

Greening Ada County

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Produced by Ada County Operations on behalf of the Ada County Environmental Advisory Board

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IN THIS ISSUE:

THE BOISE RIVER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

RECYCLING - A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR PLASTIC

NEWS TO SHARE?

NEXT ISSUE:
ADA COUNTY'S 2017-2018 PLAN
FOR SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS
AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

The Boise River Enhancement Project

A project selected by Ada County's Environmental Advisory Board to improve fish habitat in a stretch of the Boise River near Barber Park is finally complete. With a budget of \$45,000 provided by Ada County and Enel Green Power North America (EGP-NA), engineered log jams and boulders clusters were placed in the river near Eckert Road bridge to create channel complexity. (EGP-NA operates Barber Dam and is a co-licensee with Ada County on the FERC license to generate power at the dam.)

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game generously provided the engineering and project management necessary to develop plans and take them through the permitting and construction processes. The project entailed the placement of multiple in-channel boulder clusters and 3 engineered log jams.

Construction was done in late 2016 during low winter flows of approximately 200 cfs. The log structures were placed by heavy machinery and anchored to the riverbank. Select plantings of the riverbanks with native willow species was completed in October 2017 using volunteer laborers and hand tools.

The project was a great opportunity for Ada County to form working relationships with members of the Boise River Enhancement Network, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited, and The Freshwater Trust. Ada County is proud of the work performed by the members of Environmental Advisory Board and their commitment to seeing the project through these many months.



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Recycling - A Major Problem for Plastic

A Chinese campaign known as "Operation Green Fence" aimed at curbing criminal activity is causing major problems for those legally sending recyclable materials across the Pacific Ocean.

China's campaign to target "foreign waste," including plastics, industrial waste, electronics and other household waste materials is part of a larger initiative which is also targeting the smuggling, particularly by organized crime, of agricultural products, resource products, drugs, guns and more. It's an imports-enforcement campaign that could have a major impact on the North American recycling supply chain.

Municipal programs in the West are already feeling the impacts of China's import restrictions, and some multiple local programs are halting acceptance of certain materials in response. A public waste management agency in California described erratic movement of materials and drops in plastics and fiber pricing. Some facilities have begun storing materials due to the limited ability to move shipments. Many MRF operators in Northern California are in a similar position with reports of companies filling warehouses with bales in Long Beach, CA a major fiber exporting port in Southern California. The hope is that the materials will not have to be landfilled, but if the mixed plastics market doesn't stabilize, some agencies will have to consider removing some or all plastics from its list of collected recyclables. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is considering approving the disposal of traditionally recyclable material where markets for the material no longer exist or costs for recycling are prohibitive.

To learn more, search for "China's Operation Green Fence" and "National Sword 2017".



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If you or your organization has an environmental news article to share for the February 2018 issue, send it to Selena O'Neal, soneal@adaweb.net, by December 31st, 2017.