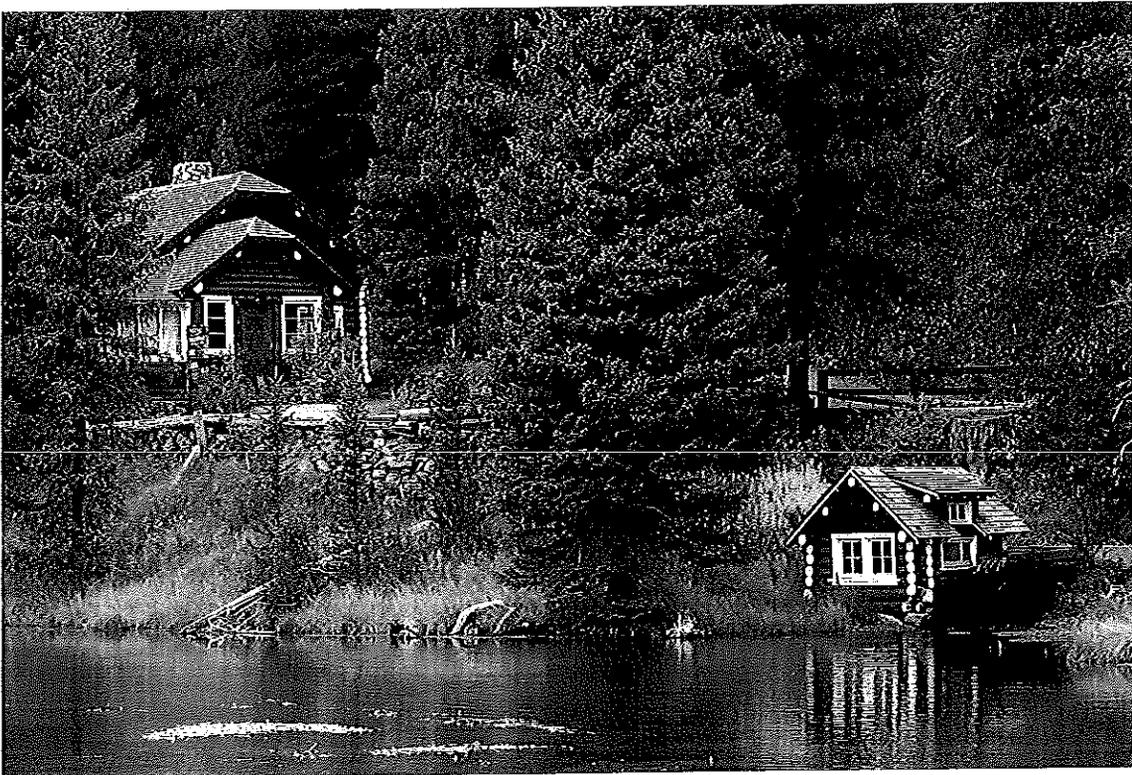


Yellowstone Soil Conservation District
1210 South Industrial Park Road
St. Anthony, Idaho 83445



Annual Plan
Five Year Resource Conservation Plan
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019

The Yellowstone Soil Conservation District is one of fifty Soil Conservation Districts in Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivision 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. Program are non-regulatory, providing science-based technical assistance, incentive-based financial programs, and information and educational programs at the local level.

Both by legislation and by agreement, the USDS Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance to landowners and land users through Conservation District. Each Conservation District in Idaho has a signed Mutual Agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This 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 Yellowstone Soil Conservation District.

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

Mission of the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District

To provide service, information and opportunities to the residents of Fremont County, Idaho.

Vision of the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District

Our Vision....Responsible care for Fremont County's natural resources.

Values of the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District

Sustainable use of all natural resources

Conservation education for youth and adults.

Support for agriculture activities that uses sustainable, economic and feasible practices.

Value and respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership.

History of the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District

Happy 70th anniversary to the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District!

The YSCD is located in southeast Idaho and encompasses Fremont County. The Certificate of Organization was issued by the State of Idaho on August 3, 1944. The YSCD was organized to develop and carry out programs of erosion and sediment control and land and water management. An organizational goal was to provide the farmers and ranchers of Fremont County with a unified means of solving their problems systematically and effectively.

The original objectives of the YSCD will pertain today. The YSCD is dedicated to developing and carrying out programs of water and soil conservation, flood control and prevention and soil improvement. The YSCD continues to provide landowners and operators of Fremont County with information and support in solving soil and water problems. The supervisors continually work in their communities to build good working relationships between the YSCD and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Charter members were: Paul Allen, Max Franz, Willard Bonneru, J.J. Remington and H.G. Bauer.

The YSCD provides landowners and land users technical assistance with an increasing number of land and water uses, conservation and rural development problems. A primary goal of the Board of Supervisors is the continued improvement of soil conservation, water quality and education of citizens in Fremont County on matters of natural resources. The YSCD strives to create an awareness of the need for wide land use and provides leadership and technical assistance necessary to carry out its objectives.

Section 1: Physical Characteristics & Critical Geographic Area

Yellowstone SCD Boundaries

The Yellowstone SCD is located in the toe of the “boot” that makes up the state of Idaho. It borders Montana to the north and Wyoming to the east. The borders of the conservation district are also the boundaries of Fremont County. Totalling 1,220,500 acres, the Yellowstone SCD services Fremont County and a population of approximately 13,200 people.

Fremont County ranks 23rd among Idaho counties in population and 16th in area. Nearly 29 square miles of the county are water. The federal government owns nearly 60 percent of the county. The southwest corner of Yellowstone National Park is located in Fremont County. The close proximity to Yellowstone NP and grizzly bear habitat has various impacts on growth, recreation and development within the county.

Climate

The weather conditions in Fremont County are varied and extreme. Blizzard conditions are frequent during the late fall through early spring. Intense summer thunder-showers occur most commonly in the foothills above the Upper Snake River Valley and throughout the mountains.

The mean annual temperature at St. Anthony, the Fremont County Seat, is 43 degrees F.

The average growing season (frost free days) ranges between 80 days in St. Anthony – Ashton area to 120 days along the extreme southern portion of the county. In the Island Park area, the average growing season is approximately 46 days.

Approximately two-thirds of the annual precipitation comes in the form of snow. Snow packs of 40 – 60 inches in depth are found on cropland at the higher elevations. This heavy snow pack may contain as much as 15 inches of water content. Snowmelt normally begins in April and may continue into June/July at the higher elevations. Snow packs at lower elevations near Ashton and St. Anthony often reach three feet in depth.

The southwestern portion of the county has an average annual precipitation of less than ten inches with the rest of the county ranging upward from 13 inches at St. Anthony to over 48 inches in Island Park, Henry's Lake and the Continental Divide areas.

Land Use

Fremont County/Yellowstone SCD is divided into two distinct economic areas – agriculture and recreation. More than half of the county's 1,220,500 acres is owned by the federal government, the majority of which is open to recreation use.

Agriculture production land makes up some 17 percent of the total county acreage. Primary crops include wheat, barley, hay and seed potatoes. Agriculture continues to be the economic base for the county.

Tourism/recreation is very important to the Fremont County economy. Idaho Recreation Region 6, of which Fremont County is part, makes up to 12 percent of the total state wide travel spending by visitors. According to the Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation, of the \$1.7 billion spent by visitors during 2007 in Idaho, about \$166 million was spent in Region 6. Fremont County travels pending along

was about \$40 million, making recreation second only to agriculture as an economic base.

Section Two

Economic Condition and Outlook

Fremont County's population, according to the 2010 census is 13,242 residents. The number reflects a 12% increase from 2000 to 2010. The County population has shown various ups and downs over the last years. The population dipped in 2000 to 11,784 then climbed back 599 residents through 2004, before slipping again in 2005 and then steadily growing by 370 to hit 12,691 in 2009. Fremont County is ranked 23rd in the state in population. Concentrated economic development and the change from a two-year college to the four-year Brigham Young University-Idaho in neighboring Madison County have contributed continued future growth. The recreation areas of Fremont County also contribute to a high number of second homes adding to the overall seasonal economy.

Fremont County, bordering Montana and Wyoming, has three significant communities located on U.S. Highway 20 – St. Anthony, Ashton and Island Park. This route is heavily traveled by tourists headed for Yellowstone National Park, Henry's Lake and Harriman State Park. Upper and Lower Mesa Falls are also located in Fremont County. The waterfalls attract over 100,000 visitors annually.

The closure of a sawmill in the 1980's and relocation of the U.S. Forest Service office to nearby Idaho Falls several years ago hurt the local economy and rebounding has been difficult.

Since 2011, the unemployment rates have fluctuated to a low of 2.6 percent in 2007 to a high of 8.1 in 2009. The labor force grew by 1,508 from 1998 to 2007 before losing over 900 in the national recession.

Government provides the most non-farm payroll jobs, primarily through the Idaho Juvenile Correction Center in St. Anthony. Federal and state government owns 70 percent of the land. As a result land management agencies employ numerous workers in the area. Trade, leisure and hospitality and construction also represent a large percentage of the county's employment.

Section Three – Assessment

Soil Resources

Soil Quality

Water Resources (quantity)

Water Resources (quality)

 Nitrate priority areas

Air Quality

Forest Lands

Livestock

Fish and Wildlife

YSFWS Endangered Species listings and occurrences for Fremont County, Idaho

Summary of Animal, Fish and Bird listings:

Candidate for Listing:

Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

Great Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)

Listed Threatened:

Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)

Canadian Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)

Summary of Plant Listings

Listed as Threatened:

Ladies'tresses, Ute (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)

Section Five – Water Quality

Streams in the Upper Lower Henry's Fork sub basin listed as impaired waters, according to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2007 Integrated Report, are listed below.

The Henry's Fork sub basin as designated for cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, primary contact recreation, domestic water supply and special resource water.

Streams and pollutants for which TMDLs were developed and completed:

| Stream | Pollutant(s) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Upper Henry's Fork | |
| Henry's Lake | dissolved oxygen |
| Warm River | temperature |
| Buffalo River | sediment |
| Howard Creek | temperature |
| Targhee Creek | temperature |
| Duck Creek | temperature, sediment |
| Sheridan Creek | sediment |
| Lower Henry's Fork | |
| Conant Creek | bacteria |

Key Decision Makers

Citizens in Yellowstone Soil Conservation District

Fremont County Commissioners

Leroy Mill, Board of Commissioners, Chairman

Jordan Stoddard, Commissioner

Bill Baxter, Commissioner

Tom Cluff, Fremont County Planning and Building Administrator

Cathy Stegelmier, Chairman, Fremont County Planning and Building Board

Elected City Officials

Mayor of Ashton, Teddy Stronks, Jr.

Mayor of St. Anthony, Nels Thuesen

Mayor of Island Park, Tom Jewell

State Legislators representing Yellowstone SCD

District 35 – Senator Jeff Siddoway

Representative JoAn E. Wood

Representative Paul Romrell

U.S. Senators, Representatives

Senator Mike Crapo

Senator Jim Risch

Representative Mike Simpson

Yellowstone Soil Conservation District Supervisors

Nathan Scafe, Chairman

Bill Bowersox, Vice Chairman

Ryan Crapo, Treasurer

Curtis Parkinson, Supervisor

Jordan Marsden, Supervisor

Jarren Raybold, Supervisor

Al Siddoway, Supervisor

Neal Hughes, Associate Supervisor

Key Contacts for Cities

City offices and Chamber of Commerce centers

Chamber of Commerce

Visitor/Chamber Center located in Ashton, Island Park and St. Anthony

Special Interest Groups

Henry's Fork Foundation

Henry's Lake Foundation

Nature Conservancy



Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan Work/Business Plan Yellowstone Soil Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Tamra Cikaitoga 208/624-3341 x 101 fcpkrec@ida.net

Organization of the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Idaho – authorities, powers and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code

- Organized in 1943 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses within the Fremont County boundary.

Function of the Yellowstone Soil & Water Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

Who We Serve & Why

- The people and natural resources in the Yellowstone SCD, to conserve the natural resources for the beneficial and sustainable use by all.

Mission of the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District

To provide service, information and opportunities to the residents of Fremont County, Idaho.

Vision of the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District

- *Our vision....Responsible care for Fremont County's natural resources.*

Values of the Soil & Water Conservation District

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Support for agriculture activity that uses sustainable, economic feasible practices
- Value and respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership
- Conservation education for adults and youth

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

- District Operations
- Information and Education
- Irrigated Cropland
- Non-irrigated Cropland
- Pasture/Hayland
- Rangeland
- Water Quality

1. Water Quantity.

- Make available technical and financial assistance for improved irrigation water management to 30 producers by 2016 through the Idaho Conservation Partners' programs.
- By 8/30/2014 provide information to District irrigators on current Idaho water issues

2. Wind/Soil Erosion Control

- Target landowners and operators in priority wind erosion areas and encourage participation in CCIP, EQIP, WHIP and other Farm Bill programs to use conservation measures to reduce wind erosion.
- By the end of 2014 three landowners or operators will have developed and implemented a conservation plan to reduce erosion on high erosion cropland to T.
- Conduct a Conservation Tree Sale Program annually to encourage constituents to develop conservation and farmstead windbreaks. Explore potential of carbon sequestration credits.

3. Public Outreach

- Annually YSCD will provide current information to constituents in Fremont County through direct mailings and news articles.
- Annually conduct youth natural resource education programs and increase participation in field trips featuring the Henry's Fork of the Snake River as a working river.
- Annually sponsor a booth at the Fremont County Fair, St. Anthony Fisherman's Breakfast and at Henry's Lake Foundation membership meeting.

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

- By 5/31/15 all 2nd grade students, within conservation district, will have had the opportunity to participate in conservation and water history field trip.
- By 10/31/14 all Conservation District cooperators addresses and files will be updated.
- To offset reduced public information meetings focusing on increased installation of cover crops.

District Operations Priorities, Goals:

- New supervisors will have completed New Supervisor Training.
- By 3/31/15 complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, personnel management, training and development, annual planning and reporting.
- In cooperation with Conservation Districts develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 90% State matching funds for all Districts
- Conduct Conservation District elections in accordance with new Idaho election laws 2014, 2016, 2018.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District:

- Slow economy impacting financial stability of region.
- Limited availability of State and private funds for conservation.
- Ongoing county/city planning and building issues.
- Decreasing number of "family" owned farms.
- Increasing number of absentee landowners.
- Subdivision impact on agriculture production
- Increased paper work needed to complete the job.
- Limited project funding available for project through traditional resources.
- Competition from "non profit" organization for project funding.

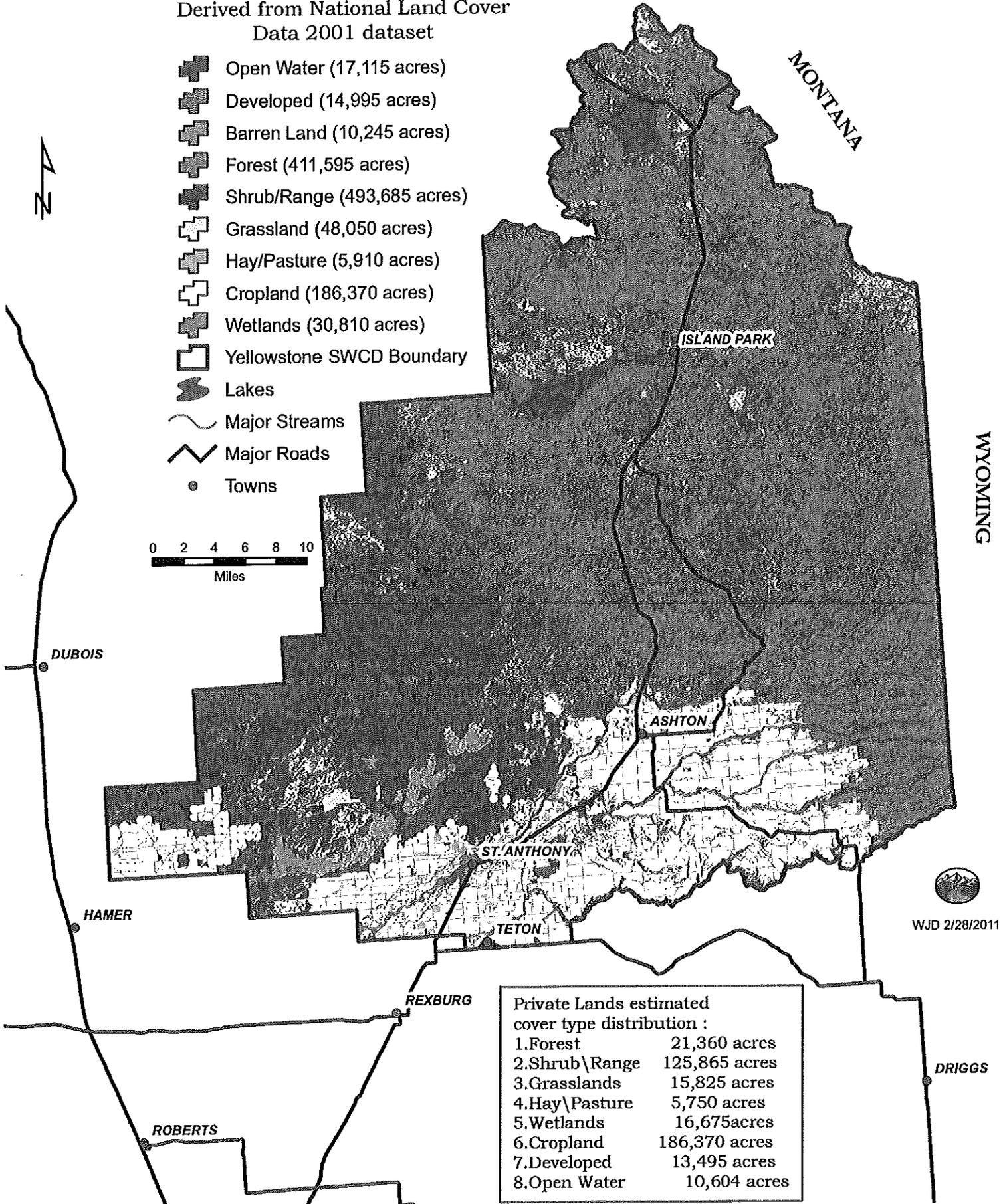
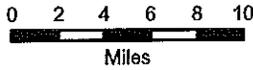
Strategies to Address Trends

- Continued training of supervisors and staff regarding current land use issues, Farm Bill programs, outside funding sources and strengthen locally led conservation efforts.
- Continue efforts to raise awareness of conservation values with state legislators and elected officials.
- Continue to provide workshops to educate the public of conservation issues.
- Provide additional outreach to promote conservation concerns and solutions.
- Participate in county planning and building issues regarding natural resource issues.
- Continue taking a proactive approach to funding water delivery systems on irrigated cropland.
- Continue to seek non-traditional funding sources for conservation projects.

Yellowstone Conservation District Land Cover Map

Derived from National Land Cover
Data 2001 dataset

-  Open Water (17,115 acres)
-  Developed (14,995 acres)
-  Barren Land (10,245 acres)
-  Forest (411,595 acres)
-  Shrub/Range (493,685 acres)
-  Grassland (48,050 acres)
-  Hay/Pasture (5,910 acres)
-  Cropland (186,370 acres)
-  Wetlands (30,810 acres)
-  Yellowstone SWCD Boundary
-  Lakes
-  Major Streams
-  Major Roads
-  Towns



WJD 2/28/2011

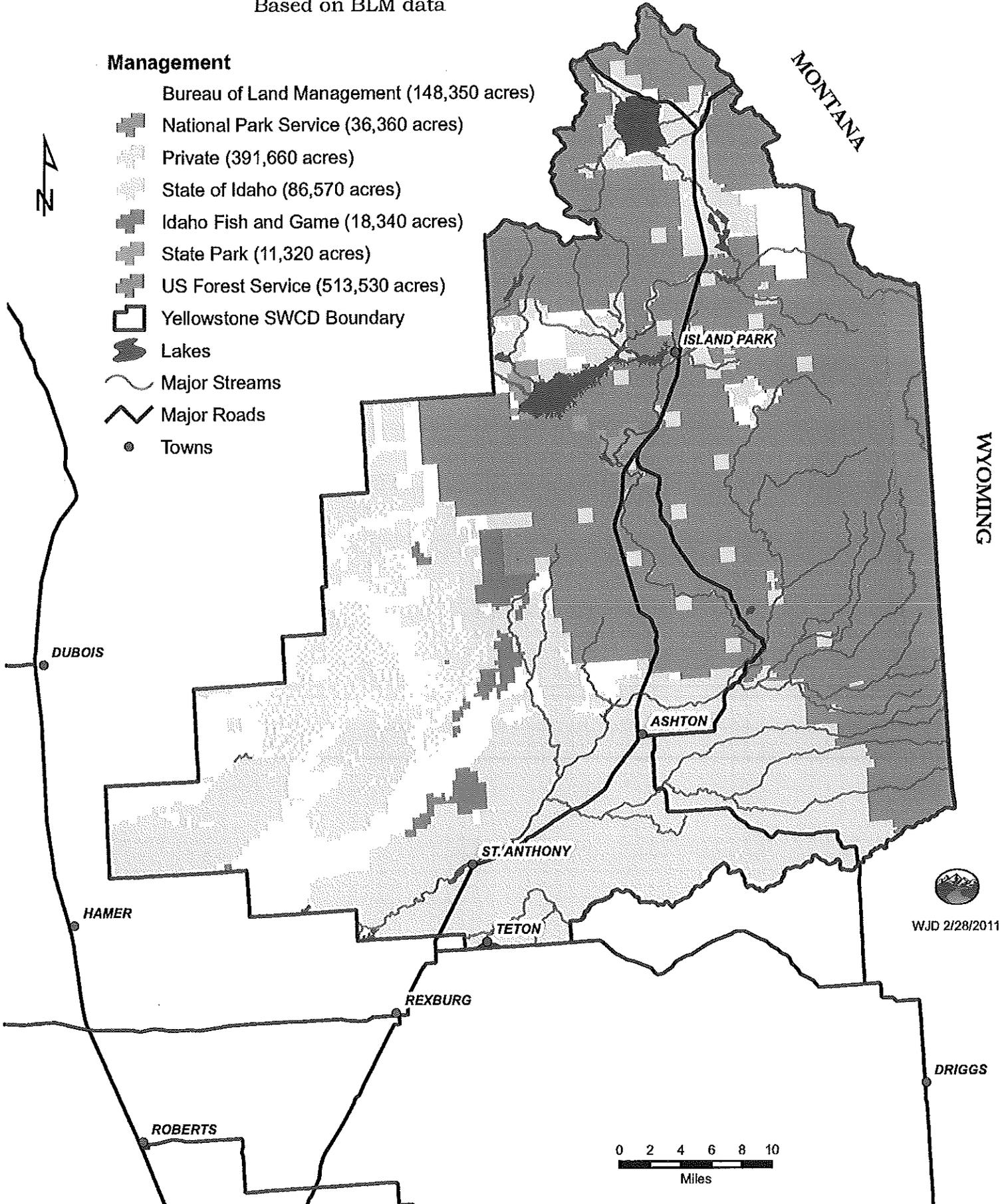
| Private Lands estimated cover type distribution : | |
|---|---------------|
| 1.Forest | 21,360 acres |
| 2.Shrub\Range | 125,865 acres |
| 3.Grasslands | 15,825 acres |
| 4.Hay\Pasture | 5,750 acres |
| 5.Wetlands | 16,675 acres |
| 6.Cropland | 186,370 acres |
| 7.Developed | 13,495 acres |
| 8.Open Water | 10,604 acres |

Yellowstone Conservation District Land Status Map

Based on BLM data

Management

- Bureau of Land Management (148,350 acres)
- National Park Service (36,360 acres)
- Private (391,660 acres)
- State of Idaho (86,570 acres)
- Idaho Fish and Game (18,340 acres)
- State Park (11,320 acres)
- US Forest Service (513,530 acres)
- Yellowstone SWCD Boundary
- Lakes
- Major Streams
- Major Roads
- Towns



**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

DISTRICT:

Yellowstone

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

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.

Neal Hughes

Board Supervisor Signature

Neal Hughes

Printed Name

3-15-2014

Date

208-624-7266

Telephone

fcprcc@ida.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:
