

**Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District  
Annual Work Plan  
March 5, 2014**

# Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District

The Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District encompasses southern Twin Falls County. Much of the District is considered rangeland or grazing land. The approximately 20,000 acres of cropland irrigated by the Salmon River Canal Company makes up the majority of the cropland in the District. Both water quantity and water quality are important issues for the seven-member District board.

## Our top accomplishments in FY 2014

1. Administered first year of a Multi-Species Cover Crop Demonstration funded through a federal Conservation Innovation Grant. This project involves one main site and eight satellite sites in five counties. The main demonstration site and two satellite sites are located in Twin Falls County.
2. Created a display about the early results from the Multi-Species Cover Crop Demonstration which has been shown at a sustainable ag conference, a nutrient management conference, the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts annual meeting and the State Capitol.
3. Administered an extension to the Shoshone Creek Livestock Water Project (completed in 2009). The extension added a second water tank and infrastructure to provide cows with more water in dry periods to keep them out of the fragile riparian area.
4. Evaluated several sites along Rock Creek for potential future riparian improvement projects.
5. Administered the Twin Falls nitrate Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative.
6. Provided the location for the annual NRCS conservation planning short course.
7. Co-sponsored a booth at the 2013 Twin Falls County Fair in conjunction with the Ag Pavillion.

## Our top priorities for FY 2015

1. Administer the second year of the Multi-Species Cover Crop Demonstration Project. This will include upgrading the website to add video capability and use social media to share results of the project. Upgrade will be paid for utilizing a district capacity grant from the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
2. Administer the Twin Falls Nitrate Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative.
3. Apply for grants for riparian improvement project along Rock Creek.
4. Continue to educate cooperators about fire-wise grazing practices and cost-share opportunities through the Sage Grouse Initiative.
5. Recruit urban and/or small acreage landowners to become supervisors on the board. Continue to work with Snake River and Balanced Rock conservation districts on urban issues.
6. Retain employees who are providing additional technical service at the Twin Falls field office.
7. Identify and help finance water conservation efforts within the District.

## If the District had more funding, supervisors would like to:

1. Provide more assistance to landowners to improve sage grouse habitat without jeopardizing private grazing rights.
2. Provide more assistance to landowners to fence critical areas.

# Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District

Serving southern Twin Falls County and Legislative Districts 23 and 24

For more information contact: Barry Bollwinkel, chairman at 733-5380 ext. 3

## Mission

To promote conservation practices on every acre in the District and thereby build a more stable and prosperous agricultural community.

## Trends impact Conservation

In the last five years, several large dairies have been built within the Twin Falls SWCD boundaries. These dairies bring with them a new set of resource concerns that district supervisors and cooperators are grappling with. Helping both dairies and crop farmers who accept dairy waste utilize nutrient management practices that will maximize the benefit of using manure while protecting soil and water resources is a high priority for the District.

A growing resource concern is the impact that an increasing number of small acreage landowners have within the district. Many of these small acreages do not have adequate irrigation water and becoming weed nurseries.

Groundwater quality is a separate, but related concern. Twin Falls County has the dubious honor of being ranked second in the state for groundwater concerns. Handling dairy manure correctly to avoid potential problems is the best way to limit further degradation of groundwater sources.

Water quantity continues to be the top priority for this chronically water short region. Irrigation water supplies are expected to be short for the 2014 irrigation season, identifying water conservation projects and providing technical—and where possible financial—assistance to cooperators is a top priority for the Twin Falls SWCD.

## Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed

- Urban initiative
- Sage Grouse Habitat
- Twin Falls Nitrate Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative
- Multi-Species Cover Crop Demonstration Project

## Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects

- Anticipated funds — \$7,500 from Twin Falls County and \$13,500 from the State of Idaho.
- Anticipated funds — \$800 ISWC Capacity Building Grant
- Conservation Innovation Grant — \$75,000

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**Priority #1 — Water Quantity**

**Objective:** Utilize every drop of water in the Salmon Tract to its highest and best use.

**Goal:**

Promote water conservation management

**Action:**

	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Leader</b>
• Work with the Salmon River Canal Co. to pressurize the entire upper end of the Salmon Tract to reduce irrigation inefficiencies and soil erosion on approximately 2,500 acres.	Annual	L. Lanting
• Provide technical assistance through the NRCS for evaluating efficiencies within the Salmon River Canal Company system.	Annual	S. Schuyler
• Provide planning assistance to the Clover Pumping Co. to upgrade the main pipeline.	Annual	L. Meyer
• Monitor snowpack using Sno-Tel site and use statistical models to provide as accurate as possible water forecast each April.	Oct. - June	R. Abramovich
• Maintain sno-tel sites.	Oct. - March	L. Berg & R. Abramovich
• Encourage continual improvements to canal company system and farmland efficiency through delivery practices and irrigation practices.	Annually	L. Lanting
• Encourage water conservation practices in Hollister and on rural acreages to stretch limited water resources.	July to Nov.	C. Snyder
• Continue to work with the Salmon River Canal Company on water measuring sites.	Annually	L. Berg & L. Fuller
• Maintain gauge at Shoshone Creek.	Annually	L. Berg
• Maintain precipitation gauge at White Rock Well.	Annually	L. Berg
• Keep abreast of changes in climatic conditions and how that may impact water supplies.	Annually	R. Abramovich

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**Priority #2 — Water Quality**

**Objective:** Meet rules & regulations of section 319 of the Water Quality Act, the 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act and Amendments to the 1972 Clean Water Act.

**Goal:**

Help Rock Creek meet pollutant loading targets in the Snake-Rock TMDL.

**Actions:**

- Coordinate grazing plans with USFS to protect riparian areas.
- Adminster the Twin Falls Nitrate Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative.
- Continue to explore potential riparian improvement projects along Rock Creek.

**Target Dates**

Annually

Annually

April to August

**Leader**

S. Schuyler

S. Haye

C. Snyder

**Goal:**

Fulfill Shoshone Basin TMDL requirements.

**Actions:**

- Work with the Western Stockgrowers grazing association to develop projects to fence riparian and other sensitive areas in the interface between the South Hills and Shoshone Basin.
- Identify applicable cost-share programs and work with qualifying landowners and operators to develop projects.
- Monitor sites within Shoshone Basin.
- Promote the Conservation Stewardship Program.

**Target Dates**

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

**Leader**

S. Haye

S.Haye

C. Pentzer

S. Schuyler

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**Priority #3 – Cropland**

**Objective:** Maintain long-term sustainability of cropland productivity through conservation practices.

**Goal:**

Encourage farmers to adopt best management practices.

**Actions:**

- Encourage adoption of conservation tillage practices.
- Help dairies meet their nutrient management plan obligations.
- Help crop farmers prepare for eventual nutrient management plans requirements.
- Identify applicable loan and grant programs.
- Encourage producers to adopt alternatives to field burning.
- Encourage producers to adopt irrigation water management practices
- Adminster the Twin Falls Nitrate Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative.
- Promote the Conservation Stewardship Program.
- Keep abreast of the Gateway Transmission Project.

**Target Dates**

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

**Leader**

L. Griff

L. Meyer

L. Meyer

L. Meyer

S. Schuyler  
C. Snyder

B. Bollwinkel

C. Pentzer

S. Schuyler

J. Lanting

**Objective:**

Explore the feasibility of adopting soil health practices on the Salmon Tract.

**Actions:**

- Administer the Multi-Species Cover Crop Demonstration to encourage more use of cover crops.
- Encourage participation in EQIP Soil Health Initiative.

**Target Dates**

Annually

Annually

**Leader**

C. Snyder

L. Griff

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**Priority #4 — Rangeland**

**Goal:** Increase forage production and reduce erosion on public and private rangeland.

**Objective:**

Improve rangeland productivity.

**Action:**

- Update grazing plans.
- Promote Conservation Stewardship Program.
- Encourage the hiring of a NRCS range conservationist to serve the area from Salmon Falls to Raft River area.
- Support better grazing management practices that allow better fire management.
- Identify future sites for riparian restoration projects along Rock Creek.
- Keep abreast of the Gateway Transmission Line Project.

**Target Dates**

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

Summer 2012

Annually

**Leader**

J. Lanting

S. Schuyler

S. Schuyler

B. Bollwinkel

C.Snyder

J. Lanting

**Objective:**

Improve sage grouse habitat.

**Action:**

- Provide technical assistance to grazing associations regarding management practices.
- Help cooperators become more informed about the Sage Grouse Management Plan.
- Help identify areas of critical sage grouse habitat.
- Encourage participation in the EQIP Sage Grouse Initiative.
- Support work by local landowners to improve lek habitat.

**Target Dates**

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

**Leader**

J. Lanting

M.Cothern

M. Cothern

M. Cothern

M. Cothern

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**Priority #5 – Animal Waste Management**

**Objective:** With the arrival of large dairies to southern Twin Falls County, the District must strive to become better informed about dairy waste and nutrient management issues and practices.

**Goal:**

Decrease potential nutrient (nitrate, phosphorus and potassium) contamination of groundwater by animal waste.

**Actions:**

	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Leader</b>
• Promote proper use of nutrient management plans.	Annually	S. Schuyler
• Educate operators about importance of timely manure applications.	Annually	L. Meyer
• Educate operators about effective use of animal waste to reduce nitrate leaching or loss.	Annually	L. Meyer
• Advocate proper lagoon sizing and construction.	Annually	L. Lanting
• Educate cooperators about the ONE Plan and how it can be used by them.	Annually	S. Schuyler C. Snyder C. Pentzer
• Adminster the Twin Falls Nitrate Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative.	Annually	C. Pentzer
• Keep abreast of land application of whey by Chobani.	Summer 2014	L. Griff
• Promote Conservation Stewardship Program.	Annually	S. Schuyler

**Objective:**

Locate animal feeding operations in proper sites.

**Actions:**

	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Leader</b>
• Provide information to the Twin Falls County Planning and Zoning Administration.	Annually	J. Lanting
• Educate county officials and potential dairies about groundwater vulnerability.	Annually	J. Lanting

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**Priority #6 — Renewable Energy**

**Objective:** Promote energy conservation by reducing dependence on electricity.

**Goal:**

Reduce demand for electricity on the Salmon River Canal Co. tract.

**Actions:**

	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Leader</b>
• Educate cooperators about pipeline projects that can save water and reduce electrical demand by using gravity instead to power pivots.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Educate cooperators about cost-share programs available through Idaho Power, Rural Development and NRCS to help offset the cost of installing a pipeline project.	Annually	L. Griff
• Continue to work with Salmon River Canal Co. on pipeline projects that eliminate electric pumps.	Annually	L. Lanting
• Provide technical assistance to help Salmon River Canal Co. install a 9-mile pipeline on the upper end of the tract which will provide pressurized irrigation water to 2,500 acres.	Annually	L. Lanting
• Educate cooperators about the USDA-NRCS on-farm energy initiative through the district news-letter.	Winter 2014	C. Snyder
• Educate cooperators about methane digesters through a potential tour or field day.	Fall 2014	C. Snyder
• Explore feasibility of hydropower on the Salmon Tract.	Annually	L. Fuller

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**Priority #7 — Vegetative Management/Weed Control**

**Objective:** Promote establishment and growth of appropriate plants within District to minimize noxious weed problems.

**Goal:**

Reduce spread of noxious weeds in District.

**Actions:**

- Educate cooperators and other land owners about weed control methods through the District newsletter.
- Educate cooperators about the Weed Management Area.
- Work with the Twin Falls County Highway District to replant roadways with appropriate grasses.
- Secure additional funding to control knapweed.
- Work with the Twin Falls County Weed Bureau to educate small acreage landowners about weeds and how to control weeds.
- Encourage planting of cover crops to reduce weed populations.
- Work with BLM to establish firebreaks of resistant plants.

**Target Dates**

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

Annually

Summer 2014

**Leader**

C. Snyder

C. Snyder

D. Jones

L. Lanting

D. Jones

C. Snyder

M. Cothorn

**Goal:**

Promote use of water-wise landscapes.

**Actions:**

- Now that grasses and forbs are well-established maintain demonstration site to promote healthy plant communities.
- Continue to offer the site as an educational resource to area schools.

**Target Dates**

Annually

Annually

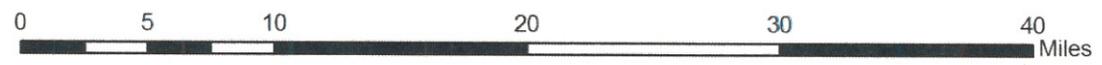
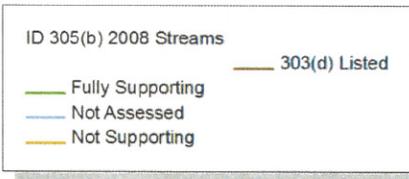
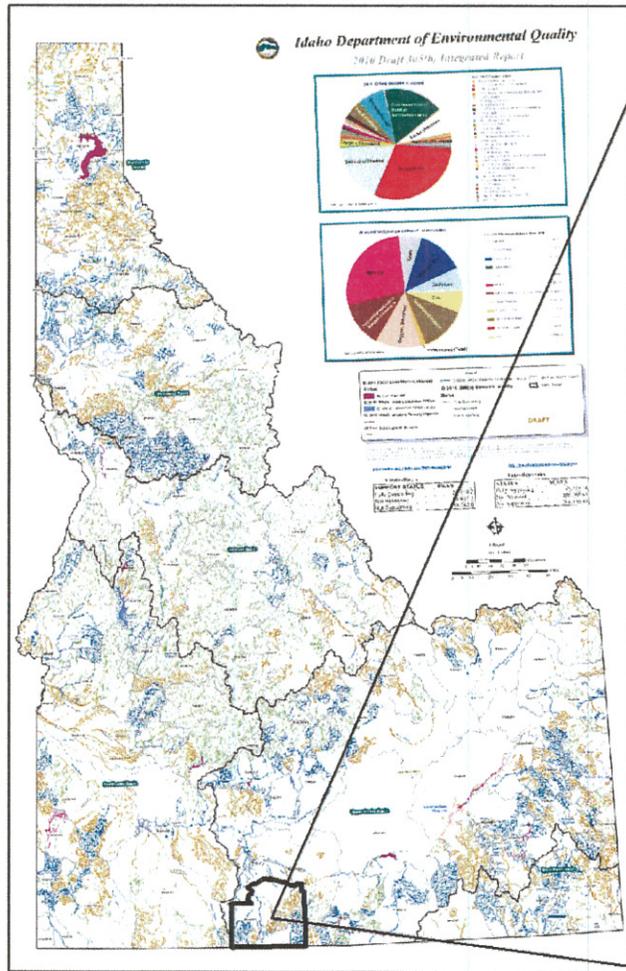
**Leader**

C. Snyder

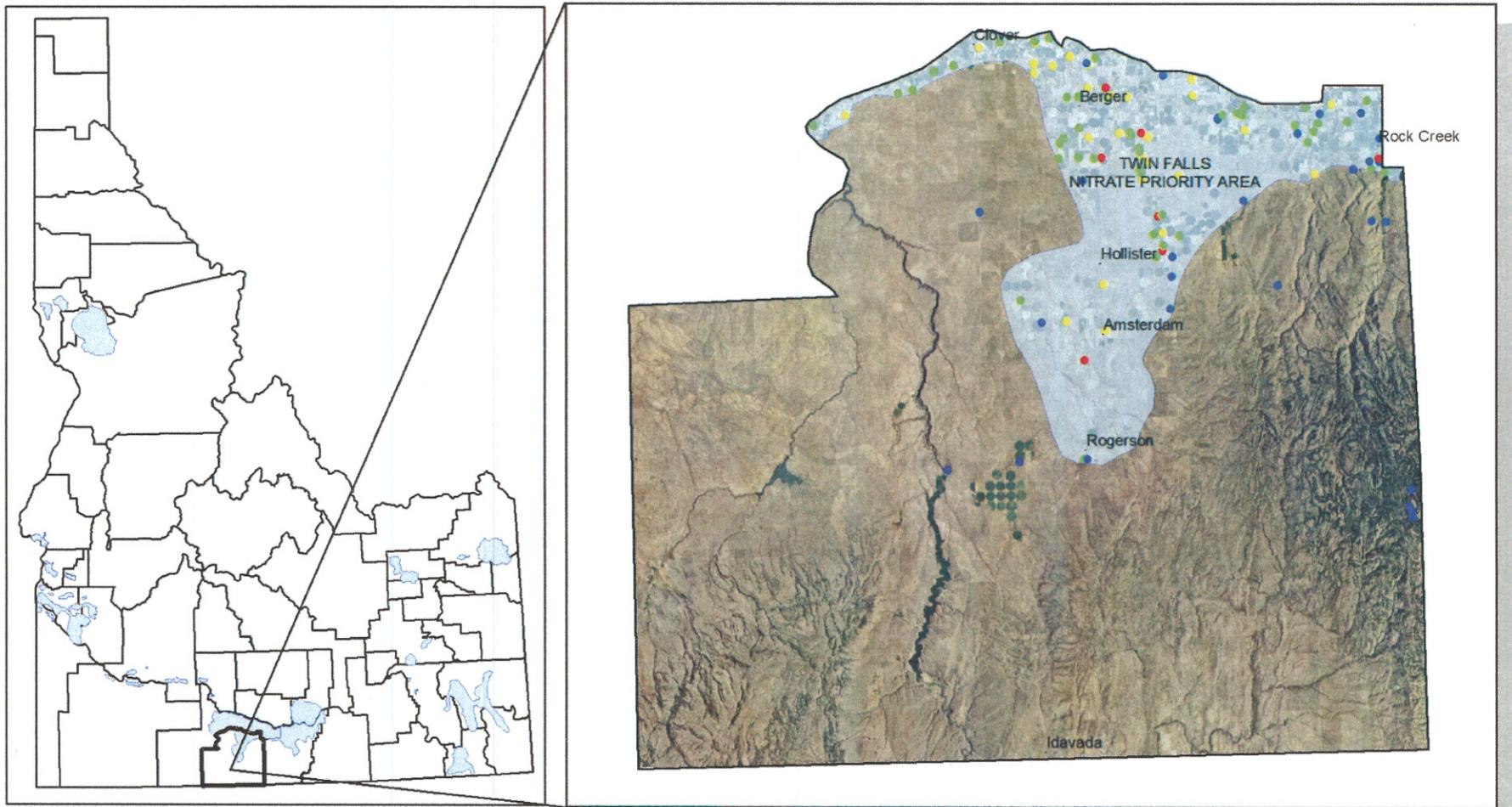
C. Snyder

*Twin Falls SWCD — Assisting Landowners and Operators with their Conservation Choices*

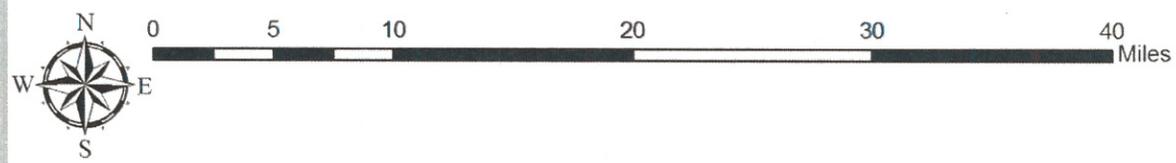
# Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District 303(d)/305(b) Listed Waterbodies



# Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District Nitrate Priority Areas



• Cities	<b>Nitrate Monitoring Wells</b>
▭ Soil Conservation Districts	<b>NO<sub>3</sub> Concentrations</b>
▭ Nitrate Priority Area	● 0.00 - 1.99 mg/L
	● 2.00 - 4.99 mg/L
	● 5.00 - 9.99 mg/L
	● Greater Than 9.99 mg/L



**IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

**DISTRICT:** Twin Falls SWCD

**FOR FISCAL YEAR:**

FY 2014

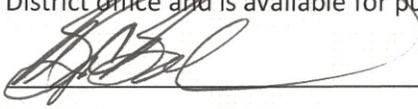
**DUE :**

**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.



Board Supervisor Signature

**Barry Bollwinkel**

Printed Name

**March 5, 2014**

Date

**208-733-5380 ext 101**

Telephone

**chsimons@cableone.net**

District Email Address

**FOR SWC USE ONLY:**

**DATE OF CONFIRMATION:**  
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