

## Watershed Operations

May 2009

## Improving Water Quality in Southern Washington County, Idaho

### Introduction

The Southern Washington County Watershed project addresses water quality issues. The project will focus on assisting farmers and ranchers in increasing irrigation efficiency and installing practices to prevent soil erosion.



The project is located in southern Washington County, Idaho, and includes the City of Weiser.

### Project Description

‡ **Location:** Southern Washington County, 1st Congressional District  
 ‡ **ARRA Title:** § 1601 Y, \$430,000

The project area is adjacent to the Snake River, which is the source of public water for the City of Weiser, Idaho. More than 90 percent of rural residents in southern Washington County obtain their drinking water from groundwater sources. The project will improve ground and surface water quality in the Weiser area.

### Partners

- ‡ USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ‡ Weiser River Soil Conservation District
- ‡ Weiser Irrigation District
- ‡ Washington County Commissioners
- ‡ Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
- ‡ Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

### Benefits

Improving irrigation systems and properly managing water, nutrients, and pesticides will greatly reduce contaminants in the project areas surface and groundwater. Project activities will result in a 65 percent reduction in

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administrations plans to modernize the nations infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging food control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



A filter strip catches sediment and contaminants in irrigation water runoff.

