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McMillen LLC lands major contracts with resource agencies

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Engineering and construction firm **McMillen LLC**, Boise, recently received three U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contracts through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act economic-stimulus program. The projects are: Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge (Wyo.), construction of three residences and a bunkhouse, \$2.29 million; Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery (Colo.), new fish raceways, roadway and effluent ponds, \$1.5 million; and Kooskia National Fish Hatchery (Idaho), repairs to pollution-abatement ponds and water circulation system, \$800,000.

McMillen LLC has benefited significantly from the federal stimulus package, owner and President Mara McMillen said in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service release. The company has hired crews and additional workers, and has enlisted local trades people wherever possible, she said.

"With the economy, and seeing companies struggle, we thought it would be a tough year," she said in the release. "Thanks to the Recovery Act money and our 8A designation, it's been a tremendous year." McMillen LLC participates in the U.S. Small Business Administration's **8A business development program**, which the SBA says was created to help small, disadvantaged businesses compete.

McMillen LLC employs about 45 and anticipates hiring up to seven additional construction support employees around mid-April, when these projects are expected to start, Marketing Director Marissa Emmons said in an interview.

The company expects this year's business volume to be above that of 2009, when the company's volume was higher than anticipated, she said. The company did not lay off workers in 2009.

Also recently, McMillen LLC was awarded a \$3.5 million contract from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District to execute the Paradise Creek Ecosystem Restoration design-build project on the University of Idaho campus in Moscow, Emmons said. This contract also includes Recovery Act funding.

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