected to take place at this time.

Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States"? If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation online system, the following aquatic habitats are located in or near the project area:

- 51.1-acre riverine system classified as R4SBCx.
- 0.048-acre riverine system classified as R5UBFx.

A jurisdictional determination has not been completed for the project area. However, the proposed project is expected to be nonjurisdictional because it involves constructing improvements to a canal that was constructed separately from the natural drainages in the area.

When was the water delivery system constructed?

The canal was constructed in stages and was completed by 1950.

Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.

Yes, the proposed project involves installing a liner along a 10-mile section of an open trench canal that was constructed in 1950. Several sections of the canal have previously been lined with bentonite or a high performance resin material. Several sections of the canal have been previously replaced with pipeline or eliminated to increase efficiency and reduce system losses.

Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?

No, according to the National Register of Historic Places mapping database provided by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, there are no known buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?

No, according to the National Register of Historic Places mapping database provided by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, there are no known archeological sites located in the proposed project area.

Will the proposed project have a disproportionate and adverse effect on any communities with environmental justice concerns?

No, the proposed project will not have an adverse and disproportionate effect on communities with environmental justice concerns.

Will the proposed project limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on Tribal lands?

No, the proposed project will not limit access to, or ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands.

Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?

No, the proposed project is not expected to contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area. This project includes lining the canal which will eliminate a water source for potential weeds and is therefore anticipated to reduce the incidence of weeds and invasive species.

Required Permits or Approvals

The following permits or approvals are expected to be required for this project:

Environmental Assessment

Montevieu has been in contact with local Reclamation staff to discuss National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, and the project is expected to require an environmental assessment. Montevieu will work with local Reclamation staff to ensure all environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements are completed in a timely manner before beginning any ground disturbing activities. A cultural resource survey of the project area may also be required. If needed, this will be completed either prior to or in conjunction with the environmental assessment.

Right-of-Way Easement

The majority of the project is located on property owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the agency will likely require an environmental assessment to be completed in order to revise the existing right-of-way easement. Montevieu expects to complete the environmental assessment with the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency, and the Bureau of Land Management as the cooperating agency.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Montevieu Canal Company does not have any projects that overlap with the proposed project or any other active or anticipated proposal or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel. This proposal does not in any way duplicate any proposal or project that has been or will be submitted for funding consideration to any other potential funding source.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

Montevieu Canal Company does not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest at the time of submission. Additionally, Montevieu Canal Company will take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest and will establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. This includes in the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services. Montevieu Canal Company will notify the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that arise during the life of the award. This includes any that have been reported by sub-recipients.

Uniform Audit Reporting

Monteview Canal Company has not received \$750,000 or more in Federal award funds during a fiscal year and was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Monteview Canal Company does not retain a federal lobbyist. It has not made or agreed to make payment to any lobbying entity for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action. No funds received under this grant will be used for lobbying activities.

Letters of Support

Letters of support are included in **Appendix C. Letters of Support**.

Official Resolution

An official resolution is included in **Appendix D. Official Resolution**.

Letters of Funding Commitment

A letter of funding commitment from the Idaho Water Resource Board is included in **Appendix E. Letter of Funding Commitment**.

Unique Entity Identifier

Monteview Canal Company is currently registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) and will maintain this active SAM registration with current information for the entire duration of the project. Monteview Canal Company's Unique Entity Identifier in SAM is J8UWA75BHFN5.

13 November 2024

United States Bureau of Reclamation
WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant
Letter of Support for Montevieu Canal Company's application

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

We are writing in support of the application submitted by the Montevieu Canal Company for its Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization and Conservation Project. This canal lining project is critical to our area because of the substantial water savings. The project will reduce the amount of water lost annually to seepage by at least 3,883 acre-feet per year and allow the conserved water to remain in the Eastern Snake River Aquifer.

Montevieu Canal Company has been extremely proactive in seeking ways to improve their efficiency. Most of the farms in its service area have completed EQIP-funded efficiency upgrades. We have collaborated with these producers to implement practices that add valuable water saving, such as: installing pivots on flood irrigated ground, piping open channels, and end gun removal. Additionally, we have just begun working with the Montevieu Canal Company to apply for EQIP funds to install flow meters, VFDs, and automated headgates. These two projects will complement each other to maximize water and energy saving per dollar spent.

The NRCS Rigby Field Office supports this project and any endeavor that puts conservation on the ground. Please consider this project to be a priority.

Regards,

JESSICA ECK  Digitally signed by JESSICA ECK
Date: 2024.11.12 09:09:56 -07'00'

Jessica Eck
Resource Conservationist
USDA NRCS
Rigby Field Office
210 S 5th West
Rigby, ID 83442



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

November 13, 2024

Brad Little
Governor

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant

Jeff Raybould
Chairman
St. Anthony
At Large

RE: Letter of Support for Montevieu Canal Company's WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program application.

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
Vice Chair
Lewiston
At Large

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Review:

Dean Stevenson
Secretary
Paul
District 3

I am writing regarding the Montevieu Canal Company's proposal to the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program. The Montevieu Canal Company is based in an area of the state where the productive farm ground is not co-located with a reliable water source. The canal company has ample ground water rights to irrigate their 4050 acres but much of their water is lost to seepage during the well to farm conveyance of up to 10 miles. Through this canal lining project, the Montevieu Canal Company will be able to significantly reduce their pumping requirement and will abate the diversion of almost 4,000 acre-feet of water from the Eastern Snake River Aquifer (ESPA) each year.

Dale Van Stone
Hope
District 1

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) is charged with the formulation and implementation of a state water plan, financing of water projects, and the operation of programs that support sustainable management of Idaho's water resources on behalf of the State of Idaho. This includes managing the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) in an effort to recover and stabilize the aquifer. The ESPA, which covers approximately 10,800 square miles of Idaho, is a key element of southern Idaho's economy. A sustainable water supply is an essential element to the region's economy. However, the ESPA has been steadily declining for several decades. The goal of the CAMP is to sustain the economic viability, as well as the social and environmental health, of the Eastern Snake Plain through actively managing the water resources.

Albert Barker
Boise
District 2

Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
At Large

Montevieu Canal Company's Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization and Conservation Project will assist the IWRB in meeting the overall goals of the CAMP; to improve aquifer levels, increase gains in some river reaches, and assist in providing a sustainable water supply in a critical region. Because of the benefits this project will provide, the Board wishes to offer its support of the grant application filed by the Montevieu Canal Company.

Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

Sincerely,

Brian Patton
Idaho Water Resource Board
Executive Manager

Idaho Ground Water Appropriators

1070 River Walk Drive, Suite 263

Idaho Falls, ID 83402

August 1, 2024

Monteview Canal Company

648 E 2600 N

Monteview, ID 83435

RE: Facility Improvement Project

The Idaho Ground Water Appropriators (IGWA) represents nine groundwater districts between Thousand Springs and Ashton, Idaho. These groundwater pumpers irrigate approximately one million acres using the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) as their water source.

IGWA is pleased to write in support of the Monteview Canal Company's request for funding for infrastructure upgrades that will improve water delivery capabilities.

Monteview Canal Company has been providing water to farmers and ranchers in the Monteview area for many years. The replacement of aging infrastructure will enable the company to continue to provide the reliable delivery of irrigation water for agricultural use in the area.

IGWA recognizes the importance of this project as the Monteview Canal provides a vital service for agricultural producers and water users in the region.

IGWA strongly supports your grant application.

Sincerely,



Robert Turner

Executive Director

Idaho Ground Water Appropriators

208-520-7632



July 19, 2024

To Whom it may Concern,

Jefferson SWCD is concerned with the finite resource water is in Jefferson County, and so would like to share support for the Montevieu Canal Project. We do so in view that this project is implementing many water conservation strategies.

Canal lining, in other geomembrane projects in Jefferson County, has shown to be superbly effective in preventing excessive water loss from our sand and gravel soils. Installing VFDs, flow meters, and automated headgates allows timely and quick responses to the changing needs of irrigated fields. We see this in the strategic use of these devices in other canals in our county.

One canal company implementing such features allow our finite resource to work harder and go farther amongst neighboring farms. Please consider this canal project as one step forward to keep Idaho's agriculture community thriving and contributing.

Sincerely,

Patrick Henderson chairman

Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District Board Chair

13 November 2024

United States Bureau of Reclamation
WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant
Letter of Support for Montevieu Canal Company's application

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

We are writing in support of the application submitted by the Montevieu Canal Company for its Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization and Conservation Project. This canal lining project is critical to our area because of the substantial water savings. The project will reduce the amount of water lost annually to seepage by at least 3,883 acre-feet per year and allow the conserved water to remain in the Eastern Snake River Aquifer.

Montevieu Canal Company has been extremely proactive in seeking ways to improve their efficiency. Most of the farms in its service area have completed EQIP-funded efficiency upgrades. We have collaborated with these producers to implement practices that add valuable water saving, such as: installing pivots on flood irrigated ground, piping open channels, and end gun removal. Additionally, we have just begun working with the Montevieu Canal Company to apply for EQIP funds to install flow meters, VFDs, and automated headgates. These two projects will complement each other to maximize water and energy saving per dollar spent.

The NRCS Rigby Field Office supports this project and any endeavor that puts conservation on the ground. Please consider this project to be a priority.

Regards,

JESSICA ECK  Digitally signed by JESSICA ECK
Date: 2024.11.12 09:09:56 -07'00'

Jessica Eck
Resource Conservationist
USDA NRCS
Rigby Field Office
210 S 5th West
Rigby, ID 83442

Jefferson Clark Ground Water District

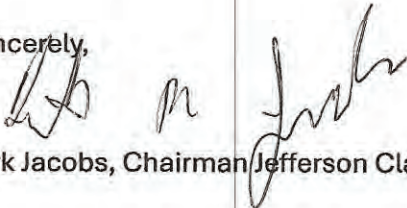
PO Box 118

Terreton, ID 83450

July 28, 2024

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Jefferson Clark Ground Water District (JCGWD) Board of Directors. We wish to express our support of the canal lining project being pursued by the Montevue Canal Company. Projects like these are important for maintaining future availability of water by supporting the continued pursuit of ever important efficiency. This project will make a dramatic difference in the pumping costs of the canal company as well as ease maintenance and distribution for its shareholders. Becoming more efficient is a necessity and will have long lasting benefits to both canal company users but also members across the District by putting less strain on the aquifer. We appreciate you considering this Grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Jacobs', written over the printed name.

Kirk Jacobs, Chairman Jefferson Clark Ground Water District

November 13 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant

RE: Letter of Support for Montevue Canal Company's WaterSMART Water and Energy
Efficiency Grant Program application

Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

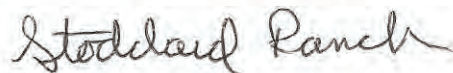
I am writing in support of the application submitted by the Montevue Canal Company for its Water Sustainability and Efficiency Improvement Project in Jefferson County, Idaho.

This project is vital in helping me and my fellow farmers on the Eastern Snake River Plain reduce groundwater pumping during the growing season. The project is expected to result in water savings of 3,883 acre-feet per year which is currently lost to evaporation and seepage. The conserved water will remain in groundwater storage and help alleviate groundwater overdraft. This will assist all groundwater users in achieving the necessary groundwater use reductions required by the 2015 Surface Water Agreement and help us all meet Idaho's aquifer stabilization goals.

This project will allow me to conserve water and farm more sustainably so I can provide the most economic benefit to Idaho and the local community without wasting our limited water supplies. However, without this project, I would be forced to grow lower value crops or leave some additional land fallow so I can meet required cutbacks.

I believe this project will help reduce the impact of Idaho's ongoing drought conditions and work to ensure long-term water stability of the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer. I appreciate the time and effort of the Idaho Water Resource Board in considering this application and look forward to working with the Board on preserving and protecting our water supplies for our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russ Stoddard".A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stoddard Ranch".

November 13 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant

RE: Letter of Support for Montevieu Canal Company's WaterSMART Water and
Energy Efficiency Grant Program application

Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

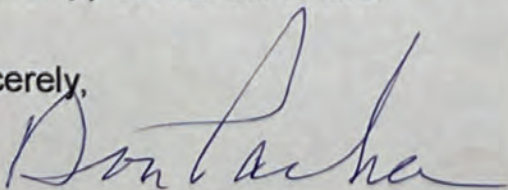
I am writing in support of the application submitted by the Montevieu Canal Company for its Water Sustainability and Efficiency Improvement Project in Jefferson County, Idaho.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Parker", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Don Parker, Montevieu Canal Company

November 13 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant

RE: Letter of Support for Montevieu Canal Company's WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program application

Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

I am writing in support of the application submitted by the Montevieu Canal Company for its Water Sustainability and Efficiency Improvement Project in Jefferson County, Idaho.

This project is vital in helping me and my fellow farmers on the Eastern Snake River Plain reduce groundwater pumping during the growing season. The project is expected to result in water savings of 3,883 acre-feet per year which is currently lost to evaporation and seepage. The conserved water will remain in groundwater storage and help alleviate groundwater overdraft. This will assist all groundwater users in achieving the necessary groundwater use reductions required by the 2015 Surface Water Agreement and help us all meet Idaho's aquifer stabilization goals.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Blythe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

July 29, 2024

Idaho Water Resource Board
322 East Front Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

RE: Montevue Canal Company Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization Project

Dear Idaho Water Resource Board,

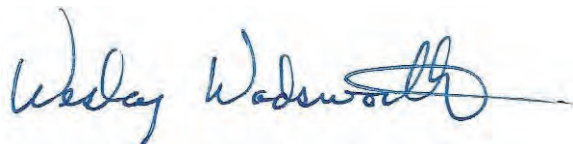
I am writing in support of the Aging Infrastructure Grant application submitted by the Montevue Canal Company for its Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization Project in Jefferson County, Idaho.

This project is vital in helping me and my fellow farmers on the Eastern Snake River Plain reduce groundwater pumping during the growing season. The project is expected to result in water savings of 3,883 acre-feet per year which is currently lost to evaporation and seepage. The conserved water will remain in groundwater storage and help alleviate groundwater overdraft. This will assist all groundwater users in achieving the necessary groundwater use reductions required by the 2015 Surface Water Agreement and help us all meet Idaho's aquifer stabilization goals.

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I believe this project will help reduce the impact of Idaho's ongoing drought conditions and work to ensure long-term water stability of the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer. I appreciate the time and effort of the Idaho Water Resource Board in considering this application and look forward to working with the Board on preserving and protecting our water supplies for our future.

Sincerely,



Wesley Wadsworth
649 E 2300 N
Montevue, ID 83435

July 26, 2024

Idaho Water Resource Board
322 East Front Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

RE: Montevue Canal Company Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization Project

Dear Idaho Water Resource Board,

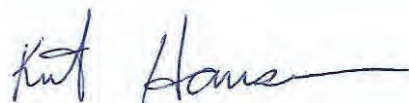
I am writing in support of the Aging Infrastructure Grant application submitted by the Montevue Canal Company for its Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization Project in Jefferson County, Idaho.

This project is vital in helping me and my fellow farmers on the Eastern Snake River Plain reduce groundwater pumping during the growing season. The project is expected to result in water savings of 3,883 acre-feet per year which is currently lost to evaporation and seepage. The conserved water will remain in groundwater storage and help alleviate groundwater overdraft. This will assist all groundwater users in achieving the necessary groundwater use reductions required by the 2015 Surface Water Agreement and help us all meet Idaho's aquifer stabilization goals.

This project will allow me to conserve water and farm more sustainably so I can provide the most economic benefit to Idaho and the local community without wasting our limited water supplies. However, without this project, I would be forced to grow lower value crops or leave some additional land fallow so I can meet required cutbacks.

I believe this project will help reduce the impact of Idaho's ongoing drought conditions and work to ensure long-term water stability of the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer. I appreciate the time and effort of the Idaho Water Resource Board in considering this application and look forward to working with the Board on preserving and protecting our water supplies for our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirt Hansen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirt Hansen
Kirt Hansen Farms Inc.

July 24, 2024

Idaho Water Resource Board
322 East Front Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

RE: Montevue Canal Company Water Sustainability and
Efficiency Improvement Project

Dear Idaho Water Resource Board,

I am writing in support of the Aging Infrastructure Grant application being submitted by the Montevue Canal Company for its Water Sustainability and Efficiency Improvement Project. This project is important because it will allow Montevue to make improvements that will help reduce groundwater use. This project is important because it will help to provide long-term water sustainability, drought resiliency, and economic stability for our farm and the local community.

This project is essential to the success of our operations because it will allow us to use groundwater more efficiently so we can continue to grow the crops so many Idahoans rely on. As you know, Montevue estimates that approximately 3,883 acre-feet is lost to seepage each growing season. This is a significant amount of water that will then be allowed to remain as groundwater so it can benefit other groundwater users.

The funding provided by the Aging Infrastructure Grant program will make it financially feasible to complete this project. A project that is also essential in preventing groundwater overdraft and in helping all groundwater users meet the reductions required by the Surface Water Coalition Mitigation Plan. I request that the Idaho Water Resource Board approve this important grant proposal.

Sincerely,



July 26, 2024

Idaho Water Resource Board
322 East Front Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

RE: Montevue Canal Company Water Sustainability and
Efficiency Improvement Project

Dear Idaho Water Resource Board,

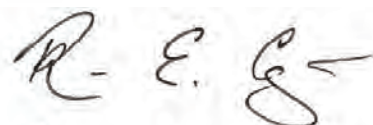
I am writing in support of the Aging Infrastructure Grant application submitted by the Montevue Canal Company for its Water Sustainability and Efficiency Improvement Project in Jefferson County, Idaho.

This project is vital in helping me and my fellow farmers on the Eastern Snake River Plain reduce groundwater pumping during the growing season. The project is expected to result in water savings of 3,883 acre-feet per year which is currently lost to evaporation and seepage. The conserved water will remain in groundwater storage and help alleviate groundwater overdraft. This will assist all groundwater users in achieving the necessary groundwater use reductions required by the 2015 Surface Water Agreement and help us all meet Idaho's aquifer stabilization goals.

This project will allow me to conserve water and farm more sustainably so I can provide the most economic benefit to Idaho and the local community without wasting our limited water supplies. However, without this project, I would be forced to grow lower value crops or leave some additional land fallow so I can meet required cutbacks.

I believe this project will help reduce the impact of Idaho's ongoing drought conditions and work to ensure long-term water stability of the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer. I appreciate the time and effort of the Idaho Water Resource Board in considering this application and look forward to working with the Board on preserving and protecting our water supplies for our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. G." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cope Land & Livestock, LLC

July 29, 2024

Idaho Water Resource Board
322 East Front Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

RE: Montevue Canal Company Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization Project

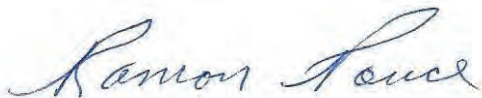
Dear Idaho Water Resource Board,

I am writing in support of the Aging Infrastructure Grant application being submitted by the Montevue Canal Company for its Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization Project. This project is important because it will allow Montevue to make improvements that will help reduce groundwater use. This project is important because it will help to provide long-term water sustainability, drought resiliency, and economic stability for our farm and the local community.

This project is essential to the success of our operations because it will allow us to use groundwater more efficiently so we can continue to grow the crops so many Idahoans rely on. As you know, Montevue estimates that approximately 3,883 acre-feet is lost to seepage each growing season. This is a significant amount of water that will then be allowed to remain as groundwater so it can benefit other groundwater users.

The funding provided by the Aging Infrastructure Grant program will make it financially feasible to complete this project. A project that is also essential in preventing groundwater overdraft and in helping all groundwater users meet the reductions required by the Surface Water Coalition Mitigation Plan. I request that the Idaho Water Resource Board approve this important grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ramon Ponce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ramon" and last name "Ponce" clearly distinguishable.

Ramon Ponce
2483 N. 800 E.
Montevue, Idaho 83435

July 24, 2024

Idaho Water Resource Board
322 East Front Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

RE: Montevue Canal Company Water Sustainability and Efficiency Improvement Project

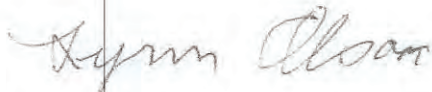
Dear Idaho Water Resource Board,

I am writing in support of the Aging Infrastructure Grant application being submitted by the Montevue Canal Company for its Water Sustainability and Efficiency Improvement Project. This project is important because it will allow Montevue to make improvements that will help reduce groundwater use. This project is important because it will help to provide long-term water sustainability, drought resiliency, and economic stability for our farm and the local community.

This project is essential to the success of our operations because it will allow us to use groundwater more efficiently so we can continue to grow the crops so many Idahoans rely on. As you know, Montevue estimates that approximately 3,883 acre-feet is lost to seepage each growing season. This is a significant amount of water that will then be allowed to remain as groundwater so it can benefit other groundwater users.

The funding provided by the Aging Infrastructure Grant program will make it financially feasible to complete this project. A project that is also essential in preventing groundwater overdraft and in helping all groundwater users meet the reductions required by the Surface Water Coalition Mitigation Plan. I request that the Idaho Water Resource Board approve this important grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynn Olson".

November 09, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant

RE: Letter of Support for Montevieu Canal Company's WaterSMART Water and Energy
Efficiency Grant Program application

Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

I am writing in support of the application submitted by the Montevieu Canal Company for its Water Sustainability and Efficiency Improvement Project in Jefferson County, Idaho.

This project is vital in helping me and my fellow farmers on the Eastern Snake River Plain reduce groundwater pumping during the growing season. The project is expected to result in water savings of 3,883 acre-feet per year which is currently lost to evaporation and seepage. The conserved water will remain in groundwater storage and help alleviate groundwater overdraft. This will assist all groundwater users in achieving the necessary groundwater use reductions required by the 2015 Surface Water Agreement and help us all meet Idaho's aquifer stabilization goals.

This project will allow me to conserve water and farm more sustainably so I can provide the most economic benefit to Idaho and the local community without wasting our limited water supplies. However, without this project, I would be forced to grow lower value crops that require less water or leave some additional land fallow so I can meet required cutbacks.

I believe this project will help reduce the impact of Idaho's ongoing drought conditions and work to ensure long-term water stability of the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer. I appreciate the time and effort of the Idaho Water Resource Board in considering this application and look forward to working with the Board on preserving and protecting our water supplies for our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blake Skidmore', written in a cursive style.

Blake Skidmore
BGS Farms, LLC

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
MONTEVIEW CANAL COMPANY**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR THE WATERSMART GRANTS:
WATER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 UNDER FUNDING
OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. R24AS00052

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation has announced the WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2025 in order to provide financial assistance to support projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits and has requested proposals from eligible entities to be included in the WaterSMART program; and

WHEREAS, Monteviu Canal Company has formulated a water conservation project that will result in quantifiable and sustained water savings as well as improved water management; and

WHEREAS, Monteviu Canal Company recognizes these improvements will allow for a more efficient use of limited groundwater supplies by reducing water conveyance losses which will result in quantifiable energy savings; and

WHEREAS, Monteviu Canal Company has prepared a grant proposal for a project to line the open canal referred to as the Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization and Conservation Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGREES AND AUTHORIZES THAT:

1. The Board President, Michael Cope, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Reclamation on behalf of the Monteviu Canal Company;
2. The Board has reviewed and supports the application submitted;
3. Monteviu Canal Company will work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement.

Nov 5, 2024
Date


Michael Cope