

Impact Assessment of Urbanization and Land Use Change Using LID to Characterize Water Quality in the Boise River

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In recent years, urbanization and land use change are very active in Boise areas due to economic development and population growth. People are moving to Boise to pursue job opportunities in secondary and tertiary industries as a result of increased agricultural productivity and also people are looking for better environmental and social living at the rural-urban interface. Consequently, concerns of water resources management and NPS pollution control due to rapid growth often lead research agenda and policy making to mitigate impacts driven by urbanization. Although some efforts has been made to implement BMP exercises to mitigate environmental impacts along with sustainable regional planning and development efforts in the area, modeling and management alternatives using LID is not currently implemented and evaluated for the Boise River. As such, this research illustrates how LID approach would be beneficial to reduce NPS pollution as well as flood risks in the river. Modelling efforts and alternatives will be discussed to mitigate hydrological and environmental impacts induced by urbanization and land use change at the Boise River since 1992.