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Media advisory: The Red River gets a new lease on life

**Innovative restoration practices will help bring back fish
Bonneville Power Administration**

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**Who: Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District, Bonneville Power Administration, Idaho
Department of Fish & Game**

What: Work is underway to restore 3,000 linear feet of the Red River damaged by dredge mining and channel alterations in the 1950s. Over the next three to four years, the project partners will restore the river bed and channel, as well as surrounding vegetation. The ultimate goal is to re-establish the fish habitat where chinook, steelhead, bull trout and west slope cutthroat trout once thrived in strong numbers.

When: Initial site preparation began the last week of July, 1996. Restoration activities will begin Monday, Aug. 5, 1996.

Where: The Red River, about 11 miles south of Elk City, Idaho (Please call one of the contacts above to arrange a site tour or to get detailed directions).

Significance: The specific restoration practices used in the Red River will serve as models for similar, future projects across the Northwest. The restoration practices for this project include control sills to raise the water level, the formation of new channels and revival of historic "meander channels" to decrease the river's slope, and re-development of native vegetation.

Project leaders created a "technical review committee" to develop the innovative ideas for this project.

Background: The Bonneville Power Administration is funding the design and implementation of this project as part of its commitment to mitigate for the decline of anadromous fisheries — as required in the 1980 Northwest Power Planning Act.

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