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March 15, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**U.S. CENSUS BUREAU DISTRIBUTES CENSUS FORMS**  
***Bannock County Residents Encouraged to Complete and Return 2010 Census Forms***

Starting today, the U.S. Census Bureau distributed the 2010 Census to more than 130 million addresses across the nation. Mandated by the U.S. Constitution and conducted every 10 years, the census counts every man, woman and child. Mailing back the census form is the easiest way to participate in the 2010 Census, and every household should complete and mail back the form upon receipt.

“The 2010 Census has a direct impact on our community’s future. The data gathered will determine funding for vital local services, as well as representation at all levels of government,” said Pocatello Mayor Brian Blad. “Many of the City’s federal and state funding sources are directly tied to population counts, so your participation is important.”

One of the shortest census forms in U.S. Census history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Every person living in the residence, both relatives and nonrelatives, should be included on the form. People should be counted in the residences where they live and sleep most of the time.

“The 2010 Census is an historical event that will help shape the future of our county,” said Dr. Robert M. Groves, Director, U.S. Census Bureau. “It is vital that everyone is counted once and only once and in the right place.”

Census form answers are safe and confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents’ answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

“Please do your part to help our community,” said Mayor Blad. “Join me in taking 10 minutes to fill out the 2010 Census form and mail it back.” For more information, visit [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov) or call the Mayor’s Office at 234-6163.

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