Adams

Soil and Water Conservation District

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Council, ID 83612-0026

ANNUAL PLAN
FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION
BUSINESS PLAN

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2026

(Revised March 2022)

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Soil & Water Conservation District Adams

Executive Summary

The Adams Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. The District was organized April 21, 1966 and was one of the last three Districts to be formed in Idaho. The Adams SWCD includes all of Adams County in west central Idaho. Idaho's soil and water conservation districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies and have no regulatory or taxing authority. Conservation districts are charged with carrying out programs for the voluntary conservation, use and development of soil, water, and other natural resources within their boundaries.

Conservation Districts are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the voluntary conservation and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. They are catalysts for coordinating and implementing conservation programs and gathering expertise from public and private sources at the local level. Programs are non-regulatory and include science-based technical assistance, incentive–based financial programs and local educational programs.

Both by legislation and by agreement, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission provide technical assistance to landowners and land users through conservation districts. Each conservation district in Idaho has a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation and Business Plan was developed to guide the Adams Conservation District and to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations and elected officials.

This document identifies the resource priorities and conservation needs in the Adams SWCD and presents an action plan for meeting these needs.

Mission of the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District

To use the educational, fiscal and technical resources at our disposal to assist landowners, especially agricultural producers, in putting voluntary resource conservation into practice.

Organization and History of the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District

The Adams SWCD is a political subdivision of the State of Idaho with its authorities, powers and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code.

- The SWCD was organized in 1966 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and users within the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries.
- The Adams SWCD is a board of five supervisors, elected locally. They serve without pay and are responsible for coordinating all conservation activities being carried out in the District.
- The board meets once per month in Council, Idaho. The public is encouraged to attend and become familiar with the purpose and function of the District.

Function of the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District

- To make available technical, financial and educational resources from various sources and coordinate them so that they meet the conservation needs (soil, water and related natural resources) of the local land owner/manager.
- To use local knowledge and cooperation to ensure that our natural resources are conserved and sustained for present and future generations. As a local subdivision of State government, Conservation Districts are set up to provide landowners and land users opportunities to cooperate or enter into agreements with one another, departments or agencies of city, county, state and federal government or private non-profit entities.
- To provide landowners and land users with information and assist them in applying this information.

Values of the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Supporting agricultural activities that use sustainable, economically feasible Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Supporting productive economic uses of natural resources while using proper conservation practices/BMPs to sustain these resources for future generations
- Value and respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership
- Conservation education for adults and youth

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals

The following are some of the priorities and goals of the Adams SWCD:

- District Operations
- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- Woodlands/Forests
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Flood Control
- Conservation Information/Education
- Soil Health
- Noxious Weed Control
- Rangeland and Pasture/Hay land
- Riparian Buffer Protection
- Irrigation Efficiency
- Preserving Agriculture and Timber Lands
- Animal Waste Management

Location and Physical Characteristics of the District

The Adams Soil & Water Conservation District is located in the west-central portion of the state. The District's western border is the Snake River at Hells Canyon. Other counties bordering the Adams District are Washington, Gem, Idaho and Valley. Adams County has a total area of 876,000 acres. Nearly 70% of the land base in Adams County is public land with the US Forest Service controlling the largest portion. There is a relatively small percentage of BLM and state land in the county with the remaining approximately 30% being privately owned. US95, Idaho's primary north-south highway, bisects the District.

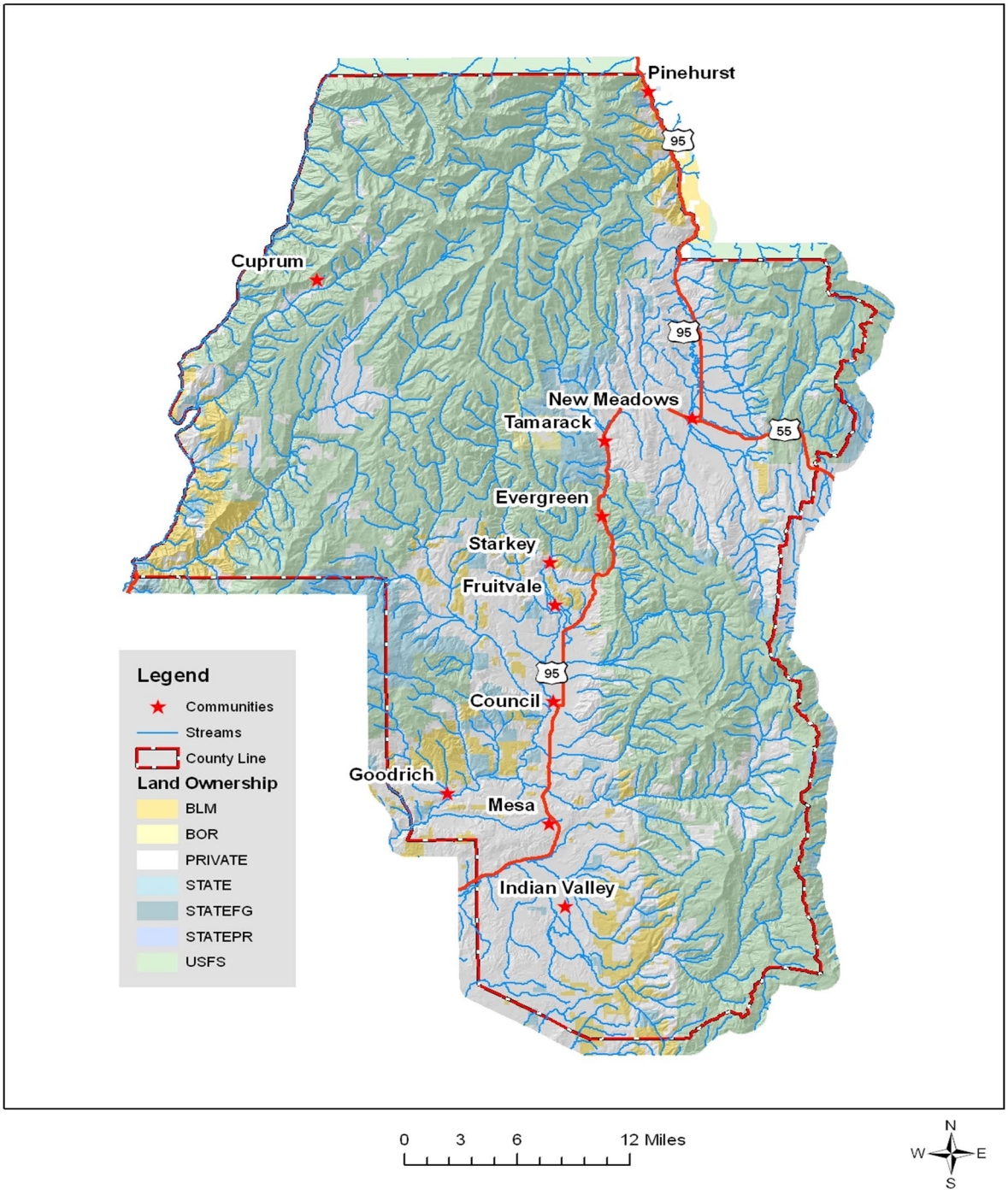
While the Snake River flows north along the western edge of the county, the main watershed within the District is the Weiser River. The Weiser with its several tributaries flows southwest into the Snake River. Another important watershed, the Little Salmon River, flows north from the New Meadows area into the Salmon River, also a tributary of the Snake River.

The Council Valley is about ten miles long by five miles wide. The land for which there is irrigation water is very productive, but there are many acres of rangelands that depend on natural rainfall to produce forage. These rangelands are the base of operations for many of the cattle producers in the county. Winter feed is raised and fed in the valleys. Many ranchers graze cattle on National Forest, Bureau of Land Management or state endowment lands in the summer by permit.

The Meadows Valley is about four miles wide and fifteen miles long, and is located in the northern end of the county. This valley is ranked as one of the most productive pasture regions in the state. Cattle are brought into the valley and pastured in summer for a set fee or for a percentage of the gain. The many streams flowing off the nearby mountains are tributaries to the Little Salmon River.

Indian Valley is located at the southern end of the county. This area is fertile, with most of its irrigation coming from the Little Weiser River and via stored water from the C. Ben Ross Reservoir. These irrigated fields and rangelands provide year-long commercial cattle operations for a number of family ranches. Hay production in more recent years has become a significant economic activity in Indian Valley. It also has more than one thousand acres formerly devoted to dry-land grain that is now mostly in improved grasses, alfalfa and riparian buffers enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Physiography in the district includes nearly level floodplains and very gently to moderately sloping terraces along the rivers and larger streams. Adjacent to the flood plains are high terraces, some of which have been dissected to form rolling hills. A large part of the area is gently sloped to very steep basalt foothills and mountains. Some areas are steep granitic mountains. Elevations range from 1,600 feet along the Snake River to about 6,000 feet on the mountains of New Meadows, with Brundage Peak near McCall being approx. 7,500 feet and Council Mountain in the Council Valley being approx. 8,100 feet.



Economic Conditions and Trends

Population & Employment Trends

In 2020, Adams was among the fastest-growing counties in the state in percentage population increase. According to U.S. Census estimates, the population grew from 3978 in 2010 to 4379 in 2021, or 10%. Most of the growth is occurring in the unincorporated areas of the county, further fragmenting the agriculture and timber land base. The county is one of the oldest in the state with a median age of 55. Median Household Income in the county is $48,856, compared to Idaho's MHI of $56,605 (Source: Idaho Dept. of Labor, Adams County Profile, January 2022).

There are no commercial or urban centers. The town of Council, pop. 747, lies near the center of the District. New Meadows, pop. 537, is situated in the northern part of the District. Major employers include Adams County, Council and Meadows Valley school districts, Evergreen Forest Products, Idaho Transportation Department, J.I Morgan (logging), Brundage ski area and the US Forest Service. The Adams County Health Center, M&W Market, Jerry's Auto Parts and other small businesses account for the remainder of employment opportunities. After soaring to 18.5 percent during the recession in 2010, Adams County's unemployment rate declined to 5.4 percent in December 2019. Unemployment rose again during the pandemic, to 6.9% in December 2020, but dipped to 4.0% in December 2021. That remains above the state unemployment rate of 2.4%. Per capita income in Adams County has risen to $41,066 (adjusted for inflation). However, per capita income lags behind Idaho's $48,759.. (Source: University of Idaho, Indicators Idaho: http://indicatorsidaho.org/DrawRegion.aspx?RegionID=16000&IndicatorID=7)

Agriculture Statistics & Trends

Agriculture has always been a primary economic driver in Adams County. The value of agricultural products sold in 2017 was estimated to be $12.6 million (see Table 1). Forage crops (hay and grain) and cattle are the main agriculture products in the District. Most of the hay and grain produced is usually sold to local producers or fed to the growers' own livestock. However, in some areas of the District, hay production is a major commodity grown for sale to wider markets. In 2017, 117 farms reported 14,866 acres in hay production that yielded 36,727 tons dry equivalent (USDA Census of Agriculture 2017).

Table 1. Adams County Agricultural Data

	2012	2017
Number of Farms	234	232
Acres in Agriculture	136,227	163,054
Ave. Size Farm in acres	582	703
Median Size of Farm	125	93
Number of Farms <50 ac	83	98
50-219 ac	70	54
220-499 ac	34	25
>500 ac	47	55
Number Cattle/Calf Operations	118	109
Cattle/Calf Inventory	13,875	16,516
Number of Sheep/Lamb Ops	8	8
Sheep/Lamb Inventory	773	275
Farms with Laying Chickens	36	28
Number of Layers	360	316
Irrigated Farms	148	133
Total Acreage	122,601	136,132
Irrigated Acres	19,038	22,209
Irrigated Pasture	12,285	11,453
Market Value of Ag Prod Sold	$13.5 million	$12.6 million
Market Value Livestock Sold	$10.1 million	$9.4 million
Market Value Crops Sold	$3.4 million	$3.2 million

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 2012 & 2017

For definitions of terms and further explanation, please see https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level/Idaho/idintro.pdf

Because Adams County has a largely resource-based economy, it is essential that the Adams SWCD play a major role in helping landowners implement best management practices on their private lands and encourage use of public resources in a sustainable manner.

Climate

Climate records show that the annual average temperature for Council is 47.20 degrees Fahrenheit, Indian Valley 50.00 degrees, and Meadows Valley 41.30 degrees. Extremes in temperatures in degrees are 106 high to -33 below for Council, a high of 107 to -35 below for Indian Valley; and 104 high to -49 below for Meadows Valley.

Frost-free days average 143 in Council, 130 in Indian Valley, and just 71 in Meadows Valley. Precipitation ranges from an average in Council of 25.78, to 19.75 in Indian Valley, to 24.65 in the Meadows Valley. Most of the precipitation falls from October 15th to May 15th. Snowfall averages are 66.60 inches for Council, 67.50 inches for Indian Valley, and 94.80 inches for Meadows Valley.

Soil Resources

The dominant soils are Xerolls and Argids. They are well drained and moderately fine textured to fine textured and have a mesic temperature regime. Deep, rolling to hilly Argixerolls (Gem, Simas, and Tub series) are on uplands. Shallow, gently sloping to steep, stony Argixerolls (Ruckles series) are on uplands underlain by basalt. Moderately deep, sloping to very steep Haploxerolls (Loveline series) is on uplands. Nearly level to sloping Durargids (Madras and Lookout series) are on plateaus. These soils have a duripan.

Central Rocky and Blue Mountain --This unit lies between Oregon's Blue and Wallowa Mountains and the northwestern Snake River Plain. This unit is 389,206 Foothills - Warm Dry Blue and characterized by rangeland soils on hills and mountains associated with basalt and exposed tuffaceous Seven Devils Mountain Foothills sediments. The combined masses of the Cascade Range and the Blue and Wallowa Mountains block any maritime influence, creating a continental climate. As a result, plants are subject to wide temperature ranges, high evapotranspiration, and high early-season moisture stress. The dominant soils are Brogan, Simas, Ruckles and Ruclick soil series.

Water Resources

The reservoirs in Adams County include: Lost Valley, built in 1908 with a capacity of 10,000-acre feet and later increased; C. Ben Ross, built in 1936, with 7,780-acre feet; Goose Lake with 5,300-acre feet, and Brundage Reservoir, rebuilt in 1988 to a capacity of 7,300-acre feet. Other smaller reservoirs in Adams County are Fish Lake, Hornet Reservoir and Twin Lakes. There are many other smaller unnamed reservoirs and ponds used for irrigation and livestock water. In a few areas, water is pumped from streams and wells for irrigation. There are also sources of hot water springs that could be developed for geothermal uses in the county.

Surface waters supply wildlife habitat as well as irrigation water, mainly in the form of flood irrigation, to the majority of the irrigated acres within the District. Demands on surface waters are high throughout the irrigation season which is generally June 1 to October 1.

There has been an increase in ground water demand in recent years, mostly due to rural subdivision of lands and the associated wells for home sites. New irrigation wells have also been established.

Nearly all the streams in the ASWCD experience seasonal flooding. The frequency and intensity seem to have increased in recent decades. However, many of these streams historically have had a “flashy” nature whereby there are often short, high intensity, spring run-off seasons, occasional summer floods or winter rain on snow events. Generally, reservoirs have been able to fill despite the unpredictable snow pack and associated runoff. This may change with prolonged droughts and unpredictable runoff seasons due to climate changes.

Flood irrigation diversions, farming practices and livestock presence sometimes result in man-

caused sediment, bacteria and higher in-stream temperatures. However, streams in lower elevation areas naturally have been subject to higher summer air temperatures and many streams have naturally occurring rock outcrops that hold heat and cannot support tree cover to shade the streams. Best Management Practices such as protecting riparian buffers, minimizing in-stream disturbances and limiting livestock use along streams during the growing season will have a positive long-term effect on water quality and quantity.

Water Quality & Quantity

Adams Soil and Water Conservation District has accepted the responsibility inherent to Districts for addressing agricultural non-point source pollution as set forth in the 1987 Water Quality Act - Section 319; the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1986; and the Clean Water Act of 1972 - Anti-degradation Program. The Adams SWCD accepts this responsibility in order to preserve a locally administered voluntary approach for control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution to protect and enhance the quality and value of water resources in the State of Idaho.

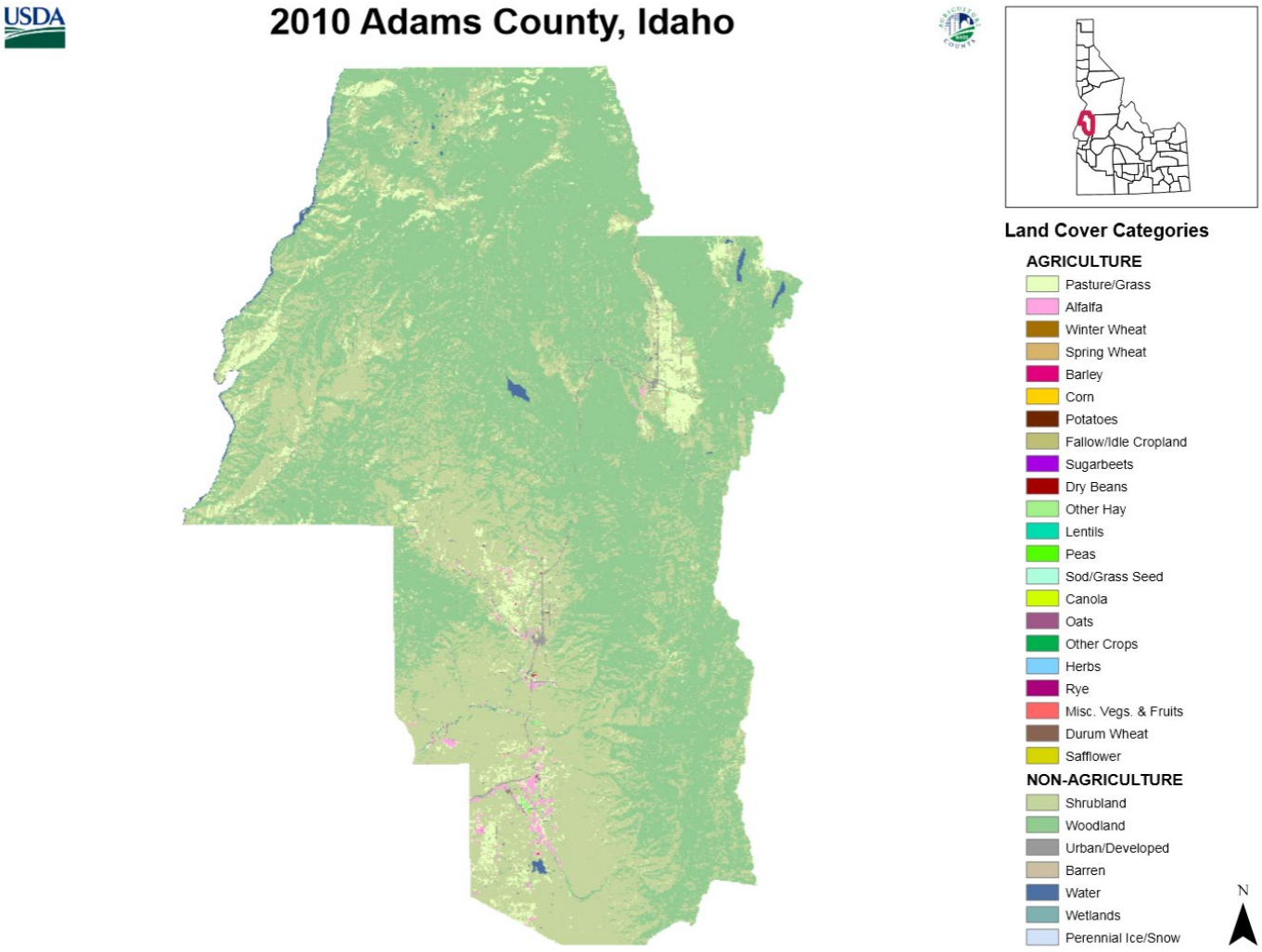
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has worked with local Watershed Advisory Groups (WAG) across the state to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads for streams listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act and Water Quality Act. Once the TMDLs are established for the pollutants listed, an Agriculture Implementation Plan is developed. These implementation plans are developed by the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission. Many of the impaired streams within the Adams SWCD have both TMDLs and Ag Implementation Plans developed. Work on the remaining streams is on-going and Adams SWCD is assisting as needed to ensure these plans are feasible.

Subasin	Water Body	Impairment	Unit Size
Hells Canyon	Deep Creek	Copper	6.8 Miles
Weiser	Grays Creek	E. Coli	45.7 Miles
Weiser	Middle Fork Weiser River	E. Coli, Fish Bioassessments	8.7 Miles
Brownlee Resevoir	Oxbow Resevoir	Mercury, Phosphorus, Sedimentation, Temperature, DDD, DDE, DDT, Dieldrin, Dissolved Gas	1106.2 Acres
Brownlee Resevoir	Hells Canyon Resevoir	Mercury, Temperature, Dissolved Gas	2510.2 Acres
Hells Canyon	Snake River - HC Dam to Sheep Creek	Mercury, Temperature, Dissolved Gas	17.9 Miles

Adams District Water Bodies Listed as "Not Supporting" (305b)

Subasin	Water Body	Parameter	Unit Size
Little Salmon	Mud and Little Mud Creeks	Temperature, Phosphorus, E. Coli, Physical Substrate Habitat Alterations	21.2 Miles
Little Salmon	East Branch Goose Creek	Sedimentation	8.1 Miles
Little Salmon	West Branch Goose Creek	E. Coli, Flow Regime Modification	5.5 Miles
Little Salmon	Big Creek	Flow Regime Modification	4.4 Miles
Weiser	Weiser River - Hornet Creek to Little Weiser River	Phosphorus, E. Coli	24.3 Miles
Weiser	Little Weiser River - Rangeland and Grays Creek to Mouth	Temperature	37.5 Miles
Weiser	North Crane Creek Watershed (goes into Washington County)	Debris, E. Coli, Sedimentation, Temperature	186 Miles
Brownlee Resevoir	Wildhorse River including Crooked River (1st and 2nd order)	Temperature	97.5 MIles
Brownlee Resevoir	Bear and Lick Creeks (1st and 2nd order)	Temperature	95.9 MIles

Other Resources



Forest Lands

Slightly more than half of the land in Adams County is forested. However, forest cover types exist primarily at elevations above 4000 feet. Furthermore, Landsat data estimates 53% of the forested land in the District is within the Payette National Forest and 5% is managed by Idaho Department of Lands. According to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, only 7.4% of the private land in the district is described as woodland. The most represented forest cover type is Ponderosa Pine, occupying 20% of the total land area, followed by mixed xeric forest at 16.4%.

Fish and Wildlife Resources

Adams County is home to hundreds of wildlife species, from small mammals, reptiles and songbirds to game birds, large carnivores and ungulates. The many streams and reservoirs support a variety of native and introduced fish species. Local landowners have participated in a working group to help conserve habitat for the Greater Sage-grouse. The southern part of Adams County is home to a shrinking sage-grouse population and is part of the West Central Sage-grouse Planning Area. There are Endangered Species Act listed fish species in several drainages in the District.

District Operations
Priorities and goals

District Operations

- Promote awareness of District activities to encourage financial and social support for the District (see funding sources, p. 15)
- Keep other local elected officials informed of district activities
- Comply with State statutes by completing all required reports in a timely manner
- Provide grant administrative services to the Adams CWMA as requested
- Recruit, retain and educate Supervisors and associate members
    - Provide training for all supervisors and administrative staff in order to be more knowledgeable and effective concerning conservation and district operations
    - Require that all supervisors read and understand the Supervisor Handbook and attend regular monthly meetings
- Annually complete effective and efficient operations including budgeting, accounting, personnel management, training and development, annual planning and reporting.
- Support district operations by ensuring adequate financial support from all possible sources

Water Quality/Quantity

- Work to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the State's waters as stated in the Clean Water Act
- Improve water quality/quantity within the district by encouraging Best Management Practices to address sediment, temperature and nutrient loads
- Provide and/or assist livestock producers with nutrient management technical resources
- Cooperate with other agencies to administer grants or other funding for projects that help improve water quality (such as §319 grant program)
- Compile list of eligible uses for §319 grant funds and encourage applications
- Coordinate and implement restoration activities on private property through grant programs, use of volunteers and partnerships
- Research and report grant opportunities for irrigation districts to repair and update water delivery systems to improve irrigation efficiency

Public Outreach

- Develop various outreach systems to communicate with local producers and landowners
- Keep website and social media pages current with useful information
- Develop and distribute informational brochures and booklets targeting specific areas of the district (e.g. Little Salmon Watershed, Upper Weiser, etc.)
- Publish newsletters and newspaper articles to inform the public of District activities, programs and services
- Conduct, sponsor, or support youth conservation education programs
    - Continue to sponsor students to attend University of Idaho Natural Resources Camp and/or other youth education events
    - Continue to support rangeland educational programs with UI Extension, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and other partners
- Continue to partner with other Districts to produce the annual Soil Health Symposium
- Set up displays at public gatherings to increase district awareness and support

- Partner with the Cooperative Weed Management Area and Adams County Weed Control to co-sponsor information and education activities related to noxious and invasive weeds
- Provide information to local groups and organizations on District and NRCS activities
- Organize tours of proposed and implemented conservation projects and demonstration areas

Pasture and Haylands (irrigated and non-irrigated)

- Maintain and improve forage production for hay and grazing
- Disseminate information to landowners and cooperators about available conservation programs, practices and resources
- Continue to work with landowners or operators and NRCS to develop and implement conservation plans to reduce erosion on erodible cropland, rangelands, forests and pasture/hayland

Rangelands/Soil Erosion Control

- Maintain soil health and productivity with desirable plant species and cover
- Assist landowners and operators in priority erosion areas and encourage participation in EQIP, WHIP and other Farm Bill programs to use conservation measures to reduce erosion
- Promote improved management/BMPs of private rangelands and forest land
- Help disseminate information on noxious and invasive weeds to landowners and coordinate efforts with Adams CWMA

Trends, Needs & Strategies

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District

- Poorly planned residential development in agricultural areas
- Increased numbers of small acreage parcels
- Increased frequency and intensity of flood events
- Increased frequency, size and intensity of rangeland and forest wildfires
- Variable availability of federal, state and local funds for conservation
- A focus on water quality sometimes diverts attention from other conservation needs
- Increased paperwork and reporting requirements for grants in addition to regular district operations reporting and accounting
- Increased government regulations on agriculture (water quality, land use, etc.)
- Endangered species concerns
- Increase in invasive species such as annual grasses
- Climate change, drought and flooding
- Aging agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation diversions, canals, and measuring devices

Staffing Needs

- Half to three-quarter time (up to 25 hrs/week) conservation district administrative assistant
- Financial resources to retain an employee
- Technical assistant/project coordinator or manager/grant writer

Key Decision Makers

- Citizens in the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District
- Adams County Commissioners

- Planning and Zoning Commission
- State Legislators representing the Adams Conservation District
- U.S. Senators and Representatives
- Conservation District Supervisors

Annual Budget Needs

- The amount currently budgeted to carry out the plan of the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District is approximately $29,000 (not including grants for individual or special projects).
- The Adams SWCD projects that an annual budget of about $34,000 is generally adequate and the difference is made up by grant administration fees.
- These amounts do not reflect the value of services provided by the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission for engineering and technical assistance to the District.

Strategies to Address Trends

- Provide more education/information to the public, including more personal contact in addition to publications or other types of outreach
- Explore opportunities to coordinate outreach activities with traditional and non-traditional partners
- Raise awareness of conservation values with state legislature and elected officials – help decision makers be better informed
- Strengthen locally led efforts on conservation practices and BMPs
- Encourage supervisors to become more informed on current issues impacting working lands, Farm Bill programs and information from agencies instead of relying entirely on NRCS District Conservationist or SWC Technician
- Educate and work with County Planning and Zoning Commission to include natural resources in comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances
- Coordinate efforts with Adams Cooperative Weed Management Area for noxious and invasive weed control
- Solicit input to improve Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan
- Identify the most effective information methods to communicate with small-acreage landowners
- Educate landowners in best practices for forest and rangeland management
- Collaborate with other Districts to propose and implement cross-boundary projects
- Provide training for District Supervisors and staff
- Develop working relationships and coordinate efforts with other entities such as Flood Control District and irrigation districts
- Educate and assist landowners in creating firewise landscapes and resilient communities
- Develop a plan to promote creation, protection and enhancement of pollinator habitat

Priority Actions – 6 Months

Below is a summary of the priority actions needed to continue the 5-year plan of the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District based on the above information

Action	Begin Date	End Date
• Board of Supervisor review of Annual Plan/Five-Year	10/22	3/23
• Resource Conservation Business Plan priorities, actions and public comment	10/22	2/23
• Adopt and submit Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan	2/23	3/23
• Meet with County Commissioners for funding, start preparing budget	5/22	8/22
• Meet with landowners to determine needs	Ongoing	10/22
• Begin list of District conservation needs	4/22	12/22

Mission of the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District:

> To use the educational, fiscal and technical resources at our disposal to assist landowners, especially agricultural producers, in putting voluntary resource conservation into practice on the ground.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District:

- Water Quality issues; TMDL development and agricultural implementation plans
- Water Conservation; irrigation development and management
- Rural subdivision of private ranches, range and forest lands
- Increasing restrictions on grazing use of public lands
- Restrictions on National Forest uses
- Invasive species
- Endangered species
- Climate change: Drought, flooding, wildfire

Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed:

- Apply for additional 319 grant for Weiser River Basin stream restoration
- Apply for grant to assist Adams County in replacing aging/undersized culverts causing resource degradation
- Launch pollinator garden project in partnership with school districts and other cooperators
- Purchase no-till drill to assist local agriculture producers in improving soil health
- Continue support of Farm Bill Programs through NRCS
- Assist WAGs within the District with administrative support and participation
- Assist with rangeland educational projects with UI Extension, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and other partners
- Continue to partner with NRCS and the Payette, Ada, Canyon and Malheur SWCDs to produce the annual Soil Health Symposium

Funding Sources & Opportunities for District Operations and Projects:

- Adams County
- State of Idaho
- City of Council
- City of New Meadows
- 319 grant funds
- Other grants
- Private donations
- Adams CWMA grant administration

Conservation District Priority 1: District Operations

Objective: Increase public awareness of the District and available programs, increase funding to support operations, and meet all statutory reporting requirements.

Goal(s): Increase effectiveness of district board and awareness of district operations and programs.
Bring additional funding due to increased awareness and support.
Use any additional funding support to increase hours for Administrative Assistant to carry out additional programs and projects.

Actions	**Target Date**	**Individual(s) Responsible**
Schedule and hold monthly board meetings; attend Division III meetings and annual conference	Monthly	Chairman, Admin Asst, All Supervisors
Develop and submit conservation district annual plans of work / revised five-year plans and letters of intent, performance reports, match reports and financial reviews to the state commission	As Due	Chairman, All Supervisors, Admin Asst
Continue outreach through in-person presentations, news articles, website, information displays, pamphlets and e-newsletters	Ongoing	All Supervisors, Admin Asst.
Develop Partnerships with other resource agencies (USFS, DEQ, IDWR, IDFG, etc) to get conservation message to all residents and implement on-ground projects with landowners in the District	Ongoing	SWCD Supervisors
Outreach/Education including meeting with County Commissioners, Federal, State & Local representatives, beef school, local schools, FFA or ag classes, county fair, other public outreach opportunities	Annually	Chairman, Admin Asst, Supervisors as available

Conservation District Priority 2: Water Quality/Quantity

Objective: Improve water quality/quantity by specifically addressing impacts due to sediment and temperature. Implement watershed projects for TMDL streams.
Goal(s): Work to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the State's waters as stated in the Clean Water Act.

Actions	**Target Date**	**Individual(s) Responsible**
Apply for additional 319 funding from DEQ for Weiser River basin	July 2022	SWC, Chairman
Ongoing implementation of TMDLs. Continue planning efforts with agricultural producers within the various watersheds.	Ongoing	District Supervisors, SWC tech, Admin Asst., DEQ
Outreach to landowners in Meadows Valley to assess conservation needs	2022	All District Supervisors
Make water jet available to landowners and encourage use of volunteers to plant riparian woody vegetation	Ongoing	Chair, admin, all supervisors
Assist landowners with improvements to irrigation diversions and other best management practices to improve irrigation efficiency	Ongoing	All District Supervisors

Conservation District Priority 3: Public Information, Education & Outreach

Objective: Increase public awareness of the District and of conservation practices or programs available to improve natural resources
Goal(s): Encourage landowners to use District resources

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Improve communication with partners and other agencies	Ongoing	Supervisors, Admin Asst.
Publish newsletters/ E-newsletters to disseminate info on district activities	At least twice per year	Admin, Asst, Chair, Supervisors
Write occasional articles for local papers on District	Ongoing	Supervisors
Retain/Train board members or recruit new board members	Ongoing	Chair, District Board
Create and maintain a district website and social media site	Ongoing	Supervisors, Admin Asst.

Conservation District Priority 4: Pasture & Hayland

Objective: Maintain and improve forage production for hay and grazing
Goal(s): Use BMPs to improve management techniques, irrigation efficiency, prevent loss of soil and acreage

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Complete conservation plans for landowners for irrigated/non-irrigated croplands	Ongoing	District, NRCS, SWC
Get information to landowners about available practices and programs	Ongoing	NRCS, District Board
Encourage use of filter & buffer strips and field borders along streams and rivers, especially on 303d listed streams. Utilize Farm bill, CRP, and DEQ program funding to increase participation.	Ongoing	Supervisors, NRCS, SWC,
Organize a tour of BMPs installed (fish screens, plantings, etc)	TBD	Chair, Admin, Supervisors

Conservation District Priority 5: Rangelands/Soil Erosion

Objective: Maintain productivity, desirable plant species & cover and prevent soil erosion
Goal(s): Get best production through BMPs

Actions	**Target date**	**Individual(s) Responsible**
Partner/participate with Adams CWMA and Adams County Weed Control in informational tours and programs; get noxious weed info out to landowners	Annually	Chair, all Supervisors
Encourage landowners to do conservation planning and work with NRCS or other sources to plan and implement grazing rotations and other management	Ongoing	All supervisors
Use all available programs to assist cooperators/landowners to make and maintain resource improvements	Ongoing	All supervisors, NRCS