



It won't be long before the irrigation season is in full swing in all the western states. In some areas of the West, drought has taken its toll, leaving land idle until Mother Nature provides adequate snowfall and rain to alleviate

water shortages. Fortunately, most canal companies and districts have adequate water for this season, but will have very little water in reserve this fall. With a limited water supply, water management will be of utmost importance.

In this issue of *Watermaster*, UPI announces the release of a new field analytical method, the **ProTest**, for Cascade and Teton applications - and Joe Vassios provides insights into the usefulness of this tool. We have also included an article originally in the Family Farm Alliance online newsletter about the drought in the western U.S. On a lighter side, we encourage you to read Brian Olmstead's reflections on the history and interesting aspects of the Twin Falls Canal Company, established in 1909.

On a final note, our team at UPI wants to thank you for your business and to wish you a prosperous year.

Sincerely,

Gerald Adrian

[United Phosphorus, Inc. - USA](http://www.upi.com)

## Endothall ProTest is Now Available!

*Joe Vassios, UPI Southwest Territory Manager*

UPI is pleased to announce the release of **Endothall ProTest kits** for Cascade and Teton treatments. The kits have been developed in cooperation with Modern Water, Inc., a leader in the water monitoring industry. These kits will provide a real-time analysis of endothall concentrations in the water column, and will be a valuable tool for monitoring herbicide discharge and confirming treatment concentrations - resulting in improved NPDES compliance. The kits are available on a limited basis during the 2015 irrigation season. Results using the kits can be obtained approximately 30 minutes after a sample is taken, and there are two different kits available: one for high concentrations (1-5 ppm), and one for low concentrations (0.05-0.3

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ppm). The accuracy of the ProTest kits is +/- 5%. Once a sample is taken from the canal, two different reagents are added, developing a color that can be analyzed using a handheld spectrophotometer. To date, testing of the method with several districts in the West has shown the method to be accurate and reliable in the field.

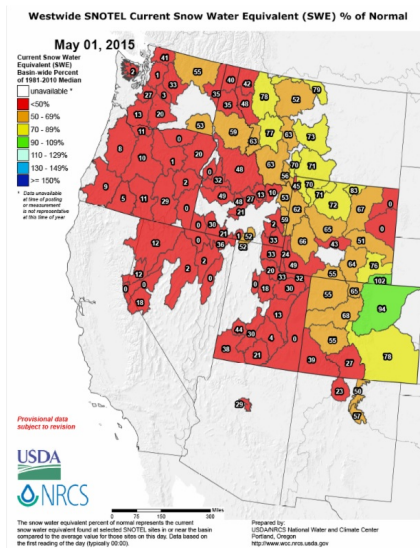
UPI representatives will be hosting several training sessions on the method and test equipment throughout the summer, and will also be available for individual instruction. For more information regarding the Endothall ProTest, please contact UPI Southwest Territory Manager **Joe Vassios** by email at [joseph.vassios@uniphos.com](mailto:joseph.vassios@uniphos.com) , or by phone at 719-740-9291.

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## Drought in the Western United States

### Record Low Snowpack Melts Early in Most States\*

*Family Farm Alliance*



West-wide snowpack is melting earlier than usual, according to data from the fourth 2015 forecast by the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Nowhere are things hotter than in California, where Gov. Jerry Brown earlier this month ordered city dwellers across California to cut water use by 25% as part of a sweeping set of mandatory drought restrictions. Immediately, he was put on the defensive, as his administration tried to deflect criticism

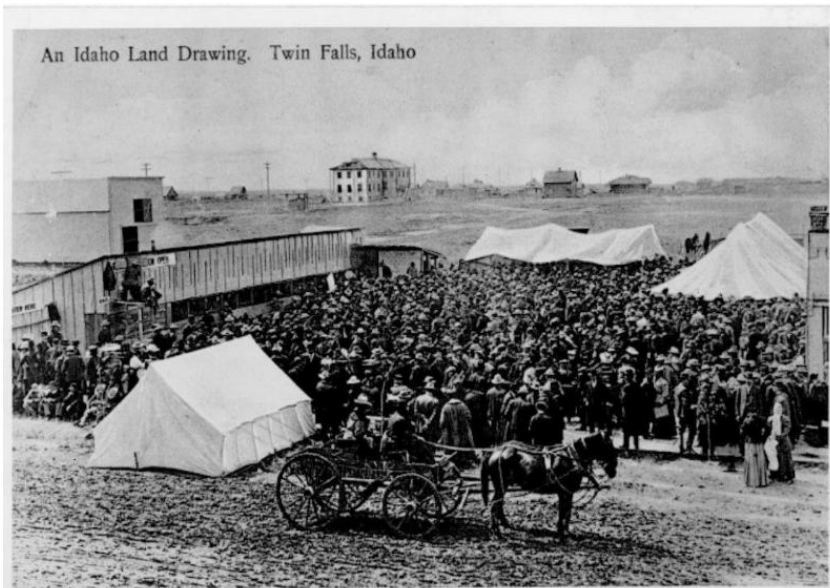
from urban media outlets that farmers were mostly spared from his latest drought mitigation measures.

California farmers and ranchers watched in initial disbelief as misinformation about their way of life was broadcast out to the world, and the social media and anonymous bloggers derided Central Valley irrigators for wasteful water use, poor crop selection, and a host of other criticisms, many of which were based on decades-old myths. However, in recent weeks, producers from the nation's number one agricultural production state have channeled their anger and frustration into a determined, coordinated response to tell their story that is beginning to gain traction with the public. Read more about these recent developments, and how the Family Farm Alliance has engaged on behalf of Western farmers and ranchers.

\*Reprinted with permission by the [Family Farm Alliance](#). [Click here](#) to read the April 2015 "Monthly Briefing" and learn more about this issue and other recent developments in the western water world.

# Transforming the Landscape of Idaho

*Brian Olmsted, General Manager*



Today, when most people think about Idaho, the first thing that comes to mind is likely potatoes - as well as the range of other crops that the state produces. However, Idaho hasn't always enjoyed a reputation for fertile farming territory. Southern Idaho is one of the driest regions in the country (with only about 10 inches of average rainfall a year) - and in the 1800s and early 1900s, most Americans heading west crossed through Idaho and its dusty grounds as quickly as possible.

The land - and history - of Southern Idaho was transformed in 1900 by Idaho farmer, pioneer and businessman **I.B. Perrine** and his formation of the **Twin Falls Canal Company System**. The company was created as a result of the 1904 Carey Act, passed by the United States Congress to allow states to request the setting aside of large tracts of Federal land for private investors - where they could develop irrigation systems in accordance with approved plans. Idaho represented the perfect setting for the opportunity provided by the Carey Act. Despite the state's minimal rainfall, Idaho has long enjoyed a constant water supply via the Snake River, which originates in Yellowstone National Park. However, before 1900, much of the river's water was completely inaccessible to Idaho's dusty land, as the river flowed through the bottom of the deep Snake River Canyon. Fortunately, by the time the Carey Act passed, both dam and irrigation technology had made it possible to access the water of the Snake River - and fortunately, I.B. Perrine recognized the huge and timely opportunity to transform the land. He and his fellow investors filed for water rights in 1900 for 3,400 cubic feet per second of water from the Snake River - and paid the state 50 cents per acre for 20 acres of nearby land. As an important first step, a large crew began building the Milner dam across the Snake River Canyon, along with 1,000 miles of canals and feeder laterals. Work began in 1903, and by 1905, the team had diverted the first water into the new canal system. The Twin Falls Canal Company farmers harvested their first crops in the fall of 1905.

Today, Idaho boasts about 200,000 acres of farm land along the Twin Falls tract - and the fertile ground produces a range of crops, such as potatoes, corn, alfalfa hay, barley, wheat, peas, sugar beets, and is home to a large portion of the dairy industry. The Twin Falls Canal Company operates as a

non-profit organization, and its mission remains as critical today as it was in the early 1900s: to protect the water of Twin Falls County and to deliver a constant supply to the land and to distribute it equitably among the water users.

Considering that many other Carey Act projects failed due to bankruptcy or lack of resources - many people have said that Twin Falls stands out as the most successfully developed Carey Act project in the West - all thanks to the constancy of the Snake River, the vision of I.B. Perrine, and the hard work of the thousands and thousands of people who have worked for more than 100 years in ensuring that the Twin Falls water supply - the lifeblood of the region - keeps Idaho fertile and successful.



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We want to hear from you! Please send your feedback to us at [\*\*Joseph.Vassios@uniphos.com\*\*](mailto:Joseph.Vassios@uniphos.com).