

# IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**102 South Hall St.  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
(208) 983-1046 ext. 3**

**FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION  
BUSINESS PLAN  
JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2019  
Annual Plan  
July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016**

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## **Executive Summary**

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. The Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District consists of 5 locally elected supervisors. Conservation Districts are charged with carrying out programs relative to conservation and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

Conservation Districts are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. They are catalysts for coordinating and implementing conservation programs, channeling expertise from all levels of government into action at the local level. Programs are non-regulatory; and include science-based technical assistance, incentive-based financial programs and informational-educational programs at the local level.

Both by legislation and by agreement, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance to landowners and land users through Conservation Districts. Each Conservation District in Idaho has a signed Mutual Agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan was developed not only to guide the Conservation District, but also to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District.

This document identifies the resource needs in the Conservation District and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting these needs.

## Certificate of Adoption

The Board of elected supervisors of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2014 does hereby approve the following document known as the Resource Conservation Business Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2018 during which time it will be updated annually and/or amended, as necessary.

As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do hereby affix our signatures to this document.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman, Leon Slichter

\_\_\_\_\_ Vice Chairman, Tom Gehring

\_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer, Adam Sonnen

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary, Jim Paradiso

\_\_\_\_\_ Member, Elaine Sonnen

(note the official signature page is housed in the Idaho SWCD office with the official plan)



## Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

The following agencies are associated with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District to enhance carrying out the five year plan. They have in the past participated in tours, workshops, and information and education meetings. If needed, they also provide the District with technical assistance.

Army Corp of Engineers	Idaho & Lewis County Cattle Association
Basin Advisory Groups	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Land Management	Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
Camas Prairie Grass Growers Association	Idaho Transportation Department
Clearwater National Forest	Idaho Wheat Producers
Clearwater RC&D	Idaho Wool Growers Association
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts	Little Salmon WAG
Idaho Cattle Association	Lower Salmon-Hells Canyon WAG
Idaho County Commissioners	National Association of Counties
Idaho County Public School Districts	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Idaho County Towns & Cities	NezPerce National Forest
Idaho County Weed Management	NezPerce Tribe
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Payette National Forest
Idaho Department of Lands	South Fork Clearwater WAG
Idaho Department of Water Resources	U of I Cooperative Extension Office
Idaho Grain Growers	

## Key Decision Makers

- **Idaho SWCD Supervisors** –Tom Gehring, Jim Paradiso, Leon Slichter, Adam Sonnen, Elaine Sonnen
- **Citizens within the Conservation District**
- **Idaho County Commissioners** - Skip Brandt, Jim Chmelik, Mark Frei
- **State legislators representing District 7** – Sheryl Nuxoll – Senate, Shannon McMillan – House, Paul Shepherd – House
- **Associate Supervisors** –Mike Duclos, Pete Lane, Bob Rylaarsdam, Ed Stuiivenga, Scott Wasem



# Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan (2014 to 2019) Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

**For More Information Contact:**  
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## Organization of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

The Idaho SWCD was officially organized in 1954 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses within the Idaho SWCD boundary. The Board of the SWCD consists of five elected/appointed volunteers, who live and work in Idaho County.

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## Function of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources for responsible natural resource management that conserves and improves soil, water and air quality and wildlife habitat, while taking a proactive approach to production agriculture.

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## Who We Serve & Why

The Idaho SWCD provides technical and professional assistance to landowners and ag producers of Idaho County. We attempt to provide local leadership in the conservation development and productive use of soil, water and other natural resources.

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## Mission of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

To focus available technical, financial and educational resources and coordinate them so they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources.

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## Values of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Support for agriculture activity that uses sustainable, economic feasible practices
- Value and respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership
- Conservation education for adults and youth

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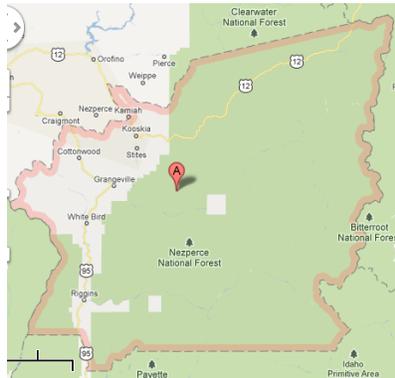
## Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

- Animal Waste Management\*
  - District Operations
  - Fish and Wildlife \*
  - Information and Education\*
  - Noxious Weed Control
  - Pasture/Hayland
  - Rangeland\*
  - Recreation
  - Riparian
  - Water Quality\*
  - Water Resources (quantity)
  - Woodland
  - Dry-Land Farming
  - Agricultural Irrigation Practices
  - Other – District Determined
- \* Meets Anti-degradation Plan for Agriculture criteria



**Idaho Conservation Districts assisting land owners and operators with their conservation choices.**

# Section 1: Physical Characteristics of the District



## Cities located within the County are:

Cottonwood, Ferdinand, Grangeville, Kooskia, Riggins, Stites, and White Bird and the southern portion of Kamiah

## Un-Incorporated Communities located throughout the county are:

Burgdorf, Clearwater, Dixie, Elk City, Fenn, Golden, Greencreek, Harpster, Lowell, Lucile, Mackay Bar, Orogrande, Pittsburgh Landing, Pollock, Powell Junction, Red River Hot Springs, Syringa, Warren and Woodland; Florence is classified as ghost town

**Neighboring Counties are:** Clearwater County, Missoula County, MT, Ravalli County, MT, Lemhi County, Valley County, Adams County, Wallow County, OR, NezPerce County, and Lewis County  
Idaho County covers 5,474,396 acres.

## Land Area: 8485 square miles or 99.8%

- Idaho County is the largest county in Idaho. Land in Idaho County is made up of private, federal, state and NezPerce tribal lands. There are 4,431,720 acres of National Forest Land within the county. Farmland covers 590,927 acres of Idaho County, with 218,804 acres in cropland.

## Water area: 18 square mile, 2,457 miles or .2%

- There are nine watersheds within the District’s boundaries
- The perennial and intermittent streams in Idaho County are tributaries of the following: Snake River, Salmon River and the Clearwater River.

## National Forest Lands

There are 4,431,720 acres of National Forest land within the county, more than in any county outside of Alaska. National forests and their acreage within the District are:

- NezPerce National Forest – 2,224,091
- Clearwater National Forest – 870,807
- Payette National Forest – 804,853

- Bitterroot National Forest – 464,108
- Salmon National Forest – 66,074
- Wallowa National Forest – 1,787

The NezPerce National Forest is located entirely within the county's borders and is the largest National forest lying in a single county.

There are 12 national protected areas located in Idaho County

- Bitterroot National Forest
- Clearwater National Forest
- Hells Canyon National Recreation Area
- NezPerce National Forest
- NezPerce National Historical Park
- Payette National Forest
- Salmon-Challis National Forest
- Wallowa Whitman National Forest
- Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness
- Gospel Hump Wilderness
- Hells Canyon Wilderness
- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

**Idaho County precipitation** averages 14-80 inches per year from the Southwest to the Northeast. The average ground snow depths for January range of 8-10 inches. Snow is usually melted from most areas by April and from the higher elevations by June or July.

**Ranching and farming is one of the major industries of the area. Average size of farms is 778 acres. Idaho County is non-irrigated cropland, with the following being the major crops as reported by Farm Services Agency:**

- Alfalfa/Grass Hay-76,394.82 acres harvested in 2013
- Barley-15,813.04 acres harvested in 2013
- Beans-775.94 acres harvested in 2013
- Canola-9921.50 acres harvested in 2013
- Oats-3,983.37 acres harvested in 2013
- Peas-973.73 acres harvested in 2013
- Wheat-76,925.91 acres harvested in 2013

Some other crops in Idaho County as reported by Farm Services Agency:

- Summer Fallow-20,548.63 acres in 2013
- CRP-9,027.33 acres in 2013
- Trees-106.39 acres in 2013
- Honey (Hives) 532 in 2013

### **Geology and Topography:**

The Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District encompasses a large variety of geologic formations and topography. The north western portion of the County is a broad, loess-covered plateau at about 3,500' elevation. The soils are generally deep, loamy and gently to moderately sloping. Most of this area is farmed to mostly wheat, barley, alfalfa and oats. Soils which developed from the loessial parent material include Boles, Chicane, Fenn, Kooskia, NezPerce, Shebang and Uhlorn.

The Columbia River Basalt is one of the more widespread formations within the County. This basalt was the parent material for many of the rangeland and woodland soils. Soils which were formed from this parent material include the; Bluespring, Klickson, Lawyer, Riggins, Tannahill and Wapsilla. Rangeland is mostly on the south facing areas of the canyons and at lower elevations, on the north facing areas. The soils are very steep in these areas.

The eastern part of the County is productive timberland and includes several large river systems. The South Fork of the Clearwater River divides soil survey areas. The eastern side of the river consists of farmland, which was at one time forested. This farmland is mixed with timber. The western side of the river consists of the Camas Prairie. Grangeville the county seat, borders the prairie on the south, the South Fork of the Clearwater on the east, Cottonwood Butte and the Salmon River on the west and Lawyers Canyon on the north. The cropland soils on the prairie are very productive. Slopes vary between 0-20 %.

Important physical features within the County include the Seven Devils Mountain Range, Cottonwood Butte, Lolo Pass, and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness areas. There are eight important river systems within Idaho County; they are the Salmon, Snake, Lochsa, Selway, American, Crooked, Red and the Middle, South & Main forks of the Clearwater River.

### **Climate:**

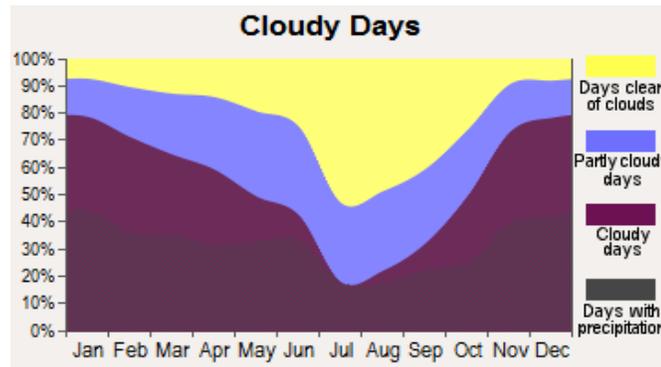
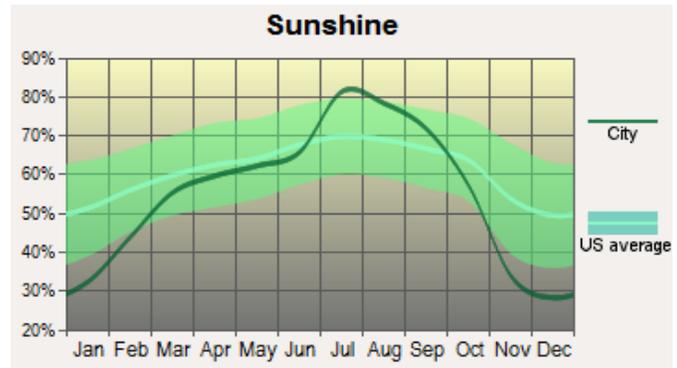
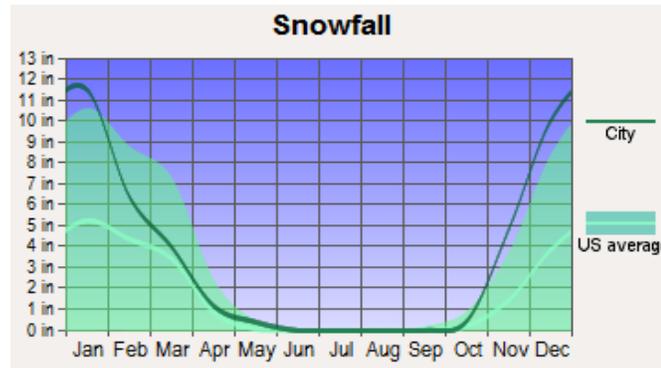
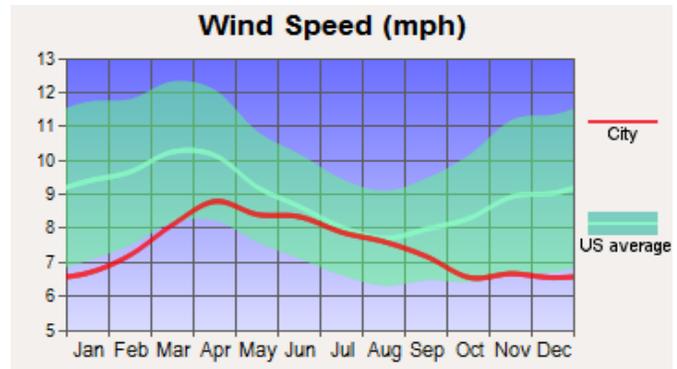
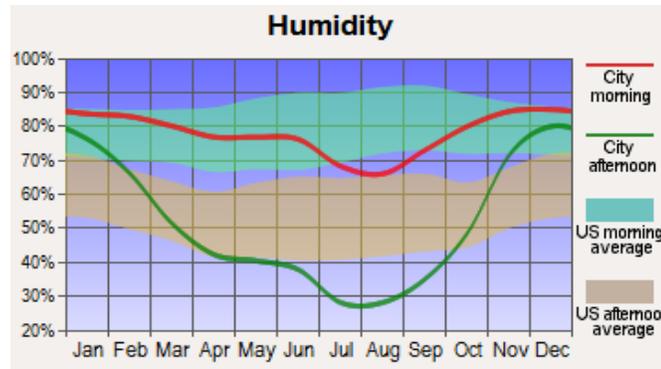
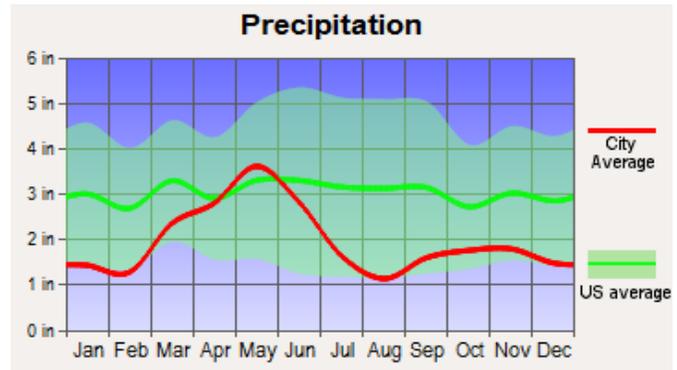
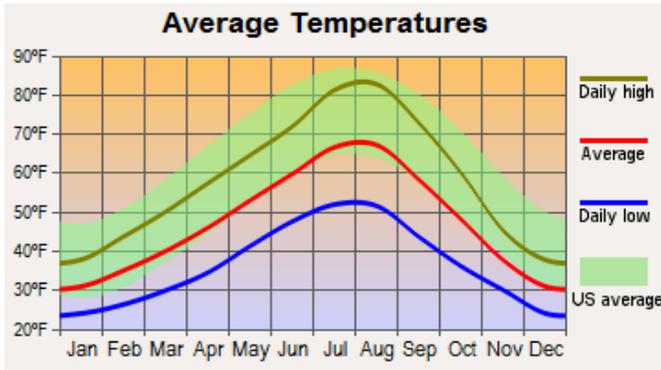
The climate for the District is extremely variable. The difference in elevations is the main cause for the variation in climate. A lot of the area is mountainous. Three large river canyons cross the District, the Snake, Salmon and Clearwater Rivers. The mouth of the Salmon River is at 916' and is the lowest elevation. The He Devil Peak located within the Seven Devils Mountain range is the highest elevation at 9,400' , making Hells Canyon the deepest gorge/canyon in North America.

Precipitation varies from about 14 inches in the Salmon and Snake River areas to 80 inches in the mountains. It is common for snow to be 10' deep in the mountains with 30 percent moisture, while most winters, the Clearwater, Salmon and Snake River canyons get little to no snow. Average precipitation at Grangeville is 24.43 inches, Kooskia 24.7 inches, Fenn Ranger Stations 36.9 inches, and Riggins 16.7 inches.

Occasional flooding occurs along the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers during Spring snow melt. High water usually occurs between April & June. Unpredictable flooding has occurred where there is a large storm event and can occur at any time throughout the year.

The most important economic area of the District is the farmed area of the Camas Prairie, north of Grangeville and east of Cottonwood. It is about 3,388 feet in elevation with an average precipitation of about 17 inches to the north near Lawyers Creek to 23 inches in the south near Grangeville. The majority of the precipitation occurs from March-June with the warmest period being in July and August. This is the dry period, but in some years there are significant amounts of rain.

**Average climate in Grangeville, Idaho**  
 Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations



Sources:

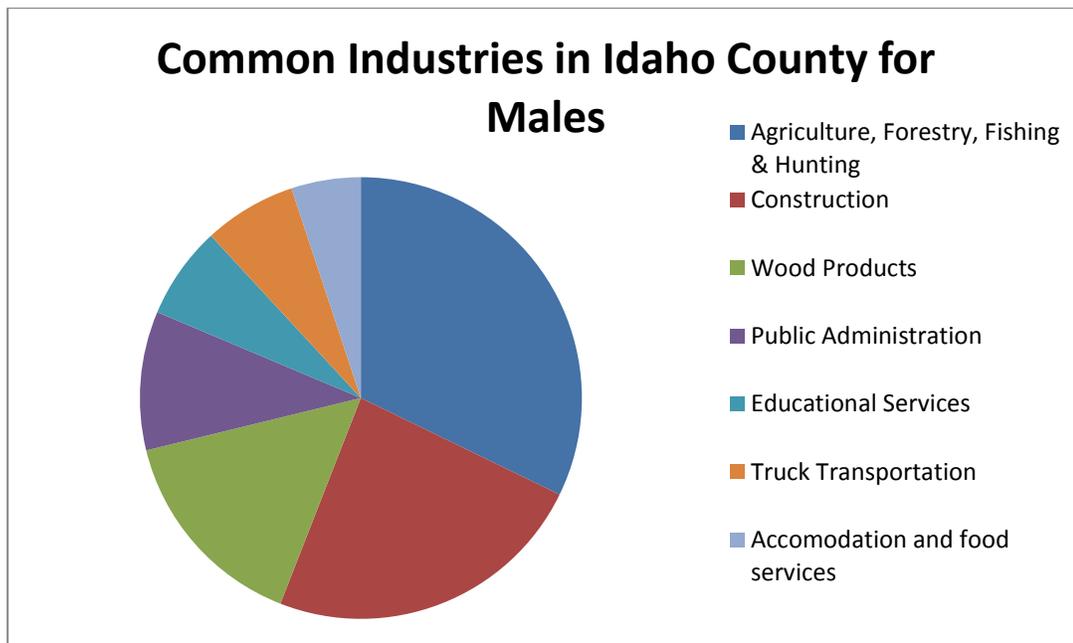
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho\\_County,\\_Idaho](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_County,_Idaho)
- [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Idaho/Publications/County\\_Estimates/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Idaho/Publications/County_Estimates/index.asp)
- <http://www.city-data.com/city/Grangeville-Idaho.html#ixzz1oGMDeVrz>

## Section 2: Economic Condition and Outlook

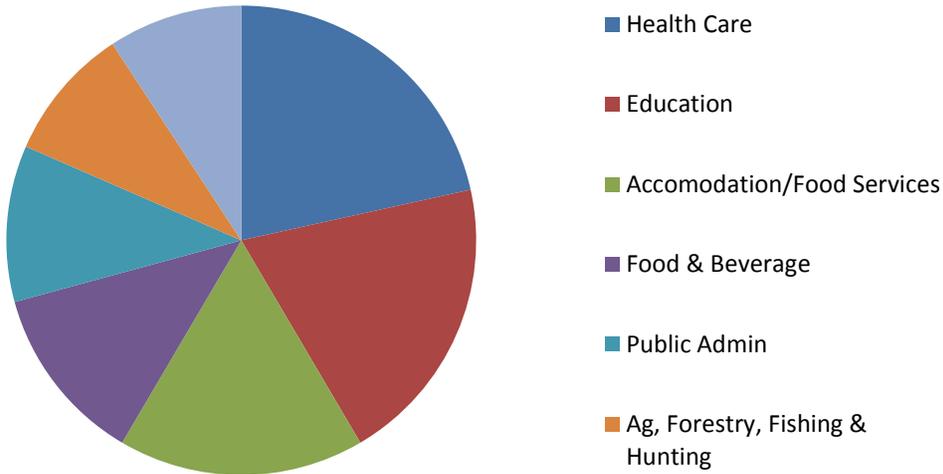
The population of Idaho County is 16,267 (19% urban, 81% rural) as of US Census of 2010.00

**The most common industries in Idaho County are:**

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting
- Construction
- Wood products
- Public administration
- Educational services
- Truck transportation
- Accommodations & food services



## Common Industries in Idaho County for Women



### Industries providing employment:

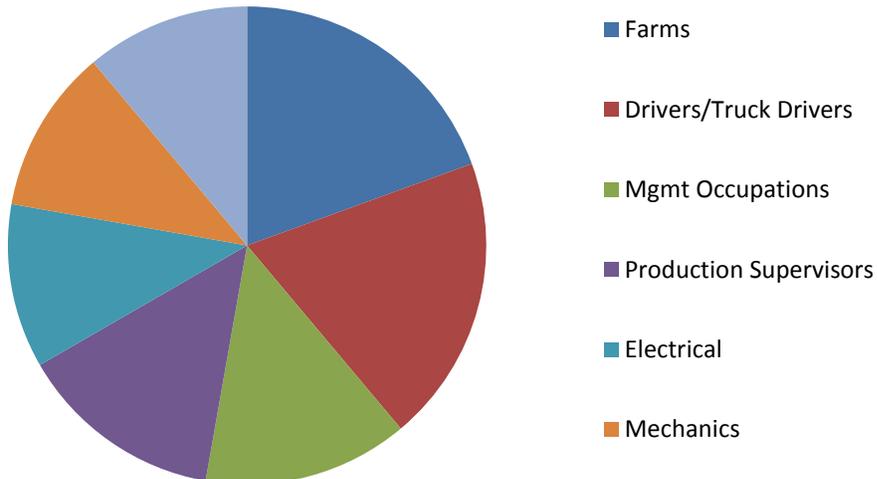
Educational, health and social services

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining

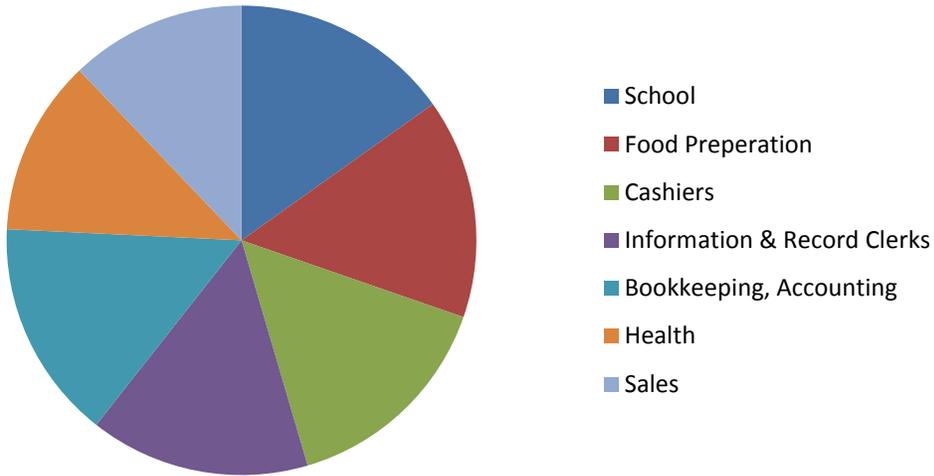
Retail trade

Manufacturing

## Industries Providing Employment for Men



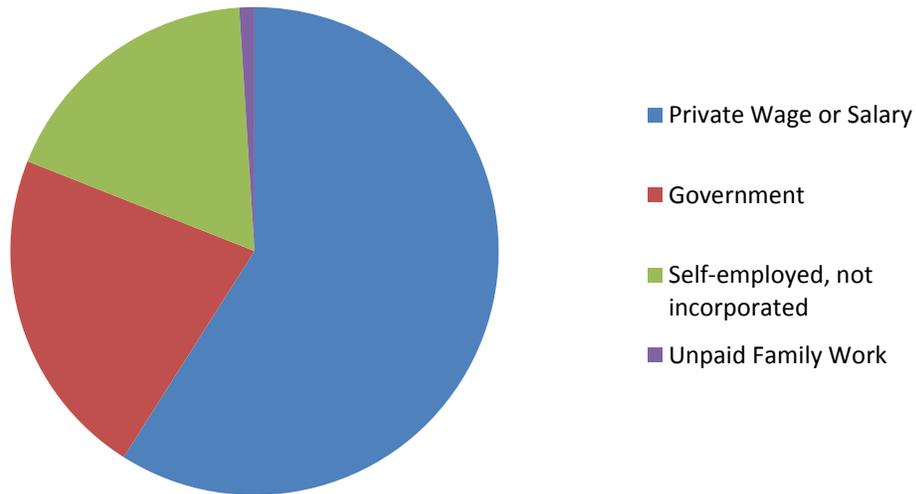
## Industries Providing Employment for Women



### Type of workers:

- Private wage or salary
- Government
- Self-employed, not incorporated
- Unpaid family work

## Type of Workers



## **Agriculture in Idaho County**

Average size of farms: 874 acres

Average value of agricultural products sold per farm: \$110,564

Average value of crops sold per farm for harvested cropland: \$62,547

Average value of livestock poultry and their products sold per farm: \$18,275

Average total farm production expenses per farm: \$101,073

Harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 23.97%

Irrigated harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 0.41%

Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment per farm: \$99,766

Estimated market value of land and buildings per farm: \$1,089,749

The percentage of farms operated by a family or individual: 88.84%

Average age of principal farm operators: 57 years

Average number of cattle and calves per 100 acres of all land in farms: 5.31

All wheat for grain: 76,925.91 harvested acres

Land in orchards: 14.5 acres

According to the Agricultural Census of 2012 there are 731 farms located within Idaho County. In 2012 21,800 acres of cropland were planted and 21,000 acres were harvested. Sheep & lamb production went from 2,500 head in 2012 to 2,400 head in 2013. Cattle & calves production went from 26,500 with 14,701 calving in 2012 to 28,500 with 16,001 calving in 2013.

The primary economic base is dry land farming and livestock production. Idaho County relies on precipitation to irrigate the crops and surface water sources or groundwater wells for livestock productions. Idaho County is heavily dependent on natural resource, especially agriculture and forest products. Ranching and farming remain one of the major industries of the area. Farm income remains a major factor in the spending power of the county residents.

### Sources:

- [http://www.city-data.com/county/Idaho\\_County-ID.html#ixzz1mObYU91f](http://www.city-data.com/county/Idaho_County-ID.html#ixzz1mObYU91f)
- [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Idaho/Publications/Annual\\_Statistical\\_Bulletin/Annual%20Statistical%20Bulletin%202013.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Idaho/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/Annual%20Statistical%20Bulletin%202013.pdf)
- Farm Services Agency – History of Reported Acreage – Idaho County, Idaho –Email File

## Section 3: Assessment

### Soil Resources:

#### *Soil Erosion*

- Erosion occurs mainly during summer cloudbursts or as a result of winter runoff. Gully erosion occurs in cropland areas.
- Approximately 97,686 acres are highly erodible cropland and 94,399 acres are non-highly erodible.
- Past and present grants focus on cost share for conservation practices such as direct seeding, with the focus on reducing sediment delivery to the streams.
- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural measures reduce the amount of stream bank erosion.

#### *Soil Quality*

- 45 % of Idaho County acres have been adopted to no till/direct seed.
- We promote tillage and residue management practices that leave standing stubble during winter periods.
- Nutrient management practices are adopted to help reduce nitrates leaching into the ground water and surface water.
- Rotation of crops includes cover crops, legumes or green manure.

### Water Resources:

#### *Surface & Ground Water Supply & Demand*

- Surface water is the pre-dominate water resource in the county.
- Idaho County ranks second in the state for miles of streams as well as second in the state for acres of water erosion.
- Approximately 2,457 miles of stream in the county with 149,700 acres of water erosion and there are 67 acres of lakes.
- Major uses of the surface water are for municipal, livestock, recreational and wildlife.

#### *Flooding*

- Flooding occurs on an unpredictable basis and is related to large storm events.
- Can occur in summer or winter.
- Flooding damage has become more of a problem in recent years, because of the increase in development along the creeks and rivers.

#### *Surface Water Quality*

- See section 5

#### *Ground Water Quality*

- Three ground water zones located in the District.
- Clearwater Plateau, Joseph Plains and the Elk City/Red River ground water zones.
  - Clearwater Zone considered generally suitable for domestic use, although levels of nitrate have been identified as elevated in specific areas.
    - Generally reported as suitable for domestic use although levels of nitrate have been identified as elevated in specific areas. These nitrate areas have been designated as a priority area and specific BMP's will be emphasized to prevent leaching of nitrates into the ground water. Agriculture, septic systems and waste management facilities are targeted for these BMP's.

- Dissolved lead and cadmium occasionally exceed primary drinking water standards and concentrations of dissolved manganese sometimes exceed the recommended secondary level.
- This zone usually yields only low quantities of water to wells and depths of groundwater vary considerable.
- Recharge is from downward percolation of precipitation and snowmelt, and from streams and lakes that intersect permeable zones within the basalt.
- There are some isolated high potential sources of groundwater.
- An estimated 15,000 people rely on this groundwater for their domestic water supply.
- Joseph Plains Zone lies to the south and west of the Salmon River Canyon
  - Yields to wells are probably low and depths to groundwater vary considerably.
  - Recharge is probably from downward percolation of precipitation and snowmelt.
  - Quality of groundwater is unknown but similar to that within adjacent basalt systems.
  - Estimated 250 people currently rely on the system for domestic water supply.
- Elk City and Red River groundwater systems are located in unconsolidated valley fill material.
  - Recharge is probably percolation of precipitation and snowmelt as well as runoff from surrounding upland and leakage from overlying streams.
  - Quality is suitable for domestic use.
  - Estimated 350 people utilize the system for domestic water supply.

#### **Air Quality:**

Air quality is worse during the fall when producers in Idaho County and neighboring counties burn bluegrass and other crop aftermath. Air quality is also affected by prescribed forest burning by the USFS, BLM, IDL and private landowners.

- The District discourages crop residue burning, which can be seen within the no burning component of the program contracts.
- The District discourages chemical Drift while encouraging proper pest management in accordance with IPM regulations, while watching weather and wind to time the application of chemicals.
- The District encourages grass producers to follow the NPGP smoke management recommendations.

#### **Forest Lands, grasslands, pasture, hayland and rangeland:**

##### ***Forest lands***

- There are approximately 237,400 acres of private forestland located throughout Idaho County.
  - Most has been logged at least once.
- Cutback on harvesting federal lands has created an impact on private lands with an increase in logging.
- An audit conducted by IDL in 1996 found that non-industrial private forests have far more departures from BMP's.
  - Inadequate stream protection zones, inadequately sized culverts, culverts that don't work, lack of road grading for drainage and poor skid trail drainage.

##### ***Conservation Needs***

- Replanting of trees would help improve water quality, wildlife habitat and improve future growing conditions for renewable harvest.

- All BMP's for forest stand improvement; ie: pre-commercial thinning.

### ***Pasture and Haylands***

- Approximately 46,000 private acres of pasture and hayland.
- Hayland is located mostly on poorer, wetter soils which are renovated only when vigor and production decline.
- Most are managed properly with fertilizing and weed management.
- Pasture and hayland are not irrigated and there is generally only one cutting per season.
  - Approximately 76,394.82 acres are in alfalfa/grass hay.
- Erosion is generally not a problem.

### ***Conservation Needs***

- Coordinate with producers to development grazing plans that preserve appropriate levels of groundcover.
- Incorporate BMP's, which encourage the use of no-till when renovating pastures, education programs, and encourage noxious weed control.

### ***Rangelands***

- Largest land use in Idaho County.
- Approximately 298,300 acres of private rangeland in the District.
- Most of the rangeland is located in the Salmon and Snake River canyons.
- Lower rangeland is grazed in the spring and fall, and livestock is moved to the higher elevations during the summer months.
- Government grazing allotments are available and used by some livestock operators during the summer months.
- Rangeland is steep and is low production per acre.
- Native grasses include blue bunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue, Prairie Three-Awn and Sand Drop seed.
  - Due to past overgrazing and noxious weed invasion, many of the desirable perennial grasses have been replaced with cheatgrass, star thistle, medusa head, ventenata and other annuals.
  - Reseeding is very difficult, due to the steepness of the terrain.

### ***Noxious Weeds***

- Noxious weeds have been a threat to wildlife habitat in most of the county.
  - Weed Management Areas (WMA's) have been established in the Salmon River, Clearwater River and Joseph Plains areas.
  - Goals are to eradicate new invaders and prevent the spread of established weed species, such as yellow star thistle, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, rush skeltonweed, and ventenata.
- Participate in the EDRR program. (Early Detection Rapid Response Program) relative to new invaders.
- An ongoing active successful program is in place. Efforts have been successful at "Holding the Line" on new invaders such as: Black Henbane, Scotch Broom, Leafy Spurge, Russian Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed, Yellow Rocket, Vipers Bugloss, Johnson Grass, Round-leaf Cancer Wort.

### ***Conservation Needs***

- Implementation of BMP's, such as grazing and conservation plans, weed control, riparian protection, water developments, fencing and aerial reseeding are used on the majority of these lands.

**Livestock production:**

- Coordinate with producers to install Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's) and pasture management such as exclusion fencing, offsite watering, waste management facilities and riparian treatments and management of the proven predation and disruption of livestock by wolves.

**Fish and Wildlife:**

- Idaho County has been known for its large elk herd, which attracts hunters from around the U.S. Beginning in the 1990's, the herd has drastically declined, due to declining habitat, loss of forage, and the reintroduction of wolves.
  - Other big game species: white tail deer, mule deer, moose, big horn sheep, mountain goats, black bear, mountain lion and wolves.
- Salmon, steelhead and bull trout have traditionally been an integral part of the county.
  - All of these species have been placed on the endangered species list or identified as species of concern.
  - With more acres being planted with either direct seed or minimum tillage, there has been and will continue to be a substantial reduction in the sediment load into the streams and rivers.
- Upland game birds include:
  - Blue grouse, ruffed grouse, mourning dove, and chukar which are holding their populations well.
  - Ringneck pheasant, Hungarian partridges, California Quail & Mountain Quail populations are low.
  - Goose and duck hunting in the county is poor.
  - Turkey were introduced in the 60's and have continued to increase to the point they are found in almost all agricultural areas.

**Threatened & Endangered Species**

- Idaho County ranks number one in the state for the number of Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species.
  - Currently have 9 species located within the County.
  - 28 species listed candidates for the Federal Candidate Species, Species of Concern and Watch Species.

***Conservation Needs***

- Education of farmers and ranchers of conservation practices that can benefit wildlife as well as their own operations.
- Continue the control of Noxious Weeds and support initiatives.
- Education programs and other common goal programs which will help improve wildlife.
- Decrease threats to threatened and endangered species.
- Improving stream habitat.
- Reducing sediment from getting into streams.

**District Operations:**

- The Idaho SWCD currently receives approximately \$7,000 annually from Idaho County and approximately \$15,300 from the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission. The funds from the Commission include the \$8,500 base allocation, which is a base for all 50 Idaho Districts.

- Funds received provides the District Administrator's salary, and also covers the costs of newsletters, tree catalogs, office supplies and reimbursements for Supervisor mileage.
  - The Idaho SWCD employs one full time District Administrator that is covered with the allocated amounts.
    - The District Administrator is responsible for all District activities, annual tree program, newsletters, 6<sup>th</sup> grade campout, Arbor Day, website updates, grant administration, keeps financial records and District files.
  - The Idaho SWCD also employs one full-time Conservation Planner who is fully funded with grant funding.
    - The Conservation planner is responsible for all activities that pertain to the conservation planning of projects with producers. They go out in the field and meet with producers regarding new or ongoing projects, check projects for standards and specs and approve each stage of the projects. The planner also is responsible for finding grant funding and putting on workshops for producer education.
  - Technical support has primarily been provided by the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission Field Staff and secondary support supplied by IASCD/District staff and by NRCS staff.
- Needs*
- Idaho SWCD is actively looking for various funding opportunities, so that we can reach more producers throughout Idaho County
  - The Idaho SWCD would like to be able to provide health insurance and retirement for the District Administrator and other staff as needed, but have so far been unsuccessful due to lack of funding.

#### Trends Impacting Conservation in the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

- Poorly planned urban growth in agricultural areas.
- Limited availability of State funds for conservation.
- Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and environmental issues.
- Increased paper bureaucracy/red tape to getting the job done.
- Environmental trends to regulate agriculture.
- Cutbacks in state areas that affect contract employees.

#### Strategies to Address Trends

- Encourage the implementation of best management practices that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.
- Promote better outreach education-limit the amount of mailings and increase e-mail usage.
- Determine opportunities to coordinate outreach activities with traditional and non-traditional partners.
- Raising awareness of conservation values with state legislature and elected officials – help decision makers be better informed.
- Strengthen Locally Led efforts.
- Supervisors become more informed on current issues impacting working lands, Farm Bill programs, information from other agencies instead of relying solely on the NRCS District Conservationist for information.
- Map noxious and invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts-partnership with Idaho County Weed Management.

- Establish a data base to track resource conditions.
- Host an open house to make and keep the public aware of the District's goals.
- Solicit input to improve the Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan.
- Identify the information methods for communication with small land owners.
- Co-sponsor project proposals with other districts.
- Division II strategic planning.
- Training for Conservation District Supervisors and staff.
- Conduct public meetings for the watersheds with active TMDL implementation and assessment.  
(Cottonwood Creek, South Fork of Clearwater River, Lower-Salmon Hells Canyon, Lawyer Creek)
- Public service announcements.
- Informational booth at the Idaho County Fair – August.
- Conduct school conservation events and activities, such as Arbor Day, 6th grade Field Day, IASCD poster and speech contests.
- Meet with U of I extension agent and participate in the Farm and Forest Fair.
- Promote the planting of trees and shrubs for conservation practices, by producing and distributing the annual tree catalog and selling trees ordered.
- Develop professional relations and partnerships with other agencies and the general public.
- Chair / participate in annual Division II Grazing Conference.
- Idaho SWCD is actively looking for various funding opportunities, so that we can reach more producers throughout Idaho County.

## Section 4: Identify and Prioritize Objectives

1. Water Quality – Improve water quality in the watersheds that are within the District’s boundaries.
  - Provide administrative support to the Watershed Advisory Groups that are active in the Idaho SWCD.
  - Improve water quality by decreasing the number of 303(d) streams within the District boundaries.
2. Non Irrigated Cropland – Reduce soil loss on cropland.
  - By promoting the use of conservation practices and the responsible use of chemical on cropland.
  - Promote conservation plans which incorporate direct seed, increased crop residue percentage and other relative BMP’s.
  - Participate in and assist with a crop tour to demonstrate the benefits of direct seed and minimum till.
3. Animal Waste Management – To improve water quality.
  - Provide technical expertise to improve waste management operations.
  - AFO/CAFO tours with Division II AFO.
  - Publish newsletter articles to inform and educate landowners about animal waste operations.
  - Encourage conservation plans that incorporate good waste management principles that enhance all environmental concerns and also the overall health of the livestock involved.
4. Rangeland – Improve rangeland for domestic livestock and wildlife, indirectly improving streams for fish habitat.
  - Decrease the number of acres of noxious weeds.
  - Encourage BMP’s on range lands.
5. Fish and Wildlife – Promote conservation practices that improve fish and wildlife habitat.
  - Annually conduct youth environmental education programs and increase participation in – speech contest, poster contest.
  - Sponsor a booth at the Idaho County Fair in August.
  - On a bi-annual basis issue a newsletter with current and new information for the producers on the website and e-mail list.

Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map) Critical areas in the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District include but are not limited to the following watersheds.

6. TMDL’s
  - Lawyer Creek
  - South Fork of the Clearwater River
  - Cottonwood Creek
  - Three Mile/Butcher Creek
  - Lower-Salmon Hells Canyon
  - Rock Creek
  - Race Creek

## Section 5: Water Quality Component

According to the NRCS Idaho Workload Analysis, approximately 66% or 591,244 acres of the non-federal acres in the county are located in 303(d) listed watersheds. The 303(d) watersheds are those watersheds that have 303(d) streams that have been identified through a DEQ process, to be impacted due to sediments and various pollutants. Idaho County has the largest number of impacted acres in the state.

Existing poor water quality conditions are primarily due to sediment and associated pollutants. Erosion and runoff carry soil particles, chemical fertilizers and pesticides and surface organic material out of fields and into road ditches and streams. These substances cause increased turbidity, biological oxygen demand (BOD) and nitrogen levels, which along with other biochemical imbalances have a negative effect on fish and aquatic populations. Other wildlife species may be adversely affected when a polluted stream is a key part of their habitat.

TMDL's reports have been done on South Fork Clearwater River, Lawyers Creek, Threemile/Butcher Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and the Lower Salmon Hells Canyon. Streams of concern located throughout the District are Deer Creek, Deep Creek, Rice Creek, Rock Creek, Graves Creek, Race Creek and Skookumchuck Creek in the western and southern portion of the county; Cottonwood Creek, Red Rock Creek, South Fork Cottonwood Creek, Threemile Creek, Butcher Creek, South Fork Clearwater River, Long Haul Creek, Shebang Creek, Stockney Creek on the Camas Prairie portion of the county and Lawyer Creek and Sevenmile Creek in the northern portion of the county. The waters that have a TMDL are listed below.

Wetlands have become an important issue for agriculture, with the passage of the 1985 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill states that if a farmer is receiving government payments, no wetlands will be destroyed to farm a piece of land. Wetland determinations have been made on a case-by-case basis. According to the NRCS Work Load Analysis, there are 12,900 acres of wetlands in the county.

Sections of land which are adjacent to or influenced by a body of water are designated as riparian zones. These are important for wildlife, recreation, and watershed management. Riparian buffers are encouraged by the District to help reduce flooding, stabilize streambanks, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

Pollutants in Idaho SWCD District waters:

- sediment
- nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen)
- temperature
- bacteria
- flow alteration
- habitat alteration

(Although flow and habitat are not TMDL pollutants, they are still pollution that can cause water to be listed as impaired)

Problems for Ground Water:

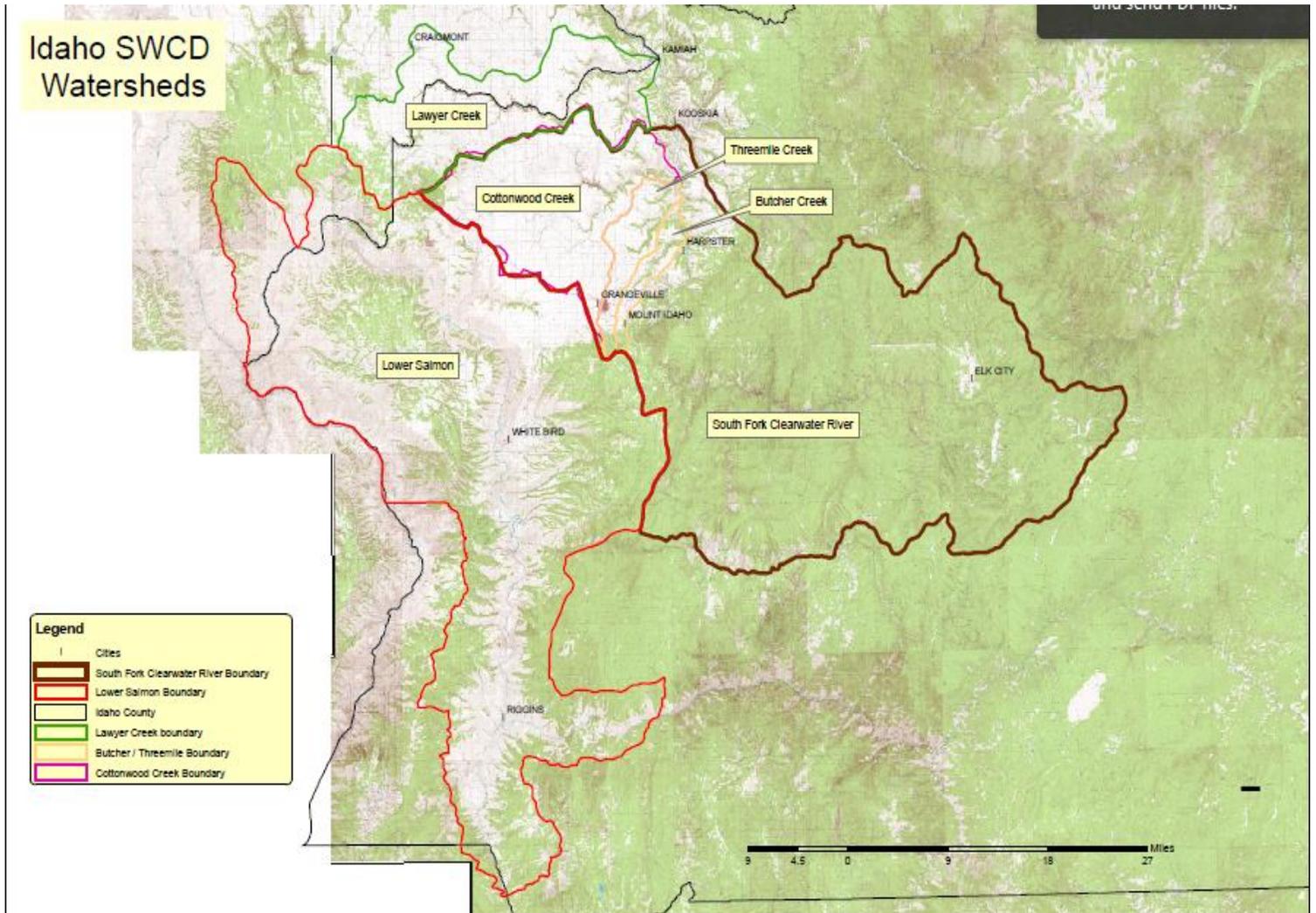
- nitrogen, both organic (waste) and inorganic (fertilizer)

**Waters with TMDLs:**

South Fork Clearwater River, Threemile Creek, Butcher Creek, Little Elk Creek, Big Elk Creek, Billy Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Allison Creek, Rice Creek, Rock Creek, Graves Creek, John's Creek, Deep Creek, Deer Creek, Wolf Creek and Divide Creek

The District is or will complete the following:

- identify waters with a TMDL
- identify waters that need a TMDL
- identify these waters on private lands



## **Section 6: Identify, Prioritize & Implement Projects**

The Idaho SWCD will take action to address the goals set forth. We will maintain a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them and provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs.

- Idaho SWCD currently administers four Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) grants, the Lawyer Creek and Lawyer Creek Phase II projects, the Cottonwood Creek project and the Rock Creek project. The Idaho SWCD also administers a 319:DEQ grant, the Rock Creek project. The Best Management Practices will address stream bank stabilization, riparian habitat, such as stream bank treatments and invasive weed treatments and upland habitat treatments.
- The Idaho SWCD participates and assists with the Division II Animal Feeding Operation projects.
- Idaho SWCD will continue to seek cost-share funding to control non-point source pollution and soil erosion.
- Continuously looking for funding in watersheds located throughout Idaho County.
- Continuously looking for funding to make available to AFO producers. The District has a wide range for these projects, that encompasses many watersheds, so we cannot focus the funding to any one specific watershed.

The Idaho SWCD works with local schools to educate the youth about soil, water and other natural resources.

- September 2015 will bring the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Campout to the Grangeville Elementary School students and Sts. Peter and Paul students. Approximately 75 students from these schools participate in the campout that is held over three days. In-class presentations are given to the students the week before the campout by NRCS employees and other presentors at the campout, they include BLM, USFS (both current and retired). The campout is held at the Fish Creek dispersed site and the students get to enjoy camping out for two nights and learning about their surroundings and various classes which include: Plant ID, Challenge (Tree Climb), Compass, Archeology, Water, Wildlife, Forestry, and Team Building (Spider Web).
- In the fall, the students in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade are given the opportunity to participate in the Annual IASCD poster contest.
- Fall also brings about the IASCD Annual Speech contest for high school students.
- In April 2015 the Idaho SWCD and the City of Grangeville celebrate Arbor Day, with up to nine 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, which are chosen by the teachers, participating in a tree/shrub planting with the District at the local city parks. The District also donates 250+ tree seedlings to the local schools, reaching 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade students and faculty when available.
- Scholarships and bussing local FFA students to the Grazing Conference.

The Idaho SWCD also sponsors and organizes the following educational programs for farmers, ranchers, and anyone interested.

- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual North Central Idaho Grazing Conference will be held in January 2016 in Lewiston, Idaho. Participants come from all areas to enjoy the discussions, vendor show and provided lunch.
- Annual Tree program has been active since 1989. This program offers producers and landowners the option to purchase select trees from the District, either for conservation programs or just landscape purposes. In the past couple of years, NRCS and FSA have used this program to acquire trees for producers that need to fulfill CRP and CSP requirements.
- Bi-Annual newsletters will be published on the website. The Idaho SWCD hopes will also send out to those on the e-mail list.

## Section 7: Implementation

### Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

- All 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the surrounding area schools will have had the opportunity by October 31<sup>st</sup>, to participate in the poster contest for Division II.
- All eligible high school students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation speech contest by October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Each year all sixth grade students in the Grangeville School District will have an opportunity to participate in the annual 6<sup>th</sup> grade campout.
- In April of each year, trees will be handed out to 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students at the local school and all students at the St. Peter and Paul school, in observation of Arbor Day. On years that the District and City are eligible for the Arbor Day grant, the District will purchase 3-4 trees and 6-9 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will help to plant those trees in the city's parks.
- Each year the Idaho SWCD's mailing list will be updated to keep the information current and up to date.

### District Operations Priorities, Goals:

- Retain Technical Assistance provided by ISWCC to assist with the planning, design and implementation of project funds through the District.
- Conduct public meetings for the watersheds with active TMDL implementation and assessment. (Cottonwood Creek Watershed , South Fork Clearwater River Watershed, Little Salmon River Watershed, Lawyer Creek Watershed, Rock Creek Watershed, and the Race Creek Watershed)
- Promote the planting of trees and shrubs for conservation practices.
- Professionally administer the grants for implementation of conservation best management practices.
- Dependent upon funding attend IASCD Division meetings and IASCD Annual Conference.
- Develop professional relations with other agencies and the general public.
- Improve Division wide project implementation.
- Encourage the implementation of best management practices that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.
- Conduct Conservation District elections during even numbered years.
- Present annual budget to the County Commissioners each spring.
- Schedule audit of the Fiscal Year activities in July, to provide financial accountability for funds administered through the District.
- Maintain an accurate accounting system with Quickbooks Pro.
- Explore alternative funding sources to meet conservation needs.
- Prepare monthly financial reports for the monthly Board meetings.
- Provide technical, educational and financial assistance to landowners and operators.
- Participate in Division II strategic planning.
  - Finalization of the Division II AFO project.
  - Division wide forest land management.
  - Urban sprawl /agricultural interface.
  - Participate in the Division II Legislative Tour, when applicable.

### Staffing Needs

- Full-time Conservation District Administrative Assistant with equitable professional salary and benefits.
- Conservation Planner/Technical support person, this person is funded solely with grant funding at the current time.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Begin Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify budget and staff needs and continue to pursue and research funding through different grant sources</li> </ul>	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthen relationships with legislators and partner agencies</li> </ul>	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Write articles for local newspapers and website about different resource concerns and ways of addressing them.</li> </ul>	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue educating the public and youth about conservation and natural resources. Continue sponsoring the North Central Idaho Grazing Conference, Arbor Day, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Campouts and Annual Tree Sale.</li> </ul>	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue District participation in annual meetings and training sessions about various programs etc., to keep the employees and producers up to date on current events</li> </ul>	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Publish annual tree catalog each year and post on website a bi-annual newsletter.</li> </ul>	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to protect cropland from erosion through the implementation of BMP's.</li> </ul>	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to offer cost-share funding for Animal Feeding Operations and always encourage the development of nutrient management plans.</li> </ul>	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As needed, coordinate with NRCS to develop grazing plans that preserve the appropriate levels of ground cover.</li> </ul>	7-2014	6-2019



# FY2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Plan of Work Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

**For Information Contact: Leon Slichter, Chairman**  
**Telephone Number: 208-983-1046 x3**  
**Website: idahocountyswcd.com**  
**Counties Served: Idaho**  
**Legislative Districts: 7**



**Board Members: Leon Slichter-Chairman, Tom Gehring- Vice Chairman, Adam Sonnen-Treasurer, Jim Paradiso-Secretary, Elaine Sonnen-Member**

**District Administrator: Stefanie Hays, Conservation Planner: Jinny Cash**

## Mission of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

**To focus available technical, financial and educational resources and coordinate them so they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources.**

## Trends & Issues Impacting Conservation in the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

*Direct Seed Practices; Precision Farming; Population Growth/Urban Sprawl; Encroachment on flood plains resulting in property damage, wetland losses, and habitat losses; Surface Water Quality Degradation; Noxious Weeds; Pollution; Drought; Water Conservation; Endangered Species Act; Wetland Development; Wildfire; Fish & Wildlife; Animal Feeding Practices; Forest Improvement*

## Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed by the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

**319 Grants: Rock Creek**

**SRBA Grant- Cottonwood Creek, Lawyers Creek Phase II, Rock Creek, Deer Creek**

## Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects Coordinated

Idaho County	District Operations-Base Budget	\$	7,000.00
State of Idaho	Base Funding-District Operations	\$	8,500.00
State of Idaho (2:1 match)	2:1 Match-District Operations	\$	14,000.00
OSC:SRBA	SRBA-TMDL Implementation/admin	\$	245,715.50
319:DEQ	TMDL Implementation/admin	\$	43,165.00
<b><i>Total Possible Income</i></b>			<b>\$ 318,380.50</b>



## FY2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Work Plan Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

### Priority Area Number 1: District Operations

**Objective: Encourage the implementation of best management practices that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.**

**Goal: Information and education**

<b>Actions for FY2016</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>
Publish a bi-annual district newsletter.	Bi-annually	District Staff
1. Conduct public meetings for the watersheds with active TMDL implementation and assessment. (Cottonwood Creek Watershed , South Fork Clearwater River Watershed, Little Salmon River Watershed, Lower Salmon Hells Canyon Watersheds) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Participate with the South Fork Clearwater River WAG/Lower Salmon Hells Canyon WAG.</li> <li>b. Participate at public meetings/classes sponsored by the UI Extension Offices and grower meetings sponsored by the Ag Companies.</li> <li>c. Conduct public AFO-CAFO Tour with Division II</li> </ul>	Monthly  Spring  Fall	Stefanie Hays, Leon Slichter, Scott Wasem  Adam Sonnen, Tom Gehring District Staff, NRCS, SCC  Leon Slichter, Tom Gehring
1. Public service announcements: newspaper, radio. 2. SWCD information booth at the Idaho County Fair	Quarterly  August	District Staff, Supervisors  District Staff
2. Conduct school conservation events and activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 6th Grade classrooms presentations and field day presentations. Approximately 75 students from two schools and 20-25 adults. Goal to expand to other school districts in Idaho County.</li> <li>b. Sponsor Annual IASCD Poster Contest.</li> </ul>	September  Fall	Board Supervisors District Staff, NRCS, ISCC, IASCD  District Staff

<p>a) Distribute to eight schools (200+ students) educational materials.</p> <p>b) Sixth grade classroom presentations (80+ students)</p>	<p>April</p> <p>September</p>	<p>District Staff</p> <p>Board Supervisors, Eileen Rowan, IASCD District Staff, NRCS</p>
<p><b>Goal: Promote the planting of trees and shrubs for conservation practices.</b></p>		
<p>1. Publish the district conservation tree catalog (September) and receive orders from October to April. Catalogs available on website or by request.</p>	<p>Fall</p>	<p>District Staff</p>
<p>Conservation tree program annual sales estimate \$6500.</p>	<p>Spring</p>	<p>District Staff</p>
<p>2. Public service announcements promoting the conservation tree program.</p>	<p>September</p>	<p>District Staff</p>
<p>3. Coordinate Arbor Day Activities</p>	<p>March/April</p>	<p>District Staff NRCS</p>
<p>4. Public service announcements promoting Arbor Day celebrations.</p>	<p>April</p>	<p>District Staff</p>
<p><b>Objective: Professionally administer the grants for implementation of conservation best management practices.</b></p>		
<p><b>Goal: Meet grant requirements for annual reports</b></p>		
<p>1. On time submission of WQPA profit and loss quarterly reports to the SCC.</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>District Staff</p>
<p>2. Submit WQPA pre-approval forms and payment applications to SCC as directed.</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>District Staff SCC, E. Rowan; IASCD, ISCC</p>
<p>3. On time submission of SRBA annual reports.</p>	<p>April</p>	<p></p>
<p><b>Objective: Coordinate with various agencies.</b></p>		
<p><b>Goal: Improve Division wide project implementation.</b></p>		
<p>1. Attend IASCD Division meetings and IASCD Annual Conference.</p>	<p>Spring/Fall</p>	<p>District Staff &amp; Supervisors</p>
<p>2. Promote I &amp; E on conservation/agricultural easements</p>	<p>All year</p>	<p>Leon Slichter</p>
<p>3. Review NRCS and SCC policies dealing with District Operations.</p>	<p>All year</p>	<p>District Staff &amp; Supervisors</p>
<p>4. Coordinate with the county, state and federal agencies involved with conservation efforts.</p>	<p>All year</p>	<p>Board Supervisors District Staff</p>

<p><b>Goal: Develop professional relations with other agencies and the general public.</b></p> <p>1. Conduct District Supervisor public elections on the county ballots.</p>	<p>Even numbered years</p>	<p>District Staff</p>
<p>2. Submit AWP/5YP/FY Budget by deadline.</p>	<p>March</p>	<p>Board Supervisors, Stefanie Hays</p>
<p>3. Schedule in July the financial audit and submit in September for SCC review.</p>	<p>July- August</p>	<p>Board Supervisors, Stefanie Hays</p>
<p>4. District staff performance evaluations.</p>	<p>October</p>	<p>Board Supervisors</p>
<p>5. District Staff will be encouraged to attend all pertinent training workshops that are deemed beneficial for professional administration of the district operations. Training can be through IDEA, NRCS, SCC, or LCSC, etc. classes and workshops.</p>	<p>All year</p>	<p>District Staff</p>

**Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices.**



## FY2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Work Plan Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

### Priority Area Number 2: Water Quality

**Objective: Improve water quality within the District Watersheds.**

**Goal: Provide support to all watershed TMDL's**

<b>Actions for FY2016</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Obtain landowner agreements to install BMP's in the sub-watersheds Lawyers Creek and the South Fork Clearwater River Watershed. Twelve annually.</li> <li>2. Conduct public meetings for sign ups and implementation progress. Two sign up meetings/spring and one/fall tour.</li> <li>3. Attend Clearwater BAG and WAG meetings as scheduled to provide progress reports of the TMDL Implementation for each drainage.                South Fork Clearwater WAG - Stefanie Bowman (no scheduled meetings 2014)                Lower Salmon Hells Canyon WAG – Leon Slichter, Stefanie Bowman(no scheduled meetings 2014)</li> </ol>	All year   Spring  Fall	Eileen Rowan, District Staff   Leon Slichter, District Staff
<p><b>Goal: Provide administrative support to the Watershed Advisory Groups that are active in the ISWCD.</b></p> <p>Provide administrative support as requested and budgeted for in the respective WAG/319 grants.</p>	All year	District Staff
<p><b>Objective: Improve water quality by decreasing the number of 303(d) streams in the district.</b></p> <p><b>Goal: Improve water quality on 303(d) listed stream</b></p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BMP contracts continuing with practices through CY 2015 On-going</li> <li>2. Encourage riparian buffers and grassed waterways with non-contracting landowners</li> <li>3. Encourage road districts to plan and implement projects that reduce sediment runoff.</li> </ol>	On-going  All year  All year	Board Supervisors, Private Participants, E. Rowan Board Supervisors, E. Rowan Board Supervisors, E. Rowan



## FY2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Work Plan Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

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### Priority Area Number 3: Non Irrigated Cropland

**Objective: To reduce soil and nutrient loss on cropland**

**Goal: Document soil and nutrient stability**

<b>Actions for FY2016</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>
1. District newsletter will promote the use of conservation practices and the responsible and economical use of chemicals on cropland.	Bi-Annually	Board Supervisors, District Staff
2. Promote conservation plans which incorporate direct seed, increased crop residue percentage and other relative BMP's.	All year	Board Supervisors, NRCS, Co-operators, IASCD, ISCC
3. Participate in and assist with a crop tour to demonstrate the benefits of direct seed and minimum till.	TBD	Board Supervisors, NRCS, UI Ext. Service, Certified Crop Advisors, IASCD, ISCC, PNSDA

**Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices.**



## FY2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Work Plan Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

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### Priority Area Number 4: Animal Waste Management

**Objectives: To improve water quality and enhance livestock and wildlife health**

**Goal: Work with landowners who have expressed an interest in developing and or improving an animal feeding operation.**

<b>Actions for FY2016</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>
1. Provide technical expertise to modify waste management operations. The supervisors listed have experience with feeding operations and they will give feedback to the technical representatives and assist with explanations to the landowners. The ISWCD will closely review each AFO/CAFO for design and cost effectiveness.  Leon and Tom participate on the Division II AFO advisory committee.	All year	Board Supervisors, NRCS, SCC, Idaho Dept. of Ag. Engineers, District Staff
2. AFO/CAFO tour in 2014 with Division II AFO.	Fall 2014	Leon Slichter/Board Supervisor
3. Publish newsletter articles to inform and educate landowners about animal waste operations. Encourage conservation plans that incorporate good waste principles.	Bi-Annually	District Staff

**Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices.**



## FY2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Work Plan Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

### Priority Area Number 5: Rangeland

**Objective: Improve rangeland for domestic livestock and wildlife, indirectly improving streams for fish habitat.**

**Goal: Decrease the number of acres of noxious weeds.**

Actions for FY2016	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuing support to the Weed Initiative by providing technical assistance. Board members attend noxious weed training. (Employment with other agencies that have tasks involving weed management).</li> <li>2. Publish newsletter articles to educate the public on noxious weeds.</li> <li>3. Work in coordination with IDL, USFS, BLM and Clearwater RCDC on fire protection. Idaho County Disaster Management has developed a draft fire plan.</li> </ol>	<p>All year</p> <p>Publish weed management articles annually</p> <p>TBA</p>	<p>Board Supervisors District Staff</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>Board Supervisors District Staff</p>
<b>Goal: Encourage BMP's on range management.</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage rangeland BMP's. (Re-seeding, grazing plans, spring and or water developments)</li> <li>2. Publish newsletter articles to promote healthy grazing principals and utilization standards.</li> <li>3. Encourage riparian protection</li> <li>4. Division II Grazing Conference</li> </ol>	<p>All year</p> <p>Bi-annually</p> <p>All year</p> <p>Annual</p>	<p>Board Supervisors, NRCS SCC, IASCD, UI, Idaho County Weed Control</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>Div. II AFO, SCC NRCS, U of I, District Staff, Leon Slichter, Tom Gehring Adam Sonnen.</p>
<p><b>Additional Priority Areas: Fish and Wildlife</b></p> <p><b>Objective: Promote conservation practices that improve fish and wildlife habitat.</b></p> <p><b>Goal: Public outreach and education.</b></p>		

<b>Actions for FY2016</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and coordinate with other agencies in promoting the Weed Initiative and all wildlife Initiatives.</li> <li>2. Coordinate with the IF&amp;G on HIP projects.</li> <li>3. Publish newsletter articles promoting the Clean Air Act (CAA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) which directly impacts the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and implementation of conservation practices to improve the quality of air and water.</li> <li>4. Work with Bureau of Reclamation to find a person to seek out potential projects.</li> <li>5. Race Creek Watershed project for Salmon and Steelhead mitigation</li> </ol>	<p>All year</p> <p>Spring</p> <p>Bi-annually</p> <p>TBD</p>	<p>Board Supervisors</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>District Staff, Board Supervisors Idaho SWCD, ISCC, Fish &amp; Game</p>
<p><b>Goal: Consider new projects in the Little Salmon/Lower Salmon Hells Canyon River Basin.</b> Sponsorship obligations and tasks to include indirect administration, provide feedback to the project sponsor, attend field tours to the project areas as scheduled and attend TAC meetings as scheduled.</p>	<p>All year</p>	<p>Board Supervisors</p>
<p><b>Additional Priority Areas: Woodlands</b> <b>Objective: Promote conservation practices that improve forested acres.</b> <b>Goal: Reduce soil loss and improve water quality.</b></p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage forestry conservation practices with private land owners.</li> <li>2. We recently initiated pre-commercial thinning as a new practice.</li> <li>3. Promote the planting of trees and shrubs through the district conservation tree sale program. Annual sales/donations of 7600+ trees and shrubs; gross sales \$6000-\$6500.</li> <li>4. Sponsor public service announcements on the radio in the local papers, newsletter and on the website.</li> <li>5. Coordinate Arbor Day Celebrations in the district. Most ISWCD communities already have a Tree USA committee, so the ISWCD generally coordinates with the City of Grangeville,</li> </ol>	<p>All year</p> <p>All year</p> <p>All year</p> <p>Fall /Spring</p> <p>Feb-April</p>	<p>Board Supervisors</p> <p>Board Supervisors and staff</p> <p>Stefanie Hays/Volunteers</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>District Staff, Local Schools, Board Supervisors</p>

including all Idaho County Schools.		
6. Distribute USFS excess trees to landowners when available. There is no profit from this program, but acres are being reforested. Trees have not been available since 2012, but if they become available again, we will promote them and distribute to landowners.	May-June	District Staff
7. Continued monitoring of Carbon Sequestration issues.	Yearly	Idaho SWCD

**Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices.**

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**FIVE-YEAR (5) PLAN and  
ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
CERTIFICATION**

**DISTRICT:** Idaho SWCD

**FOR FISCAL YEAR:**

FY2016

**DUE :**

March 31, 2015

**CERTIFICATION**

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan is true and accurate, and further submit said Plan for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

*Leon Slichter*

Board Supervisor Signature

**Leon Slichter**

Printed Name

**03-17-15**

Date

**208-983-1046 ext 3**

Telephone

**stefanie.hays@id.nacdnet.net**

District Email Address

**FOR SWC USE ONLY:**

**DATE OF CONFIRMATION:**  
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