LEWIS SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
521 OAK ST. ROOM 8
NEZPERCE, ID 83543
208-937-2291 x 3

FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN & ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2013 – JUNE 30, 2018

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FORWARD

The Lewis Soil Conservation District (LSCD) is one of 50 Conservation Districts in the State of 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 programs 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 nonregulatory; 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 Five-Year Plan was developed to guide the Conservation District, and 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 Lewis 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 Lewis Soil Conservation District on March 10, 2014 does hereby approve the following document know as the Five- Year Plan. This plan will be in effect for a five year period ending June 30, 2018 during which time it is updated annually and or amended, as necessary.
As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do hereby affix our signatures to this document.

Eric Hasselstrom, Chairman

Greg Branson, Vice Chairman

John Miller, Secretary/Treasure

Drew Leitch, Member

Steve Bateman, Member

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

The following agencies work with the Lewis Soil Conservation District carrying out the Five-Year Plan. They participate in tours, workshops, and information and education meetings. They also provide technical assistance when the District needs information and are welcome to attend and contribute to the monthly LSCD meetings.

National Association of Conservation Districts
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho District Employees Association
Nez Perce Tribe
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Idaho Department of Agriculture
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
U. of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service
Lewis County Commissioners
U. S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Basin Advisory Groups
Watershed Advisory Groups
Winchester State Parks and Recreation
Clearwater RC& D
Farm Service Agency
Lewis County Weed Board
Cities of: Craigmont, Nezperce, Reubens, Winchester, and Kamiah
Public School Districts of: Highland, Nezperce, and Kamiah
News Media: Lewis County Herald, Lewiston Morning Tribune, and Clearwater Progress

Key Decision Makers

- **The elected District Board members:** Eric Hasselstrom – Chairman, Greg Branson – Vice Chairman, John Miller – Secretary/Treasurer, Drew Leitch – Member , Steve Bateman – Member
- **Lewis County Commissioners:** Carroll Keith – Chairman – Member - Greg Johnson Don Davis - Member
- **City of Nezperce elected official:** Mayor – Steve Bateman
- **City of Craigmont elected official:** Mayor – Roger Riggers
- **State Legislators representing District 6**– Senator Dan Johnson, Representative Thyra Stevenson, Representative John Rusche
- **The producers and citizens in Lewis County**
- **Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission**
- **Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation**

conserving natural resources *for our future*

Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan

July 1, 2013- June 30, 2018

Lewis Soil Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Eric Hasselstrom, 208-937-2291 ext 3

Organization of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The Lewis Soil Conservation District (LSCD) is a political subdivision of the State of Idaho charged under the authorities, powers and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code with the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources on Idaho's private land.
The LSCD was officially organized on June 17, 1941 and is governed by a board of locally elected officials. These five supervisors are unpaid and serve a minimum four year term. The LSCD encompasses Lewis County in North Central Idaho.

Function of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The function of the LSCD is to coordinate and deliver technical, financial, and educational assistance to landowners for responsible natural resources management that conserves and improves soil, water, air quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. Funding is provided primarily through county and state allocations with additional funds through grants. All District funds, regardless of source, are public funds and are accountable to the taxpaying citizens of Idaho.
The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) are principle sources of technical assistance provided to the District.

Who We Serve & Why

We serve the citizens of our community (county, state, country) to ensure the long term use of natural resources in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner using non-regulatory, voluntary approaches.
The LSCD provides technical assistance to landowners and operators in Lewis County in areas such as non-irrigated cropland, non-industrial private forestland and rangeland management. We strive to provide local leadership in the conservation development and productive use of soil, water and related resources to improve soil quality, soil health, water quality and long term sustainability of the land.
In addition to providing technical assistance to landowners in the district the other primary service is to inform and educate the public. We provide numerous educational programs to the schools with the District.

Mission of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The LSCD is dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.

Vision of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The LSCD works towards conserving and enhancing resources (soil, water, air, plants and animals) for the economic and environmental benefit of the present and future generations of Lewis County. The LSCD is recognized by all private landowners as a source of financial, technical and educational assistance in Lewis County, and by local, state and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities.

Values of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The LSCD values the resources of Lewis County. We are dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound best management practices. We promote clean water and productive soil. The District strives to ensure that local people make decisions on conservation problems at the local level.

The District supports and encourages the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) and Resource Management Systems (RMS) on agricultural lands within the District in an effort to control soil erosion and improve water quality. We value and have respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership. We 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.

Winchester Lake

It is important to protect our resources for our benefit and the benefit of future generations

Physical Characteristics of the District

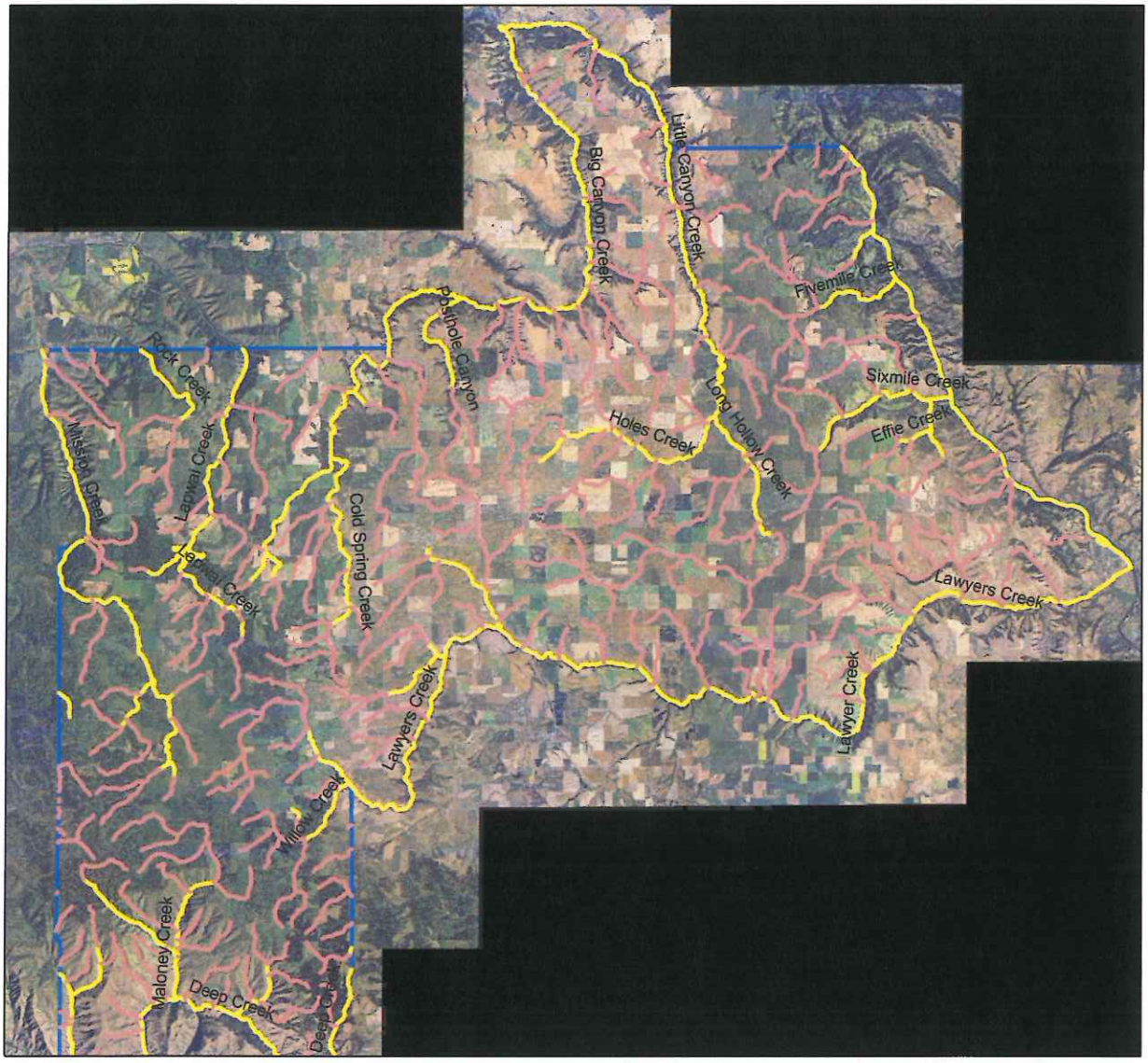
The cities located within the County are Nezperce, Craigmont, Kamiah, Winchester and Reubens.
Neighboring Counties are Nez Perce to the west, Clearwater to the north and Idaho the south
Lewis County consists of 480 square miles made up of private, federal, state and tribal lands. Most of Lewis Soil Conservation District is located within the Nez Perce Indian Reservation.
There are sixteen streams within Lewis County. All streams are tributaties of the the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers.

Critical Geographic Areas:
Lewis County is located on a high plateau sloping towards the east and south. Deep canyon bottoms form the north, east and south boundaries of the district making the area a distinct physiographic unit. The district is characterized by a moderately undulating to strongly rolling plateau that has been cut into blocks by deeply entrenched streams. Lewis County has approximately 93,000 acres of highly erodible cropland. Elevations vary from about 1,000 Mean Sea Level (MSL) along the Clearwater River to approximately 4,600 MSL at Mason Butte. Most of the plateau is approximately 3,000 to 3,500 feet elevation.
Slopes on the agriculture land rarely exceed 30 percent with the majority ranging from 5 to 15 percent.

Lewis Geology:
According to the USGS geology maps approximately 85% of Lewis County geology is basalt flows from the Middle Miocene flood-basalt flows forming from the Columbia River Plateau. These flows are characterized by fine crystalline rocks, often exposed on upper slopes. The Blue Mountain Complex flows, characterized by Quartz diorites and granodiorites, make up another 10% of the geology in Lewis County.

Field Office: Nezperce
Agency: NRCS

District: Lewis Soil Conservation District



Legend

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- perennialriversandstreams(061)
- LEWIS COUNTY

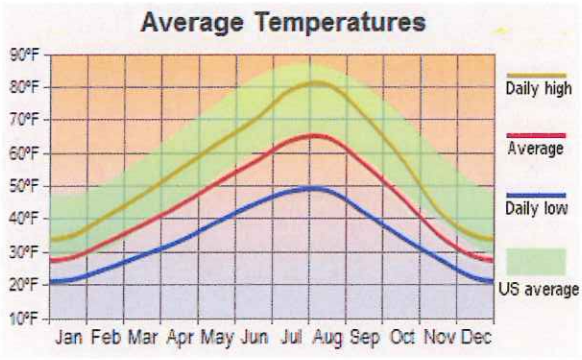
14,000 0 14,000 28,000 42,000 56,000
Feet

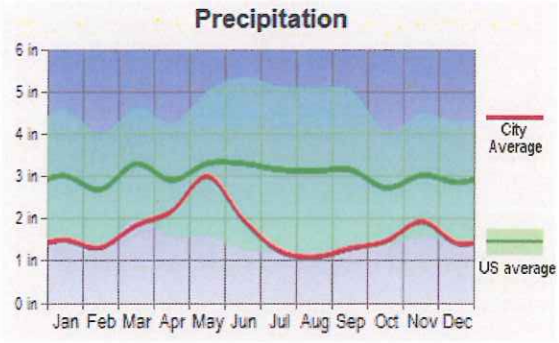
N

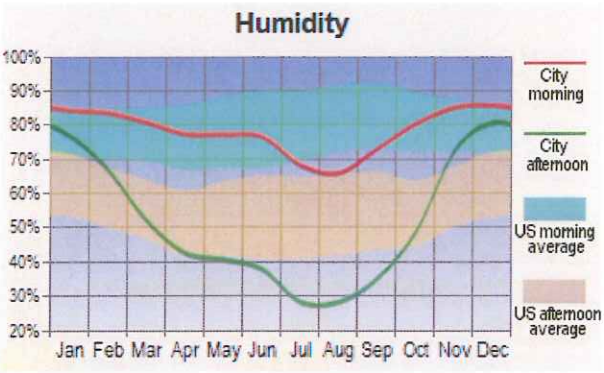
Lewis County precipitation averages 18-28 inches per year. The average ground snow depths for January range from 8-10 inches. Snow is usually melted from the area by early April. On average, there are 169 sunny days per year in Lewis County, ID.

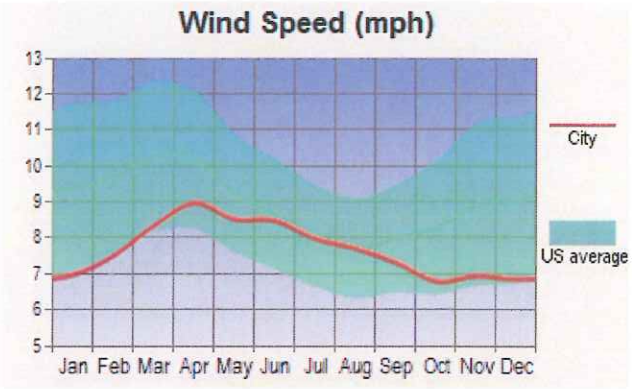
Average climate in Nezperce, Idaho

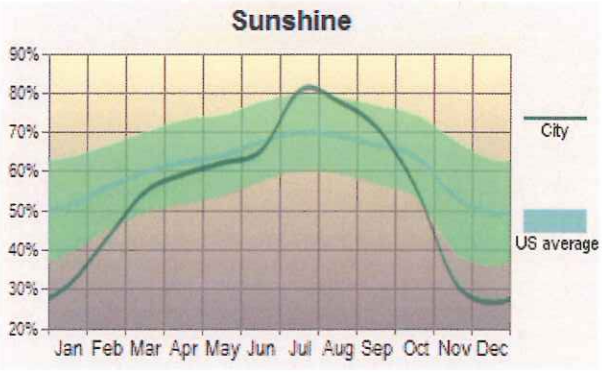
Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations











Sources

- http://www.city-data.com/city/Nezperce-Idaho.html#ixzz1n986XSwp
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_County,_Idaho
- http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Idaho/Publications/County_Estimates/index.asp

Economic Condition and Outlook of Lewis Soil Conservation District

The population in Lewis County is 3,821 (all rural)
Land Area – 480 square miles
Homeownership Rate – 74.8%
Median Household Income 2007-2011 - $35,344
Lewis County is the 7th least populated county in the state, ranks 40th in population and 41st in area
Most common industries of Lewis County

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (23%)
- Construction (11%)
- Wood products (10%)
- Public administration (8%)
- Truck transportation (4%)
- Educational services (4%)
- Paper (3%)

Agriculture in Lewis County:
Average size of farms: 1,224 acres
Average value of agricultural products sold per farm: $156,792
Average value of crops sold per acre for harvested cropland: $186.51
The value of livestock, poultry, and their products as a percentage of the total market value of agricultural products sold: 5.91%
Average total farm production expenses per farm: $118,569
Harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 64.65%
Average market value of all machinery and equipment per farm: $163,864
The percentage of farms operated by a family or individual: 83.05%
Average age of principal farm operators: 56 years
Average number of cattle and calves per 100 acres of all land in farms: 1.99
The primary economic base is dryland farming and livestock production. Lewis County relies on precipitation to irrigate the crops and surface water sources or groundwater wells for livestock productions. Lewis County is heavily dependent on natural resources, especially agriculture and forest products. Ranching and farming remain one of the major industries of the area. Farm income remains a major factor in the spending power of the county residents. The county ranks 23rd in the State for agricultural products sold.

The table below is provided by the Lewis County Farm Service Agency.

Lewis/Clearwater County 2013 Reported Acres

Category	Crop	Type	Acres		Sub-Total	Total
			Lewis	Clearwater		
Small Grains	Wheat	Soft White Winter	58,934.8	4,223.1		
		Soft White Spring	13,527.9	2,477.4		
		Hard Red Winter	9,885.5	1,412.7		
		Hard Red Spring	4,686.0	253.5		
		Hard White Spring	150.9	0.0	**95,551.8**	
	Barley	Spring	12,980.9	459.8	**13,440.7**	
	Oats		990.0	0.0	**990.0**	
Total Small Grains						**109,982.5**

Oilseeds	Canola	Winter	1,278.0	0.0		
		Spring	12,651.9	0.0	**13,929.9**	
Total Oilseeds						**13,929.9**
Legumes	**Lentils**		507.9	0.0	**507.9**	
	Dry Peas	Austrian Winter	654.4	1.0		
		Green	9,780.4	153.2	**10,588.0**	
	Beans	Garbanzo (GAS)	1,279.2	49.4		
		Garbanzo (GAD)	222.6	0.0		
		Garbanzo (GAR)	6,981.8	1,020.9		
		Soybeans	2.0	0.0	**9,555.9**	
Total Legumes						**20,651.8**
Forage	**Hay**	Alfalfa	2,536.2	36.6		
		Alfalfa Mix	1,362.1	368.8		
		Grass Mix w/ Aflalfa	1,789.3	170.0		
		Interseeded Grasses	1,788.5	2,271.2		
		Native Grass	600.8	115.6		
		Small Grain	1,713.9	48.0		
		Timothy	308.5	95.5		
		Brome	50.0	124.1		
		Intermediate Wheat	0.0	0.0		
		Fescue	183.6	0.0		
		Other	1.5	0.0	**13,564.2**	
	Grazing		3,671.8	933.4	**4,605.2**	
Total Forage						**18,169.4**
Seed Crops	**Grass**	Bluegrass, Kentucky	7,513.5			
		Brome	0.0			
		Crested Wheatgrass	117.5			
		Fescue	60.0			
		Idaho Fescue	97.3			
		Sandburg Blue	61.2			
		Blue Bunch Wheatgrass	99.8			
		Perennial Ryegrass	19.8		**7,969.1**	
	Clover	White	106.9		**106.9**	
	Wildflowers		0.0		**0.0**	
	Nursery		193.3	6.7	**200.0**	
Total Seed Crops						**8,276.0**
Other	**CRP**		7,803.8	1,366.8	**9,170.6**	
	Wetland Reserve		0.0	96.0	**96.0**	
	Prevented Planting		0.0	0.0	**0.0**	
	Failed Acres		0.0	0.0	**0.0**	
	Left Standing		1,012.9	93.0	**1,105.9**	
	WL Food Plot		165.1	11.3	**176.4**	
	Trees		0.0	125.1	**125.1**	
	NRCS Cover Crops		23.0	0.0	**23.0**	
	Falow		7,450.5	269.2	**7,719.7**	
Total Other						**18,416.7**

Soil Resources:

Soil Erosion

- Erosion occurs mainly as a result of winter runoff from snow melt and rainfall on frozen saturated soils. Gully erosion occurs in cropland areas.
- Approximately 47,954 acres are Non-highly erodible cropland and 93,015 acres are Highly erodible cropland
- Water Quality projects have reduced soil erosion in cropland areas
- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural practices reduce the amount of stream bank erosion
- Erosion occurring on range and forest lands is often the result of improper grazing and improper road development and maintenance
- The District seeks funding sources for cost sharing the installation of BMP's
- Encourage producers to properly manage riparian areas

Soil Quality

- Seventy percent of Lewis County acres have been adopted to no till/direct seed
- We promote tillage and residue management practices that leave stubble standing during winter months, which is the critical erosion period
- Crop rotation which includes cereal, legumes, mustards, cover crops and perennial crops

Three broad groups of soil occur with the District

1. Medium and moderately course textured soil on terraces and valley floors (1% of District)
2. Silty soils on Plateaus (60% of the District)
3. Fine to moderately course textured soils containing rich fragments, and canyon slopes (39% of the District)

Water Resources:

The water resources in LSCD vary widely in quality and quantity from year to year. Surface water quality at times can be very poor. Spring and winter runoff and thunderstorms contribute a significant amount of sediment to creeks in the area.

- The majority of the LSCD jurisdiction is in the Camas Prairie High Nitrate Priority Area.
- Applying split fertilizer helps the water quality and crop production.
- Nutrient management practices are adopted to help reduce nitrates leaching into the ground water and surface water.
- Most rural residents rely on septic systems and drain fields to treat their waste water. We offer cost share to repair failing septic systems.
- Livestock watering systems and pipelines are primary uses of surface water in the agricultural sector
- BMP's offered though cost share programs enhance the surface water quality

Air Quality:
Air quality is worse during the fall when producers burn bluegrass

- The District encourages grass producers to follow the NPGP smoke management recommendations.
- Encourage producers to maintain and manage crop residue by adopting no-till and reduced tillage systems rather than burning grain stubble.

Forest lands, grasslands, pasture, hay land and rangeland:

- Forest land erosion occurs mostly on skid trails, landings and roads
- Forestlands and interface areas provide important habitat for many species of birds and mammals
- Coordinate with producers to development grazing plans that leave appropriate amounts of vegetation
- Hay is used as part of a rotation in many areas
- Encourage control of noxious and invasive weeds

Livestock production:

- Encourage producers to install Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's) and pasture management systems including exclusion fencing, offsite watering, waste management facility and riparian treatment

Fish and Wildlife:
According to old timers fish number have decreased over the years.
Lewis County is home to a diverse array of fish and wildlife species.
The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 directs all federal agencies, or any project that has a Federal funding, to implement measures to protect all federally listed species found in the project area. LSCD has many listed or threatened species within the district boundaries. The presence of these species greatly affects farming and ranching communities. While they often bring federal funds to the district for project administration, they also bring the federal "nexus" for ESA consultation for these projects.

- Decrease threats to threatened and endangered species (T&E)
- We address: salmon, steelhead, bull trout
- Conceivably all land in the county could be used for wildlife but it not currently economically feasible

Improving stream habitat

- Reducing the amount of sediment, pathogens and nutrients entering streams, and increasing shade improves fish habitat
- Lewis County streams provide habitat for salmon and steelhead, including populations that are listed as threatened and endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act

District Operations:

- Budget cuts are a big concern of the district
- Limited funds from County and State
- Funds for Grants from DEQ and Office of Species Conservation
- Actively looking for grants to provide financial help to landowners installing conservation practices on their land
- Cooperate with units of local, state, federal and tribal government

- Maintain staff to have a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them to provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs
- Have a good working relationship with partner staff personnel
- Retain the Technical Assistance provided to us from ISWCC
- Dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound management practices
- Publish three newsletters throughout the year reaching over 200 households

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District

- *Limited Funds available from the State*
- *Limited Technical Support available from the ISWCC*
- *No Till/ Direct Seed to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion*
- *Soil pH is affecting crop yields- offering cost share for lime applications for pH showing 5.5 or less*
- *Repair Septic Systems to reduce nitrates leaching into the ground water*
- *Cap Abandoned Wells to assist with proper well abandonment procedure and costs*
- *Nutrient Management to reduce nitrates from leaching into the ground water and runoff entering surface water*
- *Pest Management to reduce pesticides leaching into the ground water and runoff entering surface water*
- *Animal Feeding Operations to improve surface water and ground water quality*
- *Forest Health to improve forest health, reduce disease and erosion*
- *Endangers Species Act mandates and enforcement*

Strategies to Address Trends

- Phase III Camas Prairie High Nitrate grant will help with proper abandoned well procedures costs, provide cost share for split fertilizer applications to reduce leaching of nitrates into the groundwater
- Coordinate conservation planning with agricultural producers
- Hold informational meetings to inform producers of programs available for cost share to improve soil health and water quality
- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural measures to reduce the amount of stream bank erosion
- Increase awareness of forestland management. Work with the Idaho Department of Lands
- Lead voluntary implementation of conservation efforts
- Implementation of water quality and water quantity projects to improve fish passage and habitat within the District to help address ESA issues
- Actively seeking additional funding through grants, 319, Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA), NRCS, IASCD and ISWCC
- Coordinate with the Tribe to implement projects, this helps to leverage the funding

Identify and Prioritize Objectives

1. District funding

   State of Idaho Funding
   - Provides $8,500.00 for their base of operations
   - 2:1 Match

   Funding supported from Lewis County
   - $8,000.00

   Working with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Office of Species Conservation, and NRCS through grants to improve conservation
   - The District administers two Snake River Basin Adjudication grants one for Lawyers Creek and also 5Mile/6 Mile, and a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) which are in progress. ISWCC provides technical assistance to get conservation on the ground.

2. Promote soil health and nutrient management practices

   Assist landowners with implementing BMP's
   - By 2014 thirty contracts will be written to implement BMP's
     Encourage livestock producers to develop pasture, grazing and nutrient management plans
   - Implement animal feeding management operations and pasture BMP's at ≈ 15 sites
     Reduce nutrient, bacteria and sediment delivery to Lawyer Creek
   - Implement residue and nutrient management and cover crops BMP's on ≈ 6,990 acres
   - Implement riparian restoration, fencing, planting & weed control BMP's on ≈ 786 feet of stream habitat
   - Improve nutrient use efficiency through proper timing, placement, rate and application of crop nutrients
   - Organized soil health meetings

3. Improve surface and groundwater quality

   Work with landowners to reduce nutrient and sediment loading and improve habitat conditions for fish
   - By 2014 we plan to implement riparian restoration, fencing, planting & weed control BMP's on ≈ 786 feet of stream bank (riparian habitat)
   - Follow U of I fertilizer guide to avoid over application of fertilizer
     Work with producers to help reduce nitrates in the groundwater
   - Implement residue and nutrient management BMP's on ≈ 6,990 acres
     Work toward decreasing sediment, nutrients and bacteria in Lawyer and 5Mile/6Mile Creeks by assisting landowners with implementing BMP's

4. Environmental Information and Education

   The District encourages a strong effective public outreach program. Annually the District works with the youth in different activities to educate them. We also work with adults to assist them with conservation practices and needs.
   - Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District (IASCD) poster contest for students in 4-6 grades in Nezperce and Highland schools
   - Work with students, schools and cities in planting trees for Arbor Day

- ISWCC, NRCS, Department of Land, Nez Perce Tribe, Western Forest Systems, Idaho Fish and Game provide educational workstations during the 6th Grade Field Day at Winchester State Park with about 110 youth participating.
- Worm Races teaching K-2 about earth worms and soils
- Annual fair booth display
- Coordinate with the U of I Cooperative Extension to sponsor an annual Crop and Conservation Tour
- Held educational meetings informing people the importance of soil health

5. Reduce Soil Erosion

   Assist landowners with implementing Best Management Practices (BMP's)
   - Direct seed acres – 2,690
   - Tree and Shrub Establishment reduces sediment load
     - Estimate of sediment load reduction 13,445 ton/year
   - 70% of Lewis County farm acres has adopted no-till/direct seed practices
   - Improve soil resources on cropland, rangeland and riparian areas
   - Encourage voluntary cost shares for conservation BMP's
   - Encourage producers to properly manage riparian areas

6. Air Quality

   Encourage landowners to follow the Ida/Nez Perce Tribe recommendation to reduce the impact of smoke in the air.

   The District encourages grass producers to follow the Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Program
   - An agricultural burn is the burning of vegetative debris from an agricultural activity that is necessary for disease or pest control, or for crop propagation and/or crop rotation.

   Discourage landowners from burning annual crop stubble
   - Publish articles in the local newspaper to help educate the public on a number of issue concerning bluegrass seed production

Water Quality Component

Much of the current workload being completed by the Lewis Soil Conservation District has been to assist private landowners, predominately the agricultural base, addressing the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

The critical areas of projects focus on cropland acres, animal feeding areas, pastures and riparian areas. These are the primary concerns found during the 2006 Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) effort. Sediment and bacteria loading were the two largest pollutants found from the SVAP effort. The practices that will be implementing will be practices that have a past record of decreasing these pollutants. As resource concerns are identified the established BMP to target the pollution source are designed and installed.

LSCD is working with producers towards water quality goals for The Camas Prairie High Nitrate Priority Area, Lawyer Creek and 5 Mile/6Mile Creek Watersheds.

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Problems for Creeks:

- sediment
- nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen)
- temperature
- bacteria

Problems for Ground Water:

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

Waters with TMDLs:

- Winchester Lake
- Lapwai Creek

The District is or will implement BMPs:

- For creeks where TMDLs will be developed (Integrated Report category 5),
- for creeks with a TMDL (Category 4), and
- Ground Water Nitrate Priority Areas (Camas Prairie Nitrate Priority Area)
  http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/470848-camas_prairie_nitrate_gw_plan.pdf
  http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/451023-winchester_lake_entire.pdf

Identify and Prioritize Projects

The LSCD designs Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address non point source pollutants. Some of the BMP's include: Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Water Developments, Pipelines, Fencing, Pasture Plantings, Cover Crop plantings, Stream Crossing, Erosion Control, Windbreaks, Direct Seed/No Till, Septic Repair, Cap Abandoned Wells, Roof Runoff, Gully Plugs and many more.

We will maintain a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them and provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs. Fulfill responsibilities of all contracts and projects with technical support from Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission staff. We support locally lead conservation and will provide planning, project development and administer funds where feasible and based on willing landowner cooperation and participation.

- Currently administers a Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) Lawyer Creek project. The Best Management Practices will address stream bank stabilization and riparian habitat, such as stream bank treatments, invasive weed treatments, and upland habitat treatments.
- Currently administers a SRBA 5Mile/6Mile project. This project is to reduce pollutant loads to streams.
- Currently administers a CIG Demonstration Project. This project demonstrates how cover crops hold nutrients in the soil.
- Will continue to obtain cost-share funding to control non-point source pollution and soil erosion.

The LSCD hosts various activities aimed at the youth of Lewis County. The goal is to enhance their appreciation of our natural resources by offering hands on events and contests.

- In May 2014 we will sponsor the 42th Annual 6th Grade Field Day reaching approximately 120 students in the area. Instructors from ISWCC, Department of Lands, NRCS, Fish and Game, Western Forest System, Nez Perce Tribe and Winchester Quick Response Unit.
- In the spring of the year we go to the local schools to present the rules and the theme of the IASCD poster contest. We judge the posters and send them on to the division and state levels.
- In April the District coordinates with the Idaho Department of Lands and the city of Reubens and local schools to plant trees for Arbor Day.
- In the spring we coordinate Worm Races for K-2 teaching student about earthworms and soil.
- In October we coordinate with U of I and FFA for the soil judging contest.
- We also coordinate with University of Idaho Extension to inform producers of different varieties of crops to produce for this area
- Annual Crop Tour for producers to attend
- Newsletters are published 3 times a year with information about district projects available

District Operations Priorities

Present annual budget to the County Commissioners
Retain the Technical Assistance provided to us from ISWCC to assist with the planning, design and implementation of project funds within the district
Retain a good relationship with local schools and communities, teaching about soil, water and other natural resources
Maintain the accounting system on Quick Books
Prepare monthly financial reports
Schedule audit of the year's financial activity providing accountability for funds administered through the district.
Explore alternative funding sources to meet conservation needs
Provide administrative partnership to NRCS and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Continue to build partnerships with agencies and organizations that share the same goals and objectives
Expand and strengthen relationship in the conservation partnership
Retain a relationship with our legislators
Strengthen relationship with political decision makers to obtain support for the District
Keep the Board Members directly involved in planning and proceedings
Attend IASCD Division meetings and IASCD Annual Conference.
Provide landowners and operators with natural resource technical, financial, and educational assistance.
Submit reports to DEQ, SRBA and ISWCC
Three existing grants the District administers will be completed by 2014
Explore other available grants
Publish educational material on topics such as funding available and ways to improve resources
Coordination with the U of I Extension for the Lewis and Idaho County Annual Crop Tour

Action	Begin Date	End Date
▪ Identify budget and staff needs, continue to pursue funding through grants	7-2013	6-2018
▪ Protect cropland from erosion through the implementation of BMP's. Fulfill responsibilities of all contracts and projects	7-2013	12-2014
▪ Inform rural landowners regarding septic system evaluation and updates and inform them we have funding available to address septic tanks repairs and address abandon wells	7-2013	12-2013
▪ Provide funding for Animal Feeding Operations and encourage development of nutrient plans	7-2013	6-2018
▪ Coordinate the development of grazing plans that maintain appropriate levels of groundcover	7-2013	6-2014
▪ Work with producers to promote sustainable agriculture systems, improve cropland productivity	7-2013	6-2018
▪ Strengthen relationships with political decision makers and partner agencies	7-2013	6-2018
▪ Continue educating the public and youth about conservation.	7-2013	6-2018
▪ Continue a one on one contact with producers about conservation practices.	7-2013	6-2018
▪ Write articles for the local newspaper discouraging annual burning of stubble.	7-2013	6-2018
▪ Sponsor several youth actives teaching conservation.	7-2013	6-2018

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION	DISTRICT: Lewis
FIVE-YEAR (5) PLAN and ANNUAL WORK PLAN CERTIFICATION	FOR FISCAL YEAR: 2014
	DUE : March 31, 2014

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.

Eric Hasselstrom

Board Supervisor Signature

ERIC Hasselstrom

Printed Name

3/3/2014

Date

208-937-2291

Telephone

karol.holthaus@id.nacdnet.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: _____

FY2013 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Annual Plan of Work

Lewis Soil Conservation District

For Information Contact: Eric Hasselstrom, Chairman
Telephone Number: 1-208-937-2291 EXT 3
Email: karol.holthaus@id.nacdnet.net
Counties Served: LEWIS Legislative District: District 6

Mission of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The Lewis Soil Conservation District is dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.

Trends & Issues Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District

- ***Limited Funds*** **available from the State**
- ***Soil pH*** **is affecting crop yields- offering cost share for lime applications for pH showing 5.5 or less**
- ***Cover Crops*** **to improves soil health and reduce soil erosion**
- ***Repair Septic Systems*** **to reduce nitrates leaching into the ground water**
- ***Cap Abandoned Wells*** **to assist with proper well abandonment procedure and costs**
- ***Animal Feeding Operations*** **to improve surface water and ground water quality**
- ***Split fertilizer applications*** **to reduce nitrates from leaching into the groundwater**
- ***Forest Health*** **to improve forest health**
- ***Nutrient and Pest Management*** **to reduce nitrates and pesticides from leaching into the ground water and surface water**

Projects Planned, Coordinated and Managed by the Lewis Soil Conservation District

319 Lawyer Creek Grant
319 Camas Prairie Groundwater High Nitrate/Nitrate Grant – Phase III
SRBA – Lawyer Creek and 5Mile/6Mile Creek
Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)

Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects Coordinated

Lewis County	*$ 8,000.00*	*(County Contribution -District Operations)*
State of Idaho	*$ 8,500.00*	*(Base funding -District Operations)*
State of Idaho (2:1 match)	*$ 11,965.20*	*(2 to 1 Match- District Operations)*
319 Camas Prairie Groundwater Phase III	*$ 121,000.00*	*(BMP's)*
SRBA- Lawyer Creek	*$ 16,000.00*	*(BMP's)*
SRBA- 5 Mile/6Mile	*$ 35,000.00*	*(BMP's)*
CIG	*$ 26,820.00*	*(BMP's)*
TOTAL	*$ 227,285.20*	

FY 2013 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Number 1: District Funding
Objective: ***Maintain District Operations***

Goal(s): ***Increase and strengthen the boards effectiveness and secure funding for the District***

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Meet with Lewis County Commissioners to discuss resource needs of the District, they also help judge the annual IASCD poster contest	*Annually*	*Board of Supervisors and District staff*
Ensure District Accountability by having audits. Follow the District's Policy and review it at least once a year.	*July*	*Board of Supervisors and Karol Holthaus*
Solicit the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission to explore grants for additional funding to meet Idaho State Law requiring a two to one match.	*Year Long*	*Karol Holthaus*
Continue building a working partnerships with agencies that share the same goals and objectives	*Year Long*	*NRCS,ISWCC, District Staff and Board of Supervisors*
Explore alternative funding sources to meet identified conservation needs	*Year Long*	*Karol Holthaus, Eileen Rowan*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice

FY2013 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Number 2: Nutrient Management/Soil Health
Objective: ***Promote nutrient management***

Goal(s): ***Improve soil health through good sound tillage practices and continue to implement nutrient management plans***

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Hosted soil health workshop	*February*	*Board of Supervisors, NRCS, District Staff*
Educating landowners the importance of lime in the soil which improves the pH levels for more productive crops	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, NRCS*
Cattle producers are working with the District projects to improve water quality and lessen the influence of nutrients entering streams and water bodies	*Year long*	*Producers, District, ISWCC*
Inform agriculture landowners regarding efficient nutrient use. Promote conservation plans which incorporate direct seed, increased crop residue percentage and other relative BMP's.	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC,NRCS*
Promote cover crop practices	*Year long*	*District, NRCS, ISWCC*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice

FY2013 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Number 3: Water Quality
Objective: ***Improve Surface and Ground Water Quality***

Goal(s): ***To Reduce leaching of nutrients out of the root zone. To eliminate or reduce nutrient and sediment loading in receiving water within the District by use of BMP's.***

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Promote water conservation and water usage efficient practices	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, and District Staff*
Coordinate and assist with the development of watershed plans for Lawyer Creek and 5Mile/6 Mile Creeks	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors and District staff, ISWCC*
Repair septic systems and address ways to properly seal abandon wells to reduce leaching into the ground water	*Year long*	*ISWCC, Producers, Board of Supervisors, District staff*
Educate livestock producers about Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's) to protect water quality, including the development of offsite stock water system where appropriate	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, District staff*
Administer project funding according to policies and procedures established by the District and in compliance with state and federal laws and funding source requirements.	*Year long*	*District staff*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice

2013 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority 4: Information and Education
Objective: ***To Inform the Local Area on Conservation***

Goal(s): ***To increase the effectiveness of the Lewis SCD through a strong public outreach program. Implementation of I&E programs to public school systems and local landowners promoting the Idaho partnership of conservation programs.***

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Arbor Day Celebration - with the help of the local school children and the City of Reubens trees were planted in Reubens. Trees donated by local nursery were planted by the Highland students by the school with the help of Idaho Department of Land, City of Craigmont	*April*	*Karol Holthaus, Elaine Sonnen*
Assist with the FFA soil judging contest	*Fall*	*U of I staff, ISWCC, District staff, students*
Annual Poster contest and worm races - Go to local schools with contest information for the 4th 5th and 6th graders and have the worm races for the k-2rd graders	*Spring*	*Karol Holthaus, Elaine Sonnen*
The District newsletters mailings reaching 210 homes	*February August May November*	*Karol Holthaus*
"Sixth Grade Conservation Field Day" with five area schools attended with a total of 110 students. The students rotate through eight different stations learning a variety of conservation skills	*May*	*District Staff, Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, NRCS, Students, Winchester State Park, Volunteer Instructors*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice

FY2013 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Area 5: Reduce Soil Erosion
Objective: ***Encourage adoption of low disturbance practices such as no-till and filter strip techniques***

Goal(s): ***To reduce erosion to acceptable levels by effective cost-share means improving soil resources and soil health on non-irrigated cropland, rangeland and riparian areas***

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Residue management practices are encouraged	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, NRCS*
Encourage Riparian Management	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, NRCS*
The District is aggressively seeking grants for cost share for Best Management Practices to protect our top soil	*Year long*	*Karol Holthaus, ISWCC*
Promote conservation plans which incorporate direct seed, increased crop residue percentage and other relative BMP's.	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, Cooperators, ISWCC*
Protect cropland from erosion through the implementation of grass and hay plantings	*Year long*	*NRCS, ISWCC, and District*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices

FY2013 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Area 5: Reduce Soil Erosion

Objective: ***Encourage adoption of low disturbance practices such as no-till and filter strip techniques***

Goal(s): ***To reduce erosion to acceptable levels by effective cost-share means improving soil resources and soil health on non-irrigated cropland, rangeland and riparian areas***

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Residue management practices are encouraged	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, NRCS*
Encourage Riparian Management	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, NRCS*
The District is aggressively seeking grants for cost share for Best Management Practices to protect our top soil	*Year long*	*Karol Holthaus, ISWCC*
Promote conservation plans which incorporate direct seed, increased crop residue percentage and other relative BMP's.	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, Cooperators, ISWCC*
Protect cropland from erosion through the implementation of grass and hay plantings	*Year long*	*NRCS, ISWCC, and District*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices

FY2013 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Area 6: Air Quality
Objective: ***Education on the importance of bluegrass seed production industry***

Goal(s): ***To continue bluegrass for seed production as a viable alternative crop for landowners***
Improve Soil Health through good sound tillage practices and continue to implement nutrient management plans

Actions	Target Date	Person(s) Responsible
Encourage landowners and operators to follow the Nez Perce Tribe and EPA burning guidelines	*May 2013*	*Karol Holthaus, Board of Supervisors*
Write newspaper article discouraging annual stubble burning	*May 2014*	*Karol Holthaus*
Encourage landowners/operators to follow the smoke management recommendation of the Nezperce/Prairie Grass Producers(NPGP)	*Year Long*	*Karol Holthaus, Ken Hart and NRCS*
The District encourages producers to work with the Idaho Department of Agriculture and the Nez Perce Tribe on smoke management	*Year long*	*Karol Holthaus, NRCS, ISWCC*
Promote the U of I studies in their non burn studies	*Year long*	*Board, ISWCC, NRCS*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice