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April 6, 2010

PRESS RELEASE- For Immediate Release

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Healthy Parks, Healthy Kids! Smoke-Free Outdoor Air Initiative

TWIN FALLS- Most people are aware of the health consequences of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke, but they may not be aware that secondhand smoke levels in outdoor public places can be as high as those found in indoor facilities where smoking is permitted. This is one reason why the Idaho Tobacco Prevention and Control Program was awarded funding through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) to work on establishing smoke-free public parks, tot-lots, and playgrounds throughout the state of Idaho.

To help with this initiative, the Department of Health and Welfare has contracted with Idaho's seven public health districts.

South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is interested in hearing from the public on whether or not they would support smoke-free parks. A short survey is available on the SCPHD website at www.phd5.idaho.gov. The public is strongly encouraged to take this survey.

Information gathered will be used in working with community leaders to adopt smoke-free park policies and to make south central Idaho a cleaner, healthier, and safer place for all to enjoy.

For more information on the "Healthy Parks, Healthy Kids" initiative, contact Karyn Goodale at 737-5981.

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