CX Posting No.: DOE-ID-17-072

# SECTION A. Project Title: Supplemental Environmental Projects

## **SECTION B. Project Description**

There are 6 projects proposed as Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) to settle the \$648,000 penalty for failing to initiate treatment of sodium bearing waste stored in the INTEC Tank Farm Facility from 10/1/2016 through 3/31/2017.

The SEPs are completed through agreement between DOE and the recipients to perform the work scope and provide progress reports to DOE, except the donation to Western States. None of the projects take place on the INL Site and all are performed by the recipients or entities they contract with to complete the work.

## SEP Project Descriptions:

- 1. Western States Project is a donation of \$50,000 to a fund that pays for or reduces the cost for environmental training of regulatory personnel.
- 2. Protecting and Restoring Water Quality in the Teton River Watershed Project: This project provides \$100,000 and partners with Friends of the Teton River and the Teton River Land Trust. The funding from this SEP supports the three tasks below:
  - i. Hazardous Waste Collection & Disposal Events. This task would fund two community hazardous waste collection/disposal events in Teton County for household and/or agricultural hazardous wastes.
  - ii. Source Water Protection Education and Information. This task will result in development and distribution of public education/information materials including signage regarding source water protection, development of a website, and provide free nitrate testing of private domestic well water.
  - iii. Voluntary Conservation Easements to Reduce Development Impacts on Source Water. This task includes landowner education and outreach, and development, negotiation and purchase of one or more conservation easements.
- Henry's Creek Fire and Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area Water Quality Improvement Project: DOE will provide \$92,170
  to BLM to restore habitat and rebuild cattle fencing damaged from the Henry's Creek fire east of Idaho Falls in 2016. BLM is
  responsible for the NEPA review for this project.
- 4. Jack and Rail Fence Riparian Protection Project for Clear Creek and Spring Creek on the Fort Hall Reservation: DOE proposes to provide \$64,830 for the Shoshone Bannock Tribes to build fencing around these two creeks. The Clear & Spring Creeks Project was proposed by the Tribes to protect the riparian area and enhance water quality in Clear & Spring Creeks, tributaries to the Snake River, by constructing 9,130 feet of fencing on Clear & Spring Creeks to eliminate livestock access. The funding from this SEP supports the two tasks below:
  - i. Construct approximately 4,422 linear feet of Jack and Rail fence to exclude livestock grazing within riparian areas on sections Clear Creek.
  - ii. Construct approximately 4,708 linear feet of Jack and Rail fence to exclude livestock grazing within riparian areas on sections of Spring Creek.
- 5. The City of Idaho Falls Recycling, and Stormwater and Water Conservation Public Education Project: DOE proposes to provide \$90,000 to the City of Idaho Falls to develop public education materials on stormwater pollution prevention and water conservation for Idaho Falls residents and to develop a franchise capability for IF residents to pay for curbside recycling through the City utilities payment system to encourage recycling. The funding from this SEP supports the three tasks below:
  - i. Establish a voluntary curbside recycling franchise program within the Idaho Falls city limits.
  - ii. Provide public outreach for stormwater awareness through training, public service announcements, and distributing educational material to the public.
  - iii. Provide public outreach for water conservation through the development of public outreach materials and a plan for water conservation education.
- 6. Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer Monitoring Project: DOE proposes to provide \$251,000 to the State of Idaho Department of Water Resources to improve Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA) data collection and analysis in support of restoring aquifer health through aquifer recharge efforts, improved groundwater models, monitoring aquifer health, and filling in water level data gaps. The funding from this SEP supports the three tasks below:
  - i. Drill 2-5 new groundwater monitoring wells. Locations to be determined by IDWR.
  - ii. Improve 5-10 existing ESPA wells.
  - iii. Install a stream gaging station on Antelope Creek, planned to be performed by USGS by arrangement with IDWR.

### **DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION**

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### SECTION C. Environmental Aspects / Potential Sources of Impact

The proposal includes training, restoration of habitat, building and rebuilding of fencing, public outreach, installation and improvement of groundwater monitoring wells, and installation of a stream gaging station. The habitat restoration and fencing building are actions to protect and improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Drilling new groundwater monitoring wells will generate small amounts limited amounts of used personal protective equipment, miscellaneous industrial waste, and discharge of wastewater from the drilling operation to the ground. IDWR has procedures and extensive experience in drilling activities and proper handling of generated waste. There would be exhaust from operation of the drill unit and other heavy equipment, but these emissions would be below reportable levels.

**SECTION D.** Determine the Level of Environmental Review (or Documentation) and Reference(s): Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

Note: For Categorical Exclusions (CXs) the proposed action must not: 1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE orders; 2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; 3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; 4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist which would affect the significance of the action, and the action is not "connected" nor "related" (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and (2), respectively) to other actions with potentially or cumulatively significant impacts.

References: B1.2 Training exercises and simulations (including, but not limited to, firing-range training, small-scale and short-duration force-on-force exercises, emergency response training, fire fighter and rescue training, and decontamination and spill cleanup training) conducted under appropriately controlled conditions and in accordance with applicable requirements.

- B1.11 Installation of fencing, including, but not limited to, border marking, that would not have the potential to significantly impede wildlife population movement (including migration) or surface water flow.
- B1.20 Small-scale activities undertaken to protect cultural resources (such as fencing, labeling, and flagging) or to protect, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat, fish passage facilities (such as fish ladders and minor diversion channels), or fisheries. Such activities would be conducted in accordance with an existing natural or cultural resource plan, if any.
- B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis.) Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools); (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells.

Justification: The activity consists of providing funding to organizations to perform training, restoration of habitat, building and rebuilding of fencing, public outreach, installation and improvement of groundwater monitoring wells, and installation of a stream gaging station.

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) 

Yes No

Approved by Jason Sturm, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on 08/02/2017