

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REDUCING POLLUTION IN THE BOISE RIVER

STUDENTS AND MAYOR MARK CITY STORM DRAINS

Yard clippings, fertilizer, motor oil, pet droppings -- if it gets washed down a city storm drain it ends up in the River. With the goal of keeping the river a magnet for recreational activities and a safe and beautiful asset to our community, students and Boise Mayor David Bieter will add permanent markers adjacent to storm drain inlets. For the students its part civics lesson, part environmental lesson. For the city it's a way to protect the river and educate the public.

You'll see the group in action Friday March 12, 2004, at 9:30 A.M. The event is coordinated by Boise City Public Works on behalf of the Partners for Clean Water. The partners are Garden City, Boise State University, Idaho Transportation Department, Ada County Highway District, and Drainage District Three. Four storm drains at the corner of Capital and Idaho will be marked as part of the event. Afterward, the Bishop Kelly students will spend the rest of the morning marking other storm drains in the area.

"Keeping stormwater clean is important to our community and the economy; that's why it's important that the citizens of Boise understand how our city's stormwater drains work" said Public Works Director Chuck Mickelson. "We think this is an effective way to educate the public and help reduce the amount of pollution that goes down storm drains," he added.

There are more than eight thousand storm drains inlets in Boise alone. In the mid 90's the city began storm drain stenciling. The message read "Dump No Waste, Drains to River." The stencils were effective but they have a limited life span. The new markers being installed Friday morning are meant to last longer. They are four inches in diameter and made of plastic. This year for the first time the markers will also have the "no dumping" message in Spanish.

WHO: MAYOR DAVID BIETER & BISHOP KELLY STUDENTS

WHAT: STORM DRAIN MARKING EVENT

WHEN: FRIDAY MARCH 12, 2004

WHERE: CORNER OF CAPITAL & IDAHO (across from City Hall)

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