

Water Quality Trends in the Lower Portneuf River in Light of Remedial Activities at
J.R. Simplot Company's Don Plant

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The lower Portneuf River near Pocatello in southeast Idaho, is a significant tributary to American Falls Reservoir. This reach of the Portneuf River is hydrologically complex and gains substantial flow from groundwater recharge entering the river from both the east and the west sides. Activities at Simplot's phosphate fertilizer plant, located on the northern terminus of the Bannock mountain range and just west of the Portneuf River, impact groundwater resources that discharge into the river near Batiste Springs. A Voluntary Consent Order, signed in 2008 between the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and J.R. Simplot Company, detailed significant remedial activities to be performed by Simplot and set in-river water quality milestones and targets to be achieved as these activities are completed. A discussion of these activities and their impacts on water quality trends will be discussed.