Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
Annual Resource Work Plan
March 18, 2014

Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District

The Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District includes western Twin Falls County and part of Owyhee county. Although cropland provides the majority of income for the District's cooperators, the bulk of the District's resource base is considered rangeland or grazing land. As more dairies have moved into the District, nutrient management plans have been added to inefficient water management and soil erosion as the District's primary priorities. Education remains a top priority for the District and several on-going efforts continue including sponsoring an Envirothon and holding District poster and speech contests.

Our top accomplishments in FY 2014

1. Completed work Mud Creek/Silo Creek water quality improvement project. This project consisted of constructing a new wetland complex on Silo Creek and installing three sprinkler irrigation systems.

2. Hosted the ISWC September 2013 meeting in Buhl which included a tour of wetland projects including E Coulee and the new Silo Creek wetland.

3. Applied for three new funding for three new water quality projects: 39/39A, Mud Creek Phase II and N Coulee. We anticipated funding for the 39/39A Project.

4. Completed a video highlighting 319 projects that have been completed across Twin Falls County within the last five years.

4. Enrolled one cooperator into the Twin Falls Nitrate Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative proposal.

5. Participated in the Twin Falls County Fair through the Ag Pavillion (September 2012) in an effort to reach urban and rural small acreage owners.

Our top priorities for FY 2015

1. Administer the 39/39A Constructed Wetland Project.

2. Assist Twin Falls SWCD to administer the Multi-Species Cover Crop Demonstration Project.

3. Administer the Twin Falls Nitrate Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative proposal.

4. Identify potential water quality improvement project locations in western Twin Falls County.

5. Focus on specific water quality problems in one-mile corridors along water quality limited streams such as livestock fencing or waste water management.

6. Continue urban intiative efforts by approaching cities within the distrit about joining the district. Also recruit small acreage or urban landowners to serve on the Balanced Rock SCD.

If additional funding were available, Balanced Rock SCD would:

1. Promote water conservation through water measuring and conservation education.

2. Expand our urban outreach efforts.

3. Develop incentive program to help cooperators implement best management practices in sensitive areas.

Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
Serving Twin Falls and Owyhee counties and Legislative Districts 23 and 24
For more information contact Rick Rodgers, chairman, at 733-5380 ext. 3

Mission

Helping people help the land.

Trends Impacting Conservation

In the fall of 2008, Twin Falls County was named the number one nitrate priority area in the state by the Department of Environmental Quality. Working with all landowners — traditional agriculture and small acreage — to stem further increases in nitrate levels is ever more important.

Balanced Rock SCD is experiencing the same loss of smaller farms and dairies that other conservation districts across Idaho are seeing. In many cases, the landlords of agricultural ground no longer live in the county let alone the state. The district is also experiencing some population growth around Buhl and Filer. Population growth throughout Twin Falls County and the corresponding resource concerns in the urban/rural interface led Balanced Rock SCD along with the Snake River and Twin Falls districts to form an urban initiative in the winter of 2007 and will impact how Balanced Rock SCD conducts its business in the future.

Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed

- 39/39A Constructed Wetland Project — $150,000 from federal 319 grant program
- Urban Initiative

Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects Planned

- Anticipated funds — $8,000 from Twin Falls County, $600 from Owyhee County and $18,000 from the State of Idaho.
- Anticipated funds — $800 Capacity Building Grant from ISWC

Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
Annual Work Plan
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Priority #1 — Water Quality

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

Goal:
Meet standards of the Snake-Rock TMDL.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Aid farmers in reaching sediment standard of 52 mg/L.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Coordinate monitoring efforts.	Annually	C. Pentzer
• Adminster the 39/39A 319 water quality improvement project.	2014-2016	C. Snyder
• Continue planning for future N Coulee and Mud Creek Phase II projects.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Provide assistance to ARS to help with the Conservation Effects Assessment Program.	Annually	S. Schuyler
• Maintain F-Coulee, I Coulee and Silo Creek wetlands through life of 20-year conservation easements.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Maintain Boulder Ridge and E Coulee wetlands through the perpetual conservation easements.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Promote Conservation Stewardship Program.	Annually	S. Schuyler

Objective:
Meet standards of the Bruneau River TMDL and the Salmon Falls Creek TMDL.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Coordinate water quality activities with 71 Livestock Association.	Annually	R. Rodgers
• Identify applicable grant sources.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Continue work to define sensitive areas for ground water quality.	Annually	R. Rodgers
• Monitor status of Clean Water Act	Annually	T. Kramer

Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
Annual Work Plan
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Priority #2— Groundwater Quality

Objective: Preserve quality drinking/potable water within Distict.

Goal:
Maintain groundwater quantity.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Encourage the use of BMPs that increase percolation to maintain aquifer recharge.	Annually	R. Rodgers
• Work with existing wellhead protection groups to set up projects, for example wetlands, that encourage percolation.	Annually	R. Rodgers
• Work with existing wellhead protecting groups on educational efforts within defined areas.	Annually	C. Snyder

Objective:
Minimize nutrient and pesticide levels in groundwater.

Action:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Promote intensive nutrient management practices through the Twin Falls Nitrate Priority Area CCPI.	Annually	S. Haye
• Inform landowners about implement strategies to protect ground water quality in sensitive areas.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Alert cooperators to rising nitrate and phosphate levels in the area through articles in local papers and newsletters.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Provide information about crop nutrient management plans for both crop and animal nutrients through the Idaho One Plan.	Annually	C. Snyder S. Schuyler
• Encourage producers to adopt BMPs that improve groundwater quality.	Annually	N. Billiar
• Continue work to delineate sensitive areas for enhance management practices.	Annually	R. Rodgers

Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
Annual Work Plan
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Priority #3 — Cropland

Objective: Reduce both irrigation-induced and wind-induced soil erosion to meet HEL standards.

Goal:
Reduce irrigation-induced soil erosion to help farmers meet sediment load of 52 mg/L.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Provide education on sprinkler and polyacrylamide use through District newsletter & website.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Make use of applicable grant and loan programs.	Annually	J. Hurley
• Work with 3rd party receipients about BMPs for animal waste application.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Inform cooperators of the opportunity to participate in the Conservation Stewardship Program.	Annually	S. Schuyler
• Promote high intensity irrigation management practices through the Twin Falls Nitrate Priority Area CCPI.	Annually	S. Haye

Goal:
Encourage conservation practices to improve soil health and reduce wind erosion.

Action:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Promote residue management through newsletter and articles.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Promote conservation tillage, particularly strip till for sugar beets and corn.	Annually	J. Hurley
• Encourage planting more windbreaks through programs such as HIP and CCRP.	Annually	M. Cothern
• Share results of Multi-Species Cover Crop Demonstration Project to encourage more plantings of multi-species cover crops.	Annually	C.Snyder
• Apply for grants to purchase a no-till drill that cooperators could lease to experiment with conservation tillage practices.	Annually	C. Snyder

Goal:
Reduce energy dependence by promoting energy alternatives.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Provide education about more efficient and less costly production methods.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Encourage cooperators to apply for loan and grant programs to help develop alternative energy.	Annually	M. Cothern
	Annually	M. Cothern

Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
Annual Work Plan
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Priority #4 — Animal Waste Management

Objective: Promote nutrient management plans, and proper siting and diking of lagoons.

Goal:
Provide education on nutrient management plans.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Administer the Twin Falls Nitrate Priority Area CCPI.	Annually	S. Haye
• Provide information on proper waste application through District newsletter.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Provide information on crop rotation and utilization through District newsletter.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Promote Idaho OnePlan.	Annually	R. Pearson
• Work with 3rd party recipients about BMPs for animal waste.	Annually	R. Pearson
• Promote expanded uses of compost.	Annually	J. Hurley

Goal:
Improved third party management of animal waste.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Educate cooperators about strategies for maximizing the use of manure.	Annually	R. Pearson

Goal:
Protect groundwater quality.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Provide information to landowners about ground water protection.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Provide input to county planning and zoning commission to ensure dairies and CAFOs are properly sited.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Become involved with the local siting committee for the West End of Twin Falls County.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Provide input to local groundwater protection work groups.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Provide assistance to producers considering using off-site manure storage.	Annually	R. Pearson

Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
Annual Work Plan
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Priority #5 — Rangeland

Objective: Maintain and improve soil and plant communities on rangeland.

Goal:
Improve riparian areas on rangeland.

Action:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Educate grazers about rotational grazing through newsletter and articles.	Annually	C. Snyder
• Provide technical assistance for installing livestock watering systems.	Annually	S. Schuyler
• Identify applicable assistance programs.	Annually	R. Rodgers
• Update grazing plans.	Annually	S. Schuyler
• Promote Conservation Stewardship Program.	Annually	S. Schuyler

Goal
Improve vegetative management.

Action:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Help facilitate a multi-jurisdictional approach to the control of noxious weeds.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Inform cooperators about fire rehabilitation opportunities.	Annually	R. Rodgers
• Inform landowners about use of integrated firebreaks to reduce threat of wildfire.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Work with state and federal agencies to promote vegetative diversity to reduce the threat of wildfire.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Work with Owyhee County and Mid-Snake RCD to develop a CWMA.	Annually	T. Kramer
• Support landowners who are working to improve sage grouse habitat.	Annually	M. Cothern

Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
Annual Work Plan
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Priority #6 —Fish and Wildlife

Objective: Improve and increase wildlife land in the District.

Goal:
Improve wildlife habitat.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Evaluate how Conservation Reserve Program land can be retained for wildlife benefits.	Annually	M. Cothern
• Work with ranchers to improve sage grouse habitat.	Annually	S. Schuyler
• Encourage food plots in irrigated cropland.	Annually	M. Cothern

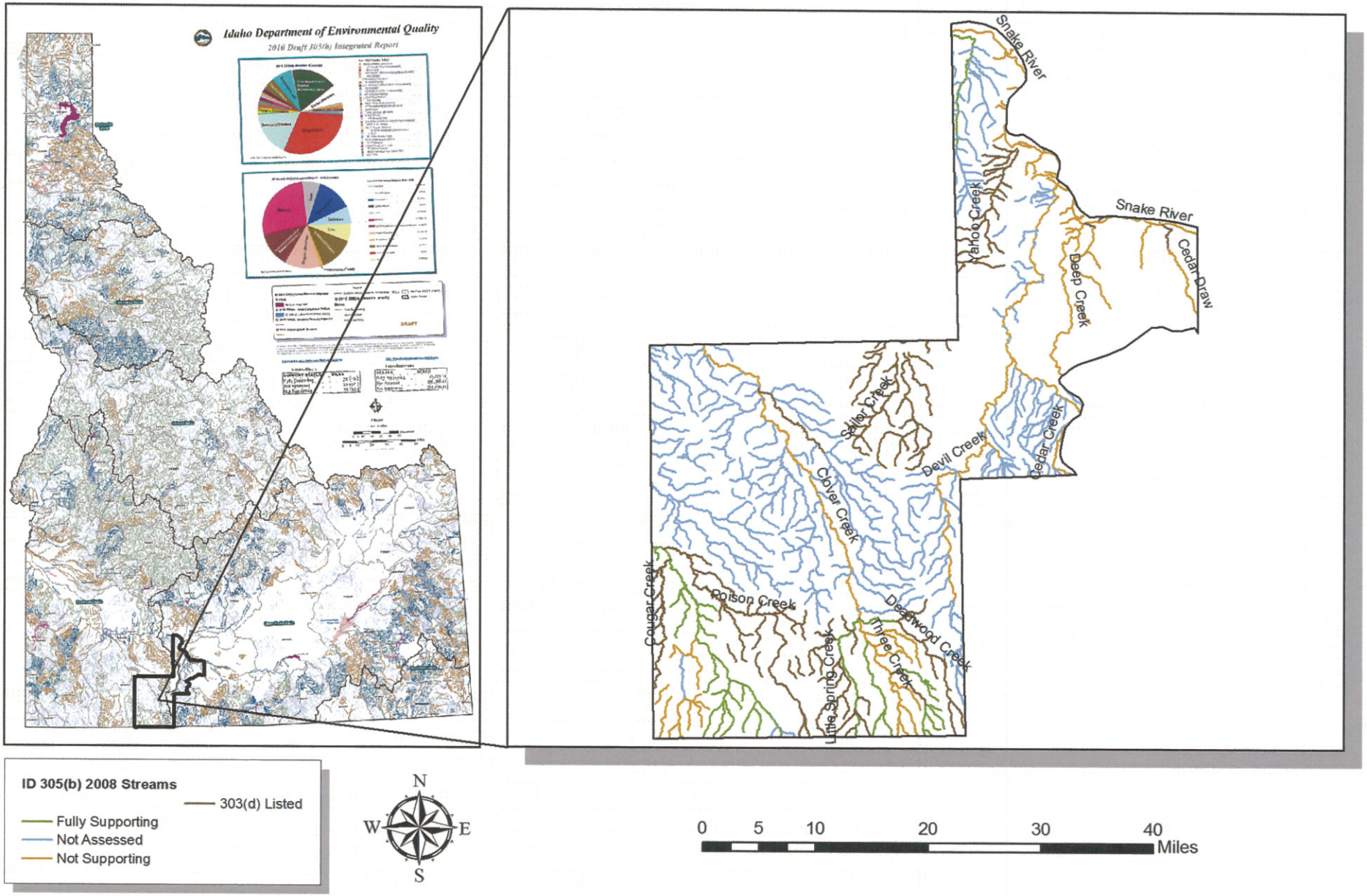
Goal:
Target sage grouse habitat efforts to areas involved in the 2007 Murphy Complex fire in which 73 leks were burned.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Inform landowners of applicable cost-share programs including the Sage Grouse Initiative.	Annually	M. Cothern
• Work with Local Sage Grouse Working Committee to address rehabilitation efforts.	Annually	M. Cothern
• Work with grazing associations to improve sage grouse habitat.	Annually	M. Cothern

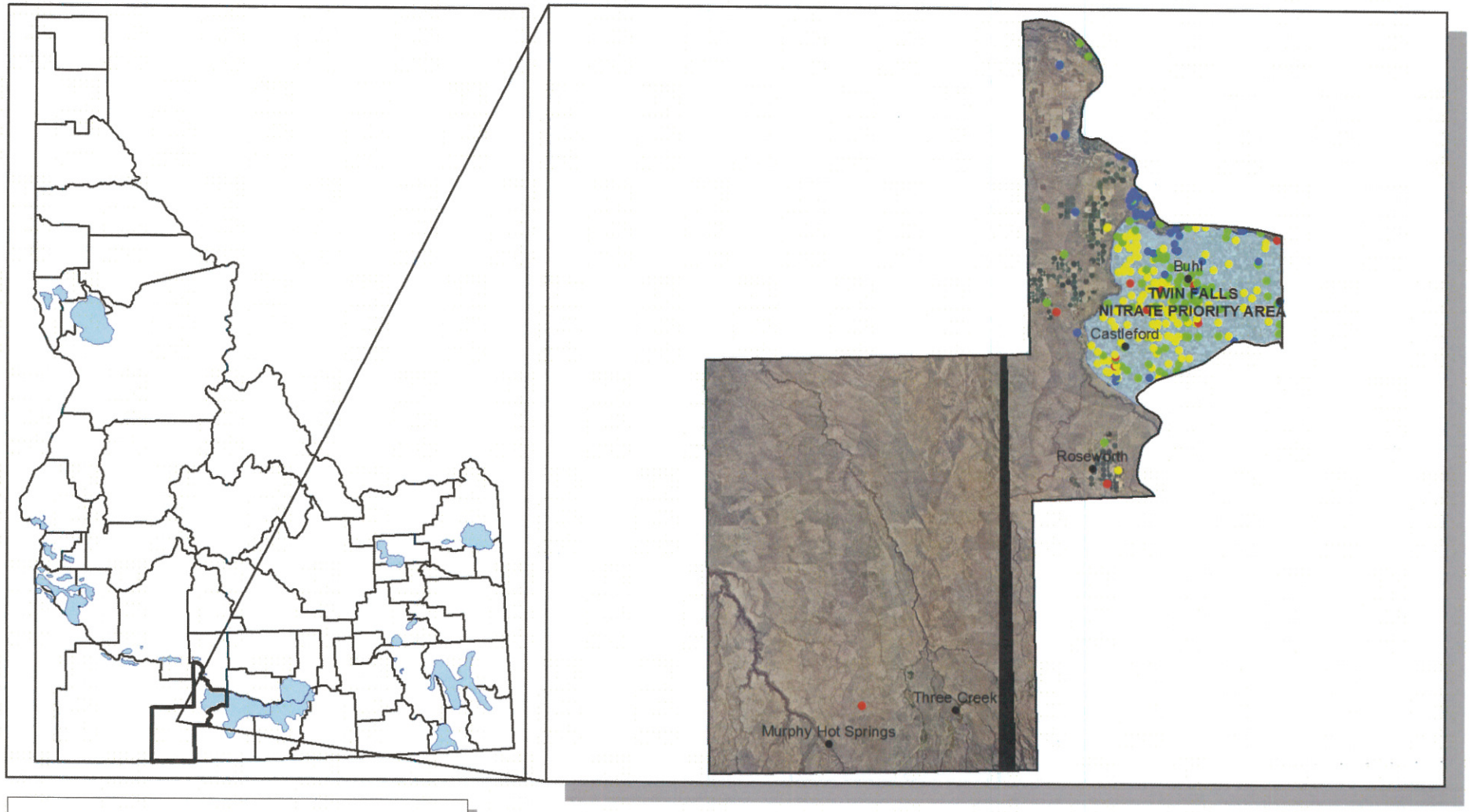
Goal:
Improve fish habitat in Bruneau River system and Salmon Falls Creek.

Actions:	Target Date:	Leader:
• Inform landowners of applicable programs.	Annually	M. Cothern
• Help land operators reduce sediment loading to fishable streams.	Annually	M. Cothern

Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
303(d)/305(b) Listed Waterbodies



Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
Nitrate Priority Areas



Soil Conservation Districts
Nitrate Priority Area
Cities

Nitrate Monitoring Wells
NO3 Concentrations
- 0.00 - 1.99 mg/L
- 2.00 - 4.99 mg/L
- 5.00 - 9.99 mg/L
- Greater Than 9.99 mg/L

N
W E
S

0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles

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

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan is true and accurate, and further submit said Plan for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

Richard Rodgers

Board Supervisor Signature

Richard Rodgers

Printed Name

3-18-2014

Date

208-733-5380 ext 101

Telephone

chsimons@cableone.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: _____