**The Idaho Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality manages the surface water discharge program. NPDES permits are issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as Idaho is not a delegated state that issues discharge permits.

Based on communication with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality permitting and water quality planning staff there are no municipal or publicly owned (POTW) NPDES major dischargers, (over one million gallon per day average flow) that have total nitrogen or nitrate nitrogen limits at this time.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality does not have a published nutrient strategy at this time. The state of Idaho has not developed or implemented numeric nutrient criteria. The Department of Environmental Quality has not identified nitrogen as a priority and has been classified as just starting criteria process. A significant lack of data has been cited as one of the challenges for developing numeric nutrient criteria. In 2012, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality initiated a review of procedures related to nutrients. They have proposed a project to monitor for effects of nutrients on surface waters in Idaho to be started in 2013 and potentially be continued for additional years. This data may be useful for future numeric nutrient criteria development.

Due to the rural nature of the state with the vast majority of nutrients originating from non-point source agricultural sources it is not likely that any new nitrogen limits would be in place at wastewater treatment facilities within the next 10 years.

There are no large poultry and meat processing facilities in Idaho that have NPDES discharge permits with nitrogen limits.