
Antidegradation Plan 2014-18

North Side Soil and Water Conservation District

Revised 3/17/2014



JEROME
Conservation.com
NORTH SIDE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF-GOVERNMENT

Executive Summary

North Side Soil and Water
Conservation District



Conservation Districts are the subdivision of state government charged with the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources on Idaho's private land. The North Side Soil & Water Conservation District is one of 50 conservation districts in Idaho.

It is the goal of the North Side Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors to set high standards for soil conservation, for water quality and other natural resources within the District. This document identifies resource needs in the district and presents a five-year plan for meeting these needs. Commencing in 2013 and each year following, The NSSWCD Five-Year Plan will be reviewed and updated to maintain a continuous effort to meet the on-going conservation needs of Jerome County.

We developed this Five-Year plan to guide not only the district, but also to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through education and cooperation, North Side Soil and Water Conservation District encourages conservation of land, water, wildlife, and all related resources in the District for the benefit of all.

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All photos used in this report were taken by Terry Halbert, District Manager



MISSION OF THE NORTH SIDE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

It is the mission of the North Side Soil & Water Conservation District to educate the public and assist landowners in the implementation of sound land management practices, and work towards improvement and preservation of our natural resources.

TRENDS IMPACTING THE DISTRICT

Jerome County is changing: cooperators have moved from flood irrigation to sprinkler, small farms are consolidating into larger farms, dairy and dairy related cooperators are increasing. Water quality and quantity have become major concerns and political issues. The County continues to move from its rural base to an urban setting with development and potential developments planned.

FUNCTION OF THE NORTH SIDE SOIL AND 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, and water and related natural resources.

WHO WE SERVE

The people and natural resources of Jerome County Idaho.

Idaho population 1,595,728

Jerome County Population 22,374

66 % White

70% homeownership

\$39,188.00. Median Household income

\$ 15,530. Per capita income

15.5 % Persons below poverty level

Fourth largest Ag Economy in Idaho

City of Jerome population 9,593

City of Eden population 416

City of Hazelton population 771

DISTRICT NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITIES:

- * Animal Waste Management
- * Water Quality and Quantity
- * Information & Education
- * District Operations



GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Jerome County, Idaho

599.84 Square Miles

Geology and Topography:

Jerome County lies entirely with the Snake River Plain. This moderately level plain, sloping from east to west, consists of relatively recent basalt flows of considerable depths. This lava flows form the basis for the variation in slope and soil depth. The relief of the area varies from level to steep. The variation of slope and the porous lava subsoil create good drainage in most areas. The north and west sections of the district has a comparatively thin soil mantle over beds of

lava. The southeast area of the county has fairly smooth deep soil mantle. Occasionally the low relief of the Snake River Plain is broken by the occurrence of volcanic buttes. The lava flow also makes possible the enormous Snake River aquifer, which flows beneath the surface of the entire county.

CLIMATE:

The Climate of the District is semi-arid with cold winters and moderate, dry summers. Annual precipitation is 9 inches, which occurs mostly in the form of snow. Temperatures range from a mean low of 27 degrees (F) to a mean high of 91 degrees (F), with an average annual air temperature of 49.5 degrees. The frost-free growing season is approximately 135 days. Strong winds are common, especially in spring and early summer. The prevailing winds are from the west by northwest.

LAND USE:

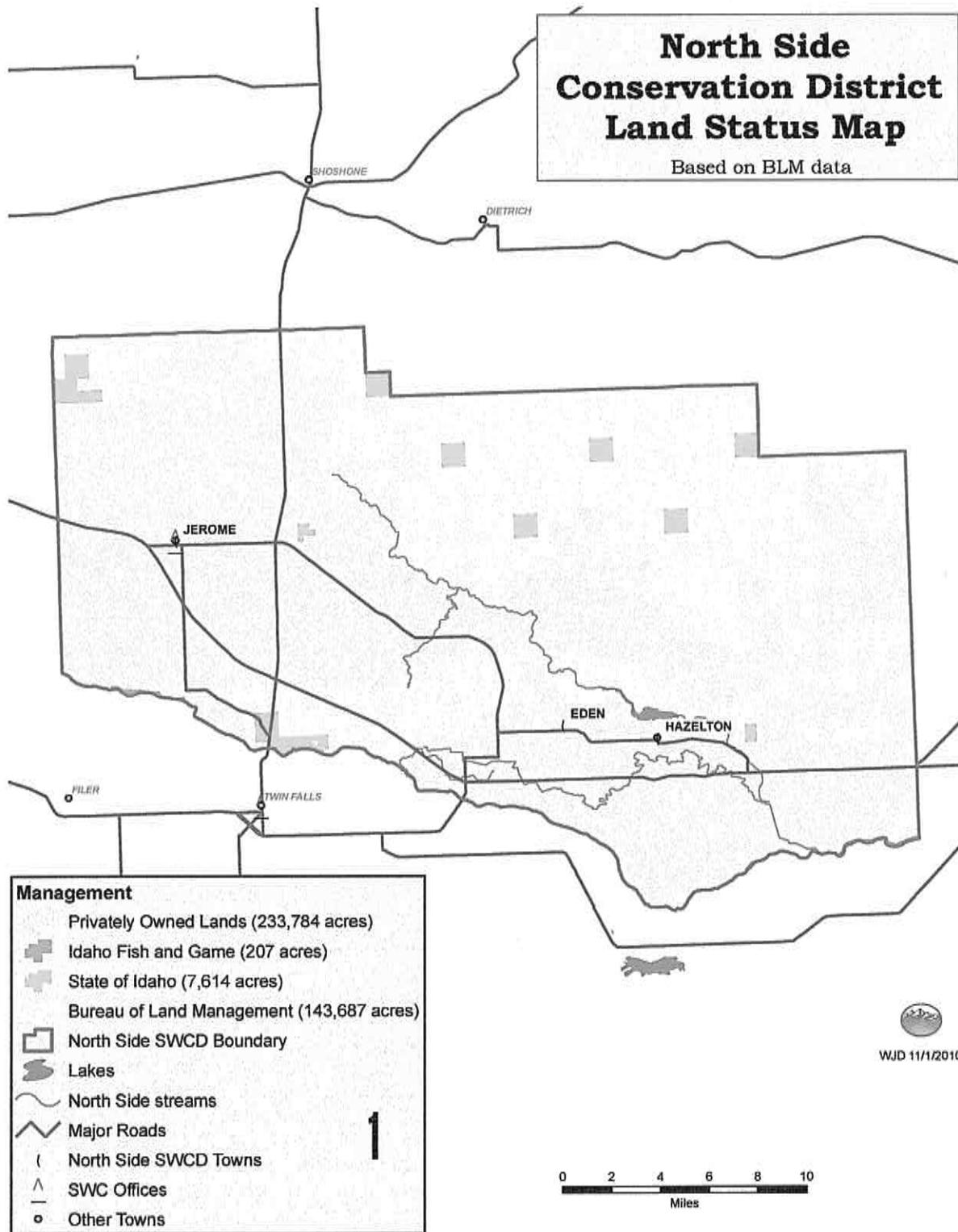
Land Status Map page 6

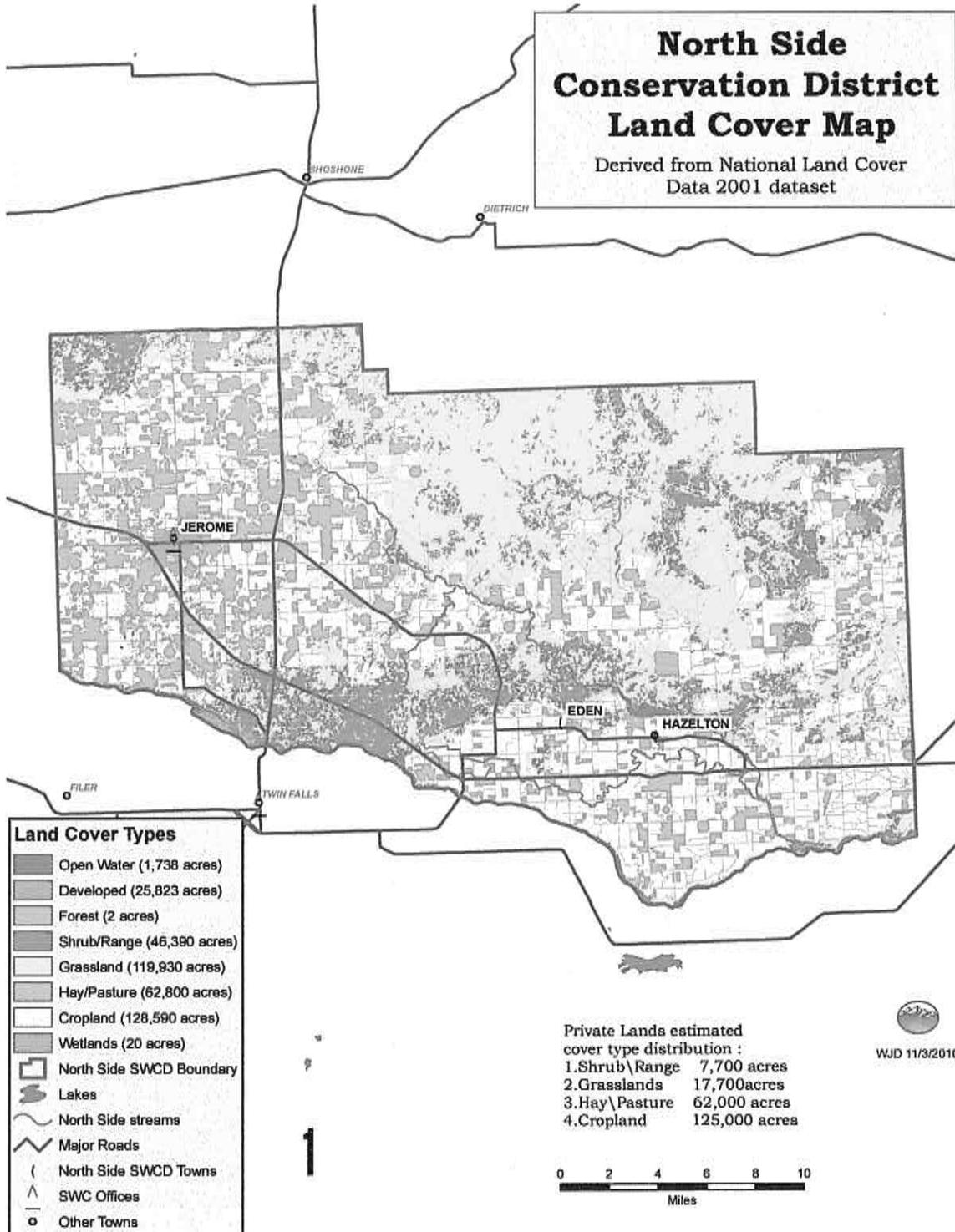
Land Cover Map page 7

AGRICULTURE ECONOMY DATA

- 2007 Census of Agriculture

Jerome County Profile - Attached





SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EVALUATION

Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Conservation District maintain an office to provide technical assistance to landowners in Jerome County. The office is located at 310 West Nez Perce, Jerome Idaho.

The District has a 5-member locally elected Board of Supervisors and employees a District Manager

District Board of Supervisors: Roy Prescott, John Reed, Terry Roemer, Joseph Davidson, Terry Edwards. District Manager: Terry Halbert

The District maintains a website at: www.JeromeConservation.com

- Annual Budget Attached
- Annual Work Plan Attached
- List of District Partners Attached

USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service maintains the following staff in Jerome County: District Conservationist, Soil Conservationist, and a Soil Conservation Technician. The NRCS maintains an office, computer system, and vehicles.

Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission

The Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission maintains the following staff in Jerome County: Ag Program Specialist-State CREP Coordinator, and a Water Quality Resource Conservationist. The Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission maintains their vehicles, office, and computers.

SOIL RESOURCES

There are 6 soil types in the District:

Portneuf-Sluka, Power-McCain-Paulville, Keeko-Taunton-Harsan, Rock outcrop Banbury-Paulville, Chuska-Colthrop, and Rock Ourtcrop-Xerorthents . Descriptions & detailed maps can be found in the Soil Survey at the Jerome USDA Service Center.

Highly Erodible Land:

The NRCS has estimated that 80% of the land in Jerome County is highly erodible land. The Food Security Act of 1985 requires that producers that participate in USDA farm programs such as price and income supports, crop insurance, FHA loans, and etc, must follow a conservation plan approved by the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District and the NRCS. Most plans will include practices such as conservation tillage, no-till, agrotillage, and or delayed tillage to reduce wind erosion to acceptable levels.

Wetlands:

Because of the arid climate and permeable subsoils, there are very few natural wetlands in Jerome County. The majority of natural wetlands within the county are spring fed and below the Snake River rim. There are also some areas of seasonally flooded wetlands in the northeast portion of the county. The vast majority of these areas classified as wetlands are artificial and are a result of irrigation systems developed early in this century. As part of the 1985 Food Security Act, the NRCS will identify wetland types within the county.

Soil Survey Status:

A soil survey of Jerome and Twin Falls Counties was completed in 1991. Information is available for use by the public at the Jerome USDA Service Center. Soil surveys can provide useful information for many different land users. The soil survey describes the properties of soils in the District and shows the location of each kind of soil on detailed maps. The information available in the soil surveys can be useful for management and conservation of farm and rangelands, evaluating the suitability of land for the intended use before buying, determining soil properties that could affect construction, and land use planning.

Soil Erosion:

Soil erosion is a major limitation to crop production in the District. The greatest rates of soil erosion occur on the surface irrigated soils where low residue producing crops such as beans, sugar beets or potatoes are grown. Common rotations include 50 percent of these crops. Wind erosion rates as high as 35 tons per acre have been estimated in years when low residue crops are grown (WEPS Estimate). Rotation average irrigation included erosion rates are approximately 18 tons per acre per year on surface irrigation and minimal soil loss on sprinkler irrigated soils. These rates could be reduced significantly if full resource management systems were applied. The major cause of soil loss in the District is surface irrigation, followed by sheet and rill erosion caused by winter/spring runoff and wind erosion. All sources of erosion could be reduced substantially with the application of conservation practices.



WATER RESOURCES

Surface Waters

The Surface water resources consist of the Snake River and its tributary springs, the North Side Canal, Milner Gooding Canal, and the A & B Irrigation systems. There are two perennial streams within the District, Vinyard Creek and the Snake River. The source of the canal system is the Milner Dam of the Snake River located in the east end of the county. This information is available at the Jerome USDA Service Center.

Much of the surface water in the District suffers from non-point pollution due to runoff from irrigated cropland. Erosion from irrigated cropland is the greatest source of sediment. The majority of erosion occurs on surface irrigated land during years when low residue crops are grown. Other sources of sediment are from winter/spring runoff and from wind deposited soil reaching surface waters. Thousands of dollars are spent by irrigation districts and individuals for removing sediment from canals and laterals. The sediments also carry pesticides and nutrient that have severe impacts on the surface water within the District.

Flooding and Drainage

Flooding and drainage is generally not a concern within the District; however, there are specific storm events that cause localized flooding for short periods of time. The variation of slope and the porous lava subsoil create good drainage in most areas.

Groundwater

The Snake River Plain Aquifer provides the District groundwater resources. The depth of the groundwater varies from 150 ft. To 500 ft. Many wells produce up to 1,000 gallons per minute and are used both for domestic and irrigation purposes. This aquifer is the most prolific water bearing sequence of rocks with Idaho with an estimated total annual recharge of 6.5 to 7.5 million acre-feet of water. Beginning at Milner Dam, the Snake River flows through a deep canyon below the elevation of the aquifer. In this area significant discharges from the aquifer occur in the form of springs issuing from the north wall of the canyon. In Jerome County the estimated out flow of the aquifer is 340 cfs from eight springs. The largest spring is Blue Lakes Springs, which has an estimated flow of 230 cfs. Maps identifying the ground water aquifers are available in the Jerome USDA Service Center.

Groundwater quality within the District has been deteriorating during the last two decades with the increase in agricultural production and high concentrations of dairies and feedlots in the southwest portion of the District. According to the 1988 Idaho Water Quality Status Report and Non-point Source Assessment of the Snake Basin Aquifer has the second highest potential for ground water contamination in the state. The results of testing conducted by Jerome County Health Department have shown nitrate levels in domestic wells as high as 5 ppm (DEQ -less than 3 ppm). Domestic water use is limited to deep wells and perched water tables. Impacts on the quality of ground water from pesticides, fertilizers and animal waste need to be evaluated.

Water Quality

Vinyard Creek Water Quality Project and the Scott's Pond Water Quality Projects have been completed. The District has determined that the following stream segments are high priority and will direct their resources toward water quality and improvement on them: Vinyard Creek, Ellison Creek, (Scott's Pond), the Snake River, and tributary agricultural drains.

Water quality in the stream segments with Jerome County will be impaired by activities such as irrigated crop reproduction, livestock grazing and confined animal feeding operations. The primary pollutants affecting surface water are nutrients, sediment, bacteria and pesticides.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Non-point Source Assessment Report listed the following segments as not fully supporting beneficial uses: Vinyard Creek, Milner Reservoir, Milner Dam to Murtaugh, Murtaugh to Twin Falls Reservoir, and Shoshone Falls Reservoir.

Pollutants such as nutrients, sediments, bacteria and pesticides from irrigated cropland, livestock grazing, and contained animal feeding operations have impaired beneficial uses such as agricultural water supplies, cold-water biota (trout, and other aquatic organisms). Salmonid (Trout) spawning, primary (swimming), and secondary (boating) contact recreation.

The North Side Soil and Water Conservation District is very concerned about ground water contamination in the southwest portion of the county. This area of Jerome County has a high concentration of dairies and feedlots and some of the most intensely managed land overlying the Snake Basin aquifer.

According to the 1988 Idaho Water Quality Status Report and Non-point Source Assessment, the Snake Basin aquifer has the second highest potential for groundwater contamination in the

state. Dairies and feedlots are also identified as one of the state's highest priorities as a potential source of groundwater contamination. The combined vulnerability of the resource and the intensity of agriculture in the southwest portion of Jerome County make protection of groundwater a critical objective of the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District.

Streams and Pollutants for which TMDLs were Developed:

Alpheus Creek Sediment (total suspended solids), phosphorus

Crystal Springs Sediment (total suspended solids), Phosphorus

Ellison Creek Sediment (total suspended solids), phosphorus

Vinyard Creek Sediment (total suspended solids), phosphorus

Middle Snake River Sediment (total suspended solids), pathogens, phosphorus



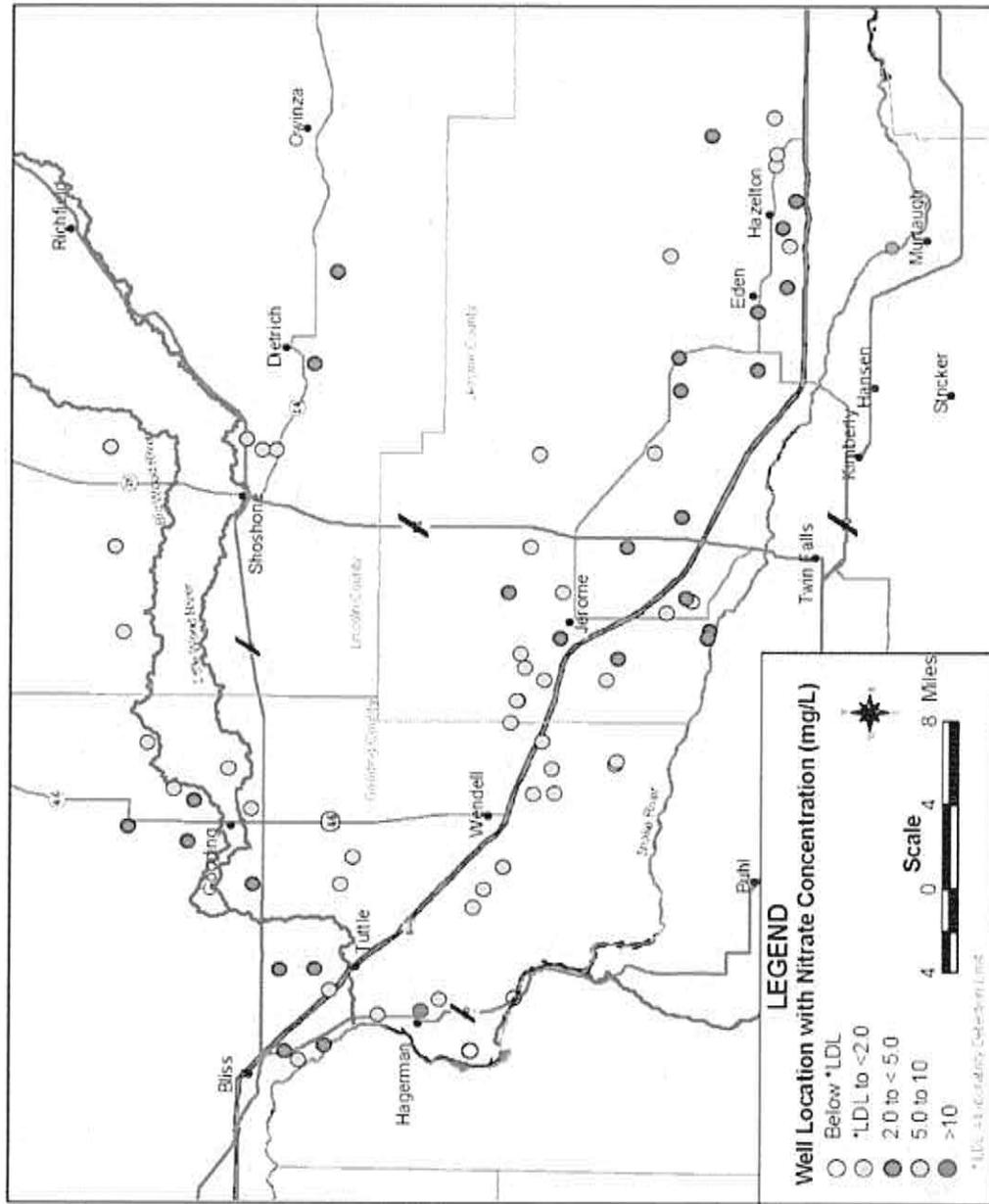
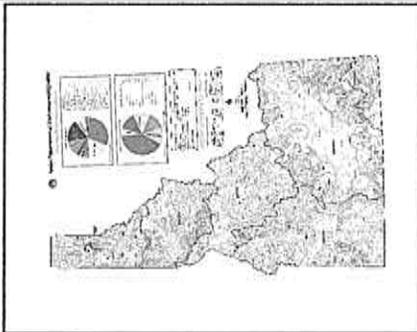
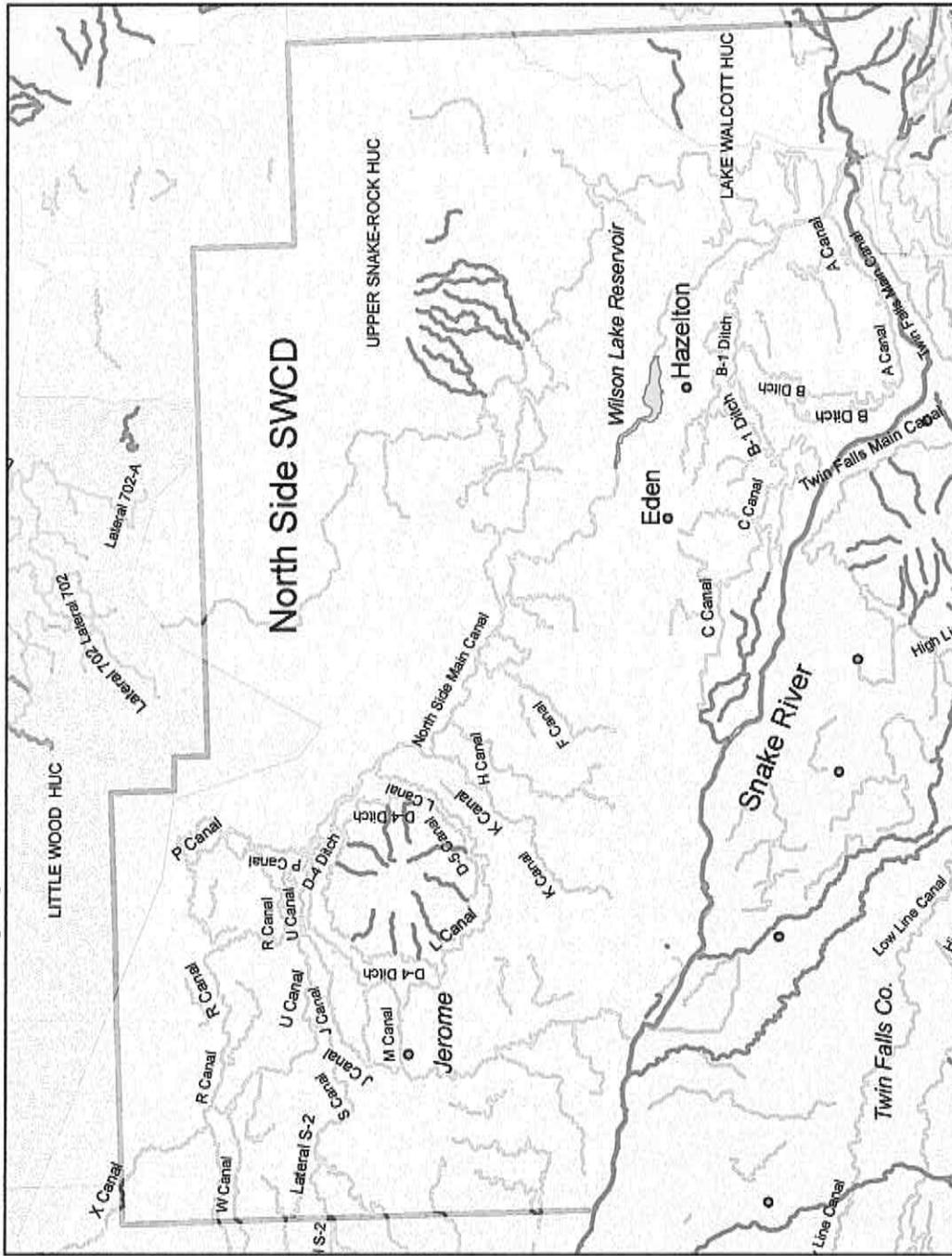


Figure 2. Map of wells locations and groundwater nitrate concentration ranges from sampling in 2006.

North Side Soil and Water Conservation District 303(d)/305(b) Listed Waterbodies



- Central lakes
- ID 305(b) 2008 Streams
- Fully Supporting
- Not Assessed
- Not Supporting
- Canals

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ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Animal Waste Management is a high priority concern of the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District. The number of dairies has increased rapidly in the last 20 years. There are a large number of dairies within the boundaries of the District with continued growth expected.

Because of the increase in dairies, there is great concern about contamination of the surface water and the groundwater. Waste water and runoff from dairies and feedlots find their ways into the canals and drainage systems that eventually flow back into the Snake River. These canals and drainages often are found flowing through a pasture or corral and used for drinking water for livestock.

Groundwater has been tested through domestic wells in the area and found to be high in nitrates. Dairies, feedlots and subdivisions are suspected of creating the problem because of the high concentration in the area. Solid wastes are spread over the surface of the ground and then worked in before the next crop is grown. Liquid waste is harder to deal with, but is sometimes used for irrigation through a sprinkler system. A select few dairies in the County are using new technologies called digesters to process the waste into either natural gas sold for domestic use or the gas is burned to produce electricity. Waste is also being composted for use as fertilizer in both commercial and domestic uses. The District has been out in front with support for both technologies.

Much controversy has been centered around the area southwest of Jerome. Urban sprawl in the same area as the dairies has created a very complex problem. Residents are concerned about surface water and groundwater, plus other nuisances connected with dairies. The District has worked closely with the Jerome County Commissioners in the development of a new animal waste policy (not limited to dairy waste). The District has also made comment on ongoing discussions on changes to State animal waste policies.

Fish hatcheries in Jerome County also contribute to the water quality problem in the Snake River. Fish hatcheries are considered a point source pollution where they discharge into the river.

CROPLAND

Irrigated

There are 188,370 acres of cropland with the county. A typical rotation includes hay, beans, and grain. Other principal crops include potatoes, sugar beets, peas, and corn. High residue crops, such as corn, grain, and hay are being grown more in the District because of the number of dairies in the area.

Conversion of gravity systems to sprinkler systems has been an important trend in years past. Many sprinkler systems were cost shared with cooperators in the Vinyard Creek , Scott's Pond Water Quality Projects, and the Hazelton Butte PL-556 Project. Sprinkler systems reduced erosion rates dramatically by themselves, and continue to be installed many through NRCS-EQIP Conservation Plan programs and Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission RCRDP Loans.

Wind erosion is a major problem and is being addressed through the Food Security Act of 1985. It is estimated that 80% of Jerome County is Highly Erodible Land and requires BMPs such as conservation tillage, no-till, agro-tillage, and delayed tillage. There are large areas of sandy soil where these BMPs are mandatory. During 2009 and 2010 the District, unsuccessfully, in cooperation with the Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission has written and applied for 319-Grants to support such practices.

Water quality has to be addressed when discussing irrigated cropland because of the Snake River and it's tributaries. Runoff from cropland carries pesticides, fertilizers and sediment into the river. BMPs (nutrient management and pesticide management) are advocated by the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District to combat this problem.

CREP - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Is a federal-state cooperative Conservation program that addresses targeted agricultural-related environmental concerns. CREP participants voluntarily enroll in 14- to 15-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts with USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Participants receive financial incentives, cost-share assistance and rental payments in exchange for removing cropland and marginal pastureland from agricultural production. Converting enrolled land to native grasses, trees and other vegetation improves soil retention and water, air

and wildlife habitat quality. CRP and CREP are authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended.

The goals of the Idaho Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer CREP, when fully enrolled, include:

Reducing irrigation water use by up to 200,000 acre-feet annually by reducing or ceasing water application on up to 100,000 irrigated cropland acres;

Improving the Snake River's water quality and flow by increasing the aquifer's groundwater levels and tributary spring water discharge by up to 180 cubic feet per second;

Establishing permanent vegetative covers to increase wildlife habitat and reduce the amount of agricultural chemicals, non-point source contaminants and sediment entering the water;

Improving habitat and populations of sage grouse, sharp tailed grouse and other grassland-nesting birds by establishing up to 100,000 acres of native grassland habitat in the priority area;

Enhancing habitat for fish species by increasing stream flow;

Improving water quality by reducing soil erosion and non-point pollution adjacent to streams and rivers; and

Reducing irrigation water pumping power consumption by 300-350 million kilowatt hours annually.

Jerome County has 8 CREP contracts, retiring 603.5 acres, for a 1,207 acre feet saving per year.



FISH AND WILDLIFE

Game bird populations have declined in recent years due to loss of habitat. This is due in part to changes in ag practices such as conversion from surface irrigation to sprinklers and larger field sizes.

The Idaho Fish and Game sponsors programs which are committed to improving habitat for game birds. The are “Pheasants Forever”, Habitat Improvement Program” including CREP. Under HIP the state will cost-share with a farmer to grow and leave unharvested a crop that is suitable habitat for wildlife. Watershed Initiative Program

They will also cost-share on shelter-belts and windbreaks. The HIP can be included in farmer’s program with the Conservation Reserve Program, Agricultural Conservation Reserve, Agricultural Conservation Practices, and CREP.

The North Side Soil and Water Conservation District recognizes the need to protect fish habitat in the Snake River and its tributaries. Vinyard Creek is a spawning bed for a hybrid rainbow-cutthroat trout, and that has been a primary concern of DEQ, NRCS, and the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District implementing the Vinyard Creek SAWQP.

The Snake River is also valuable as a fishery and needs to be protected from non-point pollution from irrigated cropland, dairies, and feedlots, and from point pollution coming from fish hatcheries.



PASTURE AND HAYLAND

The trend of dairies entering the county has increased the amount of hay grown. It has become a much more important crop economically, and it is anticipated that it will continue to be.

A common practice in the past has been to have canals, laterals or ditches running through pastures. A major concern of the District is that these waters collect animal waste and then it is carried through drainage ditches to the Snake River. Future contracts will encourage farmers to fence these waterways away from the pasture area utilizing buffer practices.



RANGELAND

There are approximately 150,000 acres of land belonging to BLM in State in Jerome County. This amount is expected to remain fairly stable for the future. Private range totals approximately 20,940 acres.

According to BLM, grazing is in a stable or upward trend. Conservation needs to cover wind erosion, unstable soils (sandy), and high fire frequency with rehabilitation following fires. These areas are subject to erosion problems.

The district emphasizes the need to address that stock water development and wildlife management should be addressed on rangeland in the North Side District. Farmers who farm land adjoining BLM ground are always concerned about noxious weeds and insects moving from the rangeland to the farmland.



RECREATION

Bird hunting is a popular form of recreation in the District. Pheasants are the most popular game bird, but the numbers have been decreasing over the last 20 years. Other game birds include ducks, geese, quail, partridge, and doves.

Fishing is popular on the Snake River, Wilson Lake and Vinyard Creek.

Horseback riding is a popular form of recreation on public rangeland.

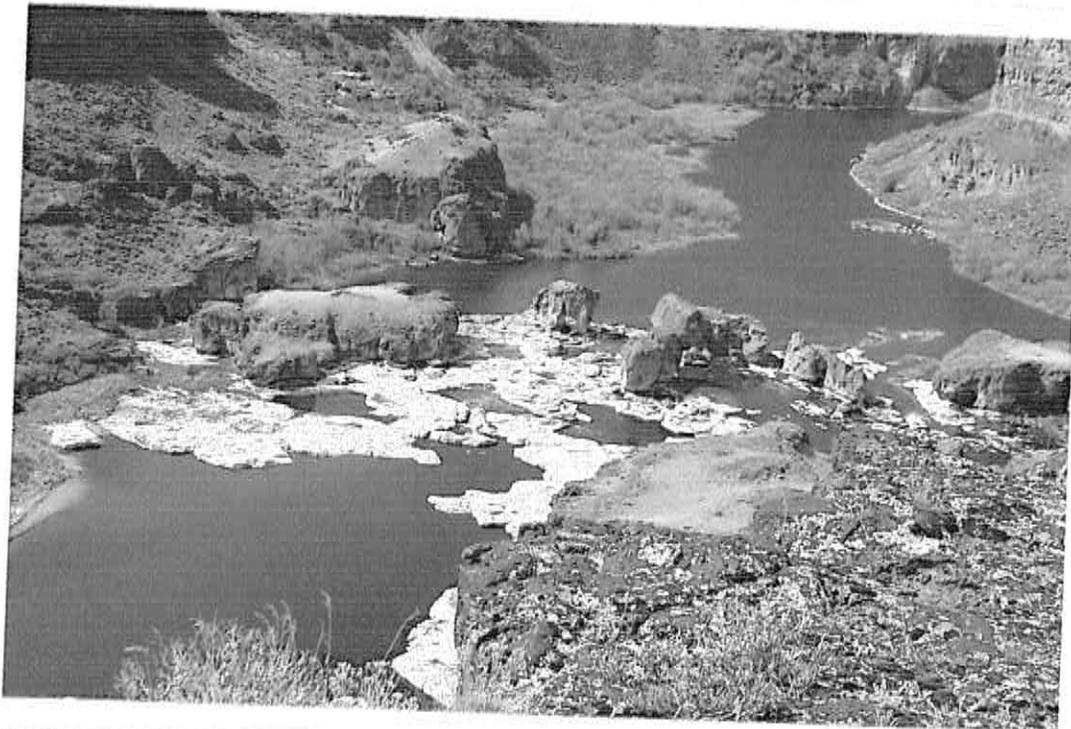
Swimming, waterskiing, and jet skies remain popular on County waterways. Demands on Wilson Lake continue to grow with fuel cost increasing causing residents to remain closer to home for their recreation needs. The district has been involved with the Jerome County Waterways Board giving leadership and direction to the Board.

The County Board of Commissioners has asked the District to become involved in the development of the Snake River Canyons Park. The District has presented two proposals to the Commissioners: 1) Ager Falls Environmental Resources Area, and 2) Snake River Plain Raptor Viewing Area. The District is working with the Commissioners and BLM to move these areas to reality.



RIPARIAN

The amount of riparian habitat is limited in the District. Vinyard Creek, Blue Lakes, and the Snake River are all under the jurisdiction of BLM.



DISTRICT OPERATIONS

At present, the District employs a District Manager, who administers the daily functions of the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District. He attends the District board meetings (3rd Monday of the Month) and transcribes the minutes of the meetings. Under the direction of the District chairman, an agenda is prepared and followed during the meetings. Financial statements are prepared for the Board and presented monthly. The financial records of the district are reviewed/audited in accordance with State Law.

Cooperation is maintained with both the NRCS through a Memorandum of Understanding, and The Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission assists the District. The District is an active member of IDEA and the Mid Snake RC&D.

The North Side Annual Plan of Work sets the priorities for the operations of the District and District Manager and is updated annually.

The District's financial obligations are met through funding from Jerome County, the City of Jerome, Idaho State Base and allocations. Each year the District manager prepares a report and funds request for the Jerome County Commissioners and makes a presentation at a Jerome County Commissioners Meeting.



INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

North Side Soil and Water Conservation District has a very extensive information and education program. The board feels that conservation education is the key to the district's programs and funding. Education of school children provides for future environmentally conscious citizens, which is very important in a rural farming area such as Jerome County.

Adult education reaches throughout the district and into the entire Magic Valley through regular articles in the Times News. The Jerome Environmental Roundtable is a vehicle to bring the rural and urban citizens together to discuss environmental issues facing Jerome County is hosted by the district annually. The district has hosted an open house for the Jerome USDA Service Center. In 2011 the district will start a series of New Farmer Workshops to better inform new farmers of programs available to them. Starting in 2011 the district will recognize a producer in Jerome County as the Producer of the Year, this will be done in partnership with the Jerome Chamber of Commerce. The District has sponsored the Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and The Interim Committee of the State Legislature

Education of the district's youth takes many forms. Programs include:

3rd grade: Arbor Day Trees to support teachers in the classroom

NRC: The District has provided scholarships for three middle school students to attend

Provided funding for Camp Staff

Provided the District Manager to function as a Staff Member

Envirothon: Sponsored at least one High School Team

Soils Judging: The District and it's local partners have provided a Jerome Event

Eagle Projects: The District Manager provides direction to several Eagle Scout Projects.

Jerome High School Career Day

Jerome High School Aug Advisory Committee

Jerome High School Senior Project Judge

DISTRICT PRIORITIES 2014-2018

#1 Animal Waste:

Continue to work with producers; local county, state and federal government to improve conditions and promote new technologies. Bring the extended Jerome County community together to resolve environmental and political issues.

#2 Water:

Quality

Work with all parties and partners to insure the quality of water in Jerome County.

Quantity

Work with all parties and partners to insure the wise use of water in Jerome County.

#3 Information & Education:

Continue to address the concerns of the people of Jerome County, to promote the free flow of good information and education of environmental topics of concern to the citizens. Promote healthy discussions by all citizens for better understanding and cooperation.

Provide educational opportunities for New Farmers, orienting them to products and services available to them by Local, State, and Federal agencies.

Provide the Youth of our community with good sound educational opportunities and to support teachers in the classroom wherever possible. Providing opportunities for greater understanding of the environmental issues facing them now and in the future.

#4 District Operations:

Continue to grow the District using creative but sound principles. Provide for the district now and in the future by developing good partnerships based on good work, understanding, and trust.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

2007 Census of Agriculture USDA

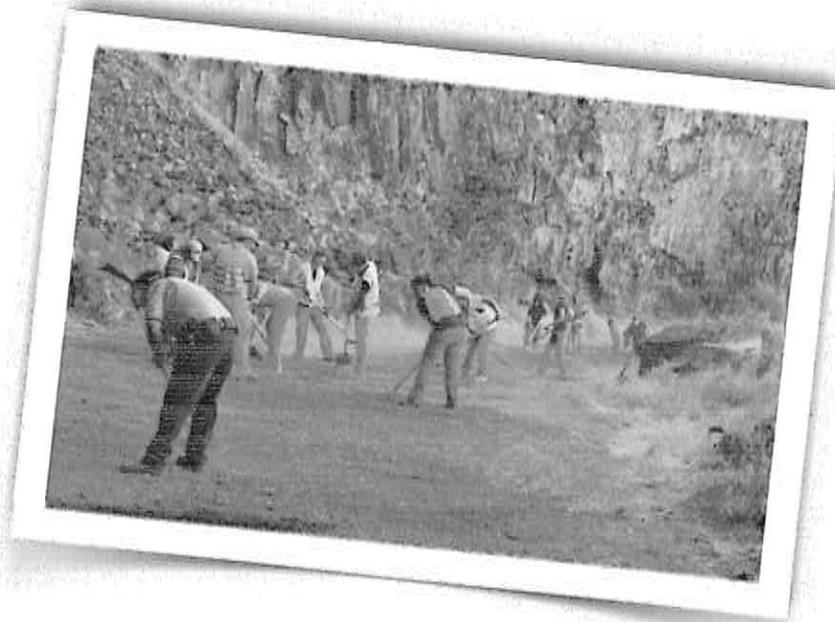
Jerome County Work Force Trends

Jerome Conservation Partnership

2014 District Annual Report

2015 District Annual Work Plan

2015 District Annual Budget

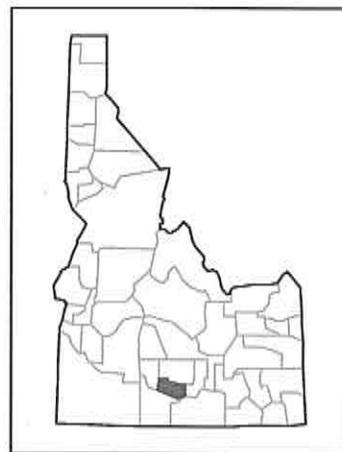


The North Side Soil and Water Conservation District would like to express their thanks to Patti Hurley, NRCS-District Conservationist and Chuck Pentzer, ISWC for their help and cooperation in compiling this plan.

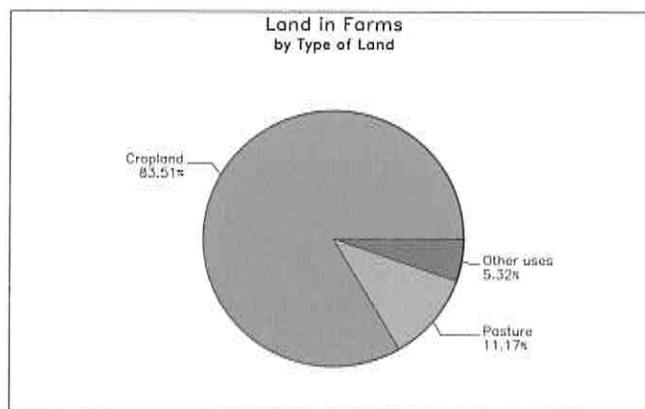
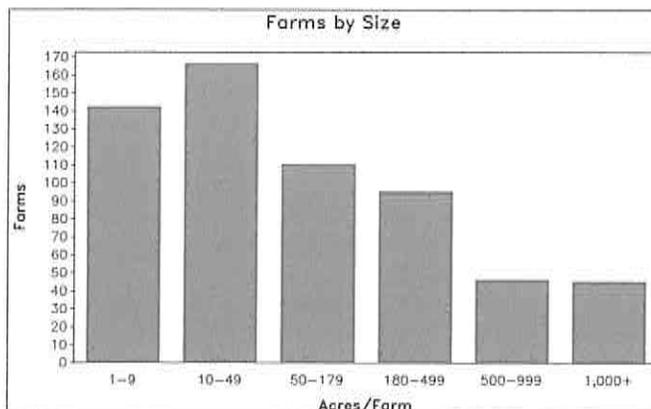
2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

County Profile

Jerome County Idaho



	2007	2002	% change
Number of Farms	604	635	- 5
Land in Farms	188,753 acres	186,319 acres	+ 1
Average Size of Farm	313 acres	293 acres	+ 7
Market Value of Products Sold	\$461,599,000	\$288,768,000	+ 60
Crop Sales \$94,362,000 (20 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$367,237,000 (80 percent)			
Average Per Farm	\$764,237	\$454,752	+ 68
Government Payments	\$1,710,000	\$2,091,000	- 18
Average Per Farm Receiving Payments	\$6,978	\$12,446	- 44



2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

County Profile

Jerome County – Idaho

Ranked items among the 44 state counties and 3,079 U.S. counties, 2007

Item	Quantity	State Rank	Universe ¹	U.S. Rank	Universe ¹
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)					
Total value of agricultural products sold	461,599	4	44	69	3,076
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	94,362	10	44	409	3,072
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	367,237	3	44	54	3,069
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	30,313	14	42	813	2,933
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	437
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	626
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	(D)	11	41	98	2,796
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	60	10	36	1,622	2,659
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	(D)	5	41	(D)	2,703
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	-	-	25	-	1,710
Other crops and hay	37,442	7	44	46	3,054
Poultry and eggs	28	15	44	1,959	3,020
Cattle and calves	104,315	3	44	97	3,054
Milk and other dairy products from cows	260,205	2	33	15	2,493
Hogs and pigs	54	12	42	1,564	2,922
Sheep, goats, and their products	93	26	44	1,165	2,998
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	(D)	5	44	(D)	3,024
Aquaculture	(D)	3	24	(D)	1,498
Other animals and other animal products	(D)	10	39	(D)	2,875
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	56,897	6	44	200	3,060
Corn for silage	28,172	3	27	22	2,263
Barley for grain	14,336	13	40	69	1,154
Wheat for grain, all	11,703	21	41	652	2,481
Sugarbeets for sugar	10,475	5	15	32	130
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Cattle and calves	219,553	3	44	32	3,060
Pheasants	(D)	6	27	(D)	1,544
Horses and ponies	1,386	24	44	949	3,066
Sheep and lambs	1,081	23	40	845	2,891
Elk	(D)	5	26	(D)	624

Other County Highlights

Economic Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales:	
Less than \$1,000	106
\$1,000 to \$2,499	50
\$2,500 to \$4,999	59
\$5,000 to \$9,999	39
\$10,000 to \$19,999	33
\$20,000 to \$24,999	22
\$25,000 to \$39,999	26
\$40,000 to \$49,999	11
\$50,000 to \$99,999	53
\$100,000 to \$249,999	57
\$250,000 to \$499,999	39
\$500,000 or more	109
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	371,767
Average per farm (\$)	615,508
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	97,102
Average per farm (\$)	160,765

Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Farming	326
Other	278
Principal operators by sex:	
Male	560
Female	44
Average age of principal operator (years)	53.9
All operators by race ² :	
American Indian or Alaska Native	5
Asian	3
Black or African American	-
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
White	928
More than one race	3
All operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin ²	38

See "Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes, explanations, definitions, and methodology.

(D) Cannot be disclosed. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

¹ Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item. ² Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.



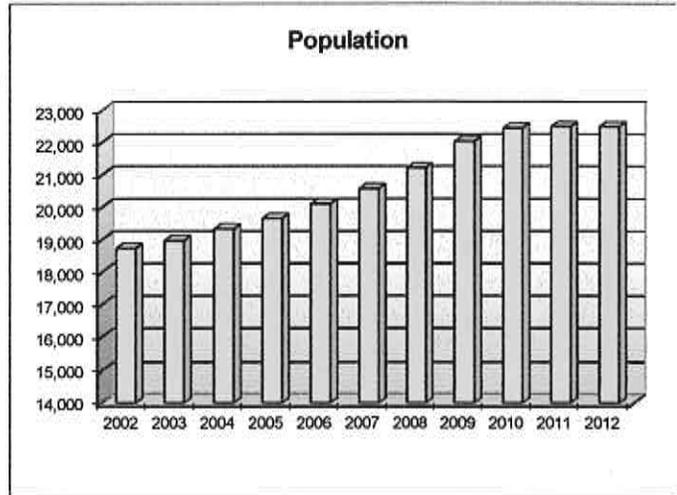
Jerome County

November 2013

Work Force Trends

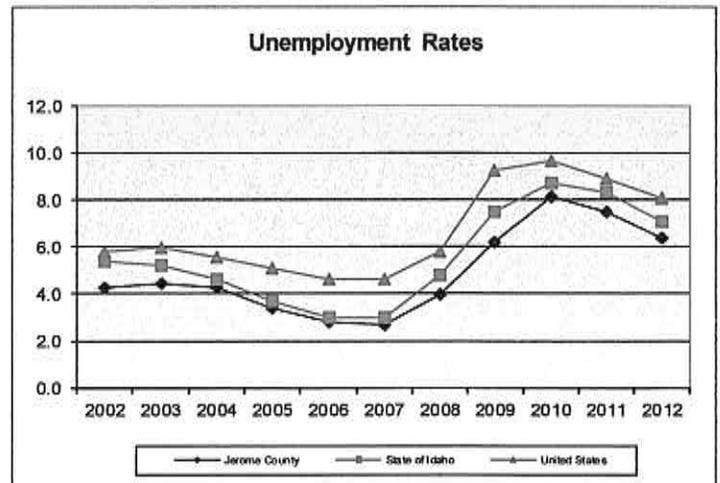
Population

Jerome County's population has grown steadily, rising 20 percent from 18,730 in 2002 to 22,499 in 2012 in response to strong economic and infrastructure development. Jerome is the county seat and by far the largest city at 11,040. Hilex Poly, a plastic grocery bag manufacturer, and Idaho Milk Products, a state-of-the-art milk processing plant, are examples of the newer companies requiring workers with higher-than-average skill levels. The dairy industry continues to be a major component of the local economy, drawing feeder businesses such as Jerome Cheese, West Farm Foods Inc. and Commercial Creamery. Old Hickory Sheds is filling the former Con Paulos auto dealership while new schools and a new senior center have invigorated the community. Construction of affordable housing grew, and commercial interests sought locations close to the interstate highway. The Crossroads Point Business Center at the intersection of Interstate 84 and U.S. Highway 93 and the 93 Technology Park will foster significant growth over the next decade.



Labor Force & Employment

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Jerome County was falling prior to the recession as it was statewide. Unemployment dropped from a high of 4.6 percent in 1998 to a low of 2.9 percent in 2007, driven by economic diversification, development and growth in the dairy industry. The recent recession sent unemployment higher, but the rate was still well below the record levels of 1983, when it hit 9.7 percent. While dairy has provided many stable jobs, it remains a volatile commodity. Dairy farms culled cows to meet debt obligations but stressed some banking relationships as supply and demand imbalances drove prices lower. Milk prices have rebounded somewhat, but fuel and feed prices have also risen. The economic outlook remains optimistic with continued development of the Crossroads Point Business Center, which currently includes a Comfort



Labor Force	Oct 12	Oct 13
Civilian Labor Force	10,939	10,744
Total Employment	10,313	10,146
Unemployed	626	598
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.7	5.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	6.6	6.7
U.S. % Unemployed	7.9	7.3

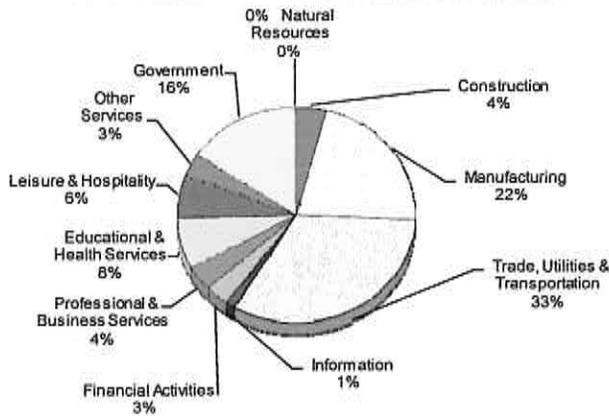
Labor Force	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Civilian Labor Force	9,586	9,509	9,696	9,817	10,096	9,810	10,020	10,384	10,583	10,686	10,792
Unemployment	407	420	410	335	285	263	398	646	860	799	690
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.4	4.2	3.4	2.8	2.7	4.0	6.2	8.1	7.5	6.4
Employment	9,180	9,088	9,285	9,482	9,812	9,548	9,622	9,738	9,723	9,887	10,103

Inn hotel, a Federal Express office, Idaho Wind Partners, Fastenal, a Subway sandwich shop, the Heritage Office Complex, B & N Machine and Freightliner of Idaho. Concerted efforts of economic development professionals are expected to pay off over the next decade, emphasizing easy access to Interstate 84 and affordable business costs.

Prepared by Jan Roeser, Regional Economist, Idaho Department of Labor • 420 Falls Ave, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Phone: (208) 735-2500, ext. 3639 • email: jan.roeser@labor.idaho.gov • Labor Market Information website: lmi.idaho.gov

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2012



Wages & Income

Jerome County's per capita income increased 29 percent over the last decade, outperforming the state but not the nation. It saw a sharp 6 percent jump in 2011, still ranking 21st among the 44 counties.

The dairy industry continues to experience challenges, but the demand from the new Chobani Greek yogurt plant in Twin Falls County has bumped up milk prices. Dairy are still trying to recover lost equity from lean price years while coping with high fuel and feed prices.

From 2010 to 2011, covered average employment declined 16 percent in construction while the rest of the region experienced more modest declines or slight upticks. Average manufacturing employment was up 8.4 percent while wages rose 4 percent. Hispanics comprises 32 percent of the population, increasing 120 percent in the past 10 years. Industries such as agriculture, construction and manufacturing draw those with limited skills. Agriculture lost 2.5 percent of its workers in the crop and support sectors year over year.

JEROME COUNTY

Major Employers

Aardema Dairy	Rich Thompson Trucking
Arlo G. Lott Trucking, Inc.	Rite Stuff Foods
Commercial Creamery Co.	Si-Ellen Farms
Hilex Poly	Spears Manufacturing
Idaho Milk Products	St. Luke's Jerome
Jerome Cheese	Standlee Hay Co
Mellencamp Cattle	Wal-Mart

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Teachers (annual)	\$30,500.00
Teacher Paraprofessionals (annual)	\$10,253.00
Registered Nurses	\$22.50
Receptionists	\$10.00
Medical Secretaries	\$13.00
Bookkeepers	\$11.00
Cashiers	\$8.50
Janitorial	\$9.00
Landscapers	\$12.00
Maintenance Mechanics	\$15.00
Cheese Processors	\$10.00
Construction Laborers	\$11.00
Milkers	\$11.00
Farm Laborers	\$10.41

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2002, 2011 & 2012	2002		2011		2012	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	7,040	\$22,407	8,555	\$30,200	8,447	\$30,934
Agriculture	1,515	\$21,589	2,115	\$28,934	2,062	\$28,454
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	309	\$22,921	326	\$42,688	273	\$35,733
Manufacturing	1,002	\$24,192	1,282	\$33,533	1,390	\$34,881
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,123	\$23,442	2,138	\$32,775	2,119	\$35,696
Information	46	\$24,436	82	\$34,863	87	\$31,243
Financial Activities	116	\$21,665	196	\$25,979	197	\$27,118
Professional and Business Services	233	\$24,464	241	\$32,050	242	\$35,330
Educational and Health Services	302	\$24,179	515	\$30,549	487	\$31,997
Leisure and Hospitality	362	\$9,419	440	\$12,938	417	\$13,033
Other Services	127	\$20,191	185	\$23,832	191	\$24,481
Government	905	\$23,582	1,034	\$27,710	983	\$26,925

Per Capita Income	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jerome County	\$24,441	\$24,497	\$27,466	\$28,095	\$28,843	\$31,639	\$31,709	\$27,764	\$29,736	\$31,543
State of Idaho	\$26,042	\$26,452	\$28,412	\$29,544	\$31,493	\$32,607	\$33,110	\$30,809	\$31,556	\$32,881
United States	\$31,481	\$32,295	\$33,909	\$35,452	\$37,725	\$39,506	\$40,947	\$38,637	\$39,791	\$41,560

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis



This county is served by the office listed below:
 Idaho Department of Labor
 420 Falls Avenue
 Twin Falls, ID 83301 Ph: (208) 735-2500

labor.idaho.gov

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Jerome Conservation Partnership

North Side Soil and Water Conservation District

Member/Position	Address	Phone #s
Roy Prescott Chairman	110 North 800 East Jerome ID 83338	280-2163 - cell
John Reed Vice Chairman	840 Valley Road South Hazelton ID 84441	825-5807 - home 731-5807 - cell
Terry Roemer Secretary Treasurer	400 South 75 West Jerome ID 83338	308-5035 - cell 324-0220 - home
Joe Davidson Member	501 East Main Jerome ID 83338	420-8406 - cell
Terry Edwards Member	141 East 50 North Jerome ID 83338	948-0679 - cell 731-3621 - home
Terry Halbert District Manager	310 West Nez Perce Jerome ID 83338	324-2501 - office

United States - Natural Resources Conservation Service Jerome Idaho Field Office

Name/Position	Address	Phone
Patti Hurley District Conservationist	310 West Nez Perce Jerome ID 83338	324-2501 - office

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission Jerome Idaho Field Office

Name/Position	Address	Phone
Chuck Pentzer Technical Assistant & Field Staff Manager, CREP	USDA Twin Falls ID Field Office	420-8455

Jerome Conservation Partnership

Building relationships and partnerships is the foundation of the District. If you have a program or opportunity you would like the District to support, please send us an email with more information about you, your opportunity and how we can help. While we may not always be able to participate, we do appreciate learning about other exciting efforts in Jerome County.

County of Jerome
City of Jerome
City of Eden
City of Hazelton
Jerome School District
Valley School District
Valley Christian School
Magic Valley Christian School
Jerome Recreation District
Valley Recreation District
Jerome Waterways Board
Jerome County Sheriff
Jerome Chamber of Commerce
United States Environmental Protection Agency
United States Forest Service
United States Bureau of Land Management
Farm Service Agency
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
Idaho Department of Agriculture
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
University of Idaho
University of Idaho Extension Service
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho District Employees Association
Natural Resources Camp
Boy Scouts of America
Canon Envirothon
Representative Maxine Bell
Burt Stevenson
Senator Dean Cameron
Senator Burt Bracket
Bonnie Butler
Governor Butch Otter
Senator Crapo
Charlie Baun - Planned Community Conservation
Idaho Chapter of the United States Green Building Council
LEED Certification Program
Bug Crew
Teton Conservation
Magic Valley Compost
Crossroads Point Business Center
American Stewards of Liberty
Jerome 20/20

North Side Soil and Water Conservation District



310 West Nez Perce

Jerome, ID 83338

Tel: 208-324-2501 ext 101

Fax: 208-324-6483

Website: www.JeromeConservation.com

E-mail: Terry.Halbert@id.nacdnet.net

SWCD Board Meetings 3rd Monday of the Month

Top 5 natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil Health
2. Water Quality & Quantity
3. Education – Youth
4. Education – Adult
5. District Relationships & Operations

FY 2011 Revenue

- Grants	\$ 65,000.00
- CREP	75,270.00
- State	58,500.00
- County	21,072.00
- Local	20,000.00

Soil Health

- Attended State Technical Meeting on Soil Health.
- Hosted a Magic Valley Producers Meeting on Soil Health.
- Participated in local Soil Health Steering Committee Meetings.
- Promote Soil Health when and where possible.
- Wilson Lake erosion project phase 3 completed.

Water Quality & Quantity:

- Participate in local, State, and Regional water quality and Quantity meetings.
- Participate in Columbia River Treaty meetings and trainings.
- Valley Irrigation Project continues conversion to sprinkler.

Education - Youth:

- Arbor Day Tree planting 450 Trees to Jerome 3rd graders.
- Sponsor Soils Judging event.
- Natural Resources Camp sponsor and staff support.
- Envirothon sponsor and support.
- Eagle Project supervision and sponsorship.

Education - Adult:

- Hosted Farm Finance Trade Show.
-

District Relationships and Operations:

- Produced an update to the Districts 5-year Plan.
- Produced District Annual Plan.
- Assisted Local Government where possible
- Attended and supported Soil Conservation Commission Meetings and events.
- Supported IDEA.
- Maintained District Website.
- Attended and supported RC&D.
-

Conservation the Idaho Way: Jerome Conservation Partners coming together in the field to assist farmers' workout their challenges. The farmer came into the office requesting assistance; the district arranged a field visit with both the NRCS and the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



Adult Education: Soils Health Workshop. The District supported local farmers and the NRCS at a Soils Health Workshop.



Youth Education Projects:

Arbor Day Tree Planting: The District provides every third grader in Jerome County a tree to take home from school and plant with their family on Arbor Day. 450 trees planted annually in Jerome.

Envirothon: The district sponsors and supports the Jerome High School Envirothon Teams efforts in every way possible.

Soils Judging: The District and its local partners conduct a soils judging competition in Jerome County each year. Good participation from the Conservation Partnership, Community, and the Schools.



Natural Resources Camp: The District sponsors campers, cabin leaders, and staff for the camp. The District lends the District Manager to the camp for the week to participate as a member of the staff. He produces the Camp multi-media show each year.



North Side SWCD Board of Supervisors

John Reed	Chairman	(208)825-5807	840 Valley Road South, Hazelton, ID 83335
Roy Prescott	Vice Chairman	(208)280-2163	110 North 800 East, Jerome ID 83338
Terry Edwards	Treasure	(208)948-0679	141 East 50 North, Jerome ID 83338
Joe Davidson	Member	(208)420-8406	501 East Main Street, Jerome ID 83338
Terry Roamer	Member	(208)324-0220	400 South 75 West, Jerome ID 83338
Terry Halbert	District Manager	(208)324-2501	310 West Nez Perce, Jerome, ID 83338



Annual Work Plan
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

“Improving the Quality of Life in Jerome County”

Mission of the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District:

It is the mission of the North Side Soil & Water Conservation District to educate the public and assist landowners in the implementation of sound land management practices, and work towards improvement and preservation of our natural resources.

Trends & Issues Impacting Conservation in the North Side Soil & Water Conservation District:

Jerome County is changing; cooperators have moved from flood irrigation to sprinkler, small farms are consolidating into larger farms, dairy and dairy related cooperators are increasing. Water quality and quantity have become major concerns and political issues. The County continues to move from its rural base to an urban setting with development and potential developments planned.



Date	Task	Done By	Explanation
As Needed	Maintain WaterWays Records	District Manager	As needed
Winter	Water Ways Meeting 3 Report to County Commissioners	District Manager Water Ways Com. Valley Recreation	As needed
Spring	Complete Present Projects Water System for Park	District Manager Water Ways Com. Valley Recreation	Assist Water Ways and Valley Recreation
Winter	Determine Present and Future Needs	District Manager Water Ways Com. Valley Recreation	Brain Storm with Water Ways Committee and Valley Recreation
Winter	Plan for Present Needs	District Manager Water Ways Com. Valley Recreation	Develop plans on paper and budget
Fall	Fund Present Needs Projects	District Manager Water Ways Com. Valley Recreation	Write Grant



Date	Task	Done By	Explanation
As Needed	New Logos, Materials, & Website	District Manager	Update
January	Up-date District Plans	District Manager District Supervisors	Submit to Commission March
February	District Plans to Boise	District Manager	Information & Support
March	Annual Report to Commissioners	District Manager District Supervisors	Information & Support
Winter	Information Mtg City Councils	District Manager	Information & Support
Annually	3 New Stories Annually	District Manager	Community Support
Annually	Two Public Trainings	District Manager	Community Support
April	Jerome Conservation Summit	District Manager District Supervisors Community Leaders	Community Support
Fall	Jerome Grant Tour (Park & Rec)	District Manager	State Funding for Projects
Winter	District Newsletter	District Manager	Community Support



Date	Task	Done By	Explanation
Winter	New Farmer Workshops (2)	District Manager	Workshops for New Farmers
Winter	Jerome Conservation Summit	District Manager District Supervisors	Information and Education
Annually	3 News Stories Annually	District Manager	Inform the public about the District and its programs.
Annually	Community Meetings	District Manager District Supervisors	Attend community meetings to show involvement in the Community.
Annually	Producer of the Year Educator of the Year	District Manager District Supervisors	Award Producer and Educator of the Year using the Jerome Chamber
As Needed	Website Update	District Manager	Maintain and Promote
As Needed	Chamber of Commerce	District Manager	Be a team player
December	District Performance Report	District Manager District Supervisors	Submit to Commission December
As Needed	District Supervisor Meeting	District Manager District Supervisors	Annual Meeting plus at least 4 regular meetings.



Date	Task	Done By	Explanation
As Needed	Maintain District Records	District Manager	
March	Update District 5-Year Plan	District Manager District Supervisors	Submit to Commission March
March	District Annual Plan	District Manager District Supervisors	Submit to Commission March
March	District Budget	District Manager District Supervisors	Submit to Commission March
January	District Annual Mtg & Election	District Manager District Supervisors	Submit to Commission
Fall	District Financial & Match Report	District Manager District Supervisors	Submit to Commission September
Fall	District Audit	District Manager District Supervisors	Work with Auditor, report to State
December	District Performance Report	District Manager District Supervisors	Submit to Commission December

Date	Task	Done By	Explanation
As Needed	District Supervisor Meeting	District Manager District Supervisors	Conduct business
Winter	City Council Information Mtg.	District Manager	Introduction/Information
Winter	Jerome County Commissioners	District Manager District Supervisors Partners	Annual Report and Budget Request Question & Answers
Annually	Attend Commission Mtgs as needed	District Manager	Information
As Needed	Update District Employment Policy	District Manager District Supervisors	Keep updated
As Needed	Employee Training	District Manager	Learning Experience and information



Date	Task	Done By	Explanation
Annually	Wilson Lake Erosion Prevention and Recreation Improvement - Mtg	District Manager Jerome Waterways Valley Recreation	Evaluate and planning Mtg
Winter	Write Wilson Lake Grant Phase 3	District Manager	Complete Project
Fall	Valley Recreation Irrigation	District Manager Valley Recreation	Continue updating park irrigation system.
As Needed	Jerome Pump Ditch #4 & #5	District Manager	Continue to encourage working group and look for funding
As Needed	North Rim Trail Conservation Easement	District Manager Bill Baker	Develop a plan forward
Winter/ Spring	Auger Falls	District Manager	Develop plan & Committee Secure Funding Execute Plan
Winter/ Spring	Birds of Prey	District Manager	Develop plan & Committee Secure Funding Execute Plan

Date	Task	Done By	Explanation
Winter	Eden Park Irrigation	District Manager	Develop plan and fund



Date	Task	Done By	Explanation
Fall	Jerome School District Mtg	District Manager	Support Teachers in Classroom
Fall	Valley School District Mtg.	District Manager	Support Teachers in Classroom
Spring	Arbor Day Trees 3rd Graders	District Manager	Support Teachers in Classroom
Spring	Envirothon	District Manager	Sponsor and Support
Summer	Natural Resource Camp	District Manager	Sponsor and Support
Fall	Soils Judging	District Manager NRCS	Sponsor and Support
Winter	Jerome Career Fair	District Manager NRCS	Support Teachers in Classroom
As Needed	Jerome High School Ag. Advisory Committee	District Manager	Support Teachers in Classroom
As Needed	Eagle Scout Projects	District Manager	Support Scouts
As Needed	Youth Projects	District Manager	Support Youth Groups

North Side Soil and Water Conservation District
Budget FY -2015

District Allocations		Total
Local Funds	\$44,000.00	
State Match	\$50,000.00	
State Base Funding	\$8,500.00	
Total		\$102,500.00

Expense		Total
District Manager	\$50,324.00	
Insurance	1,000	
Professional Labor	200.00	
Dues	2,150.00	
Supplies	500.00	
Audit	4,500.00	
Information Education Youth	2,300.00	
Information Education Adult	1,500	
Accounting	480.00	
Travel	800.00	
Public Outreach	1,500.00	
Wilson Lake	16,000.00	
Auger Falls	500.00	
Valley Recreation Irr. Pro	10,000.00	
County of Jerome	500.00	
Total		\$94,754.00

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

DISTRICT: North Side Soil & Water
Conservation District

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.



Board Supervisor Signature

Roy Prescott

Printed Name

3/17/2014

Date

208-324-2501 ext 101

Telephone

terry.halbert@id.nacdnet.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:
