



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Idaho Water Resource Board approves 10 flood management grants statewide with \$1 million in FY '2024 funds

MOSCOW – (July 21, 2023) – The Idaho Water Resource Board on Friday approved 10 flood management grants statewide at a cost of \$1,002,151 at its July board meeting in Moscow.

The Idaho Legislature has made the [state Flood Management Grant program](#) a permanent ongoing program with annual funding of \$1 million a year.

Thirteen grant applications from throughout the state were evaluated and scored by staff. The top 10 projects recommended for approval fit the Board's available budget for flood management grants in 2023, officials said, with small amount of carryover funds from last year.

All flood management projects must provide 50 percent matching funds, and they must be shovel-ready.

The projects approved by the Board span from the City of Parma to Oakley, the City of Victor to Eagle. See brief summary below:

- **Eagle Sewer District** - The Eagle Sewer District requested \$200,000 for a Flood Mitigation Project. This project will reduce the risk of pit capture and wastewater lagoon washout by filling legacy borrow ponds. The project would turn the flood risk into a forested wetland. Along with reducing the risk of pit capture and lagoon washout, this project improves riparian habitat by turning warm, shallow ponds that experience fish kills into wetland habitat for native species and reduce thermal load to the river.
- **Flood District #9** – Flood District #9 requested \$118,086 for the Heagle Park Floodplain Restoration Project in order to prevent flooding impacts to the City of Hailey's wastewater lift station. Funds are being requested to set back and fortify a historic rip rap berm, restore a failing bank with natural material, and open up an additional side channel habitat for enhanced flood conveyance and fish habitat.
- **City of Parma** – The City of Parma requested \$50,000 to address erosion and sedimentation in the Parma Drain.
- **Hiawatha Canal Users Association** – The Hiawatha Canal Users Association requested \$200,00 in grant funds for this project. The major concern is that during flood periods, large trees (mostly cottonwoods, some up to 80 feet in height) and other debris frequently become lodged in the diversion and headgate structures. Currently, this type of debris has to be removed quickly to prevent the river from overtopping the headgate structure and causing flooding in residential areas in Blaine County and the city of Hailey. The project envisions construction of a new concrete emergency spillway to bypass flood flow events, an overflow bypass structure in

the main canal, and a steel debris deflector to protect the headgate. Also, rip rap bank armoring around the headgate structure and installation of new stainless steel headgates.

- **Oakley Highway District** – Requested \$176,000 in grant funds for the 2100 South 600 West Bridge Replacement Project. The purpose of this project is to remove the deteriorated two-span bridge and replace it with a single-span bridge. The proposed construction project consists of removing and replacing the 19 ½ foot, 2-span canal bridge with a 45' long by 32' wide single span bridge. By replacing the bridge it will not only provide an improved 2-lane bridge for the public but it also allows for channel improvements and reduced flood risks. The design of the new proposed bridge has many benefits. The hydraulic opening will be increased to better suit the maximum flow of the West Canal and counteract scour effects seen on the existing structure. The larger hydraulic opening will also alleviate the current constricted channel flow at the bridge. In addition, the project will protect infrastructure, and add shade and habitat for steelhead.
- **Joint School District No. 171** - The Joint School District requested \$89,064 in grant funds. During high water flows, often occurring in late winter/early spring as rain-on-snow events, the concrete channel overflows, eliminating safe access within a bus parking lot and facility entrance area. The project proposes to reconstruct the channel to reduce the risk of flood flows.
- **Clearwater SWCD – Jim Ford Crossing** - The Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District requested \$81,063 for the Jim Ford Bridge Mitigation Project. The proposed project would replace a 19' wide x 6.75' high bottomless arch that is both undersized and potentially failing with a 60' steel bridge. The fill around the existing culvert appears to be washing away at high flows and the Clearwater Highway District suspects abutment sill failure.
- **Idaho SWCD** – The Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District requested \$54,525 for a Flood Mitigation Project. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of future flooding on the South Fork Clearwater River. The objectives are to stabilize the streambank and the levee and close the mixing zone between the Clearwater River and a pond located on private property.
- **City of Victor** - The City of Victor requested \$27,500 from the IWRB to complete the Calderwood Bridge Erosion Mitigation Project. The project is an erosion mitigation project and flood reductions project.
- **Twin Falls Canal Co. and City of Twin Falls** - The sponsors requested \$158,973 to replace existing undersized pipe and structures on the tail end of Lateral 38 to help mitigate future flood risks. The Board approved \$5,900 for the project because several other projects in the South-Central region ranked higher. The Board has adopted criteria to allocate a certain amount of money to each region of the state for flood grants.

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