



The Interchange

May 2008

Mitigating for roads, environment

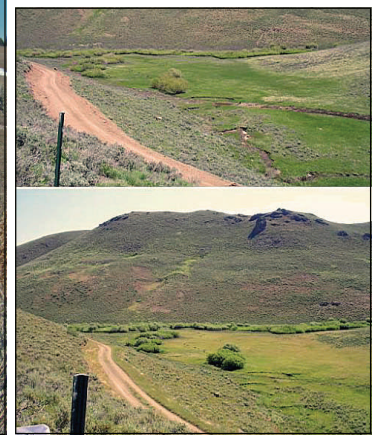
For ITD, planning the future of roads, leading to land takeovers and expansion, often results in disturbances to the fragile ecosystems of Idaho. More important is finding practical ways to make up for those disturbances.

In District 4, there have been only a handful of road expansion projects as of late that necessitate wetland or water mitigation — making up for lost or destroyed wetlands — which is a requirement by both the Army Corp of Engineers and Federal Highway Administration, According to D4 Environmental Planner Dan Armstrong. The amount of created wetland depends on both the size and quality of wetland being destroyed.

“It depends on the hydrology, plant life and other factors,” Armstrong said.



Above: Project manager Bob Johnson takes pictures of settling ponds on Jim Byrne Slough near Richfield on April 3. The ponds will help keep field sediment out of the Little Wood River.



Right: Progress can be seen between June 2006 (top) to June 2007 (bottom) on mitigation to relocate a road in Cove Creek, performed by ITD maintenance.

“They (FHWA and Army Corp) want to build roads too, they have the tax-payers interest in mind too, and that’s what we should be doing.”

Four such projects — only one which is completed — currently need mitigation: City of Rocks Back County Byway, Shoshone North (Idaho 75), U.S. 93 from I-84 to Idaho 25, and Gannett Road to Silver Creek (U.S. 20). Three mitigation projects have been used to recover more wet lands than are being affected, including protection of a creek bed

from cattle in Castle Rocks State Park near Elba, creation of sediment ponds in Jim Byrne Slough near Richfield, and relocation of a U.S. Forest Service road that ran through Cove Creek near Hailey.

D4 Project Manager Bob Johnson said that these mitigation projects were not only saving valuable lands, they were also practical.

“One of the environmental groups wanted us to buy a lake and protect it. The land owner wanted \$500,000. We worked with the (Big Wood) Canal Com-

pany and spent \$13,000 on Jim Byrne Slough,” Johnson said. “It was a group effort to get it done; from the idea to talking to the canal company and with FHWA.”

Even an area as small as 45 square feet, as was the case on U.S. 93 from I-84 to Idaho 25, required mitigation.

“We used an agreement with the Parks Department (in Castle Rocks) to fence off an area where the cows were getting in,” Johnson added. “We protected 10 acres and it was enough for two mitigation projects.”

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Aunt Di celebrates 40 years

Lot of memories,
friends and changes in
life of ITD

She's been with the Idaho Transportation Department long enough to remember ... well, there's no way of telling everything she's seen and done, but after 40 years with ITD Dianne Schlund can tell you a boat load of stories.

Starting on April 23, 1968, Aunt Di — as she's become known — was a bright-eyed 23-year-old when she started at the Rupert Residency. She says the men didn't know how to react to having a skirt-wearing, hard-working young lady.

"When I think about it, things were so barbaric back then," she said. "They didn't know what to do with me. There was no code for my position."

She does admit that it was tough the first few years being the lone woman, but it also led to several friendships and numerous unforgettable memories.

"It really was mass confusion. The office and everything was dirty; I did help that out," Dianne said. "I'm not a quitter and after time I fell in love with the department, I guess, because I've stayed."

Over the years Dianne said she's held more than a handful of positions and different titles, can remember a time when there weren't enough radios for each vehicle, constructing the interstate highway through Sublett and over Sweetzer Summit, and when the equipment wasn't as good as it is now.

"It's changed a lot; the equipment, the ways to maintain the roads," she said.

Dianne, who is second in Dis-



Dianne Schlund celebrated 40 years with ITD on April 23 with a Kimbol Allen specialty cake and Chris Severson there to eat it.

trict 4 with time at ITD only to shop mechanic Tom Lowman, said she can see her working days numbered. Though she isn't going to name a date yet, Dianne said she wants to spend some time with her granddaughter going to rodeos and see how long it takes before she gets bored at home.

"I remember when a lot of people have started and a lot that have passed away," she said. "I've met a lot of good people, so many I can't remember all of them.

"I do remember when (Chief Engineer) Steve Hutchinson was an EIT in Rupert. That guy would torment me so bad."

So when the time comes, Dianne said she doesn't want to travel the world. No, she plans to go to Texas to watch some rodeo and she said the one thing she wants to see is Alaska.

"There's more than enough beauty in the country to see. I don't need to go overseas," she said.

As for now, don't expect to go into the Twin Falls Residency without seeing Aunt Di ready as always to give everyone a hard time.

It ain't easy being green *Where to recycle locally*

Pacific Steel and Recycling

Located: 1939 Highland Ave E, Twin Falls, 734-7440

Accepts: Washers, dryers, water heaters, Freon removed freezers, refrigerators, cars, farm equipment, all metal, motors, axles, etc., newspapers, magazines, computer paper, cardboard

(No TVs or microwaves)

Will pay you the weekly rate per lb., call them for the rate. Different prices for different items. Keep in separate piles per item.

Interstate Battery

Located: 412 Eastland, Twin Falls, 733-0896

Accepts: All batteries except metal cased ones.

- Will pay \$4.00 for auto batteries.
- They take RV batteries and may pay you for a certain kind.
- Will not pay you but will take motorcycle batteries.

Best to call first.

Magic Valley Recycling

Located: 114 Market Ave., Twin Falls 733-9690

Accepts: Any aluminum, tin cans, etc. Labels must be removed from cat food cans. Labels can be left on anything else.

Plastic – will say #1 or #2 on the bottom, mainly bottle shaped items where the base is bigger than the opening. Some peanut butter jars just meet this qualification. (No lids)

Did You Know ...

The first commercial telephone service in Idaho was in Hailey in 1883.

Life and Times in District 4



Thank you letter

Dear Mr. Rigby,

I'd like to take this time to thank you and your agency for allowing two of your professionals to visit our school. Mr. Steven Tonks and Mr. Trey Mink came to Morningside School April 8th-11th. During this time they met with twelve elementary classes grades 6, 5, and 4. The students were able to see a real world application in the field of mathematics. I teach grades 6-kindergarten as a math/science specialist. It was wonderful to see first-hand how math concepts learned in class can have practical purpose in today's professions. Mr. Tonks and Mr. Mink are outstanding individuals. They represented your agency extremely well. They have gone to great lengths to provide an interesting presentation; The photographs, information, and interactive questioning came together to form an outstanding lesson that educated over 300 elementary students.

Thank you, Kathy Dobbs
Morningside Elementary, Twin Falls

New Arrivals



Madelyn Meb Scott, granddaughter to Mike Scott, arrived May 1 at 12:10 p.m. weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 19 inches long. She has lots of black hair, long fingers, long toes, and beautiful eyelashes.

Darrel McFarland's granddaughter, Nevaeh (Heaven spelled backward), was born March 10 weighing 5 lbs. 11 oz. and 17 inches long. Parents are Whitnee and Richard Sizemore.



In Memoriam

Julius Pennington, 75, of Shoshone passed away on April 16. Known as Julio to friends, he was liked and respected by everyone who knew him

Julius retired from ITD after serving 32 years.

Julius is survived by his loving wife, Sharon, and children, Vickie (Gary), Kelly (Jana) and Terry.

New and Improved in D-4

New to the District

- **Dave Collins**, Staff Engineer, Project Development
- **Chase Camberlango**, Const. Manager 1, Twin Falls Residency



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 16-17** Relay for Life, Filer
- **Wednesday, May 21**
ITD Board Tour—Jerome, Hagerman, Twin Falls
- **Thursday, May 22**
ITD Board Meeting, Shoshone
- **Tuesday, June 3**
Director Pam Lowe District 4 Visit
- **Thursday, June 5**
District 4 Truck Roadeo, Twin Falls

Story ideas always needed

Have a good idea for an article, food recipe, news about a former employee, something you want to sell, or a funny story about work?

Send to Nathan Jerke for the next newsletter at 886-7809 or nathan.jerke@itd.idaho.gov

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS MAY 28

Help make **YOUR** newsletter better

CAUGHT IN THE ACT



Peek-a-boo ... Finding the easiest way through a new culvert on Idaho 24 was Rupert's newest mole, Travis Morrell. (Picture by Warren Kell)

The recruiting trip to the Burley Head Start turned out to be good for Rupert Maintenance. There were many volunteers to be in the junior snow-plowers club.



It's a lot more fun to take this through the drive-thru than the snow plow. (Picture by Warren Kell)



They wouldn't be laughing so hard if they new how much Max Segovia had already cheated them out of.



D4 District Engineer Devin Rigby shares some of his special Shasta pancakes to help raise funds for the Relay for Life.