

Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District

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For Immediate Release

Support Available for North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Landowners

Spring is upon us and it is about time to start thinking about fish and wildlife habitat along streams in Kootenai and Shoshone counties.

The Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District (KSSWCD), together with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), are proud to offer a pilot cost share program to assist landowners in enhancing fish habitat in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries. The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Habitat Improvement Project, made possible through funding from the State of Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, is available to provide technical and financial assistance to qualifying landowners in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River watershed. The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group is also providing guidance and local support for the project.

Private lands adjacent to waterways in this drainage are eligible for project consideration. Projects must meet the objectives of the program, directed at improvements along waterways that will enhance fish habitat and water quality. Individual practices are intended to serve as demonstrations for other landowners in the watershed.

Approved individual practices may be eligible to receive up to 80% cost share for construction costs and will be designed by a team of qualified natural resource professionals, incorporating objectives of individual landowners. Examples of eligible practices include streambank protection such as riparian plantings, instream structures to create or enhance fish habitat, and other streambank practices that reduce pollutant delivery to the watershed.

Landowners who wish to discuss habitat improvement practices for installation in 2009 or who would like more information on this project may call Jamie Davis at (208) 946-0174. Successful implementation of the 2009 pilot may warrant expansion of this program into the future. Landowners who are interested in this program but cannot install a project in 2009 are encouraged to fill out an application for future opportunities.

To apply for participation in this program, an application form can be obtained from the KSSWCD website at www.icehouse.net/ksswcd/ or by calling the contact listed above. The sign-up deadline is May 22, 2009, so landowners are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

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