



**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**NOTICE OF REGULAR TELECONFERENCE MEETING & AGENDA
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
June 13, 2014, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. MT**

**Len B. Jordan Building
Room B35 (Across from Idaho Central Credit Union)
650 W. State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702**

TELECONFERENCE # (888) 706-6468 Passcode: 6913014

The Commission will occasionally convene in Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345.
Executive Session is closed to the public.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE

The meeting will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission at (208) 332-1790 or Info@swc.idaho.gov so advance arrangements can be made.

Members of the public may address any item on the Agenda during consideration of that item. Those wishing to comment on any agenda item are requested to indicate so on the sign-in sheet in advance. Copies of agenda items, staff reports and/or written documentation relating to items of business on the agenda are on file in the office of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission in Boise. Upon request, copies can be emailed and will also be available for review at the meeting.

	1.	WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS, AND ROLL CALL	Chairman Wright
	2.	AGENDA REVIEW <i>Agenda may be amended after the start of the meeting upon a motion that states the reason for the amendment and the good faith reason the item was not included in the original agenda.</i>	Chairman Wright
	3.	PARTNER REPORTS	
	a.	Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Idaho District Employees Association, Division of Financial Management, Department of Administration, Legislative Services Office	
	4.	ADMINISTRATION	
*#	a.	Minutes 1. May 15, 2014 ACTION: Approve	Chairman Wright

(*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Fri., June 13, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: June 5, 2014

*#	b.	Financial Report <i>(to follow under separate cover or be distributed at the meeting)</i> 1. May 30, 2014 ACTION: Approve	Murrison
*#	c.	Administrator's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FY 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule Consideration of paying National Association of State Conservation Agencies FY 2015 Dues ACTION: For consideration and possible action	Murrison
*#	d.	Consideration of FY 2015-2018 ISWCC Strategic Plan ACTION: Approve	Murrison
*#	e.	Comment Letter on EPA/Corp of Engineers proposed rule defining Waters of the US ACTION: For consideration and possible action	Murrison
*#	f.	Appointment of Administrator in FY 2015 and Delegation of Power and Duties ACTION: Authorize Chairman to sign	Murrison
*	g.	Elect Commission Officers to serve beginning July 1, 2014 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman Vice-Chairman Secretary ACTION: Elect FY 2015 Officers	Board Clerk/Chairman Wright
	5.	PROGRAMS	
#	a.	District Support Services Update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> District Technical Assistance Awards ACTION: For information only	Trefz
*#	b.	District Budget Hearing & FY 2015 Water Quality Implementation Project Unmet Needs ACTION: Accept Report	Trefz
*#	c.	FY 2015 District Capacity Building Requests ACTION: Approve	Trefz
#	d.	Rangeland Conservation & Resource Development Program <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Program Activities Loan Fund Financial Report (April 2014) ACTION: For information only	Hoebelheinrich
*#	e.	Rangeland Conservation & Resource Development Program <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Loan Program Marketing & Advertising Plan for FY 2015 ACTION: Approve	Hoebelheinrich
	6.	OTHER BUSINESS	Chairman Wright
	a.	Reports	

(*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Fri., June 13, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda

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		ACTION: For information only	
	7.	EXECUTIVE SESSION <i>Executive Session is closed to the public. Under the relevant Idaho Code Sections noted below, all Board action will be taken publicly in open session directly following Executive Session.</i>	
*#	a.	Rangeland Conservation & Resource Development Program <i>Pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345(d), the Commission will convene in Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing Loan Applications:</i> 1. # A-564 ACTION: For consideration and possible action	Hoebelheinrich
*	8.	ADJOURNMENT <i>The next regular meeting is scheduled for August in Boise.</i>	

(*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Fri., June 13, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: June 5, 2014

22 **PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT via teleconference:**
23 Robbie Taylor, Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA)

24
25
26 **ITEM #1: WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

27 Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright,
28 Commissioners Jerry Trebesch, and Dave Radford were present. Commissioners Leon Slichter
29 and Roger Stutzman were absent.

30
31 A short break was taken from 9:47 to 10:04.

32
33 **ITEM #4a: MINUTES**

34 Action: Commissioner Radford moved to approve the April 10, 2014 Minutes as submitted.
35 Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

36
37 **ITEM #4b: FINANCIAL REPORTS**

38 Action: Commissioner Trebesch moved to approve the April 30, 2014 Financial Report as
39 submitted. Commissioner Radford seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

40
41 **ITEM #4c: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

42 Action: None taken.

43
44 **ITEM #4d: FY 2015-2018 ISWCC STRATEGIC PLAN**

45 Action: None taken.

46
47 **ITEM #4e: AMENDED FY 2015 BUDGET BLUEPRINT**

48 Action: Commissioner Radford moved to approve the Amended FY 2015 General and Dedicated
49 Funds Budget Blueprint, including setting Trustee and Benefit fund distribution at: \$425,000 in
50 base funding, \$678,200 in match formula funding, \$50,000 in Operating funding, and \$50,000 in
51 Capacity Building funding. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Motion carried by
52 unanimous vote.

53
54 **ITEM #5a: DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATE**

55 Action: None taken.

56
57 **ITEM #5b: RANGELAND CONSERVATION & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**
58 **REPORT & LOAN FUND FINANCIAL REPORT**

59 Action: None taken.

60
61 **ITEM #6a: REPORTS**

62 Action: None taken.

63
64 **ITEM #7: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

65 Action: Commissioner Radford moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code
66 §67-2345(d) for the purpose of reviewing Loan Applications, and pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-

67 2345(f) for the purpose of discussing controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely
68 to be litigated. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Roll call: Chairman Norman
69 Wright, Commissioners Jerry Trebesch, and Dave Radford were present. Commissioner Leon
70 Slichter and Roger Stutzman were absent. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

71
72 Executive Session commenced at 12:10 p.m. Ms. Murrison, Mr. Hoebelheinrich, Ms. Wilson, Ms.
73 Hardy, Harriet Hensley, and John Homan, Office of the Attorney General, were present during
74 Executive Session.

75
76 Executive Session ended at 1:33 p.m. Commissioners reconvened in Open Session at 1:33 p.m.
77 and took the following actions:

78
79 **RECONSIDERATION OF ITEM #2: AGENDA REVIEW**
80 Action: Commissioner Radford moved to amend the meeting agenda and add Item #7a3: Loan
81 #A-688 to accommodate reviewing a loan application that was inadvertently omitted from the
82 agenda. This consideration was found to warrant special circumstances due to the time
83 sensitivity of the conservation project. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Motion
84 carried by unanimous vote.

85
86 **ITEM #7: EXECUTIVE SESSION**
87 Action: Commissioner Radford moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code
88 §67-2345(d) for the purpose of reviewing Loan Applications. Commissioner Trebesch seconded
89 the motion. Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Jerry Trebesch, and Dave
90 Radford were present. Commissioner Leon Slichter and Roger Stutzman were absent. Motion
91 carried by unanimous vote.

92
93 Executive Session commenced at 1:35 p.m. Ms. Murrison, Mr. Hoebelheinrich, Ms. Wilson, and
94 Ms. Hardy were present during Executive Session.

95
96 Executive Session ended at 1:55 p.m. Commissioners reconvened in Open Session at 1:55 p.m.
97 and took the following actions:

98
99 **ITEM #7a3: LOAN # A-688**
100 Action: Commissioner Trebesch moved to approve the loan. Commissioner Radford seconded
101 the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

102
103 **ITEM #7a1: LOAN # A-564**
104 Action: Commissioner Radford moved to direct the loan officer to collect further information
105 about the borrower for consideration at the next commission meeting. Commissioner Trebesch
106 seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote

107
108 **ITEM #8: ADJOURN:**
109 The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be held on Friday,
110 June 13, 2014 at 8:00 am.

112 Respectfully submitted,
113
114
115
116 Jerry Trebesch, Secretary

DRAFT



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 4c

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: MAY 28, 2014
RE: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

As was noted in the previous item, since your last meeting we've worked closely with the Department of Administration on year end projections, and set line item ("sub-object") amounts for FY 2015. In addition, during the first week of June I plan to deliver a work truck to Orofino and will spend a day out in the field with each Northern Idaho staff person. Over the next few months I plan to spend a day with staff members in other regions, as well.

Delwyne Trefz and I met with Gretchen Hyde of the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission to discuss a possible role for the Commission in their annual rangeland competition, held to promote youth awareness of rangeland issues. Delwyne will discuss that further in Item 5c.

FY 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule

The following are the dates of your Regular Meetings in FY 2015. Meetings can be rescheduled if necessary.

July, none scheduled
August 28, 8 am, Capitol Building, Boise
September 25, 8 am, Capitol Building, Boise
October, None scheduled
November 19, Red Lion Inn, Lewiston
December, none scheduled
January, date tba to coincide with JFAC presentation, Boise
February 16 to coincide with Ag Summit, Boise
March, none scheduled
April 23, 8:00 am, Room tba, Boise
May 28, 8:00 am, Capitol Building, Boise
June 11, 8:00 am, Capitol Building, Boise

Consideration of paying National Association of State Conservation Agencies FY 2015 Dues

Your Board will remember that earlier this year the attached letter and invoice from the National Association of State Conservation Agencies was received. Consideration was delayed until the June meeting so that end of year budgetary considerations could be known. At this writing, we are still in the process of finalizing our year end expenditures, but hope to have an accurate estimate for you at your meeting.

Attached are materials from Mike Brown, executive director of NASCA responding to your request for more information including NASCA's Report, FY 2014 budget, and a letter encouraging the Commission's participation. Mike Brown will be available for questions in your meeting via teleconference. Also attached is a copy of an email from Jeff Burwell, state conservationist of NRCS, expressing NRCS' perspective on NASCA membership.



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

As discussed at your last meeting, NASCA's annual meeting will be held Sept. 7-11 in Kalispell. Mike Brown has invited Chairman Wright and me to attend and has offered a scholarship to encourage our attendance. If Commissioners decide to delay becoming dues paying members on June 13th, its consideration can be continued to the September meeting when Chairman Wright and I will make an oral report on the annual conference.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: None, for information only

Enclosures:

- NASCA letter and invoice
- NASCA Annual Report
- NASCA FY 2014 Budget
- Letter to Teri Murrison from Mike Brown
- Email from Jeff Burwell re NASCA membership

NASCA

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE CONSERVATION
AGENCIES

P. O. Box 211
HARTLY, DE 19953
PHONE: 302-492-8881
WWW.NASCANET.ORG

RECEIVED

DEC 20 2013

IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

December 3, 2013

Sara Schmidt
State of Idaho
Soil and Water Conservation Commission
650 W. State St. Room 145
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Sara Schmidt:

NASCA members realize a tremendous value as a result of their participation with the organization. Through exposure to their counterparts from all over the country, the NASCA network facilitates information exchange between all of our members. Using membership dues, our association is able to provide tools and resources utilizing this network, enhancing every state's capacity to deliver conservation effectively and efficiently. This benefit alone is a valuable return on investment for member state agencies.

NASCA asks that you support the organization in two ways: the first is financially by paying 2014 NASCA dues; and secondly by actively participating in the organization. NASCA provides a number of services to its membership, and each of these is enhanced when more members get involved. A few examples are explained in detail at <http://www.nascanet.org/index.php/about-us/benefits-of-membership>. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss current NASCA activities and what issues are most critical to your state. I believe NASCA best serves its members when we are engaged in those conservation issues of key concern to our membership, so your feedback is critical to our success. My cell number is (302)270-8624 if you cannot reach me at my office number listed above. You can also reach me via email at mike-brown@nascanet.org.

Thank you again for supporting NASCA. I look forward to another prosperous year in 2014 and working closely with as many of our member states as possible!

Sincerely,



Mike Brown
NASCA executive Director

Enclosure (1)





NASCA
P.O. Box 211
Hartly, DE 19953

INVOICE

Bill to:	Invoice #	Date
State of Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission 650 W. State St. Room 145 Boise, ID 83702	2014-112	12-03-2013

Description	Amount
NASCA Annual Membership Services 2014	3,000

Thank You!
Partial Payments are welcome

NASCA's Tax ID#: 52-1316337

Checks Payable to NASCA

Please send vendor update forms to the contact address or email to Mike Brown

Contact:

Mike Brown mike-brown@nascanet.org

(302) 492-8881

P.O. Box 211

Hartly, DE 19953



2013

ANNUAL REPORT

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE CONSERVATION AGENCIES**



ANNUAL REPORT



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE
CONSERVATION AGENCIES**

Founded 1967

OUR VISION

TO ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF ALL MEMBER CONSERVATION AGENCIES TO FULFILL THEIR
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MISSIONS

OUR MISSION

TO STRENGTHEN MEMBERS' CAPACITY AND INFLUENCE NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES BY
PROVIDING LEADERSHIP, FOCUS, AND DIRECTION

OBJECTIVE I PROVIDE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS AS MEMBERS IDENTIFY NEEDS

There is an undeniable value to NASCA membership in the form of networking opportunities with our peers from other states. NASCA provides a unique forum for many of our state conservation agencies to share ideas and experiences. Members benefit as more states become active NASCA members due to the increased size of our network. Additionally, NASCA becomes more marketable to inactive member states as the number of active state members increases. With each additional active member we have more to offer one another, and thus we become more effective in our member capacity-building efforts. We therefore strive to solicit more participation from all of our member states and enlist greater participation from staff-level personnel of those states that are currently active.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

NASCA prides itself in the quality of the technical training it provides to its members. On February 13 we hosted a webinar on Regulatory Certainty Programs. We featured speakers from six states with these programs who explained how their programs were set up, how they operate, and how they provide win/win opportunities for all stakeholders. On July 30 NASCA hosted another webinar dedicated to Utilizing Technology in Conservation Delivery. This webinar featured seven speakers who talked about how they employ the latest and greatest technological advances to increase productivity and efficiency in their operations. Over 100 members from forty states participated in these presentations. Our membership has encouraged us to continue providing these valuable educational opportunities.

NASCA launched its new website earlier this year. Our new site offers members countless resources in an easy to navigate, user friendly format. Visit us at www.nascanet.org to gain access to countless resources, tune in to archived webinars, and learn more about NASCA and its membership.

DISTRICT OFFICIAL TRAINING

In 2009 NASCA developed a matrix that outlines minimum standards for states' District Official training programs. The matrix provides a detailed menu of 15 training elements. NASCA developed the matrix as a tool for its member agencies to use to perform self-assessments of their District Official training programs, and thus determine areas of strengths or weaknesses in the programs. NASCA has also populated its website with examples of how these 15 elements are addressed

by some of the premier training programs in the country. All of this information is available at <http://www.nascanet.org/index.php/resource-library/district-training/>

This matrix has become so popular that NACD now uses it as an assessment tool to judge District Official training programs for their annual recognition program. NASCA also provides District Official training assistance to those states that request it. We have conducted District Official training programs in New Hampshire, Alabama, and at the 2013 NACD Northeast Regional Meeting. There are at least two more states that have already requested NASCA's assistance with District Official training in 2014.



ANNUAL MEETING

Each year NASCA members gather to share strategies and experiences in delivering soil and water conservation in their home states. President Carolyn Hefner welcomed members to this year's event in Rogers, Arkansas. After an opening general session where we get organizational updates from our core partners (NACD, NCDEA, NRCS, and NARC&DC), the meeting "breaks out" into two sessions. State agency directors and administrators meet in one session to share issues of concern, discuss national policy, and conduct the business of the organization. Field staff personnel gather in the other session to share numerous presentations on innovative ideas and programs in their states.



COMPILING STATE INFORMATION

NASCA conducted a membership survey of questions posed by our members over the last year. The survey included questions regarding: organizational structure, funding amounts and sources, conservation district code/statute, staffing classification/rates, programs (319, farm bill), conservation district official elections. A report of the 2013 NASCA Questionnaire to Membership will be completed in 2014 and shared with membership.

REGULATORY CERTAINTY

NASCA defines regulatory certainty as a voluntary approach to provide "assurances" to the agricultural community so they may conduct business in a predictable regulatory setting in exchange for their implementation of additional BMPs to achieve enhanced environmental benefits. Certainty is popular in most circles as it provides an opportunity to implement a greater suite of agricultural BMPs on working lands, grants educational opportunities for the operators of our working lands, and provides a sustainable business environment for those farmers who choose to participate in this type of program. NASCA received a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) from NRCS to research regulatory certainty programs in this country and develop a tool that will help State Conservation Agencies develop these programs in state where they do not currently exist. At the onset of this work we knew of five regulatory certainty programs inexistence. However, we discovered a number of other programs that offer elements of regulatory certainty in 2013 by contacting each state directly. All in all, we have found that some element of regulatory certainty exists in 16 states. We are examining the program development experiences of these states to develop a tool that will help other states develop regulatory certainty programs of their own. This tool will be released early next year.

ASK NASCA

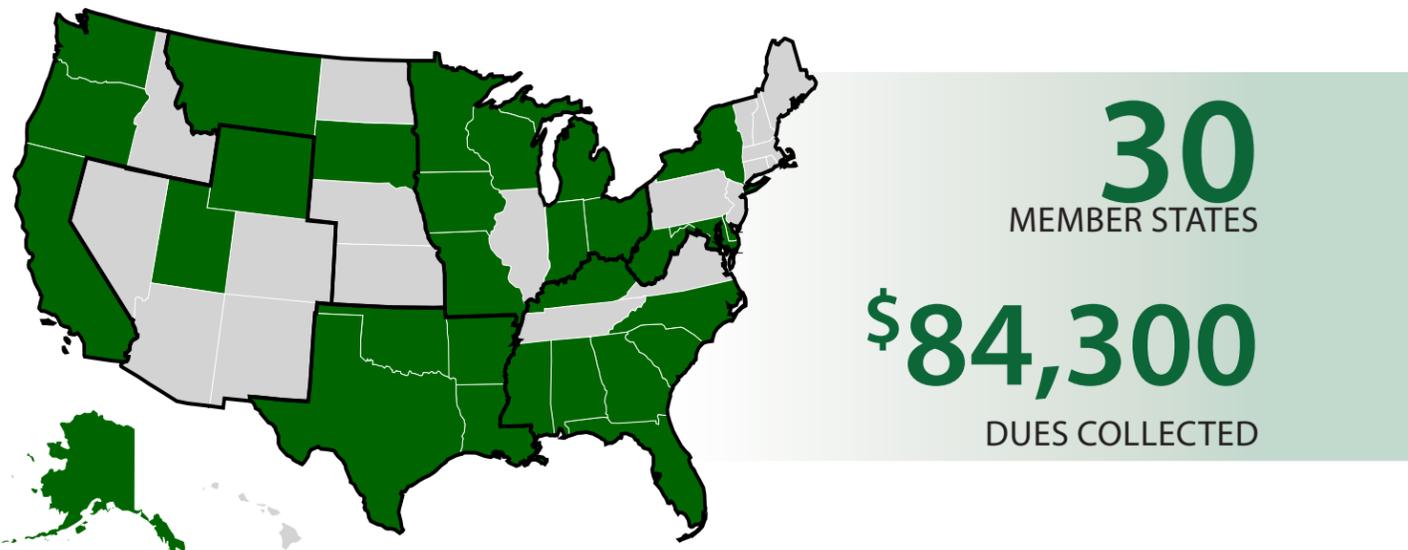
Ask NASCA provides a forum for members to easily ask fellow conservation district employees questions on topics as they arise. We encourage our membership to take advantage of this unique tool. In 2013 NASCA received 81 replies on 11 questions posted on topics such as: field office of the future, regulatory certainty, state ag soil loss/erosion limit laws.

OBJECTIVE II TO REMAIN A FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION

NASCA currently depends on member dues, grants, contractual agreements, and earnings from its investment accounts to support the organization's annual budget. Additionally, the organization has worked tirelessly in recent years to streamline its operations in the name of efficiency and cost-effectiveness. In doing so, we have trimmed our budget from \$268,250 in 2008 to \$131,200 in 2014 while at the same time improving service to our member states!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

In 2013 NASCA received dues in the amount of \$84,300 from 30 member states.



GRANT FUNDING

NASCA entered into a contribution agreement and a CIG grant with NRCS this year. These agreements focused on providing technical training to our members and partners, developing District Official training programs, investigating regulatory certainty programs, and providing multiple venues for information exchange and technology transfer. NASCA is grateful to NRCS for providing a portion of the funding for these projects that are so valuable to our members and partners.

BUDGET

The NASCA board of directors continues to reevaluate it's annual budget reducing costs wherever applicable. NASCA performed well in 2013 exceeding budget expectations and further reduced the 2014 budget by an additional 13%.

	2013 ACTUAL	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	\$216,720	\$150,000	\$131,200
OPERATIONS	\$21,333	\$24,000	\$20,350
CONTRACTORS	\$87,162	\$112,000	\$100,000

SUPPORTING MEMBER STATES

The NASCA Board of Directors elected to provide scholarship funding for members from states with travel funding restrictions to attend our annual meeting in Rogers, Arkansas. These funds provided travel support to 14 NASCA members from 8 states who otherwise may have been unable to attend the meeting. One of the goals of the annual meeting is to share information between members from a variety of states, and our Board of Directors realizes the value of ensuring a diverse mix of states attending the event. Getting more states to the meeting makes the experience more valuable for all attendees, so every participant ultimately benefits from this scholarship funding!

In September 2012 NASCA entered into an agreement with Kimberly Clark as part of their promotion of the Scott Naturals product line. Kimberly Clark conducted an online promotion that asked participants to pledge to use this product line for a specified period of time. The company then agreed to provide \$50,000 to NASCA to be used for conservation practice implementation in the state with the highest per capita participation rate in the promotion. On January 8, 2013, NASCA was pleased to present this \$50,000 award to the Alaska Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board, who used the funds to support several projects in Alaska:

- The Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District planted native trees and shrubs with students at Tustumena Elementary School and created an apple tree courtyard at Sterling Elementary to educate students about arboriculture.
- The Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District is working with University of Alaska forest researchers to establish long term data plots contributing to scientific understanding of boreal forest dynamics and ecosystems.
- The Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with local agencies and schools to promote the value of trees culminating in an Arbor Day ceremony and recognition patch for participants.



"In 2008 our Board of Directors was concerned, and rightfully so, about NASCA's financial sustainability. Despite the struggling economy, I am proud to say that we are in a stronger financial position today than at any time in the organization's history. This is due in large part to effective use of staff resources, sound investment policy, and unwavering support from membership."

Carolyn Hefner
2013 NASCA President

OBJECTIVE III NATIONALLY REPRESENT ITS MEMBERS

NASCA serves as the voice for its member states in developing conservation policy at the national level. Our staff and leadership keep in constant contact and work effectively in Washington DC with NRCS, EPA, our conservation partners, and a number of NGOs.

FARM BILL

NASCA logged countless hours providing support, technical expertise, and influence on the development of the 2013 Farm Bill. Our Farm Bill Committee, chaired by Steve Shine of Michigan, met as needed and remained current on all progress throughout the evolution of this Farm Bill. Additionally, Bill Smith of South Dakota represented NASCA on NACD's Farm Bill Task Force. In that role he kept NASCA interests in the forefront of NACD's policy discussions. We also served as active members of the Washington DC Conservation Coalition. This group met regularly and developed frequent correspondence to decision-makers regarding the importance of Title 2 programs to our working lands and producers.



REGIONAL PRESENCE

The NASCA Board of Directors represents the organization at regional functions like NACD regional meetings. They not only provide formal reports on behalf of the organization but also solicit input from our member agencies in every state so that we may accurately represent our members concerns at the national level. If the Board member is not available to attend these meetings they will request that the NASCA Executive Director represent the organization. In 2013 President Carolyn Hefner attended both the Southeast and Northeast NACD Regional meetings, and Executive Director Mike Brown provided a presentation on the future of conservation financial resources at the NACD Northeast Regional meeting. He also conducted a half day District Official training program at that same meeting.



NASCA also stepped up its alliance with the National Watershed Coalition (NWC) in 2013 to work to secure continued federal support of the Small Watershed Program. President Carolyn Hefner and executive Director Mike Brown travelled to Tunica, MS to attend the bi-annual NWC meeting. They conducted three sessions for NWC at this meeting, resulting in the development of a Call to Action document that highlights the importance of small watershed planning and operations as well as structure rehabilitation and repair. Conservation practices have been implemented in every state via the Small Watershed Program, including structures in 47 states. Therefore, this program has been and remains critical to our membership.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

NASCA is one of five core partners that constitute the National Conservation Partnership. The others are:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
- National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA)
- National Association of RC&D Councils (NARC&DC)

NASCA's leadership meets quarterly with these partners to help shape national conservation policy. Additionally, NASCA's Executive Director meets at least monthly with the NACD CEO, the NCDEA Executive Director, and the NRCS Associate Chief for Conservation. We are diligent about raising awareness to the issues of greatest concern to our membership at the national level.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Carolyn Hefner
President
Operations Division Director
West Virginia Conservation Agency



Mike Thralls
Vice President
Executive Director
Oklahoma Conservation Commission



Shana Joy
Secretary
Executive Director, NRCDB
Alaska Department of
Natural Resources



Adrian Baber
Treasurer
Conservation Division Chief
Arkansas Department of
Natural Resources



Don Underwood
Past President
Executive Director
Mississippi Soil and Water
Conservation Commission

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Clark
Executive Director
Washington



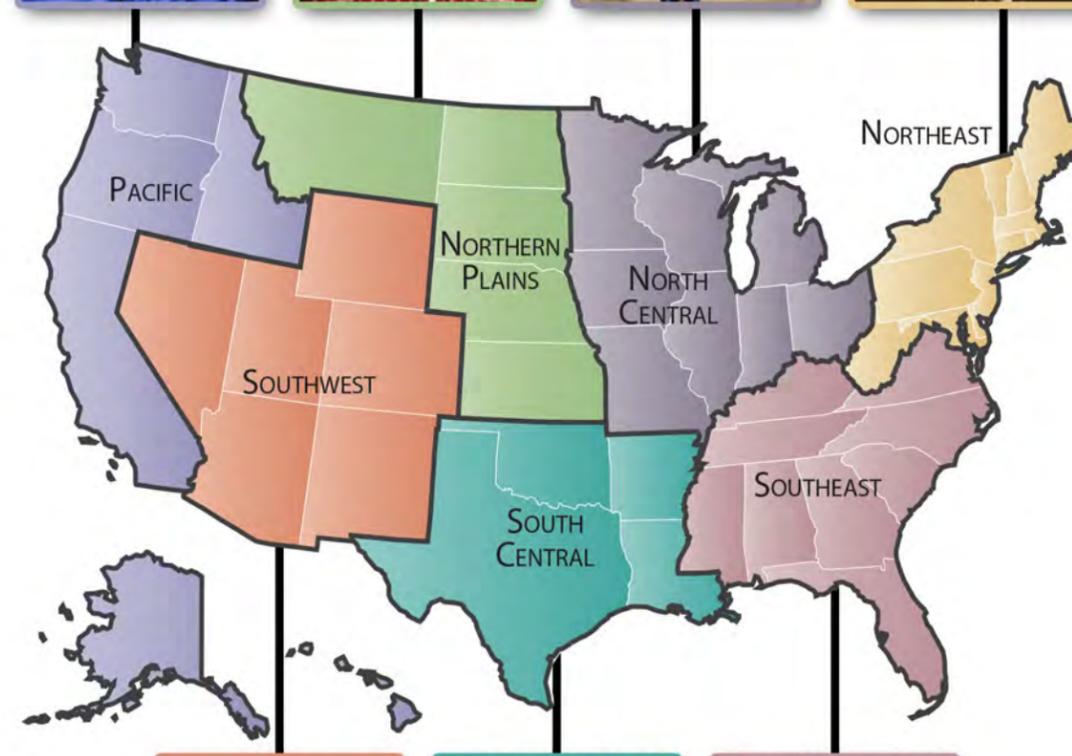
Bill Smith
Administrator
South Dakota



Bill Wilson
Environmental Manager
Missouri



Michael Latham
Director
New York



Thayne Mickelson
Executive Director
Utah



Brad Spicer
Assistant Commissioner
Louisiana



Marc Cribb
*Conservation Districts
Program Manager*
South Carolina

COMMITTEES

Policy

Thayne Mickelson, Chair, Southwest
 Steve Shine, North Central
 Brian Farkas, Northeast
 Scott Carlson, Northern Plains
 Stu Trefry, Pacific
 Mike Thralls, South Central
 Brent Dykes, Southeast

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David Williams, Chair
 Cindy Lair, CO
 Teri Murrison, ID
 Jennifer Pinkston, IN
 Johnna McHugh, KY
 Tom Anderson, MA
 Mark Harrison, OK
 Loren Warrick, TX
 Andrew Stacy, WV
 Ray Ledgerwood (advisor)

Investment

Adrian Baber, Chair
 Randy Young, AR
 Robert Baldwin, DE
 Brad Spicer, LA
 Ray Beck, MT
 Mike Brown (staff)

Annual Meeting

Mike Thralls, OK, Chair
 Adrian Baber, AR
 Aaron Andrews (staff)
 Mike Brown (staff)

Farm Bill

Steve Shine, MI, Chair
 Adrian Baber, AR
 Suellen Cozey McCuin, CT
 Brent Dykes, GA
 Steve Coleman, KY
 David Williams, NC
 Mike Thralls, OK

Staff

Executive Director

Mike Brown
 Hartly, DE

Executive Assistant

Aaron Andrews
 Hartly, DE

Project Consultant

Ray Ledgerwood, WA
 Board Works by Ledgerwood



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
 STATE CONSERVATION AGENCIES

PO Box 211
 Hartly, DE. 19953

nascanet.org

NASCA 2014 Budget

	2013 Budget	2014 Budget
INCOME		
2% interest on investments	\$20,000.00	\$10,200.00
Dues	\$70,000.00	\$81,000.00
<hr/>		
NRCS Contribution Agreement	\$60,000.00	\$40,000.00
Total Income	\$150,000.00	\$131,200.00
EXPENSE		
Contract Positions		
Executive Director		
Salary	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Total Executive Director	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Project Coordinator		
Time and expenses	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Expenses		
Total Project Coordinator	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Executive Assistant		
Salary	\$42,000.00	\$30,000.00
Expenses		
Total Administrative Assistant	\$42,000.00	\$30,000.00
Total Contract Positions	\$112,000.00	\$100,000.00
Website		
contractual services	\$500.00	\$0.00
hosting	\$1,500.00	\$200.00
Total Website	\$2,000.00	\$200.00
Miscellaneous Business Expenses		
Accounting and Audit Fee	\$1,500.00	\$1,200.00
Contract Staff Travel and Expenses	\$13,520.00	\$15,450.00
Office supplies	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Officer expense	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Conference calls	\$2,000.00	\$400.00
Webinar services	\$600.00	\$0.00
Telephone Services	\$2,280.00	\$1,000.00
Bank service charge	\$500.00	\$400.00
Credit card fee (payment tech)	\$750.00	\$0.00
Postage	\$600.00	\$300.00
Other	\$250.00	\$250.00
Total Business Expenses	\$36,000.00	\$31,200.00
Total Expenses	\$148,000.00	\$131,200.00
NET INCOME	\$2,000.00	\$0.00

May 23, 2014

Teri Murrison
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
650 W. State St., Room 145
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Teri:

I very much appreciate the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission's willingness to consider paying 2014 NASCA dues. We are financially stable yet lean organization, so we depend heavily on all the support our members can provide. We have trimmed our budget from \$268,000 in 2008 to \$131,000 in 2014 while at the same time improving service to our membership. We consider this amazing progress and while NASCA has always provided an excellent return on investment to its members, the organization's value to members is more robust today than ever. As you requested, I have enclosed several attachments for your review:

- 2014 NASCA budget
- 2013 Annual Report
- Recent NASCA Board of Directors meeting minutes

Over the past year we have been very involved in developing a business plan template for our member agencies to use to develop regulatory certainty programs. We did this by contacting every state to determine where these programs already exist. After finding programs or elements of certainty programs in 16 states, we worked with those states to determine the most efficient steps to take in program development, pitfalls to avoid, and milestones to celebrate. We then used this information to develop the business planning template, which you should have received last week. I hope you'll find it of use.

We maintain excellent relationships with our core partners, and we work diligently to make sure the interests of State Conservation Agencies and conservation districts are not forgotten in Washington DC. One of my greatest concerns in rolling out this new Farm Bill is the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). It calls for greater leveraging and opens the doors to a plethora of potential new partners. I believe it will be a successful program which will be used as a model for more federal programs when the next Farm Bill is written. My concern is that conservation districts that have the capacity to execute in this environment will make out fine, but those that do not will be left behind. NRCS Chief Jason Weller confirmed my beliefs when we met in March, saying that he was told Congress was using RCPP as a pilot, and if it successful, it will become a much more prominent means of providing federal resources during the next Farm Bill. Steve Shine, NASCA Treasurer, received confirmation of this philosophy as well from Senator Stabenow's office. Thus, NASCA has called on our partners at



NACD and NCDEA to put our heads together to develop a path forward in preparing conservation districts for this new paradigm.

Earlier this week NASCA President Mike Thralls and I joined several other NASCA members and the leadership of the National Watershed Coalition (NWC) to conduct visits to Capitol Hill, the White House, NRCS, and NACD to ensure prolonged federal support of and engagement with the Small Watershed Program. Maintaining watershed structures as well as associated upstream treatments is a topic which is extremely important to many of our members.

We also maintain excellent relations with EPA. Since her appointment in March I have met personally with Allison Wiedeman, the Acting Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator. Additionally, she spent an hour meeting with our Board of Directors via conference call when we met in South Dakota in April. Joining her on the call were Ken Kopocis, Assistant Administrator for the EPA Office of Water, and Donna Downing, Jurisdiction Team Leader in EPA's Wetlands Division. We are working with Allison to be sure our comments are heard on the new Waters of the U.S. interpretive rule and proposed rule.

NASCA continues to provide its regular services to members. We will host our second webinar of the year on May 28. This one will focus on local work groups. This topic was suggested by our Policy Committee, which now meets monthly to discuss issues of primary concern to our members. The committee has representation from each of NASCA's seven regions. Additionally, I provided District Official training at the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting and have been asked to do the same in West Virginia in July.

I hope this helps provide a glimpse of the good work NASCA is doing on behalf of its membership. However, I would suggest that you and perhaps one of your commissioners consider attending the NASCA annual meeting September 7-10, 2014 in Whitefish, Montana. I guarantee you will find it extremely informative, and you'll learn much more about the organization. It will be a relatively short trip for you, and we may even be able to provide some support for you if necessary. I guarantee it will be time well spent!

Again, thank you for considering becoming a more active NASCA member, and please let me know if I may be of further information.

Very truly yours,



Michael K. Brown
NASCA Executive Director



From: [Burwell, Jeffery - NRCS, Boise, ID](#)
To: [Teri Murrison](#)
Subject: RE: NASCA
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 2:16:35 PM

Hey Teri,

Here's my take and humble opinion. It's similar to the SWCDs belonging to and supporting IASCD. NASCA gives state conservation agencies the collective voice back in DC on conservation and farm policy and important legislation like Farm Bill. NASCA has a presence at the table with NACD, RC&D Council, and NASDA for the conservation coalition. It is an opportunity to communicate issues and collaborate across state lines. I see a real value in belonging to this association. It should add value to "Conservation the Idaho Way". John Larson, Executive for NACD, might be a good source to further clarify the benefits since he works directly with the NASCA Exec and can talk about the partnership in the recent Farm Bill efforts.

Jeff

From: Teri Murrison [mailto:Teri.Murrison@swc.idaho.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 12:26 PM
To: Burwell, Jeffery - NRCS, Boise, ID
Subject: NASCA

Morning,

When you get a few minutes, can you (or someone in the National office) give me your impressions of the efficacy of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA). Have you heard, worked with, do you have an opinion on them?

My Commissioners are debating paying NACFA dues and have asked me to seek your opinions.

Thanks! See you tomorrow.

Teri

Teri Murrison, Administrator
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
650 W. State Street, Room 145
Boise, Idaho 83720
208-332-1790 Phone
208-258-4752 Cell Phone
208-332-1799 Fax
Teri.Murrison@swc.idaho.gov
www.swc.idaho.gov



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 4d

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND
TREBESCH**
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: JUNE 5, 2014
RE: CONSIDERATION OF FY 2015-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Commission is required by statute to submit an updated and adopted Strategic Plan to serve as a guidance document for the agency for the next four years. Staff updated this year's Plan by taking the FY 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, and making minor edits (reflected on the attached draft).

After review in April by a district review committee (Steve Becker, Art Beal, Dennis Tanikuni, Benjamin Kelly/Bret Rumbeck, and Chris Simons) staff received two comments that the draft is acceptable as submitted. Your Board directed several modifications and that revised draft was circulated to all districts on May 16th.

No comments were received from districts prior to the publishing of this agenda. If comments are received before your meeting, staff will present them for your consideration.

The Board must adopt a final Strategic Plan at the June meeting to meet DFM's deadline of July 1st. Staff recommends the adoption of the attached draft with any noted changes.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

Attachments:

- Draft FY 2015-2018 ISWCC Strategic Plan

FY 2015-2018 Strategic Plan

75 Years of Conservation the Idaho Way

Style Definition: TOC 3: Indent: First line:
0.25"



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

established
1939

*Conservation the Idaho Way:
Sowing seeds of Stewardship*

650 W. State Street, #145

Boise, Idaho 83702

208-332-1790 phone

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650 W. State Street, Rm. 145
Boise, ID 83616 208-332-1790
www.swc.idaho.gov

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

PENDING

H. Norman Wright, Chairman



From left, ISWCC Engineer Bill Lillibridge, Chairman Norman Wright, and Loan Officer Terry Hoebelheinrich visit a Northern Idaho conservation project site.



INTRODUCTION: CONSERVATION THE IDAHO WAY

Idaho is endowed with a magnificent blend of diverse natural landscapes – rivers, lakes, mountains, forests and desert canyons – combined with rich and fertile agricultural lands well-suited for growing a wide variety of crops and raising livestock.

People who work in Idaho agriculture have deep roots in the land. We know that caring for the land will reap benefits for future generations. We are convinced that the best way to care for and enhance our soil, water, air, plants and wildlife is through voluntary, locally led efforts. Our guiding philosophy is to use the state's natural resources to benefit Idahoans while maintaining and improving those resources for future generations.

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (Conservation Commission) focuses

on Conservation the Idaho Way: voluntary stewardship, not regulatory mandates.

Conservation the Idaho way is locally led. In 1939 the Legislature established a bottom-up approach to voluntary conservation and today local people still lead local efforts. The Conservation Commission and our partners - local soil and water conservation districts (districts), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and others - combine efforts to assist farmers and ranchers engaged in voluntary stewardship activities. Together we are the heartbeat of voluntary conservation and partners in Idaho's oldest conservation movement.

The Conservation Commission was created as a state agency in 1939 during the Dust Bowl era to address significant soil erosion issues -- sheet erosion, wind erosion and severe gullying. A

1934 soil erosion survey in Idaho revealed that more than 27 million acres of land, or roughly half the state, had serious soil erosion problems.

The state's first order of business was to help form soil conservation districts at the county level. Farmers and ranchers were elected directors of the districts, providing leadership on project priorities. As districts formed, NRCS and the Conservation Commission provided technical assistance to assist with stewardship projects.

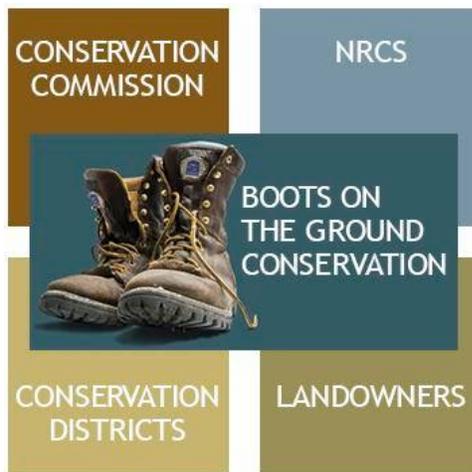
Today there are 50 local soil and water conservation districts located from Bonners Ferry to Montpelier. Their efforts are guided by 5-year plans containing conservation goals and prioritized projects and activities. We provide

funding and technical staff to empower districts - the boots on the ground - to get things done.

We incentivize responsible stewardship by providing cost sharing and technical expertise. Proactive, non-regulatory projects are beneficial because they address issues of concern and help avoid costly lawsuits and onerous regulations.

While we began working 75 years ago to reduce soil erosion, our efforts now include soil, water, plants, air, and animal conservation activities, as well. This FY2015-2018 Strategic Plan provides a detailed roadmap for sowing our seeds of stewardship across this great State of Idaho.

Teri Murrison, Administrator



KEY EXTERNAL FACTORS

There are key external factors that could affect the agency's ability to meet goals and objectives. They include:

- State and federal regulatory pressure and mandates that could shift priorities and resources away from current activities.
- Changing economics of agriculture, which could result in significant increases or decreases in conservation program participation.
- Changing economics of state and federal budgets, which could result in additional agency cuts or fewer conservation dollars being spent in the state.

MISSION

To facilitate coordinated non-regulatory, voluntary, and locally-led conservation by federal, state, and local governments including Idaho's conservation districts and other partners to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

VISION

Conservation in Idaho reflects locally-led natural resource conservation leadership and priorities, is voluntary and incentive-based, non-regulatory, and demonstrates scientifically sound stewardship. The Conservation Commission and local conservation districts are the primary entities to lead coordinated conservation efforts to provide landowners and land-users with assistance and solutions for natural resource concerns and issues.



PHILOSOPHY

The Conservation Commission is dedicated to guiding principles for each goal and related activity.

- Satisfy legislative intent and statute
- Benefit the environment and Idaho's agricultural-based economy
- Benefit conservation districts' locally led, voluntary, non-regulatory priorities and projects
- Benefit the Commission's ability to serve
- Promote fiscal responsibility
- Strengthen existing and build new conservation partnerships
- Incorporate valid scientific data and practices

PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOAL #1: PROMOTE VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION BY PROVIDING TECHNICAL AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES TO IDAHO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The Conservation Commission provides leadership and assistance to local conservation districts as established in Title 22 Chapter 27, Idaho Code.

OBJECTIVE # 1.1: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DISTRICTS.

Allocate available technical staff time to provide specific and other technical assistance to districts as resources permit—~~technical services also include some current and future grant and project obligations consistent with Conservation Commission priorities and objectives. Support services may include:~~

Specialized Technical Assistance is defined as: That technical assistance used to support districts in the wise use and enhancement of natural resources which can only be provided by someone possessing a specialized, science-based skill set and an ability to integrate local knowledge of the site-specific interactions between environmental, economic, cultural and social concerns into the assistance provided.

Examples of Specialized Technical Assistance may include but are not limited to:

- Conservation planning
- Engineering services
- Project implementation and construction inspections
- BMP effectiveness monitoring
- Watershed planning and riparian assessments

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Provide technical assistance and engineering services as capacity and resources allow.
Conduct annual technical assistance allocation request and award process for known district projects, and allocate discretionary staff hours to accommodate unforeseen district projects and to provide flexibility.
 - Benchmark: Maximize available staff hours to serving district requests for technical assistance (via technical assistance request process and field staff discretionary time allocations) after meeting statutory and program obligations.
 - Benchmark: Maintain field staff presence at district Board meetings ~~as resources allow~~ a minimum of once per quarter.
- Annually inventory and award available field staff hours to provide technical and engineering assistance to assist districts with new and existing projects and maximize number of landowners served.~~Conduct Conservation Commission, district, region, IASCD, and partner technical assistance needs assessment and capacity inventories.~~
 - Benchmark: Conduct Conservation Commission technical assistance needs assessment and capacity inventories.

- Benchmark: Oversee planning for Conservation Commission staffing, prepare annual agency work plan, maintain technical assistance capacity inventory.
- Convene ad hoc stakeholder workgroup(s) in each Division to rank and recommend provision of technical assistance to districts.
 - Benchmark: Utilize workgroup(s) to annually review the technical assistance allocation process and recommend changes
 - Benchmark: ~~C~~ompile list of recommended ranked and prioritized district requests for technical assistance.
 - Benchmark: Document provision of district technical assistance in annual performance measures report.

OBJECTIVE # 1.2: STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO DISTRICTS.

Distribute district allocations pursuant to Idaho Code 22-2727 and IDAPA 60.05.04 Rules for Allocation of Funds to Conservation Districts (annually).

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Distribute base allocations to districts in compliance with reporting requirements set forth in IDAPA 60.05.04.
 - Benchmark: Distribute ~~base allocations~~ by July 31st of each year.
 - Distribute \$50,000 in operating funds annually to each district (\$1,000 per district).
 - Benchmark: Distribute by July 31st of each year.
 - Distribute \$50,000 annually to districts for capacity building and outreach purposes.
 - Benchmark: Commissioners set awards for following fiscal year by June 15th
 - Benchmark: Distribute by July 31st of each year.
 - Benchmark: Districts awarded capacity building funds in the previous fiscal year report on their use to Commission by August 15th of each year.
- Determine local matching funds by district and distribute annually to districts.
 - Benchmark: Provide assistance to districts to support the development and submission of materials required under IDAPA 60.05.04.
 - ~~Benchmark: As needed, assist with or provide training to districts.~~
 - Benchmark: Districts submit reports detailing local matching funds by August 15th of each year.
 - Benchmark: Convene workgroup annually to review Financial & Match Reports, and make recommendations to Conservation Commission by August 30th of each year.
 - Benchmark: Distribute state matching funds to districts by September 15th of each year.
- ~~Distribute match allocations to districts in compliance with reporting requirements set forth in IDAPA 60.05.04.~~
 - ~~Benchmark: Distribute 90% of match allocations no later than November 30th annually. Distribute remaining 10% by April 1st annually.~~

OBJECTIVE # 1.3: COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES TO DISTRICTS.

Assist and provide services that encourage capacity development to independently and collectively strengthen districts.

Comprehensive District Assistance is defined as: That assistance which supports the independent and collective strengthening of conservation districts by: a) providing services which expand resources or otherwise enhance district capacity to assist private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources, or; b) providing assistance required to support routine district activities or projects.

Examples of comprehensive assistance MAY include but are not limited to:

- District information and outreach activities
- Administration of district-sponsored cost-share programs
- Development of a district needs assessment
- Grant writing assistance
- Development of 5-year and annual work plans

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Identify and document unmet needs for funding water quality improvement projects related to ~~listed~~ **impaired** waterbodies as identified and prioritized in 5-year and other district plans.
 - Benchmark: Conduct district budget hearing by June 15th annually.
- Provide capacity building services and/or funding to districts as resources allow.
 - Benchmark: If funds are available, by June 15th of each year solicit district requests for funding for capacity building activities.

GOAL #2: PROMOTE VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION BY PROVIDING VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OBJECTIVE # 2.1: INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Support non-regulatory, science-based conservation incentive programs to accelerate the development of voluntary projects and practices throughout the state.

2.1.1 RESOURCE CONSERVATION & RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (RCRDP).

Administer low interest conservation loan program promoting increased conservation benefits to ~~agricultural~~ **croplands**, woodlands, and rangelands within the state and provide financial assistance to eligible applicants for the implementation of resource management projects.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Administer and further develop the loan program to meet statewide conservation efforts.
 - Benchmark: Maintain or improve annual levels of funding.
- Monitor and evaluate loan policies on ongoing basis to ensure continued accountability and recommend improvements, if necessary.

- Benchmark: Evaluate existing and new loan policies annually (RCRDP Loan Committee) and make recommendations to Board.
- Monitor timeliness of loan review process as established by Conservation Commission.
 - Benchmark: Conduct bi-annual tracking of two loan applications and report results to Conservation Commission.
- Promote RCRDP program.
 - Benchmark: Develop and update marketing plan annually.
 - Benchmark: Provide regular training to all field staff and districts as identified in Marketing Plan.

2.1.2 STATE REVOLVING FUND

Upon request, assist the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with their water quality loan program addressing non-point source pollution.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Administer existing and/or future loans.
 - Benchmark: Service and track one loan.
 - ~~○ Determine potential to administer additional loans under SRF.~~
 - ~~○ Benchmark: Report to Conservation Commission on potential for future program funding, and pursue if appropriate.~~

2.1.3 WATER QUALITY PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE (WQPA)

Actively pursue funding opportunities as identified.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Evaluate future funding and operation and actively pursue, if appropriate.
 - Benchmark: Report annually on potential for future program funding, and pursue if appropriate.

2.1.4 CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

This currently unfunded program has financed conservation projects in the past by providing cost sharing for the installation of conservation practices. Evaluate feasibility of continuing program.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Evaluate future funding and operation and actively pursue, if appropriate.
 - Benchmark: Report annually to Conservation Commission on potential for future funding and operation and actively pursue, if appropriate.

~~2.1.5 WORKING LANDSCAPES CONSERVATION PROGRAM~~

~~Evaluate feasibility of outcomes-based program as an alternative to regulations/permanent conservation easements and that provides incentives for landowners to improve water quality, and conserve working landscapes, and other beneficial uses of lands and natural resources.~~

~~PERFORMANCE MEASURES~~

- ~~○ Evaluate feasibility of establishing a Working Landscapes Conservation Program.~~
- ~~○ Benchmark: Report on status of similar projects and identify possible funding sources.~~

OBJECTIVE # 2.2: CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Provide policy and program mechanisms that enhance the environmental quality and economic productivity of the state.

2.2.1 CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP).

Provide technical leadership and oversight to improve water quantity and quality, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce ground water use, and decrease agriculture-related chemical and sediment runoff to the waters of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Serve as lead agency for statewide CREP program.
 - Benchmark: Continue working to achieve goals and objectives for the CREP program as outlined in the 2006 agreement with the USDA Farm Service Agency.
 - Benchmark: Continue working to achieve increased program goals as outlined in CREP 2011 annual report
 - ~~○ Benchmark: Update agency's CREP goals and create implementation plan~~
 - ~~○ Benchmark: Investigate feasibility of enhancing Idaho OnePlan for interagency CREP data sharing and reporting.~~
 - Benchmark: Submit annual report to Farm Service Agency and other partners.
 - Benchmark: Conduct annual leadership and regular interagency meetings.

2.2.2 TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING.

~~Continue TMDL watershed planning and implementation as the designated agency for agriculture and grazing pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act (PL 92-500), Idaho State Statutes 39-3601 and 39-3602, the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan, and the State of Idaho Guidance for the Development of TMDLs. Lead efforts to address agricultural and grazing components of TMDL Implementation Plan development for water quality impaired surface waters in the state.~~

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- In coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), complete existing TMDL Agricultural Implementation Plans, initiate new plans or addendums, and assist with five-year reviews on existing DEQ Sub-basin Assessment (SBA) TMDLs.

- Benchmark: Complete TMDL Agricultural Implementation Plans within 18 months of TMDL approval.
- Benchmark: [Conduct annual Interagency meeting with EPA, DEQ, NRCS, and other partners](#)
- Benchmark: Provide technical assistance to districts with demonstrated need for implementation of BMPs outlined in TMDL agricultural implementation plans, as resources allow.
- Benchmark: Support partner priorities and funding initiatives as resources allow.
- Benchmark: Conduct annual meetings with six DEQ regional offices to coordinate TMDL activities.

2.2.3 IDAHO GROUND WATER QUALITY PLAN.

Facilitate cooperative ground water protection programs in conjunction with other state agencies pursuant to a 2008 Interagency Cooperative Agreement. Promote and support implementation of water quality projects across the state to maintain and enhance ground water quality.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Assist districts with demonstrated need in planning and implementation efforts in Nitrate Priority Areas to reduce nitrate contamination, as [districts request through the technical assistance allocation planning process and as](#) resources allow.
 - Benchmark: Conduct planning and implementation to meet responsibilities as outlined in the Cooperative Agreement and in coordination with the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan.
 - Benchmark: Deliver annual reports to Board on progress.

2.2.4 IDAHO AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION ABATEMENT PLAN.

Lead effort to update and maintain guidance document in support of control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Update (every ten years) and maintain guidance documents in support of the control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution as resources allow.
 - ~~Benchmark: Secure funding and support to update the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan.~~
 - ~~Benchmark: Provide training to staff on BMP Effectiveness Guide.~~
 - ~~Benchmark: Issue RFP to qualified proposers and Award contract to update the Plan in FY 2015.~~
 - ~~Benchmark: Develop Project Work Plan, coordinate with agencies, form Ag Water Quality Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees to provide input and review drafts.~~
 - ~~Conduct public meetings to review draft plan and solicit input.~~

- o Adopt final Updated Ag Pollution Abatement Plan, present to Governor.
- ~~o Benchmark: Convene BMP working group as needed.~~

2.2.5 IDAHO ONEPLAN.

Provide for the establishment and enhancement of Idaho OnePlan as a primary computer-based conservation planning process and repository for natural resource concerns.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- o Encourage and promote the use of OnePlan within Idaho.
 - o Benchmark: Conduct annual Executive Committee meeting
- o ~~Search-Monitor sources offer~~ funding to create online enhancements.
 - o Benchmark: Report to OnePlan Executive Committee and Conservation Commission Board on potential for enhancements, ongoing funding, and operation.
 - o Benchmark: Evaluate ~~timing and consider update to relevant~~ statute ~~for specific to determine need to adjust~~ requirements for steering committee, etc. and ensure flexibility for continued participation and funding.

2.2.6 CARBON SEQUESTRATION.

Under Idaho statute, Conservation Commission is the lead agency for a currently inactive program related to carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with agricultural and forestry practices, management systems, and land uses occurring on cropland, forest land, and rangeland in Idaho.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- o Seek to identify potential funding sources.
 - o Benchmark: Monitor ongoing carbon issues and determine annually feasibility of and funding for re-activating program.
 - o Benchmark: Evaluate ~~timing annually to and~~ consider proposing changes to Idaho Code to delete specific requirements for committee meetings and membership or reconvene planning group upon securing funding for program.

2.2.7 WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS.

Oversee the creation and discontinuance of watershed improvement districts throughout the state.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- o Oversee creation and discontinuance of watershed improvement districts as provided for in statute.
 - o Benchmark: As necessary, perform duties specified in statute for formation and dissolution of districts.

GOAL #3: INFORM AND EDUCATE STAKEHOLDERS, BUILDING SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION AND SWCC

Inform partners, local, state and federal agency officials and others about the Conservation Commission's mission. Develop beneficial intergovernmental and other relationships to maximize resources, funding, and streamline conservation delivery that is consistent with locally led, voluntary, and non-regulatory conservation plans and policies and harmonizes with regulatory efforts in an effort to meet statewide conservation goals. Educate local, state, and federal officials about Conservation Commission and partner efforts.

OBJECTIVE 3.1 PARTNER PARTICIPATION

Engage districts and other partners in programs and activities. Seek to expand involvement in consideration and decision making. Disseminate information about services and activities of the Conservation Commission, encourage and increase district and public knowledge and participation in activities and processes.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Increase Conservation Commission transparency through greater access.
 - Benchmark: Post online agendas, supporting documentation, and meeting minutes for Conservation Commission meetings
 - Benchmark: Where feasible, utilize live online video streaming and interactive stakeholder participation to increase district and public participation in meetings and processes.
- Disseminate information to encourage partner participation in planning processes.
 - Benchmark: Distribute meeting and activities announcements to our audience using Commission website, distribution lists, and social media accounts.
 - Benchmark: Include important district/Commission news and updates in newsletter monthly.

OBJECTIVE 3.2 INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Inform and educate the public, partners, and others on Conservation Commission activities. Work with IASCD and the districts to publicize the successes of locally led voluntary, non-regulatory conservation efforts in Idaho.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Update Legislature and Executive Branch
 - Benchmark: Deliver annual reports to legislature germane committees, JFAC.
 - Benchmark: Deliver annual reports (performance measurements, etc.) to Governor
- Develop strategy for educating the public and other stakeholders about Conservation Commission activities.
 - Benchmark: Promote voluntary conservation ~~during Conservation Commission's 75th Anniversary Year~~ via monthly newsletters.
 - Benchmark: Conduct annual district and partner survey in July each year.
 - Benchmark: Maintain frequently updated Facebook pages and posts on Twitter.

- Facilitate flow of information and communication with staff.
 - Benchmark: Distribute monthly activities summary/talking points to staff.
 - Benchmark: Hold annual All Staff meeting and trainings.

OBJECTIVE 3.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Facilitate non-regulatory, voluntary, and locally-led conservation activities by and between local, state, and federal governments.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Work with partners
 - Benchmark: Identify potential new partnerships and resources.
 - Benchmark: Coordinate with NRCS State Engineer on approval authority issues; propose changes to Standards and Specifications if necessary.
 - Benchmark: Work with other state and federal agencies regarding technical assistance and engineering on TMDLs, WQPA, RCRDP, Ground Water Priority Areas, etc.
- Review federal, state, and local policies that are determined to impact the Conservation Commission and/or districts; review proposed and adopted plans, programs, environmental documents, activities and initiatives affecting conservation efforts.
 - Benchmark: Convene advisory group as needed to make recommendation to Commissioners as needed.
 - Benchmark: Develop policies as needed.

OBJECTIVE 3.4 COLLABORATION

Collaborate with stakeholders to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance Idaho's private and public lands.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Collaborate with stakeholders including the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), and the Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA) to advance on the ground conservation in Idaho.
 - Benchmark: Attend IASCD meetings including: annual conference, spring and fall division meetings, and Board meetings, as requested.
 - Benchmark: Conduct annual district listening session to solicit input from partners.
- Collaborate with IDEA to advance and promote district employee training opportunities.
 - Benchmark: Assist IDEA with employee training opportunities, as requested.
- Collaborate with resource and agricultural production groups to disseminate information on Conservation Commission activities and conservation planning and implementation activities.
 - Benchmark: Attend other association meetings including Food Producers meetings weekly during legislative session.

- Benchmark: Participate in natural resource groups and processes to focus attention on the roles, policies, and plans of the Conservation Commission and districts to attract partners and resources.
- Benchmark: Attend Environmental Forum and other similar meetings monthly.
- Participate in, speak at, and attend field trips and tours, annual conferences, attend meetings, conferences, and other functions to represent the Conservation Commission and promote good stewardship of Idaho's natural resources.
 - Benchmark: Attend events as appropriate and present as requested.



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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*Conservation the Idaho Way:
Sowing seeds of Stewardship*

C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

H. Norman Wright, Chair

Roger Stutzman, Vice Chair

Gerald Trebesch, Secretary

David Radford, Member

~~Dick Bronson~~ Leon Slichter, Member

Teri Murrison, Administrator



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 4e

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: JUNE 5, 2014
RE: COMMENT LETTER ON EPA/CORP OF ENGINEERS PROPOSED RULE DEFINING WATERS OF THE US

Background

On April 21, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jointly released a new Proposed Rule – [Definition of Waters of the U.S. Under the Clean Water Act](#) (PR) - that would amend the definition of “waters of the U.S.” and expand the range of waters under federal jurisdiction. If the PR is finalized as is, it would require permits for a wide array of activities in extensive areas not previously subject to regulation and would affect virtually every category of resource utilization and development interests. Concurrent with the PR, the agencies also announced the immediate issuance of an “Interpretive Rule” (IR) addressing certain agricultural permitting exemptions under the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 404(f)(1)(A).

The PR, published in the Federal Register, is open for public comment for 90 days, until July 21, 2014. The Governor’s Office has asked state agencies with jurisdiction over/planning and implementation responsibilities for Idaho’s streams and wetlands to provide comments for a unified state comment letter. Although the IR was not noticed nor opened for comment, it is our understanding that the agencies are now accepting comments on it, as well. DEQ is coordinating a unified state agencies’ single comment letter and has asked for Commission comments by July 3rd.

THE PROPOSED RULE (PR)

The PR is a lengthy document – over 371 pages – so this memo is also lengthy in an attempt to provide your Board with a sufficiently broad perspective on both rules. In addition, because of the need to have your Board’s approval at this meeting on comments to be submitted to DEQ, there was insufficient time for staff to review the entire PR. Instead, we relied on partners’ analyses and reviewed comment letters already received in the EPA website. An extension of time by the EPA and Corp for comments would allow us to dig further into what appears to be a troubling rule.

Attached are a number of documents we reviewed, most identifying common issues (for example, the need to extend the comment period), but there were some unique concerns, as well. Some of them are attached to illustrate the fact that the rules have the potential to significantly change things via the proposed redefinition of waters of the United States. Notably, although not attached due to its length, a Policy Brief entitled “New ‘Waters of the United States’ Definition Released” prepared by the National Association of Counties (NACO) details in tabular form a number of the key terms as they currently exist, as the PR redefines them, and their potential impacts (on counties). That Policy Brief can be accessed at www.naco.org.



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A report prepared for Members and Committees of Congress by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) entitled “EPA and the Army Corps’ PR to Define ‘Waters of the United States’” by Claudia Copeland (March 27, 2014) – *also not attached due to its length* - notes that the PR would increase the geographic scope of CWA jurisdiction resulting “in part from the agencies’ expressly declaring some types of waters categorically jurisdictional (such as all waters adjacent to a jurisdictional water) and also by application of definitions, which give larger regulatory context to some types of waters, such as tributaries.”

It states the agencies believe benefits accruing from the PR will include the value of ecosystem services provided by the waters and wetlands protected as a result of CWA requirements (like habitat for aquatic and other species, support for recreational fishing and hunting, and flood protection). It says the agencies say that other benefits would include government savings on enforcement expenses (the rule is intended to provide greater regulatory certainty, thus reducing the need for enforcement). Also that business and government may also achieve savings from reduced uncertainty concerning where CWA jurisdiction applies. The agencies estimate benefits ranging from \$318 million to \$514 million per year. However the agencies note that “there is uncertainty and limitations associated with the results” due to data and information gaps, as well as analytic challenges. The analysis does not quantify all possible costs and benefits, but overall they conclude that benefits would exceed costs.

The CRS report finds that costs to regulated entities and governments (federal, state, and local) “are likely to increase” due to both direct and indirect costs from additional permit application expenses (Section 404 permitting, storm water permitting for construction and development activities, permitting of pesticide discharges and confined animal feeding operations, and additional requirements for oil storage and projection facilities needing to develop and implement spill prevention, control and countermeasure plans). It continues that state governments would experience “costs to administer and process additional permits. Other costs would likely include compensatory mitigation requirements for permit impacts if applicable (affecting land developers and state and local governments). The agencies estimate “incremental costs associated with the rule [that] range from \$162 million to \$279 million per year.”

Dr. David Sunding, an economist on the faculty of the University of California-Berkeley and a principal with The Brattle Group, has completed a review of the EPA’s economic analysis of the PR for the Waters Advocacy Council (which represents the nation’s construction, real estate, mining, agriculture, wildlife conservation, forestry, manufacturing and energy sectors). He states that the EPA has drastically expanded jurisdiction under this PR and underestimates its potential impact, failing to fully consider the economic impacts on businesses and affected communities.

“...Unfortunately, the EPA analysis relies on a flawed methodology for estimating the extent of newly jurisdictional waters that systematically underestimates the impact of the definitional changes. This is compounded by the exclusion of several important types of costs and the use of a flawed benefits transfer methodology, which EPA uses to estimate the benefits of expanding jurisdiction. The errors, omissions, and lack of transparency in EPA’s study are so severe as to render it virtually meaningless. The agency should withdraw the economic analysis and prepare an adequate study of this major change in the implementation of the CWA.” The entire report is available at: <http://bit.ly/1nDkLOA...>”

In a nutshell, the analysis by Van Ness Feldman LLC (*see attachment A*) states that the PR seeks to clarify (and greatly expand) which streams, wetlands, and other waters are considered “waters of the US” and as a result, subject to permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act. The PR impacts not only



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water interests, but also energy, transportation, construction and building, and agriculture sectors. Supporters of the PR estimate it would extend jurisdiction to more than half of the nation's streams and over 20 million acres of wetlands. The PR includes:

- All “tributaries” of jurisdictional waters, and all waters located within a riparian area or floodplain;
- Certain “isolated” wetlands and ditches dug in uplands that were categorically excluded from jurisdiction under prior agency guidelines and case law; and
- Certain “other” waters that are deemed to have a “significant nexus” to jurisdictional waters.

THE INTERPRETIVE RULE (IR)

Some of the agriculture sector's early concerns with the PR's impacts were addressed by the concurrent issuance (without advance notice or comment) of an immediately effective IR. The IR identifies 53 conservation practices approved by the NRCS that qualify for exemption under the CWA Section 404(f)(1)(A) excluding “normal farming” activities from Section 404 permit requirements and do not require determination whether discharge involves a water of the US. A list of CWA 404 Permit Exempt Practice Standards, FAQs and a PowerPoint from USDA are included (*see Attachment C*) which provide exemptions from section 404 permitting requirements for discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US.

Reportedly, the concern the IR sought to address was specifically whether the PR would modify existing statutory and regulatory exemptions that exclude certain discharges from agricultural exemptions that exclude certain discharges from agricultural activities from CWA permitting. The CRS report found that the PR doesn't make any changes and does not affect the existing exemptions, however the Waters Advocacy Coalition (*Attachment B*) states that it “imposes a new regime even as it continues existing statutory and regulatory exemptions from Section 404 permitting requirements for normal farming, silviculture, and ranching practices where those activities are part of an ongoing farming, ranching or forestry operations.

The Waters Advocacy Coalition (in addition to summarizing key provisions of the PR and providing the definitions of “tributary”, “adjacent waters”, “floodplain”, and “significant nexus”), also provides a list of exclusions in the PR and a number of concerns with the IR which include:

- Using the IR's exemptions to diffuse objections to the PR,
- The “expanded” list of excluded activities already fall within the “normal” farming and ranching exclusions and “in effect – limits farmer's ability to use the agricultural exemptions by introducing compliance with NRCS standards as a qualification for their use...”,
- Exemptions in the IR only apply to Section 404 permit program, not Section 402 NPDES permit requirements for discharges of pollutants – thus affecting “every day weed control, fertilizer applications and other farm activities, and

Further, it asks

- What agency will inspect and enforce compliance with NRCS guidelines (NRCS is presently declining to do so)?
- Will third parties have the ability to challenge exempt status? and
- Is the IR an “interpretive” or legislative rule under the Administrative Procedure Act (interpretive guidelines do not have the force of law)?



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Mike Brown, executive director of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) provided a copy of their draft comment letter on the IR (*see Attachment D*). In general NASCA is supportive of the IR given its encouragement of voluntary conservation measures, but seeks an additional 90 day comment period on both the IR and the PR. Further, the following comments point out the need for additional clarification in the IR:

- The IR exempts "upland soil and water conservation practices". However, it does not clearly identify where uplands end and waters of the U.S. begin. Is this demarcation literally at the edge of the surface water conveyance? The rule should be clear on this point.
- The list of exempted conservation practices should include any practice that can demonstrate an actual or potential improvement in water quality.
- References to exemptions in "established" farming, silvicultural, or ranching operations should also incorporate exemptions for land use changes TO farming, silviculture or ranching.
- The Interpretive Rule should detail both listed and implied exemptions to permitting requirements.

Many of those comments expressed sentiments found in an article about the Proposed Rule in Capitol Press (*see Attachment E*).

Comments to DEQ

In preparing the Commission's comments on the PR (and IR) for DEQ, staff reviewed a wide array of comments on the EPA website and solicited input from our partners. Several common concerns have emerged that staff has incorporated into a memo to DEQ (*see Attachment F*). The noted concerns above and more have been included in the memo to DEQ.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For consideration and possible action

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Van Ness Feldman Analysis
- Attachment B: Waters Advocacy Coalition Analysis
- Attachment C: NRCS Conservation Practice Standards, FAQs, and USDA Interpretive Rule PowerPoint
- Attachment D: NASCA Draft Comments on Interpretive Rule
- Attachment E: "Ag Leaders Wary of Water Act Power Grab", Capitol Press
- Attachment F: Memo to DEQ for incorporation into unified comment letter



Federal Agencies Issue Long-Awaited “Waters of the United States” Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Clean Water Act Jurisdiction

MARCH 27, 2014

Brent Carson, Duncan Greene, Joseph Nelson, Erin Bartlett

The long-awaited Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) redefining the term “waters of the United States” under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) was released on March 25, 2014, by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) (collectively referred to as “the agencies”). The proposed rule seeks to clarify which streams, wetlands and other waters are considered “waters of the United States” and, thus, subject to permitting requirements under the CWA. The joint proposed rule will affect project development and operations across the energy, water, construction, building, agricultural and transportation sectors. Supporters of the NOPR have estimated that it would extend the jurisdictional scope of the CWA to an additional “20 million acres of wetlands and more than half our nation’s streams.” The agencies’ proposal expands the types of waters that will be considered jurisdictional and subject to CWA permitting requirements to include:

- All “tributaries” of jurisdictional waters, and all waters located within a riparian area or a floodplain, which have historically been subject to case-by-case determinations;
- Certain “isolated” wetlands and ditches dug in uplands, which were categorically excluded from jurisdiction under prior agency guidelines and case law; and
- Certain “other” waters that are deemed to have a “significant nexus” to jurisdictional waters.

Concurrent with the NOPR, the agencies also announced the issuance of an “Interpretive Rule.” The Interpretive Rule addresses certain agricultural permitting exemptions under CWA section 404(f)(1)(A) and, according to the agencies, is intended to incentivize conservation practices.

Structure of the Proposed Rule

Under both the current and proposed regulations, there are multiple categories of “waters” that comprise the universe of what may be considered “waters of the United States.” (Please see our December 2013 Alert for a lengthy background on these dynamic issues). While the regulations provide for seven categories of “waters,” the definition for “waters of the United States” proposed in the NOPR can more helpfully be grouped into four categories: (1) waters that are jurisdictional by rule; (2) so-called “adjacent” waters, which may require a case-specific analysis; (3) “other waters” that would require a case-specific “significant nexus” analysis; and (4) excluded waters, which are never jurisdictional.

Jurisdictional “by rule.” Waters considered jurisdictional “by rule” means that EPA and the Army Corps have determined that the scientific and legal literature supports a finding, without the need for case-specific analysis, that such waters are “waters of the United States” for purposes of triggering CWA permitting requirements. Under the NOPR, this category would include waters used in interstate or foreign commerce, interstate waters, territorial seas, all impoundments of defined waters, and tributaries of each of these waterbody types. The agencies’ proposed treatment of tributaries as jurisdictional “by rule” represents a significant change from current regulations.

Adjacent Waters. EPA and the Army Corps also characterize “adjacent” waters to be “by rule” jurisdictional waters of the United States. However, the determination of whether a water is adjacent

Attachment A: Van Ness Feldman Analysis

for purposes of meeting the definition of "waters of the United States" may require a case-specific analysis regarding its hydrologic connection and contiguous relationship to jurisdictional streams, riparian areas, floodplains, and other waters. Importantly, the agencies have proposed a broader "adjacent" inquiry under the NOPR by treating waters located "within the riparian area or floodplain" as "adjacent" waters and by treating all adjacent "waters," not just adjacent "wetlands," as being jurisdictional if they are adjacent to another jurisdictional water.

Waters Subject to Significant Nexus Analysis. A key element of the "waters of the United States" definition is the "other waters" category for which a jurisdictional determination will require a "significant nexus" analysis. This category primarily covers wetlands, intermittent and ephemeral streams, and other similar waters. As proposed in the NOPR, a significant nexus exists where:

- the water "either alone or in combination with other similarly situated waters in the region" significantly affects the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of a water that is; (i) used in interstate or foreign commerce; (ii) is an interstate water or wetlands; or (iii) a territorial sea; and
- the identified effect is "more than speculative or insubstantial."

The NOPR further explains that the determination of a significant nexus will be based on a record that documents the scientific basis for concluding which functions are provided by the waters and why their effects on a traditional navigable water, interstate water, or the territorial seas are significant, including that they are more than speculative or insubstantial.

Excluded Waters. The NOPR also proposes to establish a category of *excluded waters*. Under the NOPR, certain waters are categorically excluded from the definition of "waters of the United States" (even if they would otherwise be classified under the above-described categories). Among the types of waters that are excluded by rule are: (i) ponds and lagoons used in waste treatment systems; (ii) prior converted cropland; (iii) upland ditches; (iv) ditches that do not contribute flow to traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, territorial seas or jurisdictional impoundments; (v) groundwater; (vi) artificially irrigated areas, lakes and ponds; (vii) ornamental waters, artificial pools or swimming pools; (viii) collected water from construction activity; and (ix) gullies, rills and non-wetland swales. The exclusion of such categories of water oftentimes is based on a specific use (e.g., ponds used exclusively for stock watering, irrigation, settling basins or rice growing) or the precipitating cause (e.g., "water-filled depressions created incidental to construction activity").

Key Definitions in the Proposed Rule

As part of revisions to the definition of "waters of the United States," the agencies also propose to define a number of new terms for first time, including: "significant nexus"; "tributary"; and "neighboring"; as well as a revised definition for the term "adjacent." These new and revised definitions, quoted verbatim below, will be important elements in the implementation of the "waters of the United States" proposal:

- **Significant nexus:** The term *significant nexus* means that a water, including wetlands, either alone or in combination with other similarly situated waters in the region (i.e., the watershed that drains to the nearest water identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (3) of this section), significantly affects the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of a water identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (3) of this section. For an effect to be significant, it must be more than speculative or insubstantial. Other waters, including wetlands, are similarly situated when they perform similar functions and are located sufficiently close together or sufficiently close to a "water of the United States" so that they can be evaluated as a single landscape unit with regard to their effect on the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of a water identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (3) of this section.
- **Tributary:** The term *tributary* means a water physically characterized by the presence of a bed and banks and ordinary high water mark, as defined at 33 CFR § 328.3(e), which contributes flow, either directly or through another water, to a water identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (4) of this section. In addition, wetlands, lakes, and ponds are tributaries (even if they lack a bed and banks or ordinary

high water mark) if they contribute flow, either directly or through another water to a water identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (3) of this section. A water that otherwise qualifies as a tributary under this definition does not lose its status as a tributary if, for any length, there are one or more man-made breaks (such as bridges, culverts, pipes, or dams), or one or more natural breaks (such as wetlands at the head of or along the run of a stream, debris piles, boulder fields, or a stream that flows underground) so long as a bed and banks and an ordinary high water mark can be identified upstream of the break. A tributary, including wetlands, can be a natural, man-altered, or man-made water and includes waters such as rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, impoundments, canals, and ditches not excluded in paragraphs (b)(3) or (4) of this section.

- **Adjacent:** The term *adjacent* means bordering, contiguous or neighboring. Waters, including wetlands, separated from other waters of the United States by man-made dikes or barriers, natural river berms, beach dunes and the like are "adjacent waters."
- **Neighboring:** The term *neighboring*, for purposes of the term "adjacent" in this section, includes waters located within the riparian area or floodplain of a water identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (5) of this section, or waters with a shallow subsurface hydrologic connection or confined surface hydrologic connection to such a jurisdictional water.

Next Steps

Specific Requests for Comments. Once the NOPR is published in the *Federal Register*, commenters will have 90 days to submit their comments. In addition to comments on the proposed regulatory text, the agencies also have requested comments on a number of matters. The primary focus of the agencies' request for comments is over the alternative approaches available to determine which "other waters" are jurisdictional. According to the NOPR, these alternative approaches "could rely less, or not at all, on case-specific analysis of whether waters are similarly situated for conducting a significant nexus analysis."

The agencies are also requesting comments on:

- all aspects of the proposed definition of "tributaries";
- whether there are other reasonable options for determining adjacency of waters in certain situations;
- whether the proposed rule should provide greater clarity on how to determine if a water is located in the floodplain of a jurisdictional water;
- providing greater clarity in the definition of "neighboring";
- whether "other waters" can be aggregated in some areas for purposes of a significant nexus analysis and, specifically, whether certain EPA-designated Level III ecoregions are appropriate for such an analysis;
- whether there should be any additional categories of "other waters" that are not jurisdictional; and
- how to distinguish between gullies and swales (which are excluded from jurisdiction) and ephemeral tributaries (which are categorically jurisdictional).

Interpretive Rule. The Interpretive Rule was developed in coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and while it has already been approved and signed by the agencies, they are requesting separate comments. According to the Interpretive Rule, the agencies have determined that it is reasonable to find that the section 404(f)(1)(A) exemption covers specific Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practices because these conservation practices are similar enough to also be exempt from the CWA section 404 permitting requirements.



Short Summary of WOTUS Rule

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have released a proposed rule to revise the definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) for all Clean Water Act (CWA) programs. Despite the agencies' claims to the contrary, the definitional changes contained in the proposed WOTUS rule would significantly expand federal control of land and water resources across the Nation, triggering substantial additional permitting and regulatory requirements.

Key Provisions of the Proposed Rule

The following outlines briefly the key provisions of the regulatory text.

➤ **WOTUS Under the Proposed Rule**

1. All waters currently used, used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including tidal waters (frequently referred to as traditional navigable waters (TNWs));
2. All interstate waters, including interstate wetlands;
3. The territorial seas;
4. All impoundments of waters identified in (1)-(3) above;
5. All tributaries of waters identified in (1)-(4) above;
6. All waters, including wetlands, adjacent to a water identified in (1)-(5) above; and
7. On a case-specific basis, other waters, including wetlands, that alone or in combination with other similarly situated waters in the region have a significant nexus to a water identified in (1)-(3) above.

➤ **Tributary Definition**

- Water with a bed and banks and ordinary high water mark which contributes flow directly or through other water bodies to waters in (1)-(4) above.
- **Wetlands, lakes, and ponds** can be tributaries (even if they lack a bed and banks or ordinary high water mark) if they contribute flow.
- Water does not lose its tributary status if there are man-made breaks (such as bridges, culverts, pipes, dams) so long as bed and bank and ordinary high water mark can be identified upstream of the break.
- A tributary can be natural, man-altered, or man-made and includes rivers, streams, lakes, impoundments, canals, and ditches (unless excluded).
- The proposed rule, for the first time ever, specifically defines **ditches** as jurisdictional tributaries (unless excluded, as discussed below) under all CWA programs. The inclusion of roadside, irrigation, and stormwater ditches will have huge practical consequences that have yet to be evaluated by the agencies.

➤ **Adjacent Waters Definition**

- **Adjacent** waters, including wetlands, are jurisdictional. Bordering, contiguous, or neighboring waters separated from other WOTUS by dikes, or barriers are adjacent waters.
- **Neighboring** means waters located within a riparian area or floodplain or waters with a shallow subsurface connection or confined surface hydrologic connection.
- **Riparian areas** are transitional areas between water and land where surface or subsurface hydrology influences the ecological process and plant community of the area

A Attachment B: ¹WAC Analysis

- **Floodplain** is an area bordering inland or coastal areas that is inundated during periods of moderate to high water flows. Proposed rule does not define flood interval, but leaves up to agencies' "best professional judgment."
- **Significant Nexus Definition**
 - Means water, including wetlands, either alone or in combination with other similarly situated waters on the region significantly affects water identified in (1)-(3) above.
 - Other waters, including wetlands, are similarly situated when they perform similar functions and are located sufficiently close together so that they can be evaluated as a single landscape unit. Proposed rule does not define "single landscape unit."
 - For an effect to be significant, it must be more than speculative or insubstantial.
- **Exclusions in Proposed Rule**
 - Waste treatment systems designed to meet the requirements of the CWA;
 - Prior converted cropland;
 - Ditches excavated wholly in uplands that drain only uplands and have less than perennial flow;
 - Ditches that do not contribute flow, either directly, or through another water, to a water identified in paragraphs (1)-(4) above;
 - Artificially irrigated areas that would revert to upland should application of irrigation water to that area cease;
 - Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating and/or diking dry land and used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing;
 - Artificial reflecting pools or swimming pools created by excavating and/or diking dry land;
 - Small ornamental waters created by excavating and/or diking dry land for primarily aesthetic reasons;
 - Water-filled depressions from construction;
 - Groundwater, including groundwater drained through subsurface draining systems; and
 - Gullies, rills, and non-wetland swales.
 - Although these features (certain ditches, groundwater, gullies, rills, and non-wetlands, etc.) are not WOTUS under the proposed rule, they can serve to establish a connection under the proposed rule (*e.g.* connection that demonstrates adjacency to jurisdictional or demonstrates that an "other water" has a significant nexus to a (a)(1) – (3) waters).

Interpretative Rule (IR) Governing Exemptions for Farming, Ranching, and Forestry Provides Insufficient Protections

The proposed rule imposes a new regime even as it continues existing statutory and regulatory exemptions from Section 404 permitting requirements for normal farming, silviculture and ranching practices where these activities are part of an ongoing farming, ranching or forestry operation. In tandem with the proposed rule, the agencies have issued an "interpretive rule" that was made immediately effective, without advance notice and comment.

- The IR purportedly expands the list of existing agricultural exemptions to include an additional 53 activities that are exempt from permitting requirements so long as they are conducted consistent with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practice standards – a requirement that is nowhere found in the law.
- EPA and the Corps will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the NRCS to develop and implement a process for identifying, reviewing, and updating NRCS agricultural conservation practices and activities that would qualify for the exemption.



Critical Concerns with the Proposed “Waters of the U.S.” Rule

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have released a proposed rule to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) for all Clean Water Act (CWA) programs. Despite the agencies’ claims to the contrary, the definitional changes contained in the proposed WOTUS rule would significantly expand federal control of land and water resources across the nation, triggering substantial additional permitting and regulatory requirements.

Proposed WOTUS Rule Is Substantially Flawed

The proposed rule is:

- **Broader in Scope:** *The agencies assert that the scope of CWA jurisdiction is narrower under the proposed rule than under existing regulations, and that the proposed rule does not extend jurisdiction over any new types of waters.*
 - But the proposed rule provides essentially no limit to CWA federal jurisdiction. It establishes broader definitions of existing regulatory categories, such as tributaries, and regulates new areas that are not jurisdictional under current regulations, such as adjacent non-wetlands. Location of a water in a riparian area or a floodplain, or a connection through shallow subsurface water or directly or indirectly through other waters, and aggregation of similarly situated waters are some of the means used in the proposed rule to capture waters that might otherwise be non-jurisdictional.
- **Inconsistent with Supreme Court Precedent:** *The agencies state that the proposed rule is consistent with the Supreme Court’s decisions in SWANCC and Rapanos and is therefore, narrower than the existing regulations.*
 - The Supreme Court has made clear that there is a limit to federal jurisdiction under the CWA, specifically rejecting the notion that any hydrological connection is a sufficient basis to trump state jurisdiction. The proposed rule will extend coverage to many features that are remote and/or carry only minor volumes, and its provisions read together provide no meaningful limit to federal jurisdiction.
- **Adversely Affects Jobs and Economic Growth:** *The agencies state that the proposed rule will benefit businesses by increasing efficiency in determining coverage of the CWA.*
 - In reality, the proposed rule will subject more activities to CWA permitting requirements, NEPA analyses, mitigation requirements, and citizen lawsuits challenging the applications of new terms and provisions. The impact will be felt by the entire regulated community and average Americans, including small landowners and small businesses least able to absorb the costs. The potential adverse effect on economic activity and job creation in many sectors of the economy has been largely dismissed by the agencies and certainly are not reflected in EPA’s highly flawed economic analysis for the proposed rule. Neither do the agencies adequately address the effect on state and federal resources for permitting, oversight, and enforcement.
- **Prejudges the Science:** *The agencies state that the rule is based on EPA’s draft scientific study on the connectivity of waters and is therefore supported by the latest peer-reviewed science.*
 - But EPA’s Science Advisory Board panel is still in the process of peer-reviewing the draft connectivity report and, at its December 2013 meeting, the panel identified significant deficiencies with the report. Moreover, it does not appear that the agencies intend to give the public an opportunity to review the final connectivity report as part of the WOTUS rulemaking.

Concerns with the Interpretative Rule:

- The agencies' discussion of the agricultural exemptions is misleading and intended to minimize opposition to the rule. But the IR has no effect on CWA jurisdiction, *i.e.*, the exemption is not an exclusion from federal CWA jurisdiction. In addition, the IR is nothing more than agency guidance and does not have the force of law.
- The "expanded" list of excluded activities in the IR already fall within the "normal" farming and ranching exclusion and therefore were already exempt from permitting requirements if undertaken as part of an ongoing operation. Instead, the IR – in effect – limits farmer's ability to use the agricultural exemptions by introducing compliance with NRCS standards as a qualification for their use. Also, through the regulation and guidance, the agencies are narrowing what is "normal" farming and ranching activities by limiting them to those that have been on-going since the 1970s. They do not apply if there is a change of land use (*i.e.* easement for a wind turbine), an interruption in activities, or a change in crops.
- The exemptions affirmed in the IR only apply to the Section 404 "dredge and fill" permit program, not the Section 402 NPDES permit requirements for discharges of pollutants. This will affect every day weed control, fertilizer applications and other common farm activities.
- Additional problems with the agency's approach include: (1) who will inspect and enforce compliance with NRCS guidelines; (2) will third parties have the ability to challenge exempt status; (3) EPA's role in NRCS programs that will be defined through a Memorandum of Agreement that has yet to be developed; and (4) whether this is an interpretative or a legislative rule under the Administrative Procedure Act.

- **Fails to Provide Reasonable Clarity:** *The agencies state that the proposed rule will provide clarity for the regulated public and the agencies.*
 - Yet, the proposed rule leaves many key concepts unclear, undefined, or subject to agency discretion. For example, the rule asserts jurisdiction over waters or wetlands located within the “floodplain” or “riparian area” of a water of the U.S., but leaves to the agencies’ “best professional judgment” to determine what flood interval to use or what constitutes the riparian area. Such vague definitions and concepts will not provide the intended regulatory certainty and will likely result in litigation over their proper meaning.

Interpretative Rule (IR) Governing Exemptions for Farming, Ranching, and Forestry Provides Insufficient Protections

The proposed rule imposes a new regime even as it continues existing statutory and regulatory exemptions from Section 404 permitting requirements for normal farming, silviculture and ranching practices where these activities are part of an ongoing farming, ranching or forestry operation. In tandem with the proposed rule, the agencies have issued an “interpretive rule” that was made immediately effective, without advance notice and comment.

- The IR purportedly expands the list of existing agricultural exemptions to include an additional 53 activities that are exempt from permitting requirements so long as they are conducted consistent with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practice standards – a requirement that is nowhere found in the law.
- EPA and the Corps will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the NRCS to develop and implement a process for identifying, reviewing, and updating NRCS agricultural conservation practices and activities that would qualify for the exemption.

Concerns with the Interpretative Rule:

- The agencies’ discussion of the agricultural exemptions is misleading and intended to minimize opposition to the rule. But the IR has no effect on CWA jurisdiction, *i.e.*, the exemption is not an exclusion from federal CWA jurisdiction. In addition, the IR is nothing more than agency guidance and does not have the force of law.
- The “expanded” list of excluded activities in the IR already fall within the “normal” farming and ranching exclusion and therefore were already exempt from permitting requirements if undertaken as part of an ongoing operation. Instead, the IR – in effect – limits farmer’s ability to use the agricultural exemptions by introducing compliance with NRCS standards as a qualification for their use. Also, through the regulation and guidance, the agencies are narrowing what is “normal” farming and ranching activities by limiting them to those that have been on-going since the 1970s. They do not apply if there is a change of land use (*i.e.* easement for a wind turbine), an interruption in activities, or a change in crops.
- The exemptions affirmed in the IR only apply to the Section 404 “dredge and fill” permit program, not the Section 402 NPDES permit requirements for discharges of pollutants. This will affect every day weed control, fertilizer applications and other common farm activities.
- Additional problems with the agency’s approach include: (1) who will inspect and enforce compliance with NRCS guidelines; (2) will third parties have the ability to challenge exempt status; (3) EPA’s role in NRCS programs that will be defined through a Memorandum of Agreement that has yet to be developed; and (4) whether this is an interpretative or a legislative rule under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Details regarding conservation practice standards are available on NRCS' website at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143_026849.

**NRCS CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS
EXEMPT FROM PERMITTING UNDER CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 404(f)(1)(A)**

Practice #	Practice Name	Creation Date	Notes
314	Brush Management	Sep-09	
315	Herbaceous Weed control	Apr-10	
320	Irrigation Canal or Lateral	Sep-10	
326	Clearing and Snagging	Jul-10	
327	Conservation Cover	Sep-10	
338	Prescribed Burning	Sep-10	
342	Critical Area Planting	Dec-13	
353	Monitoring Well	Sep-10	
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	May-11	
382	Fence	Apr-13	
383	Fuel Break	Apr-05	
386	Field Border	Dec-13	
388	Irrigation Field Ditch	Apr-11	
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Sep-10	
391	Riparian Forest buffer	Jul-10	
393	Filter Strip	Dec-13	
394	Firebreak	Sep-10	
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	Sep-10	
396	Aquatic Organism passage	Apr-11	
398	Fish Raceway or Tank	Sep-09	
399	Fishpond Management	Sep-11	
400	Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control	Apr-11	
412	Grassed Waterway	Apr-10	activities that convert waters to non-waters are not exempt
422	Hedgerow Planting	Sep-10	
423	Hillside Ditch	May-08	
453	Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment	Feb-05	
455	Land Reclamation, Toxic Discharge Control	May-05	
460	Land Clearing	Sep-11	
484	Mulching	May-11	
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	Jan-06	
500	Obstruction Removal	Jan-10	
511	Forage Harvest Management	Apr-10	

Practice
Attachment C: NRCS Standards

512	Forage and Biomass Planting	Jan-10	
528	Prescribed Grazing	Sep-10	
533	Pumping Plant	May-11	
543	Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mined land	Aug-06	
544	Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land	Aug-06	
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	Sep-10	chiseling or deep ripping in wetlands is not exempt
550	Range Planting	Apr-10	
568	Trails and Walkways	Jan-10	
575	Animal Trails and Walkways	Apr-10	
578	Stream Crossing	Sep-11	
587	Structure for Water Control	Apr-10	
601	Vegetative Barrier	Jan-10	
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	May-11	
643	Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	Sep-10	
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Sep-10	
646	Shallow Water Development and Management	Sep-10	
647	Early Successional Habitat Development / Management	Sep-10	
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Jul-10	
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	Nov-08	
655	Forest Trails and Landings	Sep-11	
657	Wetland Restoration	Sep-10	
659	Wetland Enhancement	Sep-10	
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	Jan-06	
666	Forest Stand Improvement	May-11	



Questions and Answers

The March 2014 Interpretive Rule (IR) and the Applicability of the Clean Water Act, Section 404(f)(1)(A)

Overview: The Interpretive Rule (IR) published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recognizes that agricultural conservation activities implemented consistent with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practice standards provide many benefits for water quality. The IR interprets the provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA) designed to exempt from the section 404 permit requirements certain agricultural conservation practices that enhance or protect water quality. The Agencies collaborated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to identify conservation practices that occur in waters of the United States and contribute to water quality improvements. The exemption for these identified conservation practices is self-implementing, meaning that a producer does not need to notify the regulatory agencies, seek a jurisdictional determination, or submit an application for a CWA section 404 permit. However, a producer must ensure that the practice is implemented in accordance with the applicable NRCS technical standards to be covered by the exemption. Nothing in the IR changes the roles or responsibilities of any of the three agencies, each of which have a role to play in ensuring that the IR is implemented effectively in a fair and consistent manner that encourages the adoption of these agricultural conservation practices.

Q. 1. What part of the CWA does the IR address?

A. 1. The IR addresses section 404(f)(1)(A) of the CWA, which outlines exemptions from section 404 permitting requirements for discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States,¹ including wetlands. These exemptions are often referred to as the “agricultural” or “normal farming” (including silviculture and ranching) exemptions. Section 404(f)(1)(A) allows discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States without a section 404 permit when such discharges are associated with ongoing normal farming, silviculture, and ranching activities such as plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices.

¹ The definition of “Waters of the United States” can be found at 33 CFR part 328 and may include the territorial seas, rivers, most streams, lakes, wetlands, many ditches, channels, and other small drainage ways. The definition of “dredged and fill material” can be found at 33 CFR part 323.2. Examples of fill material include, but are not limited to, soil, rock, sand, clay, construction debris, wood chips, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in the waters of the United States.

Q. 2. What does this IR do?

A. 2. The IR clarifies section 404(f)(1)(A) by recognizing that specific NRCS conservation practices implemented in waters of the United States are exempt from permitting requirements under CWA section 404.

The list of exempt conservation practices clarified by the IR can be found at: <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/wetlands/CWAwaters.cfm>. It is critical to emphasize that this list is in addition to all previously exempt agriculture, silviculture, and ranching practices covered by section 404(f). The IR does not eliminate or limit any existing exemptions, it only adds to the existing exemptions.

Q. 3. When do the IR and associated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) take effect?

A. 3. The IR and associated MOU became effective April 3, 2014. EPA and USACE are also making the IR available to the public for their review through notice in the Federal Register. The agencies expect this notice to be published shortly, and the public will have 45 days to provide comments, which may generate revisions to the list of activities.

Q. 4. Where does this IR apply?

A. 4. The IR applies to the 56 NRCS conservation practices listed and attached to the March 25, 2014, MOU where they are being implemented in waters of the United States for water quality purposes, and are associated with an established (i.e., ongoing) farming, ranching, or silviculture operation.

Q. 5. Does the interpretive rule affect the CWA section 404(f) “recapture” clause?

A. 5. No. CWA section 404(f)(2) continues to apply.²

Q. 6. Does this interpretive rule change existing agricultural exemptions?

A. 6. No. The IR does not change any of the current agricultural exemptions or provisions of the exemptions, and provides that: *“Normal farming necessarily includes conservation and protection of soil, water, and related resources in order to sustain agricultural productivity along with other benefits to environmental quality and continued economic development. ‘Upland soil and water conservation practices’ are explicitly identified in the statute as ‘normal’ farming activities, and conservation activities within the waters of the U.S. that includes discharges in waters of the U.S. and that are designed to protect and enhance the waters of the U.S. have been determined to be of essentially the same character.”* There are six parts (A-F) under section 404(f)(1). The IR only addresses exemptions under part A. The IR does not change or otherwise affect the applicability of the exemptions under B through F or the process

² For all exemptions, if the activity would change the use, and either impair the flow or circulation, or reduce the reach of waters of the United States, it would not be exempt and would, therefore, require a section 404 permit prior to construction or any work in waters. This provision is in section 404(f)(2) of the CWA and is often referred to as the “recapture” clause.

for obtaining such exemptions. Parts B, C, and E also cover several exemptions important to agriculture, such as maintenance of levees and drainage ditches, construction of farm and stock ponds, irrigation ditches, and farm and forest roads. The interpretive rule also does not affect the recapture provision contained in section 404(f)(2).

Q. 7. Does the IR affect normal farming and soil and water conservation activities in upland and dryland areas?

A. 7. No. The CWA does not apply outside of jurisdictional waters of the United States.

Q. 8. Why were not all of NRCS conservation practices listed?

- A. 8. Two criteria were used to select the exempted conservation practices:
- The conservation practice could be applied in waters of the United States (i.e., it is not entirely an upland-located conservation practice).
 - The conservation practice is designed to enhance and protect water quality.

Q. 9. Who manages the conservation practice standard development and revision?

A. 9. NRCS has sole responsibility for developing and revising the NRCS conservation practice standards through its existing science-based and public process.

Q. 10. Will there be opportunities to change the exempt conservation practice list (add or delete certain conservation practices)?

A. 10. Yes. At least annually NRCS, USACE, and EPA will coordinate and meet to evaluate and determine whether to make any changes to the list of exempt conservation practices.

Q. 11. How does a producer implement an exempt practice?

A. 11. The listed conservation practices are exempt when they are implemented in accordance with the applicable NRCS technical standards. Like all section 404(f) exemptions, the listed exemptions are self-implementing, which means that producers are not required to obtain approval from EPA or USACE to use them. While not a requirement, producers may wish to contact a technical expert, such as an NRCS planner, technical service provider, conservation district, resource planner, or other party with similar planning and technical capabilities.

If a producer already has an NRCS conservation plan with listed exempt practices, they need only to follow the national conservation practice standard, design procedures, specifications, job sheets, or any other implementation requirements set forth in the plan. As defined in the standard, this may require following temporary erosion and sediment control best management practices or implementation at appropriate times to avoid disturbance of nesting and migrating species.

Q. 12. Do farmers, ranchers, and silviculturists need to notify the agencies, USACE or EPA, to receive a 404 determination and exemption or to proceed with project implementation?

A. 12. No. Site-specific pre-approval from either USACE or EPA is not necessary before implementing any of the exempted conservation practices. This IR does not change exemption authorities or roles of the agencies.

Q. 13. What is the purpose of the MOU?

A. 13. The MOU further explains the intent of the IR and describes how the three agencies will work together to implement the IR to protect and enhance water quality, ensure consistency and predictability for the public, as well as to describe future efforts to ensure the exemption list is maintained and modified, as appropriate. The MOU also identifies the initial list of exempt conservation practices which can be found at:

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/wetlands/CWAwaters.cfm>.

Q. 14. How does the statement in the MOU: “Even where NRCS is not providing technical assistance, the agency plays an important role in helping to respond to issues that may arise regarding project specific conformance with conservation practice standards” apply?

A. 14. NRCS will continue to provide technical assistance for producers to assist with voluntary conservation activities and to help them with their natural resource management decisions on private, Tribal, and other non-Federal lands, including instances when a producer is planning to implement or is in the process of implementing a conservation practice and wishes to engage NRCS technical assistance to meet the requirements of the conservation practice. NRCS is also available to respond to questions from landowners regarding the implementation of conservation practices. As with all existing CWA section 404(f) exemptions, NRCS will not function in a CWA section 404 compliance role. EPA and USACE determine compliance with CWA section 404(f).

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Interpretive Rule Clean Water Act "Normal Farming" Exemptions

May 12, 2014

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Interpretive Rule

- ▶ Effective April 3, 2014
 - In Federal Register, comments due June 5, 2014
- ▶ Clarifies/adds to Section 404(f)(1)(A) of the CWA
- ▶ Signed by COE and EPA

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of the Army
Interpretive Rule Regarding the Applicability of
Clean Water Act Section 404(f)(1)(A)

SUBJECT: Interpretive Rule Regarding Applicability of the Clean Water Act Section 404(f)(1)(A) of the Clean Water Act to Certain Agricultural Practices

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interpretive rule is to clarify the applicability of the exemption in section 404(f)(1)(A) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to certain agricultural practices that are not subject to the permit requirements of section 404 of the CWA. This interpretive rule clarifies the applicability of section 404(f)(1)(A) to certain agricultural practices that are not subject to the permit requirements of section 404 of the CWA.

BACKGROUND: Section 404(f)(1)(A) of the CWA exempts certain agricultural practices from the permit requirements of section 404 of the CWA. The exemption applies to certain agricultural practices that are not subject to the permit requirements of section 404 of the CWA.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: This interpretive rule clarifies the applicability of section 404(f)(1)(A) to certain agricultural practices that are not subject to the permit requirements of section 404 of the CWA.

REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS: This interpretive rule clarifies the applicability of section 404(f)(1)(A) to certain agricultural practices that are not subject to the permit requirements of section 404 of the CWA.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: This interpretive rule clarifies the applicability of section 404(f)(1)(A) to certain agricultural practices that are not subject to the permit requirements of section 404 of the CWA.

ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN: This interpretive rule clarifies the applicability of section 404(f)(1)(A) to certain agricultural practices that are not subject to the permit requirements of section 404 of the CWA.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: This interpretive rule clarifies the applicability of section 404(f)(1)(A) to certain agricultural practices that are not subject to the permit requirements of section 404 of the CWA.

CONCLUSION: This interpretive rule clarifies the applicability of section 404(f)(1)(A) to certain agricultural practices that are not subject to the permit requirements of section 404 of the CWA.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

404(f)(1)(A) of the CWA

- ▶ Exempts "normal farming" activities from the section 404 and associated 401 permit requirements
 - The new IR clarifies that certain agricultural conservation practices that enhance or protect water quality are also exempt.
 - COE/EPA use the NRCS **National Conservation Practice Standards**

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Clarification of “normal farming”

- › Includes 56 NRCS conservation practice standards (annual review needed)



USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

All “normal farming” exemptions:

- › Are self-implementing
 - Producers/land owners **do not need notification, verification or documentation** from the COE or EPA to ensure the activity is exempt
- › Apply to producers involved in NRCS planning/programs (e.g. WRP) and
- › Apply to producers NOT involved in NRCS planning/programs

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

All “normal farming” exemptions

- › Apply only to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States



USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Interpretive Rule

- › DOES NOT change roles/responsibilities
- › NRCS NOT authorized to administer the CWA
 - Should NOT “confirm or verify” practice standard meets the exemption of producers not receiving TA or FA
 - Should NOT conduct field visits of producers not receiving TA or FA
 - NRCS role stays the same – providing voluntary assistance to agricultural producers, using State-modified Conservation Practice Standards, specs and the Conservation Planning Process

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Interpretive Rule

- ▶ DOES NOT change existing exemptions, which include ongoing normal farming, silviculture, and ranching activities such as:
 - plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products, upland soil and water conservation practices, maintenance of levees and drainage ditches, construction of farm and stock ponds, irrigation ditches, and farm and forest roads

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

In summary

- ▶ No Change in CWA roles and responsibilities
- ▶ Clarifies existing exemptions
- ▶ Exemptions, as always, are self-implementing, no notification, verification, or documentation needed
- ▶ Applies to 404 permits and 401 WQ Certs

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

"Recapture" still applies

- ▶ For all exemptions, if the activity would change the use, and either impair the flow or circulation, or reduce the reach of waters of the United States, it would not be exempt and would, therefore, require a section 404 permit prior to construction or any work in waters. This provision is in section 404(f)(2) of the CWA and is often referred to as the "recapture" clause.

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Questions?

- ▶ Feel free to contact:
 - ▶ Terrell.erickson1@wdc.usda.gov
 - ▶ Patty.lawrence@wdc.usda.gov
- ▶ And keep us posted on questions/IR implementation issues/recommendations for adding or deleting practices from the list

June 5, 2014

Ms. Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Docket No. EPA-HQ-OW-2013-0820

Subject: Comments on the Interpretive Rule Regarding Applicability of the Exemption from Permitting under section 404(f)(1)(A) of the Clean Water Act to Certain Agricultural Conservation Practices.

Administrator McCarthy:

The National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) represents the State Agency in each state that is responsible for soil and water conservation programs and administrative overview of the State's conservation districts. Along with NRCS, conservation districts, landowners, and agricultural producers, our member agencies are directly responsible for implementing the overwhelming majority of soil and water conservation best management practices on our nation's working lands.

We are grateful for the opportunity to comment on this Interpretive Rule, even though it became effective April 3, 2014, in large part because we understand that this comment period is not mandated by the Administrative Procedures Act. This demonstrates EPA's genuine desire to gather as much stakeholder input as possible in moving forward with the implementation of this rule. We also applaud the joint effort of the three federal agencies (EPA, USACE, and NRCS) that worked on the language of this rule. Conservation practitioners at the local level have often been frustrated by a lack of coordination among federal agencies. It is refreshing to see these three agencies work so closely together in this effort.

NASCA believes we can best protect our nation's natural resources through voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs and practices made available to owners and operators of our working lands. Nonetheless, there are times when laws, rules, and regulations must apply as well. In those cases, clear, concise, comprehensive language is critical so that no uncertainties exist in the minds of practitioners. We are appreciative of EPA's attempt to more clearly define the "Waters of the U.S." and the conservation practice exemptions identified in this Interpretive Rule. Our comments that follow are intended to help your agency do that more clearly.

Attachment D: NASCA DRAFT
COMMENT LETTER



The Interpretive Rule exempts "upland soil and water conservation practices". However, it does not clearly identify where uplands end and waters of the U.S. begin. Is this demarcation literally at the edge of the surface water conveyance? The rule should be clear on this point.

The rule also identifies a specific list of NRCS conservation practices that are exempted in waters of the U.S. While NASCA is appreciative of the multi-agency effort that went into the identification of these practices, there are a number of conservation practices used at the State, local, or on-farm level that are every bit as effective at yielding positive water quality benefits as the practices identified in the rule, yet the current language offers no exemption for these practices. In many instances conservation innovation begins on the farm, and we will ultimately penalize the integrity of our natural resources if these landowners and agricultural producers have to wait for federal agency endorsement to implement these innovative conservation practices. NASCA believes that any conservation practice that can demonstrate an actual or potential improvement in water quality should be exempt from permitting requirements under Section 404(f)(1)(A). Failure to do so will hamper conservation efforts in many parts of our country and ultimately thwart water quality improvement on a broad scale.

The Interpretive Rule makes reference in several places to exemptions in "established" farming, silvicultural, or ranching operations. Certainly there are many instances where a land use change to farming, silvicultural, or ranching is an improvement from an environmental perspective. Land conversions of this type should be eligible for the same permitting exemptions as "established" operations.

While the Interpretive Rule provides a listing of some exempt practices, it implies exemptions for others. A comprehensive listing of all practice and practice class permitting exemptions provided by the rule would be advantageous for landowners, agricultural operators, conservation professionals, and regulators.

While we appreciate this opportunity to provide comments, it has been a challenge to vet these comments amongst our entire membership which represent the lead soil and water conservation agency in every state. Therefore, we would like to request 90 day extensions to the deadlines for comments for both this Interpretive Rule and the Proposed Rule.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on the Interpretive Rule Regarding Applicability of the Exemption from Permitting under section 404(f)(1)(A) of the Clean Water Act to Certain Agricultural Conservation Practices. It is NASCA's hope that these comments will help the EPA further develop language that will benefit all parties who have an interest in implementing conservation practices and the cleaner surface waters these practices provide.

Sincerely,

Mike Thralls
NASCA President



Making a stand

Harvest platform catches on



Salsbery, in cap, and Charles Torres install a valve back on the frame of a Bandit Express at Automated Ag Systems, Moses Lake, Wash., March 27. They are in a race to build the self-harvesting platform to aid harvest, pruning and other orchard work. TOP: A crew picks apples Oct. 10 with Bandit Express. BOTTOM: Salsbery and Torres install a valve back on the frame of a Bandit Express at Automated Ag Systems, Moses Lake, Wash., March 27. They are in a race to build the self-harvesting platform to aid harvest, pruning and other orchard work.

Orders pick up for apple, citrus harvest assist machine

By DAN WHEAT
Capitol Press

MOSES LAKE, Wash. — The warehouse on a railroad siding a few miles southeast of Moses Lake has no sign and the company, Automater Ag Systems, doesn't need it for advertising. Automater Ag Systems, inside, the crew of six has plenty of work for the rest of the year, building the first American-made commercial tree fruit harvest platform — the Bandit Express.

J.J. DeGroot, the company's owner, builds other equipment but he designed and stamped building the Bandit Express in 2012 to provide a simple harvest assist platform for use in apple, pear, fruit and citrus orchards. He is the first on the market. Other platforms and light-tech machines are also being developed with the goal of decreasing the number of workers required to pick fruit crops and maintain orchards.



Salsbery, Torres, wife, others for orange frames of Bandit Express in a warehouse at Automater Ag Systems, Moses Lake, Wash., March 27. The company is building 40 of the machines to aid harvest, pruning and other orchard work.

Turn to PLATFORM, Page 12

Board directs railroads to get rolling

BNSF says it will increase fertilizer deliveries for planting

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capitol Press

The U.S. Surface Transportation Board has directed the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway Co. to increase fertilizer deliveries to farmers who need it to plant crops this year.

At a hearing in Washington, D.C., the board heard from farmers and other agriculture representatives that they need timely delivery of adequate amounts of fertilizer. Many farmers across the northern tier of the U.S. are busy planting crops at this time of the year.

Turn to RAILROADS, Page 12



A Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train rumbles between Kennewick and Westport, Wash., in this 2011 photo.

Ag leaders wary of water act 'power grab'

Proposed EPA rule worries farmers about impact

By JOHN O'CONNELL
Capitol Press

Agriculture leaders say a rule proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers to clarify Clean Water Act protections has raised more questions than it answered.

Republican opponents have described the proposal as an "EPA power grab" that would dramatically expand the federal government's oversight over water and impose new burdens on property owners.

EPA officials, however, insist the changes would in no way broaden the agency's regulatory authority and would retain — and even expand — exemptions for agriculture.

A 90-day public comment period commenced April 21 with the publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register.

Members of Congress, including Sen. Ron Wyden, R-Ind., have already requested that the public comment period be extended to the maximum 180 days.

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, has not yet determined if an extension will be granted.

According to EPA, Clean Water Act protections were complicated by Supreme Court rulings in 2001 and 2006, and the new rules re-assert "don't protect 'any' new by the agency that have not historically been covered."

Ortiz points out that 56 normal farming practices are excluded from permitting, including irrigation canals or laterals, riparian channel burning and stream crossings by livestock.

"The goal is to make things easier and more clear," Ortiz said.

Turn to WATER, Page 12

* Item to attachment

Attachment E: Capitol Press ARTICLE

THE MACHINES ON THIS PAGE ARE BEING BUILT MORE THAN A YEAR IN ADVANCE OF THE 2013 HARVEST. AFTER THE HARVEST, THE MACHINES WILL BE USED IN THE HARVESTING OF THE WHEAT AND BARLEY IN THE SOUTHWEST AND GREAT PLAINS REGIONS.

How it works

The Bandit Express costs 0.9 million apiece and is 35 feet long and 7 feet wide and weighs 22,000 pounds. It is powered by a 24-horsepower Honda engine that can go 40 mph. It is self-propelled but a tractor can pull it from one row to the next.

The four pickers are spaced 10 feet apart and are mounted on a platform that can be adjusted for height and width. They pick into conical bags and put apples into a bin, which is mounted on the platform with a hopper that can be raised or lowered by a remote control.

The platform is mounted on a trailer that can be towed by a tractor. The platform is also equipped with a hopper that can be raised or lowered by a remote control.

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The wheat-harvesting machine just for ground pickers, which carries four bins at a time. The ground picker is ahead of the harvester to run the platform works best in vertical and V-tillage high-density orchards, he said. A lot of growers want a narrower machine, but at 89 inches wide it is about as narrow as it can be made, he said.

They're a good fit for 10- to 15-foot rows, but won't work as well in 11-foot rows, he said. The platform is more efficient for tree tops than bottom pickers, he said. When there's a lot of fruit low on the tree, bottom pickers can fill the bin, he said. The platform is a better fit for the orchard, he said. The platform is also equipped with a hopper that can be raised or lowered by a remote control.

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New York company enters market

BY DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

"If you can pick 70 percent from the ground, Bandit Express is best," Robinson said. "But in our 50 percent above the ground, Huron is better."

Both should do well, he said, and will win out over high-tech machines still in use in Michigan because they are more cost-effective and just as efficient in bins per hour. The higher-tech machines use conveyor belts and vacuum tubes to move fruit into a picker to dump and load to be processed.

European harvest platforms are built for small orchards, U.S. researchers have said.

Walter and J.J. Dagheret, press, each say their machine is more efficient.

"If they sell one out here, we'll run it side-by-side," Dagheret said.

Dagheret said his machine will sell the Huron in 12-foot trees.

The Bandit Express is 22 feet long and sells for \$50,000. The Huron is 20 feet long towing a 15-foot trailer and sells for \$62,000. Both machines process 100 bushels or more each year.

Walter agreed Bandit Express works better in canopies 10 feet tall and shorter but site growers in New York are moving to 12-foot tipped tall canopies, he said.

Robinson said his machine is more efficient.

Walter, who co-owns the company with his brother, Walter Walker, said his machine is more efficient.

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John O'Connell/Capital Press
A potato crop is irrigated with canal water along the banks of the Snake River near Shalby, Idaho. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a new regulation related to the Clean Water Act that has many involved in agriculture worried that canals and other bodies of water would come under added scrutiny.

We're concerned EPA wants to regulate every single puddle

his organization has hired Steenson and a hydrologist to prepare public comments on its behalf.

"We will scrutinize it very closely to make sure it does not do anything that will do us and to most," Nareebout said.

National Potato Council Executive Vice President and CEO John Keeling said his organization is also reviewing the rules to prepare comments on the event.

"We're concerned EPA wants to regulate every single puddle," Keeling said.

In a statement, Toomey said the proposals are "very agricultural discharges, troubling for landowners, certainly farmers."

EPA is now claiming it has the regulatory power to regulate virtually all outdoor water, Toomey said. The new rule will allow for regulation of only navigable waters. "I'm pushing back as hard as I can. I hope people will bury them with emails and letters enumerating their concerns with the regulation in the hope that it threatens to be taken from being allowed."

Bob Nareebout, executive director of Idaho Dairy-farmers' Association said the proposals are "very agricultural discharges, troubling for landowners, certainly farmers."

Company does not expect to have a significant challenge meeting fertilizer needs

410,000 tons from Page 1
The railroads must also provide weekly updates on the status of the rail system, he said, beginning April 25, or the next six weeks.

Burlington Northern said it would cooperate with the BNSF "will undertake several specific actions to expedite fertilizer deliveries to customers here and when they need it," the company told the card. "BNSF understands the importance of ensuring a steady flow of fertilizer to customers during this critical time."

In his reply to the board, president Keith Creel said he was surprised by the order, because the company is a relatively small fertilizer and plant nutrient provider.

The company does not expect to have a significant challenge in meeting energy fertilizer needs in those areas, Creel said.

Much of the potash used in the U.S. comes from Canada. It's rare for the board to step in and direct railroad service, said Terry Whiteside, a transportation consultant in Billings, Mont.

"They had to act," he said. "I'd suggest that the board saw ways to make it very difficult and expensive for the shippers to operate."

Through EPA exemptions agricultural discharges, troubling for landowners, certainly farmers."

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IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 4f

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND
TREBESCH**
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: JUNE 5, 2014
**RE: APPOINTMENT OF ADMINSTRATOR IN FY 2015 AND DELEGATION OF POWER AND
DUTIES**

Annually, the Commission appoints an administrator to implement Board decisions and policies for the next fiscal year. Should your Board desire me to continue in that capacity, it is necessary to reaffirm my appointment and formally delegate to me powers and duties with which I can fulfill that role.

Attached is a draft appointment and delegation form for your consideration.

ACTION: Authorize Chairman to sign FY 2015 Appointment of Administrator

Attachments:

DRAFT FY 2015 Delegation of Powers and Duties



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

COMMISSION

H. Norman Wright
Chairman

Roger Stutzman
Vice Chairman

Jerry Trebesch
Secretary

Dave Radford
Commissioner

Leon Slichter
Commissioner

Teri A. Murrison
Administrator

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR IN FY 2015 DELEGATION OF POWER AND DUTIES

In accordance with Idaho Code 22-2718 (2):

“The state soil and water conservation commission shall appoint the administrator of the state soil and water conservation commission. The state soil and water conservation commission may employ such technical experts and such other agents and employees, permanent and temporary, as it may require, and shall determine their qualifications, duties and compensation. The commission may call upon the attorney general of the state for such legal services as it may require. It shall have authority to delegate to its chairman, to one (1) or more of its members, or to one (1) or more agents or employees, such powers and duties as it may deem proper. The commission may establish offices, incur expenses, enter into contracts and acquire services and personal property as may be reasonable for the proper administration and enforcement of this chapter...”

To the extent the SWCC has appointed and employed such experts, agents, and/or employees to perform or conduct its business, and therefore has become the “appointing authority”, as defined in 67-5302(3), for the SWCC, subject to law, and the state merit system where applicable, including, but not necessarily limited to the authority to supervise, transfer and remove persons to and/or from appointed positions, and change the duties, titles and compensation of employees of SWCC.

The Commissioners unanimously confirmed the continued appointment of Teri Murrison as Administrator in FY 2015 during the SWCC’s June 13, 2014 public meeting.

H. Norman Wright, Chairman
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

June 13, 2014

Date



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 5a

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, TREBESCH, AND SLICHTER
FROM: DELWYNE TREFZ, DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES
DATE: MAY 28, 2014
RE: DISTRICT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS

DISTRICT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS

In accordance with the Technical Assistance Allocation Process approved by the Commission, district requests for FY2015 SWCC assistance were prioritized by Division-level evaluation teams. SWCC staff considered the recommendations submitted by the evaluation teams and to the extent that it was logistically possible, based the allocation of the available SWCC staff hours upon those recommendations.

Each evaluation team leader has been provided with a copy of the FY2015 TA allocations and given opportunity to make comments and suggestions.

The attached spreadsheet shows how FY2015 staff time has been allocated.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For information only

Attachment:

- Spreadsheet, Technical Assistance Awarded for FY2015, by Division

DIVISION 1 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED FOR FY2015

#5a

NOTE: The hours shown in red are hours which districts requested for tasks that Mark already has hours allocated for as part of his 930 TMDL hours so they should not be requested as part of the TA allocation process, which is why no TA hours are allocated to them.

Also note that after subtracting out the hours requested for TMDL activities, Boundary SWCD requested only 102 hours, but they have been allocated 106.5 hours in keeping with the Division 1 request.

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS	
			MARK	BILL
BENEWAH SWCD	District Resource Inventory	120	53.3	
	Alder Creek Rd 319 Implementation	120	53.3	
	BENEWAH TOTALS FOR MARK	240	106.5	
	Alder Creek Rd Project Engineering	40		40
BONNER SWCD	District Needs Assessment	32	32.5	
	Keep district current on WAG, BAG & TMDL issues to help supervisors prioritize watershed projects	40		
	District Mtng Attendance, Forestry Contest Participation, Other Outreach Activities	78	74.0	
	BONNER TOTALS FOR MARK	110	106.5	
	Ponderay Stormwater Engineering	80		80
BOUNDARY SWCD	District Mtng Attendance	30	34.5	
	Attend 6 Boundary County TMDL LWG meetings	30		
	Visit 2 TMDL monitoring sites to increase familiarity with TMDL accomplishments	18		
	Scope Potential Projects on Kootenai R tribs	54	54.0	
	Consult on potential water festival, 319 project proposals, etc.	18	18.0	
	BOUNDARY TOTALS FOR MARK	102	106.5	
KOOTENAI-SHOSHONE SWCD	Develop Western Competitive Grant	350	17.8	
	319 Soil Erosion Proposal		17.8	
	Wolf Lodge Creek Proposal		17.8	
	Lake Management Plan		17.8	
	Fernan Lake Nutrient Reduction Workshops		17.8	
	District Meeting Attendance		17.8	
	K-S TOTALS FOR MARK		350	106.5
	Wolf Lodge Creek Engineering	120		120
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		1042		
TOTAL MARK'S HOURS REQUESTED		802		
TOTAL BILL'S HOURS REQUESTED		240		
Available SWCC Staff Hours -- Mark		426	426	
Available SWCC Staff Hours -- Bill		253		240
TOTAL AVAILABLE SWCC STAFF HOURS		679	666	

DIVISION 2 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED FOR FY2015

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS	
			EILEEN	BILL
CLEARWATER SWCD	Develop small landowner workshops	50	50	
	Jim Ford Creek landowners water quality survey & workshop	60	60	
	4th grade Earth Day	16	16	
	5th grade Farm & Forest Fair	16	16	
IDAHO SWCD	New employee training	60	48	
	Grant proposal development	42	34	
	Cottonwood Creek SRBA grant Implementation	100	80	
	Ongoing Lawyer Cr. SRBS grant implementation	100	80	
	Ongoing Rock Cr SRBA grant implementation	100	80	
	Ongoing Rock Cr 319 grant implementation	100	80	
LEWIS SCD	Ongoing 5 Mile/6 Mile SRBA grant implementation	80	60	
	Ongoing CIG grant implementation	60	45	
	6th grade field day	16	12	
	Researching & writing grant proposals	80	60	
	TA for implementing new grant-funded projects	300	225	
NEZ PERCE SWCD	Ongoing implementation project engineering design needs	1200		223
	Stream inventory & assessment	600		
	Implementation project construction inspections	40		
	Implementation project construction oversight--engineer level	160		30
	Technical report writing	160		
	5th grade Environmental Awareness Day assistance	24		
	U of I Ag Policy Class presentation on soils & conservation	16		
	Preparation of watershed plans for Deer, Eable & China Creek drainages	400		
	Writing Conservation Plans	360		
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		4140		
TOTAL EILEEN'S HOURS REQUESTED		2780	946	
TOTAL BILL'S HOURS REQUESTED		1360		253
Available SWCC Staff Hours -- Eileen		946	946	
Available SWCC Staff Hours -- Bill		253		253
TOTAL AVAILABLE SWCC STAFF HOURS		1199	1199	

DIVISION 3 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED FOR FY2015

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS		
			LORETTA	JASON	BILL
ADAMS SWCD	Phase 2 Little Weiser 319 project engineering	80			80
	Phase 2 Little Weiser 319 project CTA	80	80		
	Upper Weiser 319 project engineering	60			60
	Upper Weiser 319 project administrative assistance	60	60		
	New Meadows City conservation planning engineering	20			20
	New Meadows City general conservation & storm water planning	20	20		
	Training & administrative help with 319 grant & other reporting	20	20		
CANYON SCD	Development of a 319 grant proposal for a Lake Lowell TMDL implementation project	120		120	
	Wilder Irrig Dist sediment & nutrient reduction project	100		100	
	Farmer's Co-op Canal sediment & nutrient reduction project	100		100	
	Engineering of sediment basins & other structural BMPs to address water quality in Farmers Co-op	80			80
	Grant writing training	40		0	
	Training for outreach, partnerships & agricultural preservation	40		17	
	Train on district annual & 5-year plan development	40		17	
ELMORE SWCD	District meeting attendance	24		24	
	Identify and develop programs & project proposals	48		48	
GEM SWCD	Phase 4 Lower Payette 319 implementation project TA	100	100		
	Develop 319 grant proposal for submission in 2014	20	20		
	Outreach & Tours	10	10		
OWYHEE CD	Attend all board meetings	24		24	
	Grant writing & research assistance	20		20	
	Summer tour participation	16		16	
PAYETTE SWCD	Phase 2 Mid Snake-Payette 319 project TA (Loretta added 7 hr travel time to Payette's request)	195	195		
SQUAW CREEK SCD	Payette River TMDL Implementation Project TA	70	70		
	319 application development	20	20		
	"Living on the Land" workshop assistance	10	10		
VALLEY SWCD	319 Watershed restoration project outreach, cons planning, BMP implementation & monitoring	150	150		
	Identify & develop potential funding sources for imp. projects	25	25		
WEISER RIVER SCD	Meeting & tour participation	50	50		
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		1642			
TOTAL LORETTA'S HOURS REQUESTED		830			
TOTAL JASON'S HOURS REQUESTED		572			
TOTAL BILL'S HOURS REQUESTED		240			
Available SWCC Staff Hours--Loretta		830	830		
Available SWCC Staff Hours--Jason		486		486	
Available SWCC Staff Hours--Bill		253			240
TOTAL AVAILABE SWCC STAFF HOURS		1569	1556		

DIVISION 4 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED FOR FY2015

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS		
			CAROLYN	CHUCK	ROB
BALANCED ROCK SCD	Twin Falls NPA CCPI	80	11	14	
	Wetlands water quality monitoring	120	27	44	23
	Soil sampling to track microbial activity	30	0		
BLAINE SCD	District mtng attendance & administrative assistance	60			20
CAMAS CD	Ground water quality study	60			30
EAST CASSIA SWCD	Mini-Cassia Nitrate CCPI	100	40		
	Direct seeding project cons planning & seeding plans	20	15		
GOODING SCD	Aquifer re-charge mapping, meeting attendance, site id.	90		30	
MINIDOKA SWCD	Direct seed & cover crop project	40	35		
	Mini-Cassia NPA CCPI	40	20		
SNAKE RIVER SWCD	Twin Falls NPA CCPI	80	12	13	
	Soil sampling to track microbial activity	30	0		
TWIN FALLS SWCD	Soil sampling to track microbial activity	30	0		
	Twin Falls NPA CCPI	80	12	13	
WEST CASSIA SWCD	Mini-Cassia NPA CCPI	80	80		
	Direct seed & cover crop project	20	15		
WOOD RIVER SWCD	Green Stripping Project TA	20			20
	"Sampling for Success" forage sampling project TA	80			22
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		1060			
TOTAL CHUCK'S HOURS REQUESTED		450			
TOTAL CAROLYN'S HOURS REQUESTED		300			
TOTAL ROB'S HOURS REQUESTED		310			
TOTAL ALLAN'S HOURS REQUESTED		0			
Available SWCC Staff Hours--Chuck		114		114	
Available SWCC Staff Hours--Carolyn		267	267		
Available SWCC Staff Hours--Rob		115			115
TOTAL AVAILABE SWCC STAFF HOURS		496	496		

DIVISION 5 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED FOR FY2015

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED			ALLOCATED HOURS			
		CA	TA	ENG	STEVEN		ALLAN	
					CA	TA	CA	TA
BEAR LAKE SWCD	Thomas Fork AFO 319 project	42	176		4.2	80		
	Stauffer Creek 319 project	42	108		4.2	49		
	PBJ 319 project	42	20		4.2	9		
	Georgetown SFR 319 project	17	20		1.7	9		
	ECC Sorensen Ditch telemetry project	42	38		4.2	17		
	Montpelier Irrig. BOR project	65			6.5			
CARIBOU SCD	Trout Creek SRF 319 project		40	200		18		125
	Pebble Creek Irrigators project		80	75		36		46
	Upper Portneuf River fence project		80			36		
	Bear River/Whiskey Cr stream channel project			25				15
C BINGHAM CD	Meeting attendance & development of a source water protection project	40					40	
FRANKLIN SWCD	Cub River stream flow project		10			5		
	Mink Cr water monitoring		10			5		
	Bear River/Mound Valley project plan, inspect, certify		40			18		
	Station Cr plan, contract, inspect		100			45		
	Riverdale Canal Co project plan, GIS		40			18		
	Consolidated Irrig. Co. plan, GIS		40			18		
	Oxford Irrig plan, GIS		20			9		
	Triple B community garden plan		80			0		
	Farm to School-Eastside plan, GIS		10			5		
	5th grade conservation program	30				0		
	8th grade water fair	15			1.5			
	FCHS Ecology: geology/water	30				0		
	New grant application, GIS/planning	20			2			
	Tech staff train, educate, mentor	20			2			
	Oxford Irrig. Project engineering			120				74
	Bear River/Mound Valley project engineering			20				12
Station Cr engineering			60				37	
NORTH BINGHAM CD	District mtng attendance, educational program participation	40					40	
ONEIDA SWCD	Wide Hollow 319 project		125			57		
	New grant application	40			40			
	Wide Hollow 319 proj engineering			300				185
	Preliminary engineering for new grant application			25				15
PORTNEUF SWCD	Dempsey Cr. Irrigation & Marsh Cr. AFO projects--TA + Engineering		110	200		50		123
	Lava Urban 319 project--TA + Engineering		65	35		29		22
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED BY CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE		485	1212	1060				
GRAND TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		2757						
STEVEN'S HRS REQUESTED		345	1132					
ALLAN'S HRS REQUESTED		40		1060				
Available SWCC Staff Hours--Steven			546		34	512		
Available SWCC Staff Hours--Allan			734				80	654
TOTAL AVAILABE SWCC STAFF HOURS			1280		546		734	

DIVISION 6 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED FOR FY2015

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS	
			BRIAN	ROB
BUTTE SWCD	Soil health workshop	30		24
	Weed control workshop	30		24
CLARK SCD	District meeting attendance	32	25	
EAST SIDE SWCD	District meeting attendance	16	6.5	
JEFFERSON SWCD	District meeting attendance	16	16	
MADISON SWCD	District meeting attendance	27	16	
TETON SCD	District meeting attendance	40	30	
	Teton River temp TMDL TA	10	0	
WEST SIDE SWCD	District meeting attendance	16	6.5	
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		217		
TOTAL BRIAN'S HOURS REQUESTED		157		
TOTAL ROB'S HOURS REQUESTED		60		
Available SWCC Staff Hours--Brian		100	100	
Available SWCC Staff Hours--Rob		48		48
TOTAL AVAILABE SWCC STAFF HOURS		148	148	



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 5b

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, TREBESCH, AND SLICHTER
FROM: DELWYNE TREFZ, DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES
DATE: MAY 28, 2014
RE: DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING & FY 2015 WATER QUALITY IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT UNMET NEEDS

Sixteen districts submitted Budget Hearing Request Worksheets detailing the financial assistance they would need in order to address unmet water quality implementation project needs within their districts. The 16 districts requested a total of \$1.75M with which they would leverage an additional \$3.9M from other partners to put \$5.65M worth of locally led water quality improvement work on the ground.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accept Report

Attachment:

- Spreadsheet, District Requests For Financial Assistance With Unmet Water Quality Improvement Project Needs, by District
- Copy of each District Budget Hearing Project/Program Needs Worksheet submitted by districts.

DISTRICT REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH UNMET WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NEEDS

#5b

District	Funding Source					Total Project Cost
	SWCC	Federal	Other State	District	Other	
Ada *	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 5,000.00		\$ 55,000.00
Adams	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 150,000.00		\$ 7,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 307,000.00
Bonner	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,400.00		\$ 28,400.00
Bonner	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 12,600.00
Butte	2:1 Match					\$ -
Canyon	\$ 60,000.00			\$ 2,000.00		\$ 62,000.00
Canyon	\$ 46,500.00			\$ 1,500.00		\$ 48,000.00
Canyon	\$ 40,000.00			\$ 1,500.00		\$ 41,500.00
Gem *	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 500.00		\$ 2,500.00
Gem	\$ 1,500.00			\$ 500.00		\$ 2,000.00
Idaho	\$ 10,000.00			\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 14,300.00
Idaho	\$ 25,000.00			\$ 2,400.00	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 33,650.00
Idaho	\$ 25,000.00			\$ 2,400.00	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 33,650.00
Kootenai-Shoshone **	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 300,000.00			\$ 1,050,000.00
Latah	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 25,000.00		\$ 100,000.00
Lewis	\$ 100,000.00					\$ 100,000.00
Lewis	\$ 90,000.00					\$ 90,000.00
Lewis	\$ 100,000.00					\$ 100,000.00
Payette	\$ 8,500.00			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 10,000.00
Payette	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00	\$ 135,000.00		\$ 535,000.00
Payette	\$ 50,000.00					\$ 50,000.00
Power	\$ 260,000.00					\$ 260,000.00
Power	\$ 10,000.00					\$ 10,000.00
Squaw Creek *	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 500.00		\$ 1,500.00
Squaw Creek	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 250.00		\$ 1,250.00
Teton	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 70,000.00
Teton	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 150,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 220,000.00
Teton	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00		\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 2,100,000.00
Valley	\$ 100,000.00					\$ 100,000.00
Valley	\$ 4,800.00					\$ 4,800.00
Valley	\$ 7,500.00			\$ 2,500.00		\$ 10,000.00
Weiser River	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 115,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,754,800.00	\$ 2,521,600.00	\$ 513,000.00	\$ 467,250.00	\$ 396,500.00	\$ 5,653,150.00

* Indicates that in addition to requests for funding water quality improvement projects, the district also requested funding for projects not related to water quality. The total funding requested for projects not related to water quality improvement is \$62,000.

The \$1.75M requested by districts would leverage an additional \$3.9M from other partners to put \$5.65M worth of locally led, voluntary conservation work on the ground.

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Ada Soil & Water Conservation District

Address: 9173 Barnes Road Boise, ID 83712

Phone: 208-859-8257

E-mail: adaswcd@gmail.com

Contact: Paul Woods

DATE: April 15, 2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Treasure Valley Soil Health Initiative:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> <i>Introduction of cover crop and rotational farming techniques to reduce nutrient impacts on ground water and surface water, improve organic content in soils and reduce producer costs for fuel and fertilizer.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Ongoing</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> <i>Soil health, Boise River Nutrient TMDL</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$25,000
<i>State:</i>	\$25,000
<i>District:</i>	\$5,000
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$55,000

Project/Program Title: Conservation Field Days	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> <i>Conservation Field Days offer all day field trips for 5th grade students to farms in Ada County to give students an experiential learning opportunity in soil health, watershed protection, irrigation systems, crop science and food processing.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Ongoing</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Education and awareness of agricultural production</i>	

<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$5,000
<i>District:</i>	\$5,000
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$10,000

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
DATE	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$0

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Adams Soil & Water Conservation District

Address: PO Box 26, 203 S Galena St. Council, ID 83632

Phone: 208-253-4668

E-mail: aswd@ctcweb.net

Contact: Vicki Berks, Admin Asst OR Julie Burkhardt, Chair

DATE: 4/18/2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title:	
District Operations	
Description of Project/Program:	
<i>Water Quality Projects in the Upper Weiser Basin and Little Salmon watershed</i>	
Project/Program Timeline: <i>ongoing</i>	Priority: <i>1</i>
Resource Concern(s) Addressed: <i>Sediment, Temperature and E. coli</i>	
<i>All other program priorities</i>	
Funding Sources (list all sources):	
<i>Federal: NRCS engineering and 319 grants</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>
<i>State: match allocation and SWC support</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>
<i>District: supervisor volunteer and Admin Asst</i>	<i>\$7,000</i>
<i>Other: grants</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>
Notes: <i>Local match/ landowner participation could equate to \$100,000 which increases the value of the project by up to 50%. Water quality projects in these two watersheds could easily reduce sediment and increase shading on streams and tributaries and help to meet clean water standards for Idaho. Idaho should increase its support for Districts engaged in these projects. Voluntary work by private landowners is crucial in order for Idaho to meet federal clean water mandates. SWC plays a vital role in helping Districts with putting this work on the ground. The return on state funding would be many times the dollars invested. The dollars invested return to local communities and the citizens/ taxpayers of the state reap the benefit of improved water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, protection of agricultural land and flood protection.</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$307,000

Project/Program Title:
Description of Project/Program:

<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>		<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>		
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>		
<i>Federal:</i>		\$0
<i>State:</i>		\$0
<i>District:</i>		\$0
<i>Other:</i>		\$0
<i>Notes:</i>		
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:		\$0

Project/Program Title:		
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>		
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>		<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>		
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>		
<i>Federal:</i>		\$0
<i>State:</i>		\$0
<i>District:</i>		\$0
<i>Other:</i>		\$0
<i>Notes:</i>		
DATE		
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:		\$0

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs

Worksheet Budget Request

District: Bonner SWCD

Address: 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Phone: 208-263-5310x100

E-mail: linda.ohare@id.nacdn.net

Contact: Linda O'Hare

DATE: 3-24-14

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Lake Assist Program	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Lake Assist is a grassroots educational program sponsored by BSWCD and developed out of the TMDL for Near Shore Waters of Lake Pend Oreille. Its mission is to protect water quality in Bonner County through education and on-the-ground activities. The Lake Assist program has been funded solely by grants since 2005, and the district is funding it this year. Grant sources have dried up in the area of outreach, and the district believes in the local need for this program enough to fund it for one year with district reserves. The program coordinator is requested to participate in many activities such as teaching at educational events, consulting with local weed officials and state Department of Agriculture officials on noxious weeds both terrestrial and aquatic, consulting on urban development with agencies and local government regarding water quality and quantity, and consultation with private and public shoreline landowners and best management practices to maintain water quality. Funding from the SWC would provide the Lake Assist program to expand to the capacity needed to maintain these services.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: FY2016</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality/Riparian; Information & Education; Fish, Wildlife & Recreation</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal: NRCS – in-kind</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>State: DEQ</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>District: in-kind</i>	<i>\$10,400</i>
<i>Other:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$8,000

Project/Program Title: Bonner County Resource Assessment and Priority List
<i>Description of Project/Program: The district has taken some preliminary steps regarding a resource inventory in Bonner County. To take this process further, funding will be needed to hire someone to</i>

coordinate with state, county, and local agencies to gather the information and compile it in a format usable by the district and other agencies. After a review of this information, a list of projects prioritized by urgency would be given to the district board for their consideration for future projects.

Project/Program Timeline: FY2016

Priority: 2

Resource Concern(s) Addressed: ALL - Water Quality/Riparian; Timber & Woodland; Fish, Wildlife & Recreation; Traditional Ag, Grazing & Cropland

Funding Sources (list all sources):

<i>Federal:</i>	<i>\$ 1600</i>
<i>State: DEQ and SWC – in-kind</i>	<i>\$2000</i>
<i>District: in-kind</i>	<i>\$4000</i>
<i>Other: Bonner County in-kind</i>	<i>\$1000</i>

Notes:

TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:

\$4,000

March 26, 2014

To: Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

From: Butte SWCD

If the Butte SWCD were to receive the full funding match from the State we would pursue accomplishing more on our Priority Area #1 which is Water Quantity and Quality.

An improved method of distributing water throughout the Big Lost River and Little Lost River areas is needed. This could include lined canals and or pipelines. This would need to be done in steps which could include:

- 1 . Set up a group to explore the issue and involve the stake holders.
2. Explore funding.
3. Develop a proposal for survey and assessment and to define the project area with limits and objectives. (this can be done in small stages)
4. Explore who can head up a big project (consultants, make engineering plans, hire contractors, working with government agencies), go out to bid.
5. Who will oversee construction and be responsible.

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Canyon Soil Conservation District

Address: 2208 E. Chicago, Suite A Caldwell, ID 83605

Phone: 208-454-8684

E-mail:

Contact: Lori Kent

DATE: 4/16/2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Canal Company Sediment Basin	
<i>Description of Project/Program: This project consists of installing a sediment basin of about six acres. This basin will be along a major canal and will serve to clean up the water in the canal system to provide cleaner water to the downstream water users. Currently, the downstream users are experiencing problems with filters on drip systems due to the amount of sediment being transported in the canal. The origination of the sediment in the canal system is coming off fields upstream from the canal and is not from the acreage being irrigated by this canal. Total estimated cost is \$120,000.00. The State funding would be for 50% cost share.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: to be installed and completed fall 2014</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$60,000.00
<i>District:</i>	\$2,000.00
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes: This project upon completion will act as a demonstration for other canal and drainage districts to show what can be done. The \$2,000.00 from the district is for planning and engineering costs.</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$62,000.00

Project/Program Title: Center Pivot Irrigation System	
<i>Description of Project/Program: This project consists of installing a pump, mainline, and center pivot to replace the current gravity (ditch and siphon tube) irrigation system. The project will cover approximately 60 acres. Runoff from the fields in question is presently running into the Boise River. Total estimated cost is \$94,500.00. The State funding would be for 50% cost share.</i>	

<i>Project/Program Timeline: Either fall 2014 or spring 2015</i>		<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality and Water Use Efficiency</i>		
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>		
<i>Federal:</i>		\$0
<i>State:</i>		\$46,500.00
<i>District:</i>		\$1,500.00
<i>Other:</i>		\$0
<i>Notes: This project if installed has a direct impact on the Boise River and the TMDL. The \$1,500.00 from the district is for planning and engineering costs. The State funding would be for 50% cost share.</i>		
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:		\$48,000.00

Project/Program Title: Center Pivot Irrigation System		
<i>Description of Project/Program: This project consists of installing a pump, mainline, and center pivot to replace the current gravity (ditch and siphon tube) irrigation system. The project will cover approximately 50 acres. Runoff from the fields in question is presently running into the Boise River. Total estimated cost is \$81,500.00.</i>		
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Either fall of 2014 or spring 2015</i>		<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality and Water Use Efficiency</i>		
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>		
<i>Federal:</i>		\$0
<i>State:</i>		\$40,000.00
<i>District:</i>		\$1,500.00
<i>Other:</i>		\$0
<i>Notes: This project if installed has a direct impact on the Boise River and the TMDL. The \$1,500.00 from the district is for planning and engineering costs. The State funding would be for 50% cost share.</i>		
DATE 4/16/2014		
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:		\$41,500.00

Note: At this time, the NRCS office in Caldwell has 89 requests for EQIP funding. At least 50 of these will go unfunded and will fall out of the program. There is a tremendous opportunity to fund many more projects than the three listed above if money is available. Many of these projects are Tier 1 properties either adjacent to or near the Boise River. Funding would treat the TMDL concerns along with more efficient use of the water supplies.

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Gem Soil and Water Conservation District

Address: 1805 Highway 16

Phone: 208/365-4212

E-mail: sheryl.stelling@id.nacdnet.net

Contact: Sheryl Stelling

DATE: 04/14/2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Nitrate Area Demonstration Project; Improve ground water quality in Gem County. Make resources available to educate the local population about health risks associated with drinking water containing high nitrate levels and promote testing of all private wells. Develop a program where the general public can obtain information, supplies, and funding necessary to test their well water. Obtain grant funding to hold education and outreach events.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Summer</i>	<i>Priority: 1 Water Quality</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$500
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$2,000

Project/Program Title: No-Till /Soil-Conservation measure	
<i>Description of Project/Program: A drastic new soil-conservation measure, no-till farming. No-Till versus conventional cultivation would be an excellent workshop topic for the general public. Demonstration plots would show how fertilizer, moisture (water), and well as fuel for the tractor are saved along with man hours.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Fall</i>	<i>Priority: 2 Irrigated Cropland</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil erosion, water quality</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$500
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$1500.00

Project/Program Title: Noxious Weed Education	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Noxious weeds and education to landowners is an ongoing process. Annually articles are published in newspapers and newsletters. Noxious Weed booklets are available at the front desk for the general public and discussed during all meetings/workshops. Would like to order Booklets to distribute as an outreach/educational tool.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Twelve months of the year</i>	<i>Priority: 3 Urban</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Noxious Weeds</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$200
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
DATE	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$500.00

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Idaho SWCD

Address: 102 South Hall St, Grangeville, ID 83530

Phone: 208-983-1046 ext 111

E-mail: stefanie.bowman@id.nacdnet.net

Contact: Stefanie Bowman

Date: 4/24/2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: SFCR Water Quality Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program: cover crop installations with producers in Idaho county. All applications to participate will be ranked by the Idaho SWCD District Board. Field staff will develop plans and contracts that will be in accordance with NRCS specifications and seeding plan recommendations for cover crops. Cover crops will enhance the soil biological community in the soils leading to decreased soil erosion, more efficient nutrient cycling, decreased use of commercial fertilizers and herbicides. Expected benefits are to decrease sediment loads by an estimated 2500 tons/year. These reductions and improvements will address essential physical and biological features that will improve soil and water quality.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 1 year</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: sediment, nutrients, soil quality</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State: Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission</i>	\$10,000.00
<i>District: Idaho SWCD Board Supervisors (In Kind)</i>	\$1800.00
<i>Other: Landowners 25% match</i>	\$2,500.00
<i>Notes: We have had numerous producers requesting assistance with soil health. Currently no funding is available outside of NRCS funding which is limited. We would like to get these producers taken care of and to help them with their soil health goals. These producers would greatly benefit from having even a small amount of funding available to get a project started on their land. We have had many projects in the past that were very successful. Our producers desire to be on the cutting edge of the soil health movement. This desire will make this project a success, just as past projects.</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$10,000.00

Project/Program Title: Idaho County AFO Projects	
<i>Description of Project/Program: BMP installations on feeding area projects within Idaho County. We currently have approximately 8 producers located throughout Idaho County that have volunteered to implement practices on their livestock operation, to improve feeding and management of livestock and improve water quality. Volunteers are expected to increase in the future. If the 8 producers that have already volunteered were to do a project, they would be implementing 15,000 feet of fence; 20-off stream water systems; 7500 feet of access road, 15 heavy use feeding pads; 5 roof runoff systems; 5000 acres of weed and grazing management; and 3000 acres of waste management. Expected outcomes from these practices (over time) are a sediment reduction of 1250 ton/year, phosphorus reduction of 3800 lbs./year, nitrogen reduction of 6400 lbs./year, a 25% reduction in bacteria and a 25% increase in shade. These reductions are based on IDL and IASCD in-stream monitoring results from past projects and visual assessments.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 1 Year</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: sediment, temperature, pathogens, nutrients</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State: Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission</i>	\$25,000.00
<i>District: Idaho SWCD Board Supervisors (In Kind)</i>	\$2,400.00
<i>Other: Landowners 25% match</i>	\$6,250.00
<i>Notes: In the past couple of years we have had numerous producers ask for small scale or even large scale AFO project help. With the ending of the 319 Division II AFO project, we no longer have the dedicated funds to help these producers and the current funding we have is watershed based only. The producers that have approached us since the Division II AFO project ended are all located outside the watershed boundaries that we are currently able to fund within. The amount of \$25,000 would work toward assisting with a larger amount of the needed implementations.</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$25,000.00

Project/Program Title: Salmon River Drainage Water Quality Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program: BMP installations within the Salmon River watershed. BMP's that could be implemented within this watershed are forestry practices, AFO, water developments, fencing, access road, and riparian plantings. Currently we are focused on the Rock Creek portion of the Salmon River, but we have 4 requests for assistance outside that sub-watershed boundary. Additional funds that were for the whole of the Salmon River could be utilized toward assisting these landowners.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 1 Year</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: sediment, temperature, nutrients,</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>State: Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission</i>	<i>\$25,000.00</i>
<i>District: Idaho SWCD Board Supervisors (In Kind)</i>	<i>\$2,400.00</i>
<i>Other: Landowners 25% match</i>	<i>\$6,250.00</i>
<i>Notes: Due to numerous requests for project help throughout the Salmon River Drainage, we would like to try and get some funding for the whole area. We currently have a project that we are able to work in part of the drainage, but we are getting requests for outside that drainage and across the Salmon River. If we were able to get some funding assistance in this area, we feel it might jump start a better opportunity for us to find some more funding to get the producers that live there some help in getting BMP's on the ground and continue with other producers that approach us. The amount of \$25,000 would work toward assisting with a larger amount of the needed implementations.</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$25,000.00

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD

Address: 7830 Meadowlark Way, Suite C-1

Phone: 208-762-4939 x101

E-mail: ksswcd@yahoo.com

Contact: Bob Flagor

DATE: April 14, 2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Forest health: thinning for fire prevention and general forest health	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Our vice-chairman has identified some 180,000 acres of private forest in need of management practices for general forest health, and particularly thinning to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Much of this acreage is stocked at 2.5X the biomass density pre-1910. A pilot project, in conjunction with other programs, would be a good start on reducing wildfire risk, improving forest health, and assisting other local, state, and federal agencies in their efforts to address these resource concerns.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Forest health, wildfire prevention, biomass removal, habitat enhancement	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$500,000
<i>State:</i>	\$300,000
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i> Final approval for the \$300,000 IDL Western Competitive Grant is expected soon. USFS has already invested nearly that much in forest management on their lands, and NRCS is expected to invest a similar amount on private lands in that watershed. The additional funds would go a long way toward achieving the ultimate goal of general forest health in the area.	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$250,000

Project/Program Title: State-mandated audit requirements	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Office administration	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> Annual expenditure	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> All program and project administration	

<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$5000
<i>District:</i>	\$5000
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i> Districts are required to have a GASB-type audit if their income exceeds \$250,000, even if most of the income is pass-through. Most grants do not allow audit expenses as a justifiable expense, thereby burdening the district with a \$5,000 expense out of their meager operational budget.	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$5000

Project/Program Title: Efficient and effective use of district personnel	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Efficient office administration for	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> ongoing	<i>Priority:</i> 3
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$10,000
<i>District:</i>	\$25,000
<i>Other:</i>	\$800
<i>Notes:</i> One part-time employee is inadequate to implement projects, administer requirements, maintain records, report to authorities, etc. A full-time manager with at least a part-time assistant would allow better implementation of conservation and most likely provide at least several times the return on investment.	
DATE	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$50,000

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs

Worksheet Budget Request

District: Latah Soil and Water Conservation District

Address: 220 East 5th Street, Suite 208, Moscow, ID 83843

Phone: 509.338.2549

E-mail: kstinson@latahsoil.org

Contact: Kenneth Stinson, District Manager

DATE: April 24, 2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: *Understanding Soil Health from a Management Perspective: From Concept to Field Operations*

Description of Project/Program: This project complements an active grant application to Idaho NRCS through their FY14 Conservation Innovation Grant program. Funding is requested through the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission to supplement the funding requested through NRCS.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

While there is growing interest in management impacts on soil health among land managers, it has yet to be demonstrated how to integrate soil health tests into traditional soil testing and nutrient management. Managing for soil health involves monitoring and enhancing soil chemical, physical, and biological properties and processes that support soil functions (Karlen et al., 1997). Critical soil functions within agricultural cropping systems include nutrient cycling and availability, water infiltration, and supporting plant growth (Doran and Parkin, 1994). Traditionally, land managers are limited to chemical extractions to evaluate the function of soil nutrient cycling. New soil testing techniques, soil health indicators and soil health scoring systems have emerged that provide different ways to assess soil function and quantify management impacts on overall soil health. However, with regard to soil health, the range in ecosystem capabilities and boundaries have not yet been quantified or regionalized for critical soil functions under agricultural management systems.

This demonstration project will address issues surrounding soil health management by working with a diverse set of land management systems to integrate the USDA-NRCS Soil Health Nutrient Tool (SHNT) into traditional soil nutrient testing. For this demonstration additional soil health related testing will be demonstrated and evaluated alongside traditional soil nutrient testing. Implementing the SHNT across a range of management systems will (i) provide regional soil health scores; (ii) allow evaluation of how different soil tests capture management impacts on soil health; and (iii) contribute to development of soil health management systems that address multiple resource concerns and soil functions.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate, evaluate, and monitor the integration of soil health nutrient tools in managing for improved soil function. The goals of this project are to: (i)

demonstrate annual soil health testing; (ii) evaluate the range in soil health scores to provide regional interpretation for different management systems in and near northern Idaho; and (iii) use a participatory approach to develop guidance on integrating the SHNT with traditional chemical methods of evaluating soil nutrient cycling and availability.

PROJECT METHODS

Baseline soil samples will be collected from producer demonstration trials, fields of interested producers and replicated trials across Latah County, Idaho and eventually throughout the northern Idaho region (Divisions I and II). Baseline sampling of soil health will be performed using several testing approaches (i.e., biological, chemical, and physical) and also under different management systems (Table 1). The Latah Soil and Water Conservation District (Latah SWCD) currently has a strong relationship with a diverse group of land managers who are ideal collaborators for baseline and long-term monitoring of soil health. Existing project sites and additional agricultural sites will be identified by February 2015.

Project/Program Timeline: 9/1/15 – 8/31/17

Priority: 1

Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Successful implementation of recommendations to improve soil health characteristics related to soil acidification and compaction will reduce water quality pollutants related to nutrients and sediment, respectively. High inputs of ammonium-based fertilizers have been credited with lowering soil pH in Palouse agricultural soils. Soil compaction from heavy farm machinery has been credited with lowered the soil capacity to absorb and retain moisture leading to higher erosion/sedimentation rates.

Funding Sources (list all sources):

<i>Federal:</i> USDA NRCS	\$50,000
<i>State:</i> Idaho SWCC	\$25,000
<i>District:</i> Latah SWCD	\$25,000
<i>Other:</i>	\$0

Notes:

TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED: Idaho SWCC \$25,000

Project/Program Title:

Description of Project/Program:

Project/Program Timeline:

Priority: 2

Resource Concern(s) Addressed:

Funding Sources (list all sources):

<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0

<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$0

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
DATE	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$0

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Lewis Soil Conservation District

Address: 521 Oak St. Room 8
Nezperce, ID 83543

Phone: 208-937-2291 x 3

E-mail: karol.holthaus@id.nacdnet.net

Contact: Karol Holthaus

DATE: April 2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT/SOIL HEALTH									
<p><i>Description of Project/Program:</i> <i>This project would focus on improving soil health by assisting producers in Lewis County with cost share to address poor soil acidic conditions and improve soil pH levels. Applying lime to the soil with low pH has been proven to accomplish soil health productivity and the yields increase from the application of lime. Increasing soil pH should lead to a long-term profitability and significant improvement to soil health and function. A fundamental goal of cover crop is to avoid bare soil between cash crop plantings. 6 Benefits of Cover Crops 1 Reduce soil erosion by wind and water.2 Provide a home for beneficial insects.3 Improve soil quality; add organic matter.4 Suppress weeds.5 Break up soil compaction.6 Scavenge nitrogen and fix nitrogen from the air.</i></p> <p><i>303(d) listed water bodies to be targeted: Big Canyon, Little Canyon, Holes/ Long Hollow Creeks, Lawyer Creek, Lapwai Creek, Mission Creek, 5Mile Creek 6 Mile Creek</i></p>									
Project/Program Timeline: Yearlong	Priority: 1								
<p><i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> <i>Temperature, sediment and nutrient loading for water quality in streams within Lewis County. Improve soil health by promoting nutrient management , improve groundwater</i></p>									
<p><i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Federal:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>District:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0</td> </tr> </table>		Federal:	\$0	State:	\$0	District:	\$0	Other:	\$0
Federal:	\$0								
State:	\$0								
District:	\$0								
Other:	\$0								
<p><i>Notes:</i> <i>The purpose of this project is to demonstrate precision agriculture principles of right amount, right place, right source, right time and/or right application method with respect to lime application to halt or reverse soil acidification. The District would like funding to help producers in Lewis County, with cost share funding to improve pH levels for more productive crop and cover crop seeding. This has great concern of producers in Lewis SCD.</i></p>									
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$100,000.00								

Project/Program Title: IMPROVE SURFACE AND GROUND WATER QUALITY	
<p><i>Description of Project/Program:</i> This project would provide cost share for Best Management Practices, to cooperating producers in Lewis County to treat critical acres and water quality problems in Big Canyon, Little Canyon, Holes/ Long Hollow, Lawyer Creek, Lapwai Creek, Mission Creek, 5Mile 6 Mile:</p> <p>Implement BMP's to reduce leaching of nitrates into groundwater. Reduce nutrients and sediment loading and to improve habitat conditions for fish. Reduce pollutant loads to streams Develop offsite stock water systems Repair failing septic systems and cap abandon wells</p>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Yearlong</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<p><i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Temperature, sediment and nutrient loading for water quality in streams within Lewis County. Improve soil health by promoting nutrient management , improve groundwater</p>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<p><i>Notes:</i> Lewis County is in the High Nitrate Priority area and the district feels there is a need for a County wide funding source to help implement Best Management Practices to reduce leaching of pollutants into the surface and groundwater.</p>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$90,000.00

Project/Program Title: Reduce Soil Erosion	
Description of Project/Program: <i>This project would provide financial assistance to operators who apply the practices to ensure long term soil productivity and improve water quality within Lewis County. Some practices to be implemented to help reduce soil erosion would be gully plugs, sediment basins and cover crop seeding.</i>	
Project/Program Timeline: Yearlong	Priority: 3
Resource Concern(s) Addressed: <i>Temperature, sediment and nutrient loading to improve water quality. Improve groundwater</i>	
Funding Sources (list all sources):	
Federal:	\$0
State:	\$0
District:	\$0
Other:	\$0
Notes: <i>The producers within Lewis County have shown concerns about soil erosion and ways to reduce sediment and nutrients in the local streams. Cover crops provide a crop on the ground year round which aids in nutrient cycling, improves productivity and lowers the need for pesticides and fertilizers. Cover would also benefit wildlife species. Benefits include reduction in soil erosion and improvement in water quality.</i> <i>Erosion control and associated improvements in stream quality will benefit land and water users in the watershed, downstream areas and surrounding communities.</i>	
DATE	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$100,000.00

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Payette Soil & Water Conservation District

Address: 501 NO. 16th St., Suite #102

Phone: 208-642-6129

E-mail: johna.gabiola@payetteswcd.org

Contact: Johna Gabiola

DATE: 04/24/2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Soil Health Symposium	
<i>Description of Project/Program: 5th Annual Soil Health Symposium is an event that brings both vendors and speakers to the area farmers to present farming practices and products to aid in restoring soil health.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Spring 2015</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Making new information on conservation practices available to area farmers</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	
<i>State:</i>	8500.00
<i>District:</i>	1000.00
<i>Other: Water District #65</i>	500.00
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$8,500.00

Project/Program Title: Middle-Snake Payette Clean Water Project Phase III	
<i>Description of Project/Program: The PSWCD would apply for an additional 319 grant through IDEQ to continue cooperating with area irrigation and drainage entities to reduce sediment loads into canals, drains, and rivers with implementation of BMPs.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Fall 2014 to Spring 2015</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Helping area farmers keep their topsoil on their farms with the installation of various BMPs and to reduce sediment load in canals, drains and rivers.</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State: Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality</i>	200,000.00
<i>District: Match Funds</i>	135,000.00

<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$200,000.00

Project/Program Title: Full Time Technical Employee or Part-Time Contractor	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Full time field employee or contractor that is on the ground working with area farmers and other interested parties to increase the number of conservation projects and installation of BMPs to help in the promotion of soil health and cleaning up our area canals ,drains and rivers.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Fall 2014 to Future Years</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil Conservation</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	50,000.00
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes: This dollar figure arrived at for full-time employee includes health coverage, PERSI and the use of a vehicle for use on job or allowance for contractor fees.</i>	
DATE:4/24/2014	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$50,000.00

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs

Worksheet Budget Request

District: Power Soil Conservation District

Address: 2769 Fairgrounds Rd

Phone: 208-226-5130 ext. 190

E-mail: pegi.long@id.nacdn.net

Contact: Pegi Long

DATE: April 21, 2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Fencing 303 D listed Creek	
<i>Description of Project/Program :</i> Assist land owners along rattlesnake creek to fence off 15840 feet of the creek from cattle	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil Erosion, water quality on the creek. Currently we are working with the growers to assist the application of 319 grants and NRCS programs.</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	
<i>Notes: Estimated cost of the project is 260,000.00.</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$260,000.00

Project/Program Title: Youth Conservation Education	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Soil Tunnel is almost as much fun as making a mud pie, but on a larger, less gritty, scale. Passing under a large tree trunk, children -- and their grown-up relatives and friends -- can get an earthworm's perspective of the life that thrives in the soil when they enter the "Soil Tunnel."</i>	
<i>Soil is the basis for so many vital functions, yet it is one of the most overlooked natural resources.</i>	
<i>The tunnel would be available for use by other districts and Partners.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil Health and Erosion</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources): Currently we are working on various grants</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$10,000.00

<i>Notes:</i> <i>Purchase price is \$ 9700.00</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$10,000.00

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
DATE	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$0

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District

Address: 1805 Highway 16

Phone: 208/365-4212

E-mail: sheryl.stelling@id.nacdnet.net

Contact: Sheryl Stelling

DATE: 04/14/2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Firewise Demonstration Garden	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Firewise demonstration garden; wildfires are a part of life in southern Idaho. Firewise landscaping can help reduce the risk of wildfire. The focus would be to build a garden of fire resistant plants both native and non-native as an educational tool for all those in the district to learn how to protect themselves from wildfire. This garden would be a cooperative project with the BLM, local schools, and private landowners. The project would be developed from a weed infested, undeveloped flat ground and transformed into a beautiful landscape accompanied by plant labels, informational handouts, and an interpretive sign.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Spring to Summer</i>	<i>Priority: 1 Service to Cooperators</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water conservation, drought, wildfire</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$500
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$1,500

<i>Project/Program Title: Outdoor Classroom / Greenhouse</i>	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Outdoor Classroom/Greenhouse; Students would learn to grow and care for native and non-native plants, a kind of firewise landscape nursery. They would use the plants they grow to replant areas burnt by wildfires and in doing so stop soil erosion in those areas. Landowners could also landscape to enhance protection of homes situated in the wildland urban interface.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Spring</i>	<i>Priority: 2 Weeds / Urban</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil, Soil erosion, water quality,</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>State:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>District:</i>	<i>\$500</i>
<i>Other:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$1000.00

<i>Project/Program Title: Rangeland Ecology</i>	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Rangeland ecology and management uniquely integrates information from multiple system components to address current and pending challenges confronting rangelands. Approximately 50% of the Earth's land area is considered range. Rangelands have undergone and continue to undergo rapid change in response to changing land use and climate. A research priority in the emerging science of eco hydrology is an improved understanding of the implications of vegetation change. Interactions between vegetation and water on rangelands pose many questions. To effectively address these questions, we must expand our knowledge of how it changes the scale and landscape and pass the knowledge on to landowners and cooperators through workshops and tours.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Spring through Fall</i>	<i>Priority: 3 Rangeland</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil, water, forage, outreach</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>State:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>District:</i>	<i>\$250</i>
<i>Other:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Notes:</i>	
DATE	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$1000.00

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Teton Soil Conservation District

Address: 275 Old Railroad Way
Driggs, Idaho 83422

Phone: 208-354-2680 ext. 4

E-mail: lori.ringel@id.nacdnet.net or tetonscd@silverstar.com

Contact: Lori Ringel, Teton SCD Manager or Lynn Bagley, Teton SCD Chairman

DATE: 4/3/2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Residue Management / Soil Health	
<i>Description of Project/Program: In order to promote residue management and soil health, the Teton SCD intends to purchase a no-till drill for rental to landowners in Teton County. This drill will help facilitate implementation of soil health (cover crops) in Teton County, which would not be possible without the drill. This would be accomplished through application for a 319 grant with EPA and a CIG grant through NRCS. This project promotes residue management to address soil erosion, decreases runoff to 303 d listed streams. It also promotes vegetative management to address cover crops, crop rotations, and weed control, which are all part of our long range resource concerns.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 2016-2017</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality, Erosion control, and protects water quality to 303 (d) listed streams</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal: 319 / RCPP</i>	\$25000.00
<i>State:</i>	\$6000.00
<i>District:</i>	\$4000.00
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$35,000.00

Project/Program Title: Trail Creek Streambank project	
<i>Description of Project/Program: In order to address severe erosion to stream banks along Trail Creek, a stream segment at the headwaters of the Teton River (a 303 (d) listed stream for sediment), Teton SCD intends to apply for a 319 grant to address this severe erosion issue. This large project involves several landowners and multiple partners. It promotes Water Quality, streambank stabilization, severe erosion, and decreases erosion impacts to a 303 (d) listed stream. In addition, temperature has been identified as a problem in the upper reaches of the Teton River. Cover through willow plantings and other conservation measures will be necessary to address the issue.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 2016-2017</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality, Temperature, Soil erosion and Streambank stabilization</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	<i>\$150,000.00</i>
<i>State:</i>	<i>\$15000.00</i>
<i>District:</i>	<i>\$5000.00</i>
<i>Other: Landowner</i>	<i>\$50000.00</i>
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$220,000.00

Project/Program Title: Mainline repair / replacements	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Failing steel mainlines and on farm main irrigations systems are coming to a critical phase with many of the systems exceeding their useful lifespan. Therefore, Teton SCD is seeking additional funding sources to pool projects to address failing irrigation systems.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 2016-2018</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality, water quality, erosion, and energy efficiency</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	<i>\$1500000.00</i>
<i>State:</i>	<i>\$100000.00</i>
<i>District, local partners, landowners:</i>	<i>\$250000.00</i>
<i>Other: local utility</i>	<i>\$250000.00</i>
<i>Notes: this project would include multi-partners and address a huge resource concern for Teton Valley, Idaho.</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$2,100,000.00

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs

Worksheet Budget Request

District: Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Address: Box 580 Cascade, ID 83611

Phone: 208 382-3317

E-mail: kay.coski@id.nacdn.net

Contact: Kay Coski, District Manager

DATE: April, 24, 2014

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: <i>Lake Irrigation District Pipeline</i>	
<p>Description of Project/Program: <i>Lake Irrigation District (LID) is located in the northwest portion of Valley County in west central Idaho. The LID system originally put into operation in 1927, delivers irrigation water to approximately 7,000 acres of cropland, pasture and hay land through approximately 36 miles of main canal, pipeline and diversions. In addition, water rights for irrigation water includes delivery to over 1000 subdivision acres. Several resource problems have been identified including high delivery water losses, poor irrigation efficiencies, and sediment and water quality issues. Both Lake Fork Creek and Mud Creek flow through the LID and are tributaries of Cascade Reservoir. Mud Creek is significantly impacted by irrigation and land use practices within its drainage area.</i></p> <p><i>LID is in the planning stages of replacing several miles of open earthen ditches with pipeline and have began the preliminary search for funding sources and have made initial contact with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) about providing technical assistance to survey, determine resource benefits, project cost, etc. in order to apply and seek eligibility for loans and cost share. Potential project funding sources include NRCS (Farm Bill-EQIP), Department of Water Resources and LID. This LID pipeline project to replace several miles of earthen ditches would save water; improve water efficiencies; help get water to the landowners with water rights and help improve the water quality of Lake Fork Creek and Mud Creek that flows into Cascade Reservoir helping meet TMDLs. Project would accomplish two of Valley SWCD 5 Year and Annual Plan top three priorities and goals.</i></p> <p><i>Having a state funding source for District's to assist Irrigation Districts dovetail other funding sources such as USDA - NRCS and Department of Water Resources would help make this project a reality.</i></p>	
Project/Program Timeline: <i>2015-17</i>	Priority: <i>1</i>
Resource Concern(s) Addressed: <i>Water Quality, Water Savings and Water Efficiency</i>	
Funding Sources (list all sources): <i>Planning stage no funds secured.</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
Notes: <i>Planning stage no funds secured.</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$100,000

PART 2: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Roseberry Irrigation District Diversion Structure Replacement	
<p>Description of Project/Program: Replacement of one of the larger Roseberry Irrigation District diversion structures that has deteriorated over the years. A new diversion structure would help ensure the viability of irrigation supplies to irrigators especially downstream from the diversion by saving water and improving water efficiency. Water measuring equipment would be installed to monitor delivery of irrigation water. This project is only in the planning stages until technical assistance and funding can be secured. Roseberry Irrigation would seek other funding sources such as USDA-NRCS.</p> <p>Project would help address Priority #3 of Valley SWCD 5 Year and Annual Plan priorities and goals.</p> <p>Having a state funding source for District's to assist Irrigation Districts dovetail other funding sources such as USDA - NRCS and Department of Water Resources would help replace an insufficient diversion structure.</p>	
Project/Program Timeline: 2015-17	Priority: 2
Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Savings and Water Efficiency	
Funding Sources (list all sources): <i>Planning stages until funds can be secured.</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes: Valley SWCD \$4800 request would be for approximately 40% of the project cost</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$4,800

PART 3: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Valley SWCD Educational Outreach	
<p>Description of Project/Program: District Outreach Program requests the opportunity to educate in a variety of ways by integrating watershed stewardship and education by incorporating a diverse group of participants and volunteers. The Valley SWCD would like to continue outreach and partnerships such as ones with McCall, Donnelly and Cascade teachers and students, Positive Outdoor Teen Service (POTS), Valley County including the Road and Weed Departments, City of Donnelly, City of Cascade, Valley County – U of I Extension Service, U of I – McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS), Homeowner Associations, Idaho Fish and Game volunteer crew, Trout Unlimited, Idaho Master Naturalists, the Payette Children’s Forest and landowners.</p> <p>Teachers in the Cascade and McCall-Donnelly School Districts do an outstanding job of utilizing our unique natural setting to teach students the principles of conservation. That’s especially true when it comes to water quality, the #1 priority of the Valley Soil and Water Conservation District. The funds will allow the schools to purchase materials to continue ongoing efforts like these: Cascade High School Advanced Biology students have planted native trees and shrubs along one-half mile of Boulder Creek riparian area, stabilizing stream banks and reducing sediment load. Cascade science students also help with plantings around Fischer Pond and a 100 foot strip along the Cascade walking path adjacent to North Fork Payette River. Fifth-grade students from Donnelly Elementary School get hands-on learning in science and ecology by participating in the Trout in the Classroom program. After observing trout eggs develop into fingerlings, students tag the fish, release them into Boulder Creek, and monitor their survival. In addition, students monitor water quality in Boulder Creek, an EPA-listed “impaired” stream, in the outdoor classroom on the east boundary of their school. The students presented their findings on water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, nutrients and macro invertebrates to the Donnelly City Council, turning this educational project into an excellent community outreach effort on local water quality and fish habitat. The fifth-graders, working with a stream restoration contractor, also helped restore the eroding bank of Boulder Creek that borders the Donnelly school.</p> <p>Other examples of outreach projects include that may not be considered the traditional methods of I&E:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds to the Valley County Weed Department for alternative bio control weed control methods. • U of I – McCall Outdoor Science School a Four Day Educational Natural Resources Workshop providing hands on and outdoor field activities for local 5th with an approximate \$2700 cost. • Providing plants and supplies for FIREWISE demonstration gardens. • Co sponsor Sustainable Agriculture workshop • McCall 4th grade bio control of knapweed comparison demo project • Co sponsor one Payette Children’s Summer hands on outdoor workshop @ \$500 cost 	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 2015</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality, Riparian, Forestry, Fish & Wildlife</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$2,500
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes: District has \$2500 of its General District funds but in order to integrate and reach a larger group request \$7500 for project examples as listed above.</i>	
DATE: April 24, 2014	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$7,500

2014 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2016 Budget Request

District: Weiser River Soil Conservation District

Address: 847 East 9th Street

Weiser, ID 83672

Phone: (208)549-4250

E-mail: vicki.lukehart@id.nacdnetnet

Contact: Vicki Lukehart, Office Manager for Weiser River Soil Conservation District

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Weiser River Stream Bank Stabilization	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Stabilize the stream bank on the Weiser River near the confluence of the Weiser River and the Little Weiser River.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: summer 2016-summer 2019</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: sediment</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal: Idaho DEQ 319 grant</i>	\$115,000.00
<i>State: Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>District: Weiser River SCD</i>	\$5,000.00
<i>Other: Landowner</i>	\$30,000.00
<i>Notes</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$200,000.00

Project/Program Title: City of Weiser Drinking Water Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Stabilize the Weiser River Banks across from the City of Weiser Drinking Water inlet valve to decrease the sediment bar near the inlet.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: summer 2016-summer 2018</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: sediment</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal: Idaho DEQ 319 & source water</i>	\$200,000.00
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District: Weiser River SCD</i>	\$5,000.00
<i>Other: City of Weiser</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$255,000.00

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Crane Creek Automated Head Gate</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Spring 2015-2016</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: sediment, nitrates and phosphorus</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal: 319 Grant</i>	\$95,000
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District: Weiser River SCD</i>	\$5,000.00
<i>Other: Weiser River Irrigation District</i>	\$5,000.00
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$105,000.00



**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Item # 5c

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, TREBESCH, AND SLICHTER
FROM: DELWYNE TREFZ, DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES
DATE: JUNE 4, 2014
RE: FY2015 DISTRICT CAPACITY BUILDING FUNDS REQUESTS

The Commission has \$50,000 available to disburse to districts as capacity building grants in FY2015.

In FY2014 a portion of the available capacity building funds were used to support regional programs. These included the State Forestry Contest, the North Central Idaho Grazing Conference, and the Agricultural Symposium. The Commission also allocated capacity building funds to make online Skill Soft Training available to all districts. The remaining funds were then divided equally amongst the 50 districts, resulting in each district receiving an \$875 capacity building grant.

Six districts intend to submit requests for FY2015 capacity building grants. As June 4, we have received letters of request from 3 districts. The remaining 3 districts have indicated they will submit their requests before the June 13th SWCC meeting so you will be provided copies of those letters at that time.

Requests for FY2014 & FY2015 capacity building grants and a funding scenario which will maintain district funding for FY2015 at \$875/district are shown in the following table. Beginning in FY2015 SWCC will no longer provide districts with access to Skill Soft training because we have been advised that the Commission is not authorized to expend Trustees & Benefit funds in that manner.

ALLOCATION OF \$50,000 DISTRICT CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT FUNDS				
PROGRAM	SPONSORING DISTRICT	FY2014 FUNDING GRANTED	FY2015 FUNDING REQUESTED	FY2015 PROGRAM FUNDING TO MAINTAIN FY2014 DISTRICT FUNDING
State Forestry Contest	Bonner SWCD	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,050.00
Grazing Conference	Idaho SWCD	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,050.00
Agricultural Symposium	Payette SWCD	\$1,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,050.00
Idaho Envirothon	Bear Lake SWCD		\$1,500.00	\$1,050.00
Grazing Lands Education	Adams SWCD		\$1,500.00	\$1,050.00
Soil Health Workshop	Lewis SCD		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Skill Soft Training	SWCC	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Program Funding		\$6,250.00	\$13,000.00	\$6,250.00
Balance Available for Districts		\$43,750.00	\$37,000.00	\$43,750.00
Capacity Building Grant Funds per District		\$875.00	\$740.00	\$875.00



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve recommendation to provide funding to regional programs and allocate the remaining capacity building funds equally to the 50 districts.

Attachments, funding requests for:

- Idaho State Forestry Contest from Bonner SWCD
- North Central Idaho Grazing Conference from Idaho SWCD
- Soil Health Workshop from Lewis SCD
- Agricultural Symposium from Payette SWCD
- Envirothon from Bear Lake SWCD

Copies of a letter requesting financial support for the Grazing Lands Education Program, a new partnership between Adams SWCD and the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission, will be provided at the June 13th meeting.

Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101 ~ Sandpoint, ID 83864
Phone 208-263-5310 ext 100 ~ Fax 208-263-0290 ~ Email Linda.OHare@id.nacdnet.net
Visit our website at www.bonnerswcd.org

April 11, 2014

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

Att: Teri Murrison

650 W. State St., Room #145

Boise, ID 83702

Re: \$1500 request for Idaho State Forestry Contest in 2015

Dear Teri and the Soil & Water Conservation Commission Board:

The Idaho State Forestry Contest is an educational outreach event co-sponsored by Bonner SWCD, IDL and US Forest Service. Students in grades 5-12 study the 10 different chapters in the FC Manual, often receive classroom help from forest professionals, and then compete at the 10 different stations on the 2nd Thursday of May at the Delay Farm in Careywood. Trophies and cash awards are given out. Local students in grades 1-4 also attend as Novices, and are instructed by Idaho Department of Lands and Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel in the forest of the Delay Farm.

Over 400 students and 200 volunteers receive a free barbeque lunch. Students learn from and interact at the contest with forest professionals. Funds are needed for postage, office supplies, Rite in the Rain paper, awards and prizes, equipment for the Contest, set up, lunch, and District Administrator time.

Thank you for this opportunity to request educational support for the Forestry Contest.

Sincerely,

Herman B. Collins

Herman B. Collins
Bonner SWCD Chairman

xc: Delwyne Trefz

IDAHO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Board of
Supervisors:**

Chairman
Leon Slichter

Vice Chairman
Tom Gehring

Secretary
Jim Paradiso

Treasurer
Adam Sonnen

Member
Elaine Sonnen

Associate
Bob Rylaarsdam
Mike Duclos
Pete Lane
Ed Stuivenga
Scott Wasem

District
Administrator
Stefanie Bowman

Conservation Planner
Jinny Cash

District
Conservationist:
Richard Spencer

February 19, 2014

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
% Teri Murrison
650 W. State Street, Room 145
Boise, Idaho 83720

Re: North Central Idaho Grazing Conference – Funding Request

The North Central Idaho Grazing Conference Committee would like to respectfully request a \$1,000 contribution towards the 2015 Annual Grazing Conference that will take place in Lewiston at the Lewis Clark State College Campus in January of 2015.

This will be the 11th Annual Grazing Conference and each year it is more successful than the previous. We had approximately 200 participants in January of 2014, including the vendors that set up tables or displays for participants to browse during the breaks. Everyone is welcome to attend and we have had new participants every year. We want to make information about good management practices available to producers in a proactive setting. This includes looking at past and present successes and failures as well as updates on current information. With continued expressed interest from producers and landowners and the continued success of the annual conference, we are being proactive and moving ahead in our planning for the 11th Annual Grazing Conference.

Our intentions are to seek a \$1,000 contribution from both the Idaho NRCS and the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission to support our efforts. Your past and continued support has been a wonderful help and are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Leon Slichter, Chairman
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

RECEIVED

MAR 03 2014

IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

LEWIS SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Eric Hasselstrom, Chairman
Greg Branson, Vice Chairman
John Miller, Secretary/Treasurer
Drew Leitch, Supervisor
Steve Bateman, Supervisor

March 3, 2014

RECEIVED
MAR 13 2014
IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
%Teri Murrison
650 W. State Street, Room 145
Boise, Id 83720

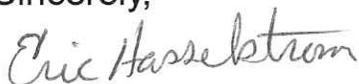
Re: Capacity Building Funding Request

The Lewis Soil Conservation District would like to respectfully ask you to consider allocating \$1000.00 of capacity building funds for Soil Health Workshops. This year Idaho SWCD and Clearwater SWCD help us host the Soil Health Workshop held in February, with approximately 120 people in attendance. This is the second year we hosted this workshop. Everyone is welcome to attend. We had guest speakers and demonstration to help producers understand the fundamentals of soil ecology.

Holding these workshops generates great interest how to improve soil health on the farm and ranch to benefit future generations.

Thanks you for your consideration in allocating funds to support this worthwhile event. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Eric Hasselstrom, Chairman

Lewis Soil Conservation District

June 4, 2014

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
650 W. State St., Room #145
Boise, ID 83702

Attention: Teri Morrison and ISWCC board

Re: Request for financial assistance for 6th Annual Agriculture Symposium in 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to request financial assistance for the Payette SWCD 6th Annual Agriculture Symposium scheduled for late winter 2015. The annual Payette SWCD symposium was created in 2010 by our district as an education and outreach program about soil biology, soil health and sustainable agricultural practices. This symposium is designed to qualify for Continuing Education Credits in soil and water conservation for the Northwest Regional Certified Crop Adviser Program.

The 2014 symposium theme was "Soil – Your Valuable Investment. This year's event featured speakers, films on soil health, and panels of local growers who discussed their experience with improving their soil health in the Treasure Valley. We partnered with the Western Treasure Valley Ag Show in part to control costs. For 2015, we plan to schedule our symposium as an independent event as in previous years.

Financial assistance from ISWCC of \$6,000 would aid our district to continue this popular and informative education and outreach program in 2015. Our program costs are approximately \$12,000 including conference facility rental, speaker fees, lunch, and administration.

We appreciate your consideration for financial assistance with our annual agriculture symposium.

Respectfully,

Jo Anne Smith
Chairman

5th Annual
SOIL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Payette Soil & Water
Conservation District**

Jo Anne Smith
George McClelland
Allen Schmid
Johna Gabiola

**Malheur County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

Linda Rowe

Canyon Soil Conservation District

Linda Phillips

Idaho NRCS

Mike Raymond

Oregon NRCS

Lynn Larson

*Thank you
for attending
our Soil Health
Symposium.*

Payette Soil & Water Conservation District
501 N. 16th St. Ste. 102
Payette, Idaho 83661
Ph: 208-642-4402 ext. 102
www.payetteswcd.org

Malheur County Soil & Water Conservation District
2925 SW 6th Ave. Ste. 2
Ontario, OR 97914
Ph: 541-889-9689 ext. 114

Canyon Soil Conservation District
2208 E. Chicago Ste. A
Caldwell, Idaho 83605
Ph: 208-454-8684 ext. 126

SOIL



YOUR VALUABLE INVESTMENT

*~Improving Your Crop
and Livestock Production
Through Soil Health Principles~*

**Friday, January 17, 2014
8:00am to 4:00pm**

**Four Rivers Cultural Center
676 SW 5th Ave., Ontario, OR**

Symposium Schedule

Soil Health in the PERFORMING ARTS THEATER

8:00 am - 8:15am Welcome & Introduction

8:15am - 9:15am - Films

“Voices of Soil Health”

“Soil Health: The Foundation for Food” - Dr. Jill Clapperton

9:30am - 10:30am - Presentation

How do I tell if my soil is Healthy?

Marlon Winger - Idaho NRCS

Mike Raymond - Idaho NRCS

10:45am - 11:45am - Presentation

Four Types of Organic Matter & Their Influence on Soil Biology

Dan Bowles - Pres. Nature’s Way, Inc.

12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch Hour

Visit and purchase lunch at the Ag Show



Strip-Till Planting near Wilder, ID

Grower Experiences in MEDICAL ARTS ROOM

1:00pm - 2:15pm

Grower Experiences Combining Cover Crops with Grazing

- Lynn Larsen, Oregon NRCS
- Keith & Doug Huettig, Magic Valley, ID
- Allen Schmid, Payette County, ID
- Aaron Ariola, Malheur County, OR
- Bill Gale, Canyon County, ID

2:30pm - 3:45pm

Grower Experiences with No-Till/Strip-Till

- Lynn Larsen, Oregon NRCS
- Jon Fabricius, Payette County, ID
- Brad McIntyre, Canyon County, ID
- Monty Heid, Malheur County, OR

Soil Health Films

at the MUSEUM THEATER

9:00am - 12:00pm Films

“Under Cover Farmers”

“The Big Picture” - Brendan Rockey

“How To Feed 9 Billion People”

- Gabe Brown

12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch Hour

Visit and purchase lunch at the Ag Show



1:00pm - 4:00pm Films

Vegetable Farmers and Their Sustainable Tillage Practices

Weed ‘Em and Reap

Part 1: Tools for Non-Chemical Weed Management in Vegetable Cropping Systems

Part 2: Reduced Tillage Strategies for Vegetable Cropping Systems

5th Annual **SOIL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM**

SOIL



YOUR VALUABLE INVESTMENT

~ Improving Your Crop and Livestock Production
Through Soil Health Principles ~

*Come Learn Soil Health Principles &
See What Local Producers are Doing to Build Soil Health!*

Symposium: Friday, January 17, 2014

8:00am to 4:30pm

(In conjunction with the 2014 Western Treasure Valley Ag Show)

**Four Rivers Cultural Center
676 SW 5th Ave., Ontario, OR**

Presented by
Payette Soil & Water Conservation District
Malheur County Soil & Water Conservation District
& Canyon Soil Conservation District

Learn more at: www.payetteswcd.org

Contact: Johna 208-642-4402 ext. 102 or email: Johna.Gabiola@id.nacdnet.net

*Certified Crop Advisor Continuing Education Credits



IDAHO ENVIROTHON

% Bear Lake Soil & Water Conservation District
785 North 4th Street, Suite B
Montpelier, Idaho 83254

May 29, 2014

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
C/O Teri Murrison
650 W. State Street, Room 145
Boise, Idaho 83702

Re: \$1500 request for assistance for the Idaho Envirothon Contest

Dear Soil & Water Conservation Commission Board,

The Idaho Envirothon Planning Committee would like to take the time to thank you for the support you gave to the 2014 contest. Your willingness to allow staff to attend and teach these students was very much appreciated—not to mention thanks to your board members who came and judged the final round of the contest.

For the 2014 contest we had 17 teams (85 students and 23 advisors) and 45 volunteers from many different agencies across the state of Idaho participated in our contest. Because of the size of our contest we are requesting a contribution from the Idaho Soil & Water Commission in the amount of \$1500. Every penny counts and goes to helping educate our students about the importance of conservation.

Many donations have been received and we appreciate all of them. Thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Garth Boehme". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Garth Boehme, Chairman



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

COMMISSION

Item # 5d

H. Norman Wright
Chairman

Roger Stutzman
Vice Chairman

Jerry Trebesch
Secretary

Dave Radford
Commissioner

Leon Slichter
Commissioner

Teri A. Murrison
Administrator

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS STUTZMAN, RADFORD, SLICHTER,
AND TREBESCH**
FROM: TERRY HOEBELHEINRICH, LOAN OFFICER
DATE: May 30, 2014
**RE: RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
UPDATE**

Since your last meeting, the following activities have conducted by staff:

Marketing (historical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RCRDP advertising is being purchased/renewed.• Ag Pavilion• Capital Press• Farm Bureau• Intermountain Farm & Ranch• Times News Sunday Ag Section• Northwest Farm & Ranch• \$23,419
Marketing (planned)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FY 2015 Marketing Plan and Budget (see attached)
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 loan inquiries have been received since the last update• No new loan applications
Delinquencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 delinquency, with details to be provided in Executive Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RCRDP Cash Report

ACTION: For Information Only

FY14 RCRDP - APRIL 2014		
	YEAR TO DATE	
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE at 03/31/2014	\$ 6,284,929.15	\$ 5,747,220.29
Increase of Funds		
	April 2014	Fiscal Year 2014
2515 - Interest Income:	\$ 1,715.13	\$ 13,870.49
2523 - Loan Interest:	\$ 14,908.88	\$ 146,989.57
2535 - Default Interest: (late fees)	\$ 307.79	\$ 3,093.91
Principal payments received	\$ 82,273.27	\$ 1,053,156.27
Suspense - payment not yet reported	\$ -	\$ 797.42
Expenditure Adjustment (rvs pcard charges)	\$ 650.00	\$ 49.32
Professional Services Refund	\$ -	\$ -
Payroll Expenditure Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -
Loan Refunds	\$ -	\$ 224.14
TOTAL INCREASES	99,855.07	1,218,181.12
ADJUSTED CASH BALANCE	\$ 6,384,784.22	
Decrease of Funds		
Personnel Costs	\$ (11,667.51)	\$ (121,360.59)
Operating Expense	\$ (2,373.94)	\$ (47,974.49)
P Card Payment	(\$650.00)	\$ (5,388.12)
Expenditure Not Encumbered	\$ (180.72)	\$ (2,322.60)
State Holdback		
Loan Disbursements	\$ -	\$ (417,652.00)
Capital Outlay	\$ -	
Suspense Cleared	\$ -	\$ (567.42)
Refund of Revenue	\$ -	\$ -
Refund from loan Payments	\$ -	\$ (224.14)
TOTAL DECREASES	(14,872.17)	(595,489.36)
ENDING CASH BALANCE at 04/30/2014	\$ 6,369,912.05	\$ 6,369,912.05
3% Minimum Contingency Reserve		\$ (112,304.70)
P Card Liability		\$ (1,142.34)
Funds Approved - Not Disbursed		\$ (432,037.40)
FUNDS AVAILABLE TO LOAN		\$ 5,824,427.61
Pending Approval		\$ -
Funds Available		\$ 5,824,427.61
LOAN STATUS REPORT: APRIL 2014		
Outstanding Principal Loan Balance		\$ 3,825,763.43
Disbursements		\$ -
Principal payments made		\$ (82,273.27)
Adjustments to STARS balance		\$ -
ADJUSTED PRINCIPAL LOAN BALANCE as of 03/31/2014		\$ 3,743,490.16
Previous report number of active loans	101	
New Loans	0	
Loans Paid Off	-1	
Current Month number of active loans	100	
Past Due Accounts	2	



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 5e

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS STUTZMAN, RADFORD, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH
FROM: TERRY HOEBELHEINRICH, LOAN OFFICER
DATE: May 30, 2014
RE: RCRDP MARKETING PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Outreach To Partners Districts and NRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,000 Budget • District Meetings • Division Meetings (12) • IASCD Annual Conference (1) • SCD newsletters • RCRDP brochures in NRCS offices
Print Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$23,000 budget • Distribute brochure (NRCS, Districts, Trade Shows, Commodity Groups) • Capital Press (weekly) • Farm Bureau(monthly) • Intermountain Farm & Ranch (weekly) • Times News Sunday Ag (13 weeks) • Northwest Farm & Ranch (3 quarterlies)
Electronic Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWCC Website, Newsletters, Facebook, Twitter
Conferences & Trade Shows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4,600 Budget • 6-8 Shows including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ag Pavilion (Boise & Twin Falls) ○ Idaho Irrigation Equipment Show & Conference (Idaho Falls) ○ North Idaho Grazing Conference (Lewiston) ○ Agri-Action (Twin Falls) ○ South Idaho Direct Seed Conference (Idaho Falls) ○ Idaho Family Forest Landowners & Mgrs Conference (Moscow) ○ UI Ag Extension (tbd)
Interest Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5%; 7 Years • 3%; 8 To 12 Years • 3.5%; 13 to 15 Years

ACTION: For information only