

capacity to assimilate nutrients. This has led to the formation of large algae mats and excessive macrophyte growth in and near the impounds created by the hydro facilities.

Currently the condition of the river is poor and because of the condition it offers limited recreational opportunities and has negatively impacted fish and wildlife in the river and its corridor.

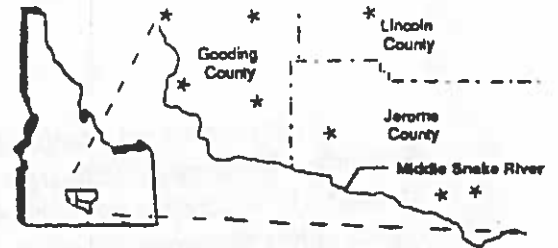
The local governments represented by this Commission also represent thousands of rate payers in the region. Because of this, we are interested in making sure that demands on Idaho Power for mitigation are both necessary and affordable. Agriculture makes up nearly 70% of our regions economy and it is highly dependent on an affordable and adequate supply of electrical power.

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission request intervention in this proceedings.

MIDDLE SNAKE REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION

Roxi Reed, Executive Director
208-934-5983
1703 South 2200 East
Gooding, Idaho 83330



*sent to all
6 counties*

Chairman
Bob Muffley

Vice Chairman
Fred Brossy

Committee
Dan Suhr
Rick Thompson
Veronica Lierman
Mack Neibaur

May 10, 1996

Minidoka County Commissioners
P.O. Box 454
Rupert, Idaho 83350

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter from the commission to give you some background and our input on a possible lease or purchase of Bell Rapids water by the Bureau of Reclamation.

You are aware that the Bureau is mandated to lease or purchase four hundred twenty-seven thousand (427,000) acre feet of water from the Upper Snake River to be used as flushing flows for Salmon Smolt returning to the ocean. The Bureau is currently considering a lot of possible sources and one of them is the Bell Rapids Project. The Bureau is doing an assessment of Bell Rapids at this time and part of that assessment is an analysis of the economic impact of taking the land out of irrigated agriculture and returning it to dry grazing. The Bureau asked the University of Idaho to provide the analysis, which they did, using our regional economic model. The model indicates that taking the land out of production would have an impact on the region of about twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000). It would also impact property taxes in Twin Falls County by around two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) and reduce the labor force by forty-five (45) people. The laborers reside in both Twin Falls and Gooding Counties.

My commission members discussed the situation at length and finally decided to relay the facts of the situation to our county commissioners, but take no action as a commission at this time. Some members believe that the farm operations in the Bell Rapids area are marginal at best because of the cost of pumping the water from the Snake River. Deregulation of the electrical power industry may push these costs even higher, the high cost of power is dramatically apparent when comparing sales prices of farms in the project area with sales of land irrigated by other means in South Central Idaho.

Policy statement number three under the water quality portion of the Coordinated Water Resource Management Plan state "Mitigation of any negative impact on the residents of each county". Few people realize, however, that Federal law does not recognize economic impact on a region unless that impact exceeds one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000). This situation clearly does not. If the Bureau leases or purchases other water from within the region, however, we could have a cumulative impact which would exceed the federal minimum.

An interesting side issue is that downstream water uses in Oregon and Washington can, through their state water laws, file on the water being sent downstream by the Bureau from our region. Idaho's economic loss is, therefore, an economic gain to the neighboring states. This may raise an interesting question as to who should mitigate damages to Idaho. The governor and legislature will need to deal with this situation.

This commission seeks the following advice from it's member county commissioners pertaining to this issue.

1. Should this commission try to seek mitigation of damages to our region's economy if the Bell Rapids Water is leased or purchased by the Bureau for instream use or should we wait to see if the total water pulled from our region exceeds the one hundred million dollar (\$100,000,000) limit established by Federal Law?
2. Should we start a dialogue with the governor and area legislators concerning the appropriation of Idaho water by downstream water users in Oregon and Washington?

Please let us know your feelings on this issue by sending a written reply or by calling me at my office 934-4781 or my home at 536-2358. Please forward your comments as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Bob J. Muffley
Chairman

BJM/rr

May 14, 1996

To: Bob Muffley
Project Team for Study/Implementation
Water Pollution Potential Activities in Mid-Snake
Region

From: Teddy Keeton
Grants Administrator
(208) 543-4690
FAX (208) 543-6781

Review of Joint Proposal and Coordinated Water Resource
Management Plan with objective of applications for funding.

"No natural resource has ever withstood the devastating effects of uncontrolled exploitation by man," and the mid-reach of the Snake River is no exception to this premise.

In many cases the destruction is not visible, and thereby creating an urgent need for conservation. To achieve this end on such a broad and complicated problem as pollution in the mid-Snake requires considerable effort by many individuals. The results may become evident only after many years of research, study and implementation; yet delay in implementing some measures may result in loss of the resource.

Needs Assessment

1. It is necessary to obtain the facts detailed and specific that deals with research conducted now, or in the past on the problem. An overview of the programs that are on-going, or those which have been concluded and the results, objectives met, individuals responsible for the study, etc.
2. Definition of the sole authority (group or body) that will undertake the task, vested with the power for investigation, and chosen for their dedication and expertise. Sometimes, it will be necessary to have collaboration upon the studies, and at other times sole entities can provide the desired results. Personally, I would like to see the Governor give the study group the power to investigate, formulate the overview, and present the results for adoption, modification, and implementation. Is this possible? What are the other alternatives. To achieve long-term status, the group needs a power-driven command.
3. Specific time-lines for each phase of the study and project. Who will be responsible for each area?
4. One designated fiscal officer to administer the payrolls, disbursements, and reports. These can be extensive and are

May 14, 1996

crucial for the maintenance of the grant, and for applying for continued funding.

Objectives

1. To utilize a core-group for oversight of all activities
2. Compile all known data on studies, etc.
3. Examine the relationship between pollution and current land-use activities.
4. Develop a method for ranking water pollutant contributing watersheds.
5. Identify ground water systems at risk.
6. Set standards for evaluation, and assessments for changes in land use, management or abandonment.
7. Work within a time-line with set objectives from each participating group, quantifiable outcomes expected
8. Media participation for volunteers, information, education and public awareness.

Methodology

1. Break the project into phases with the ultimate objective of implementation of the coordinated water resource management plan.
2. Establish office with full-time secretarial/computer support in Magic Valley or adjacent area.

Immediate concerns

1. Each group to submit a plan of what they expect to accomplish within a specified time line.
2. Each group submit known data from their entity on river pollution that is germane to the study.
3. Each group submit resume of principal participant for funding sources.
4. Each group consider how services and expertise can be shared to cut expenses.

Strategy

1. Establish a one-stop data center with a paid full-time employee, computer literate in supplying detailed information, graphics, etc.
2. FAX lines to all working partners in the study for shared information, paid for out of the grant funding.
3. Quarterly reviews and annual summation of objectives met; were the quantifiable goals realistic; and procedure for second-year program.

TO: MR. BOB MUFFLEY

FROM: TEDDY KEETON

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR MID-SNAKE RESEARCH & IMPLEMENTATION

Dear Mr. Muffley:

Per our recent telephone conversation I am sending you some of my thoughts on the above captioned subject.

I feel that with public opinion reflecting that the river has had too many studies we need to take a very positive and direct approach. (1) Get a letter of endorsement or a charge order from the Governor to put together a repository, and/or gather all known data, review it and then proceed to find the money to make the study.

(2) If I am to be involved I would like to know what each of the entities will study, their expectations, and their time line for performance or conclusion of that study.

(3) Further, as I mentioned to you earlier, this would be a project where no "up-front" retainer would be given to me to write the grant, research the funding, and submit the applications. My fees would be part of the funds specifically designated for the "Grant Administrator" which includes monitoring all activities written into the grant, preparing all federal and regional reports, monitoring all expenditures, payrolls, etc., and preparing all grant adjustments and/or changes needed to comply with federal rules and regulations. I am a certified grant administrator.

(4) If you decide to proceed and wish to meet with me, or want me to start on grant applications, I will need a letter from the group authorizing me to proceed.

Thank you,


(Mrs.) Teddy Keeton

FACSIMILE

Morgan Associates

ATTENTION:	Bob Muffley
COMPANY:	Muffley Insurance
FACSIMILE:	Randall Morgan
DATE:	May 15, 1996
PAGES:	5

Dear Bob:

Following is a preliminary outline for the program we have discussed. Please let me know of any changes you would like to make in order to have it ready for your meeting tonight.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Randall Morgan

4801 River Road • P.O. Box 101 • Buhl, Idaho 83316 • Tel/fax (208) 543-4799
The information contained in this facsimile transmission is privileged and/or confidential information intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this cover page is not the intended recipient, he/she is hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited by law. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return this facsimile to us at the above address. Thank you.

Recovery on the Snake

(working title)

Proposal outline for a 20-minute video program

Submitted to the Middle Snake River Study Group May 15, 1996

Purpose of this outline

This document is a preliminary outline of the major content, production, and cost elements of a twenty-minute video program on waste water management in the Middle Snake River Basin. The information presented here is of a general nature and does not include the detail that will be included in the complete proposal and program script.

Program Overview

Purpose of the video

The video uses a positive approach to convince major Middle Snake River Basin water users to protect water quality through better waste water management. Three key concepts in the program are: 1) water is a public resource and all water users have an obligation to use water responsibly, 2) progressive operators are clean operators, and 3) the Middle Snake will recover through the efforts of industry groups promoting good waste

2

water management practices among their members.

How the program will accomplish its purpose

The program will show industry leaders using good waste water management practices and promoting responsible waste water management in their industry groups. All major water user groups will be shown, but the program will emphasize irrigated agriculture, CAFOs, and aquaculture because these are the industries with the largest numbers of independent operators who are most likely to be motivated by the positive examples of their peers. The program will use beautiful scenic footage and music to remind viewers that the Middle Snake River is a unique resource of inestimable value to all who use it.

Technical specifications and formats

The program will be produced to broadcast specifications and will use standard television production equipment and techniques. Studio and location material will be video taped in the Betacam videotape format, the program master will use the digital D-2 broadcast format, and distribution copies will be made in the VHS format. The program will be narrated by a professional broadcast narrator, and all copyrighted music used will be licensed to the production.

3

~~The production company~~

In the past twenty-three years Morgan Associates Television and Film has produced over fifty major documentary films for a wide range of clients including The National Geographic Society, state and federal agencies, major universities, and major corporations. Morgan Associates has produced seven different programs on environmental issues, among them *Crisis on the Snake* and *Action on the Snake*, two programs examining water quality problems on the Middle Snake River.

Production time and cost

The following are estimates derived from schedules and budgets of similar projects. Precise time and cost figures will be included in the complete proposal.

Production time estimate 60 days

Production cost estimate

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Production fee for all design, research, writing,
and production management activities | \$8,500.00 |
| 2. Location taping: materials, equipment, personnel
(5 days @ \$1,100.00/day) | \$5,500.00 |
| 3. Travel (local production and editing) | \$500.00 |
| 4. Music licensing | \$400.00 |
| 5. Narrator fee | \$300.00 |

4

6. Editing

Offline editing 25 hours @ \$55/hr. = \$1,375.00

Online editing 12 hours @ \$250/hr. = \$3,000.00

Total editing **\$4,375.00**7. Duplication 50 copies @ \$10/ea. **\$500.00**8. Subtotal **\$20,075.00**9. Idaho sales tax (5%) **\$1,004.00**10. Total estimated project cost **\$21,079.00**



OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF CASSIA

205 E. 15th, P.O. BOX 1088
BURLEY, IDAHO 83318
208-678-0419

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
STEPHEN A. BYWATER

DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS
HOWARD D. SMYSER
ALFRED E. BARRUS

May 22, 1996

Bob J. Muffley
Chairman
Middle Snake Regional
Water Resource Commission
1703 South 2200 East
Gooding, ID 83330

Re: May 10, 1996 Letter Regarding Bureau Reclamation Purchase of
Bell Rapids Project Water Rights

Dear Mr. Muffley:


The Cassia County Commissioners have asked me to respond on their behalf to your letter of May 10, 1996 regarding the above-stated matter.

The Cassia County Commissioners were unanimous in their feeling that the Commission should try to seek mitigation of damages to the regions economy if Bell Rapids water is leased or purchased by the Bureau for in stream use, and not wait to see if the total water pull from our region exceeds the one hundred million dollar (\$100,000,000.00) limit.

The Commissioners were also unanimous in their recommendation that the Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission should immediately attempt to start a dialogue with the Governor and our area legislators concerning the downstream appropriation of Idaho water by users in Washington and Oregon.

Please advise us what decision is finally made by the Commission and we look forward to working with you in solving these two very important issues.

Very truly yours,


Stephen A. Bywater
Prosecuting Attorney
Cassia County, Idaho

SAB/ld

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Wood River RC&D
215 University Avenue
Gooding, ID 83330-6155

May 16, 1996

TO: Warren McFall
EPA
1435 North Orchard
Boise, Idaho 83706

COPY

FROM: Lew Pence *LP*
Wood River RC&D
215 University Avenue
Gooding, Idaho 83330

Warren, enclosed is the information I promised to send you.

- (1) The Strategy Plan for the Middle Snake Ground Water Task Force.

The Task Force and Resource Agencies Group (RAG) were having a difficult time finding direction, so we developed this hoping it would help show the way. I believe it is still a useful tool, but could never find the key or resources to accomplish much of the Plan.

- (2) Joint Proposal.

This was put together by the RAG members as shown. The purpose was to get funding from the state legislature to get the base line data to develop a regional ground water plan. The legislature did not see fit to fund it this session. We are trying to get funding from other sources, but have not been successful.

- (3) Copies of Minutes from some of the meetings you might find interesting.

As discussed, after you review the information call and we will set up a time when Bob Muffley, you and I can talk on the phone.

cc: ~~Bob Muffley~~

15 April, 1996

Ms. Roxi Reed
Executive Director
Mid-Snake Regional Water Resource Commission
1703 S. 2200 E.
Gooding, Idaho 83330

Dear Roxi:

Among your March 16 meeting materials I've noted references to your commission's "Coordinated Water Resource Management Plan." As a member of the Idaho Water Resource Board representing this region, I am very interested in the progress of the multi-county plans, but find that I do not have a current draft for study. I would be grateful to receive this document, and if there is a charge for printing and mailing, please notify me.

Sincerely,

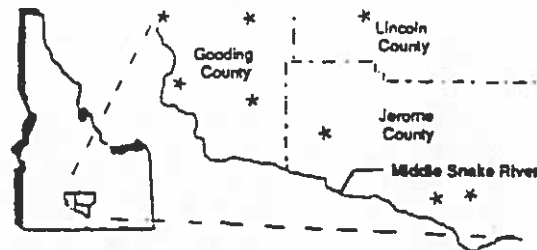
David Erickson

J. David Erickson
Box 712
Buhl, Idaho, 83316
Phone: 208-543-8217
208-543-5452

*Sent
5-11-96*

MIDDLE SNAKE REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION

Roxi Reed, Executive Director
208-934-5983
1703 South 2200 East
Gooding, Idaho 83330



March 28, 1996

Chairman
Bob Muffley

Vice Chairman
Fred Brossy

Committee
Dan Suhr
Rick Thompson
Veronica Lierman
Mack Neibaur

Carolyn Burpee Stone
Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: 3810
1150 N. Curtis
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Carolyn:

Per our phone conversation I am forwarding a copy of the first video presentation our counties presented to the public on water quality problems in the Middle Snake Region. The video was a cooperative effort between the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and this commission's predecessor, the Mid Snake Study Group. This should complete your set of the three video presentations on the Middle Snake that were produced between 1989 and 1992.

Thanks for your interest and if you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bob Muffley
Chairman

BJM/rr



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Water Resources Division
Idaho District Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702-4520

MAR 20 1996

March 15, 1996

To recipients:

Enclosed is Fact Sheet FS-246-95, "National Water-Quality Assessment Program—Nitrate and Pesticides in Ground Water: Blaine, Cassia, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties, South-Central Idaho," by M.G. Rupert, M.A.J. Stone, and D.S. Ott.

This Fact Sheet presents the findings of a 1993 study of nitrate and pesticides in ground-water samples from 60 wells in a four-county area of the upper Snake River Basin. The upper Snake River Basin is one of 20 study units in the National Water-Quality Assessment Program, which began in 1991.

Additional copies of this Fact Sheet may be obtained from the Idaho District Office by writing the U.S. Geological Survey, WRD, 230 Collins Road, Boise, ID 83702-4520, or by calling (208) 387-1300.

Sincerely,

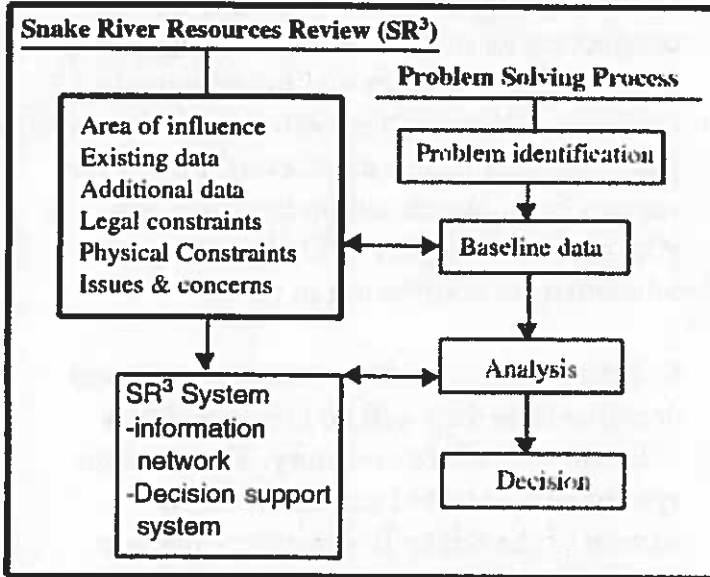
Linda K. Channel

for Derrill J. Cowing, PE
District Chief

Enclosure

Copy to: W.H. Low, WRD, Boise
M.G. Rupert, WRD, Boise

How SR³ fits into the Problem Solving Process



WHAT AREA DOES IT ENCOMPASS?

SR³ covers the Snake River from Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, to Brownlee Dam on the Idaho/Oregon border. The river flows more than 700 miles in this reach and drains 72,590 square miles that includes lands and tributaries in Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon. Two Indian Reservations -- Fort Hall in Idaho and Duck Valley in Nevada are located in the basin.

Ten Reclamation projects are within the SR³ area: the Minidoka, Palisades, Michaud Flats, Little Wood River, Boise, Owyhee, Vale, Burnt River, Mann Creek, and Baker Projects. Facilities include 21 storage reservoirs and 5 hydroelectric powerplants. Other Federal, Tribal, private, and state facilities are also located within the SR³ area.

HOW ARE WE GETTING IT DONE?

A review of this magnitude requires a large team effort. Four people with the Bureau of Reclamation, located in Reclamation's Regional Office in Boise, Idaho, are leading the team.

Eileen Salenik, SR³ Manager, has extensive background and experience in resource planning and public involvement.

Lisa Wuttke, an engineer with planning and design experience, is the Water Resources Team Leader.

Chris Jansen Lute, Team Leader for natural, cultural and recreation resources, has worked on numerous planning teams as an outdoor recreation planner.

Carolyn Burpee Stone, a landscape architect with a background in planning and public involvement, is the Communications Team Leader.

Team members are meeting people, listening to discussions on issues, and visiting the water operation facilities and resources first-hand. We have met with water users, Tribal representatives, agencies, and others to discuss existing and new technologies, traditional and nontraditional partnerships, and current and changing resource uses. These efforts will continue.

We are discussing the possibility of partnerships with Idaho Power Co., the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Wyoming, and

five Tribal governments to address broader water related issues within the Snake River basin. In addition to partners, irrigation and agricultural communities, public and private interest groups, individuals, and other interested local, state, and federal agencies are invited to participate.

Public outreach is an integral part of SR³. Identifying people's issues and concerns about the Snake River system is crucial to developing a system that can address all issues. *We need your help and encourage you to become involved in SR³!* There will be regular updates of information about the process. If you would like to be on our mailing list, contact us as shown on the last page of this bulletin.

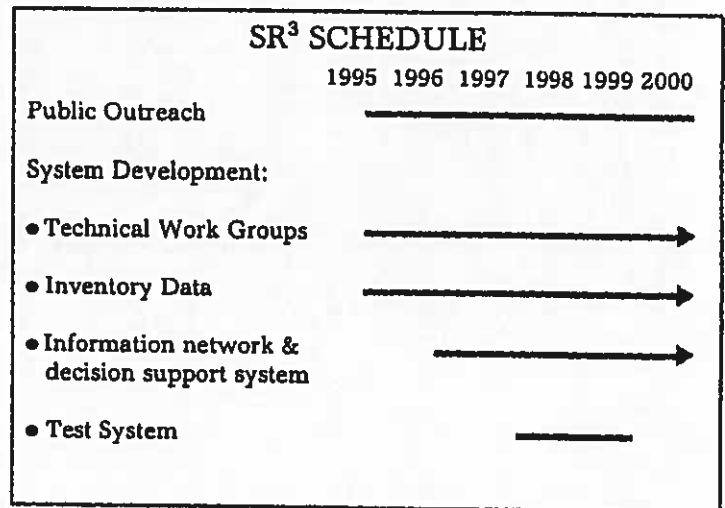
WHAT IS OUR SCHEDULE?

Developing the SR³ network system will take several steps. The first step, establishing internal technical work groups, has already taken place. These work groups are:

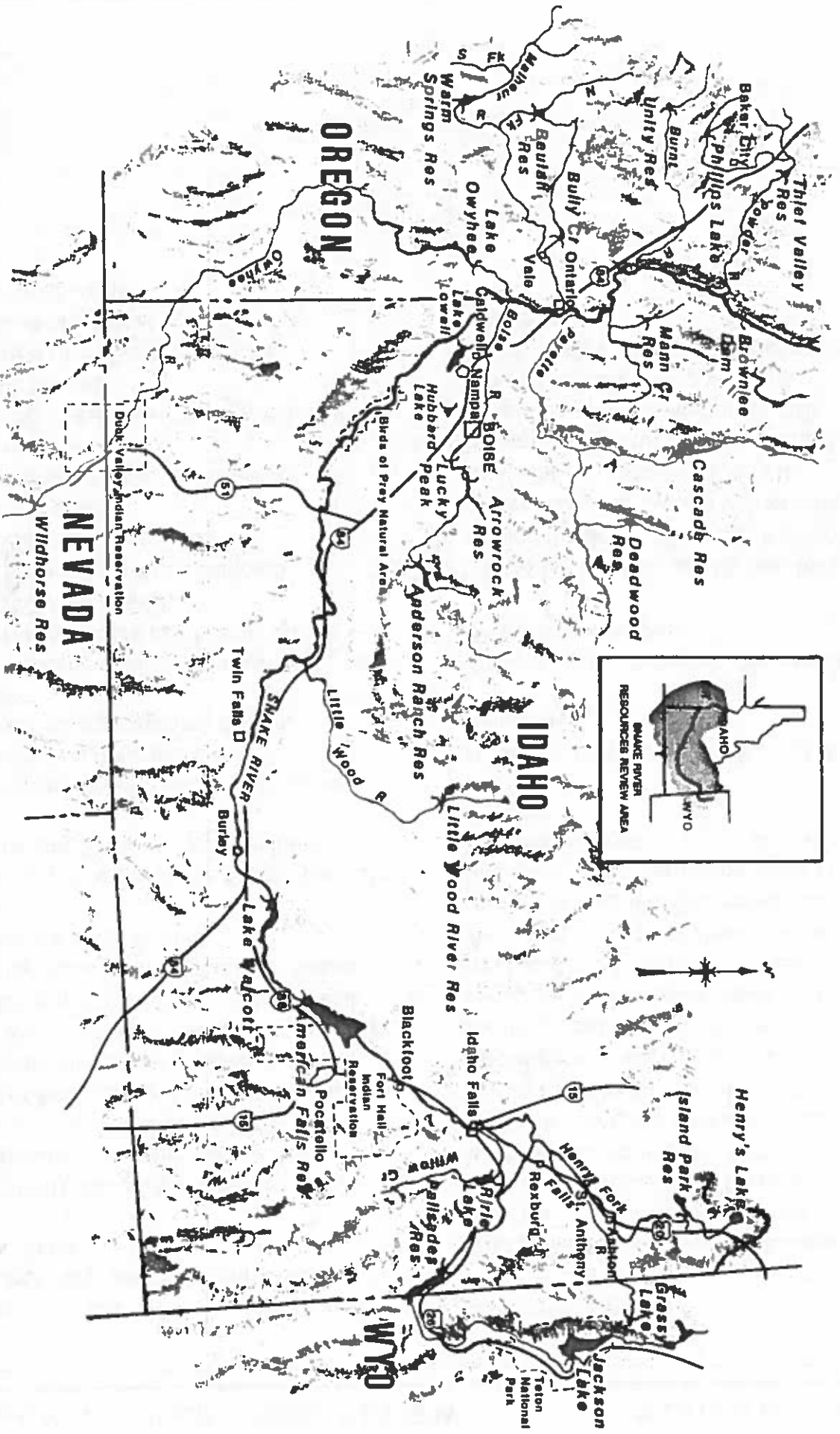
- Land Use/Soils
- Water Quality
- Recreation
- Cultural Resources and Indian Trust Assets
- Fisheries
- Wildlife & Vegetation
- Economic
- Irrigation/Water Contracts
- Ground Water
- Water Rights/Land Ownerships
- Municipal and Industrial Use
- Water Conservation
- River/Reservoir Systems

Second, the technical work groups are conducting an inventory of the existing data to determine what data and information is available. Coordination with others who are gathering data and/or conducting studies on various components within the basin is a vital part of this effort. This inventory is scheduled for completion in 1996.

Selecting the SR³ databases and models and deciding how they will be linked together will follow the data inventory. The network system will be tested and refined on a section of the Snake River system that has comprehensive data coverage.



Snake River Resources Review



The Snake River - a ribbon of life winding its way through vast reaches of desert and forest for thousands of years.

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." - JFK

In our rapidly changing world, more and more pressures are being placed on the resources in the Snake River basin. The Bureau of Reclamation is being asked to make decisions on how to address those needs. Reclamation has launched the Snake River Resources Review as a way to make more informed decisions about the Snake River system in the future.

The current pressures on the Snake River are numerous and complex. They include:

- water to satisfy contractual entitlements and irrigation diversions
- water to recharge aquifers (ground water)
- water for municipal and industrial use in the Treasure Valley and Magic Valley
- improved water quality
- water for recovery of endangered salmon in the lower Snake and Columbia rivers
- improved and increased recreation opportunities
- protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat
- protection of endangered species
- protection of cultural resources and Indian trust assets

WHAT IS SR³?

The Snake River Resources Review (SR³) is a comprehensive review of the Snake River resources. There is a tremendous amount of information available about the resources in the Snake River basin. However, this information is in many different locations and formats. SR³ will consolidate basin information so it can be shared and used more efficiently. An information network and decision support system will be created that can link applicable information together. The network system will consist of two things:

Databases with information about the resources.

Computer Models that can simulate the river/reservoir system.

Linked information can be used to analyze the Snake River and reservoir system. The SR³ system will provide Reclamation, water users, and the general public with a clearer picture of resource capabilities and trade-offs. The system will be a key part of Reclamation's problem solving process in the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

If you have questions, would like more information, or would like to be on our mailing list please contact any of the following team members:

Eileen R. Salenik - Manager
Tel Number: (208) 378-5314
Internet: esalenik@pn.usbr.gov

**Chris Jansen Lute - Natural,
Cultural, and Recreation Resources**
Tel Number: (208) 378-5319
Internet: cjansen@pn.usbr.gov

Lisa V. Wuttke - Water Resources
Tel Number: (208) 378-5047
Internet: lwuttke@pn.usbr.gov

Carolyn Burpee Stone - Public Involvement
Tel Number: (208) 378-5318
Internet: cstone@pn.usbr.gov

SNAKE RIVER RESOURCES REVIEW MAILING LIST

Name _____ **Title** _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

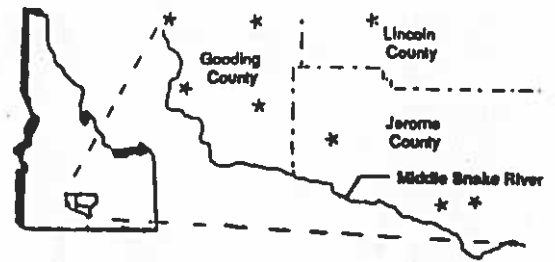
Phone _____ **Fax** _____ **Internet** _____

Mail or Fax this form to:
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Attention: PN 3810
1150 North Curtis Road
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Fax Number: (208) 378-5305

MIDDLE SNAKE REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION

Roxi Reed, Acting Executive Director
208-934-5983
1703 South 2200 East
Gooding, Idaho 83330



Chairman

Bob Muffley

Vice Chairman

Fred Brossy

Committee

Dan Suhr

Rick Thompson

Roy Prescott

Mack Neibaur

Representative Golden C. Linford
Chairman, Resource & Conservation Committee
Idaho State Legislature
State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 83720-0000
Boise, Idaho 83720-0038

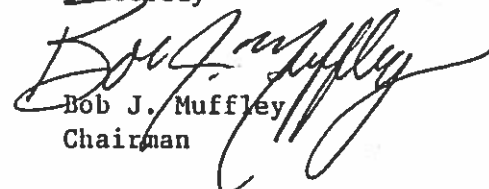
RE: Nutrient Management Plan for Middle Snake

Dear Representative Linford:

I am writing on behalf of the Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission to support legislation before your committee adopting the Nutrient Management Plan for the Middle Snake. This commission and the counties we represent have been working on water quality problems on the Middle Snake since 1989. We have also worked closely with the Division of Environmental Quality on the formation of the Nutrient Management Plan. The plan is the culmination of many years of work by all the water users in this region. This commission believes that, while the plan may not meet all the concerns of the EPA and others, it is a giant step in the right direction. The plan calls for voluntary efforts by all the industry groups involved in the planning process to clean up the region's water resources. This commission strongly believes that the industry groups will follow through with their cleanup plans thus avoiding cumbersome and possibly costly regulations by state and federal agencies. The plan needs to be adopted, however, so people can get to work on implementing their individual industry plans.

There are groups who believe that stringent regulations are needed to turn the water quality situation around on the Middle Snake, but this commission and our counties disagree. We have every confidence that the individuals representing the industry groups in the planning process are men and women of their word and, if left to their own devices, will get the job done. They should, at least, be given the chance to do so before specific regulations are mandated.

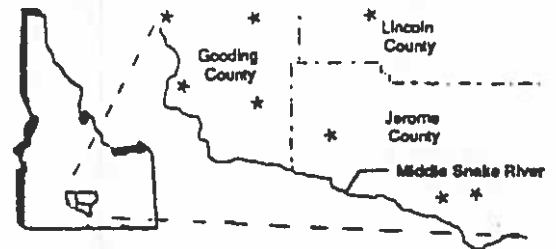
Sincerely



Bob J. Muffley
Chairman

MIDDLE SNAKE REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION

Roxi Reed, Executive Director
208-934-5983
1703 South 2200 East
Gooding, Idaho 83330



Chairman
Bob Muffley

Vice Chairman
Fred Brossy

Committee

Dan Suhr
Rick Thompson **Ann F. Miles**
Veronica Lierman **Associated Chief, West Branch**
Mack Neibaur **Division of Project Review**
 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 888 First Street NE
 Washington, D.C. 20426

March 06, 1996

Dear Ms. Miles,

Per your request of March 1, 1996 I have enclosed a copy of the Coordinated Water Resource Management Plan for the counties making up the Middle Snake River Region. The Plan indicates that only three counties in the region have adopted the plan, but in the last three months Twin Falls, Minidoka and Cassia Counties have also adopted it. We are in the process of revising the plan to include these counties at this time. I have also included a video which was produced by our counties. It is actually the third video in a series of three, but it does an excellent job of describing our water quality concerns.

Thank you for your interest in our regional plan and don't hesitate to call if you have any questions. I have enclosed my business card for your reference.

Sincerely,

Bob J. Muffley
Chairman

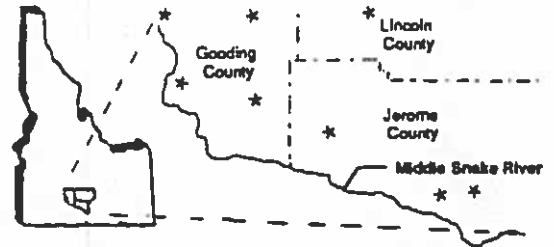
BJM: rr

Enc: 3

Formed by a joint powers agreement between Gooding, Jerome, and Lincoln Counties, Idaho

**MIDDLE SNAKE REGIONAL
WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION**

Roxi Reed, Executive Director
208-934-5983
1703 South 2200 East
Gooding, Idaho 83330



Chairman
Bob Muffley
Vice Chairman
Fred Brossy

February 27, 1996

Committee
Dan Suhr
Rick Thompson
Veronica Lierman
Mack Neibaur

Pat Marcantonio
North Side News
P.O. Box 465
Jerome, Idaho 83338

Dear Pat:

I have enclosed a copy of the draft mitigation proposal to Idaho Power that I prepared for the review of our region's County Commissioners and the Middle Snake Regional Water Resources Commission. I must caution, however, that this proposal has not been approved by either the County Commissioners or this Commission. It is simply something that I proposed to them. We have not and probably will not schedule a vote on this proposal. I did give a copy of the draft to Idaho Power to see if the items listed on the proposal could be considered by them in future mitigation dialogue, but Idaho Power is also aware that the proposal is not sanctioned by the Counties or this Commission.

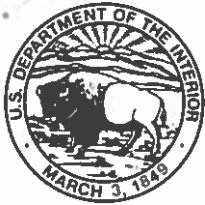
If you choose to use my proposal in an article I suggest that it be stated that the proposal is mine alone and was proposed to the counties to see if there may be some consensus on the matter. Our executive committee has not met concerning this proposal and there is no plan for them to meet in the near future.

I hope this clarifies the situation, but if you have any questions please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Bob J. Muffley
Chairman

BJM/rr
enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PN-3812
RIM-4.00

FEB 12 1999

Mr. Bob J. Muffley
Chairman
Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission
1703 South 2200 East
Gooding ID 83330

Dear Mr. Muffley:

Secretary Babbitt and Commissioner Martinez have asked that I respond to your December 28, 1995 letter transmitting copies of the "Coordinated Water Resource Management Plan" developed by your Commission for Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, and Twin Falls Counties. We commend your efforts in putting together a clear, concise, and thorough document that will serve to direct activities to maintain and improve the quality of water resources in your area. In general terms, Reclamation supports the goals, objectives, strategies, and policies presented in the document.

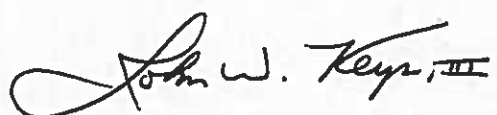
In fact, many components discussed in your plan coincide with a recent program implemented by Reclamation, the Snake River Resources Review (Review). Enclosed is a copy of a recent publication outlining the framework and purpose of the Review. The goals of the Review are to create an information network and decision support system to analyze the river and reservoir system and to provide both the public and governments a clearer picture of resource capabilities and tradeoffs in the Snake River Basin above Brownlee Dam. Copies of your report have been distributed to several of the Review's technical work groups to use in their efforts of compiling base information on resource related issues and concerns.

The Review team will consider and integrate applicable elements set forth in your plan during the development of the decision support system. Although the Review will not be developing specific plans, rules, or regulations, we have taken this opportunity to add your Commission to their mailing list, so that you are informed of their progress.

We would appreciate your keeping the Review office informed of any future Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission activities. The address is Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Resources Review, 1150 N. Curtis, Boise, Idaho 83706-1234, Attention PN-3800. If you

would like more information concerning the Review or would like to discuss how your organization can participate in the Review, please contact Eileen Salenik, Review Manager, at 208-378-5314.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Keys, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John W. Keys, III
Regional Director

Enclosure

Feb. 10, 1996

Bob Muffley, Chairman
Middle Snake River Water Resource Commission
Gooding County Courthouse
624 Main St.
Gooding, ID 83330

copy to
Bob

ATTN: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC 552, as amended, I hereby request disclosure of the following information, documents and records for inspection and possible copying: your letter or comments to the Idaho Power Company concerning relicensing of power plants on the Mid-Snake River. The exact date is unknown, but it was written during the latter months of 1995. The phrase "information, documents and records," is used in a comprehensive sense and includes but is not limited to all hand-written, typed, printed, recorded, transcribed copies or reproductions of every kind and description. This includes letters, memoranda, telegrams, notes, reports, details of accounts, minutes, work sheets, computer printouts, contracts, proceedings and any type or other compilation from which information can be obtained.

If you regard any information, documents and records in the foregoing list as exempt from required disclosure under the Act, I hereby request that you exercise your discretion under the Act to disclose them nonetheless. I further request that you disclose the listed information, documents and records as they become available to you, without waiting until all information, documents and records have been assembled.

As you know, the Freedom of Information Act provides that if portions of a document or record are exempt from release, the remainder must be segregated and disclosed.

Therefore, I will expect you to send me all nonexempt portions of the information, documents and records that I have requested, and ask that you justify any deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information, documents and records.

I am making this request in the capacity of a journalist employed by Idaho working for Magic Valley Publishing, which publishes the Gooding County

Leader, Lincoln County Journal and North Side News.

The information, documents and records disclosed pursuant to this request will be used in preparation of news articles for dissemination to the public. As you know the FOI Act says search and copying fees "shall" be waived when the release of the requested information, documents and records would be "in the public interest." I believe this request plainly fits into this category.

Accordingly, I request that pursuant to the FOI Act provisions in question, you waive all fees in the public interest because the furnishing of the information, documents and records requested will primarily benefit the public.

If you deny this request for a fee waiver, however, and the fees will exceed \$10, please notify me of the charges before you fill the request so I may decide whether to pay the fees or appeal your denial of my request for a fee waiver.

I am making this request in the capacity of a journalist and the information, documents and records requested have timely value. I ask that if any questions arise concerning this request, you notify me by telephone rather than by letter. My office telephone is (208) 324-3391. I am normally there Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

I am more than willing to be flexible in this request and assist in any manner possible.

If the answers to my questions can be provided by telephone, as opposed to sending information, documents and records through the mail, I will accept the answers in that manner.

I wish to cooperate with your office. Feel free to call me at any time should there questions regarding this Freedom of information Act request.

Sincerely,



Pat Marcantonio
Executive Editor

February 2, 1996

Cassia County Commissioners
County Courthouse
Burley, Idaho 83318

Dear Commissioners:

I want to thank you for allowing me to answer your questions the other day. It was obvious that you had been considering the matter carefully and that's good. This is not something to be entered into lightly. I also thank you for your vote to seek admission to the region. I don't think you will regret your decision. Our problems concerning water are the same and this region needs to be together on the important issues concerning our most valued resource.

There are some steps we must take to get Cassia County on line. It's only a formality, but the other member counties will be voting to accept Cassia at their next Commission meeting. Assuming this is a done deal, which I know that it is, there are some things you will need to do. I believe we can fast track your joining the Regional Commission by holding a hearing on the plan as it is written with the understanding that the plan will be changed to include Cassia in the history and other areas of the plan where necessary at a later date, probably within six months. The public hearing notice and the hearing format is the same that you use for your comprehensive land use plan. When you schedule your hearing let me know, and several of my commission members will be in attendance to field any questions from the public.

You should also try to locate two people who are willing to serve on this commission as soon as possible. The criteria for commission members is set forth in paragraph one, pages one and two of the authorization portion of the Management Plan. You should seek two people who are outspoken. They should also, however, be willing to work with groups and organizations within Cassia County to implement the plan. They should also be aware that all regular meetings are scheduled at the Jerome County Courthouse, but they will be reimbursed for their mileage.

When the people are chosen, please let me know as they must be voted on by the other counties in the region. They would then become ex-officio members of the commission until Cassia adopts the plan. At that time they will become full voting members. I will need their full name, address, and phone number. We also need this information for the commissioner who will serve on the executive committee.

I truly look forward to having Cassia County as a member and each of our planning commissioners look forward to serving you. I have attached my card so you can reach me at my home or office.

Sincerely,

Bob J. Muffley, Chairman

BJM/rr



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

FEB 2 1996

Dear Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies:

Today I would like to announce the availability of a final environmental impact statement (EIS) that I know will be of interest to you. This EIS evaluates alternatives to implement the acreage limitation and water conservation provisions of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (RRA) throughout the 17 western United States.

Six alternatives, including no action, are analyzed. These alternatives consider a wide range of regulatory and nonregulatory actions for implementing the RRA on a westwide basis. The EIS concludes that the significance of impacts on a westwide basis is small; however, there may be local impacts in some areas under portions of some of the alternatives.

A new Preferred Alternative has been developed in response to public comments received on the proposed rules and draft EIS. This alternative proposes to greatly reduce paperwork for many districts and landholders by increasing the exemption from RRA forms requirements. It would also encourage users to voluntarily develop and implement water conservation plans under existing regulations and non-binding advisory guidelines, through a program of incentives and technical and financial assistance.

You will be receiving a copy of the Final EIS as soon as it is available from the printer. If you need to receive a copy sooner, please contact your nearest Reclamation area or regional office (see attached list) for an overnight photo copy.

I appreciate your interest and comments on the draft EIS. This final EIS will be used by the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation to reach a decision regarding final regulations. You will be informed when a final decision is reached.

Sincerely,

Eluid L. Martinez
Commissioner

Enclosures (Area Offices)

1. **Oversee and represent concerns of water users relative to existing and proposed recharge legislation. (A strategy will be developed by those concerned.)**
2. **Assist in the coordination and scheduling of recharge events. This includes following-up with canal companies, agencies, and others actually performing recharge.**
3. **Serve as liaison with state and federal executive branch agencies, the judicial, and legislative branches of government, and any other entities concerned with aquifer recharge.**
4. **Assist in the coordination, planning, and other appropriate activities related to proposed recharge projects.**
5. **Lead up aquifer recharge public relations and educational programs with schools, civic groups, media, etc.**
6. **Assist in the coordination of recharge monitoring programs.**
7. **Promote coalition development and support for recharge with Idaho water interests to insure coordination of recharge efforts for the entire aquifer.**
8. **Assist in coordination of recharge efforts as they may effect adjudication concerns.**

AQUIFER RECHARGE COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Background A continuing aquifer recharge program is undeniably a cornerstone of comprehensive water management for the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. Recharge, both natural and artificial, has been occurring across the aquifer for nearly 100 years and has yielded profound benefits to the economy of southern Idaho.

Due to the complexity of the task of coordinating all of the entities and activities involved in recharge, it is apparent from past experience that someone needs to "ride herd and keep the ball rolling." Otherwise something is bound to fall through the cracks and the parts and pieces simply don't fit together timely and efficiently. Recharge as a water management tool is particularly vulnerable to "apathy" because one good water year tends to erase memories regarding drought effects.

It is generally agreed among those of us close to the recharge program that we definitely need a recharge "point man." Those of us who led the way in 1995, including former aquaculture association executive director, Don Campbell, have agreed to continue our efforts in 1996. We believe we need to find someone, train, and tutor them for the job to insure future continuity in the recharge effort. It is a job that cannot logically be handled on a voluntary basis but rather should either be a salaried or consultant type position. We estimate it will cost between \$5000 and \$10,000 during the 1996 legislative session to fund the job.

Several of us have looked carefully at options for funding and have concluded that our best possibility for 1996 is to ask for voluntary contributions and work toward something more equitable in future years. We are suggesting the moneys contributed be collected and disbursed through the Lower Snake River Aquifer Recharge District according to mandates of an oversight committee made up of contributors.

Following is a tentative job description for the position in question:

A FAX FROM.....

EMERALD VALLEY GARDEN CENTER, INC.

17966 U. S. Highway 30
Hagerman, Idaho 83332
(208) 837-4872

DAN & IRMA McFADDAN
MATT & LINDA McFADDAN

Time: 10:20 AM

Date: 1/5/96

Please deliver the following pages to:

Name: Bob Muffley

Firm: Muffley Realty + Insurance

City & State: Gooding, Idaho

Telephone No.: (208) 934-4781

Fax No.: (208) 934-5448

We are transmitting 3 pages (including this cover letter).
Our Fax No. is (208) 837-4872. If you do not receive all of the pages indicated, or encounter transmission difficulties, please call us at (208) 837-4872 (phone & fax are the same number).

Ms. Dolores Jones is the secretary of the Exchange district her address is Box 265, Hagerman, Idaho 83332

MESSAGE: Bob Here is the little writing for the position I talked to you about this morning. We need to emphasize to potential contributors that we are going to work for legislation that will establish a state position to do this funded with state money. I sure appreciate your help Bob. I think this is a whole lot more important to the folks in the Magic Valley than most of them realize. Hagerman Valley isn't the only