WEISER RIVER SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

City of Weiser Intake Restoration Project

847 East 9th Street
Weiser, Idaho 83672

Resource Conservation Business Plan
July 1, 2022-June 30, 2027

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Executive Summary

The Five-Year Plan is a statement of facts, objectives, and policies of the Weiser River Soil Conservation District (WRSCD); hereafter referred to as the "District".

The Weiser River Soil Conservation District Five-Year Plan is the guide for its operations within the next five years. It identifies the major resource needs, objectives, goals, and activities. The District will act as a catalyst to bring people and programs together, to bring about a quality way of life, a quality resource base, and a quality environment. The program includes the annual work plan, annual report, and future goals.

December 22, 2016 marked the Weiser River Soil Conservation Districts 75th Anniversary. The Weiser River Soil Conservation District was organized by farmers and ranchers within its boundaries on December 22, 1941. Originally, the Weiser River Soil Conservation District included only the area in Washington County drained by the Weiser River. In May of 1971, the remaining area in the County was annexed into the District. It is a legal subdivision of the State of Idaho, in accordance with Idaho State Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, of the Idaho Code, as amended. It was formed to provide local leadership in the conservation development and productive use of soil, water, and related resources. The District includes all of Washington County, except the corporate limits of the Cities of Cambridge and Midvale.

The District is governed by a seven-person board of Supervisors elected by the local people. They serve without pay and are responsible for coordinating all conservation activities being carried on in the District. Regular monthly meetings are held. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure an adequate natural resource base for present and future generations in the Weiser River Soil Conservation District. Current District Supervisors are:

* Rodney Panike-Chairperson
* Mardean Chandler-Vice Chairperson
* Vickie Ford Turnbull-Secretary/Treasurer
* Colten Chandler-Member
* Dillon Laan-Member
* John Winegar-Member
* Douglas Newbold-Member

Vicki Lukehart-District Office Manager

History of Weiser

(Courtesy of the Washington County Website)

The 9thTerriitorial Legislature of Idaho passed an act in 1879 creating the 11th County of Idaho from the southwestern part of Idaho County and the northern part of Ada County. The new County was named Washington in honor of the First President of the United States.

The area embraced that territory now included in Washington and Adams Counties. Weiser Bridge (today known as Weiser) was designated as the County seat. Adams County was created from the north part of Washington County in 1911.

The area was first visited by white men in 1811, when Wilson Price Hunt and McDonald McKenzie, with four companions, passed through on the way to Astoria. In 1818, they came back with a crew of trappers. They spent some time catching beavPer along the Weiser River. (Named after Peter Weiser, a member of the Lewis and Clark part)). At the confluence of Weiser and Snake rivers in December 1811, the parties of Wilson Price Hunt and Ramsey Crooks were reunite, after they had traveled across Idaho on opposite sides of the Snake River.

Stopped by the Seven Devils Mountains, they both turned back to the Weiser River at about the same time. Hunt's party built "bull boats" to cross the Snake River in order that the two groups might continue the trip together. They secured a Snake Indian to guide them the remainder of the way to the Columbia River. Hunt had been commissioned by John Jacob Astor to make an overland trip from St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River, in search of suitable locations for the establishment of a number of fur trading posts. It was on this trip that he gained the distinction of being the first white man to lead an expedition through southern Idaho. He and his men were the first to pass over the route later known as the Oregon Trail.

In 1863 the Idaho Territorial Legislature granted a license to operate a ferry to R.P. Olds, across the Snake River IO miles below the mouth of the Weiser River. The crossing was known as Olds Ferry).

Three forts were constructed in the vicinity of Weiser: The first on Hull Hill with Sol Jefferies as captain: the second on Mann Creek, called Saling Fort, with John Saling as captain; the third, Galloway Fort on the Weiser River, four miles east of Weiser.

In the spring of 1866. a company started what they called a "fast freightliner" from Umatilla to Olds Ferry. It featured the steamboat "Shoshone", built to operate between Weiser and a point on the Snake River midway between Boise and Silver City. It operated profitably until a stage line from Kelton, Utah to Boise City took the business.

In 1869, John Cuddy established the first flour mill in Washington County. In 1884, the Oregon Short Line (now known as the Union Pacific Railroad) reached Weiser. In 1899, the second railroad come, the P&IN RR was built in the Weiser River Valley from Weiser to Meadows Valley. Galloway became the first postmaster. Not long thereafter, Robert Moreland set up a gristmill, and by 1870 a settlement had taken form. Weiser Bridge was the original destination of the hamlet, but as it grew the name Weiser Bridge'· was dropped and it becameknown as "Weiser City." The first newspaper was started in the summer of 1882.

In 1887, Weiser City became incorporated as a village and the word "City", was dropped. The railroad depot was located west of the original town site about a mile. The '·new town,'" as it soon became known, was started and the original town site came to be called "the old town". In June of 1890, a disastrous fire burned down a large part of the original business center and the newer town site began to get the upper hand.

In 1904, a bridge was built across the Snake River.

COUNTIES AND COMMUNITIES

The Weiser River sub-basin consists of approximately 1,079,143 acres and includes all or part of the established communities of Weiser, Midvale, Cambridge and Council as well as several associated rural agricultural areas. Portions of two counties fall withing the Weiser River Subbasin boundary. Washington County of the southern end accounts for three of three of the communities (Weiser, Midvale and Cambridge) and approximately fifty sever percent of the total subbasin acreage. Forty-three percent of the subbasin is in Adams County, which includes the community of Council (Figure4).

The county boundaries are also consistent with the Soil Conservation District (SCD boundaries. While Adams County residents are served by the Adams SCD, the SCD that serves Washington County residents is referred to as the Weiser River Soil Conservation District.

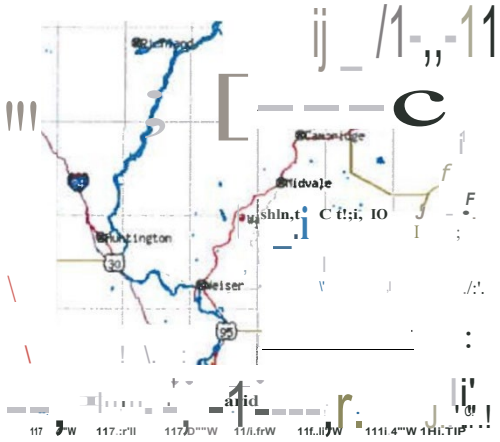
Figure 4. Weiser River Subbasin Counties and Communities

Weiser River Soil Conservation District Conservation Partners

The following agencies have worked with the Weiser River SCD to help carry out the Five Year Resource Conservation Business Plan. They have in the past participated in tours, workshops, information and education meetings, as well as being a partner in seeking funds for District grant projects.

Bureau of Land Management
City of Weiser
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Power
Lower Weiser River CWMA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Payette National Forest
Pheasants Forever
Southwest Idaho RAC (Idaho Dept. of Forestry)
University of Idaho
Washington County Farm Bureau
Weiser River Watershed Advisory Group
Washington County Commissioners
Weiser Irrigation District

Section 1: Physical Characteristics of the District



Washington County was established in 1879 when Idaho was a territory. It was named after President George Washington. Cities located within the County are: Weiser, Midvale and Cambridge, with Weiser being the County Seat.

Land Area: 1,474 sq miles of which 1,456 sq miles or 98.83% is land.

- Washington County is one of the largest onion producing counties in Idaho. The County has an agricultural economy based chiefly on row crops, hay and livestock.
- Major crops include hay, silage, onions, wheat, sugar beets, potatoes, com, barley beans and specialty crops.
- Ranching and farming is one the major industries of the area. Average size of farms is 954 acres.
- The County is 55% urban and 47% rural.

Water Area: 17.3 sq. miles is water or 1.17%. There are two main rivers within the County and four major reservoirs.

- Snake River
- Weiser River
- Brownlee Reservoir
- Crane Creek Reservoir
- Mann Creek Reservoir
- Paddock Valley Reservoir

Climate:
Washington County climate is characterized as semi-arid. Air temperatures range from 20 degrees F. in winter to 90 degrees F. in the summer. Average annual precipitation ranges from 10-12 inches a year. These variables in temperature are due to different elevations within Washington County. The lowest elevation is the City of Weiser with the highest elevation being Cambridge.

Occasional flooding occurs along the Weiser River during spring snow melt. Unpredictable flooding has occurred where there is a large storm event and can occur at any time throughout the year.

Geology and Topography:
The land in the northern part of Washington County is mainly mountainous with many rivers and streams running through it. It is known for the picturesque Hells Canyon with the Snake River flowing through. Through the central part of the County runs the Little Weiser River which flows into the Weiser River. The Weiser River flows through the cities of Cambridge, Midvale and Weiser where it eventually flows into the Snake River.

Washington County

IDAHO

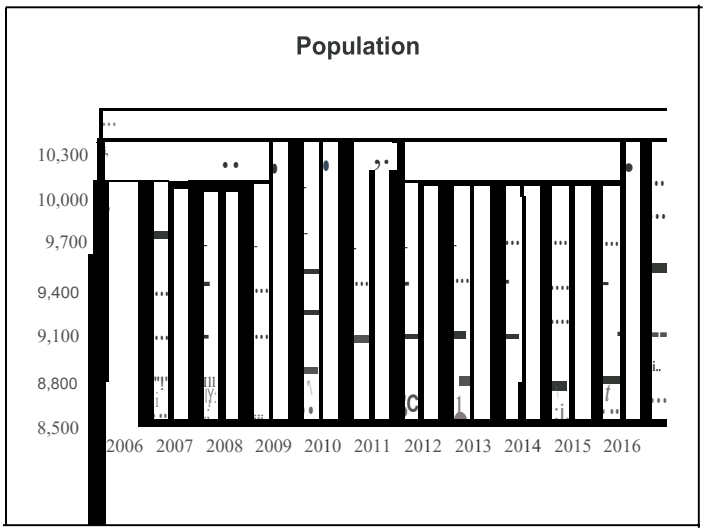
January 2018

Workforce Trends

Population

Washington County ranks 29th in area among Idaho's 44 counties. Its population began to decline in 1999 as some residents left to seek jobs in more diversified economies. But after the 2001 recession, the population began growing consistently, albeit slowly, into 2010. Since then the population began to decline again. In 2014, the county saw the first population increase since 2010, gaining 67. In 2016, the county experienced a 1.5 percent growth, adding 147 people resulting in a population of 10,172. The current level is the highest since 2010.

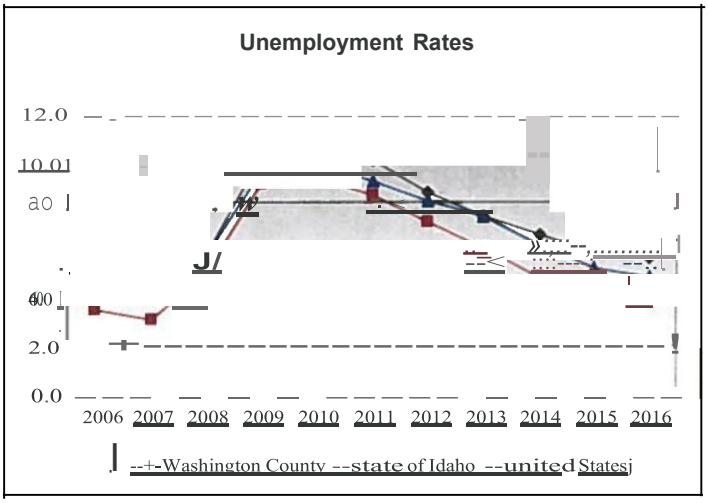
Weiser is the largest city in the county. In 2016 the population increased by 104 to 5,397 people.



Labor Force & Employment

With the exception of 2009, when it gained 276 people, Washington County's labor force has either declined or remained roughly stable over the past decade. Between 2015 and 2016, the labor force declined by 21 people to 4,557. The county's unemployment rate continued to decline from its peak in 2010 to 5.7 percent in 2016.

Over the past year it has been a mixture of jobs growth and job loss as the county only gained an average of 4 covered jobs in 2016. There was growth in manufacturing but it could not offset the losses in health care. The losses were not from just one firm but a decline of a few jobs in most of the businesses. Construction continued to lose jobs in 2016.



Labor Force	Dec 16	Dec 17
Civilian Labor Force	4,525	4,605
Total Employment	4,290	4,412
Une111>loyed	235	194
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	4.2
State of Idaho % Une111>loyed	3.6	2.9
U.S. % Unelll)loyed	4.7	4.1

For the decade though, the county is down 229 covered jobs. Construction led the way, losing 86 jobs. Six other sectors lost jobs ranging from 35 in financial activities to 58 in leisure and hospitality.

Over the decade, agriculture added 26 jobs closely followed by government with 24. Educational and health services added 11 jobs and other services jobs are up 19.

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	4,953	4,687	4,646	4,922	4,725	4,733	4,783	4,767	4,589	4,578	4,557
Unemployment	223	198	269	488	488	462	403	353	305	269	258
% of Labor Force Une111>loyed	4.5	4.2	5.8	9.9	10.3	9.8	8.4	7.4	6.7	5.9	5.7
Ermloi,ment	4,729	4,489	4,376	4,433	4,238	4,271	4,380	4,414	4,284	4,308	4,299

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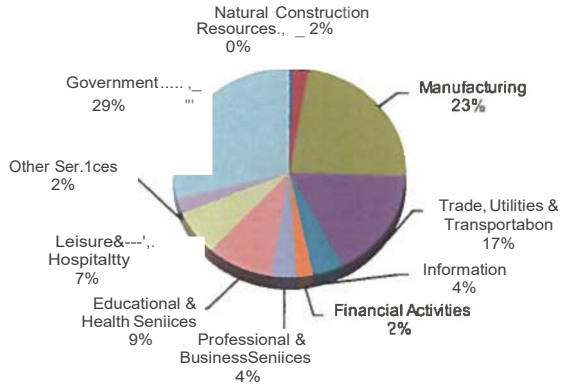
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



Major Employers
Appleton Produce
City of Weiser
Champion Home Builders
Hometown Ford
Cambridge School District
Weiser Memorial Hospital
Ridley's
Washington County
Midvale School District
Weiser School District

Southwest Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Bank Teller	$10.53	$12.46
Bookkeeper	$12.19	$16.80
Retail Salesperson	$8.35	$10.91
Nursing Assistants	$10.38	$12.19
Truck Driver	$12.76	$17.36
Farm Equipment Operators	$11.40	$15.76
Agicultural Workers	$8.11	$8.94
Shipping & Receiving Clerks	$10.01	$13.22
Construction Laborer	$9.87	$13.91
Carpenter	$12.38	$15.26

*Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at lmi.idaho.gov

Per Capita Income, Nonfarm Jobs & Wages

Washington County reported an increase of $323 in its per capita income in 2016, ranking it 26th among the 44 counties.

Government, including public education, continued to make up the largest portion of nonfarm employment with 29 percent. Manufacturing was next with 23 percent followed by trade, utilities and transportation at 17 percent.

Covered wages saw a small uptick in covered wages, $763. However, wages have increased 24 percent over the decade. Information covered wages Jumped 86 percent since 2006 to have a dramatic impact on total covered wages.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2006, 2015 & 2016	2006 Average Employment	2006 Average Wages	2015 Average Employment	2015 Average Wages	2016 Average Employment	2016 Average Wages
Total Covered wages	2,991	$24,181	2,759	$29,222	2,763	$29,985
.Agriculture						
Mining	238	$18,118	277	$24,951	264	$27,094
Construction	*	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Manufacturing	140	$23,287	68	$30,916	54	$30,287
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	619	$27,485	527	$30,778	583	$30,480
Information	468	$23,812	415	$31,234	417	$32,909
Financial Activities	109	$32,528	98	$59,675	110	$60,495
Professional and Business Services	86	$29,039	56	$37,889	51	$31,585
Educational and Health Services	128	$25,157	90	$29,304	86	$30,259
Leisure and Hospitality	221	$22,753	265	$22,225	231	$23,716
Other Servic;.es	232	$8,565	167	$10,812	175	$11,063
Government	36	$28,716	57	$20,292	55	$23,423
	713	$27,026	742	$31,076	737	$31,187

Per Capita Income	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Washington County	$36,924	$35,566	$33,955	$34,903	$36,166	$41,822	$41,085	$44,012	$45,807	$46,130
State of Idaho	$32,580	$33,031	$31,436	$31,726	$33,296	$34,695	$35,720	$37,186	$38,848	$39,470
United States	$39,821	$41,082	$39,376	$40,277	$42,461	$44,282	$44,493	$46,494	$48,451	$49,246

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IDAHO DEPARTMENT oa: LABOR

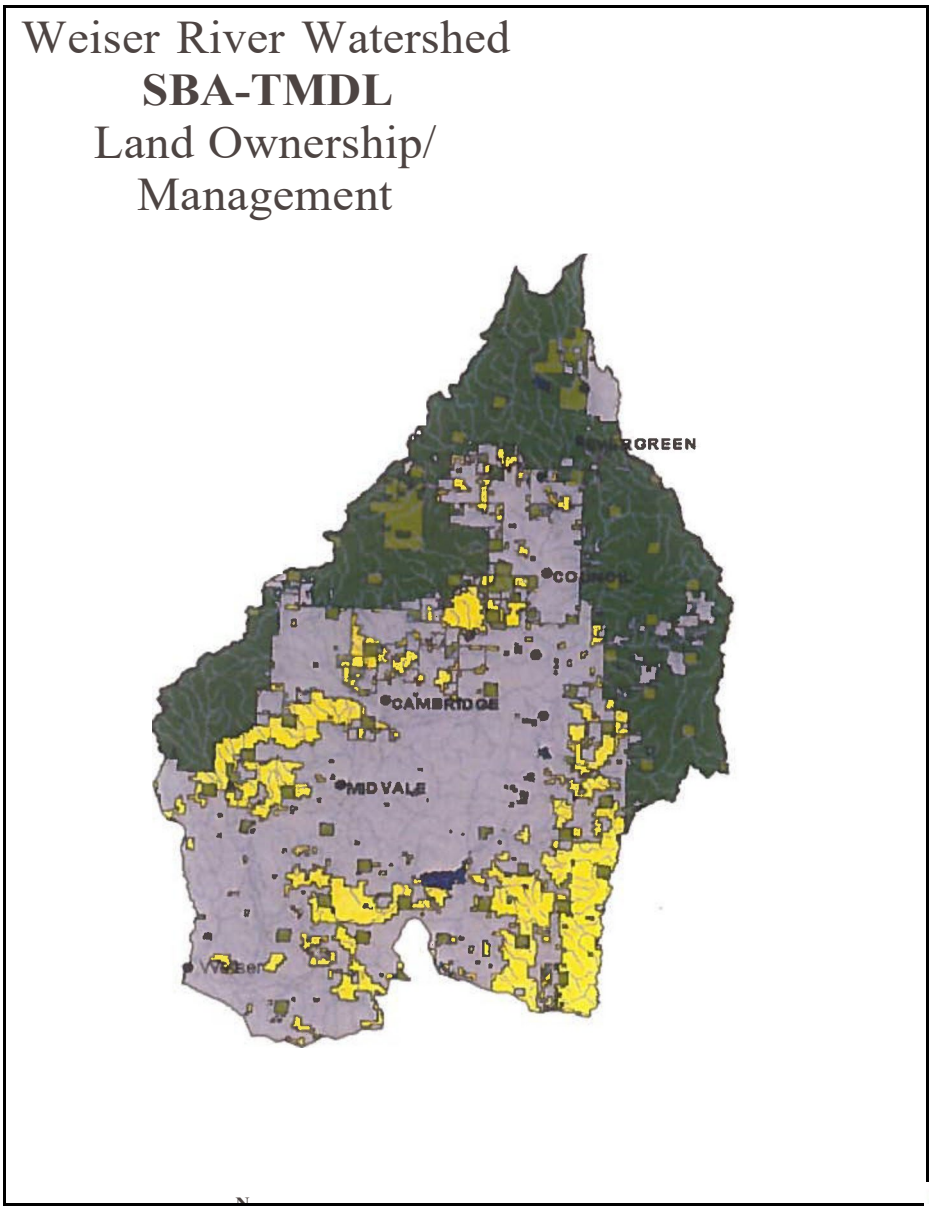
This county is served by the office listed below:
Idaho Department of Labor
501 N. 16th St., Suite 107
Payette, ID 83661-0179 Ph: (208) 642-9361

labor.idaho.gov

LAND OWNERSHIP AND LAND USE

Land ownership within the Weiser River subbasin is divided almost equally between private and public lands. Of the approximately 1,079,143 acres within the sub-basin 541,854 acres (50.2%) is privately owned, while 533,799 acres (49.5%} fall under public ownership (Table 3).

The majority of the publicly owned land consists of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land in the mountainous areas that surround the western, northern, and eastern portions of the subbasin. The land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) consists mostly of rangeland near the outer reaches of the valleys and foothills. Private landownership consists primarily of the private rangeland and irrigated agricultural lands adjacent to thewater bodies and drainages in the central portion of the subbasin (Figure 5).



Section 2: Assessment

Soil Resources:

Soil Erosion

Dry cropland use to contribute approximately 50% of the total agricultural soil loss in Washington County while irrigated cropland yields about 40% and pasture and hay-land supplies about 10%.
Washington County has approximately 50,000 acres of highly erodible land. Most is dry cropland that occurs in the uplands where steep slopes or shallow soils are the major limitations to cultivating crops. Soil erosion degrades the soil resource base as a medium for plant growth. Erosion results in a loss of soil, organic matter and commercial fertilizer. The effectiveness of pesticides is reduced along with the ability of the soil to intake and hold water. These effects are reflected in reduced yields, increased production costs and a loss of income. Soil erosion on surface irrigated project areas contribute to sedimentation of the Lower Weiser and Snake Rivers.
Over the past 30 years, the agricultural trend in the county has changed from small dairies with pasture and hay-land to intensive row cropped farming systems. Winter wheat, onions and sugar beets are the primary crops in rotation. Other crops produced include beans, silage com, sweet corn and potatoes. Pesticide and fertilizer use has steadily increased due to these changes.

Soil Quality

Implementation of conservation practices has long term benefits. Some of those benefits are increased soil health, benefits to water quality and wildlife habitat. Following are several of the practices currently being promoted by the Weiser River Soil Conservation District.

- Erosion control
- Irrigation water management
- Water quality (surface and ground water)
- Education and outreach
- Pasture and rangeland management
- Nutrient management

Water Resources:

Surface and Ground Water Supply and Demand

Controlling erosion not only sustains the long-term productivity of the land, but also affects the amount of soil, pesticides, fertilizer, and other substances that move into the nation's waters.

Surface water is a tremendous resource to the WRSCD. Without the surface water and stored reservoir water, the amount of irrigated agriculture in the District would be severely limited. The water also is important for recreation and fish and wildlife needs. There is a growing awareness of pesticide and fertilizer contamination of surface water, by the local farmer, ranchers and the general public.

There is a need for more education as to appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP's) to use in reducing sediment, nutrients and other potential contaminants in irrigation return flows and methods of control for stream channel erosion.

Flooding

A stream gage has been used for defining the Snake River frequently-discharge relationship. It has been operated from 1910 to the present and is located at the U.S. Highway 30N Bridge over the Snake River at Weiser.

The gage on the Weiser River near Weiser has several periods of discontinuous record from 1890 to 1952, with operation at the current site from 1952 to the present year. The gage on the Weiser River near Cambridge has been in operation from 1939 to the present year. The Weiser gage is located approximately 15 miles upstream from Weiser, and the Cambridge gage is located approximately 2 miles upstream from Cambridge.

Flooding (cont'd.)

Two types of flooding on the Weiser River affect the county in the vicinity of Weiser and Midvale. These are general rain/snowmelt floods and ice jam floods. Minor flooding occurs on tributaries annually and greatly adds to sediment and soil loss. Extensive damage has occurred to cropland, roads, bridges and buildings.

This year we received the Flood of 2017, with a great deal of damage. The Weiser River SCD has been requesting funds to address the control berms along the Weiser River. This has been a low priority to the IDEQ Basin Advisory group. We now have a small amount of funds and have partnered with the City of Weiser. We will work with helping to fund already existing projects that they began as a precautionary measure.

Surface Water Quality

See Section 5

Ground Water Quality Problems

- Arsenic in ground water exceeds the drinking water standards. Idaho DEQ attributes the elevated levels to the geology of the project area and considers the arsenic to be at natural or "background" levels for the area.
- This area ranks in the top 3 in priority concern for nitrates in the state. Trends from water quality testing conducted since 1991 indicate the problem is increasing and IDEQ considers the present ground water quality problems as a serious threat to the domestic drinking water supply for the project area residents who rely on private wells. The 2004 monitoring results indicate 53% of the 38 wells consistently sampled in the project area exceed 10 mg/L with a maximum value of 41 mg/L. The drinking water standard is 10 mg/L. The highest concentrations are northwest of Weiser and between Weiser and Crystal.
- The most likely sources of nitrogen within the project area are presented in Table B.

Table B. Major Sources of Total Nitrogen Input and Loss in the Project Area

Total N Source	Estimated%	Total N Loss	Estimated%
Precipitation	1	Crop Uptake	52
Fertilizer	54	Beef & Dairy Manure	31
Septic Systems	<1	Decomposition	17
Legumes	4		
Beef & Dairy Manure	40		
Total N Input 6,977,130 lbs.		**Total N Loss 5,733,869 lbs.**	
Net Increase= 1,243,261 lbs.			

The District is doing the following to address the issues:

1. Continue to seek funds to implement projects through state agencies.
2. Educating landowners of better management practices.
3. Being interactive with our community.
4. All of the above have proven very effective.

Water Quality Assessment Background

Ground water near Weiser, Idaho has been degraded by nitrate leaching. Domestic wells show elevated nitrate levels close to, or above, the national minimum standards. Nitrate leaching to ground water can occur from several sources, including irrigated agriculture. Approximately 26,000 acres near Weiser are farmed using surface furrow irrigation. Furrow irrigation is recognized as the least efficient method of applying water to crops. In addition, some crops in the area, such as onions, have historically used high amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. The combination of furrow irrigation and high nitrogen application often results in nitrate runoff or nitrate leaching.

In 2001, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality announced the Weiser aquifer as the number one nitrate priority area in Idaho. In 2010, it was designated third in the state. With the assistance of the IDEQ, a county advisory committee was formed to develop a ground water management plan. The Weiser River Soil Conservation District applied for and received funding to do a demonstration project to install best management practices, such as drip and surge irrigation, along with sediment ponds and filter strips.

The U of I extension office introduced a demonstration project to evaluate the effectiveness of using soil moisture sensors and monitors. The goal was to help growers schedule irrigations more efficiently, prevent crop disease loss, and reduce soil and nutrient loss. included sugar-be ts and onions. Results from this demonstration project are still used for in classes, conferences, and in reports.

Historically many growers in the Weiser area, used excessive amounts of nitrate fertilizer, especially for onion production. At the conclusion of the 2004 season, growers were shown where water use was excessive and where there were opportunities for improvement. Soil and water tests also revealed locations of nitrate loss or leaching. As a result, two onion growers elected to reduce their 2005 nitrate applications from 300 pounds per acre to 150 pounds per acre. Another onion grower used soil sensors and monitors on his drip irrigated onions to schedule irrigations more efficiently. The resulting yields were among the highest that particular field has produced. The soil moisture sensors and monitors also showed growers where they had inadequate water for optimum crop production. These growers are converting to surge and drip irrigation so they can make optimum use of the water allocation they do have. The IDEQ has installed monitoring wells so nitrate levels can be measured and then compared to improve farming practices and reduced farm inputs.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Weiser Soil Conservation District, Washington County Extension, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Washington County Ground Water Quality Committee, and Weiser growers continue to collaborate on irrigation improvement projects.

Recently, the Weiser River Soil Conservation District has completed the installation of the Weiser Streambank Restoration Project in conjunction with the City of Weiser. The Payette Ditch Wetland Project (where it is confluent with the Weiser River), the Cove Creek Wetland off of Cove Road and the Smith/Hemmingway on the Weiser Flat. The Cove Creek Wetland is confluent with the Weiser River at Cove Creek. The wetland has been installed along with fencing and planting. The Smith/Hemmingway wetland and the Warm Springs Wetland has also been completed. The District secured 319 funding through IDEQ and was able to automate several head-gates, which proved to be very successful this past year with a drought. The water savings allowed the Galloway Ditch to distribute water 30 days longer than anticipated. In 2017 the District applied for funds to remove the sediment bar close to the City of Weiser intake, the bar has been removed and bank stabilization is underway. Due to the 2017 flood over 9 levees have been repaired with bank stabilization underway there also. The District is now focusing on repairing the Galloway Dam outlet, built in 1918 due to corrosion. In 2019 the District applied for 319 grant funds to address the erosion issues along Monroe Creek. The District has begun work on this project in 2020.

Air Quality: (Cont'd)

- Air quality is worse during the fall when producers in Washington County and neighboring counties burn field stubble.
- Air Quality - Positive effect from tillage systems due to reduced suspended dust from wind erosion.
- Chemical Drift-encourage proper pest management in accordance with 1PM regulations.

Forest Lands, Grassland, Pasture, Hayland and Rangeland:

Forest Lands

- The riparian forest consists of mixed conifers and deciduous trees. The associated understory is comprised of grasses and brush species with inclusions of wetter areas.
- Soils are silt loams and clay loams that are shallow to deep, and can have low to high rock fragment content. They range from somewhat poorly to well drained.
- Average annual precipitation ranges from 18 to 35 inches.
- Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir habitat types are found at elevation ranges from 1,800 to 4,000 feet on a variety of soil types. Livestock grazing occurs during the summer and early fall period. Important wildlife species include elk, deer, moose, bear, raptors and songbirds.

Pasture and Hay/ands

Pasture management for forage production and livestock grazing is in lower elevation pastures as well as moderate elevation mountain valleys near Cambridge. Slopes vary from 0-7%. Irrigation consists of surface, sprinkler, non-irrigated (dryland), and riparian pasture. Surface irrigation can include concrete ditches with siphon tubes, but typically occurs with the use of earthen ditches or tarps on contour ditches. Sprinkler irrigation is less common and dJyland pasture can be found primarily in the higher elevation portions of the watershed. Precipitation in the pastureland portions of the watershed ranges from less than 12 inches to more than 26 inches annually. Typical forage species may be introduced, including wheat grasses, fescues, bromes, orchard grass and alfalfa. The older established. stands are of low vigor, with encroachment of invasive weed species. Management varies but typically includes continuous season-long grazing with below-optimum forage production. Nutrient, pest, and grazing management practices are limited. Livestock water is generally inadequate and may include free access to streams associated with pasture units. Adjacent riparian areas are important for wildlife habitat.

Conventional tillage is used when rotating pasture and grain. The average rotation is ten years of pasture and two years of small grain. Irrigation induced erosion is less than T but may exceed T during the grain rotation. Commercial fertilizers are occasionally applied but typically without soil testing or nutrient management. Animal waste deposited on the fields is harrowed on an irregular basis. Fencing and irrigation field ditches are generally existing practices.

Livestock utilization in riparian pastures is from late spring through fall. Typically, these pastures are adjacent to perennial or intermittent streams. Vegetation ranges from native grass/ sedge/rush complexes to improve forage species such as timothy, smooth brome grass, creeping meadow foxtail, orchard grass and clover.

Upland pastures are also present and located above flood plains on steeper, dissected hill sides or mountain sides. Vegetation is typically introduced species, such as orchard grass and smooth brome. Native species such as bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, pine grass, elk sedge and native shrubs and trees may be found at higher elevations along mountain sides. Most grazing animals are cattle, sheep and horses. Big gameutilize pasture for early spring and winter grazing. Wildlife includes elk, black bear, whitetail and mule deer, and moose.

Hayland

Upland pastures are also present and located above flood plains on steeper, dissected hill sides or mountain sides. Vegetation is typically introduced species, such as orchard grass and smooth brome. Native species such as bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, pine grass, elk sedge and native shrubs and trees may be found at higher elevations along mountain sides. The majority of grazing animals are cattle, sheep and horses. Big game utilize pasture for early spring and winter grazing. Wildlife includes elk, black bear, whitetail and mule deer, and moose.

Rotation typically consists of alfalfa hay (4-6 years) with grass hay (2 years) and spring oats. Slopes range from 0-30%. Conventionally tilled surface and sprinkler irrigated hayland on 0-7% slopes. Irrigation water is normally plentiful. Small grains and alfalfa hay are grown in rotation, with alfalfa typically maintained for 4 to 6 years. Grazing of crop aftermath may occur. Nutrient, pest, and irrigation water management may be less than desirable. Threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, artificial and natural wetlands, 303 (d) listed water bodies and groundwater sensitive areas are present.

Rangelands

Consists of low elevation desert to high elevation steep rangeland. Rangeland vegetation is characterized by sagebrush, rabbit brush, bitterbrush interspersed among perennial bunchgrasses and forbs. Some areas where fires or overgrazing have occurred exhibit problems with invasive species such as cheatgrass. Ecological status is typically less at lower elevations and improves with elevation.
Fencing is generally an existing practice. The typical planning unit is 640 acres. Riparian grazing units exhibit impacts to riparian vegetation and a loss of woody species. Riparian vegetation consists of grasses, sedges, rushes and a variety of woody species. Streams are primarily low gradient and depend on vegetation for lateral stability. The riparian rangeland areas are important habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife. Water quality is often a concern for sediment, temperature, and nutrients. Moisture for vegetative growth is primarily from high water tables and stream flows.

Livestock Production:

Coordinate with producers to install Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's) and pasture management: exclusion fencing, offsite watering, waste management facilities and riparian treatments.

Fish and Wildlife:

Fisheries management emphasis during the last decade or more in the Weiser River sub-basin and elsewhere in the region tended to be focused on salmonids due to their historic dominance, social value, and a general association with higher quality habitats. The presence of these species is generally considered an indicator of high quality aquatic ecosystems and habitats.

Assessments of native salmonids (steelhead trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss,* Chinook salmon, 0. *tshawytscha* and sockeye salmon, 0. *nerka)* across watersheds throughout the Columbia River Basin (ICBEMP 1997) suggest that the Weiser River sub-basin contained anadromous salmonid habitat and a high proportion of species strongholds relative to other sub-basins in the region. Many of the sub-watersheds within the sub-basin supported strong populations of one or more native species of non-anadromous salmonids, including populations with large fluvial (migratory) adults. The installation of the Hells Canyon complex of dams from the late 1950s through the late 1960s effectively eliminated anadromous salmonids from the Weiser River. Anadromous Pacific lamprey are also thought to be present in the Weiser River sub-basin prior to construction of the Hells Canyon Dam complex (NWPPC 2002).

Section 2: Assessment

Native Fish Include:

Shorthead sculpin *(Cottus confuses)*
Mottled sculpin *(Cottus bairdi)*
Longnose Dace *(Rhinichthys cataractae)*
Bull Trout *(Salvelinus confluentus*

Redband/rainbow trout *(Oncorhynchus mykiss*
Largescale sucker *(Catostomus macrocheilus)*

Wildlife listed for Washington County, Idaho as threatened, endangered or a species of concern are noted below. Not all of these species are likely to occur within the project area. Not all of these species have status under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but land management activities should consider impacts to their population status and long term viability.

Bald Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

- Bald eagles have been observed in the project area. The Weiser and Snake Rivers are considered wintering bald eagle habitat.

Animal Species of Concern

Northern Goshawk *(Accipiter gentilis)*
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse *(Tympanuchus phasianellus)*
Townsend's Western Big-eared Bat *(Corynorhinus townsendii)*
Pygmy Rabbit *(Brachylagus idahoensis)*

FY2022 (7/1/22-6/30/23) Annual Work Plan
Weiser River Soil Conservation District Annual Plan

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Serving Washington County

Mission of the Weiser River Soil Conservation District

To provide local leadership in the conservation development and productive use of soil, water and related resources. To act as a catalyst to bring people and programs together, to bring about a quality way of life, a quality resource base and a quality environment.

Trends & Issues Impacting Conservation in the Weiser River Soil Conservation District

- Meeting the rules, regulations, and requirements of Section 319 of the 1987 Water Quality Act, the 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act, and Amendments to the 1972 Clean Water Anti-degradation Act.
  Maintaining a productive soil conservation district while providing for public awareness of natural resources.
- Promotion of natural resource conservation to irrigated and dry cropland cooperators through facilitation of practice application and information and education activities

Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed by the Weiser River Soil Conservation District

- Weiser River Streambank Restoration Project was approved in 2018 and the work to remove the large sediment basin as removed. The bar was affecting the intake to the Weiser drinking water. IDEQ granted us a lesser amount of funds to work with the City of Weiser on the Restoration Project.
- The District has applied for and currently ranked #1 for the 2020 funding of 319 IDEQ projects. The Monroe Creek Bank Stabilization Project will bring restoration to the streambank erosion along Monroe Creek. This creek affects the Weiser and Snake River water quality. We are currently working with landowners to stabilize Monroe Creek Banks.

District Operations and Funding Sources

- Washington County
- City of Weiser
- 319 Grant Funds
- ISWCC

Weiser River Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices

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Weiser River Soil Conservation District

Priority Area Number 1: District Operations

Objective: To maintain, fund, and provide a viable District to land users, while promoting an effective education program.

Goal(s): Continually seek local and state funding in order to maintain and create District programs.

Actions for FY2022	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Plan and conduct twelve monthly board meetings. Send agendas and minutes beforehand for review and notify the public of monthly meetings.	Year Long	District
Supervisors assigned committees. Committees assigned January/February of each year.	Year Long	Board Members
Provide accurate record keeping and financial accountability by reconciling bank statements and preparing financial statement for review by board. Continually secure District funding with the support of city, county and pursuing grants.	Monthly	District Manager/Board Secretary/Treasurer
District Performance Plan, Annual Report of Accomplishments and Five-year Plan and Request for Assistance sent to ISWCC. As well as information requested as needed.	Yearlong	District
Develop and utilize a yearly educational program addressing the needs of the public. Organize tours as we complete a project. Request meetings with potential project partners.	Yearlong	District

Priority Area Number 2: Water Quality

Objective: Fulfill responsibilities for water quality projects in progress

Goal(s): To meet the rules, regulations, and requirements of Section 319 of the 1987 Water Quality Act, the 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act, and Amendments to the 1972 Clean Water Anti-degradation Act.

Actions for FY2022	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Be a local participant with the Weiser River Watershed Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group.	Year Long	District Manager/Technician and Board Members
Continue to seek projects that are in the high nitrate priority area. The District was ranked #1 high nitrate priority area in the state of Idaho and has now been lowered to #3.	Year Long	District Manager/Technician and Board Members
Complete the work on the Monroe Creek Stabilization Project. And any restoration projects that will enhance water health and quality.	Year Long	District manager/Technician and Board Members

Weiser River Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices

FY 2022 (7/1/22- 6/30/23 Annual Work Plan
Weiser River Soil Conservation District

iority Area Number 3: Irrigated and Non-Irrigated Cropland

Objective: Promote effective irrigated and non-irrigated cropland management techniques through economically feasible means

Goal(s): Promotion of natural resource conservation issues to irrigated and dry cropland cooperators. Facilitate practice application, and information and education activities.

Actions for FY2022	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Promote Best Management Practice (BMP's) installation to solve resource problems	Yearlong	District Board
Seek funding assistance for BMP's emphasizing the use of the EQIP or other programs through the NRCS	Year Long	NRCS
Host producer mtgs. to inform of improved technology and organize yearly public tours of the conservation practices as completed. Hold educational meetings, symposiums for landowners.	Year Long	District Board
Continue to develop Conservation Plans on irrigated and non-irrigated cropland	Year Long	NRCS/District

Priority Area Number 4: Rangeland

Objectives: To improve and maintain rangeland conditions while protecting natural resources

Goal(s): to protect soil, water, plant and animal resources on rangeland.

Actions for FY2022	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Be an active participant with the cooperative weed mgt. areas in the county.	Year Long	Board/NRCS
Develop conservation plans for rangeland cooperators.	Year Long	Board/NRCS
Utilize all available programs such as; EQIP to assist operators in making resource improvements. Educate on beneficial grazing management on special species of grass.	Year Long	Board/NRCS'

Weiser River Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices

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Weiser River Soil Conservation District

Priority Area Number 5: Animal Waste Management

Objective: To improve and maintain land conditions while protecting natural resources

Goal(s): To facilitate conservation efforts and education of livestock operators, for protection of water and air quality through improved animal waste management.

Actions for FY2022	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Continually seek updated information on AFO/CAFO's, ponds and streams. Work on aligning Washington County rules closer to state rules that are not as stringent, helping landowner's w/projects.	Year Long	Board
Promote Best Management Practice (BMP's)	Year Long	Board
Seek grant or loan funding as well as NRCS programs available.	Year Long	District
Conduct Supervisor Tours that include the public when needed for educational purposes.	Spring	District

Priority Area Number 6: Urban

Objective: To educate and promote agriculture and conservation practices within urban areas

Goal(s): Raise awareness within our urban communities of our natural resource issues and agriculture.

Actions for FY2022	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Provide cities with technical assistance and programs in addressing resource concerns	Yearlong	District
Create better urban awareness of District operations and programs	Year Long	District
Actively participate and seek opportunities to work with city officials addressing resource concerns	Year Long	District
Actively seek a liaison from county and city government to the WRSCD Board of Supervisors	Annually	District

Weiser River Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice