

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IDAHO IRRIGATION DISTRICT LANDS INCLUSION/EXCLUSION

Prepared by
Bureau of Reclamation
Snake River Area Office

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and based on the following, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that approval of the inclusion of lands into the Idaho Irrigation District (Idaho ID) would not result in a significant impact on the human environment.

The purpose of the proposed inclusion/exclusion is to amend Idaho ID's repayment contract to permit the district to include 2313 acres, much of which is currently outside its boundaries and not receiving district water. This action would increase the Idaho ID's assessed acreage to that permitted by their contract. Idaho ID has lost approximately 2200 acres to urban development, therefore the ID is proposing to exclude the acres lost to development and replace them by including 2313 acres of adjacent agricultural lands.

The draft environmental assessment evaluates potential consequences to the human environment caused by amending the repayment contract between Reclamation and Idaho ID to allow Idaho ID to provide irrigation water to approximately 2313 acres of mostly non-irrigated farm ground outside its current boundaries. In addition to the inclusion of 2313 acres into the Idaho ID, 2000 acres will be excluded from the district. This type of action is becoming more common in and around western cities where agricultural lands are being converted to urban developments.

The proposed action will result in no changes to ground or surface water levels, as no net change in water diverted would result from the action. As such it has been determined that the proposed action will result in no changes to ground and surface water quality.

No threatened or endangered species, critical habitat or species of special concern exist in the action area. Further, no negative impacts to fish or wildlife resources would occur. The proposed action will have no impacts on the Snake River. The action area currently consists of agricultural lands. The proposed action does not result in a change in land use. Possible positive changes to wildlife resources could be expected through irrigation and the associated increase in vegetative cover.

No Indian trust assets, cultural resources, historic sites, paleontological resources or archaeological resources exist in the action area or will be impacted as a result of the action. In addition, no contractual obligations, water right issues, legal obligations, or legal authorities will be impacted, altered or violated as a result of the proposed action.

No comments were received following the public comment period. Based on the analysis of the environmental impacts as presented in the Environmental Assessment, Reclamation has concluded that the proposed action would not have a significant effect