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Continental Conversation

Construction, engineering and development news from both sides of the Great Divide in Idaho and Montana.



Small Businesses Doing Big Work for USFWF

Posted by [jevancho](#) at 2/25/2010 11:50 AM CST

McMillen LLC, an 8a certified small business designation construction and engineering firm in Boise, has been awarded several projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as part of President Obama's economic stimulus package.

The projects include work at the Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Wyoming, where McMillen will construct three residences and a bunkhouse at a cost of \$2.27 million. The new facilities will be substantially safer and up to 80% more energy efficient, replacing the rodent-infested structures currently on the grounds. The facilities will have solar heating with radiant-floor heating systems.

At the Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery on the North Fork of the Gunnison River in southwest Colorado, \$1.5 million in ARRA funds will enable the hatchery to build eight new fish raceways and convert existing ponds into effluent ponds, which will filter water re-entering the area's supply.

The Recovery Act will also provide for a weather port to cover the raceways, shielding them from the elements and potential predators. The area around the raceways will be surfaced with new asphalt to accommodate service vehicles for transporting fish.

And at the Kooskia National Fish Hatchery in central Idaho, workers will design repairs and improvements for the pollution abatement ponds and water circulation system at a cost of \$800,000.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and McMillen expect to hire several subcontractors who will in turn bring on board several new employees from the area.

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Jason Starner, construction division manager for McMillen, said his firm has a core group of workers that go to various job sites, where they supplement their crew with local workers. "We plan on bringing in an additional seven people to the firm and four local workers at both job sites," he said.

Marissa Emmons, marketing division director for McMillen, said the firm anticipates stimulating the local economy by visiting local restaurants and construction-related businesses. "In some cases, you get the best price by using local services," she said.

U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said, "With its investments of Recovery Act funds, the Department of the Interior and its bureaus are putting people to work today to make improvements that will benefit the environment and the region for many years to come."

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