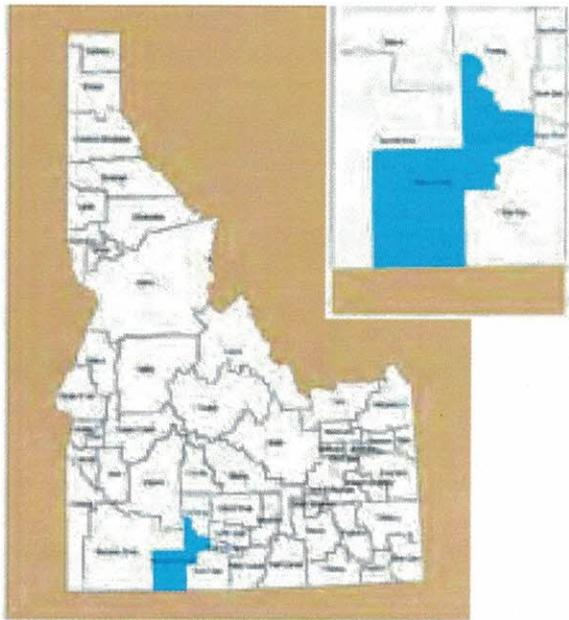


Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District



Recent Projects



Soil Health

Balanced Rock SCD is in year two of a three year project to provide cost share assistance to cooperators to experiment with cover crops and/or no-till planting techniques. The cost-share is thanks to a Conservation Innovation Grant.

The District had hoped to purchase a no-till drill to rent to cooperators, but was unable to accomplish that goal. Instead, district supervisors are working with two custom operators who have no-till drills.

The project focuses on primarily highly erodible cropland in Twin Falls County. Approximately 600 acres were seeded to multi-species cover crop mixes in the fall of 2015 and around 1,000 acres were seeded using a no-till drill.

Even more exciting is the recognition that several other producers are experimenting with cover crops and no-till seeding but were not interested in participating in the grant.

Water Quality

Construction began on a wetland complex on the 39/39A drain west of Filer this fall. This wetland will be operational for the 2016 irrigation season.

Address: 1441 Fillmore St. #A
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Phone: (208) 733-5380 ext. 3

FAX: (208) 733-734-5138

<http://tfconservation.org>

Meets third Wednesday of each month

Top Five Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality
2. Groundwater Quality
3. Cropland
4. Animal Waste Management
5. Rangeland

2015 Revenue

Federal Grants \$74,900

State Grants and Services \$21,583.70

County General Services \$8,200

Total \$104,683.70

Educational Efforts

- Approximately 60 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students from two schools participated in the 2015 poster contest for elementary students. One of those posters competed at the State IASCD Contest.

- A speech contest for high school students is also held each fall. The Balanced Rock SCD winner competed at the State Speech Contest.

- Provided two campers with a full scholarship to Natural Resources Camp.

- Balanced Rock SCD also participated in the 2015 Ag Pavilion at the Twin Falls County Fair, featuring the 2015 Soil and Water Stewardship theme — “Your Local Heroes — Backyard Pollinators”.

District Capacity Building Grant

The Balanced Rock SCD utilized its FY 2015 Capacity Building Grant to purchase a new color printer and associated printer cartridges. This allows the District to print color copies of handouts for field days and other meetings inhouse rather than relying on a commercial printer.

Future Projects

Balanced Rock SCD has submitted a federal 319 grant to construct a wetland in the Mud Creek area. If funded, this would be a continuation of the effort begun two years ago to address water quality in that region by constructing a series of smaller projects rather than one large wetland at the end of the drain.

Balanced Rock SCD is also exploring opportunities to gather deep soil nitrate data throughout the Twin Falls Nitrate Priority Area. This project would be in conjunction with the Twin Falls Groundwater Protection Committee.

One of the concerns is how irrigation water management and agronomic practices push nitrates below the crop root zone and if so, how deeply. This may impact nitrate levels in groundwater but no one knows at this time.

Supervisors hope to work with researchers at the ARS Northwest Irrigation & Soils Lab in Kimberly and also the University of Idaho on this project.

Celebrate success

The Balanced Rock SCD will celebrate its 55th anniversary in May 2016. The District plans to mark this milestone by holding an open house at the Castleford Community Center. Information about the No-Till/Cover Crop program will be also be presented.

Balanced Rock SCD Supervisors:

Rick Rodgers	Chair	537-6681	2805 N 700 E, Castleford, ID 83321
Rick Pearson	Vice-chair	731-6233	964 E 4300 N, Buhl, ID 83316
John Hurley	Sec/Treas.	537-6836	3341 N 900 E, Castleford, ID 83321
Terry Kramer	Member	537-6895	711 E 3600 N, Castleford, ID 83321
Tim Cornie	Member	308-6799	4397 N 900 E, Buhl, ID 83316
Bob Juker	Associate	543-5915	1581 E 4400 N, Buhl, ID 83316

IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION

DISTRICT:

Balanced Rock SCD

FOR YEAR:

2015

DUE :

December 20, 2015

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Performance Report is true and accurate, and further submit said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Performance Report shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

Richard Rogers
Board Supervisor Signature

Richard Rodgers
Printed Name

12-10-15
Date

208-733-5380 ext.101
Telephone

chsimeons@cableone.net
District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: