

**SQUAW CREEK SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

1805 Highway 16, Emmett, Idaho 83617-9076

**FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION  
BUSINESS PLAN**

**JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2020**

## **Executive Summary**

The Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation Districts are charged with carrying out a program for the conservation, use 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; science-based technical assistance, incentive-based financial programs and informational and 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 Squaw Creek Soil 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 Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District this \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_ day of March 2015, do 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, 2020 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.

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Randy Heffner, Chairman  
Daryl Morgan, Vice Chairman  
Art Beal, Secretary  
Franklin J. Garfield, Treasurer  
Mike Fry, Supervisor

## Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

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Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts



# 5-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2020

## Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District

1805 Highway 16, Room #1, Emmett, ID 83617-9076 208/365-4212



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### Organization of the Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Idaho – authorities, powers and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code

- Organized in 1940 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses within the Squaw Creek SCD boundary.

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### Function of the Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

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### We Serve & Why

- The people and natural resources in the Squaw Creek SCD, to conserve the natural resources for the beneficial and sustainable use by all.

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### Mission of the Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District

- *The Districts mission is to be leading organization for providing action at the local level to promote wise and beneficial Conservation of Natural Resources with emphasis on Soil and Water.*

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### Vision of the Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District

- *To recognize cooperators, partnering agencies and others that promote wise and beneficial conservation of natural resources.*

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### Values of the Squaw Creek Soil 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:

- Service to the Cooperators
- Weeds / Urban
- Rangeland
- Woodland
- District Operations / Water Quality
- Public Outreach / Information and Education

County population in July 2014: 6,835 (all rural)  
County owner-occupied houses and condos: 1,639  
Renter-occupied apartments: 506  
% of renters here: 17%  
State: 30%

Land area: 1902 sq. mi.  
Water area: 4.3 sq. mi.  
Population density: 4 people per square mile  (very low).

March 2014 cost of living index in Boise County: 86.3 (less than average, U.S. average is 100)

## Agriculture in Boise County:

Average size of farms: 563 acres  
Average value of agricultural products sold per farm: \$28,710  
Average value of crops sold per acre for harvested cropland: \$1002.56  
The value of livestock, poultry, and their products as a percentage of the total market value of agricultural products sold: 27.30%  
Average total farm production expenses per farm: \$32,257  
Harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 3.70%  
Irrigated harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 60.01%  
Average market value of all machinery and equipment per farm: \$25,083  
The percentage of farms operated by a family or individual: 93.26%  
Average age of principal farm operators: 54 years  
Average number of cattle and calves per 100 acres of all land in farms: 6.40

## **Priorities and Goals**

1. Service to Cooperators
  - Annually assist cooperators to improve and protect natural resources
  - Explore potential of carbon sequestration credits.
2. Weeds / Urban
  - Reduction of invasive and noxious weeds. Seasonally work on invasive and noxious weeds in Upper Payette Weed Management Area.
  - By April 2014, a work plan will be developed with Upper Payette Weed Management Partners leading to a 25% reduction in noxious weed species by the end of September 2014
  - District will sponsor a Weed Control Workshop annually in March with a target to reach 40 landowners and operators
3. Rangeland
  - Annually assist ranchers in emphasizing the need to graze at an intensity which will maintain enough cattle to protect the soil and maintain or improve the quality & quantity of desirable forage
4. Woodland
  - Annually work with landowners on Forest Stand Improvements
5. District Operations / Water Quality.
  - Make available technical and financial assistance for improved irrigation water management to ten producers annually through the Idaho Conservation Partners' programs.
  - Yearly provide information to District irrigators on current Idaho water issues
  - Annually with assistance of Conservation Partners provide and/or determine nutrient management technical assistance needed by dairies and beef feeding operations.
  - Attend North Fork of the Payette River Watershed Advisory Group and administer financial funds for administrative assistance
6. Public Outreach / Information and Education
  - Annually develop and implement an Urban Conservation Outreach Program.
  - Annually conduct youth environmental education programs and increase participation in – speech contest, poster contest, seek and sponsor Envirothon Team, Arbor Day presentation with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

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## **Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)**

- *North Fork Payette River*
- *Black Canyon Reservoir*
- *Solider Creek*

# Surface Water: Lower Payette River Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Loads

The Subbasin at a Glance

<b>Hydrologic Unit Code</b>	17050122
<b>Size</b>	380,000 acres
<b>§303(d) Listed Stream Segments</b>	Lower Payette River (River Mile 38.5 to River Mile 0)
<b>Beneficial Uses Affected</b>	Cold water biota, primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation, salmonid spawning
<b>Pollutants of Concern</b>	Nutrients, temperature, bacteria
<b>Major Land Uses</b>	Rangeland, irrigated agriculture
<b>Date Approved by U.S. EPA</b>	May 2000
<b>Date Big Willow Addendum Approved by U.S. EPA</b>	July 2008
<b>Date Little Willow Addendum Approved by U.S. EPA</b>	December 2013

## Background

The federal Clean Water Act requires that states and tribes restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. States and tribes must adopt water quality standards necessary to protect fish, shellfish, and wildlife while providing for recreation in and on the waters whenever possible.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act establishes requirements for states and tribes to identify and prioritize water bodies that are water quality limited (i.e., water bodies that do not meet water quality standards). States and tribes must periodically publish a priority list of impaired waters, currently every two years. For waters identified on this list, states and tribes must develop water quality improvement plans known as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) that establish allowable pollutants loads set at levels to achieve water quality standards.

## Overview

The lower Payette River is located in southwestern Idaho. [Bissel Creek](#), also listed on the 1994 §303(d) list and located in the Lower Payette River TMDL project area, is addressed in a separate document.

The hydrology of the river is complex, with numerous irrigation water withdrawal and return drains dominating both the flow and quality of the river. The presence of Black Canyon Dam has greatly altered the amount and

type of sediment in the lower Payette River originating from the upper watershed.

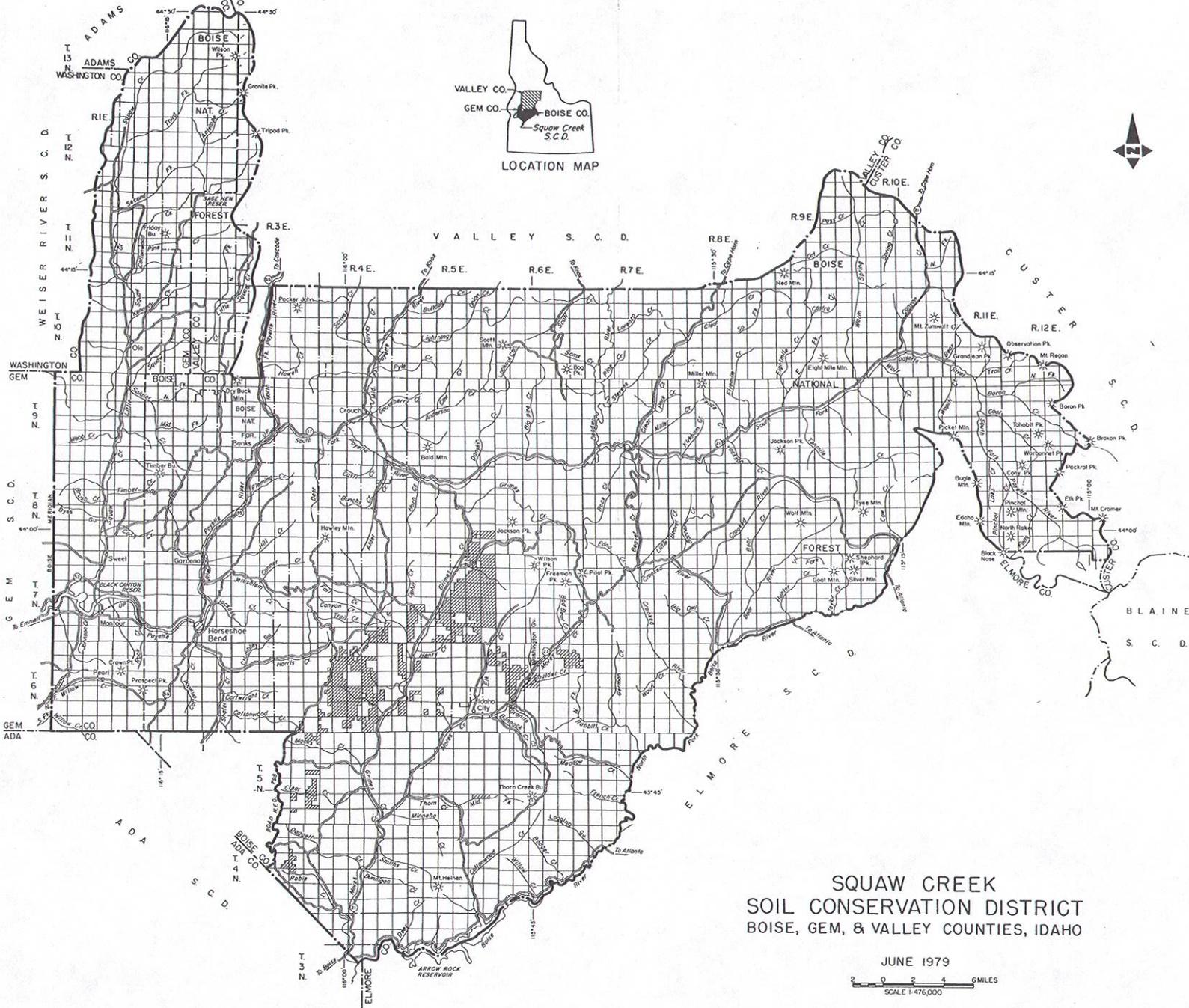
Fisheries studies conducted by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 1997 indicate many of the same species supported by the river in 1974 were also supported in 1997. Mountain whitefish is the dominant cold water species. Warm water species can be found throughout the river, with non-game species being dominant.

Sources of pollutants include both point sources and nonpoint sources. Point sources are limited mainly to municipal wastewater treatment plants and confined animal feeding operations. Nonpoint sources are associated with agricultural, urban, suburban, and rural areas.

Nutrients have not been shown to cause impairment to the beneficial uses in this water body at this time. While total phosphorus and nitrogen are at concentrations that could cause nuisance aquatic vegetation growth, data show they do not. While dissolved oxygen concentrations do not drop below the water quality standard, monitoring indicated that aquatic growth is causing a fluctuation in dissolved oxygen levels. If it is determined that the lower Payette River is a significant source of nutrients to the lower Snake River (in the lower Snake River/Brownlee TMDL), reduction targets for the lower Payette River will be addressed at that time.

Summer water temperatures in the lower Payette River are warm and exceed water quality standards for both cold water biota and salmonid spawning. However, it was determined that other factors, including habitat modification and flow alteration, were also significant causes of impairment of beneficial uses. In addition, warm water temperatures that exceed water quality standards originate from Black Canyon Reservoir. Because of these conditions, a temperature TMDL was not developed. TMDLs were also not written for flow alteration and habitat modification because these are not pollutants as described under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Fecal coliform bacteria levels exceed the water quality standards for both primary and secondary contact recreation. Increasing levels are noted from Black Canyon Dam to the Snake River, with an exceedance of the water quality standards from river mile 25 to the confluence. Overall, a fecal coliform reduction of 84% will be required to achieve water quality standards. The load allocation will focus on nonpoint sources only. The overall contribution to the fecal coliform bacteria load from point sources (municipal wastewater treatment plants) is 0.005%. If the total elimination of bacteria from the point sources were to occur, a total load reduction of only 0.07% would be achieved. Therefore, any reduction from point sources would not impact the overall load to the lower Payette River.



SQUAW CREEK  
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOISE, GEM, & VALLEY COUNTIES, IDAHO

JUNE 1979



Source:  
Base map prepared by SCS, WTSC Carto Unit from 1:126,720 General Highway maps.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1979

SQUAW CREEK S.C.D. (

### **Information – Education Priorities and Goals:**

- By April each year all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation poster contest.
  - Semi-annually all Conservation District cooperator addresses and files will be updated.
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### **District Operations Priorities, Goals:**

- New supervisors will have completed New Supervisor Training.
  - By July 1<sup>st</sup> complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, personnel management, training and development, annual planning and reporting.
  - In cooperation with Conservation Districts develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 90% State matching funds for all Districts.
  - Conduct Conservation District elections in November 2016 and 2018.
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### **Trends Impacting Conservation in the Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District**

- Urban impact on agriculture production
  - Poorly planned growth in agricultural areas
  - Increasing small acreage farms, five acres or less
  - Limited availability of State funds for conservation
  - Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and environmental issues
  - Increased paper work to getting the job done
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### **Strategies to Address Trends**

- More education but not the usual – more outreach instead of publications
  - 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.
  - Determine how to become involved with County Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources.
  - Map noxious and invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts
  - Host an open house to make public aware of goals
  - Solicit input to improve Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan
  - Take a proactive approach to funding water delivery systems on irrigated cropland
  - Identify the information methods to communicated with small land owners
  - Sponsor project proposals with other districts
  - Training for Conservation District Supervisors and staff
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### **Staffing Needs**

- Full-time Conservation District Administrative Assistant with benefits
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### Key Decision Makers

- Cooperators in Conservation District
- Gem, Boise & Valley County Commissioners  
Mark Rekow, Bill Butticci, Bryan Elliott – Vicki Wilkins, Roger Jackson, Allen Ward– Gordon Cruickshank, Elting Hasbrouck, Bill Willey
- State legislators representing Conservation District – Senator Steven P. Thayn, Representative Merrill Beyeler, Representative Terry Gestrin.
- U.S. Senators, Representatives – Senator Mike Crapo, Senator James Risch, Congressman Raul Labrador, Congressman Mike Simpson
- Conservation District Supervisors – Chairman Randy Heffner, Vice-Chair Daryl Morgan, Treasurer Franklin J. Gatfield, Secretary Art Beal, Supervisor Mike Fry.

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### Priority Actions – 6 Months

- *Enter a summary of the priority actions needed to start the 5-year plan of the Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District based on the above information.*

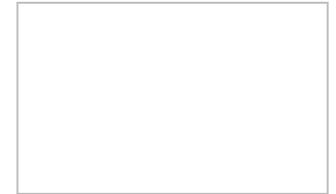
Action	Begin Date	End Date
▪ Seek public comments on Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan	2/5/15	3/31/15
▪ Board of Supervisor review of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan priorities, actions, and public comment	2/5/15	3/5/15
▪ Complete written update of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan	3/6/15	3/31/15
▪ Identify budget and staff needs	2/5/15	3/31/15
▪ Develop, adopt and submit annual budget	2/5/15	3/5/15
▪ Adopt and submit Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan	3/5/15	3/31/15

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





# FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District



## Conservation District Priority Number 1: Service to the Cooperators

**Objective:** To assist cooperators apply Conservation Practices to protect natural resources

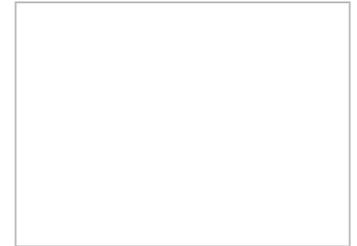
**Goal(s):** To promote Conservation by assisting Cooperators

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Provide technical support and assistance	Continuously	Scott Henderson,
Assist landowners with Conservation Planning	Annually	Scott Henderson, Duane Pearson
Assist cooperators to improve and protect natural resources	Continuously	Daryl Morgan, Mike Fry, Art Beal, Randy Heffner, Sheryl Stelling, Duane Pearson, Scott Henderson
Assist cooperators with information on technically improved equipment such s the No-Till Drill	Continuously	Sheryl Stelling, Scott Henderson, Mike Fry, Daryl Morgan, Art Beal, Randy Heffner
Work with partnering agencies such as County; Weed Management, Mosquito Abatement, Planning and Zoning and others to assist in conserving natural resources and provide education to landowners to promote wise use of our natural resources.	Continuously	Daryl Morgan, Mike Fry, Art Beal, Randy Heffner, Sheryl Stelling, Scott Henderson, Franklin J. Gatfield, Duane Pearson, Mark Bateman

Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices



## FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District



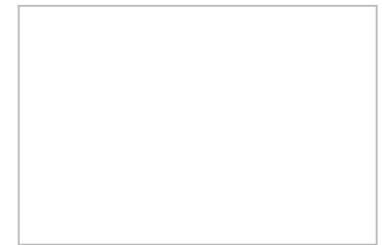
**Conservation District Priority Number 2: Weeds / Urban**  
**Objective: Control weeds within the Squaw Creek Watershed**  
**Goal(s): Protect and improve quality rangeland and forage**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
Reduce noxious weeds to improve the quality and quantity of forage	Continuously	Mike Fry, Daryl Morgan, Randy Heffner, Art Beal, Franklin Gatfield
Work closely with the County Weed control and Upper Payette Cooperative Weed Management to control noxious weeds	Continuously	Mike Fry, Daryl Morgan, Randy Heffner, Art Beal, Franklin Gatfield
Educate landowners on weed control, such as the proper application of pesticides & herbicides	Spring/Fall	Scott Henderson, Mike Fry, Daryl Morgan, Art Beal, Sheryl Stelling, Franklin Gatfield
Provide technical assistance to cooperators	Continuously	Daryl Morgan, Mike Fry, Scott Henderson
Review County Planning & Zoning applications, comment in written on all resource concerns	Continuously	Scott Henderson, Sheryl Stelling, Mike Fry, Daryl Morgan, Randy Heffner, Art Beal, Franklin Gatfield

Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices



## FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District



### Conservation District Priority Number 3: Rangeland

**Objective: Encourage the control of weeds on all lands with the District**

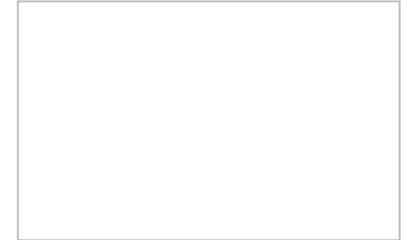
**Goal(s): To maintain quality rangeland and forage through I & E programs and technical assistance**

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Encourage and provide technical assistance to establish adapted grasses where needed & feasible to improve the quality of forage	Continuously	Scott Henderson
Develop Range plans with cooperators as requested	Continuously	Scott Henderson, Mark Bateman
Assist on fencing, stock-water, spring developments, seeding or any other projects necessary to improve the rangeland.	Annually	Scott Henderson, Mike Fry, Daryl Morgan, Mark Bateman, Duane Pearson
Emphasize the need to graze at an intensity which will maintain enough cattle to protect the soil and maintain or improve the quality & quantity of desirable forage	Continuously	Scott Henderson, Duane Pearson, Mike Fry, Daryl Morgan
Provide recently researched and/or proven equipment to cooperators such as the No-Till Drill and newly developed plant materials.	Spring/Fall	Mike Fry, Daryl Morgan, Sheryl Stelling

Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices



## FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District



### Conservation District Priority Number 4: Woodland

**Objective: Assist with the health and productivity of the forest and reduce wildfires**

**Goal(s): Increased grazing, timber products and recreation**

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Improve aesthetic, recreation and open space value by thinning, planting, seeding or natural regeneration after forest stand improvement activities	Continuously	Mike Fry, Scott Henderson
Work with Landowners on Forest Stand Improvements.	Annually	Scott Henderson, Mike Fry
Improve wildlife habitat	Continuously	Scott Henderson, Mark Bateman
Educate landowners, school children and the general public on reduction of fire load to prevent wildfires.	Continuously	Sheryl Stelling, Mike Fry, Art Beal, Randy Heffner, Franklin Gatfield, Daryl Morgan

Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices



## FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District



### Conservation District Priority Number 5: District Operations / Water Quality

**Objective: Implement elements of the Annual Work Plan and 5-Year Resource Conservation Plan provide multi-faceted technical assistance base, maintain active cooperators, maintain an adequate financial base and maintain State & National effectiveness**

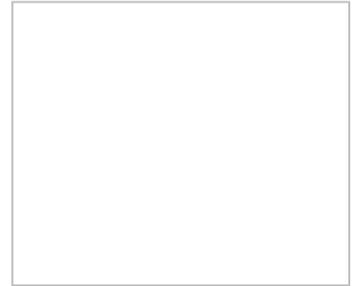
### Goal(s): Maintain active viable Conservation District

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
Maintain County Commissioner funding support, promote Legislative appropriations of SWCC/SCD matching funds, seek grants, state, federal and private sources for TMDL/technical assistance	Continuously	Daryl Morgan, Mike Fry, Sheryl Stelling
Review and update Annual & 5-Year Resource Conservation Plan including receiving public comment at April meeting. Submit 5-Year Resource Conservation Plan to Soil Conservation Commission (SWCC)	Annually	Daryl Morgan, Mike Fry, Art Beal, Franklin Gatfield, Randy Heffner, Sheryl Stelling
Support IASCD in efforts through the foundation to seek funding sources in carrying out natural resource programs by providing technical and cost-share assistance to the landowner	Annually	Daryl Morgan, Art Beal, Sheryl Stelling
Review Planning & Zoning to point out soil erosion and water quality issues Apply for 319 Funds to assist with installation of BMP's, resulting in load reduction on the Payette River TMDL.	Continuously	Scott Henderson, Sheryl Stelling, Art Beal, Mike Fry, Daryl Morgan, Franklin Gatfield, Randy Heffner
Distribute Conservation Plan needs, goals and project information to: Legislative, County Commissioners, City, WAG, BAG, and TAC.	February thru April	Sheryl Stelling, Scott Henderson

Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices



## FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District



### **Conservation District Priority Number 6: Public Outreach / Information and Education**

**Objective: Maintain public awareness of Conservation needs and programs for all natural resources**

**Goal(s): Provide an information and education program, extend Outreach of the District and promote Locally Led Conservation**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
Provide cooperators with technical information on: BMP's, Riparian Improvement, Wetlands, Water Quality, etc.	Continuously	Scott Henderson, Sheryl Stelling, Daryl Morgan, Mike Fry
Educate cooperators through various avenues of public outreach; Newsletters, notices, press releases	Continuously	Sheryl Stelling, Daryl Morgan
Implement and utilize demonstration projects, Annual tours and special workshops	Continuously	Sheryl Stelling, Daryl Morgan, Mike Fry, Art Beal, Randy Heffner, Franklin Gatfield
Encourage the youth in the district to attend the Natural Resources Workshop, Envirothon or there district sponsored opportunities offered.	Spring/Summer	Sheryl Stelling, Art Beal, Daryl Morgan, Randy Heffner, Mike Fry, Franklin Gatfield
Complete demonstration on low water usage trees and/or shrubs by planting drought tolerant, non native zone tolerant species, use a drip system. Other benefits are energy savings with shade for cooling, weed control and wildlife habitat	April thru September	Art Beal, Mike Fry, Daryl Morgan, Randy Heffner, Sheryl Stelling, Franklin Gatfield

*Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District* assisting land managers with their conservation choices

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

**DISTRICT:** Squaw Creek Soil  
Conservation District

**FOR FISCAL YEAR:**

2016

**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.

*Arthur W. Beal - Secretary*

Board Supervisor Signature

**Arthur Beal**

Printed Name

03/03/2015

Date

208.365.4212

Telephone

sheryl.stelling@id.nacdnet.net

District Email Address

**FOR SWC USE ONLY:**

**DATE OF CONFIRMATION:**  
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