



Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project Project Narrative

*WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects FY2025
No. R24AS00059*

Applicant: Water District 65
Project Manager: Neil Shippy, Watermaster
102 N Main St. Payette, Idaho 83661
neil.waterdistrict65@gmail.com
208.550.1276 (Cell)
208.642.4465 (Office)

January 14, 2025

Table of Contents

Section 1: Mandatory Federal Forms 1

Section 2: Technical Proposal..... 1

 Executive Summary 1

 Project Location 2

 Technical Project Description 2

 E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A – Project Benefits 4

 E.1.2 Evaluation Criterion B – Planning Efforts Supporting the Project..... 7

 E.1.3 Evaluation Criterion C – Implementation and Results 8

 E.1.4 Evaluation Criterion D – Nexus to Reclamation..... 10

 E.1.5. Evaluation Criterion E – Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities.. 10

Section 3: Project Budget 13

 Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources 13

 Budget Breakdown..... 13

 Budget Narrative..... 14

Section 4: Environmental And Cultural Resources Compliance 14

Section 5: Required Permits Or Approvals 17

Section 6: Overlap Or Duplication Of Effort Statement 17

Section 7: Conflict Of Interest Disclosure Statement 17

Section 8: Uniform Audit Reporting Statement 17

Section 9: Certification Regarding Lobbying..... 17

Section 10: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if Applicable) 17

Section 11: Letters of Support..... 18

Appendix A 19

Appendix B..... 20

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Section 1: Mandatory Federal Forms

SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance

SF-424A: Budget Information Non-Construction Programs

SF-424B: Assurances

Section 2: Technical Proposal

Executive Summary

Date: January 14, 2025

Applicant: Water District 65

Location: Payette, Idaho (Payette County)

Water District 65, located in Payette, Idaho, qualifies as a Category “A” applicant in accordance with the requirements outlined in Section C.1.1. in the Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement for the WaterSMART – Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects.

Project Scope: Water District 65 (“District”) provides water to 261 stakeholders in western Idaho including irrigation districts, canal companies, farmers, water service companies, municipalities, and subdivisions across 4 counties: Payette, Boise, Gem, and Valley. The District seeks funding to automate its current manual flow-monitoring system on 100 diversion channels along the Payette River. The project scope includes procurement and installation of approximately 100 telemetry boxes that interface with a web-based platform via long-range (LoRa) radio, and cellular networks. This real-time monitoring (RTM) implementation project will increase the frequency of data collection from weekly to hourly, thereby improving data accuracy and shortening the watermasters incident response time by up to one week.

Project Length and Estimated Completion Date: The design for the District’s Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project is estimated to be complete within 2 years of funding. With an anticipated award date of October 31, 2025, the construction is estimated to be completed by October 31, 2027.

Federal Facilities: The proposed project is located in multiple locations along the Payette River. The proposed project is not located on a specific federal facility. Water District 65 (“District”) is the State of Idaho, administrative body for basin 65. Water District 65 has measured and tracked water on the Payette River since 1990.

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Project Location

Water District 65's (District) Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project will occur at 100 diversion channels along the Payette River. The southernmost channel is Washoe Ditch, located in Payette County near the City of Payette, Idaho. The northernmost channel is the City of McCall, located in Valley County, Idaho (**Figure 1**).

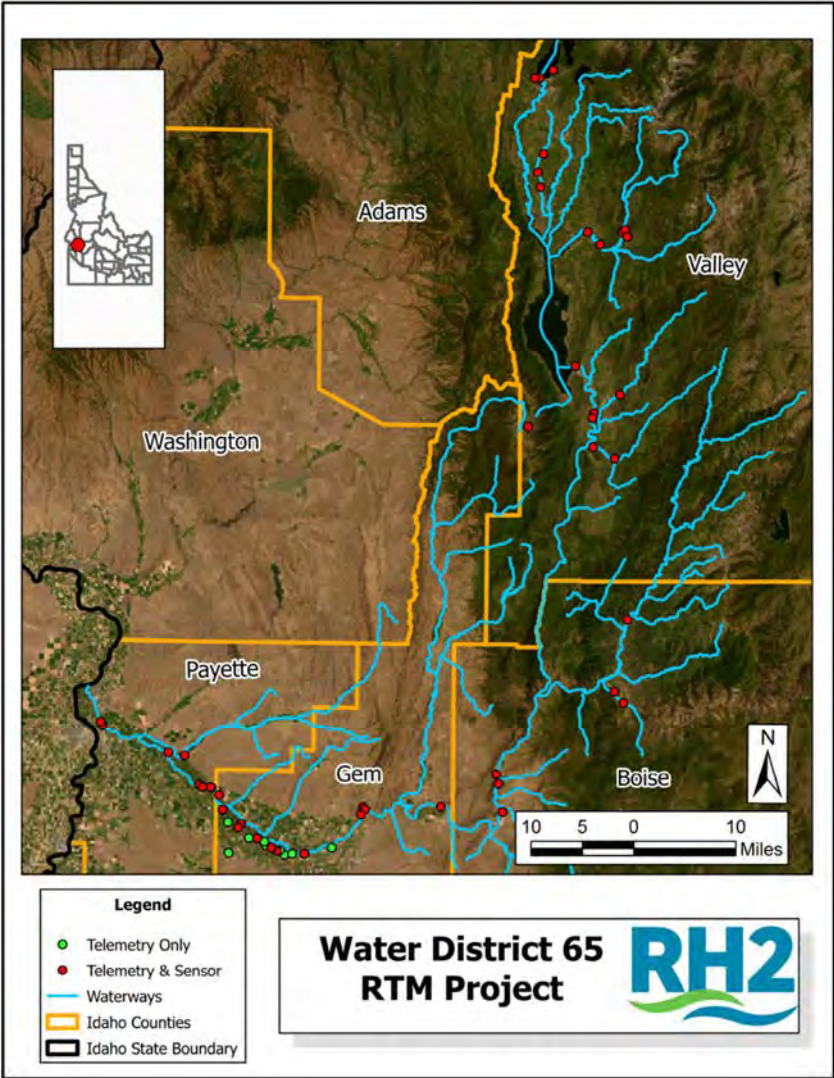


Figure 1
Project Location for the RTM Implementation Project

Technical Project Description

The District proposes implementing real-time monitoring (RTM) technology on 100 diversion channels along the Payette River to better manage and conserve water. The project scope includes the connection of 25 client-owned flow meters (ranging from 4-inch flow meters to 10-inch flow meters) on 25 closed-channel diversions, and

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

installation of 75 new pressure transducers on 75 open-channel diversions. Each device is planned to communicate via a cable-connected telemetry unit to a carrier-grade (i.e., cybersecure, redundant, and future proof) network. The majority of the RTM's plan to connect with a network operated by Ethos Connected, the largest public carrier-grade long-rang wide area network (LoRaWAN) provider in North America.

An example of the recent District installation of an RTM is shown in Photo 1 below.



Photo 1
RTM Installed by District Staff

RTM technology will automatically and remotely collect, store, and display hourly flow data. RTM technology at sites will be required to utilize multiple communication platforms. In areas that can be supported, RTM will be captured via a LoRaWAN and web-based platform/graphical user interface provided by Ethos Connected. The equipment and technology required for the project is commercially available today and has a proven history of successful use by other natural resource districts. In remote areas, cellar services or radio services may be implemented depending on the topography and accessibility of communication.

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

The project scope will include procurement of equipment, installation of equipment, and functional testing of hardware and software by application users (i.e., District watermasters) and network administrators (i.e., Ethos Connected).

E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A – Project Benefits

Benefits to the Category A Applicant’s Water Delivery System: Describe the expected benefits to the Category A applicant’s water delivery system.

Clearly explain the anticipated water management benefits to Category A applicant’s water supply delivery system and water customers.

Will the project result in more efficient management of the water supply?

RTM will save approximately 35 percent of the watermasters’ time per week by automating data collection and data entry. Each Monday, watermasters drive about 300 miles to 100 diversions and manually record the previous week’s stakeholder diversion rate (SDR) manually recording data for each diversion. On Tuesday morning, the rates are manually input into a state database that prescribes SDRs for the upcoming week. Prescribed SDRs are thus based on historical data, which drives operational loss due to its inaccuracy.

Where any conserved water as a result of the project will go and how it will be used?

Watermasters will use RTM to reduce operational loss by an estimated 10,000 acre-feet per year (afy), and up to a maximum of 12,000 afy. Two key factors will enable this: improved accuracy of prescribed SDRs and shortened management response time. As river flow rates fluctuate continuously, watermasters cannot use the prior week’s flow data to accurately predict daily average flow rate. However, this is precisely how watermasters currently calculate and prescribe SDRs for the upcoming week. If actual flow rates turn out to be lower than estimated flow rates, which happens often, stakeholders will have overused water while complying with the District’s prescribed SDRs. RTM will enable watermasters to prescribe SDRs based on real-time data, not week-old data. This will improve SDR accuracy and conserve water, thereby reducing the risk of water shutoffs, water restrictions, and shortened water-supply seasons for stakeholders. RTM will enable watermasters to manage SDRs daily, thereby reducing operational loss.

Explain the significance of the anticipated water management benefits for the Category A applicant’s water delivery system and customers.

Are customers not currently getting their full water right at certain times of the year?

Stakeholders are not getting their full water right at certain times of the season due to water restrictions and water shutoffs. Each summer, water restrictions occur relative to decreased water flow from the Payette River into the District’s reservoirs. Each water right issued by the State of Idaho specifies a stakeholder’s diversion rate (i.e., allowed

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

rate of consumption) and the priority date (i.e., date the water right goes into effect). If the river flow rate becomes sufficiently low, a stakeholder with a senior priority date may compel watermasters to shut off water access to a competing stakeholder with a later priority date. RTM will allow watermasters to minimize operational loss on both the supply side and the demand side (i.e., reservoirs and diversions), thereby helping to avoid water restrictions and water shutoffs for stakeholders.

Does this project have the potential to prevent lawsuits or water calls?

Stakeholders make water calls to the District when river flow rates are inadequate to deliver their prescribed SDRs. Typically, this occurs when watermasters have overprescribed SDRs due to inaccurate weekly reporting. Watermasters will prescribe more accurate SDRs with RTM as it improves resolution and accuracy of data. The District expects that this will assist in preventing water calls.

What are the consequences of not making the improvements?

By not making the improvements, Water District 65 Basin will continue to operate with week old data, and as water supplies grow tighter, more infighting will occur. With better management now, many of these issues can be curtailed and real time flow monitoring will provide the necessary data to make the correct adjustments.

The District expects increased collaboration among water managers, leading to improved and accelerated disaster mitigation. For example, if large debris becomes stuck in the river, managers can notify each other about problems (e.g., flooding upstream or restricted flow downstream) within hours rather than days. RTM will provide a water conservation template for other water districts in the region to follow.

Are customer water restrictions currently required?

Yes, stakeholder water restrictions occur every summer, corresponding with decreasing water flow into the District's reservoirs. RTM will mitigate the risk and severity of water restrictions by facilitating water conservation.

Other significant concerns that support the need for the project.

In 2021, the District benefitted from a small-scale RTM deployment (**Appendix A**). Watermasters installed a pressure transducer on an open-channel diversion and learned that flow rates increase significantly for several hours each afternoon. This is partly due to tidal changes that occur in rivers and oceans. The watermasters' current manual monitoring system (i.e., collecting one data point per diversion per week) is unable to track this change, resulting in stakeholders receiving more water than their water rights allow. The proposed larger-scale RTM project will enable watermasters to monitor and mitigate this overconsumption in real time.

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Broader Benefits: Describe the broader benefits that are expected to occur as a result of the project. Consider:

Will the project improve broader water supply reliability at sub-basin or basin scale?

This project will improve broader water supply reliability at the basin scale by conserving an estimated average of 3,200 to 4,800 afy, and up to a maximum of 8,000 afy. The District administers water to the entire 4,100 square mile Payette River basin that currently has a population of over 700,000 people and supports 130 stakeholders, including irrigation districts, canal companies, farmers, water service companies, municipalities, and subdivisions.

Will the proposed project increase collaboration and information sharing among water managers in the region? Please explain.

There are 84 water managers who oversee the 100 diversions pertaining to this project. The District will provide these water managers with access to the proposed RTM platform, enabling them to make better water-management decisions.

The District expects increased collaboration among water managers to expedite disaster mitigation and enable quicker communication about major issues.

Finally, RTM will provide a water conservation template for other water districts in the region to follow. These districts face similar challenges to Water District 65 and the solutions identified in this proposal can be applied on a larger scale.

Is the project in an area that is experiencing, or recently experienced, drought or water scarcity? Will the project help address drought conditions at the sub-basin or basin scale? Please explain.

This project will help address drought conditions at the basin scale by improving accuracy of prescribed SDRs and shortening watermasters' management response time by up to a week.

Will the project benefit species (e.g., federally threatened or endangered, a federally recognized candidate species, a state listed species, or a species of particular recreational, or economic importance)? Please explain.

The RTM project could benefit local wildlife by improving the diversion operation efficiency, which would result in greater water stores throughout the season. If more water is saved than needed, then it can be routed back to local rivers like the Snake River that contains endangered species like the Snake River Sockeye Salmon.

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Will the proposed project positively impact/benefit various sectors and economies within the applicable geographic area (e.g., impacts to agriculture, environment, recreation, and tourism)? Please explain.

By improving local water availability and reliability, this project will benefit various economic sectors. The District services stakeholders ranging from multinational farming companies to municipal lawns and gardens. The District also supplies irrigation water to various environmental and recreational sites including nature centers, city parks, and gardens.

Will the project complement work being done in coordination with NRCS in the area (e.g, the area with a direct connection to the districts water supply)? Please explain.

The District is in discussions with the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) about future collaborations; however, the present RTM project does not relate to a particular NRCS project. Since the District shares a common goal with NRCS to use water only when and where necessary, there is potential for future partnership to improve the efficiency of water supply infrastructure such as pipes, reservoirs/dams, and diversions.

E.1.2 Evaluation Criterion B – Planning Efforts Supporting the Project

Plan Description and Objectives: Is your project supported by a specific planning document or effect? If so, describe the existing plan. When was the plan developed? What is the purpose and objective of the plan?

The proposed project is supported by the objectives laid out in the 2012 *Idaho State Water Plan* (ISWP). The plan identifies water management as a primary objective, which it defines as promoting “integrated, coordinated, and adaptable water resource management and the prudent stewardship of water resources.” RTM of the Payette River will directly address this objective while meeting other objectives listed in the plan such as 1H – Quantification and Measurement of Water Resources and 2A – Water Use Efficiency.

Plan Development: Who developed the planning effort? What is the geographic scope of the plan?

If the planning effort was not developed by the Category A applicant, describe the Category A applicant’s involvement in developing the planning effort.

The District is authorized by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to operate diversions; however, the District did not participate in the development of the ISWP.

Support for the Project: Describe to what extent the proposed project is supported by the identified plan. Address the following:

Is the project identified specifically by name and location in the planning effort?

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

This project is supported by the ISWP, which represents the state’s position on water development, management, and conservation. The project aligns with a key directive of the plan: quantification and measurement of water resources to address significantly increasing demands on Idaho’s surface water. The IWRB developed this plan in 2012.

Is this type of project identified in the planning effort?

Yes, this type of project is specified in the planning effort.

Explain whether the proposed project implements a goal or addresses a need or problem identified in the existing planning effort?

This proposed project meets goals set by the 2012 ISWP by improving the Payette River’s monitoring infrastructure for better water management. Additionally, this project will retain available water resources for stakeholder use and local wildlife. This proposed project seeks to contribute to those objectives while also improving the District’s operations with more efficient use of time and data management. These proposed benefits to the District’s operations, specifically, Objectives 1H – Quantification and Measurement of Water Resources and 2A – Water Use Efficiency, will be met with these proposed improvements to the Payette River.

Explain how the proposed project has been determined as a priority in the existing planning effort as opposed to the other potential projects/measures.

The proposed RTM project was determined to have the greatest cost-benefit ratio in modernizing the Payette River monitoring system. The more real-time data collection the District can gain through monitoring allows resources to be freed up for other essential work like emergency response and other District projects. Other projects like diversion automation, river cleaning, etc. were identified as being too expensive for this grant or having less transformational effects on the efficiency of the river.

E.1.3 Evaluation Criterion C – Implementation and Results

Describe the implementation plan for the proposed project. Please include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates.

The District proposes to implement all sites themselves over an 17 month period. A schedule of the proposed improvements is included below in **Table 1**.

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Table 1
Summary of Project Schedule

PROJECT SCHEDULE			
No.	TASK	MONTHS	TIME PERIOD
1	Funding Applications and Funding Agreements	4	Oct 2024 to Jan 2025 Not included in estimate.
2	Award of Funding	1	October 2025
3	Procurement of materials / Permitting / Coordination with Ethos	4	November 2025 to March 2026
4	Installation of Sensors and Telemetry	17	March 2026 to August 2027
7	Telemetry Calibration/Setup	2	September 2027 to October 2027
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT (MONTHS)		28	-

Describe any permits that will be required, along with the process for obtaining such permits.

No additional permits or applications are necessary to complete the work. It is the District’s opinion that installation of these monitoring stations will be categorically exempt and no permitting will be required.

Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support for the proposed project. What level of engineering design is the project currently? If additional design is required, describe the planned process and timeline for completing the design.

The District has recently installed 10+ new sensors and telemetry equipment units. No additional engineering or design is expected to be necessary. The components are fairly simple and installation is not complicated.

Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the project. After the installation of new sensors and telemetry units the District will need to calibrate and ensure remote control of the equipment from the District office in Payette, Idaho.

Does the applicant have access to the land or water source where the project is located? Has the applicant obtained any easements that are required for the project? If the applicant does not yet have permission to access the project location, describe the process and time frame for obtaining such permission.

The District has full access to the locations listed in the proposed project.

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Identify whether the applicant has contacted the local Reclamation office to discuss the potential environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements for the project and the associated costs. Has a line item been included in the budget for costs associated with compliance? If a contractor needs to complete some of the compliance activities, separate line items should be included in the budget for Reclamation’s cost and the contractor’s costs.

The District has not contacted the local U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) office to discuss the potential environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements. The District assumes that the local Reclamation office will have compliance requirements for this project and has accounted for this effort in the project budget as a minimum separate line item. This compliance request will be handled prior to construction by a consultant if necessary. It is the District’s opinion that these monitors will be Categorically Exempt and are planned to be attached to existing irrigation diversion structures.

E.1.4 Evaluation Criterion D – Nexus to Reclamation

Is the proposed project connected to a Reclamation project or activity? If so, how?

Please consider the following:

Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or operations and maintenance (O&M) contract with Reclamation?

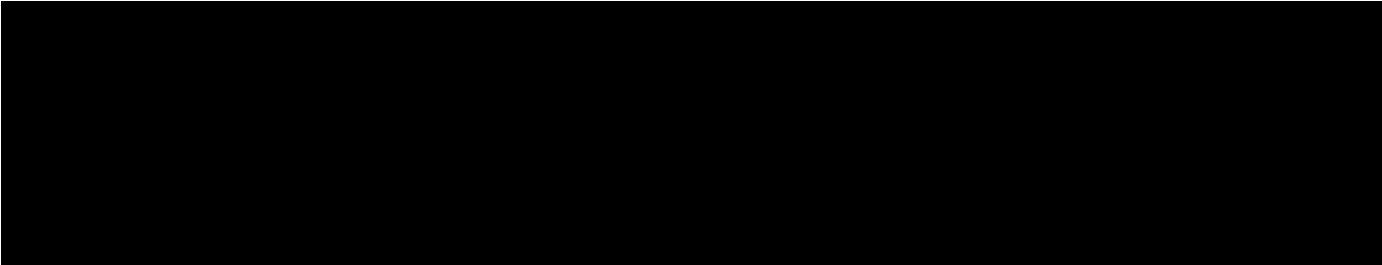
The District currently does not have any of the contracts listed with Reclamation, however water that is managed from this project feeds multiple Reclamation projects, including the Black Canyon Dam and Black Canyon Irrigation District.

If the applicant is not a Reclamation contractor, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means?

The District does not receive water from a Reclamation contractor or any other contractual means. However it does help manage supply to Reclamation contractors.

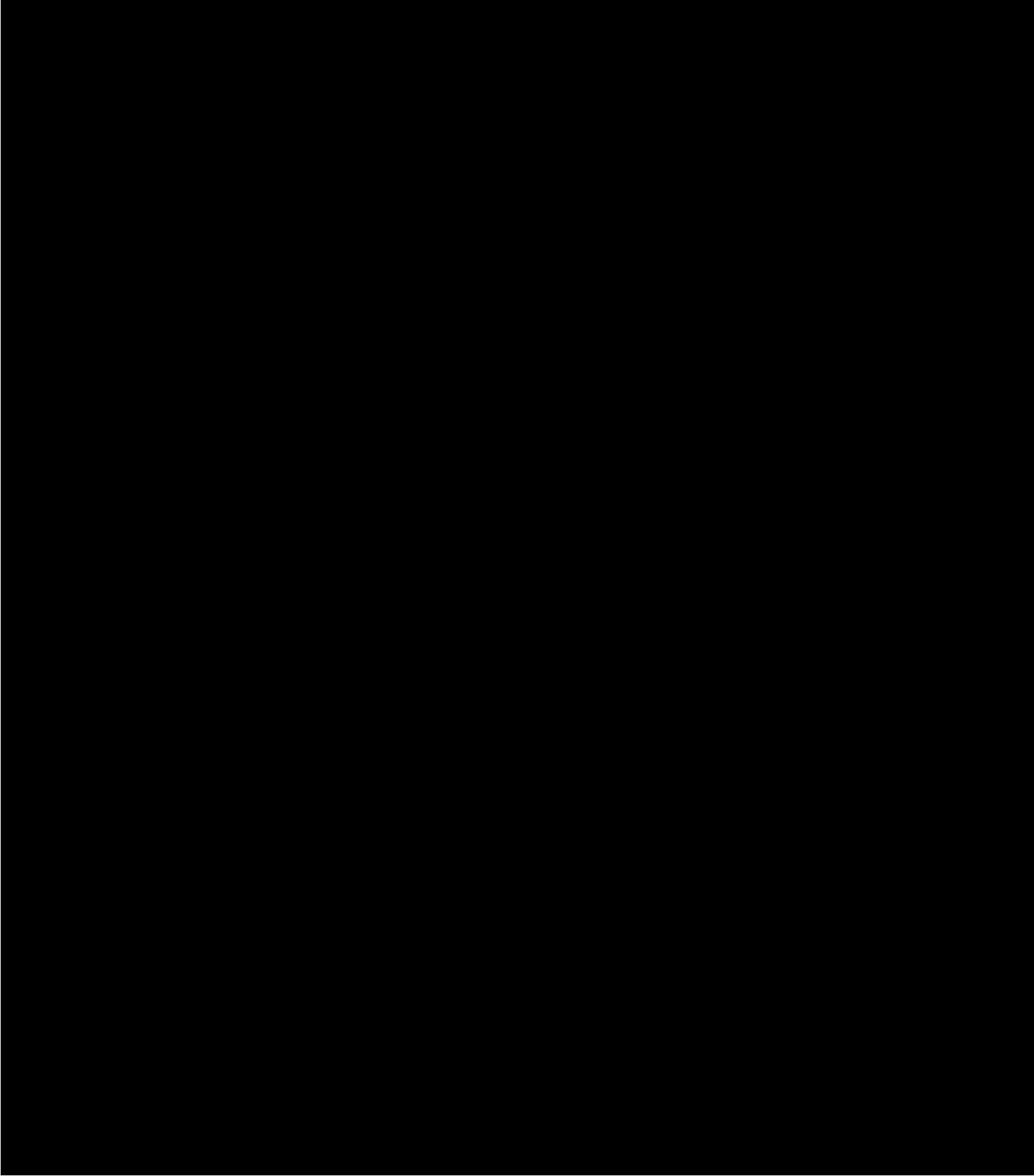
Will the proposed work benefit a Reclamation Project area or activity?

The proposed project will directly benefit all Reclamation project areas and activities in the Payette Basin by efficiently managing the water supply. With reduced water loss due to poor management, more water can be returned to local rivers or provided to local communities to meet public needs.



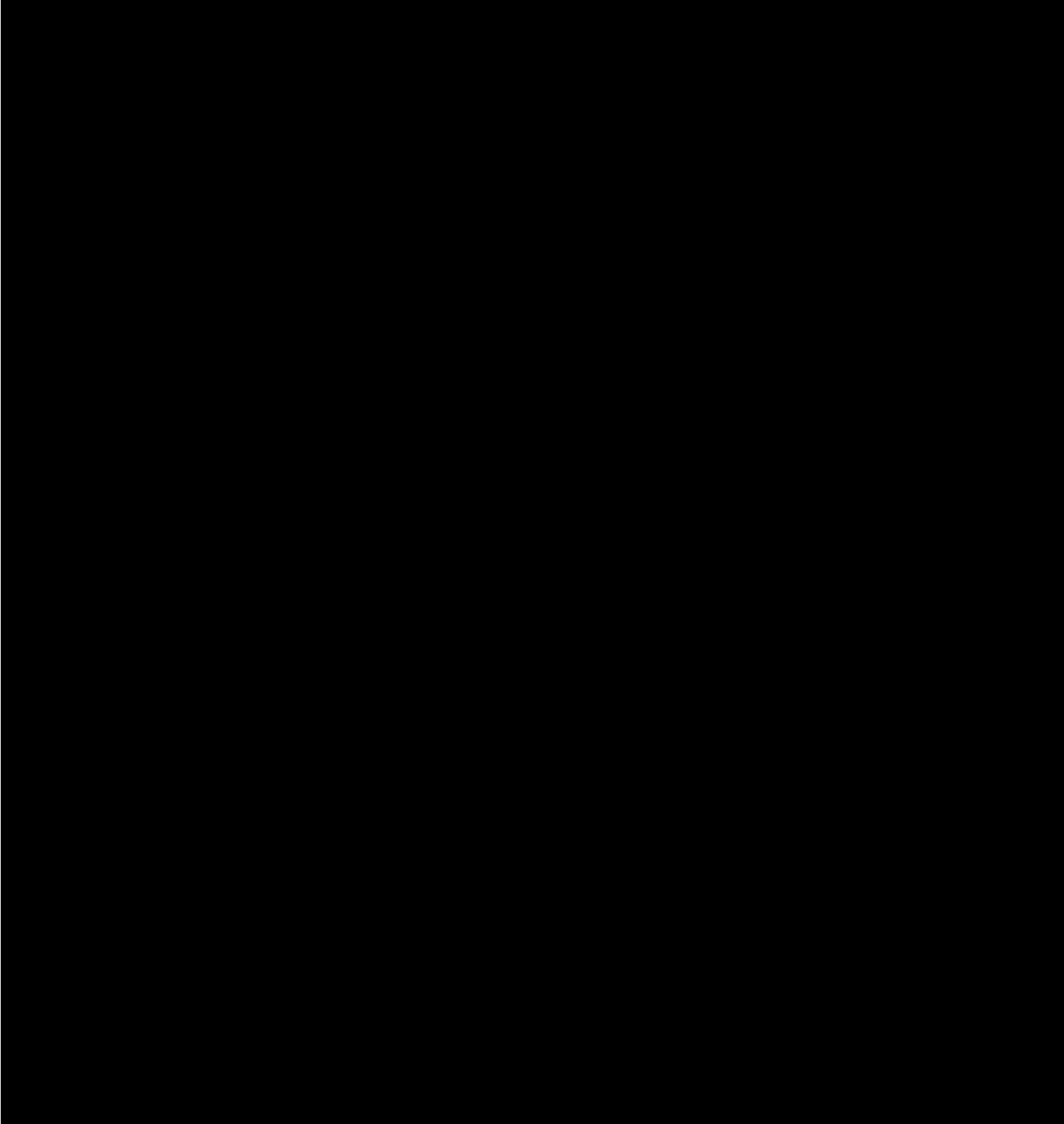
Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects



Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects



Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project
WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Section 3: Project Budget
Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

Table 2
Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
1. Water District 65	\$36,561
2. Idaho Water Resource Board	\$63,943
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$100,504
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	\$100,500

Budget Breakdown

Table 3
Summary of Budget Narrative

6. BUDGET OBJECT CATEGORY	TOTAL COST	FEDERAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT	NON-FEDERAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT
Personnel	\$17,308		
Fringe Benefits	\$6,923		
Travel	-		
Equipment	\$42,000		
Supplies	-		
Contractual	-		
Construction	\$132,350		
Other Direct Costs	-		
Total Direct Costs	\$198,581		
Indirect Charges	\$2,423		
TOTAL COSTS	\$201,004	\$100,500	\$100,504
COST SHARE PERCENTAGE		50%	50%

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Budget Narrative

Personnel

The District Watermaster will have design review meetings with staff and contract engineers. The District Watermaster will sit in on design review meetings and assist in identifying service locations and selection of equipment.

Fringe Benefits

The fringe benefits for all District staff are 40 percent of the salary rate.

Travel

No direct travel expenses are assumed for this project.

Equipment

There will be equipment costs for running the Ethos Connected Telemetry unit to gather water flow information during preliminary planning. In addition, the District plans to purchase the telemetry unit and pressure transducers.

Supplies

No supplies are anticipated for this project.

Contractual

The Water District does not intend to contract any of the work out. Installation of the monitoring stations will be performed by District staff (10 stations have been installed by District staff prior to this application).

Construction

Construction costs include the material costs to install the Ethos Connected Telemetry units. At each location, metal lock boxes will be installed to hold the telemetry unit and have electrical conduit routed to the pressure transducer. For security reasons, each lockbox will have padlocks only accessible by the District employees. If permitting is required, a small amount has been allotted in this item for construction.

Other Direct Costs

Subscriptions and infrastructure for the ETHOS network will be required and is shown as a direct cost.

Indirect Charges

Includes the mandatory 10-percent de minimis rate of modified total direct costs.

Total Costs

The total cost for the proposed project is estimated at \$201,004.

Section 4: Environmental And Cultural Resources Compliance

Question 1: Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.

No, the proposed project will not impact the surrounding environment.

The outlined project will facilitate the incorporation of telemetry equipment and pressure transducers to key locations along the Payette River. The project's extent does not involve the complete construction overhaul of deliveries but rather a minor monitoring facility. Typically, during the installation of telemetry and sensors, a small pipe with transducer will be installed in the river, and a local control box will be installed by the diversion access road for ease of operation. Very little disturbance is proposed for each site.

Question 2: Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

- The slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) are listed species managed by USFWS near the Payette River but are not within the proposed project footprint.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

- No Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species managed by NMFS have habitat near the Payette River, or the proposed project footprint. The nearest NMFS designated critical habitat and presence of listed species occurs along the Snake River, which is outside of the project area.

The proposed project will install telemetry equipment and pressure transducers on the Payette River. No ESA-listed species or habitats are anticipated or known to be present along the Payette River. Therefore, this project is not anticipated to adversely impact ESA-listed species or designated critical habitats.

Question 3: Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States”? If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.

No, the proposed project boundaries do not affect wetlands and/or other surface waters covered under the Clean Water Act jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States.”

Therefore, no impact will transpire, and no mitigation will be required.

Question 4: When was the water delivery system constructed?

The District has measured and tracked water on the Payette River since 1990. Water rights to the Payette River flow date back to December 31, 1926. Diversions have been constructed at multiple times throughout these years.

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Question 5: Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.

The installation of telemetry equipment and sensors will have little to no impact on any existing structures. The installation of the sensors requires a small pipe to be installed in the river to allow the transducer to sit at the bottom and record the water level and flow of the river and send the data back to the local data collection device.

Question 6: Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.

Yes, there is historic property along the Payette River National Scenic Byway; therefore, it has been listed as eligible on the National Register of Historic Places. However, the location and installation of telemetry equipment and pressure transducers does not affect any historic property.

Question 7: Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area? No, the District is unaware of any archaeological sites within the proposed project area at the time of this proposal submission.

Question 8: Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations? No, the proposed project will not adversely affect low income or minority populations.

Question 9: Will the proposed project limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands? No, the proposed project does not limit access or result in other impacts to the five federally recognized Tribal lands located in the State of Idaho.

Question 10: Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area? No. The proposed project will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area.

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Section 5: Required Permits Or Approvals

Applicants must state in the application whether any permits or approvals are required and explain the plan for obtaining such permits or approvals.

NEPA permitting is assumed to be Categorically Exempt for this project.

Section 6: Overlap Or Duplication Of Effort Statement

Applicants must provide a statement that addresses if there is any overlap between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel. If any overlap exists, applicants must provide a description of the overlap in their application for review.

There is no overlap associated with this proposed project and any other proposals for real-time monitoring equipment along the Payette River water basin that the District is aware of.

Section 7: Conflict Of Interest Disclosure Statement

Applicants should state in the application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission. Submission of a conflict-of-interest disclosure or certification statement is mandatory prior to issue of an award.

No actual or potential conflicts of interest exist at the time of this proposal submission.

Section 8: Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System.

Water District 65 acknowledges the requirement for a Single Audit should the project expenditures exceed \$750,000 in federal award funds.

Section 9: Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal Funding must certify to the statements in 43 CFR18, Appendix Q. If this application request more than \$100,000 in Federal Funds, the authorized official's signature on the appropriate SF-424 form also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR18, Appendix A.

Water District 65 certifies to the statements in 43 CFR 18, Appendix Q.

Section 10: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if Applicable)

If applicable, a fully completed and signed SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form is required if the applicant has made or agreed to make payment to any lobbying entity for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action. This form cannot be submitted by a contractor or other entity on behalf of an applicant.

Not applicable to this project.

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Section 11: Letters of Support

You should include any letters from interested stakeholders supporting the proposed project.

Letters of support are attached in **Appendix B**.

Letters of support were written on behalf of the District at the time of the WaterSMART Small-Scale Efficiency Grant for the Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project.

Supporting organizations include the following:

- Black Canyon Irrigation District.
- Emmett Irrigation District.
- Last Chance Ditch Company.

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project
WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Appendix A – District Installed RTM Examples



Photo 1 – RTM technology previously installed by District personnel.



Photo 2 – Example of RTM technology installed by District personnel.



Photo 3 – These RTM devices provide critical data to assist watermasters prescribe SDRs.



Photo 4 – Several configurations are possible for the RTM technology and the Ethos Connected Telemetry units.



Photo 5 – *Examples of water fluctuation at RTM sites installed by the District.*

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project
WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Appendix B – Letters of Support

BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTUS, IDAHO

November 11, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
PO Box 25007, MS84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support for the FY2025 Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects WaterSMART Grant: Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

Dear NOFO Team:

On behalf of Water District 65 (District), I am writing to express our strong support for the District's Fiscal Year 2025 Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant application. As Black Canyon Irrigation District, by implementing this water monitoring project Black Canyon is hoping to save storage water in the reservoirs that we pull from. We see tremendous value in its steadfast commitment to water management improvements that promote responsible and sustainable water use in our communities.

The District's dedication to integrating advanced technologies into its water management system demonstrates forward-thinking leadership. The requested funding for measurement enhancements will enable the District to improve operational efficiency through real-time monitoring.

We fully endorse the District's application for the Fiscal Year 2025 Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant and encourage you to give this proposal your highest consideration. Please feel free to contact me at 208-941-8026 or mikem@blackcanyonirrigation.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for considering this letter of support, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of this initiative on responsible water management.

Sincerely,



Mike Meyers
Black Canyon Irrigation District
Manager

December 12, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
PO Box 25007, MS84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

**RE: Letter of Support for the FY2025 Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects WaterSMART
Grant: Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project**

Dear NOFO Team:

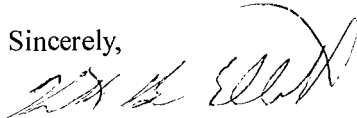
On behalf of Water District 65 (District), I am writing to express our strong support for the District's Fiscal Year 2025 Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant application. As Emmett Irrigation District, with close ties to the District, we see tremendous value in its steadfast commitment to water management improvements that promote responsible and sustainable water use in our communities.

The District's dedication to integrating advanced technologies into its water management system demonstrates forward-thinking leadership. The requested funding for measurement enhancements will enable the District to improve operational efficiency through real-time monitoring.

We fully endorse the District's application for the Fiscal Year 2025 Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant and encourage you to give this proposal your highest consideration. Please feel free to contact me at 208-631-7413 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for considering this letter of support, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of this initiative on responsible water management.

Sincerely,



Korth Elliott
Emmett Irrigation District
Chairman

December 12, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
PO Box 25007, MS84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

**RE: Letter of Support for the FY2025 Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects WaterSMART
Grant: Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project**

Dear NOFO Team:

On behalf of Water District 65 (District), I am writing to express our strong support for the District's Fiscal Year 2025 Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant application. As Emmett Irrigation District, with close ties to the District, we see tremendous value in its steadfast commitment to water management improvements that promote responsible and sustainable water use in our communities.

The District's dedication to integrating advanced technologies into its water management system demonstrates forward-thinking leadership. The requested funding for measurement enhancements will enable the District to improve operational efficiency through real-time monitoring.

We fully endorse the District's application for the Fiscal Year 2025 Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant and encourage you to give this proposal your highest consideration. Please feel free to contact me at 208-890-7331 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for considering this letter of support, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of this initiative on responsible water management.

Sincerely,



Doyle Backler
Last Chance Ditch Company
Manager



Water District Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project Budget Narrative

*WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects FY2025
No. R24AS00059*

Applicant: Water District 65
Project Manager: Neil Shippy, Watermaster
102 N Main St. Payette, Idaho 83661
neil.waterdistrict65@gmail.com
208.550.1276 (Cell)
208.642.4465 (Office)

January 14, 2025

Water District 65 Real -Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grant

Project Budget

Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

Table 1
Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
1. Water District 65	\$36,561
2. Idaho Water Resource Board	\$63,943
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$100,504
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	\$100,500

Budget Breakdown

Table 2
Summary of Budget Narrative

6. BUDGET OBJECT CATEGORY	TOTAL COST	FEDERAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT	NON-FEDERAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT
a. Personnel	\$17,308		
b. Fringe Benefits	\$6,923		
c. Travel	-		
d. Equipment	\$42,000		
e. Supplies	-		
f. Contractual	-		
g. Construction	\$132,350		
h. Other Direct Costs	-		
i. Total Direct Costs	\$198,581		
i. Indirect Charges	\$2,423		
TOTAL COSTS	\$201,004	\$100,500	\$100,504
COST SHARE PERCENTAGE		50%	50%

Water District 65 Real-Time Monitoring Implementation Project

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grant

Budget Narrative

Personnel

The District Watermaster will have design review meetings with staff and contract engineers. The District Watermaster will sit in on design review meetings and assist in identifying service locations and selection of equipment.

Fringe Benefits

The fringe benefits for all District staff are 40 percent of the salary rate.

Travel

No direct travel expenses are assumed for this project.

Equipment

There will be equipment costs for running the Ethos Connected Telemetry unit to gather water flow information during preliminary planning. In addition, the District plans to purchase the telemetry unit and pressure transducers.

Supplies

No supplies are anticipated for this project.

Contractual

The Water District does not intend to contract any of the work out. Installation of the monitoring stations will be performed by District staff (10 stations have been installed by District staff prior to this application).

Construction

Construction costs include the material costs to install the Ethos Connected Telemetry units. At each location, metal lock boxes will be installed to hold the telemetry unit and have electrical conduit routed to the pressure transducer. For security reasons, each lockbox will have padlocks only accessible by the District employees. If permitting is required, a small amount has been allotted in this item for construction.

Other Direct Costs

No costs are attributed to this category.

Indirect Charges

Includes the 10-percent de minimis rate of modified total direct costs.

Total Costs

The total cost for the proposed project is estimated at \$201,004.