

# Snake River Soil & Water Conservation District



## Recent Projects Twin Falls Nitrate Priority Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

The Snake River Soil and Water Conservation District is one of several partners involved in the Twin Falls Nitrate Priority Area CCPI (Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative).

The first sign up was held in 2011 with three cooperators enrolling 300 acres. Cooperators agreed to use enhanced nutrient management and irrigation water management practices in return for cost-share to help implement those practices. Payment for those first three year contracts (which expired in 2014) were \$10 per acre for nutrient management and \$25 per acre for irrigation water management.

Two additional sign ups were held in 2012 and 2013. A total of nearly 2,000 acres was enrolled in this program over the three sign-ups. The final contracts will expire in 2016.

A three-year contract has proven to be very successful in that it allows cooperators the first year to figure the tools out and two more years to implement those new tools.

The CCPI is a voluntary initiative through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission helped to write conservation plans for the cooperators.

To continue this effort, the Snake River SWCD is exploring options to educate other producers about the interrelationship between nutrient management and irrigation water management by cost-sharing deep soil testing to learn what nitrate levels at the 3- or 4-foot depth. The District would also like to encourage more producers to regularly take 2-foot soil samples to better track soil nitrate levels.

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

**Phone:** (208) 733-5380 ext. 3

**FAX:** (208) 733-734-5138

<http://tfconservation.org>

*Meets second Tuesday of each month*

### Top Five Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quantity
2. Cropland
3. Groundwater Protection
4. Animal Waste Management
5. Fish and Wildlife

### 2015 Revenue

State Grants and Services	\$21,291
County General Services	\$8,000
Other	\$13,960
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$43,251</b>

## Educational Efforts

• Approximately 195 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students from four schools participated in the 2015 poster contest for elementary students. A speech contest for high school students is also held each fall.

• Supported the Kimberly FFA Envirothon Team.

• Sponsored a Filer Wetland Day for Hansen and Murtaugh 5th Grade students.

• Sponsored Harrington Fork Educational Day for Hansen and Murtaugh 3rd Graders.

• Provided two campers with full scholarships to Natural Resources Camp.

• Provided college scholarships.

• Snake River SWCD 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”.

• Nominated Jo Dodds, the 2015 IASCD Conservation Educator of the Year. She has worked with the Twin Falls Canal Company on a Rock Creek Water Quality project for 9th Graders at Twin Falls High School for many years.

## Future Projects

Snake River SWCD is 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.

## District Capacity Building Grant

The Snake River SWCD utilizing its FY 2015 Capacity Building Grant to purchase a color printer and supplies to print handouts for tours and meetings.

The district is also making plans to celebrate its 50th anniversary during 2016. The District plans to focus on nitrate education through a booth at the Home & Garden Show in February and also the UI Twilight Tour in July.

### Snake River SWCD Supervisors:

Matt Nail	Chair	432-5558	3968 N 3620 E, Kimberly, ID 83341
KC Williams	Vice-chair	736-2459	3634 N 3000 E, Twin Falls, ID 83301
Dave Sommer	Sec./Treas.	734-2282	PO Box 2311, Twin Falls, ID 83301
Rob Champlin	Member	734-0750	3850 N 3300 E, Kimberly, ID 83341
Don Norris	Member	733-8983	3552 N 3000 E, Twin Falls, ID 83301
Glen Gier	Member	539-0429	557 Smithwick Rd, TF, ID 83301
Dave Ramseyer	Member	326-4774	2202 E 4200 N, Filer, ID 83328
Brian Olmstead	Associate	420-3224	3128 E 33500 N, TF, ID 83301
Ron Jones	Associate	734-1394	3717 N 2544 E, Twin Falls, ID 83301
Roy Jesser	Associate	733-1267	3320 E 3200 N, Kimberly, ID 83341

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PERFORMANCE  
REPORT  
CERTIFICATION

DISTRICT:

Snake River SWCD

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.

*Matt Nail*

Board Supervisor Signature

Matt Nail

Printed Name

12-10-15

Date

208-733-5380 ext 123

Telephone

deannscott@cablone.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: