

SENATE  
AGRICULTURAL  
AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 17, 2015  
8:00 AM



# ANNUAL REPORT

*Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship*



SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION



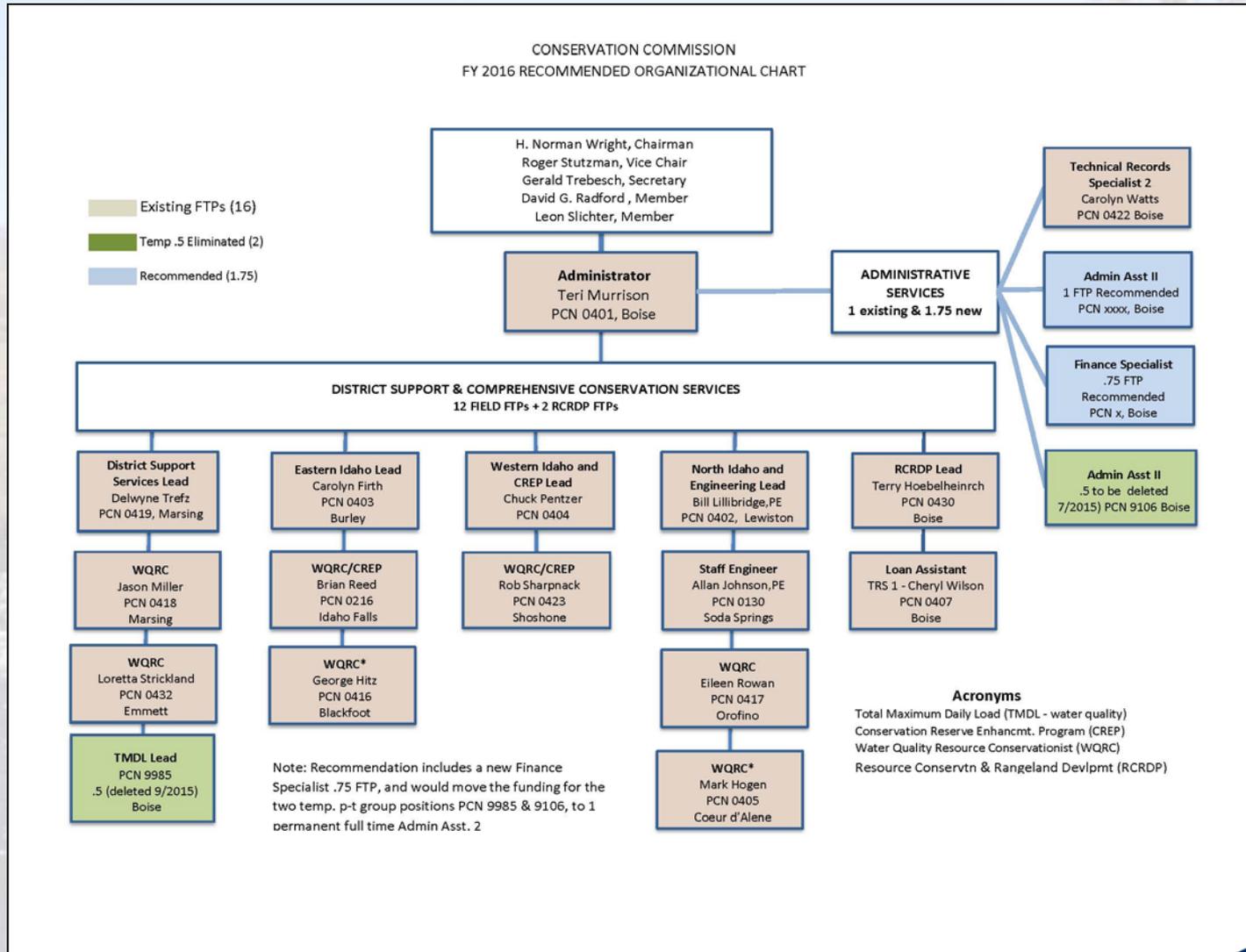
*Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship*

Slide # 2



SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION





# 3

## CORE FUNCTIONS

### Technical & Other Support Services

- Technical & capacity building assistance
- Distribute trustee and benefit funding

### Conservation Programs

- Incentive-based
  - CREP, RCRDP
- General programs
  - TMDL, Ground Water, etc.

### Administration

Program/Services	Status
District Support (incl. technical and comprehensive, and allocations)	Priority
Conservation Programs (incentive)	
Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP)	Priority
State Revolving Fund	Priority
Water Quality Program for Ag (WQPA)	Inactive
Conservation Improvement Grants	Inactive
Working Landscapes	Inactive
Conservation Programs (comprehensive)	
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	Priority
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans	Priority
Idaho Ag Pollution Abatement Plan	Updated in FY 2015
Idaho Groundwater Quality Plan	Maintenance of effort
Idaho OnePlan	Maintenance of effort
Watershed Improvement Districts	Maintenance of effort
Carbon Sequestration	Inactive
Administration (includes agency management & reporting, transparency, partner participation, communication, collaboration, etc.)	Priority

# CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

- 1 Ada
- 2 Adams
- 3 Balanced Rock
- 4 Bear Lake
- 5 Benewah
- 6 Blaine
- 7 Donner
- 8 Boundry
- 9 Bruneau River
- 10 Butte
- 11 Camas
- 12 Canyon
- 13 Caribou
- 14 Central Bingham
- 15 Clark
- 16 Clearwater
- 17 Custer
- 18 East Cassia
- 19 East Side
- 20 Elmore
- 21 Franklin
- 22 Gem
- 23 Gooding
- 24 Idaho
- 25 Jefferson
- 26 Kootena-Shoshone
- 27 Latah
- 28 Lemhi
- 29 Lewis
- 30 Madison
- 31 Minidoka
- 32 Nez Perce
- 33 Noth Bingham
- 34 North Side
- 35 Orneida
- 36 Owyhee
- 37 Payette
- 38 Portneuf
- 39 Power
- 40 Snake River
- 41 South Bingham
- 42 Squaw Creek
- 43 Teton
- 44 Twin Falls
- 45 Teton
- 46 Valley
- 47 Weiser River
- 48 West Cassia
- 49 West Side
- 50 Wood River
- 51 Yellowstone



*Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship*





## FY 2015

Allocated funding: \$ 1,203,200

Technical Assistance: 10,858 hrs. req.,  
5,326 awarded

### DISTRICT SUPPORT

- Water quality
- Ground water - nitrates reduction
- Riparian restoration
- Species conservation
- And more



BEAR RIVER/WHISKEY  
CREEK PROJECT



*Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship*





WHAT IT WAS



*Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship*

WHAT IT IS



Commission Engineer  
Allan Johnson

*Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship*



Celebrating 75 Years Conserving the Idaho Way

## LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Sprinkler Irrigation, No-Till Drills, Fences  
Livestock Feeding Operations  
Solar Stock Water Pump Systems

2.5%-3.5%  
Terms 7-15 Years  
Up to \$200,000



swc.idaho.gov | 208-332-1790

## R CR DP LO AN P RO GR AM

FY 2014

- 92 outstanding loans
- \$3,814,595
- 12 loans approved last year

*Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship*



SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## CREP in FY 2014

156 Contracts, 16,792  
acres enrolled  
Conserved:

- 66,916 AF water, serving 330,000 people
- 134,000 T soil erosion reduced
- ~4.5 million #s fertilizer not applied



Completed plans

**99 (6 in 2014)**

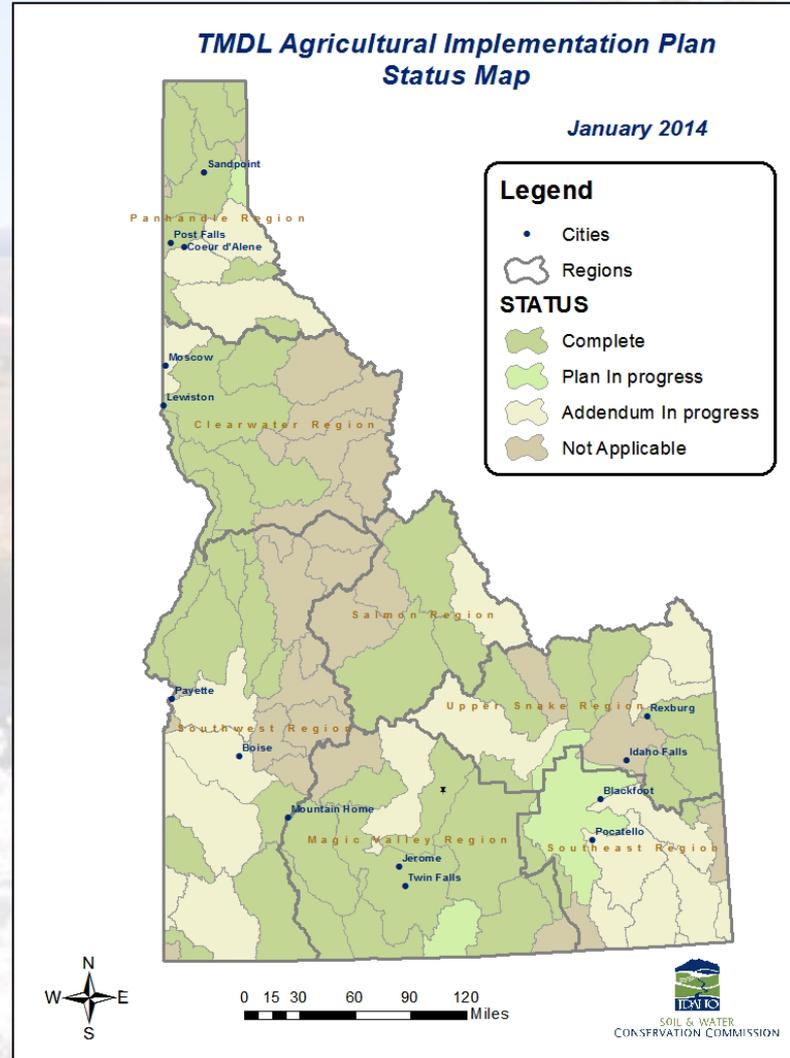
Plans in progress

**15**

**TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

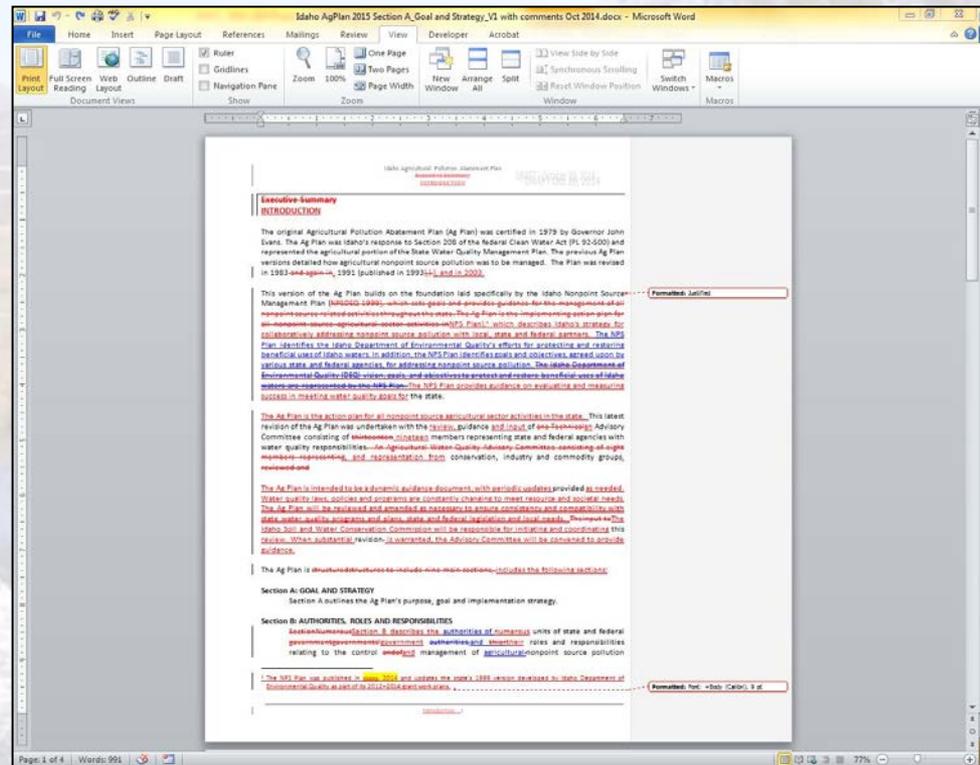
Plans pending review,  
addendums

**19**



# AG PLAN UPDATE

19 stakeholders  
Certified by Governor by 7/1



## Legislative District 10 Chairman Jim Rice

- Canyon SCD

### Canyon Soil Conservation District Fact Sheet

**General Information:** Organized in 1951, the Canyon Soil Conservation District focused on farm-related soil and water problems. Farmers receive help leveling their land, lining ditches, installing irrigation pipelines, developing conservation cropping systems and learning to utilize crop residues for better soil and water conservation. Irrigation companies receive help upgrading their canals and diversions along the Boise River.

**Mission (or Function):**

- Provide quality leadership, information, education, technical assistance and financial assistance for the conservation and wise use of natural resources.

**FY 2014 Accomplishments:**

- Conservation Technical Assistance was provided to 28 different producers on approximately 270 acres. Included conservation planning and drip irrigation systems.
- Cost-share provided to 4 BMP implementation projects which treated 95 acres.
- Completed a conservation plan to convert an 18 acre irrigation system from surface to sprinkler.
- Conducted monitoring work with a Canal Company to determine feasibility of installing a sediment basin or pipeline to improve water.
- Participated in and sponsored multiple outreach and education programs serving youth and adults throughout the county.

**Future Plans and Projects:**

- Continue to use 319 grant and other funds to implement irrigation system upgrades to improve water quality.
- Use the Conservation Technical Assistance Program to implement the Canyon SCD

Canyon SCD  
2208 E Chicago STE A  
Caldwell ID 83605

District Documents  
Prepared by Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Mike Swartz-Chair  
208-454-8684

**Resource Enhancement Project** to address high priority natural resource issues identified by TMDLs and Watershed Planning documents.

- Partner with agencies and organizations to seek additional funding with which to address resource concerns.
- Promote natural resource conservation through outreach and education programs for youth and adults.



Participants on Water Quality Improvements tour discuss precision irrigation water management techniques.

**FY 2014 District Funding:**

State Funds	
County Funds	\$ 23,772
319 Grant Funds	\$ 10,000
Newsletter Ads	\$ 223,918
NRCS CTA Grant Funds	\$ 1,760
NRCS Admin. Asst.	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 303,950

## Legislative District 16, 18, 21 & 22

Vice-Chair Clifford Bayer

Senator Lori Den Hartog

Senator Janie Ward-Engelking

Senator Grant Burgoyne

- Ada SWCD

### Ada Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

**General Information:** The Ada Soil and Water Conservation District has achieved over 60 years of successful conservation implementation and is fully engaged in meeting present day conservation needs. They work cooperatively with area farmers and ranchers and have adapted and evolved to work actively within the urban and suburban areas of the district.

**Mission (or Function):**

- Pursue and develop new partnerships with groups and organizations interested in promoting the wise use, conservation and enhancement of natural resources in Ada County.
- Lead natural resource planning, conservation, and implementation activities in Ada County.
- Provide conservation education to Ada County residents.

**FY 2014 Accomplishments:**

- Managed 632 acre foothills conservation easement through partnership with Avimor Planned Community.
- To promote soil health and water conservation, Ada SWCD purchased a No-till drill to be available for lease to Ada and Canyon County producers and landowners. The drill was used by 25 growers to plant 1,256 acres in 2014.
- Co-sponsored the Idaho Center for Sustainable Agriculture Symposium Soils Workshop.
- Sponsored 2 middle school students to attend the U of I Extension Natural Resources Camp.
- Sponsored 4 high school teams to attend and participate in the Idaho Canon Envirothon competition in Challis.

**Future Plans and Projects:**

- The district will use Conservation Innovation Grant funds awarded by USDA NRCS to fund a campaign to advertise natural resources conservation successes in the areas of soil health, cover crops, nutrient management and wildlife habitat improvements.

**FY 2014 District Funding:**

State Funding	\$ 59,695.00
County Funding	\$ 45,000.00
Avimor Easement Mngmnt	\$ 16,000.00
No-Till Drill Rental	\$ 2,000.00
SWCD RC&D Admin Asst.	\$ 2,400.00
5th Grade Field Day	\$ 130,095.00
Total	

**Glen Edwards using No-Till Drill**



Ada SWCD  
9173 W Barnes Dr.  
Boise ID 83709

District Documents  
Prepared by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Glen Edwards Chair  
208-378-5729  
[www.adaswcd.org](http://www.adaswcd.org)

## Legislative District 23 Senator Bert Brackett

- Balanced Rock SCD
- Bruneau River SCD
- Elmore SWCD
- Owyhee SWCD
- Twin Falls SWCD

### Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District Fact Sheet

General Information: The Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District was organized in 1961 to

### Bruneau River Soil Conservation District Fact Sheet

General Information: The Bruneau River Soil

### Elmore Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

General Information: The Elmore Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1940 to provide voluntary land and water conservation and technical assistance. The District implements conservation

**Mission (or Function):**

- Deliver technical management resources for producers
- Promote implementation of regular regulatory government
- Make resources meet the conservation resource

**FY 2014 Accomplishments:**

- Continued riparian maintenance. There were 10 stream miles in the district.
- Held a High School student mystery

Elmore SWCD  
795 S Haskell  
Mountain View

### Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

General Information: The Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1951. Much of the District is rangeland or grazing land. Approximately 20,000 acres of cropland is irrigated by the Salmon River Canal Company.

**Mission (or Function):**

- Promote conservation practices on every acre in the district which will build a more stable and prosperous agricultural community.
- Encourage cooperation among landowners, Government agencies, private organization, and elected officials to ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations.

**FY 2014 Accomplishments:**

- The cover crop project has been modified in 2013, the second year of the Conservation Innovation Grant (CIP). The mix was simplified and planting rates were reduced to make the practice more affordable (approximately \$30 per acre for seed rather than nearly \$90 per acre in 2013).
- Held annual environmental education days for Filer 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and Hollister 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and provided a scholarship to Natural Resources Camp.
- Utilizing its FY 2014 Capacity Building Grant, the Twin Falls SWCD upgraded its website, and provided administrative assistance to the Western Stockgrowers Association for its 319 enhancement project.
- Western Stockgrowers installed a 6,000 gallon tank, next to a 10,000 gallon tank installed in 2009. The extra capacity will keep the livestock water troughs full even during drought years.

Twin Falls SWCD  
1441 Fillmore St STE A  
Twin Falls ID 83401

**Future Plans and Projects:**

- Riparian Fencing Project: working with several cooperators to site potential riparian fencing projects along Rock Creek and Cottonwood Creek.



More than 45 people attended a tour of the Multi-Species Cover Crop Demonstration Project site (planted south of Kimberly).

**FY 2014 District Funding:**

State Funding	\$ 20,252
County Funding	\$ 7,500
Federal Grants	\$ 39,680
Total	\$ 67,432

### Owyhee Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

The Owyhee Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1953. The District's focus is on riparian fencing, erosion control, and riparian habitat. The District has a strong interest in the quality of riparian habitat and the quality of surface water quality by

reduced soil erosion on 100 acres to TMDL tolerable levels and improve surface water quality by

awareness of conservation and opportunities in the

with partners for riparian management and maintenance by

of noxious weeds through riparian education while riparian and forage to

**Projects:**  
Denis Turner's no-till / strip-till. The tour group included public and OCD Board

Pesticide License Renewal funded by over 30 people, which Denis Turner was County Conservationist of the

ation in the Noxious Weed Act to stop the spread of an effort to save valuable farm

- Sponsored a 4500 agriculture scholarship to a graduating senior entering college in the agricultural field.
- Booth at the Owyhee County Fair, Rodeo and Livestock Auction in Homedale

**Future Plans and Projects:**

- Looking into the possibility of purchasing a no-till drill to help the local farmers.
- Continue to encourage coordination with conservation partners for the protection of land, water and air.



Tour of Denis Turner's no-till / strip-till operation

**FY 2014 District Funding:**

State Funding	\$ 12,884
County Funding	\$ 3,000
Coordinated Weed Management Funds	\$ 26,475
Total	\$ 42,359

Charles Chadez-Chair  
208-696-4544

District Documents

Prepared by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

District Documents

Prepared by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Barry Bolwinkel-Chair  
208-733-5380  
[www.tfconservation.org](http://www.tfconservation.org)



## Legislative District 25 Senator Jim Patrick

- Balanced Rock SCD
- North Side SWCD
- Snake River SWCD
- Twin Falls SWCD

### Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District Fact Sheet

**General Information:** The Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District was organized in 1961 to

### North Side Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

**General Information:** The North Side Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1946. They assist farmers and residents with soil and water conservation and are now branching out to address other natural resources needs of Jerome County.

**Mission (or Function):**

- Educate the public and assist landowners in the implementation of sound land management practices, and work towards improvements and preservation of natural resources
- With their long standing relationship with federal, state, county and other agencies and organizations

**FY 2014 Accomplishments:**

- Worked with several partners to address the water quality in the 100 year old water pumping reduce local energy consumption by eliminating common pump stations. Even though the project was not selected to submit a full team to actively pursue all the required criteria.
- Sponsored the Natural Resources Camp for campers while providing cabin leaders and staff. Conducted a soil judging competition in Jerome County.
- Provided sponsorship and support the annual Envirothon. The Jerome team placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the state.
- Supplied over 400 trees (all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Jerome County) for Arbor Day tree planting.

North Side SWCD  
310 W Nez Perce  
Jerome ID 83338

Prepared by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

### Snake River Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

**General Information:** The Snake River Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1951 through Twin Falls line to Filer. Its primary resource

**Mission (or Function):**

- Work with potential future contaminants
- Help coop and irrigate through the Area Coop Initiative.
- Continue Agricultural Conservation

**FY 2014 Accomplishments:**

- One of 44 Falls Nitrate Cooperatives management practices implemented then apr of Idaho
- Participate Falls Co
- Provide student natural

Snake River  
1441 Fillmore  
Twin Falls ID

### Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

**General Information:** The Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1951. Much of the District is rangeland or grazing land. Approximately 20,000 acres of cropland is irrigated by the Salmon River Canal Company.

**Mission (or Function):**

- Promote conservation practices on every acre in the district which will build a more stable and prosperous agricultural community.
- Encourage cooperation among landowners, Government agencies, private organization, and elected officials to ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations.

**FY 2014 Accomplishments:**

- The cover crop project has been modified in 2013, the second year of the Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG). The mix was simplified and planting rates were reduced to make the practice more affordable (approximately \$30 per acre for seeds rather than nearly \$90 per acre in 2013).
- Held annual environmental education days for Filer 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and Hollister 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and provided a scholarship to Natural Resources Camp.
- Utilizing its FY 2014 Capacity Building Grant, the Twin Falls SWCD upgraded its website, and provided administrative assistance to the Western Stockgrowers Association for its 319 Western Stockgrowers installed a 6,000 gallon tank, next to a 10,000 gallon tank installed in 2009. The extra capacity will keep the livestock water troughs full even during drought years.

**Future Plans and Projects:**

- Riparian Fencing Project, working with several cooperators to site potential riparian fencing projects along Rock Creek and Cottonwood Creek.

More than 45 people attended a tour of the Multi-Species Cover Crop Demonstration Project site (planted south of Kimberly).

FY 2014 District Funding:	
State Funding	\$ 20,252
County Funding	\$ 7,500
Federal Grants	\$ 39,680
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 67,432</b>

Twin Falls SWCD  
1441 Fillmore St STE A  
Twin Falls ID 83401

Prepared by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

## Legislative District 4 Senator Mary Souza

- Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD

### Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

**General Information:** The Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1941 to assist the farmers in applying conservation practices and improving their land. Just a few years later the District was actively promoting conservation cropping systems, contour farming, crop residue use, pasture and woodland improvements, grassed waterways, farm ponds and drainage improvements.

**Mission (or Function):**

- Partner and lead other government agencies, private landowners and users, and the public in promoting voluntary, non-regulatory, locally-led conservation and wise stewardship of the natural resources with which our area has been so richly blessed.

**FY 2014 Accomplishments:**

- The District completed the last 319 project on Mica Creek. Water quality has improved to the point that IDEQ is considering de-listing the lower reach of Mica Creek. Beneficial uses have been restored.
- Completed monitoring and inspections on 4000 feet of riverbank on the lower Coeur d'Alene River.
- Sold a record 79,790 seedlings in the annual forestry tree sales program.
- Installed smart controllers on residential and municipal irrigation systems with a grant from Idaho Water Resources Board
- Assisted Bureau of Reclamation to install four new AgriMet stations over the aquifer.
- 

**Future Plans and Projects:**

- The District continues to work with the Coeur d'Alene Tributaries WAG on implementing BMPs and watershed planning. This coordinated effort has led to IDEQ finding extra 319 funds to do projects in Wolf Lodge Creek.
- The District received partial funding for a Western Competitive Grant through Idaho Department of Lands. These funds will be used to fly LIDAR over the Wolf Lodge/Blue/Fernan Creek watersheds to begin assessing conditions and recommend treatments.
- Outreach throughout the community to promote District programs and Western Competitive Grant project efforts.



Willows and sedges along the lower Coeur d'Alene River

**FY 2014 District Funding:**

State Funding	\$ 12,229
Idaho Water Resources Board Irrigation Grant	\$ 9,000
319 grant	\$ 33,979
Tree Sales	\$ 7,145
Aquifer Protection District	\$ 1,200
Total	\$ 63,553

Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD  
7830 Meadowlark Way C-1  
Coeur d'Alene ID 83815

Fran Hughes-Chair  
208-762-4939  
[www.northidahoswcds.org](http://www.northidahoswcds.org)

District Documents

Prepared by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

# Legislative District 9 Senator Abby Lee

- Adams SWCD
- Canyon SCD
- Payette SWCD
- Weiser River SWCD

## Weiser River Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

**General Information:** The Weiser River Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1941. Originally the Weiser River SCD included only the area in Washington County drained by the Weiser River. In 1971 the remaining area was annexed into the district.



## Canyon Soil Conservation District Fact Sheet

**General Information:** Organized in 1951, the Canyon Soil Conservation District focused on farm-related soil and water problems. Farmers receive help leveling their land, lining ditches, installing irrigation pipelines, developing conservation cropping systems and learning to utilize crop

Resource Enhancement Project to address high priority natural resource issues identified by TMDLs and Watershed Planning documents.  
 • Partner with agencies and organizations to seek additional funding with which to address resource concerns.

## Adams Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

**General Information:** Organized in 1966 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and users within the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries. The District supports diverse land uses, including irrigated and dryland farming, grazing, woodlands, recreation, and urban areas. Each of these land uses presents different conservation challenges.



Installed rock barb/willow planting on Little Weiser River project only 7 months after installation.

### Mission (or Function):

- Make technical, financial and educational resources available to meet the conservation needs of the local landowner/manager
- Use local knowledge and cooperation to ensure that Idaho's natural resources are conserved for present and future generations
- Provide land users with information on land capabilities and assist them in applying this information

### FY 2014 Accomplishments:

- Completed Little Weiser 319 Project, protecting 11,535 feet of streambank and preventing and estimated 1,100 tons of sediment/year from entering the river.
- Provided 2 students with scholarships to attend the U of I Natural Resources Camp.
- Helped send Council students to FFA Nationals in Tennessee.
- Offered technical assistance to City of Council to stabilize sewer lagoons adjacent to Weiser River.
- Worked with landowners and City of New Meadows to address local flooding issues.
- Co-sponsor the annual Soil Health Symposium with the Payette SWCD and others.

Adams SWC  
PO Box 26  
Council ID 83612

District Documents

Prepared by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

### Future Plans and Projects:

- Provide landowners access to tools and implements, such as pasture aerator, rock drill and water jet stinger.
- Conduct tour of Little Weiser River stream bank projects.
- Apply for another 319 grant from DEQ to complete Phase III of stream bank restoration project on the Little Weiser River.
- Co-sponsor annual Soil Health Symposium.
- Assist with completing agriculture implementation plans for streams which have completed TMDLs.

### FY 2014 District Funding:

State Funding	\$ 14,550.00
County Funding	\$ 5,178.00
City Funding	\$ 500.00
DEQ 319 Grant Funding	\$ 41,600.00
Other Funding	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 63,828.00</b>

Julie Burkhardt-Chair  
208-253-4668  
[awcd@ctcweb.net](mailto:awcd@ctcweb.net)

## Payette Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

**Information:** The Payette Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1958. The District contains 259,130 acres, of which 147,014 acres are in farmland. Soil erosion associated with agriculture continues to be the main natural resource conservation challenge. The District continues to provide technical, financial and educational resources to the landowners and users of the Payette SWCD in an effort to address conservation needs in soil, water, and riparian resources.

### Function:

Provide technical, financial, and educational resources to the public, teachers, and students for riparian resources conservation. Increase public awareness of the importance of riparian resources. Educate the public on water quality rules, regulation, and riparian resources. Assist riparian resource operators to plan and implement riparian resource projects.

### Accomplishments:

Completed the 5<sup>th</sup> annual educational program in the Treasure Valley which included a program on riparian resources and water health principles. The 319 TMDL was completed. The District received a 319 grant for the Lower Payette River riparian resource project, including explaining the riparian resource project to riparian landowners in applying riparian resource projects and providing technical assistance, and one project was completed.

Partnered with the Idaho Center for Watershed Stewardship for the riparian resource symposium in Nampa.

### Future Plans and Projects

- Continue to provide landowner and entities in Payette County with projects to improve water quality in the TMDL-listed Payette and Snake Rivers and their tributaries.
- Administer 319 Grant Middle Snake-Payette Clean Water Project phase 2.
- Organize and present the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Soil Health Symposium and continue educational programs and outreach.



319 project -- Sediment pond on Howard Rynearson property

### FY 2014 District Funding:

State Funding	\$ 16,822
County Funding	\$ 2,500
City of Payette	\$ 1,000
City of New Plymouth	\$ 600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,922</b>

JoAnn Smith-Chair  
208-642-4402  
[www.payetteswcd.org](http://www.payetteswcd.org)

District Documents

Prepared by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

# Conservation the Idaho Way



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[www.swc.idaho.gov](http://www.swc.idaho.gov)



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