



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**Rep. Mike Simpson**  
**FY2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations**  
**Member Project Requests**

In accordance with the policies put forth by the House Appropriations Committee, I would like to share with you some information regarding the projects that I have submitted for consideration in FY2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

**Project Name:** City of American Falls Wastewater System Improvements

**Amount Requested:** \$250,000

**Account:** EPA/STAG

**Recipient:** City of American Falls

**Recipient's Address:** 550 N. Oregon Trail, American Falls, ID 83211-1800

**Description:** The City's recently completed wastewater facilities planning study evaluated numerous options to address the City's wastewater infrastructure deficiencies and meet U.S. EPA and IDEQ regulations. Based on input from the City, IDEQ, citizens of American Falls, and the consulting engineers performing the study, it was determined that a new wastewater treatment facility incorporating membrane technologies was the best solution to meet the needs of the City. Such a treatment facility utilizes state-of-the-art treatment technology that would be able to meet current and anticipated future state and federal requirements. In addition, it would provide future flexibility to the City for pursuing other treated wastewater disposal methods. Total project cost is over \$10 million. The people of American Falls will be absorbing the majority of costs for this project.

**Project Name:** City of Buhl Wastewater System Improvements

**Amount Requested:** \$750,000

**Account:** EPA/STAG

**Recipient:** City of Buhl

**Recipient's Address:** 203 North Broadway, Buhl, ID 83316

**Description:** The City is periodically exceeding the NPDES limitations under the Clean Water Act and was recently fined by EPA for non-compliance of their pH, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) limitations. IDEQ and EPA have mandated that the City build a new wastewater treatment center. Buhl, a town of less than 5,000 residents, recently passed a bond election for \$15 million to help pay for the required improvements to their water system. The loan funds will be a burden to the residents—many of whom are elderly (19% of the community) and the majority of whom are low to moderate income—and will increase monthly water bills by over \$100, but even this will be unsustainable without additional assistance. Funding for this project would enable the City build a new wastewater treatment center that would meet the Federal and State mandates imposed on the community.

**Project Name:** City of Lava Hot Springs Wastewater Improvements

**Amount Requested:** \$250,000

**Account:** EPA/STAG

**Recipient:** City of Lava Hot Springs

**Recipient's Address:** 115 West Elm, Lava Hot Springs, ID 83246

**Description:** Lava Hot Springs is a small town of only 480 citizens. The City's wastewater treatment plant is currently discharging pollutants into the Portneuf River, and the City will be facing severe penalties. With such a small population, the financial burden on the community is immense. The project will improve the collection system by replacing the badly deteriorated sewer mains, correct grade problems and enlarge pipes. The problem of debris build-up in the lagoons will be resolved with flow meter, screens, and a grit removal system all housed in a constructed headwork building.

**Project Name:** City of Soda Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

**Amount Requested:** \$250,000

**Account:** EPA/STAG

**Recipient:** City of Soda Springs

**Recipient's Address:** 9 West 2nd South, Soda Springs, ID 83276

**Description:** Soda Springs built its wastewater treatment facility over 40 years ago and has made minor upgrades since that time. However, the plant receives substantial infiltration and can no longer meet the discharge permit requirements (NPDES) for ammonia, nor the forthcoming phosphorous limits. Therefore, the City must replace or upgrade the facility to improve the existing basins and equipment and implement additional treatment processes to achieve nutrient removal. Total project cost is estimated to be \$12 million.

**Project Name:** Historic Old Pen Site Stabilization Project

**Amount Requested:** \$443,000

**Account:** National Park Service/Save America's Treasures

**Recipient:** Idaho State Historical Society

**Recipient's Address:** 2205 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, ID 83712

**Description:** This project will provide stabilization to the Old Idaho State Penitentiary historic site, which is operated by the Idaho State Historical Society. The Old Pen is one of the West's most significant prison sites and one of the most visited cultural facilities in Idaho. It thus plays a key role in the economic vitality of Boise and the Treasure Valley. Funding would be used for work needed immediately to stabilize the site. In addition, funding would be used for a historic structures report to help better anticipate future maintenance and repair needs before they become emergency situations.

**Project Name:** Idaho Sage-Grouse Management Plan

**Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

**Account:** Fish and Wildlife Service/ESA Resource Management

**Recipient:** Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

**Recipient's Address:** 300 N. 6th Street, Boise, ID 83702

**Description:** Sage-grouse are on the verge of being listed under the Endangered Species Act, with a decision on listing expected this spring. Idaho is taking proactive steps to recover this species before a listing is required. The management plan, which is a partnership with private landowners, is an attempt to be wise stewards of the nation's wildlife without being compelled to do so by law.

**Project Name:** Mountain West Water Initiative

**Recipient:** Idaho National Laboratory

**Recipient's Street Address:** 2525 Fremont Avenue, Idaho Falls, ID 83415

**Description:** The Mountain West Water Institute is a regional research alliance between Idaho National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and Oregon State University leveraging the three research institutions' strengths in regional-scale hydrological modeling, remote sensing, information management, graphical information systems, and climate change science. The advanced science, evaluation tools and capabilities to be developed by MWWI in collaboration with other water, land and energy agencies in the Region will comprise an integrated water resources technical capability that will harness the most comprehensive data sets and advanced earth systems models related to regional climate, hydrology, and multi-factor demand analysis. Language request is as follows: "A changing climate, and its impact on precipitation, will continue to affect the way public land agencies manage federal lands and combat the increasing number and severity of wildfires. The Subcommittee strongly encourages the Department to collaborate with Idaho National Laboratory and the Mountain West Water Institute to better understand the water challenges in the Western United States and develop strategies for meeting those challenges."

**Project Name:** Peregrine Fund Aplomado Falcon and California Condor Recovery

**Account:** FWS/Endangered Species

**Recipient:** The Peregrine Fund

**Recipient's Address:** 5668 W. Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, ID 83709

**Description:** The Peregrine Fund has been extremely successful in its recovery efforts of the California Condor and the Northern Aplomado Falcon. These efforts constitute a true success story under the Endangered Species Act, where species that were once on the brink of extinction are being recovered. Through the efforts of the Peregrine Fund, there are now more free-flying California condors than there are in captivity. The Fund has worked cooperatively with private land owners and federal agencies to recover these birds. My language is as follows: "The Committee urges the Service to continue the important ongoing research and conservation efforts for aplomado falcons and California condors."

**Project Name:** Piva Parcel Land Acquisition

**Amount Requested:** \$400,000

**Account:** USFS/Land Acquisition

**Recipient:** US Forest Service, Sawtooth National Recreation Area

**Recipient's Address:** 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, ID 83340

**Description:** Funds will be used to enable the Forest Service to acquire the 160-acre Piva parcel from a willing seller so that it can be used for public recreation and access to the Redfish Lake recreation area from the town of Stanley. The Forest Service currently has a conservation easement on the property, but acquiring the land is necessary to carry out planned improvements.

**Project Name:** SNRA Trail Maintenance and Improvements

**Amount Requested:** \$1,200,000

**Account:** Capital Improvements and Maintenance (Trail Construction)

**Recipient:** US Forest Service, Sawtooth National Recreation Area

**Recipient's Address:** 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, ID 83340

**Description:** Funds will be used for trail construction, maintenance, and improvement in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Of the funds appropriated for trail maintenance and improvement in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, \$500,000 is for trail improvements; \$500,000 is for maintenance of existing motorized trails and areas; and \$200,000 is for the improvement of two existing trails to provide primitive wheelchair access at Murdock Creek and Phyllis Lake.

**Project Name:** Upper Snake/South Fork of the Snake River ACEC

**Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

**Account:** BLM/Land Acquisition

**Recipient:** Bureau of Land Management

**Recipient's Address:** 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83401

**Description:** The funding will be used to secure conservation easements from willing sellers. The BLM has ranked the Upper Snake/South Fork as a top priority for land acquisition. As one of the nation's premier fishing destinations and recreational rivers, the Upper Snake/South Fork of the Snake River, which features outstanding fish habitat, water quality, scenic vistas and one of the West's most extensive cottonwood riparian forests, is under pressure from increasing population. The funding will facilitate protection of key lands in this landscape and will preserve and protect natural habitat while simultaneously supporting important recreational and tourism opportunities in eastern Idaho. Additionally the lands proposed for protection include important agricultural lands that will remain in production and private ownership.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of the projects I have requested in the FY2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill on behalf of Idaho and provide an explanation of my support for them.