

Balanced Rock SCD Request for Technical Assistance for Twin Falls Nitrate CCPI

The Balanced Rock SCD is entering the third year of administering the Twin Falls Nitrate Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative. Participants in this project utilize more intensive crop nutrient and water management practices to prevent leaching and protect groundwater sources. This project was initially submitted by Jordan Tollefson, while he was with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, with the understanding that ISWCC would provide the bulk of technical assistance on this project.

Seven cooperators have enrolled 1,904 acres across Twin Falls County. While the enrollment period has passed, Balanced Rock SCD must collect information from the two cooperators representing 1,050 acres that are enrolled within the district regarding their fertility (both in terms of commercial fertilizer and manure or compost) and irrigation water management practices. Soil tests and records of irrigation scheduling are also needed.

Balanced Rock SCD is requesting 80 hours of technical assistance from ISWCC to collect the needed information from the cooperators and to help them fine-tune any plans written as part of this project to reflect changes in water supply or crop rotation. They will coordinate their efforts with the Twin Falls NRCS field office and provide the needed data with the NRCS staff.

The district will share success stories from the project in future district newsletters in an effort to encourage other land operators to adopt more intensive management practices.

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
CERTIFICATION**

DISTRICT: **Balanced Rock SCD**

Project or Activity Name: Twin Falls Nitrate CCPI

FOR FISCAL YEAR: **2015**

Hours of Assistance Requested:
80

Due: **March 31, 2014**

CERTIFICATION

By concurrence of a majority of the supervisors of the district board and the above name conservation district certifies that attached Request for Assistance is true and accurate, and further submits said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Request for Assistance and supporting documents shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

Richard Rogers

Board Supervisor Chairperson Signature

Richard Rodgers

Printed Name

March 18, 2014

Date

733-5380

District or Board Chairperson Telephone

chsimons@cableone.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:

Balanced Rock SCD Request for Technical Assistance for Water Quality Monitoring

The Balanced Rock SCD has developed a water quality monitoring plan with Chuck Pentzer, Rob Sharpnack, the Twin Falls Canal Co. and Agriculture Research Service in Kimberly to monitor three planned wetland projects and four existing wetland sites. Background water quality data is needed for the planned projects to show both need for the project when applying for federal grants to help with construction costs and also to demonstrate the effectiveness of these projects after construction. The District would also like to collect data from the four exiting sites (the most recent was completed in 2013 and the oldest approximately 15 years ago) to see how effective the ponds after the ponds have been operational for a while. These four existing wetlands are not located on major irrigation drains and have not been monitored by TFCC. Monitoring will include sediment and phosphorus loads, and also nitrate from a seep in one of the proposed wetland areas.

This weekly monitoring will begin in mid-April 2014, when the irrigation season begins, and will continue through the end of the 2014 fiscal year. Balanced Rock is asking for an additional 120 hours of time to continue the monitoring from July 1 through September 30, 2014, to provide an entire irrigation season's worth of data. The ARS lab in Kimberly will analyze the samples in exchange for the data.

This information will be used to complete federal grant applications for the proposed projects. The data from the existing wetlands will be placed with the final reports for each of those projects. IDEQ and EPA are keenly interested in monitoring results post construction, but the District and TFCC have lacked the resources to provide that kind of long-term monitoring on all projects. Instead, monitoring efforts have focused on the critical irrigation drains.

The district will also share this information with the Twin Falls Canal Co. and Agriculture Research Service to provide additional information regarding the Conservation Effects Assessment Project ARS is currently conducting on the TFCC tract.

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
CERTIFICATION**

DISTRICT: **Balanced Rock SCD**

Project or Activity Name: **Water quality monitoring**

FOR FISCAL YEAR: **2015**

Hours of Assistance Requested:
120

Due: **March 31, 2014**

CERTIFICATION

By concurrence of a majority of the supervisors of the district board and the above name conservation district certifies that attached Request for Assistance is true and accurate, and further submits said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Request for Assistance and supporting documents shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.



Board Supervisor Chairperson Signature

Richard Rodgers

Printed Name

March 18, 2014

Date

733-5380 ext 101

District or Board Chairperson Telephone

chsimons@cableone.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:

Balanced Rock SCD Request for Technical Assistance for Soil Health Initiative

The Balanced Rock SCD is interested in helping correlate a new soil test that tracks microbial activity with traditional soil tests in Twin Falls County. To accomplish this, the district would like to take soil tests from cooperators fields and send those samples to Rick Haney at the Agriculture Research Service in Temple, Texas, for analysis using Haney's method.

Collecting this background data will be useful to compare to changes observed as more cooperators convert to minimum tillage systems. Balanced Rock is also exploring the feasibility of acquiring a no-till drill that cooperators could rent to try this practice on their farms without incurring a financial investment.

Balanced Rock SCD is requesting 30 hours of technical assistance from to collect 6-inch soil samples from willing cooperators in March of 2015. The samples must be collected 3 to 4 weeks before fertilizer is applied in the spring.

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission employees will work with the Twin Falls NRCS field office to identify willing cooperators, collect the samples and ensure the date from the samples is shared with both the district and the landowner and/or operator.

Information about this project will be shared through the district newsletter and the newly revamped district website (coming soon thanks to a capacity building grant from the ISWCC).

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
CERTIFICATION**

DISTRICT: **Balanced Rock SCD**

Project or Activity Name: **Soil health**

FOR FISCAL YEAR: **2015**

Hours of Assistance Requested:
30

Due: **March 31, 2014**

CERTIFICATION

By concurrence of a majority of the supervisors of the district board and the above name conservation district certifies that attached Request for Assistance is true and accurate, and further submits said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Request for Assistance and supporting documents shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.



Board Supervisor Chairperson Signature

Richard Rodgers

Printed Name

March 18, 2014

Date

733-5380

District or Board Chairperson Telephone

chsimeons@cableone.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:
