

Southwest Idaho

RC&D

RESOURCE

CONSERVATION

& DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships Serving America's Communities



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



This project addresses ecosystem protection through improving the conditions of our urban forests.

Treasure Valley Cities Receive Stimulus Funds for Priority Pruning

Recently, Idaho cities in the Treasure Valley received Stimulus Funding for priority public tree maintenance work. The stimulus funding came from the USDA Forest Service and was awarded to cities through the Idaho Department of Lands, in partnership with the Southwest Idaho RC&D. Each city received funding support due to their depressed economies and high rates of unemployment which are higher than other regions in the state.

Eligibility for participation in the grant program required that the city has professional staff to oversee the program, has an inventory of trees needing treatment, and can demonstrate the need for funding support. Additionally, the cities were required to hire local tree care companies with specific professional qualifications such as the employment of ISA certified arborists. The contracting companies have also been required to document jobs created or saved with stimulus funds.

Funding support for economically depressed Idaho cities offered the opportunity to perform tree maintenance or removal that current municipal budgets did not allow. It increased public safety in parks and right of ways by pruning hazardous trees, removing dead or diseased branches and by the removal of trees showing dangerous symptoms such as large cavities, disease, root rot, etc. All work was overseen by the city arborists and inspected by the RC&D Community Forestry Assistant. In all, \$444,605 was awarded to seven cities in Ada County.

