

A Presentation to Our Natural Partner
American Water Works Association / Pacific Northwest Section
May 7 through 9, 2025

TITLE

“Natural Resource Professionals, Community Conservationists, and Volunteers . . . the Role of Non-Profits in the Protection of Idaho Rivers.”

PRESENTER

Rob Tiedemann, Ph.D.
President, Board of Directors - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc. (a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation)
Visiting Scholar - Center for Ecohydraulics Research, College of Engineering, University of Idaho
Principal - Ecological Design, Inc. and Clean Water Partners, LLC

ABSTRACT

While the public relies on durable institutions - including Federal, State, and local governments - to represent the public interest, we have learned from interviews with stakeholders conducted from July 15 to August 14, 2020 specific ways that government officials and their staffs welcome and benefit from the work of non-profits like the Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.

We are an alliance of volunteers, citizen scientists, and natural resource professionals dedicated to: (1) “on-the-ground” projects including the installation of native plants in public places; (2) gathering data from informal experiments like those that contribute to a formal prescription for growing black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) trees from seed; and (3) collaborations with parks and public works departments such as advising them of modern means and methods of bank repairs, and restoring degraded riparian corridors.

This presentation will offer specific examples of the duties and tasks that have come to be expected of 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporations like ours, and the greater good that comes from collaborations with our natural partners.

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OUTLINE

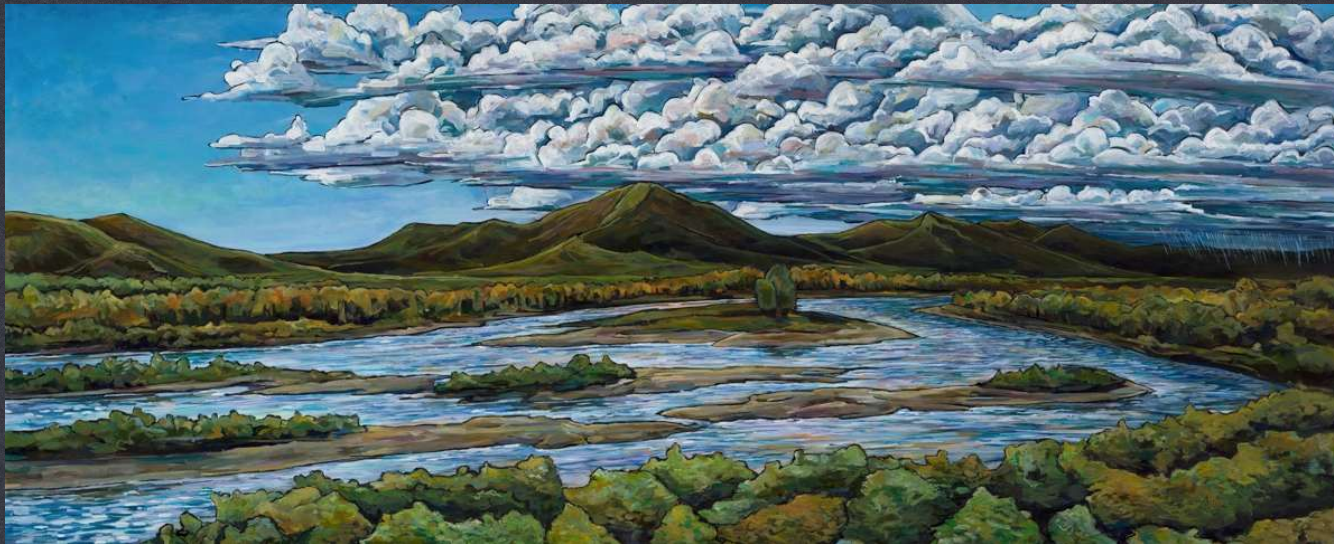
1. The public relies on durable institutions - including Federal, State, and local governments - to represent the public interest.
2. We have learned from interviews with stakeholders conducted from July 15 to August 14, 2020 specific ways that government officials and their staffs welcome and benefit from the work of non-profits like the Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.
3. My purpose in presenting to you today is to make you aware of who we are and what we do, and share with other public interest groups some of the reasons for our success.
4. We are an alliance of volunteers, citizen scientists, and natural resource professionals dedicated to: (1) “on-the-ground” projects including the installation of native plants in public places; (2) gathering data from informal experiments like those that contribute to a formal prescription for growing black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) trees from seed; and (3) collaborations with parks and public works departments such as advising them of modern means and methods of bank repairs, and restoring degraded riparian corridors.
5. This presentation will offer specific examples of the duties and tasks that have come to be expected of 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporations like ours, and the greater good that comes from collaborations with our natural partners.
6. “Big Ideas” from Stakeholder Interviews:
 - We are viewed as *locals* who are *passionate* about our regard for the Boise River.
 - We are known by most to be *volunteers, citizen scientists, and natural resource professionals*.
 - We are different than other 501(c)(3) non-profits in that our sole focus is a single natural resource (i.e. the Boise River). This is something almost everyone can rally around.
 - BREN is an *advocate*, but *not partisan*. We should remain both.
 - Perhaps our most important roles are to *advise* and *educate* the public, staff of local governments, and decision makers.
 - We are regarded as very professional in our dealings with others, and easy to work with.
 - People want to do “good”, but often don’t know what that is for the river. BREN informs them of what it means to do “good” and helps them learn how best to do it.
 - BREN has taught both staff of local governments and independent contractors how to better do their work related to the river.
7. Invitation to our natural partners like those from Federal, State of Idaho, and local governments to work together.
8. Examples of what we can accomplish working together:
 - Providing expert comment on amendments to the implementing rules and regulations of the Clean Water Act.
 - Contributing to the supporting science as we develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for temperature for the Lower Boise River.
 - Conducting citizen surveys to assess the public interest in beneficial uses protected by water quality criteria and standards.
 - Advising local governments in the development of local land use plans.
 - Advising local governments in the management of public open space.
 - Investigating methods of managing invasive species on the ground.

Natural Resource Professionals, Community Conservationists, and Volunteers . . . the Role of Non-Profits in the Protection of Idaho Rivers

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A “Good News” Story from the Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc. (BREN)

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Graphic Courtesy of Josh Udesen

Presenters:

Robert B. Tiedemann, Ph.D.

President - BREN Board of Directors
College of Engineering, Center for Ecohydraulics Research, University of Idaho
Ecological Design, Inc.
Clean Water Professionals, LLC

AND

Members and Friends

Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.



Boise, Idaho (4 of 12)

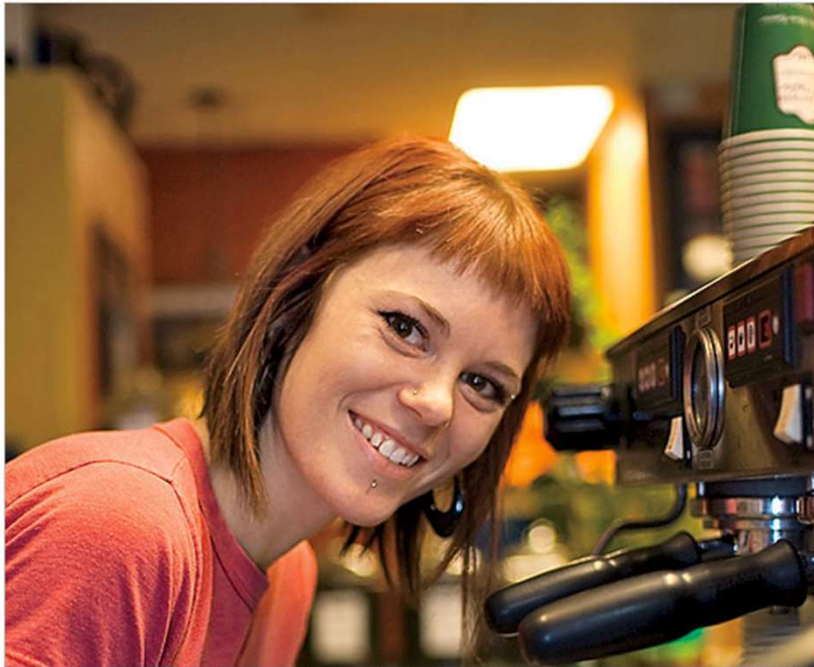


OUTSIDE MAGAZINE, OCTOBER 2012
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 06, 2012

THE BEST RIVER TOWNS IN AMERICA: BOISE, IDAHO

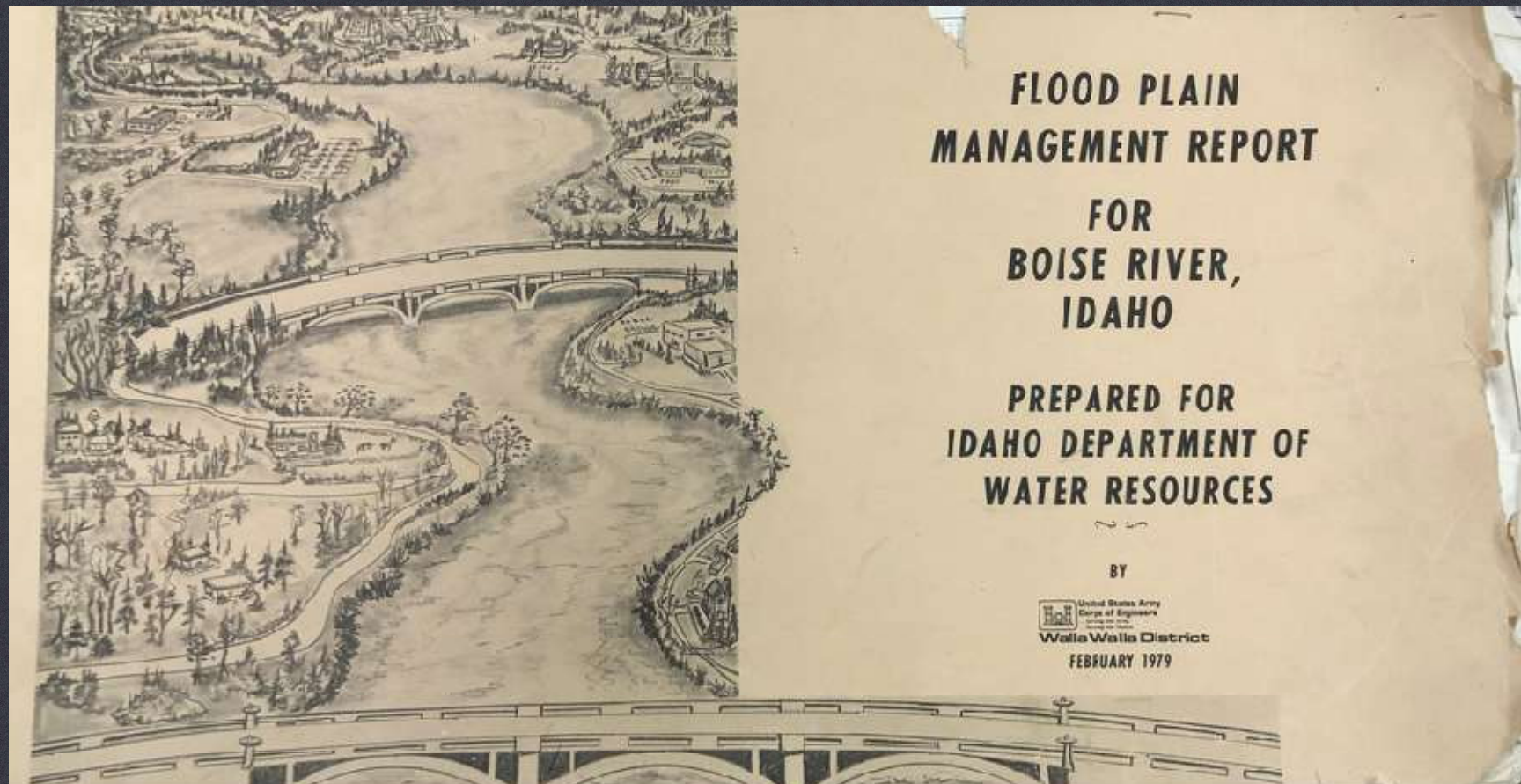
In Boise it's all about the Greenbelt

By: RYAN KROGH





Photograph Courtesy of Liz Paul



PROJECT

Previous Plans for Floodplain Management us Army Corps of Engineers (1979)

Construction of Engineered Dikes and Levees

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.



PROJECT

Previous Plans for Floodplain Management US Army Corps of Engineers (1979)

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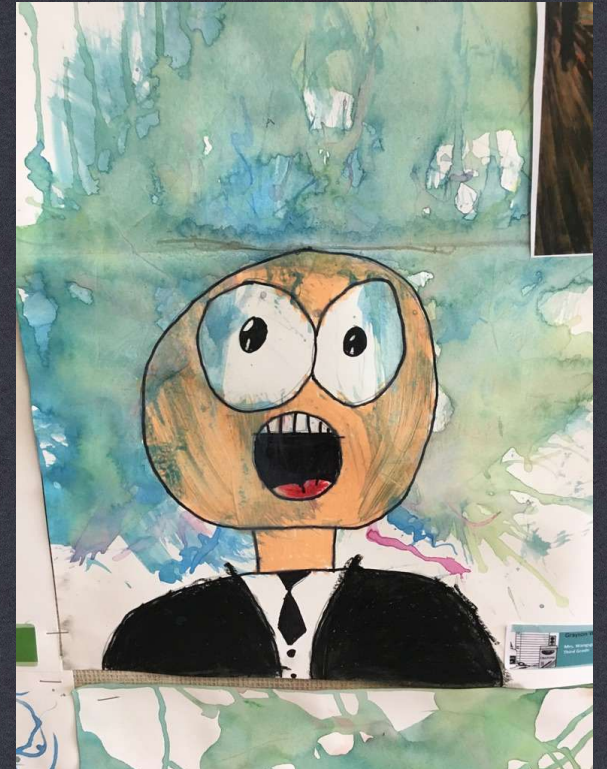
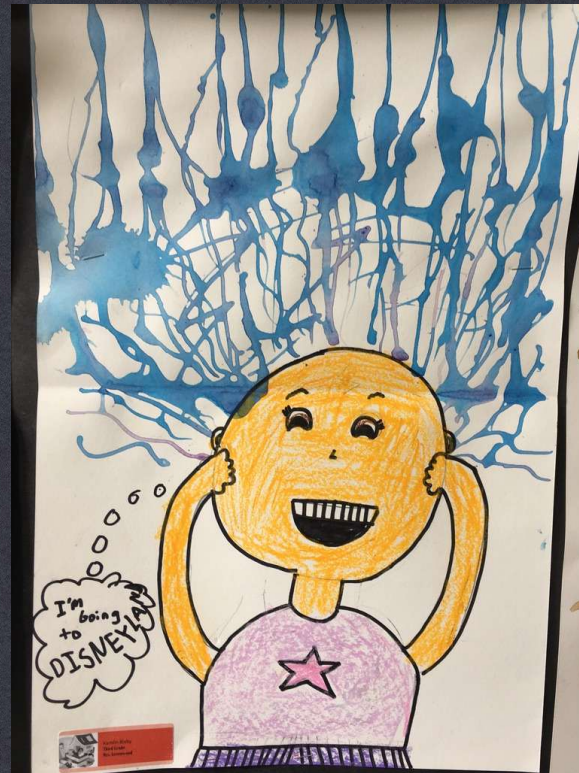
DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.







PROJECT

Serving the Public Interest Public Reliance on Durable Institutions

The Role of Federal, State, and Local Governments

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.



PROJECT

Serving the Public Interest Public Reliance on Soft Institutions

The Complementary Role of 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organizations

DATE

May 7, 2025

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The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.



PROJECT

Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.

We are Natural Resource Professionals, Community Conservationists, and Volunteers

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.





PROJECT

Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.

Doing Good On-the-Ground with Like Minded People

DATE

May 7, 2025

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PROJECT

Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.

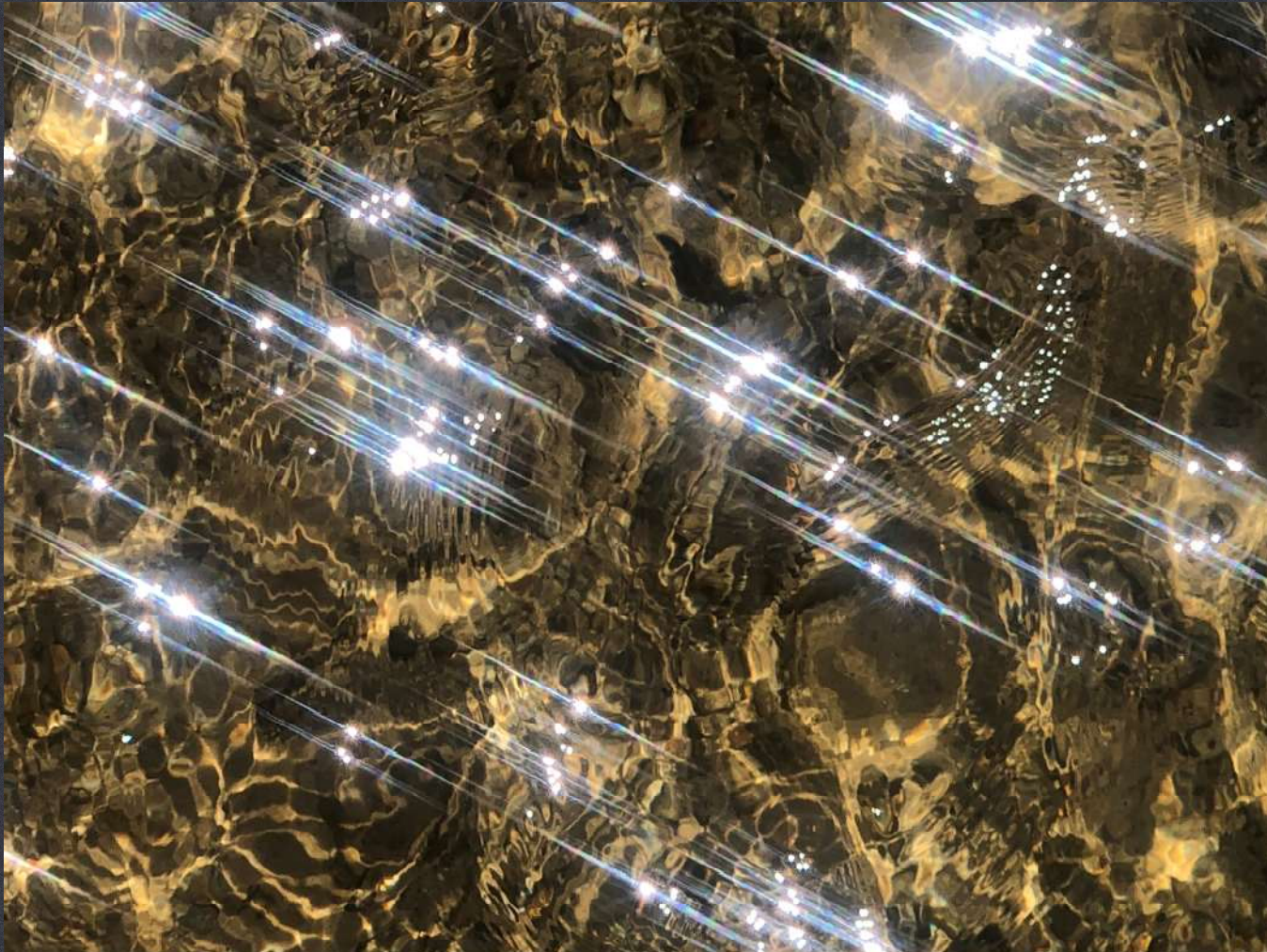
Doing Good On-the-Ground with Like Minded People

DATE

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CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.



PROJECT

Modern Plans for Floodplain Management Boise River System Ordinance (June 22, 1993)

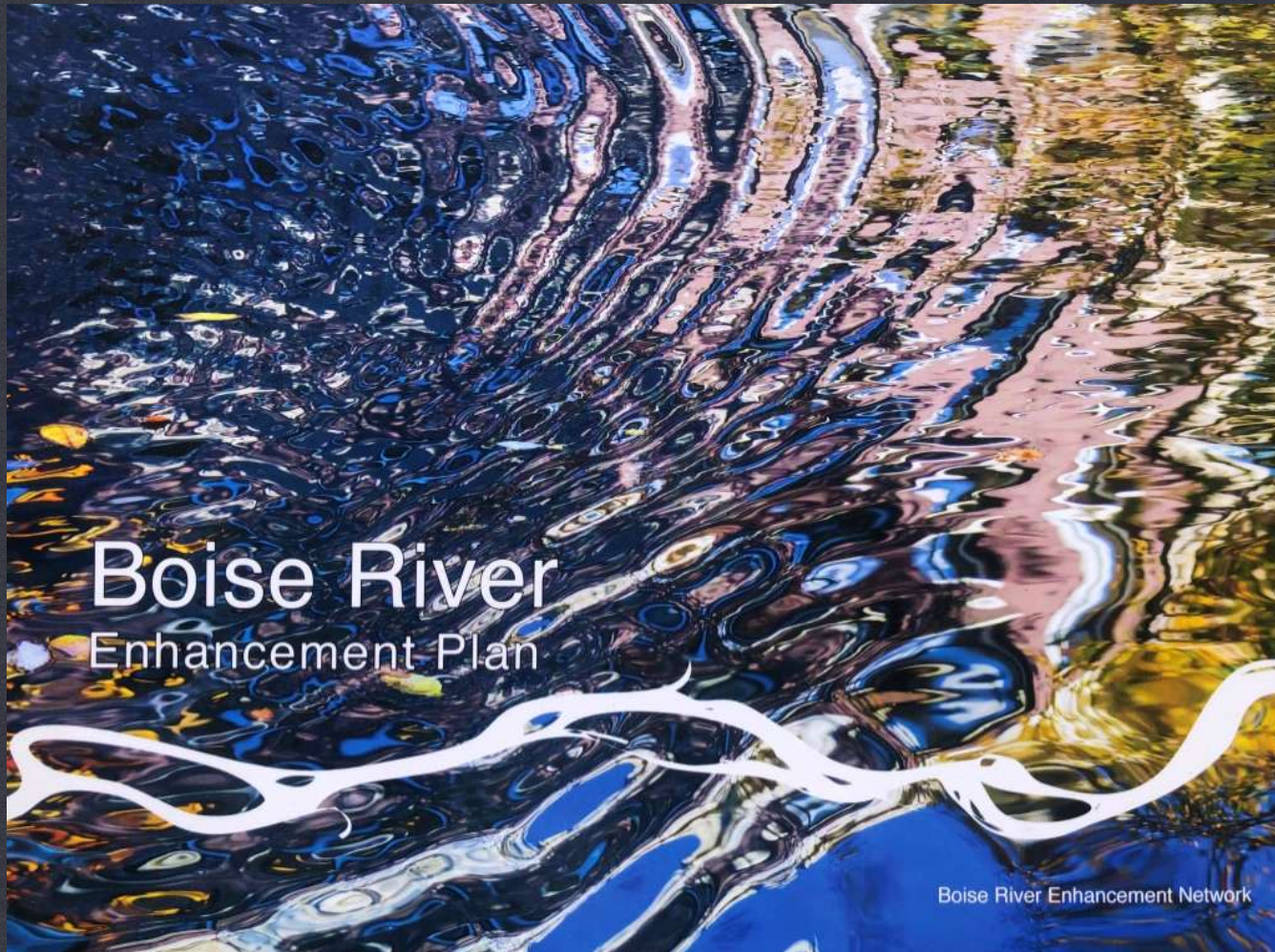
Conservation of Open Space AND Regulation of Development

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.



Boise River Enhancement Plan

Boise River Enhancement Network

PROJECT

Modern Plans for Floodplain Management Boise River Enhancement Network (2005)

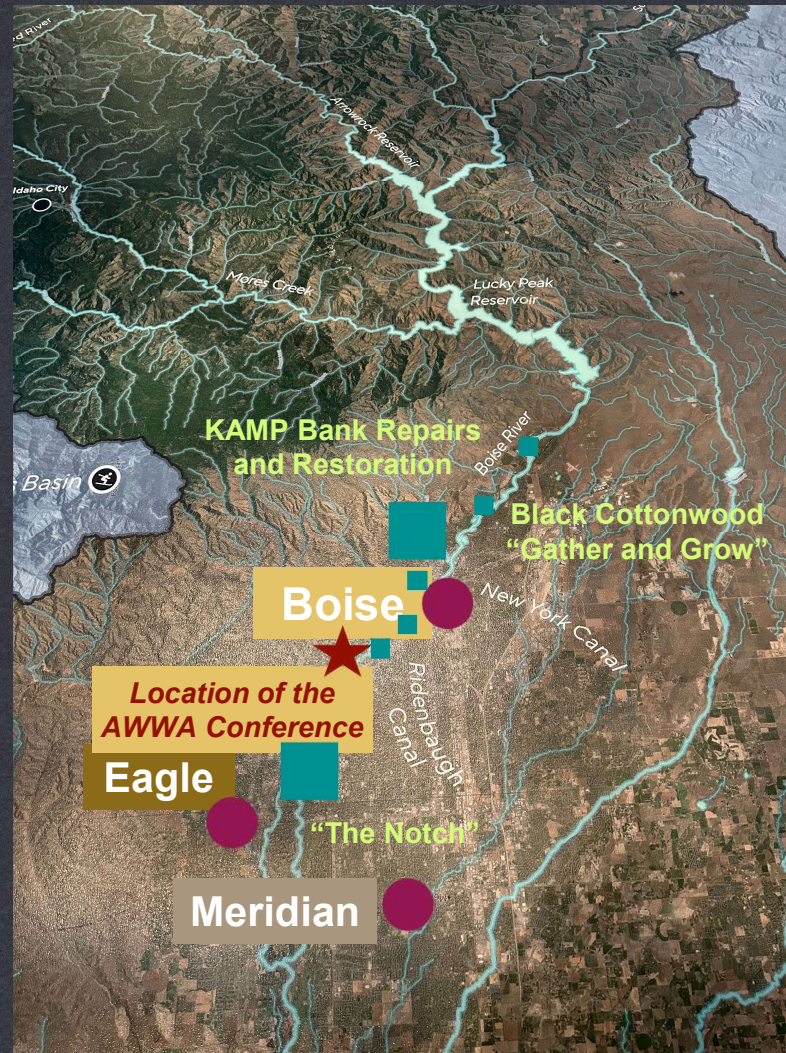
Conservation of Open Space AND Management Based in Science

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.



PROJECT

Collaborations with our Natural Partners Examples From the Real World

Locations of Current On-the-Ground Projects

DATE

February 21, 2023

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.



PROJECT

Collaborations with our Natural Partners Examples From the Real World

1. “On-the-Ground” Restoration and Enhancement Projects (e.g. Kristen Armstrong / Municipal Park Bank Repairs and Restoration Project)
2. Gathering Data from Informal Experiments (e.g. “The Notch” Project)
3. Collaborations with Local Governments (e.g. Black Cottonwood “Gather and Grow” Project)

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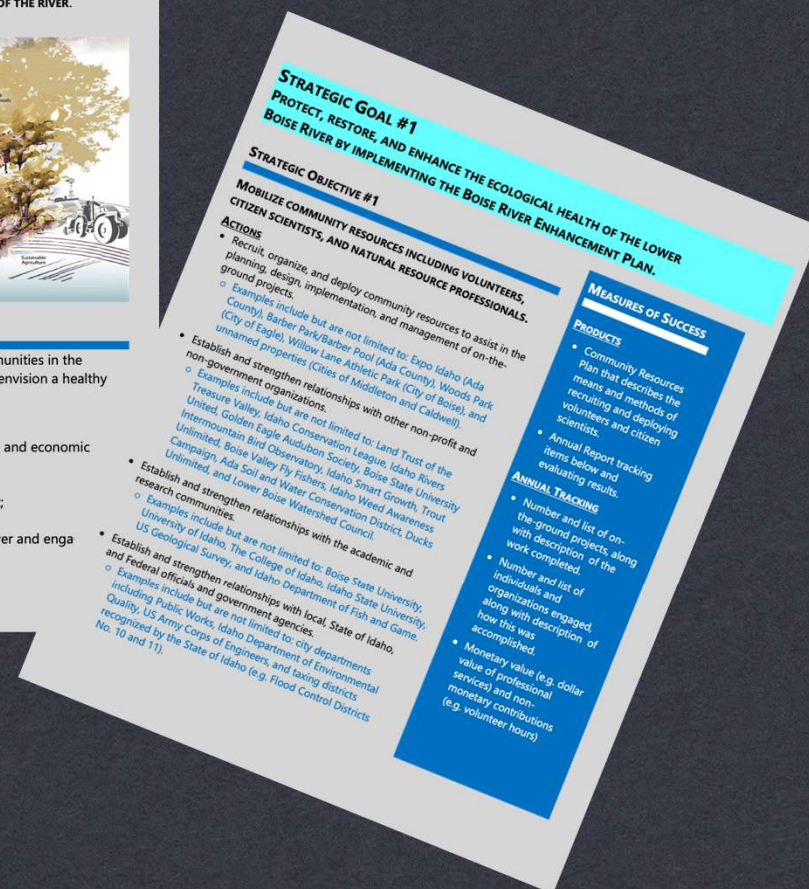
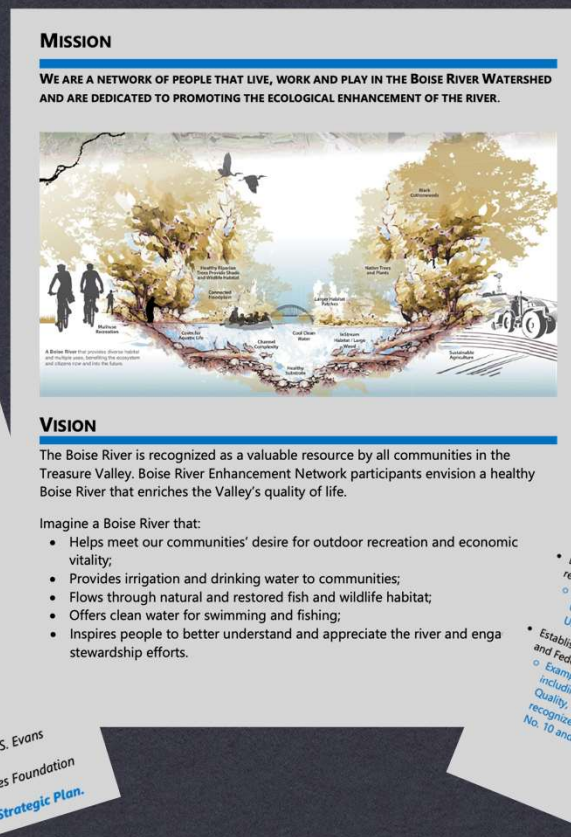
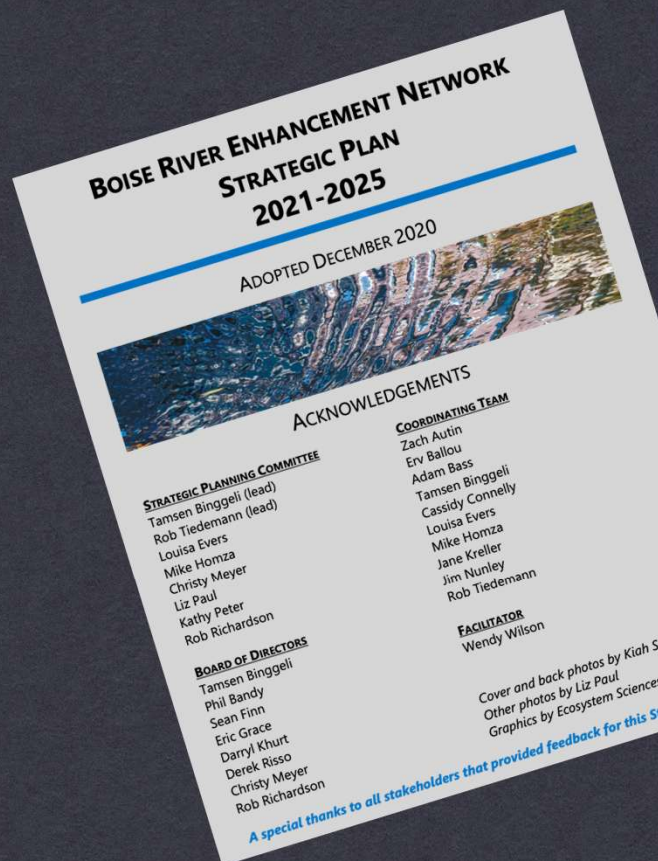
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PROJECT

Strategic Planning Effort Interviews with Stakeholders (July 15 to August 14, 2020)

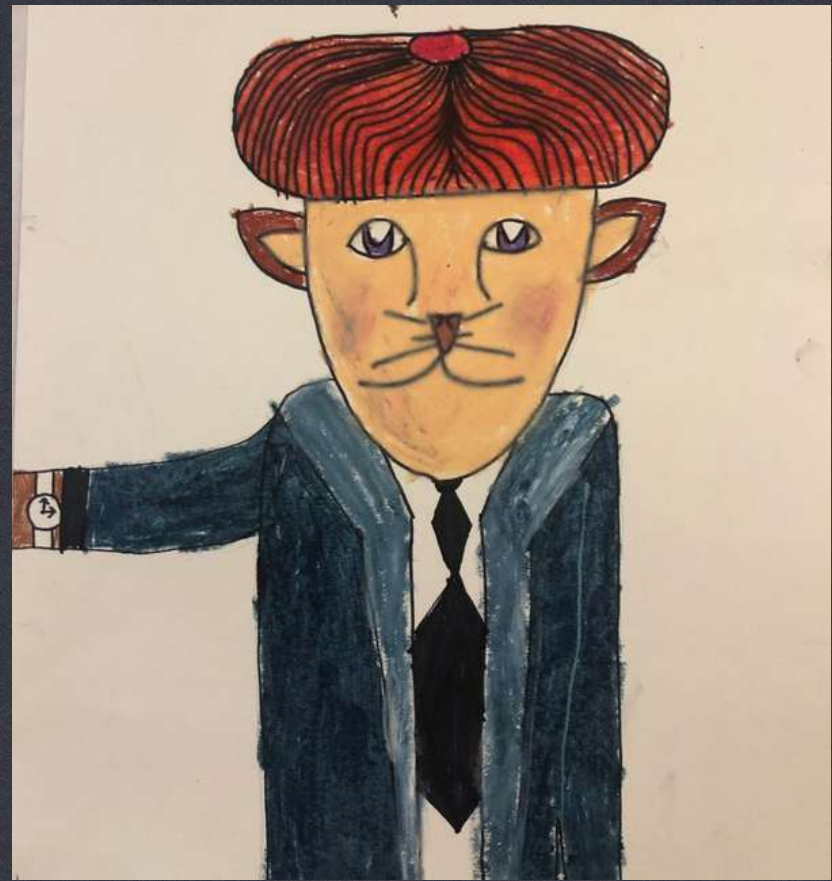
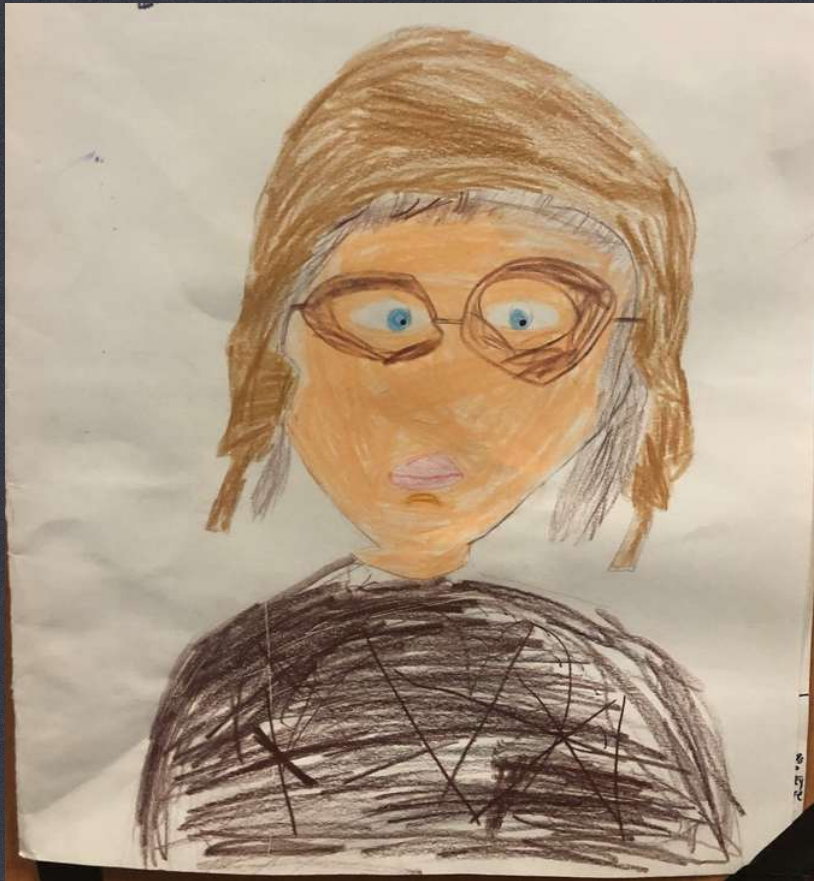
Specific Ways that Government Officials and their Staffs Welcome and Benefit from the Work of Non-Profits

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.



PROJECT

Interviews with Stakeholders July 15 to August 14, 2020

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.

What others describe as our “brand”:

- We are viewed as **locals** who are **passionate** about our regard for the Boise River.
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What others describe as our “value added”:

- People want to do “good”, but often don’t know what that is for the river. BREN informs them of what it means to do “good” and helps them learn how best to do it.
- BREN has taught both staff of local governments and independent contractors how to better do their work related to the river.

PROJECT

Interviews with Stakeholders “Big Ideas”

DATE

May 7, 2025

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The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.

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PROJECT

Interviews with Stakeholders “Big Ideas”

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May 7, 2025

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The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.

“While others offer passion alone, BREN backs it up with technical expertise.”

**Public Works Director
Local Government
Lower Boise River**

PROJECT

Interviews with Stakeholders Facts not Fluff

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.

How can BREN best assist you in your job as a member or the leader of a non-profit organization, for-profit business, government agency, native tribe, or elected office?

- *Review and comment on policy early in its development.*
- *Assist in the development of conceptual plans for river restoration projects before they evolve into alternatives.*
- *Help the city see “the big picture”.*
- *Help the public understand the misperception by many that the river is “in good shape” and that issues - such as channelization, temperature, and the introduction of untreated stormwater - require the attention of the public.*
- *Help others understand why it is important to invest money in the river.*
- *Stay “ahead of the issues” and see over the horizon.*

**Public Works Director
Local Government
Lower Boise River**

PROJECT

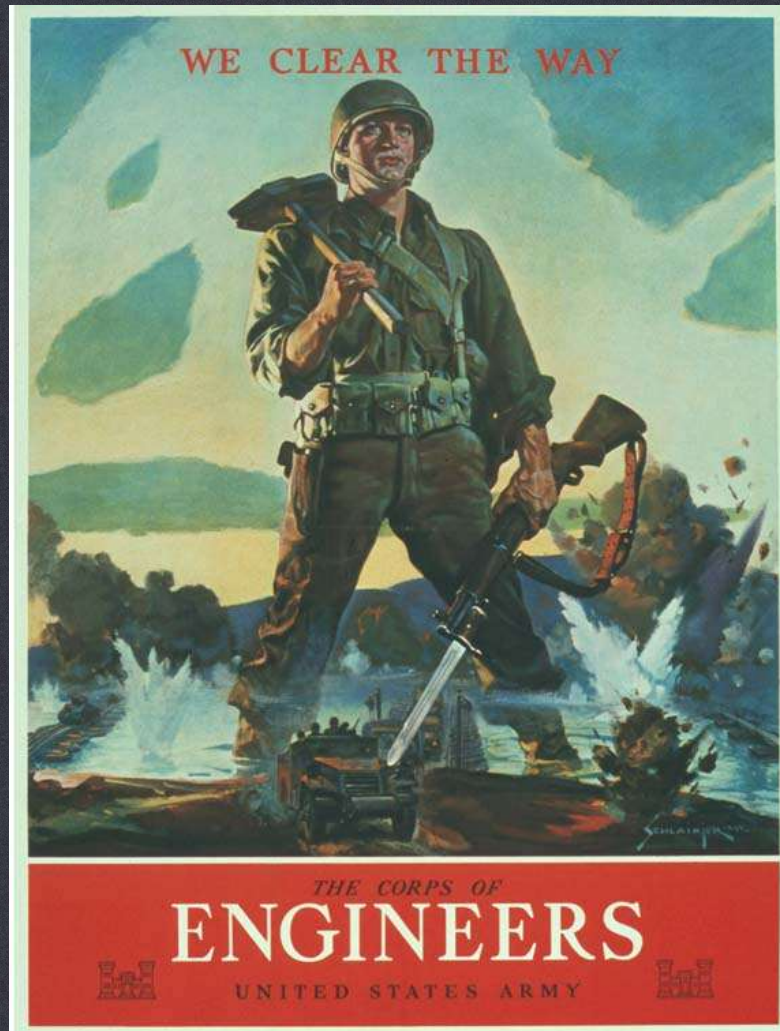
Interviews with Stakeholders . . . Ask What We Can Do for You

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

The Public Interest - Boise River Enhancement Network, Inc.



PROJECT

Collaborations with Our Natural Partners Clean Water Act:

1. Providing Expert Comment on Amendments to Implementing Rules and Regulations (e.g. Re-Issuance of Nationwide Permits)

DATE	May 7, 2025	CLIENT	US Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers
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PROJECT

Collaborations with Our Natural Partners Clean Water Act:

2. Contributing to the Supporting Science (e.g. Developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Temperature for the Lower Boise River)

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and
US Environmental Protection Agency



PROJECT

Collaborations with Our Natural Partners Clean Water Act:

3. Conducting Citizen Surveys (e.g. Assess the Public Interest in Beneficial Uses Protected by Water Quality Criteria and Standards)

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and
US Environmental Protection Agency



PROJECT

Collaborations with Our Natural Partners Comprehensive Plans and Boise River Ordinances:

4. Advising Local Governments in the Development of Local Land Use Plans

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

Development Services Department - City of Garden City, Idaho



PROJECT

Collaborations with Our Natural Partners Policy, Plans, and Practices:

5. Advising Local Governments in the Management of Public Open Space

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

Department of Parks and Recreation - City of Boise, Idaho





PROJECT

Collaborations with Our Natural Partners On the Ground Projects:

6. Investigating Methods of Managing Invasive Species at “The Notch” Along the Boise River

DATE

May 7, 2025

CLIENT

Xylem / Watermark Community Conservationist



PROJECT

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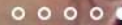




Grants program extended to external partners

Xylem Watermark is uniting our business partners with nonprofit organizations to address water challenges in their communities.

[Learn More](#)



Watermark is Xylem's corporate social responsibility program. Our mission is to provide education and equitable access to safe water and sanitation to support healthy lives and help build resilient communities.



WATER EDUCATION



WATER, SANITATION, AND
HYGIENE ACCESS



EMERGENCY RESPONSE



WATER STEWARDSHIP



BREN Boise River “everyone’s nature”

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