

North Alkali Water Quality Improvement Pilot Demonstration Project

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Idaho Watershed Solutions (IWS), Inc. is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation that develops engineered and biological solutions at the scale of landscapes to solve the problems of water-use efficiency, precision agriculture, water pollution and loss of wetlands. IWS requested and was awarded CWA §319 funds from the Lower Boise Watershed Council for a pilot demonstration project to design, construct, measure and monitor a constructed sedimentation basin and wetland to remove sediment and nutrients (i.e. phosphorus) from the North Alkali Drain, located near Parma, Idaho. This project was designed and built to be both operational in that water quality is being improved, but maybe more importantly the project was designed so as to provide opportunity for additional research. Improving water quality especially from non-point sources requires a diversified approach. While projects like North Alkali are not the only solution, when combined with on-farm, re-use and increased water-use efficiency can provide cost effective and quantifiable improvements to water quality.