



POWER SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2769 Fairgrounds Rd., Suite A
AMERICAN FALLS, IDAHO 83211



**FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION
BUSINESS PLAN**
JULY 1, 2013 – JUNE 30, 2018
Annual Plan July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

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Cover page photo – American Falls Forbay

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Forward

The Power Soil Conservation District is one of 51 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation Districts are charged with carrying out a program for the conservation, use and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

Conservation Districts are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. They are catalysts for coordinating and implementing conservation programs, channeling expertise from all levels of government into action at the local level. Programs are 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 Agricultural and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

It is the goal of the Power Soil Conservation District elected officials to set high standards for conservation of natural resources within the district. The district developed an action plan for meeting these needs. The Power SCD acknowledges that among their role as an elected board is the need to provide a service to the community, to assist in the economic stability of the area, to enhance the traditional way of life that is important to those we serve and to encourage the wise use of natural resources. The district further acknowledges the very important role our conservation partners play in the success of the Power Soil Conservation District Programs.

This Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan was developed not only to guide the Conservation District, but also to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the Power Soil Conservation District.

This document identifies the resource needs in the Conservation District and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting these

Certificate of Adoption

The Board of elected supervisors of the Power Soil Conservation District this ^{1st} day of February do hereby approve the following document known as the Resource Conservation Business Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2017 during which time it will be updated annually and/or amended, as necessary.

As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do hereby affix our signatures to this document.

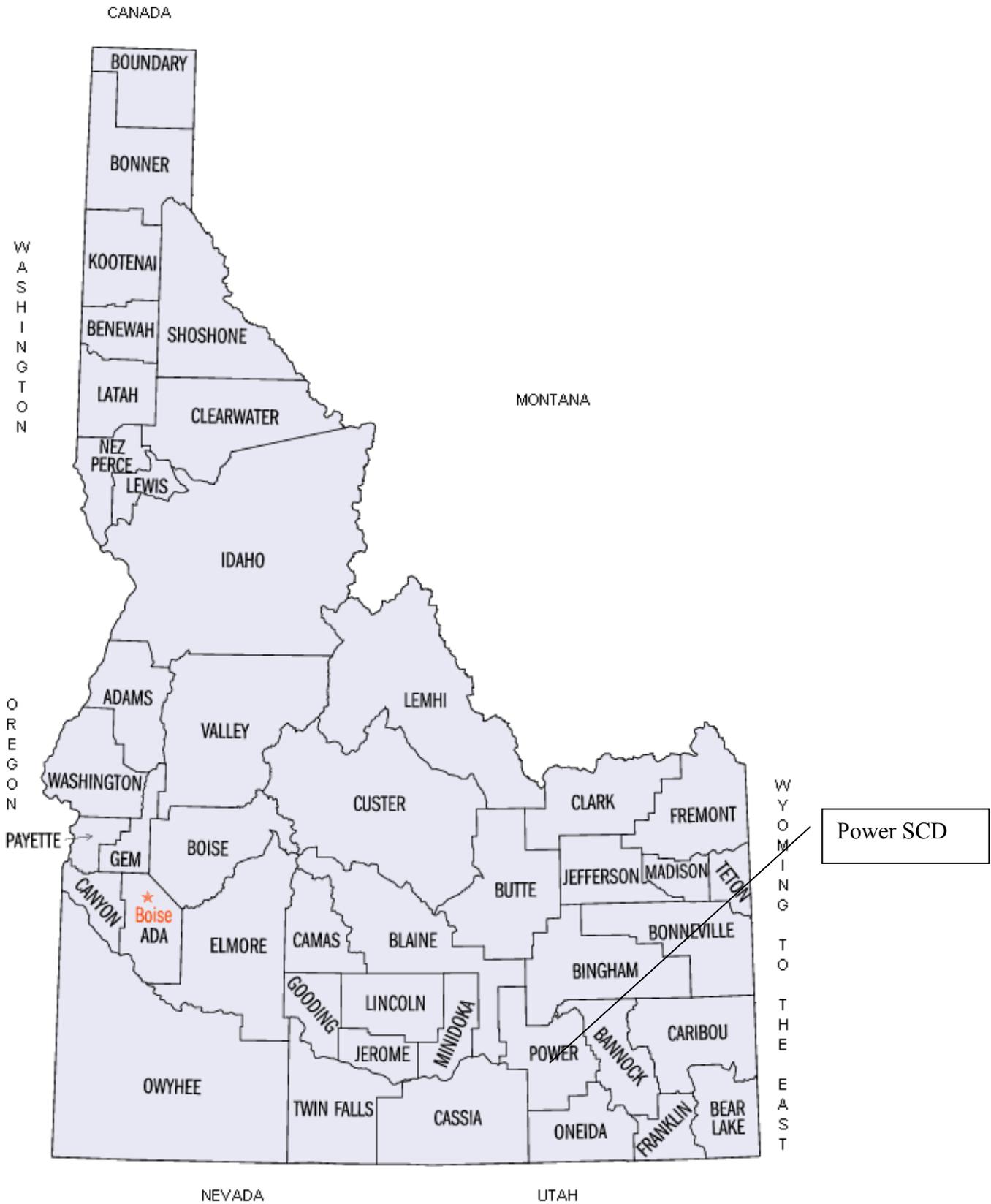
Ivan Permann,	Chairman
Brett Leyshon,	Vice Chairman
Marita Poulson,	Secretary/Treasurer
James Hoffmeister	Member
Jeff Stewart	Member

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Kirk Whitehead,
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission – Steve Smith

(note: the official signature page is housed in the Power SCD with the official plan)

Section 1: Physical Characteristics of Power SWCD (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.01)

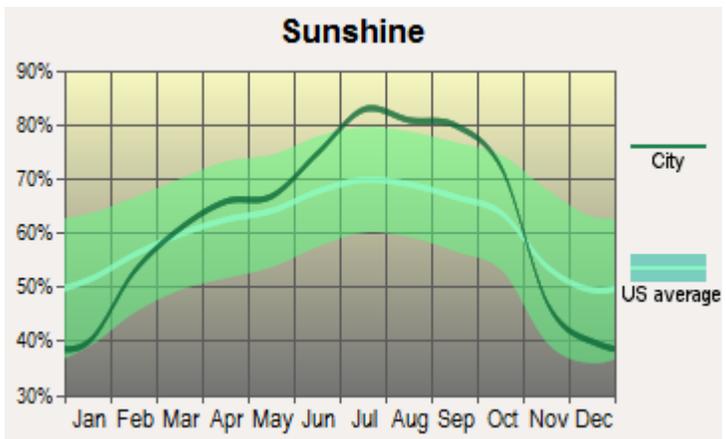
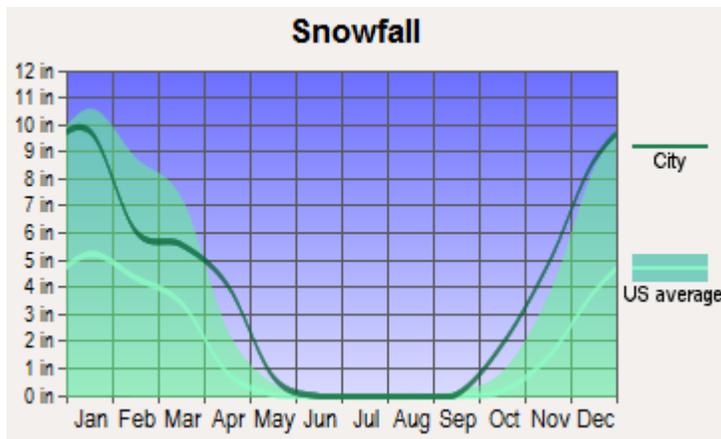
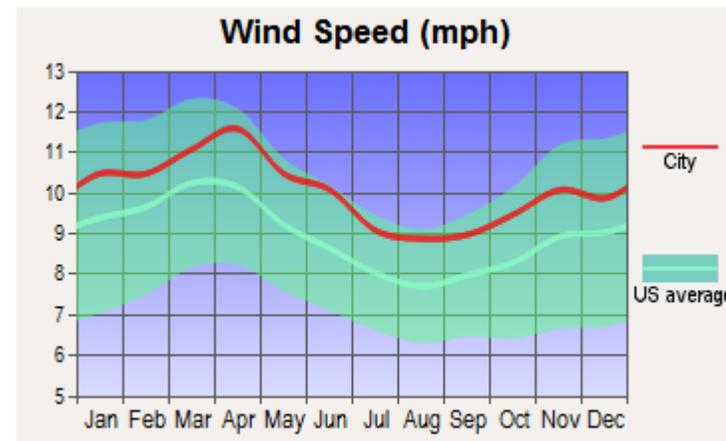
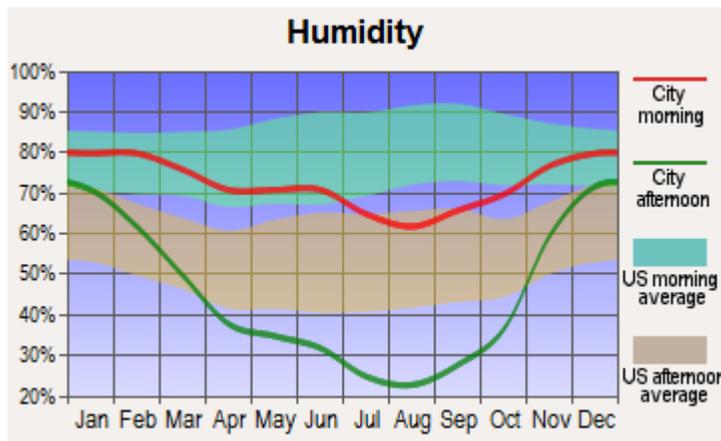
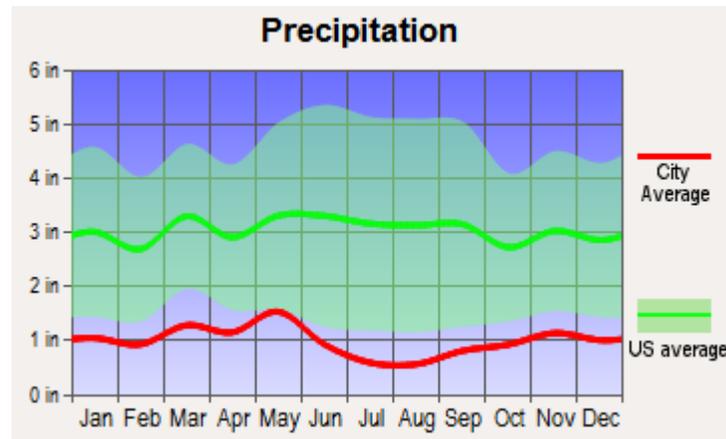
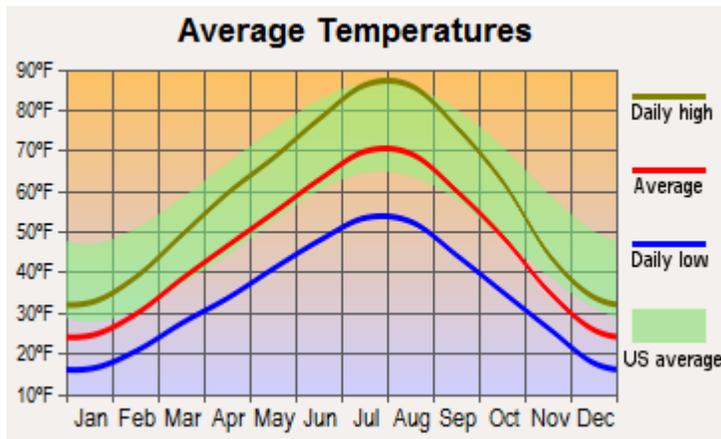


American Falls Dam Power CO, Idaho



Average climate in American Falls, Idaho

Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations



Climate

Climate	Power, ID	United States
Rainfall (in.)	13	36.5
Snowfall (in.)	32	25
Precipitation Days	80	100
Sunny Days	204	205
Avg. July High	88	86.5
Avg. Jan. Low	15.9	20.5
Comfort Index (higher=better)	73	44
UV Index	4.6	4.3
Elevation ft.	4,574	1,060

Power County, ID, gets 13 inches of rain per year. The US average is 37. Snowfall is 32 inches. The average US city gets 25 inches of snow per year. The number of days with any measurable precipitation is 80.

On average, there are 204 sunny days per year in Power County, ID. The July high is around 88 degrees. The January low is 16. Our comfort index, which is based on humidity during the hot months, is a 73 out of 100, where higher is more comfortable. The US average on the comfort index is 44.

Section 2: Economic Conditions and Outlook (IDAPA.60.05.02.025.02)

POWER COUNTY is in the southeastern part of Idaho.

American Falls, the county seat and largest city, has a population of 3,404. The total area in the county is 1,411 square miles, or 903,040 acres, and in the survey area 1,090 square miles, or 697,430 acres. About 87,000 acres is irrigated. About 200,000 acres is dryland. The rest is mostly rangeland. Elevation ranges from about 4,250 feet at Minidoka Migratory Waterfowl Refuge to 8,675 feet on Bannock Range and the Deep Creek Mountains. In most of the Area, however, elevation is no more than 6,000 feet. About a third of the Area, north of the Snake River, consists of lava flows and a thin mantle of soil. The rest is mainly mountain ranges and valleys in which material has been deposited by wind, water, and gravity. The valley floors are buried under sediment from adjacent mountains. Over the sediment is a mantle of loess. The Snake River flood plain extends from the dam at American Falls west to the county line. Idaho became a State in 1890. Power County was organized in 1913 from parts of Bingham, Blaine, Cassia, and Oneida Counties. The population, according to the 1970 census, was 4,864. Since 1970, it has increased to approximately 5,300. American Falls, once described as 'Little Niagara,' is now the site of a prosperous farming community. Rockland is the other incorporated community. Unincorporated communities are Arbon, Neeley, and Pauline.

The survey area is one of agriculture and related industries. The economy will probably continue to be based on farming, ranching, and related industry.

Settlement and development

In the early days the town of American Falls consisted of two communities divided by railroad tracks. After the dam was built across the Snake River a few yards upstream from the falls, the resulting reservoir completely inundated the western part of the original town site. The only visible remnant is a concrete grain elevator still standing in the reservoir. The American Falls Dam was completed in 1927. The first farm in Rockland Valley was established in 1879. Early dryland farmers in the valley were unexpectedly successful, and by 1915 the population of Rockland had risen to nearly 800. Arbon Valley, part of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation until 1889, was opened for settlement in 1892. It was first used as summer rangeland for cattle. The valley is now a prime wheat-producing area. Neeley was recognized as a prime homesteading region as early as 1879. Wild game and fish were plentiful. Natural warm water from Indian Springs was ideal for wintering cattle and sheep. Indian Springs is now the site of the Indian Springs Natatorium. As American Falls continued to grow, the Neeley settlement declined. Gold mining along the Snake River was an early activity in the county. Mary's Mine, across the river from Neeley, and Bonanza Bar, a few miles south, operated from 1901 to 1906. After construction of the wagon bridge across the Snake River in the early 1900's, the Pleasant Valley country west of American Falls was opened to homesteading. Before this date, the only people interested in Pleasant Valley were cattlemen, sheepherders, and an occasional hermit like Lava Jack, who spent his days hunting bobcats and coyotes and digging for gold. Electricity finally reached the valley in 1947. With the addition of deep wells and sprinkler pipes, Pleasant Valley became the heart of the Idaho potato country.

Population

The population of the Power Soil Conservation District, in 2006 was 7914. An additional 250 seasonal workers live in the area from May through October each year. American Falls has a population of 3987 and Rockland has a population of 316. The remaining 3165 people live in unincorporated communities of Arbon, Pauline, Michaud, Massacre Rocks and surrounding rural areas.

American Falls is the urban and commercial center within the Power SCD. Pocatello Municipal Airport is within the district; serving Pocatello, which is the urban and commercial center for southeastern Idaho.

The primary employers within the Power SCD are in agricultural and manufacturing related industries. Potatoes, spring and fall grain, sugar beets and cattle are the primary commodities. Large farm operations employ annual and seasonal workers.

Potatoes are processed locally at Lamb Weston/Con Agra, Inc., Driscoll Potatoes, Inc., Simplots, Duffin Potatoes, and Idaho Select, Inc. Sugar beets are shipped, via rail and a trucking company, to Paul, Idaho for processing by Snake River Sugar Company, formerly known as Amalgamated Sugar Company. Small grains are processed and shipped by grain elevator companies in American Falls. These include General Mills, Inc., Nelson's Seed Company and Scoular Grain. Most livestock in the county is marketed in Burley, Twin Falls and Blackfoot, Idaho.

Other industries in the county, including the only chemical manufacturing at J. R. Simplot (due to the recent loss of FMC), are R & G Potatoes, Snake River Cattle Company, Idaho Power Company, Art's Manufacturing and Supply, E & R Trucking and Double L Manufacturing. Many other businesses such as Implement Dealers, Retailers and Financial Institutions exist in support of our ag community. Employment

- The average annual unemployment rate in 2006 was 4.7%, compared to 3.4% for Idaho and 5.5% for the US. Power County ranked 9th—from highest to lowest—out of Idaho's 44 counties.
- The largest number of jobs in 2003 were provided by manufacturing, farming and government.
- The number of jobs was 4,364 in 2005, compared to 3,948 in 1969—a 14% increase.

Employment by Industry

	1969	1979	1989	2000
Total Employment	3,948	4,651	4,524	5,477
Farm	26.7%	17.6%	15.3%	18.2%
Ag Services, Forestry, Fishing & Other	1.2%	2.7%	2.4%	NA
Mining	NA	NA	NA	NA
Construction	1.7%	2.0%	1.7%	6.1%
Manufacturing	43.2%	45.2%	41.1%	31.4%
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.8%	4.0%	4.8%	6.4%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	NA	NA	NA	10.7%
Finance, insurance & real estate	1.4%	1.8%	1.9%	NA
Services	4.9%	6.0%	7.5%	9.8%
Government	9.2%	10.4%	12.6%	13.3%

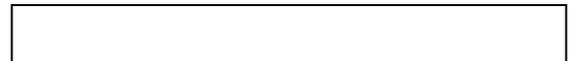
District Operations (IDAPA 60.05.02.051.03)

Power Soil Conservation District-A Brief History:

“I would like to leave the ground better than we found it....But it will take a lot of education and cooperation so we can lick the problems on our ground” with these words, Rockland farmer Norman K. Moss in 1948 summed up the prevailing attitude about forming a conservation district in Power County. On May 15, 1948, landowners voted 96 to 3 to organize the Power Soil Conservation District to include all of Power County in southeastern Idaho. The SCD was officially organized July 6, 1948, with Leroy Lindley, Arbon chairman, Ivan Wolverton, Fred Tiede and Earnest Permann, American Falls and Ben B. Hull, Rockland were the original board of supervisors. Extension county agent Sterling Schow served as the SCD’ first secretary.

Power County Background and History

Power County was established in 1913. American Falls is the county seat with a population of approximately 4400. Total area of the county is 1,411 square miles, or 903,040 acres. Federal and State lands comprise approximately 33% of the county that is dominated by expanses of flat plains and two major valleys bounded by mountain ranges. Elevations range from 4250 feet at the Minidoka Migratory Waterfowl Preserve to 8675 feet on the Bannock Range of the Deep Creek Mountains. Average rainfall is 12-14 inches per year.



The Snake River is the dominant water feature. Completion of the American Falls Dam in 1927, created a 55,860 acre reservoir providing irrigation and recreation water. Approximately 159,000 acres in eastern Power County are part of the Bannock-Shoshone Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

The first settlers to Power County were cattle and sheep ranchers. Mormon pioneers and German-Russian immigrants homesteaded the land. Arbon and

Rockland Valleys consist of dry farming and cattle ranching, while lands west of the Snake River are primarily irrigated. Crops produced in Power County include wheat, barley, corn, sugar beets, oilseeds, and Idaho's world famous potatoes.

The agricultural economy has resulted in families of several generations owning and operating businesses in the community. The population has maintained slow and steady growth. The newest area of growth in the county comes from the Hispanic population. This demographic is rapidly building families and lives in Power County. They account for many of the recently opened businesses. The Hispanic population has also created a large workforce for our community and broadened the scope of talented workers.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Power Soil Conservation District

- Urban impact on agriculture production
 - Poorly planned growth in agricultural areas
 - Increasing small acreage farms, five acres or less
 - Limited availability of State funds for conservation
 - Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and environmental issues
 - Increased paper work to getting the job done
 - Trend to regulate agriculture and ranching
 - Recreational use and its impact to agricultural management
 - Continued reduction in state funding which further reduces the district's efforts to be effective as in conservation, implementation, education and public service.
-

Strategies to Address Trends (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.03)

- Work with public land users to EDUCATE and encourage cooperation among private recreational entities and public land users/permitees and landowner private property rights.
 - More education but not the usual – more outreach instead of publications
 - Determine opportunities to coordinate outreach activities with traditional and non-traditional partners.
 - Raising awareness of conservation values with state legislature and elected officials – help decision makers be better informed
 - Strengthen Locally Led efforts
 - Supervisors become more informed on current issues impacting working lands, Farm Bill programs, Information from agencies instead of relying on NRCS
 - Continue an active information and education program for landowners to address urban development.
-

Conservationist

- Determine how to become involved with County Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources.
- Map noxious and invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts
- Establish a data base to track resource conditions
- Host an open house to make public aware of goals
- Solicit input to improve Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan
- Take a proactive approach to funding water delivery systems on irrigated cropland
- Identify the information methods to communicate with small land owners
- Sponsor project proposals with other districts

- Training for Conservation District Supervisors and staff
-

Status of the Agricultural Economy and Outlook (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.02)

As stated by the Power County Commissioners, in their land use plan, “the preservation of historic and customary agricultural, range, and forestry land use is important to the citizens of Power County”. With much of the economy derived from agriculture and related activities, maintaining viable tracts of agricultural and rangeland is a county goal.

The right of agriculture to exist and continue to operate is protected by Idaho law. Given the rural nature of the county, local ordinances and resolutions must not conflict with the right to farm protections for agricultural operations in *Idaho Code, Title 22, Agriculture and Horticulture, Chapter 45, Right to Farm*.

High-density residential development defined as more than one home per acre, or conflicting development should be directed away from irrigated agricultural land, taking into consideration the following factors:

- 1) Potential crop productivity
- 2) Availability of water
- 3) Grazing potential
- 4) Environmental factors
- 5) Availability of public services
- 6) Availability of adequate transportation systems
- 7) Historical land use practices

Lands designated for agricultural use are suitable for all types of agricultural and range operations, as well as single family homes, including manufactured homes, and accessory buildings necessary for agricultural operations. (<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/16000.html>)

Existing commercial, industrial, and residential land uses, home-based businesses and occupations and livelihoods are historical uses and will be allowed and will be managed to minimize the impacts on agriculture. Non-agricultural uses that could have adverse impacts on agricultural land use areas must be carefully reviewed.

District Staffing Requirements (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.03)

Full Time Administrative Assistant.

Full Time Technician via NRCS.

.Annual Budget Needs -

- Power Conservation District based on the above information, *works to stay in their budget. At this time* we require an annual budget of no less than \$58,640.00
-

Key Decision Makers

- Citizens in Conservation District
- Power County Commissioners and Planning and Zoning Board Members
Commissioners: Vicki Meadows, Delaine Andersen and Ron Funk
- Planning & Zoning: Jim Fitzgerald, Lynn Andersen, Kevin Boyer, Bill Lasley and Edith Kopp
- American Falls Elected City Officials:
Mark Beitia, Mayor
Norm Wright, Marc Beitia, Dan Hammond, Dean Weaver, Stuart Pankratz and Kristen Jensen, City Council
- State legislators representing Conservation District
- U.S. Senators, Representatives and Staffers
Senator Jim Guthrie, Representative Ken Andrus & Representative Kelly Packer
- Conservation District Supervisors
- Key contacts for cities
- Chamber of Commerce
- Special Interest Groups

Section 3: Assessment (IDAPA.60.05.02.025.03)

Soil Resources:

The Soil Survey of Power County Area, Idaho, contains much information useful in any land-planning program. Of prime importance are the predictions of soil behavior for selected land uses. Also highlighted are limitations or hazards to land uses that are inherent in the soil, improvements needed to overcome these limitations, and the impact that selected land uses will have on the environment. This soil survey has been prepared for many different users. Farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agronomists can use it to determine the potential of the soil and the management practices required for food and fiber production. Planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and homebuyers can use it to plan land use, select sites for construction, develop soil resources, or identify any special

practices that may be needed to insure proper performance. Conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, wildlife management, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the soil survey to help them understand, protect, and enhance the environment. Great differences in soil properties can occur even within short distances. Soils may be seasonally wet or subject to flooding. They may be shallow to bedrock. They may be too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Very clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations. These and many other soil properties that affect land use are described in this soil survey. Broad areas of soils are shown on the general soil map; the location of each kind of soil is shown on detailed soil maps. Each kind of soil in the survey area is described, and much information is given about each soil for specific uses. Additional information or assistance in using this publication can be obtained from the local office of the Soil Conservation Service or the Cooperative Extension Service. This soil survey can be useful in the conservation, development, and productive use of soil, water, and other resources.

Natural Resources:

Farming and Ranching

The first settlers in Power County were cattle and sheep ranchers. Farming became important when the land was opened to homesteaders. Soil is a major natural resource in the survey area. The soil throughout most of the arable land in the Area provides an excellent medium for crop growth. Water is adequate for domestic and livestock use on farms and ranches in most of the county. Irrigation water is provided by the American Falls Reservoir and the Snake River for both the Falls Irrigation District and the Aberdeen-Springfield Irrigation District. The supply is supplemented by a number of deep wells. Much of the increase in irrigated acreage in recent years has been the result of the water available from deep wells. On the Snake River Plain, deep well in the aquifer provide much of the water. Except in rare years, water has always been adequate and no natural disasters have deterred farming. Because of the sparse rainfall north and west of the Snake River, irrigation is needed for successful farming. Higher rainfall and deep fertile soils make the Arbon and Rockland Valleys prime dryland wheat-growing areas. In recent years, however, a significant acreage in the Rockland Valley has been brought under irrigation through water supplied by Rock Creek and by deep wells. Pleasant Valley is the prime potato-producing area. Most irrigated land in the survey area is below 4,500 feet in elevation. Most of the dryfarmed cropland is below 5,500 feet. Completion of the railroad through American Falls in 1903 greatly facilitated shipping farm products to market. The railroad and wagon bridge over the Snake River provided a needed crossing for the area. Enactment of Soil Conservation District legislation in 1937 gave landowners an opportunity to form organizations through which to solve their mutual problems. Formed in May 1948, the Power Soil and Water Conservation

District was organized to help farmers use irrigation water more efficiently, control soil blowing on the sandy soils, and control soil erosion on steeper soils. In the Power County Area, the climate and the soils, if irrigated, are suited to a variety of crops, including Irish potatoes, small grain, sugar beets, alfalfa, and pasture. Much of the acreage is dryfarmed wheat and barley. Some corn is grown for silage. Considerations that can limit crop production and that require special attention are the short growing season, the scant precipitation in the southern part of the county, soil blowing, water erosion, and the need for careful management of available water. Large areas in the county are rangeland. Water is available for livestock on most rangeland. In mountainous areas, water for livestock is available from development of springs, from numerous small streams, and from wells. On the Snake River Plain, in the northern part of the survey area, water is much more difficult to obtain. Because of the lack of surface sources, all water for livestock on rangeland must come from wells. An adequate supply is available if the wells are deep. Water is available in adequate quantity, and quality for present and expected municipal, industrial, and residential uses. Future irrigation development will depend primarily on deep wells.

Climate:

The Rocky Mountains partly shield Power County from strong arctic winds. Winters, though cold, generally are not too severe. In summer, winds from the Pacific Ocean are partly blocked. Days are hot, but nights are fairly cool. Except in mountainous areas, precipitation is scant in summer but in many places is adequate during the cooler parts of the year for dryfarmed small grain or for rangeland. The snowpack accumulation at high elevations supplies irrigation water for intensive farming in parts of the lowland. Table 1 gives data on temperature and precipitation for the survey area, as recorded at American Falls for the period 1951 to 1973. Table 2 shows probable dates of the first freeze in fall and the last freeze in spring. Table 3 provides data on length of the growing season. In winter the average temperature is 28 degrees F, and the average daily minimum temperature is 19 degrees. The lowest temperature on record, which occurred at American Falls on January 22, 1962, is -31 degrees. In summer the average temperature is 67 degrees, and the average daily maximum temperature is 83 degrees. The highest recorded temperature, which occurred on July 10, 1956, is 100 degrees. Growing degree days, shown in table 1, are equivalent to "heat units." During the month, growing degree days accumulate by the amount that the average temperature each day exceeds a base temperature (40 degrees F). The normal monthly accumulation is used to schedule single or successive plantings of a crop between the last freeze in spring and the first freeze in fall. Of the total annual precipitation, 5 inches, or 50 percent, usually falls in April through September, which includes the growing season for most crops. In 2 years out of 10, the rainfall in April through September is less than 4 inches. The heaviest 1-day rainfall during the period of record was 1.34 inches at American Falls on December 23, 1964. Thunderstorms number about 24

each year, 16 of which occur in summer. Small grain and hay, Average seasonal snowfall is 30 inches. The greatest snow depth at any one time during the period of record was 13 inches. On the average, 14 days have at least 1 inch of snow on the ground, but the number of such days varies greatly from year to year. Every few years a blizzard with high winds and drifting snow strikes the survey area. Even at low elevations, snow remains on the ground for many weeks. Such storms are hazardous to livestock. The average relative humidity in midafternoon is about 40 percent. Humidity is higher at night, and the average at dawn is about 70 percent. The percentage of possible sunshine is 80 in summer and 40 in winter. The prevailing wind is from the southwest. Average windspeed is highest, 12 miles per hour, in April. the survey area, where they are, and how they can be used.

The soil scientists went into the area knowing they likely would locate many soils they already knew something about and perhaps identify some they had never seen before. They observed the steepness, length, and shape of slopes; the size of streams and the general pattern of drainage; the kinds of native plants or crops; the kinds of rock; and many facts about the soils. They dug many holes to expose soil profiles. A profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil; it extends from the surface down into the parent material, which has been changed very little by leaching or by the action of plant roots. The soil scientists recorded the characteristics of the profiles they studied, and they compared those profiles with others in counties nearby and in places more distant. Thus, through correlation, they classified and named the soils according to nationwide, uniform procedures. After a guide for classifying and naming the soils was worked out, the soil scientists drew the boundaries of the individual soils on aerial photographs. These photographs show woodlands, buildings, field borders, roads, and other details that help in drawing boundaries accurately. The soil map at the back of this publication was prepared from aerial photographs. The areas shown on a soil map are called soil map units. Some map units are made up of one kind of soil, others are made up of two or more kinds of soil, and a few have little or no soil material at all. Map units are discussed in the sections "General soil map for broad land use planning" and "Soil maps for detailed planning." While a soil survey is in progress, samples of soils are taken as needed for laboratory measurements and for engineering tests. The soils are field tested, and interpretations of their behavior are modified as necessary during the course of the survey. New interpretations are added to meet local needs, mainly through field observations of different kinds of soil in different uses under different levels of management. Also, data are assembled from other sources, such as test results, records, field experience, and information available from state and local specialists. For example, data on crop yields under defined practices are assembled from farm records and from field or plot experiments on the same kinds of soil. But only part of a soil survey is done when the soils have been named, described, interpreted, and delineated on aerial photographs and when the laboratory data and other data have been assembled. The mass of detailed information then needs to be organized so

that it is readily available to different groups of users, among them farmers, managers of rangeland and woodland, engineers, planners, developers and builders, homebuyers, and those seeking recreation.

Recreation:

The Power County Area provides varying kinds of recreation for the more populated area, particularly Pocatello, Blackfoot, and Idaho Falls. The climate, geology, and vegetation provide interesting contrasts for summer and winter outdoor activities. Boating, fishing, camping, and picnicking facilities are available at Massacre Rock State Park on the south bank of the Snake River. The Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge is a sanctuary for migratory waterfowl. Crystal Ice Caves and Great Rift area in the northwestern part of the survey area have unique volcanic formations. American Falls Reservoir and the Snake River provide boating, fishing, and other water-based recreation. The state owned fish hatchery is about 1 mile downstream from the dam. Hot springs and swimming and picnicking facilities are available at the Indian Springs Natatorium about 1 ½ miles south of I-15 W on State Highway 37. East of Rockland offers fantastic camping and creek fishing along with four wheeling, and hiking on the East Fork of Fall Creek. Mountainous areas provide hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing opportunities. Care is needed in traversing avalanche-prone areas. Drifting snow forming cornices at the crest of steep slopes is especially hazardous. The soils of the survey area are rated in table 12 according to limitations that affect their suitability for recreation uses. The ratings are based on such restrictive soil features as flooding, wetness, slope, and texture of the surface layer. Not considered in these ratings, but important in evaluating a site, are location and accessibility of the area, size and shape of the area and its scenic quality, the ability of the soil to support vegetation, access to water, potential water impoundment sites available, and either access to public sewerlines or capacity of the soil to absorb septic tank effluent. Soils subject to flooding are limited, in varying degree, for recreation use by the duration and intensity of flooding and the season when flooding occurs. Onsite assessment of height, duration, intensity, and frequency of flooding is essential in planning recreation facilities. The degree of the limitation of the soils is expressed as slight, moderate, or severe. *Slight* means that the soil properties are generally favorable and that the limitations are minor and easily overcome. *Moderate* means that the limitations can be overcome or alleviated by planning, design, or special maintenance. *Severe* means that soil properties are unfavorable and that limitations can be offset only by costly soil reclamation, special design, intensive maintenance, limited use, or by a combination of these measures. The information in table 12 can be supplemented by information in other parts of this survey. Especially helpful are interpretations for septic tank absorption fields, given in table 9, and interpretations for dwellings without basements and for local roads and streets, given in table 8.

Camp areas require such site preparation as shaping and leveling for tent and parking areas, stabilizing roads and intensively used areas, and installing sanitary facilities and utility lines. Camp areas are subject to heavy foot traffic and some vehicular traffic. The best soils for this use have mild slopes and are not wet or subject to flooding during the period of use. The surface has few or no stones or boulders, absorbs rainfall readily but remains firm, and is not dusty when dry. Strong slopes and stones or boulders can greatly increase the cost of constructing camping sites.

Picnic areas are subject to heavy foot traffic. Most vehicular traffic is confined to access roads and parking areas. The best soils for use as picnic areas are firm when wet, are not dusty when dry, are not subject to flooding during the period of use, and do not have slopes or stones or boulders that will increase the cost of shaping sites or of building access roads and parking areas. *Playgrounds* require soils that can withstand intensive foot traffic. The best soils are almost level and are not wet or subject to flooding during the season of use. The surface is free of stones or boulders, is firm after rains, and is not dusty when dry. If shaping is required to obtain a uniform grade, the depth of the soil over bedrock or hardpan should be enough to allow necessary grading.

Paths and trails for walking, horseback riding, bicycling, and other uses should require little or no cutting and filling. The best soils for this use are those that are not wet, are firm after rains, are not dusty when dry, and are not subject to flooding more than once during the annual period of use. They should have moderate slopes and have few or no stones or boulders on the surface.

Wildlife habitat

Soils directly affect the kind and amount of vegetation that is available to wildlife as food and cover, and they affect the construction of water impoundments. The kind and abundance of wildlife that populate an area depend largely on the amount and distribution of food, cover, and water. If any one of these elements is missing, is inadequate, or is inaccessible, wildlife either are scarce or do not inhabit the area. If the soils have the potential, wildlife habitat can be created or improved by planting appropriate vegetation, by maintaining the existing plant cover, or by helping the natural establishment of desirable plants. In table 13, the soils in the survey area are rated according to their potential to support the main kinds of wildlife habitat in the area. This information can be used in planning for parks, wildlife refuges, nature study areas, and other developments for wildlife; selecting areas that are suitable for wildlife; selecting soils that are suitable for creating, improving, or maintaining specific elements of wildlife habitat; and determining the intensity of management needed for each element of the habitat. The potential of the soil is rated good, fair, poor, or very poor. A rating of *good* means that the element of wildlife habitat or the kind of habitat is easily created, improved, or maintained. Few or no limitations affect management, and satisfactory results can be expected if the soil is used for the designated purpose. A rating of *fair* means that the element of wildlife habitat or kind

of habitat can be created, improved, or maintained in most places. Moderately intensive management is required for satisfactory results. A rating of *poor* means that limitations are severe for the designated element or kind of wildlife habitat. Habitat can be created, improved, or maintained in most places, but management is difficult and must be intensive. A rating of *very poor* means that restrictions for the element of wildlife habitat or kind of wildlife are very severe, and that unsatisfactory results can be expected. Wildlife habitat is impractical or even impossible to create, improve, or maintain on soils having such a rating. The elements of wildlife habitat are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

Grain and seed crops are seed-producing annuals used by wildlife. The major soil properties that affect the growth of grain and seed crops are depth of the root zone, texture of the surface layer, available water capacity, wetness, slope, surface stoniness, and flood hazard. Soil temperature and soil moisture are also considerations. Examples of grain and seed crops are wheat, oats, and barley.

Grasses and legumes are domestic perennial grasses and herbaceous legumes that are planted for wildlife food and cover. Major soil properties that affect the growth of grasses and legumes are depth of the root zone, texture of the surface layer, available water capacity, wetness, surface stoniness, flood hazard, and slope. Soil temperature and soil moisture are also considerations. Examples of grasses and legumes are fescue, orchardgrass brome grass, clover, and alfalfa. *Wild herbaceous plants* are native or naturally established grasses and forbs, including weeds, that provide food and cover for wildlife. Major soil properties that affect the growth of these plants are depth of the root zone, texture of the surface layer, available water capacity, wetness, surface stoniness, and flood hazard. Soil temperature and soil moisture are also considerations. Examples of wild herbaceous plants are bluestem, goldenrod, wildrye, wheatgrass, and fescue.

Coniferous plants are cone-bearing trees, shrubs, or ground cover plants that furnish habitat or supply food in the form of browse, seeds, or fruitlike cones. Soil properties that have a major effect on the growth of coniferous plants are depth of the root zone, available water capacity, and wetness. Examples of coniferous plants are pine, spruce, fir, and juniper.

Shrubs are bushy woody plants that produce fruit, buds, twigs, bark, or foliage used by wildlife or that provide cover and shade for some species of wildlife. Major soil properties that affect the growth of shrubs are depth of the root zone, available water capacity, salinity, and moisture. Examples of shrubs are mountainmahogany, bitterbrush, snowberry, and big sagebrush.

Wetland plants are annual and perennial wild herbaceous plants that grow on moist or wet sites, exclusive of submerged or floating aquatics. They produce food or cover for wildlife that use wetland as habitat. Major soil properties affecting wetland plants are texture of the surface layer, wetness, reaction, salinity, slope, and surface stoniness. Examples of wetland plants are smartweed, wild millet, saltgrass, and cordgrass and rushes, sedges, and reeds.

Shallow water areas are bodies of water that have an average depth of less than 5 feet and that are useful to wildlife. They can be naturally wet areas, or they can be created by dams or levees or by water-control structures in marshes or streams. Major soil properties affecting shallow water areas are depth to bedrock, wetness, surface stoniness, slope, and permeability. The availability of a dependable water supply is important if water areas are to be developed. Examples of shallow water areas are marshes, waterfowl feeding areas, and ponds. The kinds of wildlife habitat are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

Openland habitat consists of cropland, pasture, meadows, and areas that are overgrown with grasses, herbs, shrubs, and vines. These areas produce grain and seed crops, grasses and legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. The kinds of wildlife attracted to these areas include pheasant, meadowlark, field sparrow, cottontail, and red fox.

Woodland habitat consists of areas of hardwoods or conifers, or a mixture of both, and associated grasses, legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. Wildlife attracted to these areas include wild turkey, ruffed grouse, thrushes, woodpeckers, squirrels, gray fox, raccoon, deer, and bear. *Wetland habitat* consists of open, marshy or swampy, shallow water areas where water-tolerant plants grow. Some of the wildlife attracted to such areas are ducks, geese, herons, shore birds, muskrat, mink, and beaver. *Rangeland habitat* consists of areas of wild herbaceous plants and shrubs. Wildlife attracted to rangeland include antelope, desert mule deer, sage grouse, meadowlark, and lark bunting.

Soil properties:

Extensive data about soil properties are summarized on the following pages. The two main sources of these data are the many thousands of soil borings made during the course of the survey and the laboratory analyses of selected soil samples from typical profiles. In making soil borings during field mapping, soil scientists can identify several important soil properties. They note the seasonal soil moisture condition or the presence of free water and its depth. For each horizon in the profile, they note the thickness and color of the soil material; the texture, or amount of clay, silt, sand, and gravel or other coarse fragments; the structure, or the natural pattern of cracks and pores in the undisturbed soil; and the consistence of the soil material in place under the existing soil moisture conditions. They record the depth of plant roots, determine the pH or reaction of the soil, and identify any free carbonates. Samples of soil material are analyzed in the laboratory to verify the field estimates of soil properties and to determine all major properties of key soils, especially properties that cannot be estimated accurately by field observation. Laboratory analyses are not conducted for all soil series in the survey area, but laboratory data for many soil series not tested are available from nearby survey areas. The available field and laboratory data are summarized in tables. The tables give the estimated range of engineering properties, the engineering classifications, and the physical and chemical properties of each major horizon of each soil in the survey area. They also

present data about pertinent soil and water features, engineering test data, and data obtained from physical and chemical laboratory analyses of soils.

Crops and pasture:

The major management concerns in the use of the soils for crops and pasture are described in this section. In addition, the crops or pasture plants best suited to the soil are discussed; the system of land capability classification used by the Soil Conservation Service is explained; and the estimated yields of the main crops and hay and pasture plants are presented for each soil. This section provides information about the overall agricultural potential of the survey area and about the management practices that are needed. The information is useful to equipment dealers, land improvement contractors, fertilizer companies, processing companies, planners, conservationists, and others. For each kind of soil, information about management is presented in the section "Soil maps for detailed planning." Planners of management systems for individual fields or farms should also consider the detailed information given in the description of each soil. Most of the survey area is used for crops and pasture. Farming, both dryland and irrigated, is a dominant part of the economy. The acreage in dryland crops is being reduced as more and more land is irrigated. The most important dryland cash crops are wheat and barley. The most important irrigated cash crops are sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, and barley. Livestock, mainly beef cattle, has always been a major part of the economy. The rangeland acreage is also slowly being reduced as it is converted to irrigated cropland. The potential is good for increased food production. A significant acreage has good potential as irrigated cropland if water becomes available. In addition to the reserve productive capacity represented by this land, food production could also be increased considerably by extending the latest crop production technology to all cropland in the survey area. This soil survey can greatly facilitate the application of such technology. The use of the soil survey in making land use decisions that will influence the future role of farming in the survey area is discussed under "General soil-map for broad land use planning" and "Broad land use considerations." *Soil erosion* is the major problem on most of the land in the survey area. If the soil is irrigated, and the slope is more than 2 percent, erosion is a hazard. On dryfarmed soils, erosion is a hazard if the slope is more than 4 percent. Loss of the surface layer through erosion is damaging for two reasons. First, productivity is reduced as the surface layer is lost and part of the subsoil or underlying material is incorporated into the plow layer. Loss of the surface layer is especially damaging on soils that have a clayey subsoil, such as the Arbone variant; on soils having strongly alkaline layers near the surface, such as Escalante and Pocatello; and on soils having a layer that limits the depth of the root zone. Such layers include nodular horizons, as in Portneuf soils, or bedrock, as in the Portino, Trevino, Neeley variant, and Vining soils. Second, soil erosion on farmland results in sediment entering streams. Erosion control minimizes the pollution of streams by sediment and improves the quality of water for municipal use

and recreation and for fish and wildlife. Erosion control provides a protective surface cover, reduces runoff, and increases infiltration. A cropping system that keeps a plant cover on the soil for extended periods can hold soil erosion losses to amounts that do not reduce the productive capacity of the soils. On livestock farms, which require pasture and hay, the legume and grass forage crops in the cropping system reduce erosion on sloping land. They also provide nitrogen and improve tilth for the following crops. Minimizing tillage and leaving crop residue on the surface increase infiltration and reduce the hazards of runoff and erosion. These practices can be adapted to most soils in the survey area. Annual cropping to small grain combined with minimum tillage is effective in reducing erosion on the dryfarmed Newdale, Rexburg, Arbone, Arbone variant, and Lanoak soils. This practice cannot be used successfully on those dryfarmed soils that receive less precipitation. Terraces and diversions which reduce the length of slope, reduce runoff and erosion. They are most practical on deep, well drained soils that have regular slopes of up to about 15 percent. Arbone, Newdale, Rexburg, Lanoak, Neeley, Pocatello, Wheeler, and Wheelerville soils with slopes of less than about 15 percent are suitable for terraces. The other soils in the survey area are less suitable for terraces and diversions because of irregular or steep slopes. Contour or cross-slope farming is an erosion control practice in the survey area. It is best suited to soils with smooth, uniform slopes, for example, some areas of Arbone, Newdale, Rexburg, Lanoak, Neeley, Pocatello, Wheeler, and Wheelerville soils. *Soil blowing* is a hazard on the sandy Feltham and Quincy soils; on the sandy loam Declo, Kecko, Escalante, and Paniogue soils; and in spring on the silt loam Pocatello, Neeley, Wheeler, Portino, and Portneuf soils. Soil blowing can damage these soils in a few hours if winds are strong and the soils are dry and bare of vegetation or surface mulch. Maintaining a plant cover, surface mulch, or a rough surface through proper tillage minimizes the hazard of soil blowing. Information on the design of erosion control measures for each kind of soil is contained in the Technical Guide, available in local offices of the Soil Conservation Service.

Soil drainage is the major management need on only a small percentage of the acreage used for crops and pasture in the survey area. This acreage consists of the somewhat poorly drained Parehat, Schodson, andhall soils, which make up about 6,900 acres. It also includes the small areas of wetter soils along drainageways and in swales. Artificial drainage is needed in some of the wetter areas. Information on drainage design for each kind of soil is contained in the Technical Guide, available in local offices of the Soil Conservation Service. *Soil fertility* is naturally low in the sandy soils and moderate to high in the loamy alluvial and wind-deposited soils. A large acreage of the wind-deposited soils has been farmed for many years. Cropping and erosion have gradually reduced the natural fertility. The soils in the survey area range from the slightly acid Lanoak soils to the strongly alkaline Zunhall soils. Most are mildly to moderately alkaline. The soils are inherently low in nitrogen. The rate at which nitrogen fertilizer should be applied depends on the available moisture. Much heavier rates of application can and should be used on the irrigated soils than on the

dryfarmed soils. Phosphorus can be beneficial, especially on irrigated soils. On all soils, the addition of fertilizer should be based on the results of soil tests, on the need of the crop, and on the expected level of yields. The Cooperative Extension Service can help in determining the kinds and amounts of fertilizer to be applied. *Soil tilth* is an important factor in the germination of seeds and in the infiltration of water into the soil. Soils with good tilth are granular and porous. Most of the soils used for crops in the survey area have a silt loam surface layer that is low to moderate in content of organic matter. Generally, the structure is weak. Regular additions of crop residue, manure, and other organic material can help to improve soil structure. Fall plowing is not a good practice on sloping soils that are subject to erosion. Minimum tillage is generally suggested for all cropland. It helps to reduce compaction and maintain soil structure. *Field crops* suited to the soils and climate of the dryland part of the survey area include winter wheat, spring wheat, and barley. A small amount of alfalfa is grown for hay, but yields are low because of the limited moisture available. The main crops produced in the irrigated areas are sugar beets, potatoes, winter wheat, spring wheat, and barley. The farmers that raise livestock also raise alfalfa for hay and pasture and corn that is generally cut for silage. Latest information and suggestions on growing crops can be obtained from local offices of the Cooperative Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

Rangeland:

This section was prepared by John Davis, range conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Pocatello, Idaho. Of the 697,430 acres in the Power County Soil Survey Area, approximately 33 percent is federal land primarily under the management of the Bureau of Land Management. Practically all of this federal land is classified as native rangeland. In addition, some 80,000 acres, or 11 percent of the total acreage in the area, is presently classified as rangeland and is either private or state endowment land and is under private or state management. Therefore, about 308,000 acres, or 44 percent of the total survey area, is considered rangeland. Cow/calf and purebred cattle are the chief livestock enterprises in the area. There are several dairies and also some sheep ranching. Some of the federal range is used by operators not based within the county. With proper development and adequate water, about 35,000 acres of the present rangeland could be converted to irrigated cropland. This acreage is mainly the sandy soils north of the Snake River in the western part of the survey area. The forage produced on the rangeland is used mainly in spring and fall. The native vegetation in many parts of the survey area has been greatly depleted by excessive use in the past. Even where protected from grazing, the more desirable native vegetation has been very slow to recover because of the scant precipitation in the area. The productivity of the more desirable native plants is probably a third of the amount originally produced. The productivity of the range can be increased by using management practices that are effective for the specific kind of soils and range sites. Where climate and topography are about the same, differences in the kind and amount of vegetation that rangeland can

produce are related closely to the kind of soil. Effective management is based on the relationships among soils, vegetation, and water. Table 6 shows, for each kind of soil, the name of the range site; the total annual production of vegetation in favorable, normal, and unfavorable years; the characteristic vegetation; and the expected percentage of each species in the composition of the potential natural plant community. Some soils not listed do not support a natural plant community of predominantly grasses, grasslike plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing or browsing. Others are not used for this purpose. The following are explanations of column headings in table 6. A *range site* is a distinctive kind of rangeland that differs from other kinds of rangeland in its ability to produce a characteristic natural plant community. Soils that produce a similar kind, amount, and proportion of range plants are grouped into range sites. For those areas where the relationship between soils and vegetation has been established, range sites can be interpreted directly from the soil map. Properties that determine the capacity of the soil to supply moisture and plant nutrients have the greatest influence on the productivity of range plants. Soil reaction, salt content, and a seasonal high water table are also important. *Total production* refers to the amount of vegetation that can be expected to grow annually on well managed rangeland that is supporting the potential natural plant community. It is expressed in pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation for favorable, normal, and unfavorable years. In a favorable year the amount and distribution of precipitation and the temperatures are such that growing conditions are substantially better than average; in a normal year these conditions are about average for the area; in an unfavorable year, growing conditions are well below average, generally because of low available soil moisture. *Dry weight* refers to the total air-dry vegetation produced per acre each year by the potential natural plant community. Vegetation that is highly palatable to livestock and vegetation that is unpalatable are included. Some of the vegetation can also be grazed extensively by wildlife. *Characteristic species* of grasses, grasslike plants, forbs, and shrubs that make up most of the potential natural plant community on each soil are listed by common name. Under *Composition*, the expected proportion of each species is presented as the percentage, in air-dry weight, of the total annual production of herbaceous and woody plants. The amount that can be used as forage depends on the kinds of grazing animals and on the grazing season. Generally all of the vegetation produced is not used. Range management requires, in addition to knowledge of the kinds of soil and the potential natural plant community, an evaluation of the present condition of the range vegetation in relation to its potential. Range condition is determined by comparing the present plant community with the potential natural plant community on a particular range site. The more closely the existing community resembles the potential community, the better the range condition. The objective in range management is to control grazing so that the plants growing on a site are about the same in kind and amount as the potential natural plant community for that site. Such management generally results in the maximum production of vegetation, conservation of water, and control of erosion. Sometimes, however, a

range condition somewhat below the potential meets grazing needs, provides wildlife habitat, and protects soil and water resources.

Windbreaks and environmental plantings:

Windbreaks are established to protect livestock, buildings, and yards from wind and snow. Windbreaks also help protect fruit trees and gardens, and they furnish habitat for wildlife. Several rows of low and high-growing broad-leaved and coniferous species provide the most protection. Field windbreaks are narrow plantings made at right angles to the prevailing wind and at specific intervals across the field, the interval depending on erodibility of the soil. They protect cropland and crops from wind, hold snow on the fields, and provide food and cover for wildlife. Environmental plantings help to beautify and screen houses and other buildings and to abate noise. The plants, mostly evergreen shrubs and trees, are closely spaced. A healthy planting stock of suitable species planted properly on a well prepared site and maintained in good condition can insure a high degree of plant survival. Table 7 shows the height that locally grown trees and shrubs are expected to reach on various kinds of soil in 20 years. The estimates in table 7, based on measurements and observation of established plantings that have been given adequate care, can be used as a guide in planning windbreaks and screens. Additional information about planning windbreaks and screens and the planting and care of trees can be obtained from local offices of the Soil Conservation Service or the Cooperative Extension Service or from nurserymen.

Water Resources:

The American Falls Reservoir, with a capacity of 1,272,800 acres feet of water, is a distinguishing feature of the Power Soil Conservation District as well as being one of the largest man-made lakes in Idaho. The Snake River traverses the reservoir, Bannock Creek, Rock Creek and smaller drainages provide large quantities of water for local users along with down stream users.

The residents of Power County have a real interest in their water resources. The interest ranges from a very real concern of excess flood waters to anxiety for a scarcity of water.

The stability of the farms making up the 79,000 acres of irrigated land is dependent upon an adequate season, long supply of irrigation water. The Power SCD has a rich treasure in this regards and generally speaking is in a favorable position. Falls Irrigation District and the Aberdeen/American Falls Canal Company, the two largest suppliers, with Snake River flow and reservoir storage rights, have been able to supply their water users with adequate amounts of water most years. Much of the increase in irrigated acres in recent years has been due to the tremendous Snake River Plain aquifer made accessible to farms by deep wells. Other irrigation developments, private and group, which lack storage facilities suffer from late season water shortage.

Section 4: Identify and Prioritize Objectives (IDAPA 60-.05.02.025.04)

1. Priority 1: District Operations

- By Jan 31 meet with the County Commissioners to our SCD meeting to discuss ongoing projects and possible new projects and ideas.
- Organize Public meeting to review local program availability
- Send 2 students to the Natural Resource Workshop
- By June 30, all Conservation District cooperator addresses and files will be updated.
- By June 30, the District will review and if needed update their policy and procedures manual and accountability policy.
- By September 15, the District will have completed their annual audit and provided the audit to the Division of Financial Management and others requiring this information.
- By September 30, Power SCD will have provided new supervisors training.

Priority 2: Information and Education

- Compose quarterly newsletter to emphasizing program specifics and producer opportunities
- By May 1ST develop and implement an Urban Conservation Outreach Program.
- Annually conduct youth environmental education programs and increase participation in – speech contest, poster contest, seek and sponsor Envirothon Team. Annually sponsor Arbor Day trees & publications

Priority 3: Non Irrigated Cropland

- Make available technical and financial assistance for improved erosion control.
- *Investigate and inform growers of the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) from the new farm bill*

Priority 4: Irrigated Cropland

- Monitor and advise NRCS of areas in the Power SCD that need further attention to meet their Food Security Act (1985 FSA) obligation, i.e., severe wind erosion
- Provide information to District producers on biological weed control
- Help improve water management with the help of NRCS
- Seek 2 landowners to plant fields and farmstead windbreaks assisting with design and planning
- Provide information to the public on tree selection and planting techniques for windbreaks/shelterbelts through newsletter articles and “hands on” demonstrations at the public schools.
- Provide information on the benefit of cover crops and reduced tillage.

Priority 5: Range Land Pasture, Hay-land and Pasture:

- Provide administrative assistance to NRCS on USDA/Farm Bill programs
- Promote and provide information to improve control of noxious weeds on both public and private lands in cooperation with county weed supervisor.
- Evaluate water conservation opportunities of sprinkler irrigation versus flood irrigation.
- Maintain an economic stability of the ranching industry and multiple uses by assisting cooperators to improve forage quality and quantity of rangeland within the district.
- Promote the development of coordinated resource management plans under EQIP.
- Develop relationships with BLM, USFS, USFWS, NMFS, NRCS and IDFG to assist with public land grazing issues and enhancements.
- Assist Ranchers to address Sage Grouse and Wolf Management on public grazing lands. Consider avenues to assist landowners with encroachment of wolves on private property

Priority 6: Riparian

- Work with area producers to enhance their stream banks.

Priority 7: Wildlife Habitat

- Assist Idaho Fish and Game along with producers in developing wildlife habitat plans.

Priority 8: Energy Conservation

- Keep the public informed of any and all programs that might be available to assist them with various conservation practices through quarterly newsletters

Priority 9: District Water Quality and Quantity Priorities and Goals:

- District projects related to Water Quality and Water Quantity include continued efforts to provide irrigation improvements, riparian protection and management. These efforts are focused on the enhancement of anadromous and native fisheries within the district as well as long term sustainability of the agricultural community.
- By June 30, the district will assist with the development of plans to install approximately 2 miles of riparian fencing to include pasture management and addresses weed control. Where feasible, full ranch planning will be accomplished.
- By June 30 PSCD will assist in the development of plans to improve irrigation diversions or where feasible consolidate and remove irrigation diversions.
- This further includes the development of off site stock-water systems where appropriate.

Priority 10: Recreation

- Provide assistance to help reduce conflict between ranching and recreation.

Priority Actions – 6 Months

- *Summary of the priority actions needed to start the 5-year plan of the Power Soil Conservation District*

Action	Begin Date	End Date
▪ Seek public comments on Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan	3/15	4/1
▪ Board of Supervisor review of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan priorities, actions, and public comment	3/4	4/1
▪ Complete written update of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan	4/1	5/6
▪ Identify budget and staff needs	3/4	4/1
▪ Develop, adopt annual budget	4/1	5/6
▪ Adopt and submit Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan ▪ Implement Annual Plan and Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan	4/1	5/6

Section 5: Water Quality (IDAPA 60-.05.02.025.05)

Background for Stream Segments of Concern

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

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

Section 6: Identify, Prioritize and Implement Projects: (IDAPA 60-.05.02.025.06&07)

By April Power SCD has identified projects for State and County Funding as follows:

- Staff Hours to secure grants and or funds for projects and to retain the office space/equipment.
- Workshops or Tours and Publications on Water Quality Improvement/Management
- Idaho Envirothon Teams
- Natural Resource Awareness Day
- Annual 5th Grade Tour
- Agricultural Awareness Week – Community and K-12 Grades
- Support to FFA and 4-H
- Poster Contest – 5th Grade
- Speech Contest –High School
- Bread in a Bag – 4th Grade
- District Equipment Program
- Support of the State Lands Judging Contest
- Support of the Idaho Forestry Contest
- Community Support – County Fair and Legislative Display
- Support of IASCD, NACD , RC&D, IDEA by paying annual dues
- Ag in the classroom
- Water festival

The above projects and activities are ranked in a priority order however Power SCD believes they have secured adequate funding to provide both staff and sponsorship of these activities for the next fiscal year.

AGENCIES AND GROUPS COOPERATING WITH THE POWER SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Landowners/Cooperators

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Auxiliary
Idaho Department of Fish And Game
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Idaho District Employees Association
Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission

Idaho Department Of Agriculture
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
City of American Falls

City of Rockland
American Falls Chamber of Commerce
American Falls School District #381Rockland School District
Idaho Department of Agriculture
Power County Commissioners
Power County Farm Bureau
Power County Press
Department of Environmental Quality
Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Association of Soil Conservation Districts

Idaho Cattle Association
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
State of Idaho

Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development

University Of Idaho Cooperate Extension System

US Army Corp of Engineers

USDA Farm Service Agency

USDA Plant Material Center

Power County Extension Service

Power County Weed Control

References:

Appendix A: Annual Plan of Work – IDAPA60.05.02.051.01

Other industries in the county, including the only chemical manufacturing at J. R. Simplot (due to the recent loss of FMC), are R & G Potatoes, Snake River Cattle Company, Idaho Power Company, Art's Manufacturing and Supply, Scoular Grain E & R Trucking and Double L Manufacturing. Many other businesses such as Implement Dealers, Retailers and Financial Institutions exist in support of our ag community.

APPENDIX B. Stream Segments of Concern:

Stream Segments of Concern in Power SCD (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.05)

Power 303d listed streams Private land

American Falls 17040206	Beneficial use	Status
American Falls Reservoir Pollutants Chlorophyll-a Oxygen, Dissolved Sedimentation/Siltation Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting
Bannock Creek Sedimentation/Siltation Fecal Coliform Escherichia coli	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting
Knox Creek Sedimentation/Siltation	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting
Moonshine Creek Sedimentation/Siltation	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting
Rattlesnake Creek Escherichia coli Sedimentation/Siltation	Cold Water Aquatic Life Secondary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting Not Supporting
Short Creek Could not find pollutant	Cold Water Aquatic Life Secondary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting Not Supporting

West Fork Bannock Creek Sedimentation/Siltation	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting
Portneuf 17040208		
Portneuf River	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting
Oxygen, Dissolved	Secondary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting
Temperature, water		
Yellow Dog Creek	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting
Escherichia coli	Secondary Contact Recreation	Not Supporting
Lake Walcott 17040209		
Ferry Hollow	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting
Could not find pollutant		
Little Creek	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting
Could not find pollutant		
Lower Bear-malad 16010204		
Dairy Creek	Cold Water Aquatic Life	Not Supporting
Sedimentation/Siltation		

American Falls Reservoir info
www.Recreation.gov web page
56,000 acres is the surface area
100 miles of shoreline

Bureau of reclamation web page
Storage Capacity 1,671,300 acre feet



Conservation District Priority Number 5: Rangeland, Pasture and Hay

Goal(s): Implement Prescribed Grazing on 2500 acres per year in Power Co. using available programs and practices to achieve improved Rangeland Condition and trend.

Objective: Implement Prescribed Grazing on 2500 acres per year in Power Co. using available programs and practices to achieve improved Rangeland Condition and trend.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Promote better livestock management in Riparian areas through newsletter articles on offsite watering opportunities for grazed riparian areas and fencing cattle off streams.	Mar. & July	Admin. Assistant NRCS
Identify and utilize cooperating agency conservation programs, e.g., Idaho F & G, USFWS, for wildlife habitat enhancements on rangelands and promote their use in newsletter articles.	Jan. & Sept.	Admin. Assistant
Encourage the use of cross fencing and alternative grazing systems to increase production and reduce soil erosion.	July-June	
Develop a conservation field trial using new plant varieties.		
Work with NRCS to develop and distribute a list of Native and Non-Native plants, forbs and shrubs for re-seeding rangeland, pasture and hay ground	March	
Research and inform the public through newsletter articles on Sage Grouse/Sagebrush removal issues and resolutions as these matters reach conclusions.	Oct. & April	

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Conservation District Priority Number 1: District Operations

Goal(s): To conduct Power SCD business according to Idaho Soil Conservation Laws

**Objective: To increase public awareness of soil and water conservation needs and opportunities
In the Power Soil Conservation District, develop a proactive strategy with Division V SCD's to
Increase awareness of upcoming CRP challenges**

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Organize and schedule meeting with Local Working Group	Sept	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Support Division V, IDEA, IASCD, RC&D & NACD by paying annual dues & attending meetings	As scheduled	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Schedule meeting with County Commissioners to discuss accomplishments, new projects of interest & letter of intent of funds	January	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Organize and schedule public meeting presenting programs available through USDA, DEQ, and Fish & Game	Feb.	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS & IFG
Update the display board for use at public meeting, outreach programs and County Fair	July & Jan.	Admin. Assistant
Coordinate with local government agencies	All year	Board of Supervisors

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Conservation District Priority Number 3: Non Irrigated Cropland

Goal(s): Encourage Conservation Tillage methods using available Programs and practices on 500 acres of Dry Cropland per year to conserve soil and improve productivity

Objective: To Improve Resource Management on Non-Irrigated Cropland by reducing Soil & Wind Erosion, Identifying and addressing Noxious weed problems and to enhance Dryland Productivity.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Advise Dryland operators with expiring CRP contracts of NRCS and cooperating agency programs, e.g., NRCS—EQIP, Id F & G—Safe program, etc retaining buffers and creating wildlife habitat through newsletter articles.	Sept.	Admin. Assistant NRCS
Chair the IASCD Dryland Committee identifying and scheduling speakers for the IASCD conference and to provide ongoing support for Dryland producers and their various interests and challenges.	July-June	
Attend American Falls Watershed Advisory Group & Lake Walcott meetings to provide input on the TMDL Implementation plan.	Sept. & March	Board of Supervisors
Advise NRCS program managers of practices on dryland that should receive consideration for cost sharing through available programs such as EQIP—e.g., Strip Cropping, No Till and Erosion Control.	July-June	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Seek funding sources to initiate a Biological weed control program for specific weeds and land use types. Coordinate with Power Co Weed Control Specialist.	Sept. - March	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS



Conservation District Priority Number 4: Irrigated Cropland

Goal(s): To improve irrigation efficiency and associated soil management practices on 2500 acres of Irrigated Cropland per year using available Programs and practices.

Objective: To improve Management of Irrigation water, Nutrients and Pesticides on Power County Cropland while enhancing Irrigation Efficiency and reducing Wind Erosion.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Monitor and advise NRCS of areas in the Power SCD that need further attention to meet their Food Security Act (1985 FSA) obligations, i.e., severe wind erosion areas	July-June	
Administer the Power SCD Tree program. Assist 5 Growers per year with windbreak tree selection and planting advice and information. Announce the program through newsletter articles	March 1 to May 1st	Admin. Assistant NRCS
Develop Newsletter articles citing the benefits of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce producer chemical costs and improve groundwater quality through newsletter articles.	Jan	Admin. Assistant NRCS
Identify and advise cooperating agencies, e.g., NRCS, ID F & G, of opportunities to improve wildlife habitat on irrigated lands with grass and shrub plantings on unused areas like pivot corners. Advise landowners of available cost-share program offerings, e.g., Id F & G--HIP, NRCS--EQIP, to offset the cost of such plantings.	July-June	Board of Supervisors NRCS
Develop Newsletter articles and Conservation Field Days on the advantages of Strip Tillage for controlling young seedling blowouts and wind erosion, especially in beets and on light soils.	Jan.-May	Board of Supervisors NRCS

Power Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices



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Conservation District Priority Number 6: Riparian

Goal(s): Provide technical and seek financial assistance to treat riparian stream banks and wetland areas.

Objective: To control erosion and improve water quality for the American Falls reservoir, Rock Creek and Snake River

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Enhance wildlife habitat quality by developing 3 WHIP contracts in Power County	January	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Implement public awareness campaign on current methods, legislation and available applicable to Riparian area protection	June	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Continue to work with Power County weed agent with Biological Weed Control projects	March & Sept.	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Coordinate with NRCS Plant Materials Center to design and install 2 Conservation Field Trials on 2 streams	May	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Work with Plant Material Center to develop plant species lists for use in erosion control & wetlands	April	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant

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Conservation District Priority Number 7: Wildlife Habitat

Goal(s): To Assist Invasive and Endangered Species

Objective: To Increase Public Awareness of Upland Game and Water Fowl

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Educate area land owner what is needed to help keep animals off the endangered Species list.	All Year	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant, IDFG
Help plant 2 field buffers and windbreaks. Plant forbs & trees in the Spring, Plant grasses in the Fall	Fall & Spring	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant, IDFG
Encourage no net loss of permanent cover on private lands	All year	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant, IDFG
Encourage 5 row (2conifer & 3 shrub) shelterbelts/windbreaks	All year	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant, IDFG
Encourage corners to be returned to permanent cover such as shrubs and trees	All year	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant, IDFG
Increase cover on irrigated fields next to Big Desert for better sage grouse cover during the brood rearing.	All year	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant, IDFG



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Conservation District Priority Number 8: Energy Conservation

Goal(s): To Conserve Forms of Energy in Power County

Objective: To improve the efficiency of energy consumption in Power County

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Inform and educate the citizens in Power County of various programs available to them to aid in conserving energy use in newsletters, Public meetings	Jan. – Dec.	Board of Directors Admin Assistant, &NRCS
Coordinate with all agency's developing plans intended to establish new corridors or develop on existing corridors in Power County	Jan. – Dec.	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Assist NRCS advertising and implement NRCS's programs offering assistance on Energy Conservation programs	Jan. – Dec.	Admin. Assist



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Conservation District Priority Number 2: Natural Resource Education Program related to Water Quality& Quantity, Range, Pasture and Hay-land and Recreation. (IDAPA 60.05.051.02.03)

Objective: The Power Soil Conservation District will provide leadership and management of the highest quality standards to meet goals and of objectives established by the District.

Goal(s): Maintain district operations and information and education programs effectively and efficiently with an emphasis on agriculture and the local economy.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Maintain administrative policies and procedures for district operations: Update District Policy and Procedures Manual, open meeting law; conduct annual elections; complete annual plan of work, provide administrative assistance to NRCS.	Annually	Board of Supervisors, Admin. Assistant
Assist landowners with USDA/Farm Bill programs and applications.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS
Schedule and hold 10 to 12 Board Meetings annually.	Annually	Ivan Permann, Pegi Long
Develop and submits Conservation District Budget.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Develop and submit Conservation District Annual Plan of Work and when required the District 5-Year Plan of Work (Ant degradation Plan)	Annually	Admin. Assistant
Maintain financial management system using QuickBooks software including annual audit. Submittal of financial reports and budget to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission as may be required.	Annually	Admin. Assistant
Identify, secure and administer alternative funding to assist in meeting Conservation District goals and actions.	Annually	Board of Supervisors District Employees,
Develop and maintain employee and staff development program to include attendance at IASCD Division Meetings, IASCD Annual Conference, and other local, state and regional meetings.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant
Send two students to Natural Resource Camp	Annually	Board of supervisors
Supply educational material to the schools to assist in education our youth of the benefits of conservation.	Annually	Admin. Assistant

Actions: Priority 1: Natural Resource Education Program related to Water Quality& Quantity, Range, Pasture and Hayland and Recreation. (Continued)	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<p>Use comprehensive and effective youth information and education program to promote and enhance District programs and increase public awareness of conservation and agricultural issues and opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sponsor Annual Natural Resource Awareness Day in the Elementary School (4/11) ➤ Sponsor 5th Grade Tour (5/12) ➤ Sponsor Annual 5thGrade Poster Contest (Spring) ➤ Sponsor Local Envirothon Team (s) ➤ Sponsor Annual Speech Contest (Spring) ➤ Provide financial assistance to the State Forestry and Idaho Land judging contests. ➤ Provide educational and financial assistance to local FFA ➤ Develop Power Point and District Display for youth education opportunities. ➤ Assist Power County Extension office with observance of Agricultural Week 	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin Assistant
<p>Use comprehensive and effective community information and education program to promote and enhance District programs and increase public awareness of conservation issues and opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sponsor District tour or informational meetings to target 25-30% of landowners to offer assistance ➤ Develop material and sponsor workshops for Energy Conservation Program ➤ Maintain District website ➤ Develop Power Point and District Display for County Fairs and Legislative outreach ➤ Appoint District Supervisors to local civic and community groups to promote District Awareness ➤ Develop District Brochures for District outreach and district policy information ➤ Recruit school teacher as alternate member to advise education programs ➤ Sponsor Teacher, Cooperator, and/or Stewardship of the year awards. ➤ Develop quarterly news articles for the local media about district activities ➤ Develop an Annual Report to be inserted in the local paper for the District ➤ Request attendance and an overview of the programs from RC&D ➤ Sponsor Open House in two outlying areas during the year. 	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant FSA NRCS ISWC RC&D EC Project Lead



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Conservation District Priority Number 9: Water Quality and Water Quantity

Objective: Address conditions water quantity and water quality as it affects fisheries and wildlife resources within the district while maintaining multiple use and meet regulations of the Clean Water Act, Anti-degradation and Endangered Species Act.

Goal(s): Maintain and improve resources conditions on wetlands and riparian pastures and implement programs to enhance anadromous fish, resident fish and bull trout within the District.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<p>Coordinate conservation programs and projects within the boundaries of the Power SCD between interested landowners and agencies (NRCS, IDWR, US BoR & TNC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assist OSC BPA and IDFG prioritize and utilize project funding for ACCORD money in the Pahsimeroi ➤ Assist in identification of priority areas and generate local support for stream enhancements within Power County. ➤ Seek funding and assistance to implement projects that are identified to enhance fisheries in priority areas within the District . ➤ Work with local agencies willing to assist landowners meet compliance with ESA by providing information and potential funding opportunities related to in-stream diversions, fish screens and riparian fencing opportunities. ➤ Administer project funding according to policies and procedures established by the District and in compliance with state and federal laws and funding source requirements. ➤ Meet reporting requirements as identified by funding entities. ➤ Develop and/or maintain riparian management areas within the District to protect waterways from noxious weeds ➤ Assist RC&D with pursuing projects for implementation under the new Energy Conservation Program. 	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS,</p>

Actions: (Priority #2 Water Quality and Water Quantity Continued)	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Assist landowners comply with Idaho Department of Water Resources and Corps of Engineers permit process for irrigation and projects on wetlands and stream-banks.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS
Evaluate water conservation opportunities of sprinkler irrigation versus flood irrigation and open ditch/gravity systems versus piping to address water loss/conveyance losses of irrigation water.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS
Work with ISWC/FSA/NRCS to promote water quality and water quantity opportunities through EQIP, CRP and WHIP programs within District Priority areas to assist cooperators to develop BMP's and multiple uses on riparian areas and wetlands.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS ISWC
Coordinate with interested landowners and groups to establish willows plantings on streams and utilize youth groups such as FFA or Envirothon whenever possible.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS, IDFG.
Seek non-traditional funding to assist cooperators with implementation of BMP's identified by NRCS technical staff and BOR staff.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS, BOR
Assist cooperators with technical assistance and funding on irrigation measuring devices and head-gates.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS, BOR, IDWR
Work with NRCS/ISWC/IDA to seek EQIP and 319 funding to implement AFO projects within the District. Assist landowners to comply with AFO regulations.	annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS, ISWC, IDA
Assist IDA inspector and engineer, ISWC and NRCS to inform cooperators of Water Quality Rules on AFO's.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS, ISWC
Consider land use effects on water quality (i.e.; urban interface and recreation)	Annually	Board of Supervisors District Admin. Assistant
Assist the Power County Weed Supervisor with public awareness of aquatic invasive species	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant Power County Weed Supervisor
Continue research and programs available to control aquatic invasive species from water vehicles traveling from outside Power County.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant

Power Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices



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Conservation District Priority Number 10: Recreation

Objective: Seek partnerships with recreational entities to enhance the resources and economics of Power Soil Conservation District.

Goal(s): Enhance the aesthetics of the recreational resources within the district by encouraging a partnership between recreational entities, grazing associations and ranchers.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Assist local grazing associations and coordinate with local recreational entities to enhance the resource and aesthetics in areas with high recreational impact. This includes request for funding when appropriate.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS
Provide a forum for recreational entities to express input into resource planning associated with the District.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS
Seek cooperation from landowners interested in assisting the district to address recreational interests to include recreational properties.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS
Develop cooperative working relationships with public land management agencies to assist with the enhancement of recreational opportunities.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant NRCS
Assist the Power County Weed Supervisor with public awareness about certified weed free hay.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Admin. Assistant Supervisor

Acronym	Defined
AFO	Animal Feedlot Operation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
USBoR	U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
Power County CWMA	Cooperative Weed Management Area
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FSA	Farm Service Agency
IDA	Idaho Department of Agriculture
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
ISWC	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PCSRF	Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund
OSC	Idaho Governors Office of Species Conservation
RC&D	Resource Conservation and Development
SNRA	Sawtooth National Recreation Area
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
WQPA	Water Quality Program for Agriculture

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

DISTRICT: Power

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2015

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.

Ivan Permann

Board Supervisor Signature

Ivan Permann

Printed Name

March 19-2014

Date

208-221-2026

Telephone

Peri.LONG@id.NACDnet.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:
