

Farmers' Co-operative Ditch Co. sediment basin

Regional Conservation Partnership Program project



What is the project?

In the Farmer's Cooperative Ditch Company (FCDC) project, a group of partners will address the excessive amount of sediment and nutrients in the irrigation water, reduce water usage/ improve delivery and soil health in the Lower Boise Watershed.

This project has and will greatly impact all residents within the Lower Boise Watershed making it one of great value to the community as a whole by removing nearly 2,000 tons of sediment from the ditch before it is discharged back into the Lower Boise River.

This is a pilot project for the FCDC, which will not only demonstrate proof of concept, but will enable the company and its partners to refine the general concept to meet Idaho's specific needs. The plan will concentrate on environmental awareness and strive to increase the number of conservation practices implemented. In addition, after the construction of the sediment basin, a monitoring plan will be developed for the length of the project.

What is the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)?

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) encourages partners to join in efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales.

Through the program, NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.



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Who are the partners?

- Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Lower Boise Watershed Council
- Canyon Soil Conservation District
- Canyon County Commissioners
- City of Parma
- Southwest Idaho Resources Conservation and Development Council
- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Black Canyon Irrigation District

How is success defined?

Successful projects demonstrate solutions, contributions, innovation and participation.

The partnerships bring a diverse array of stakeholders into a project, greatly accelerate adoption of conservation systems in the project area, and engage participants including historically under-served audiences.

The partners are innovative in their approach, and they bring an array of financial and technical interests and capabilities to projects, such as cash contributions and technical professionals to work one-on-one with farmers and ranchers to provide planning, management and engineering activities.

The project designs lasting solutions that are technically sound and locally supported, so that benefits extend beyond the initial Federal investment.

Investment

Federal contribution:
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service: \$500,000 through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

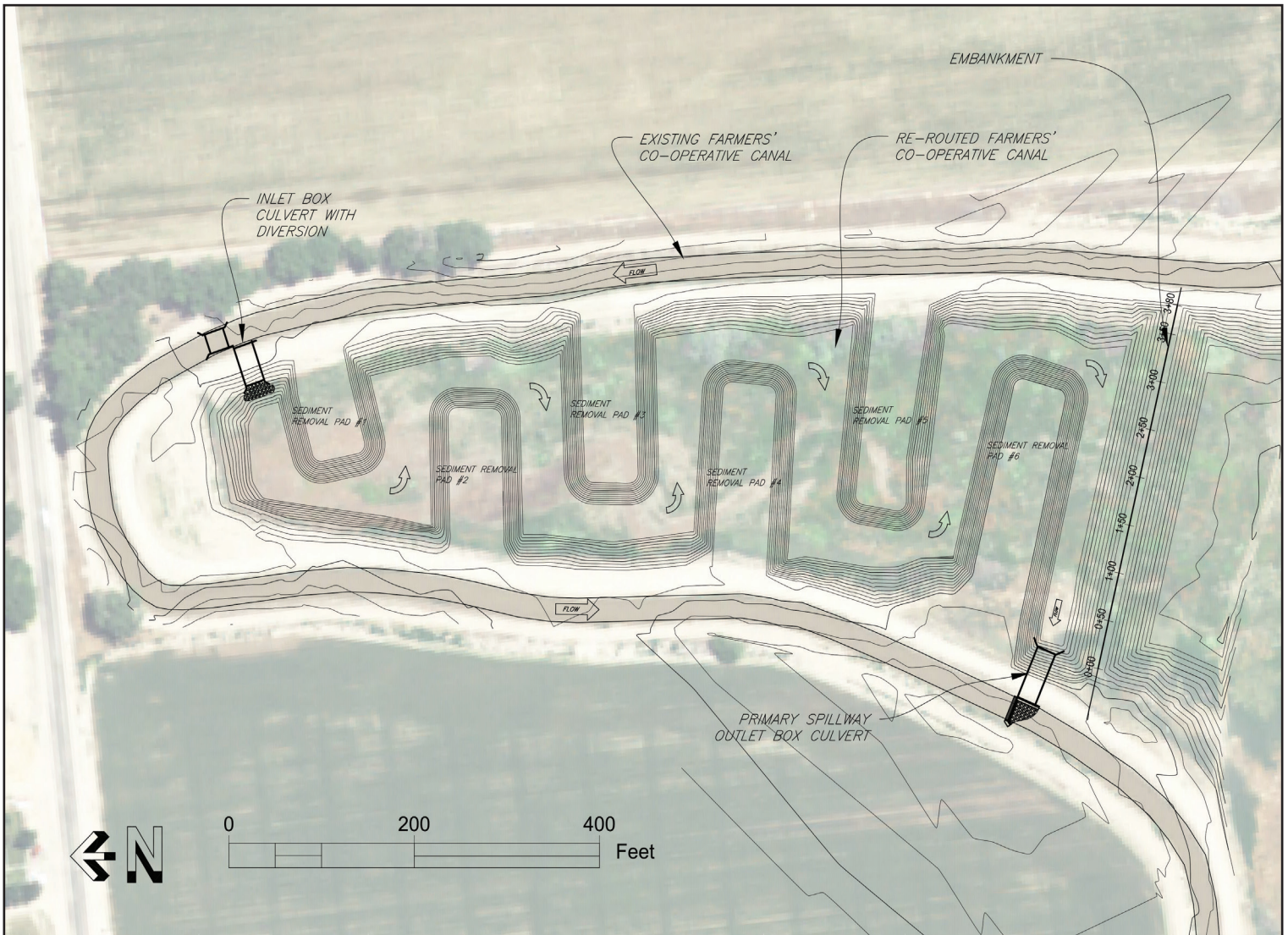
Partnership contributions:

- Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company: Lease of land for sediment basin, staff support, additional shareholder support
- Canyon Soil Conservation District: Staff time and other logistical support
- Canyon County Commissioners: Letter of Support
- City of Parma: Letter of Support
- Southwest Idaho Resources Conservation & Development Council: Letter of support
- Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission: Letter of Support,
- Black Canyon Irrigation District: Letter of Support

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By The Numbers

Size

- Overall: 8 acres
- Width: Approximately 250 feet
- Depth: 7.5 feet
- The sinuous path of the sediment basin is approximately 2,000 feet in length.

Sediment Capture

- 2,000 tons

Number of Sediment Removal Pads:

- 6

Size of the Pads

- 60 feet wide and of varying lengths.

The project's cornerstone

Currently, producers using water from the Farmers' Cooperative Ditch Co. (FCDC) are experiencing large amounts of sediment in their systems. As the irrigation season progresses, producers pump the sediment-laden water, which causes damage to pumps, clogs micro-irrigation systems, and deposits sediment in concrete ditches used for surface irrigation.

To mitigate this, the FCDC has leased approximately 8 acres of land on which to construct a settlement basin to remove as much sediment as possible to assist

downstream water users.

This portion of the overall project will take advantage of a long, oxbow-like feature of the canal to divert water into the new basin located near a sharp bend. The water will flow through the basin for approximately 2,000 feet to allow sediment to settle out. The water will then be directed back into the canal on the other end.

The basin will also have a series of "pads" to facilitate the removal of sediment that settles out. These pads will all be 60 feet wide on the top and will vary in length. They will be constructed in a staggered fashion and spaced closely so an excavator will be able to access anywhere in the basin and remove deposited sediment and stack it so it can dry out and subsequently be transported.

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