



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING & AGENDA Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission June 11, 2015, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. MT

*Len B. Jordan Bldg., 650 W. State, Boise
Rm B09 (across from the Galley)*

TELECONFERENCE # 1-877-820-7831 Passcode: 922837

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 <i>Typically include NRCS, IASCD, IDEA, Dept. of Admin, Attorney General, DFM, OSC, etc.</i>	Partners
	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 14, 2015 ACTION: Approve	Chairman Wright

(*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Thurs. June 11, 2015 Reg. Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice::June 4, 2015

*	b.	Financial Report (will be presented at meeting) 1. May 31, 2015 ACTION: Approve	Murrison
#	c.	Administrator's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Proposed Photo Monitoring Partnership with Department of Agriculture • Tentative FY 2016 Meeting Schedule ACTION: For information only	Murrison
*#	d.	FY 2016-2019 Strategic Plan (not attached to electronic copy) ACTION: Approve	Murrison
*#	e.	Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (not attached to electronic copy) ACTION: Approve	Murrison
*#	f.	Appointment of Administrator in FY 2016 and Delegation of Powers and Duties ACTION: Appoint Teri Murrison as Commission Administrator in FY 2016 and Authorize Chairman to Sign FY 2016 Appointment of Administrator Form	Chairman Wright
*	g.	Elect Commission Officers to serve beginning July 1, 2015 1. Chairman 2. Vice-Chairman 3. Secretary ACTION: Elect FY 2016 Officers	Board Clerk / Chairman Wright
	5.	PROGRAMS	
#	a.	District Technical Assistance Awards ACTION: For information only	Trefz
*#	b.	District Budget Hearing and Unmet Program/Project Need ACTION: Accept Report	Trefz
*#	c.	District Capacity Building Fund Requests ACTION: Approve	Trefz
	d.	Review of TMDL Process ACTION: For information only	Trefz
#	e.	RANGELAND CONSERVATION & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCRDP Marketing Plans ACTION: For information only	Murrison
	6.	OTHER BUSINESS	
	a.	Reports ACTION: For information only	Commissioners, Staff
	8.	ADJOURN.	
	a.	ADJOURNMENT The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2015 in Boise.	

(*) Action Item

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Thurs. June 11, 2015 Reg. Meeting Agenda

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Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 W. State St., Room 145 • Boise Idaho 83720
Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING & TELECONFERENCE

Date and Time:

Thursday, May 14, 2015
8:00 am – 1:00 pm MST

Location:

Len B. Jordan Building
650 W State St, Rm B09
Boise, Idaho

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Norman Wright (Chair) Jerry Trebesch (Secretary)
Roger Stutzman (Vice-Chair) Leon Slichter

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

David Radford

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

1 Terry Hoebelheinrich Carolyn Watts
2

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

3 Teri Murrison
4
5

PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

6 Kristina Fugate, Office of the Attorney General
7 Robin Finch, Department of Administration
8 Art Beal, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
9 Ray Houston, Legislative Services Office
10
11

ITEM #1: WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

12
13 Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.
14 Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Leon Slichter, Roger Stutzman and Jerry
15 Trebesch were present.
16
17

ITEM #2: AGENDA REVIEW

18 Action: None taken
19
20

21 **ITEM #3: PARTNER REPORTS**

22 Action: None taken

23

24 **ITEM #4a: MINUTES**

25 Action: Commissioner Stutzman moved to approve the April 2015 minutes with the correction
26 that Art Beal represented IASCD, not IDEA. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion.

27 Motion carried by unanimous vote.

28

29 **ITEM #4b: FINANCIAL REPORTS**

30 Action: Commissioner Trebesch moved to approve the April 2015 financial report as submitted.
31 Commissioner Slichter seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

32

33 Commissioner Radford joined the meeting via teleconference at 8:27 am.

34 **ITEM #4c: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- 35
- 36 • Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan Update
 - 37 • In-House Fiscal Transition Progress
 - 37 • Activities

38 Action: None taken

39

40 **ITEM #4c: DRAFT 2016-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN**

41 Action: None taken

42

43 **ITEM #5a: DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES**

- 44
- 44 • Distribution of Annual District Survey

45 Action: None taken.

46

47 **ITEM #5b: DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES**

- 48
- 48 • Total Maximum Daily Load Update

49 Action: None taken.

50

51 **ITEM #5c: RESOURCE CONSERVATION & RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

- 52
- 52 • Program Activities and Loan Fund Financial Reports

53 Action: None taken.

54

55 **ITEM #6a: OTHER BUSINESS**

- 56
- 56 • Commissioner Wright, Envirothon Report

57 Action: None taken.

58

59 **ITEM #7: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

60 Action: Commissioner Slichter moved to recess to Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §
61 67-2345(d), for the purpose of reviewing Loan Applications. Commissioner Trebesch seconded
62 the motion.

63 Commissioner Roger Stutzman recused himself from consideration of Loan application #A-693
64 (see attached statement).

65 Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Leon Slichter, Roger Stutzman, Dave Radford
66 (via teleconference), and Jerry Trebesch voted to convene in Executive Session.

67

68 Executive Session commenced at 9:50. Teri Murrison was present via teleconference, and Terry
69 Hoebelheinrich, Carolyn Watts, and Kristina Fugate were present during Executive Session.

70

71 Following discussion of loan application A-693, Commissioner Stutzman rejoined the Executive
72 Session. Loan applications A-694 and A-695 were considered. Executive Session ended at 11:05
73 a.m. and a brief break was taken.

74

75 Commissioners reconvened in Open Session at 11:10 a.m. Administrator Murrison stated that
76 due to a mistake on the agenda, Item 7's recommended action was for "information only" but
77 should be amended to indicate "for discussion and possible action".

78 Commissioner Slichter moved that the agenda be amended because the recommended action
79 originally posted mistakenly read "for information only" instead of "for discussion and possible
80 action". Commissioner Stutzman seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

81

82 Loan A-693

83 Commissioner Radford moved to table further discussion on this loan until the next meeting.
84 Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Commissioners Slichter and Trebesch voted in
85 favor, Commissioner Stutzman abstained.

86

87 Loan A-694

88 Commissioner Trebesch moved that Loan #A-694 be approved. Commissioner Stutzman
89 seconded the motion. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

90

91 Loan A-695

92 Commissioner Radford moved that Loan #A-695 be approved contingent upon the loan officer
93 obtaining additional clarifying information from the applicant. Commissioner Stutzman
94 seconded. Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

95 **ITEM #8: ADJOURN:**

96 The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. If several pending loan applications are finalized there
97 may be a special meeting held (via teleconference) before the next regularly scheduled meeting
98 on Thursday, June 11, 2015, in Boise.

99

100 Respectfully submitted,

101

102

103

104 Jerry Trebesch, Secretary

From: Roger Stutzman [mailto:mrstutz@filertel.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 10:21 PM
To: Teri Murrison
Subject: RCRDP Loan

ISWCC,

My niece has applied for an RCRDP loan. Pursuant to Idaho Code section 59-704, I have been advised by Deputy Attorney General Harriet Hensley that there may be a conflict of interest with respect to the Commission's review of the application. I therefore recuse myself from all deliberations related to the loan application.

Roger Stutzman

Sent from my iPhone



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item #4c

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: JUNE 3, 2015
RE: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

ACTIVITIES

As you know, I was out of the office for several weeks in May due to an accident. Despite that, things have continued to function well thanks to our exceptional staff.

As is typically the case in May, we've been making budgetary projections, taking care of planned expenditures, reviewing applications for hiring a finance specialist, and getting up to speed on what we'll need to know and do after our contract with the Department of Administration is terminated (July 1). We've also been working on the details of the upcoming Conservation Summit and Tour.

I attended the NASCA Spring Board Retreat in late May. The opportunity to talk with other commission administrators from around the nation was invaluable: I gained new insight, ideas, and learned that partnership relations and federal and state program implementation varies widely. For example, in Louisiana, NRCS hires people and put them to work in districts to do contracting so that NRCS district conservationists are freed up to do on the ground conservation. The RCPP program looks different from state to state too. Some states accepted applications for technical assistance only, while others accepted applications for financial assistance only. One state reported that there under the EQIP program, in order to receive cost share funding applicants must first implement all practices in a conservation plan – whether NRCS is funding all the practices or some/one of them. One of the chief benefits to Idaho's belonging to NASCA is the information exchange. Another is that when there's a policy issue here, NASCA is very proactive in addressing it.

Besides NASCA fiscal and operational business, other topics discussed extensively were:

- NASCA Regional Reports (see the attached Pacific Region Report).
- An RCPP Task Force update. Members (traditional partners) met at the NACD meeting in February to review funded projects and prepared recommendations to NRCS in April. NASCA board members who were awarded RCPP projects discussed their experience to date in contracting and implementation.
- Expanding outreach to new potential partners to increase resources to districts and further voluntary conservation. Board members prioritized outreach to potential partners and directed staff to attempt to work more closely with them. They included (in no particular order): the American Society of Agronomy, Farm Bureau, National Watershed Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, The National Grazing Lands Coalition, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and a few others.
- The Annual Meeting will be held Sept. 28-30 in Corpus Christi, TX.
- The National Conservation Planning Initiative/National Partnership for Conservation Planning. Mike Brown, executive director of NASCA, is co-chairing this initiative with Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist for NRCS. The objectives are to reinvigorate conservation planning, improve the capacity of NRCS and partners to deliver conservation planning assistance, and



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ensure science-based assistance. NASCA assigned representatives to teams including: Partnerships and Leveraging, Communications and Messaging, Technical Processes, Tools, and Integration Action, Training, and Performance, Outcomes, and Accountability Action.

- Proposed deliverables for NRCS's 2015 Contribution Agreement with NASCA. NASCA receives \$60,000 annually from NRCS to assist networking and the exchange of information among state conservation agencies, conduct an inventory at the state level to encourage private capital investment into soil and water conservation, and providing training and technology transfer to agencies.
- State engagement in NASCA – There is still a handful of states which for various reasons aren't engaged. I will be attempting to engage Hawaii and Alaska, both of which are non-participatory at this time.
- The nominating committee presented recommendations for the 2016 slate of officers.
- The NASCA policy committee reported on their work to encourage the inclusion of more urban practices to the Field Office Technical Guide (NRCS). Rain gardens and pervious pavement are the initial focus for inclusion. Also discussed was conditional federal funding, for example EPA required (in Washington) that funding can only be disbursed if riparian buffers are first put into place. Finally, the recent storms in Oklahoma and Texas highlighted the importance of watershed repair funding. Apparently states that have a large number of NRCS dams that were installed are now experiencing difficulty maintaining them (Idaho has just 3 vs. Oklahoma's 2,108).
- Envirothon – Funding is secure for the national Envirothon for the next three years. Smithfield Foods has been approached to be a sponsor, but an answer has yet to be received. Apparently the National Conservation Foundation is in the process of identifying other potential sponsors.
- Board members reviewed the updates to the 2013-2018 NASCA Strategic Plan and 2016 Work Plan. These documents will be presented for adoption at the Annual Meeting in Corpus Christy.
- Topics for NASCA's Webnair Series were identified including Innovative Funding Strategies, District-Restructuring, De-listing 303-D Streams, State Engineering Components, How 319 is Used, and How to Word Contribution Agreements.

Prior to attending the NASCA meeting, Mike Brown, President Shana Joy, and I met with Amos Eno, executive director for Resources First Foundation and Private Landowner Network (see attached Fact Sheet, 2014 Annual Report, and resume). Amos has agreed to be the keynote speaker at our July 24 Conservation Summit. He will talk about the need to keep working lands working, and the launch of his online Idaho Conservation Center – a resource website for private landowner conservation. He has also been engaged to speak at the NASCA 2015 Annual Conference.

PROPOSED PHOTO MONITORING PARTNERSHIP WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) recently signed an MOU with the Idaho Bureau of Land Management (BLM) allowing ISDA to assist with and validate annual permittee photo monitoring on public lands allotments (see attached announcement and MOU). ISDA is interested in developing a cooperative relationship with the Commission and local conservation districts to conduct the photo monitoring/ train permittees to do their own monitoring.

Federal lands permittees are required to annually photo-document the condition of their rangeland under the BLM Rangeland Health Assessment Evaluation and Determination Process. BLM's monitoring



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protocols are followed and photos will be annually submitted to local BLM field offices and ISDA. The MOU covers permittee monitoring at existing BLM trend sites, establishment of new photo monitoring sites, and inclusion of permittee-established photo monitoring sites that are consistent with the processes identified in the MOU.

The program is designed to fill in range condition data gaps over time, utilizes a scientifically credible protocol consistent with BLM regulations and policy, and will provide assistance to permittees to start and maintain photo monitoring throughout the life of the project.

Current requests for ISDA assistance total 184 sites on 377,527 acres under the jurisdiction of the Jarbridge, Burley, and Owyhee field offices, and there quite a few more interested permittees still in the discussion phase. Further, there is a prospect of the US Forest Service agreeing to a similar MOU which would significantly increase the workload.

ISDA will flesh out the program and request funding next legislative session. We will work with ISDA to determine what the Commission and districts need (in terms of resources) to assist them.

TENTATIVE FY 2016 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

The following are tentative dates for your Regular Meetings in FY 2016. Meetings can be rescheduled if necessary.

July 20-24, Conservation Summit (joint mtg. July 24, Boise) & Tour
August 17, 8 am, Capitol Building, Boise
September 25, 8 am, Capitol Building, Boise
October, Division meetings, none scheduled
November 18, Riverside Inn, Boise
December, none scheduled
January, date tba to coincide with JFAC presentation, Boise
February 15 to coincide with Ag Summit, Boise
March, Division meetings, none scheduled
April 21, 8:00 am, Room tba, Boise
May 19, 8:00 am, Capitol Building, Boise
June 9, 8:00 am, Capitol Building, Boise

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For information only

Encl.

- NASCA Pacific Region Report
- Resources First Foundation: Fact Sheet, 2014 Annual Report, and Amos Eno Resume
- BLM/ISDA Announcement re Monitoring Rangeland Health
- BLM/ISDA MOU re Monitoring Rangeland Health

NASCA Pacific Region Report
May 2015

California

1. Issues

- Drought

2. Opportunities

- Ag Stewardship funding initiative approved by voters

3. Challenges

- Budgetary

4. Accomplishments

- Established a Sustainable Ag Land Conservation Program
 - \$20 to 40 million annual program, funded with Greenhouse gas reduction revenues (cap and trade), comprised of the following components:
 1. Planning to better protect the best crop and grazing lands
 2. Strategic Ag conservation easements
 3. Financial incentives for applying conservation practices that provide greenhouse gas and other "co-benefits"
 - Bi-state Sage Grouse listing not warranted due to voluntary conservation efforts

Idaho

1. Issues

- Pending drought
- Possible sage grouse listing
- Wildfire
- Resources Aging of conservation partnership - engaging next gen
- Federal regulation expansion (WOTUS, etc.)/ decision maker failure to support voluntary conservation as an alternative to regulation

*New State Con - Curtis Elke (SO)
ID Conserv Summit
July 20-24*

2. Opportunities

- Idaho Conservation Summit – July. Tour with EPA, Pacific Region+ states
- Engage new partners (i.e. RFF)
- Working with variety of partners on sage grouse voluntary conservation to avoid listing

3. Challenges

4. Partnership capacity (districts/ISWCC/NRCS, and partners)

- Staffing
- Implementation \$\$

5. Accomplishments

- Increased appropriations for districts/Commission in FY 2016
- Updating Idaho's Ag Pollution Abatement Plan w/19 stakeholders
- Whiskey Creek/Bear River Project, Tour, Stage Two of Thiess International River Prize Competition

Oregon

1. Issues

- District capacity
 - 40% (18 of 45) have 1 - 3 employees.

2. Opportunities

- Partnership expansion (watershed councils, federal, state, and nonprofit organizations)
 - Oregon already has a strong foundation of partners working well together. A trend among all levels of funders seems to be for even more partnering.

3. Challenges

- Workload - not enough staff &/or funding - continues to be a challenge, ODA is hopeful that the legislative proposals for additional funding and staffing will be approved for the 2015-2017 biennium.

4. Accomplishments

- Implementing programmatic changes in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's water quality program to enhance agricultural water quality compliance and enforcement based on a prioritization method.

Washington

1. Issues

- Drought

- Not as bad as California, but bad for us. Governor Friday extended our some area drought declaration to the entire state. Stream flows already at record lows in some areas and virtually all snowpack used for water in summer is gone.

2. Opportunities

- RCPP. We did manage to get five of them and the most money, but not without issues which have been communicated to NACD and the committee working them. Hopefully this will result in future improvements. Should be an ongoing discussion as we implement.

3. Challenges

- Dairy litigation. Mike is aware of the RCRA connection to the Dairies in Yakima. Those dairies did settle the lawsuit last week, however the terms may well cause standards to be much greater than really needed. The key point here is that none of the Dairies sued used any NRCS funding in their lagoons and so were not done to their standards initially...

4. Accomplishments

- Hired NASCA President, Shana Joy! No state budget as of this writing...more than halfway through the 1st special session. Our funding is pretty identical in all three budgets so if it stays we will be fine...just need to get it done.

5. Request Can NASCA take on a project to help clarify NRCS use of EWP?

Montana (in Northern Plains Region)

1. Issues & Challenges

- Drought
- Wildfire
- Sage Grouse listing

2. Opportunities

- Collaboration with all stakeholders on above issues & concerns.

3. Accomplishments

- Montana Greater Sage Grouse Stewardship Act signed by Governor Bullock May 8th, 2015. Appropriated \$10 million to sage grouse habitat mitigation of threats through the Montana Sage Grouse Stewardship Fund.
- Sage Grouse program to be administered by the Office of the Governor (coordinate with federal agencies with dedicated funding and/or resources to improve sage grouse habitat in Montana).

New state con?

FIFTEEN YEARS OF CONSERVATION

Resources First Foundation: 2000 to 2015

Celebrating 15 years of service and growth!

- ✓ Resources First Foundation's Private Landowner Network has more than 35,000 conservation resources.
- ✓ Six state Conservation Center websites, a Conservation Tax Center, and a Conservation Habitat Management Portal which engages landowners in habitat management for declining or threatened species.
- ✓ We are currently building three more conservation center websites: Idaho, Virginia, and Texas.
- ✓ Monthly E-news to landowners and land professionals.
- ✓ Monthly conservation blog - *Keep Working Lands Working*.
- ✓ More than 7 million page views annually to our website.
- ✓ Serving a million individuals annually in the U.S.
- ✓ Providing landowners with actionable conservation tools for 15 years!

"Resources First Foundation's Private Landowner Network (PLN) is an invaluable resource. I've relied on it as a ranch manager, a planning commissioner, and to support collaborative conservation among private landowners. There's a great deal more to managing land sustainably than many people realize, and the PLN is a go-to source for the many different types of necessary information."

Lesli Allison
Executive Director
Western Landowner's Alliance



RESOURCES FIRST FOUNDATION
Connecting People to Conservation

AMOS STEWART ENO

Employment

Jan. 2000 - Present: Resources First Foundation, Yarmouth, Maine
President/ Executive Director

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Builder of the internet portal www.privatelandownernetwork.org;
- ✓ Builder of White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation website: www.cooperativeconservationamerica.org;
- ✓ Builder of the web-based USDA NRCS Energy Consumption Awareness Tools (eCat): www.privatelandownernetwork.org/toolbox;
- ✓ Builder of Katrina Reforestation Outreach Program website: www.katrinareforestation.org;
- ✓ Builder of the Conservation Tax Center: www.conservationtaxcenter.org;
- ✓ Builder of Maine State Conservation Center: www.stateconservation.org/Maine;
- ✓ Builder of the Houston Intra-Met: www.houstonintramet.org;
- ✓ Builder of the California Conservation Center: www.stateconservation.org/CCC;
- ✓ Builder of the Arkansas State Conservation Center www.stateconservation.org/ascc
- ✓ Builder of Mississippi State Conservation Center: <http://stateconservation.org/miss/>
- ✓ Builder of Louisiana Conservation Connection: www.stateconservation.org/louisiana
- ✓ builder of Conservation Habitat Management Portal: www.conservationhabitat.org
- ✓ Interactive database for the American Chestnut Foundation's tree breeding program.
- ✓ Supporting Community based and wildlife restoration projects across southern tier countries of Africa with the Wilderness Trust;
- ✓ Supporting purchase of interceptory salmon fisheries with the North Atlantic Salmon Fund, Iceland;
- ✓ Supporting conservation and education projects on Bequia, St. Vincent, West Indies

Dec. 2000 - Present: Resources First Group, Yarmouth, Maine

A consulting firm specializing in private sector solutions for the environment

Clients Include: OSD, Secretary of Defense (2000-2008, reporting to U/S Infrastructure and Environment), The Nature Conservancy (2000-2002), Island Conservation (CA, 2006), Resources Legacy Fund (CA, 2006-2013) on tax conservation tax policy.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Consultant to Permian Basin Petroleum Association (PMBA), Ben Shepperd, President, January-March, 2014; on endangered species issues and federal agency liaison;
- ✓ Consultant to International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), David Barron, President, October 2011 to October 2012; on international program development and organizational management;
- ✓ Consultant to Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Raymond DuBois and successors (2000-2008) to address infrastructure, buffer and environmental, contaminant issues, and emerging contaminant/pollution issues;
- ✓ Worked with Senate Finance Committee and House and Ways Committee (2000-2011) on Pension Bill (H.R.4) to expand tax incentives for conservation easement donations, most recently Gerlach-Thompson bill (H.R.1964)
- ✓ Drafted S.1731, *Suburban and Community Forestry and Open Space Initiative Act of 2001*, for Senator Susan Collins. Passed the Senate twice in 2002;
- ✓ Secured over \$80 million of FY 2002 Congressionally appropriated funds for The Nature Conservancy from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Forest Legacy accounts;
- ✓ Developed contract with Secretary of Natural Resources, State of Louisiana, Jack Caldwell, to establish a public-private partnership to conserve coastal wetlands through a new foundation managing billions of dollars. Shell awards \$3,000,000 grant for coastal Louisiana restoration, Exxon awards \$1,000,000;
- ✓ Secured six million dollars of the \$28 million project goal for a 763,000 acre conservation easement for the New England Forestry Foundation's Pingree Forest Partnership in Maine (including a direct Congressional appropriation, a NAWCA grant, NRDA fine monies, and private contributions);
- ✓ Secured \$20 million of FY 2001 Congressionally appropriated funds for The Nature Conservancy's purchase of Palmyra Atoll and California projects;

- ✓ Prepared comprehensive review of the political landscape for federal funding of northern forest projects for the Open Space Institute (OSI); and
- ✓ Raised over \$500,000 to secure acquisition of Bliss Woods in South Freeport, Maine, for the New England Forestry Foundation.
- ✓ Raised venture capital for private offerings of Bait Co, LLC, Hydrophilix, LLC, LightStream, LLC and Common Census, LLC.

May 2002-Nov. 2005: New England Forestry Foundation, Littleton, Massachusetts and Yarmouth, Maine
Executive Director.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Completed second largest forest conservation project in the United States, the Downeast Lakes Forest Partnership (approx. 342,000 acres);
- ✓ Created community forest initiative to utilize forest parcels in suburbia as open space alternatives to sprawling development and as educational platforms for local schools;
- ✓ Platformed the Private Landowner Network at NEFF to provide estate planning and legal conservation services to private landowners throughout New England;

1986 - 1999: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, DC. A private, non-profit 501(C)(3) foundation established by Congress in 1984 to protect and restore the Nation's fish, wildlife, and plant resources.

July 1991 - December 1999: Executive Director

November 1986 - July 1991: Director of Conservation Programs, Acting Executive Director

Responsibilities:

Directed staff of 64 and multi-faceted programs of the Foundation with annual budget of over \$200 million, allocating approximately 550 grants per annum to support the programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA), Bureau of Reclamation (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), FS and NRCS (USDA), USAID, Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers (DOD), and other federal and state (California, Louisiana, Maine) natural resource agencies and to conserve fish, wildlife and plants throughout the United States, as well as Canada, Latin America, Caribbean Basin, and Russia. Represented the Foundation to Congress and the Executive Branch, including over twelve federal agencies with which the Foundation has programs and all 50 states. Supervised the annual publication of the *Federal Needs Assessments* and the Foundation's initiatives on: Neotropical Migratory Birds, Marine and Inland Fisheries, Dam Removal (Edwards Dam, Kennebec River, Maine and Neuse River, North Carolina), Pulling Together

(control of exotic weeds), and Pollinators. Responsible for annual fundraising of \$20-40 million to match federally appropriated funds, and for raising \$6 million annually to support general operations.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ In 1999 reoriented Foundation's thematic grant-making to a Regional Partnership office delivery system composed of 8 Regional Partnership offices and three priority grant portfolios:
 - Private Land,
 - Sustainable Communities, and
 - Education.

- ✓ Developed two Three Year Plans to focus Foundation programs and guide growth of major initiatives.

- ✓ Developed the Federal Needs Assessment project, involving the annual publication of a line-item by line-item analysis of the budgets, programs, and policies of the major U.S. natural resource agencies including: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the natural resource programs of the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and selected programs of the Department of Agriculture. This multi-volume, thousand-plus page publication was inspired by House and Senate Interior Appropriations staff who continued to request the Assessments annually. These documents are also used by OMB and the subject federal agencies to plan their budgets and conduct program audits. Published on April 1 each year for 12 years, the Assessments were also available to the conservation community, press and media, and educational institutions. NMFS' 1991 strategic plan was based on the Foundation's 1990 Assessment of that agency.

- ✓ Developed the Foundation's Marine Fisheries Initiative as an outgrowth of the 1990 NMFS Assessment to provide grants to restore the 78 declining marine fisheries in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Hosted the marine fisheries colloquia for other national foundations interested in investing in marine fisheries projects.

- ✓ Developed the Foundation's Neotropical Migratory Bird Initiative and established the Partners In Flight/Aves de las Americas partnership between the Foundation, 14 participating federal agencies, numerous state and non-governmental agencies, and the forest products industry to stabilize and recover populations of Neotropical songbirds. "Partners" established an interagency, public/private framework to coordinate all conservation management, research, monitoring, education and information programs relating to songbirds in North America breeding grounds and Latin American and Caribbean non-breeding grounds. The Foundation awarded over 500 grants totaling \$45 million during my tenure starting with the program's inception in July 1990.

- ✓ Developed the Foundation's Leadership Training Program for the FWS' senior management and the U.S. Forest Service's leadership training program curricula at selected universities. The program was developed to provide leadership skills in management, budget, marketing, enhanced interpersonal skills, Congressional and federal agency affairs, conflict resolution, and public outreach for a labor force trained primarily in biological sciences. With Whitney Tilt, designed and supervised for initial three years the curriculum of the FWS' Upper Management Development and Training Program. This program was underwritten by the Pew Foundation and led to the establishment by Congress and the Department of the Interior of the FWS' National Fish and Wildlife Training Center at Shepardstown, West Virginia.
- ✓ Financed removal of 3 main stem river dams: Edwards Dam, Kennebec River, Maine; Smelthill Dam, Presumpscot River, Maine; Quaker Neck Dam, Neuse River, North Carolina.
- ✓ Assisted drafting the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (1990) (P.L. 101-233) based on the Foundation's successful three year initiative and \$40 million grant stream to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
- ✓ Instrumental in designing all Foundation programs and grant awards from 1986 to 1999, during which time the Foundation grew from less than \$500,000 to an annual budget in excess of \$200 million.
- ✓ Created and developed the Save The Tiger Fund, a special project of the Foundation launched in partnership with the Exxon Corporation. In the four years since its launch, the Fund has invested over \$6.8 million in 103 tiger conservation projects. The Fund is recognized as both a first rate conservation program and as an innovative example of the efficacy of corporate investment in endangered species protection and enhancement efforts.
- ✓ Established Gulf of Mexico Program with Shell Corporation to restore marine and estuarine habitats within the Gulf of Mexico. In two years 41 grants awarded for a total of \$5,412,927.
- ✓ Initiated an endowment for the Foundation that grew to nine million dollars without a Foundation membership or direct mail.

1981 - 1986 National Audubon Society, Washington, DC

Audubon, founded in 1905, is one of the largest conservation organizations in the country with more than a half a million members, 500 chapters, 10 regional offices, and a staff of 300.

July 1982 - October 1986: Director, Wildlife Programs

September 1981 - July 1982: Assistant Director, Department of Wildlife Affairs

Responsibilities:

Develop all public policy positions for the Society on wildlife and natural resource issues and represent the Society to Congress and the Executive Branch. Supervised a staff of six, including an attorney, resource specialists and interns. Creator and Project Director for the *Audubon Wildlife Report*, an annual book series cataloging the history and present scope of federal natural resource programs and including accounts of wildlife species of public interest.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Created and raised all funds (\$200,000 annually) to sustain the *Wildlife Report* series for three years. Supervised publication and edited the 1985, 1986, and 1987 volumes which highlighted the programs of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management, respectively.
- ✓ Negotiated, with the Department of Interior, and drafted landmark conservation legislation (P.L. 99-294) to reformulate the Garrison Diversion Project of North Dakota, widely regarded as the Nation's most environmentally destructive water diversion project.
- ✓ Worked with the Department of Interior to establish the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (1982) and served for four years as the chief non-governmental representative at IGBC meetings. The IGBC directed all recovery programs for the grizzly bear and achieved recovery of the Yellowstone population in the ensuing decade.
- ✓ Established (1983) Audubon's Grizzly Reward Programs to support federal and state law enforcement efforts on behalf of the threatened grizzly bear.
- ✓ Successfully lobbied for the establishment of (1989) and funding (\$3.5 million construction; \$1.9 million annual operating) for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon. The only one of the nation's 360 forensic laboratories devoted solely to the conservation of fish and wildlife, the Forensic Lab is a state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind facility of world renown.
- ✓ Negotiated with State of Texas and Department of Interior (DOI) to establish Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and drafted legislation (P.L. 98-66) August 4, 1983 (97 Stat 368) to ratify the Exchange Agreements between Texas and DOI. The legislation established a 55,000 acre refuge on this barrier island.
- ✓ Lobbied for the establishment of and funding for Buenos Aires NWR in southern Arizona (1986). Buenos Aires is a 120,000 acre refuge established primarily to support recovery of

the endangered masked bobwhite quail in historical habitat.

- ✓ Successfully lobbied for the 1982 amendments to the Endangered Species Act to codify the biological criteria for listing of endangered species and to provide for habitat conservation plans.
- ✓ Co-authored, with Whitney Tilt and Ruth Norris, the book *Wolf Recovery in the Northern Rockies*, which has become the standard reference and lexicon for subsequent wolf recovery efforts.
- ✓ Served as the principal consultant to the new *National Audubon/WTBS* Superstation wildlife specials. Involvement included editing all scripts, screening cuttings and advising on production of the first two years' production of 8 TV specials.
- ✓ Created and supervised Audubon's Adopt-A-Refuge program to provide constituent support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge system.
- ✓ Annually submitted testimony before House and Senate Interior Appropriations Committee in support of federal fish, wildlife, and natural resource programs.
- ✓ Raised funds to sustain Audubon's wildlife program office in Washington.

1978 - 1981 Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Office of Endangered Species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the federal government's lead agency for conserving and managing the nation's fish and wildlife resources. It manages over 90 million acres within the National Wildlife Refuge System and is the principal federal agency for conserving plant and animal species threatened with extinction.

July 1978 - August 1981: Special Assistant to Chief and Program Analyst

Responsibilities:

Coordinated the systematic identification, definition, analysis, prioritization and cataloging of all information needs and study proposals relating to Endangered and Threatened Species. Served as principal liaison between the Office of Endangered Species and all other organizations involved in information management, and research on listed or candidate species. As assistant to the Chief, performed special assignments, such as establishment of the California condor recovery program.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Implemented the endangered species priority system to guide allocation of funds for federal listing and recovery programs.
- ✓ Supervised multi-million dollar grant program for listing, recovery and research projects for endangered species. Approved between 50 and 100 proposals per year for three years.

- ✓ Established the California condor recovery field program and the captive breeding facilities at the San Diego and Los Angeles zoos.
- ✓ Provided overall program and budget supervision for the Endangered Species program and established management oversight of endangered species research for the first time.

January 1974 - July 1976: Staff Assistant to Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC

Responsibilities:

Coordination of Assistant Secretary's office and travel schedule. Attended all Assistant Secretary's meetings with three bureaus under his supervision: National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Responsible for coordinating all policy and personnel actions. Reviewed all speeches and drafted many. Held personal responsibility for the following policy areas and programs: (1) migratory birds; (2) endangered species, (3) toxic substances; (4) National Wildlife Refuges; (5) National Park Service science program; (6) American Land Trust. Served as liaison to most conservation and environmental organizations and other non-governmental organizations.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ drafted many of Assistant Secretary's speeches and policy papers.
- ✓ Worked on the institution of new migratory bird policies including steel shot, the waterfowl point system and increased habitat protection programs (LWCF).
- ✓ Worked to implement new policies and research for endangered species including directing support for nontraditional research and management programs for whooping crane, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle. Also worked to establish Office of Endangered Species and formulation of policies following passage of the new Endangered Species Act (1973).
- ✓ Served as representative to all conferences with CEQ, EPA, and OMB in preparation of the legislative program for the Toxic Substances Act and coordinated the Department of Interior's policy formulation for toxic chemicals generally and specifically for PCBs.
- ✓ Assessed program effectiveness and reviewed policies of the National Wildlife Refuge System and was assigned policy supervision for controversies involving the following refuges: Back Bay NWR, Virginia; Ruby Lake NWR, Nevada; Malheur NWR, Oregon; Bosque del Apache NWR, New Mexico.
- ✓ Supervised policy review of National Park Service's science program and establishment of new science program and center at Everglades NP, Florida.
- ✓ Served as Assistant Secretary's representative to the American Land Trust program, established to sponsor corporate and increased private support for land acquisition in conjunction with celebration of the Nation's Bicentennial. Coordinated program development with The Nature Conservancy that became the incubator for TNC's

corporate support program.

Professional Activities

- 1972-1973 Field Technician at Virgin Islands Ecological Research Station, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands; Chitwan National Park, Nepal; and in Kenya and Tanzania, East Africa.
- 1977-1978 Travel to 25 countries to investigate wildlife and environmental issues including: Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Namibia, Republic of South Africa, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Brazil, Trinidad, and St. Vincent.
- 1985-1989 Consultant and production assistant to National Audubon Society's TV specials and *WTBS Superstation* for its wildlife films.
- 1985-1986 Consultant to President's Commission for Americans Outdoors.
- 1989 ACIL (American Center for International Leadership) U.S. Environmental Delegation to USSR and Poland. Toured Moscow, Kiev, Chernobyl, Warsaw, Krakow.
- 1991 Investor and partner in The Birding Game, a board game for entertainment and education.
- 1992-1998 Vice-Chair Scientific Advisory Board, Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (Department of Defense), (George Bush, Presidential appointee with high security clearance).
- 1992-1999 Statutory Member, North American Wetlands Conservation Council (DOI).
- 1996-1999 Board of Directors, Scientific Environmental Research Foundation (SERF).
- 1993-present Board of Directors, North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF).
- 1998-1999 Board of Directors, EcoTrust
- 2000-2002 Board of Directors, RARE Center for Tropical Conservation
- 1999-2002 Freeport Conservation Commission
- 2004-2005 Board of Directors, Grow Smart Maine
- 2005-present Technology Board of Directors, Maine Institute of Technology 2010-present Advisory Board, Ties to the Land

Awards

- 1992 Chevron Professional Conservation Award
- 1994 The Nature Conservancy President's Award
- 1996 National Audubon Society President's Award

Education

- 1977 M.A. Cornell University. Interdisciplinary masters' program emphasizing natural resources. Courses included ecology, wildlife management, and twentieth century and American history.
- 1972 B.A. Princeton University. Graduated cum laude in American History. Recipient of the Frederick Douglass, Afro-American Prize for thesis entitled: Radical Black Leadership 1960-1970.

Business Activities

- 1999-present President, Moonhole Company LTD., Bequia St. Vincent, West Indies

- 1999-present President, Thomas and Gladys Johnston Moonhole Conservation Trust, Bequia, St. Vincent, West Indies
- 2005-present Board of Directors, Maine Technology Institute, a private, non-profit created and funded by the state to enhance the competition of Maine's technology sectors, support clusters of industrial activity within those sectors and create new jobs for Maine people.

Publications

- 2000 Featured in: *The Timberline: Breaking New Ground, The Pingree Forest Partnership*
- 1999 Featured in: *Atlantis Rising: The True Story of a Submerged Land Yesterday and Today* by Bob Sullivan 1999
- 1992 *FY 1993 Federal Agency Needs Assessment, 828 pages*
- 1991 *FY 1992 Federal Agency Needs Assessment, 1,144 pages*
- 1990 *FY 1991 Federal Agency Needs Assessment and Assessment of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Program Needs 1990-1995, 1,036 pages*
- 1989 *FY 1990 Federal Agency Needs Assessment, 537 pages*
- 1988 *FY 1989 Federal Agency Needs Assessment and Assessment of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Program Needs 1988-1993, 392 pages*
- 1988 *Crossroads: Environmental Priorities for the Future*, Island Press
"Looking Backwards" with Nathaniel P. Reed
- 1987 *Wolf Recovery in the Northern Rocky Mountains* with Whitney Tilt and Ruth Norris
- 1987 *Audubon Wildlife Report*, featuring Bureau of Land Management, 697 pages
- 1986 *Audubon Wildlife Report*, featuring USDA. Forest Service, 1,094 pages
- 1986 *Report on the Advisory Panel on the Spotted Owl*, National Audubon Society
Technical Report No. 7, with American Ornithologists' Union
- 1985 *Audubon Wildlife Report*, featuring U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 671 pages.

Hobbies and Interests

Photography (still and video: 1975 first prize in annual photograph competition *Natural History Magazine*); bird watching; sports in general: tennis (2000 USTA New England Regional doubles champion, 2001 USTA third place National Doubles Championship), long-distance running (19 marathons - under 3 hours), swimming, hiking, SCUBA; reading history and literature; and drawing.

Personal Address

P.O. Box 128
South Freeport, Maine 04078
Telephone Numbers:
202-256-3747 (cell)
207-232-0134 (cell)

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Resources First Foundation
74 Lunt Road, Suite 203
Falmouth, Maine 04105
Telephone Number:
207-221-2753

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN IDAHO STATE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND IDAHO BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT FOR THE COLLECTION AND USE OF PHOTO MONITORING
DATA IN RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENTS**

Parties

This Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] is made and entered into by and between the Idaho State Department of Agriculture [ISDA], whose address is 2270 Old Penitentiary Road, P.O. Box 7249, Boise, Idaho 83707 and the Idaho Bureau of Land Management [BLM], whose address is 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709. (The above parties are hereafter collectively referred to as the "Parties").

Introduction

43 CFR § 4100 defines monitoring as *"the periodic observation and orderly collection of data to evaluate (1) effects of management actions and (2) effectiveness of actions in meeting management objectives."* Idaho's Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management define monitoring as *"the orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data and information to evaluate progress toward meeting Standards for Rangeland Health and/or management objectives."*

A photo monitoring program involves the collection, analysis, and interpretation of repeat photography at designated locations. The Parties to this MOU agree that rangeland photo monitoring is an important tool to aid with livestock grazing management on public lands administered by the BLM, and that photos can supplement quantitative monitoring data. The Parties further agree that analysis of monitoring data and conclusions about resource conditions at the allotment level should be principally based on facts and data collected on the ground over time, using the best and most efficient scientific techniques available.

While the professional expertise of rangeland resource professionals is used to evaluate and interpret all of the information collected and available during the Rangeland Health Assessment Evaluation and Determination, information including photo monitoring data, historic knowledge, and practical experience from the permittee/lessee/landowners (hereafter permittees) is also necessary and important information to include in the permit renewal process.

To that end, the Parties agree that permittees or their representatives should be strongly encouraged to conduct photo monitoring in their allotments and actively participate in data collection efforts and rangeland health assessments with federal and State agency personnel during the permit renewal process. Permittees are

encouraged to work with BLM and ISDA in developing a photo monitoring program for their allotment(s). Photo monitoring at selected sites should be completed on an annual basis for the term of the associated grazing permit/lease.

It is the intent of ISDA and BLM that photos and data collected from photo monitoring sites should be provided to the BLM annually, or on another agreed-upon schedule, to be analyzed and incorporated into the Rangeland Health Assessments and during the evaluation/determination portion of the permit renewal process. Where feasible, photo monitoring should be conducted at existing long-term vegetation trend or photo trend monitoring sites. Where sufficient monitoring sites are not already in existence, establishment of photo monitoring sites on the public lands within specific allotment(s) would be in accordance with BLM policies and procedures.

Mutual Benefits and Interests: The Parties agree that:

- A. Repeated photographs taken at permanent locations are an effective and efficient method for monitoring. Repeat photographs of landscape locations and/or photo plots can provide basic documentation of range trend. The parties will benefit by realizing an increase in frequency of photo monitoring at established sites, as well as an increase in the number of allotments/acres being monitored with photos.
- B. Photo points are especially well adapted for use by permittees who are interested in monitoring their allotments. Photo points require minimal equipment, and are easy to set up and retake.
- C. They can encourage participation by external groups or permittees by providing assistance such as formal or informal training, duplication of photographs, or copies of photo cards and other necessary forms.
- D. They have a mutual interest in the BLM's photo monitoring process, photo monitoring data collection, and reporting methods for each area encompassed by the Photo Monitoring Program.
- E. They have a mutual interest in retaining an economically viable livestock industry by ensuring healthy rangelands through proper grazing management.
- F. Natural resources will benefit by management practices implemented as a result of the information obtained through this cooperative effort.
- G. The Parties will benefit from having additional knowledge of the condition or status of the:
 - (i) Resources,
 - (ii) Open space, and
 - (iii) Resource uses.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual promises and covenants herein contained, the Parties agree as follows:

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this MOU is to increase the level of participation, coordination, and cooperation between the Parties and permittees in the collection and review of data used in the rangeland health assessments during the permit renewal process, specifically including the use of rangeland photo monitoring on Idaho rangelands. This MOU is intended to provide a framework for photo point monitoring data to be collected, analyzed, shared with the public, and used by permittees, ISDA and the BLM. It also provides a framework for the use and incorporation of photo monitoring data by BLM in Rangeland Health Assessments; evaluations; determinations; and in making land management decisions on public land allotments permitted for livestock grazing in Idaho.

2. **Mutual Responsibilities of the Parties:** The Parties agree to:
 - A. Facilitate the orderly and timely collection of photo monitoring data by permittees.
 - B. Publicize and support the goals and objectives of the Photo Monitoring Program among the permittees/lessees/landowners in the State.
 - C. Continue to carry out their own separate activities and utilize their own resources in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner to pursue the goals and objectives of the Photo Monitoring Program.
 - D. Identify priority areas (i.e. allotments, watersheds, landscapes) where photo monitoring data is needed or where additional photo monitoring data collected by permittees can supplement ongoing monitoring efforts.
 - E. Contact permittees and encourage them to be active partners in photo monitoring of their allotments.
 - F. Incorporate the Photo Monitoring Program in additional allotments where photo monitoring does not exist or is limited each year, to the maximum extent reasonable, given the limits of available resources and level of permittee participation.
 - G. Meet annually during the fall or winter to review and discuss the Photo Monitoring Program's completed and upcoming activities, and to develop a brief status report.

- H. Work cooperatively with each other and the permittees participating in the Photo Monitoring Program to develop more refined monitoring plans.
- I. Work cooperatively to improve the consistency of the photo monitoring process, data standards, and data management.
- J. All photo monitoring will be in accordance with the protocol outlined in Attachment A of this MOU entitled **Photo Monitoring Methods**.
- K. Any data collected in the process identified in this MOU on lands managed by the BLM shall be reviewed and validated by BLM in coordination with ISDA. The review and validation process will ensure that accepted data has been collected in accordance with the applicable protocols, photographs are of acceptable quality, and any supporting information is accurate and legible.

3. Responsibilities of the BLM:

BLM agrees to:

- A. Provide permittees participating in cooperative monitoring with site locations for all existing monitoring sites on the applicable allotment(s).
- B. Provide participating permittees a copy of any existing photo monitoring site data in the permittees' grazing allotment(s). If previous photos of the monitoring site(s) do not exist or do not provide a satisfactory baseline for repeat photography, BLM will take the initial set of photos at existing photo monitoring site(s), in coordination with ISDA and the permittees, and provide the permittees a copy of this data. Other parties to this MOU may also request a copy of the initial year's data and photos.
- C. After photos and supporting information collected and provided by the permittee are validated and accepted, the data will be placed in the BLM official record and given the same consideration as any other data of record to be used in the permit renewal process. Photo monitoring data provided by the permittee in accordance with the identified photo monitoring process described in Attachment A of this MOU, will be considered in BLM's Rangeland Health Assessment(s) for the applicable allotment(s) and will be used as one source of monitoring data in BLM's evaluation and determination of the status of applicable Rangeland Health Standards (generally Standards 1, 4, 5, 6 and 8 for uplands, Standards 2, 3 and 8 for riparian areas). This

photo monitoring will contribute to BLM's evaluation process regarding whether rangelands are meeting standards, goals, and objectives for the specific allotment.

- D. In coordination with ISDA, identify current long-term monitoring sites and evaluate whether these locations are at appropriate locations that are representative of key areas within the allotment(s). If the parties agree that any existing site(s) is/are not truly representative of a key area within the allotment(s), new site(s) may be selected in accordance with BLM policies, including requirements for public involvement.
- E. In the event that a permittee is independently collecting photo monitoring data at other locations on public lands, and wishes have such data incorporated into BLM monitoring records, BLM agrees to review and record the site location(s) and data collection methodologies, and document the areas and/or resources the monitoring sites are representative of. BLM agrees to accept and use such photo monitoring data from these recorded location sites for incorporation into Rangeland Health Assessments, when photo monitoring data is provided to BLM annually and consistent with the photo monitoring processes identified in this MOU.

4. Responsibilities of the ISDA: ISDA agrees to:

- A. Administer the Photo Monitoring Program by soliciting and working closely with permittees to conduct photo monitoring on public land allotments.
- B. Work closely with the BLM to ensure photo monitoring data is collected accurately, in accordance with appropriate monitoring methods described in this MOU, and that the photo monitoring data is incorporated into the Rangeland Health Assessments, evaluation, and determination process for renewing grazing permits on public lands.
- C. Through the Photo Monitoring Program, strive to obtain the cooperation and participation with other state agencies, county governments, federal agencies, the University of Idaho, and private landowners in the assessment/evaluation on the condition or health of Idaho rangelands and resource management objectives.
- D. Work closely with the BLM State Rangeland Management Specialist on a regular basis to ensure that photo monitoring is being conducted

appropriately and data are being collected in accordance with processes outlined in this MOU.

- E. Work closely with permittees to ensure that permittees (or their representatives) are the responsible parties for taking annual photographs and collection of any other necessary data (field notes) at photo monitoring site(s) with assistance from ISDA if necessary.
- F. Upon request, provide assistance to permittees with their photo monitoring program.

5. **Term of MOU:** This MOU shall become effective upon the day and date last signed and executed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties to this MOU and shall remain in full force for ten (10) years from the effective date of this MOU. This MOU may be terminated, without cause, by any party to this MOU upon forty-five (45) days written notice, which notice shall be delivered by hand or by certified mail to the principle contacts listed below.

6. **Payment:** This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement, contribution of funds, or transfer of anything of value between parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for government procurement. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.

7. **Special Provisions**

A. **Freedom of Information Act [FOIA].** Any information collected and furnished to the BLM under this MOU is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

B. **Participation in Similar Activities.** The MOU in no way restricts any party from participating in similar activities with other public agencies, organizations and individuals.

C. Third Party Participation in the Program. While recognizing that the Parties have a responsibility to coordinate, consult, and communicate with many different entities concerning management of lands administered by the BLM, this MOU only addresses the interaction among ISDA and BLM as it pertains to this Monitoring Program.

D. Principle Contacts. The Parties' principal contacts for this MOU are:

(i) United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Idaho State Office, BLM
Rangeland Management Specialist – Dominika Lepak
1387 S. Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709
(208) 373-3810
dlepak@blm.gov

(ii) Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Rangeland Program Specialist - John Biar
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
Box 790
Boise, Idaho 83701
(208) 332-8566
john.biar@agri.idaho.gov

8. General Provisions

A. Amendments. Any party may request changes in this MOU. Any changes, modifications, revisions, or amendments to this MOU which are mutually agreed upon by the Parties to this MOU shall be incorporated by written instrument, executed and signed by all Parties to this MOU.

B. No Enlargement of Rights. This MOU is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit or trust obligation, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or the State of Idaho, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

- C. Entirety of MOU.** This MOU, consisting of 9 pages, represents the entire and integrated agreements between the Parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations and agreements, whether written or oral.
- D. Prior Approval.** This MOU shall not be binding upon any parties unless this MOU has been reduced to writing before performance begins as described under the terms of this MOU, and unless this MOU is approved as to form by all Parties.
- E. Severability.** Should any portion of this MOU be judicially determined to be illegal or unenforceable, the remainder of the MOU shall continue in full force and effect, and any of the Parties may renegotiate the terms affected by the severance.
- F. Sovereign Immunity.** The State of Idaho, ISDA, and BLM do not waive their sovereign immunity into this MOU, and each fully retains all immunities and defenses provided by law with respect to any action based on or occurring as a result of this MOU.
- G. Third Party Beneficiary Rights.** The Parties do not intend to create in any other individual or entity the status of third party beneficiary, and this MOU shall not be construed so as to create such status. The rights, duties, and obligations contained in this MOU shall operate only between the Parties to this MOU and shall ensure solely to the benefit of the Parties to this MOU. The provisions of this MOU are intended only to assist the parties in determining and performing their obligations under this MOU.
- H. Indemnification.** Each party to this MOU shall assume the risk of any liability arising from its own conduct. None of the Parties agree to insure, defend, or indemnify any of the other parties.

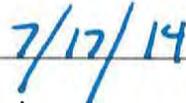
Signatures The parties to this MOU, through their duly authorized representatives, have executed this MOU on the dates set out below, and certify that they have read, understood, and agreed to the terms and conditions of this MOU as set forth herein.

The effective date of this MOU is the date of the signature last affixed to this page.

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Celia Gould, Director



Date

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



Timothy Murphy, Acting Idaho State Director



Date

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Photo Monitoring Methods

Attachment B: Study Location and Document Data Form

Attachment C: Study and Photograph Identification

Attachment D: Photo Identification Label

Attachment A: Photo Monitoring Methods:

The following is a brief guide to establishing and monitoring photo monitoring sites, and is not meant to replace approved BLM technical references. For additional guidance, refer to Interagency Technical Reference 1734-4, Sampling Vegetation Attributes [(1996) TR 1734-4].

General Description: Photographs can be valuable sources of information in portraying resource values and conditions. Comparing repeat photography of the same site taken over a period of years furnishes visual evidence of vegetation and soil changes. General landscape photographs can be taken at photo plots or photo points. Photo plots include a permanently marked plot on the ground that is photographed from a close distance, in addition to the landscape photograph(s).

In some situations, photo points or plots may be the primary vegetation monitoring tool, while in other situations they are used in conjunction with other qualitative and quantitative monitoring methods.

When using repeat photography for monitoring, it is vital to

1. Use consistent techniques;
2. Identify the date and location with the picture;
3. Take the picture at the same stage of plant growth each consecutive year; and
4. Include the same skyline in the landscape picture with the previous photo taken.

Equipment:

The following equipment is required for collecting repeat photography at established photo monitoring sites.

- Photo Identification Label (See Attachment D)
- Frame to delineate the 3x 3-foot, 5- x 5-foot, or 1- x 1- meter photo plots. Frames can be made of PVC pipe, steel rods, or any similar material (see TR 1734-4, Illustrations 1 and 2, pages 34 – 35).
- Four rods to divide the 3- x 3-foot and 1- x 1- meter photo plot into nine square segments
- Digital camera with removable SD memory card, or 35-mm camera with a 28-mm wide-angle lens and film
- Small step ladder (for 5- x 5-foot photo plots)
- Felt tip pen with waterproof ink

- Geographic positioning system (GPS) unit (optional)
- For established sites, site location information, including photographs taken in previous years
- Yellow or orange spray paint (optional, to remark plot markers)

In addition to the equipment required for collecting repeat photography at established photo monitoring sites, the following equipment is needed for the establishment of new permanent photo plots:

- Stakes of $\frac{3}{4}$ - or 1-inch angle iron not less than 16 inches long
- Hammer
- Tape measure
- Compass
- Study Location and Documentation Data Form (See Attachment B)
- A 6' steel T-post and post driver
- A GPS unit is highly recommended when setting up a new site

Establishing a Site: New sites for cooperative monitoring may be established in coordination with permittees, BLM, ISDA and any other interested parties. The site selection process is outlined in TR 1734-4 (pages 3-4).

Once a site has been identified, document its location so that it can be relocated in future years. If possible, determine the site coordinates using a GPS unit, and record the coordinates on the Study Location form. If GPS data is not available, a map, legal description and detailed written directions should be created and filed with the photos Study Location form to assist with site relocation.

Use a T-post approximately 50 feet away from the photo point as a marker to assist in relocating the site. Record the distance and compass bearing from the T-post to the photo point, and any other instructions that will assist others in finding the site in subsequent years.

Generally a 3 X 3-foot square frame is used for photo plots; however, a different size and shape frame may be used. Where new studies are being established, a 1-meter x 1-meter photo plot is recommended. Angle iron stakes (or digger bars) are driven into the ground at two diagonal corners of the frame to permanently mark a photo plot (see illustration 2, Sampling Vegetation Attributes, Interagency Technical Reference 1996). Paint the stakes with bright-colored permanent spray paint (yellow or orange) to aid in relocation. Repaint these stakes if needed when subsequent pictures are taken.

If a linear design is used, general view pictures may be taken from either/or both ends of the transect. The points from which these pictures are taken are determined at the

time the studies are established. Document the location of these points on the Study Location and Documentation Data Form to expedite relocation (see Attachment B).

Proceed with taking the necessary photos and collecting any supporting notes or data, as described below.

General View Photos: General view photographs are taken from a permanent reference point and visually portray dominant landscape vegetation. Photographs that include a distinctive and permanent landmark in the background or horizon are easier to relocate and accurately replicate. The photograph must include a legible photo card identifying the site location and photo date, a reference point in the foreground (fencepost, boulder, etc.) and a distant landmark on the skyline.

1. The Photo Identification Label is placed in an upright position so that it will appear in the foreground of the photograph (see attachment D).
2. To take general view pictures, stand at the selected points and include the photo label, a general view of the site, and some sky in the pictures.
3. Take a picture of a study site from the nearest road at the time of establishment of the study to facilitate relocation.

Plot Photos: Close-up plot photos show the soil surface characteristics and the amount of ground surface covered by vegetation and litter. Close-up photographs are usually taken of permanently located photo plots. Copies of previous photographs taken from photo points should be brought to the field to assist in finding the photo point and to ensure that the same photograph is retaken. Photographs should be taken at approximately the same time each year to assist in interpreting changes in vegetation.

1. The Photo Identification Label is placed flat on the ground immediately adjacent to the photo plot frame (see attachment D.)
2. The camera point or the location from which the close-up picture is taken, should be on the north side of the photo plot so that repeat pictures can be taken at any time during the day without casting a shadow across the plot (Illustration 3, page 36, Sampling Vegetation Attributes, Interagency Technical Reference 1996).
3. To take the close-up pictures, stand over the photo plot with toes touching the edge of the frame. Include the photo label in the photograph.

Repeat Photography: When repeat pictures are taken in following years, follow the same process used in taking the initial pictures. Previous photos should be brought to the field to assist in relocating the site, and replicating the view shown in the photograph as closely as possible. Include the same area and landmarks in the repeat general view pictures that were included in the initial pictures.

Field Notes: Recorded field notes to supplement photographs are also helpful. General observations concerning the sites on which photos are taken can be important in interpreting the photos. Factors such as rodent use, insect infestation, animal concentration, fire, vandalism, or other site uses can have considerable impact on the vegetation and soil resources. This information should be recorded and documented while taking the photograph for the specific year.

Timing: Monitoring photos should be taken from the same designated point at approximately the same time each year (during the same stage of plant growth each year). Photo monitoring may also be conducted at specifically agreed-upon times during the year, such as when livestock are removed from a pasture, to meet specific monitoring objectives.

ATTACHMENT B: Study Location and Document Data Form

Page ____ of ____

Study Location and Documentation Data

Study Method				Study Number											
Allotment Name & Number Pasture				Pasture											
District				Field Office											
Ecological Site				Plant Community											
Date Established		Established by (Name)		Map Reference – GPS Coordinates											
Elevation		Slope		Exposure		Aerial Photo Reference									
Township	Range	Section	¼	¼	¼	scale: ____ inches Equals one mile									
Key Species				<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>											
1	2	3	Distance and bearing between reference post or reference point and the transect location stake, beginning of transect, or plot												
				<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>											
Distance and bearing between location stake and bearing stake															
Transect Bearing				Vertical Distance Between Ground & Aligned Tape											
Length of Transect				Plot/Frame Size											
Sampling Interval				Total Number of Samples											
Notes (Description of study location, diagram of transect/plot layout, description of photo points, etc. If more space is needed, use reverse side or another page.)															
<p>Note: Depending on the study method, fill in the blocks that apply when a study is established. This documentation enables the examiners to conduct follow-up studies in a consistent manner to provide comparable data for analysis, interpretation, and evaluation.</p>															

ATTACHMENT C: Study and Photograph Identification

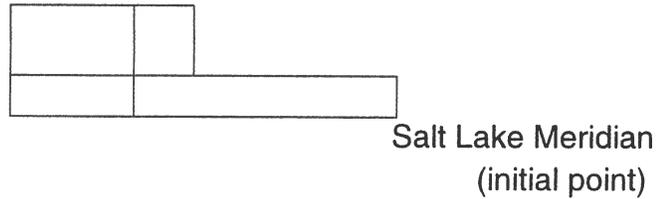
The following guidance is provided for reference only, and does not supersede local study and photograph identification systems already in use at Idaho BLM field offices.

A. Numbering Studies. Studies should be numbered to assure positive identification. These numbers can also be used to identify photographs. Following are three alternative schemes for numbering studies:

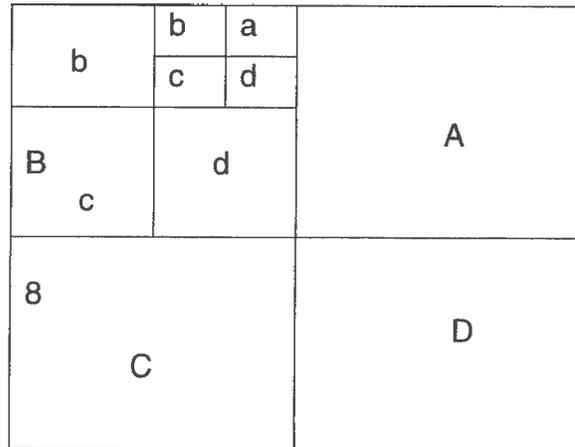
Numbering Scheme 1. Consecutive numbers may be assigned to studies within an allotment. For example, Mooncreek #1 and Moon Creek # 2 would be studies Number 1 and 2 within the Mooncreek Allotment. A disadvantage to using the names of allotments in a numbering scheme is that these names can, an often do, change.

1. Numbering Scheme 2. Studies may be numbered based on their location within a township, range, and section. A 10-character number can be assigned in the following manner:
 - a. The first three characters are the township (03S), the second three are the range (27W), and the next two are the section (08), and the last two are simply a series number (01) assigned to a study based on the number of studies located within a section.
 - b. The numbers for studies located in Section 8 would be 03S-27W-08-01, 03S-27W-08-02, and so forth.
 - c. Depending on the local situation, this scheme can be modified by adding characters to the code where there are fractional townships or ranges, where there are more than 99 sections/tracts within a township, and/or where there is more than one public land survey principal meridian and baseline within the area of jurisdiction.
2. Numbering Scheme 3. Studies may be numbered based on their location relative to the initial point of survey (principal meridian and baseline governing public land survey).
 - (a) Under this scheme, the first character is a letter assigned to a principal meridian and baseline quadrant. Using the initial point of the survey as the center point, the northeast quadrant (townships located to the north and east of the initial point) is coded "A". The northwest, southwest, and

southeast quadrants are coded "B", "C", and "D", respectively. For example:



- (b) The next characters are the townships numbers (3, 16, etc.) followed by the range number (7, 32, etc.) and the section number (8, 21, etc.).
- (c) The next three characters are used to identify the subdivisions within a section (down to 10 acres) in which a study is located. These subdivisions have letter designations as follows:



- (d) The last character(s) is (are) simply a series numbers (1, 2, 3 . . . 10, 11, etc.) assigned to a study based on the number of studies located within the smallest subdivision.
- (e) For example, Studies 1 and 2 located in the SE1/4NE1/4NW1/4 of Section 8, Township 3S, R12E would be numbered (D-3-21)8Bad-1 and (D-3-21)8Bad-2.
- (f) Depending on the local situation, this scheme can be modified by adding characters to the code where there are fractional townships or ranges, where there are more than 99 sections/tracts within a township, and where there is more than one public land survey principal meridian and baseline within the area of jurisdiction.

B. Identifying Photographs. In most cases, the number that has been assigned to a study is the number used to identify the photographs associated with that study. Following is a description of three labels that can be used to include the study number in the photographs:

1. Label 1. The Photo Identification Label included as Appendix C can be copied and used to identify photographs. This label provides space for documenting the date, number, and location (Field Office, Allotment, and pasture) of a study. A large black felt-tip pen should be used to print the information on the label.
2. Label 2. A slotted sign board with a black felt background and movable white plastic letters can be used as a photo identification label. Room permitting, the user may include any information desired on such a label. A 9- x 12-inch board with slots running lengthwise at a spacing of ¼ -inch and 1-1/2-inch white letters makes a highly visible label for most photographs.
3. Label 3. A placard on which identifying characteristics can be entered can be developed to meet local field needs. The placard can be constructed of heavy white cardboard on which such things as Date, "T" (township), "R" (range), Section Number, etc. are preprinted. The specific identifying information can be hand printed on the mylar with a heavy grease pencil or other readily removable, highly visible, marking material. After taking the desired photographs, the mylar can be wiped clean and the placard reused for the for other photographs. A more permanent placard can be constructed of plywood and painted enamel white (or light blue to prevent glare). The grease pencil markings can be wiped from the enamel surface and the placard reused for other photographs. Caution must be exercised in the placement of the placard to prevent glare from the mylar or enameled surface.

NOTE – Labels can be placed flat on the ground immediately adjacent to photo plots for close-up photographs.

- Labels can be placed in an upright position in the foreground of general view photographs.

Attachment D: Photo Identification Label (Photo Card)

DATE _____

NO. _____

FO. _____

ALLOT. _____

PAST. _____

Release Date: 08/11/14

Contacts: Nika Lepak (BLM) , 208-373-3810
John Biar (ISDA) , 208-332-8566

BLM and ISDA Partner with Ranchers to Monitor Rangeland Health in Idaho

BOISE, ID – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will provide a framework for cooperative monitoring by ranchers and public land managers to improve the health of Idaho's public rangelands. The MOU demonstrates the proactive partnership effort by the agencies and participating grazing permittees for the cooperative collection and use of photo monitoring data, which are used to track changes in the health of public rangelands managed by the BLM in Idaho. The effort will be coordinated and facilitated by the ISDA, with the participation of the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Agency (U of I) and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC).

BLM Idaho State Director Tim Murphy said the overall purpose of this MOU is to increase the level of participation and coordination between the agencies and permittees in collecting Rangeland Health Assessment monitoring photos and data. The information supplements data collected by BLM and is used in ongoing adaptive rangeland management and for making management decisions on public land allotments during BLM's grazing permit renewal process.

"Repeated photographs taken at permanent locations are an effective and efficient component of rangeland monitoring," Murphy explained. "Repeat photographs of landscape locations and photo plots help provide basic documentation of range trends and help us interpret quantitative data. Ranchers are out on grazing allotments managing their livestock and fixing fences throughout the year; participation in photo monitoring increases the focus and emphasis on range conditions in their day-to-day management activities."

ISDA Director Celia Gould said, "All parties involved will benefit by realizing an increase in the frequency of photo monitoring at established sites, as well as an increase in the number of allotments and acres being monitored with photos. Photo points are especially well adapted for use by permittees who are interested in monitoring their allotments. The photo points require minimal equipment and are easy to set up and retake."

In signing the MOU, Gould said the Idaho State Department of Agriculture is excited about this new cooperative initiative and is committed to it because of the invaluable benefits the annual, long-term trend data will afford both the agencies and the ranching community in making timely, well informed resource management decisions based on credible information. "This additional information will provide us greater opportunities to collectively share and better interpret real-time, visible range conditions," she said.

Murphy said, "In working cooperatively like this with Idaho's ranchers, ISDA, the University of Idaho and the public, we are seeing a promising new era of collaboration and cooperation where together we are able to make more timely and effective management decisions and better utilize our collective resources."

"Another recent example of effectively working together is the continuing development of Idaho's Rural Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs)," Gould said. "RFPAs are eligible to apply for grants from the State of Idaho for additional firefighting equipment, while the BLM is providing the associations required firefighting training. By working together with ranchers, we are gaining additional firefighting resources in Idaho for quicker, more efficient first-response local rangeland firefighting capabilities."

Murphy said that while the professional expertise of rangeland resource professionals is used to evaluate and interpret all of the information collected and available during the Rangeland Health Assessment Evaluation and Determination process, photo monitoring data, historic knowledge and practical experience from the permittees is crucially important in the permit renewal process.

The BLM and ISDA are joining together to encourage grazing permittees and other interested parties to consider participating in this program, which will assist in maintaining the healthy rangelands and sustainable livestock grazing practices. Participating permittees would coordinate with ISDA and BLM to complete photo monitoring at selected sites on their grazing allotments each year throughout the term of

their grazing permit(s). Expected benefits include increasing the amount of information available to BLM for grazing permit renewal decisions, and increased mutual understanding of grazing allotment conditions and trends.

The IRRC and University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Agency have held several workshops since 2013 to provide photo monitoring training to ranchers and permittees. These workshops will be available again in 2015 in multiple locations throughout Idaho. In 2014, approximately 80 people participated in the workshops, which were held in Salmon and locations in the Magic Valley. Participants in the cooperative monitoring program will be expected to attend one of these one-day workshops to ensure training needs are met.

Anyone interested in participating in or learning more about more about the cooperative photo monitoring program is encouraged to contact: Brooke Jacobson, ISDA Rangeland Program Monitoring Specialist, at (208) 332-8561 email brooke.jacobson@agri.idaho.gov or John Biar, ISDA Range Program Specialist, at (208) 332-8566 email john.biar@agri.idaho.gov.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

--BLM--

Last updated: 08-13-2014

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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 4, 2015
RE: DRAFT FY 2016-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Attached is the updated (per your last meeting) Draft Strategic Plan. As discussed last month, the Draft was distributed to the district review committee (Steve Becker, Art Beal, Dennis Tanikuni, Benjamin Kelly, and Chris Simons) for comments. Chris Simons, Art Beal, and Steve Becker responded, stating the draft was acceptable.

Over the last month, our staff presented the draft to their assigned districts, and we also distributed the draft to all district, district admins, and most of the Board members via email. A few comments were received from districts stating the draft is good and reflects input we received at the December 10th meeting.

We received a comment from Representative Steve Miller, Camas District, noting that there should be more detail when reporting on the Strategic Plan in terms of accomplishments, what outcomes were realized from the TMDL implementation plans and benchmarks, how much water has been conserved, and what are we trying to communicate.

I responded to Rep. Miller in an email as follows:

"... I understand that Rob was able to present our draft Strategic Plan to you at your last meeting. Thanks for allowing us to do that and thanks for your input. I'll definitely pass it on to our Commissioners at the June meeting.

I wanted to give just a little more info for context. I understand that you would like to see more detail about accomplishments in the Performance Measures Report (PMR), Rep. Miller. Unfortunately, DFM limits us to 2-3 pages on the PMRs, and to giving the performance benchmarks and accomplishments of a few statewide core services only. Our PMR is then compiled with those of other agencies and presented by the Governor to the Legislature.

The DEQ annually produces a report on the outcomes of voluntary conservation measures (implemented under our TMDL Implementation Plans and other programs). We report the number of widgets we produced to them, and they report the outcomes to EPA and the Legislature. Likewise with CREP – water conservation. We produce an annual report to FSA that details the number of contracts we got signed and certified. They report on the outcomes. We do put together for our germane committees some outcomes that you might find interesting and helpful. I've attached last year's presentation and narrative in case!

If you are looking for the good examples of projects, I'd check out our district fact sheets posted on the www.swc.idaho.gov website (and that we present to you on the germane committees). The monthly newsletter Conservation the Idaho Way also features some great project examples (<http://www.swc.idaho.gov/about-us/news>).



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

If I can help you next session, please let me know and I'm glad to put together anything that you will find helpful. We so appreciate your support for voluntary conservation!"

If more input is received between now and your meeting, we will present it to you at that time. The Board must adopt a final Strategic Plan at the June meeting to meet DFM's submittal deadline of July 1st.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve with noted changes

Attachments:

- Draft FY 2016-2019 ISWCC Strategic Plan



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item #4e

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND
TREBESCH**
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: MAY 22, 2015
RE: AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION ABATEMENT PLAN

Attached is a memo from Shelly Gilmore, consultant whom the Conservation Commission hired to update the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan. Shelly's memo details the process followed, the major changes to the Plan, the participants who assisted in updating the Plan, and the issues that arose during the revision.

Staff recommends approval of the Plan. Upon your approval, the final draft will be delivered to the Governor for his signature. His staff has been kept apprised of progress and is currently reviewing the attached draft.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

Encl.

- Gilmore APAP Final Memo
- APAP Final Draft June 2015
- APAP 2015 Comparison with 2003 APAP



Shelly Gilmore • 1406 East F Street • Moscow ID 83843 • (208) 883-1806 • rpu@turbonet.com

TRANSMITTAL MEMO

DATE: June 3, 2015

TO: Teri Murrison, Administrator, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

FROM: Shelly Gilmore

RE: 2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

I am pleased to submit the final draft of the 2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (Ag Plan). I have attached the latest draft with revisions shown in the track changes format, as well as a final draft for you to present to Chairman Wright and Commission Members. It has been my pleasure to work with you, your staff, and the Ag Plan Advisory Committee (Committee) on the 2015 update.

We began in late August 2014 by putting together the Committee. Two committees were formed to work on the 2003 update, a technical advisory committee and a water quality advisory committee. We agreed to work with one committee for this update and formed the group by contacting previous members, and soliciting participation from applicable agencies and groups.

Our first Committee meeting was in late September 2014 in Boise where we reviewed the background of the Ag Plan, discussed the need for a revision, and confirmed the meeting style and review process to be used for this revision. The initial Committee made recommendations for additional committee members and contacts. We reviewed the goal and strategy section of the 2003 version, and made very few changes to the goal of the Ag Plan. I pursued their request to reach out to potential Committee members and worked through the end of last year to make sure the membership reflected thorough representation across the state.

The format for updating the plan included my review and edit of the 2003 version, section by section. The edited versions were distributed to the Committee via email for review and comment. We convened again in mid-December 2014. Many participants voiced a concern at that meeting with the process going into the first of the year because of their commitments to the legislative session. We charged ahead, but reached a stall in the process by the end of March 2015. Several participants were busy with an extended legislative session and didn't have time to review and comment on the edited sections of the plan. With a short period of inactivity, we reconvened in early May 2015 in Boise for our final meeting. The meeting was productive and well attended, and set in motion the ability to tie up loose ends and provide the final draft to the Commission at this time.

Much of the Ag Plan remained the same. The structure of the plan, which includes several individual yet connected sections, did not change. One section titled, "Agricultural Nonpoint Source

Water Quality Priorities,” was removed with the content updated and interfaced with other sections of the plan. Updates included the obvious date changes, program and policy updates, changes in the standards and specification of best management practices, and a good review, discussion, and update of agricultural activities which may impact water quality.

The Committee provided input regarding word choice in the updated plan. For example, we reviewed places in the plan where the word “control” was used. The group selected alternative wording, while ensuring the content and intent of the plan did not change. Another lively discussion was the use of the term “waste.” Several Committee members were concerned with the ramification of that term in regards to future programs and policies. The replacement term, “nutrient byproduct,” was inserted as appropriate throughout the document, later to be replaced with “manure and waste” along with a definition. The differences were amicable compromises, rather than complete consensus.

I appreciate the opportunity to work on this project.



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 4f

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: JUNE 4, 2015
RE: APPOINTMENT OF ADMINSTRATOR IN FY 2016 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: Appoint Teri Murrison as Commission Administrator in FY 2016 and authorize Chairman to sign FY 2016 Appointment of Administrator Form

Attachments:

- DRAFT FY 2016 Delegation of Powers and Duties



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Teri A. Murrison
Administrator

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR IN FY 2016 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 2016 during the SWCC’s June 11, 2015 public meeting.

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

June 11, 2015

Date



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 5a

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, TREBESCH, AND SLICHTER
FROM: DELWYNE TREFZ, DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES
DATE: JUNE 1, 2015
RE: DISTRICT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS

DISTRICT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS

In accordance with the Technical Assistance Allocation Process approved by the Commission, district requests for FY2016 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.

The attached spreadsheet shows how FY2016 staff time has been allocated.

Each district that requested assistance has been informed of the SWCC staff hours allocated to them for FY2016.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For information only

Attachment:

- Spreadsheets, Technical Assistance Awarded for FY2016, by Division

DIVISION 1 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTED & ALLOCATED FOR FY2016

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS	
			MARK	BILL
BENEWAH SWCD	District Resource Inventory	90	64.5	
	Ongoing Implementation Project	90	64.5	
	BENEWAH TOTALS FOR MARK	180	129	
	AVISTA Streambank Rest Proj Engineering	120		120
BONNER SWCD	District Board Mtng Attendance	20	21	
	Forestry Contest Participation	10	11	
	Water Festival Participation	32	34	
	E. Spring Cr Rd 319 Grant TA & Writing	60	63	
	BONNER TOTALS FOR MARK	122	129	
	E. Spring Cr Rd 319 Proj Engineering	80		80
BOUNDARY SWCD	District Mtng Attendance	35	38	
	Kootenai R & Tribs Project Scoping	60	64	
	Consult on potential water festival, 319 project proposals, etc.	25	27	
	BOUNDARY TOTALS FOR MARK	120	129	
KOOTENAI-SHOSHONE SWCD	Western Competitive Grant Phase I & II	86	48	
	Bloomsburg Rd 319 Project Imp.	43	25	
	Bloomsburg Rd Stockwater Project	22	13	
	Burton Rd Bridge	30	17	
	Landowner & Dist Meeting Participation	36	21	
	Seedling Program	8	5	
	K-S TOTALS FOR MARK	225	129	
	Wolf Lodge Creek Engineering	60		60
	CdA Lake Mngmt Plan Engineering	60		60
	K-S TOTALS FOR BILL	120		120
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		967		
TOTAL MARK'S HOURS		647	516	
TOTAL BILL'S HOURS		320		320

SWCC Staff Hours Available For District Support		
Staff	For Allocation	Discretionary
Mark	515	200
Bill	320	
Total	835	200

DIVISION 2 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTED & ALLOCATED FOR FY2016

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS	
			EILEEN	BILL
CLEARWATER SWCD (Eileen)	Youth Education Event Assistance	40	40	
	Landowner Nat Res Workshops	60	43	
	ID and Address Landowner Needs	60	43	
	CLEARWATER SWCD TOTALS:	160	126	
IDAHO SWCD (Eileen)	Grant Writing	150	119	
	TA to Implement New Grants	150	119	
	Deer Cr SRBA Project	80	63	
	Rock Creek SRBA Project	80	63	
	IDAHO SWCD TOTALS:	460	364	
LEWIS SCD (Eileen)	Soil Hlth 319 & CIG Grant Imp	480	377	
	6th grade field day	16	16	
	R & D Grant Proposals	150	117	
	LEWIS SCD TOTALS:	646	510	
NEZ PERCE SWCD	16 Engineering Designs	960		450
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		2226		
TOTAL EILEEN'S HOURS		1266	1000	
TOTAL BILL'S HOURS		960		450

SWCC Staff Hours Available For District Support		
Staff	For Allocation	Discretionary
Eileen	1000	200
Bill	450	
Total	1450	200

DIVISION 3 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTED & ALLOCATED FOR FY2016

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS		
			LORETTA	JASON	BILL
ADA SWCD (Delwyne, POC; Jason, TA Provider)	Track No-Till Implementation Data	50		50	
	Cover Crop & Forage Crop Database	50		50	
	ADA TA TOTAL	100		100	
ADAMS SWCD (Loretta)	Phase 3 Little Weiser R 319 Project	25	25		
	Upper Weiser 319 Project	80	80		
	Meadows Valley Landowner Assessment Assistance	20	20		
	District Operations CA	20	20		
	ADAMS TA TOTAL	145	145		
	Upper Weiser 319 project engineering	140			140
	General Design Work	20			20
	ADAMS ENGINEERING TOTAL	160			160
CANYON SCD (Jason)	RCPP Grant Proposal Development	75		75	
	Lake Lowell 319 Grant Development	130		28	
	Wilder Irr. Dist. Return Flow Project	45		28	
	Farmers Co-Op Cana Return Flow Project	24		24	
	Comp. Grant Writing Training	20		0	
	Comp Outreach Training	20		0	
	Capacity Building--5-Yr & Ann Plans	20		0	
	CANYON TA TOTAL	334		155	
	Large Sediment Basin Engineering	20			20
ELMORE SWCD (Jason)	District meeting attendance	24		24	
	ID & develop project proposals	120		120	
	ELMORE TA TOTAL	144		144	
GEM SWCD (Loretta)	Phase 4 Lower Payette 319 implementation project TA	100	100		
	Develop 319 grant proposal for submission in 2015	20	20		
	Outreach & Tours	10	10		
	GEM TA TOTAL	130	130		
OWYHEE CD (Jason)	Attend all board meetings	24		24	
	Grant researching & writing assist.	30		28	
	No-till/Soil Hlth Outreach	120		120	
	OWYHEE TA TOTAL	174		172	
PAYETTE SWCD (Loretta)	Phase 2 Mid Snake-Payette 319 project TA.	200	200		

DIVISION 3 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTED & ALLOCATED FOR FY2016

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS		
			LORETTA	JASON	BILL
SQUAW CREEK SCD (Loretta)	Payette River TMDL Imp Project TA	30	30		
	319 application development	60	60		
	"Living on the Land" workshop	10	10		
	SQUAW CR TA TOTAL	100	100		
VALLEY SWCD (Loretta)	319 Watershed restoration project outreach, cons planning, BMP implementation & monitoring	90	90		
WEISER RIVER SCD (Delwyne)	WQ Monitoring, Meetings & Tours	50	50		
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		1647			
TOTAL LORETTA'S HOURS		665	665		
TOTAL JASON'S HOURS		752		571	
TOTAL DELWYNE'S HOURS		50	50		
TOTAL BILL'S HOURS		180			180

SWCC Staff Hours Available For District Support		
Staff	For Allocation	Discretionary
Loretta	665	200
Jason	572	200
Delwyne	180	232
Bill	180	
Total	1597	632

DIVISION 4 -- TECHNICAL ALLOCATIONS FOR FY2016

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS		
			CAROLYN	CHUCK	ROB
BLAINE SCD (Rob)	District mtng attendance & administrative assistance	60			41
EAST CASSIA SWCD (Carolyn)	Direct seed/cover crop pre-plant soil hlth eval	20	20		
	Direct seed/cover crop cons planning	20	20		
	Mini-Cassia Nitrate CCPI	40	20		
	EAST CASSIA TOTAL	80	60		
GOODING SCD (Rob)	Soil Hlth/Cover Crop Demo	20			20
	Tree Proj Grant R&D	20			20
	SG CCAA Development	1000	130 allocated to Delwyne		
	GOODING TA TOTAL	1040			40
MINIDOKA SWCD (Carolyn)	Direct seed/cover crop pre-plant soil hlth eval	40	40		
	Direct seed/cover crop cons planning	40	40		
	MINIDOKA TA TOTAL	80	80		
WEST CASSIA SWCD (Carolyn)	Direct seed/cover crop pre-plant soil hlth eval	20	20		
	Direct seed/cover crop cons planning	20	20		
	Mini-Cassia Nitrate CCPI	40	20		
	WEST CASSIA TOTAL	80	60		
WOOD RIVER SWCD (Rob)	Little Wood River Project	80			54
TOTAL HOURS		1420			
TOTAL CHUCK'S HOURS		0			
TOTAL CAROLYN'S HOURS		240	200		
TOTAL ROB'S HOURS		1180			135

SWCC Staff Hours Available For District Support		
Staff	For Allocation	Discretionary
Chuck	0	275
Carolyn	200	130
Rob	135	75
Allan	0	233
Total	335	713

DIVISION 5 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ALLOCATIONS FOR FY2016

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED			ALLOCATED HOURS		
					GEORGE		ALLAN
		CA	TA	ENG	CA	TA	ENG
BEAR LAKE SWCD (POC=Allan)	ECC Bunderson's Paris Cr Project		20	13		7	7
	ECC Keetch Bear River Project		20			7	
	ECC Nounan Proj Reporting, TA, Eng	26	26	95	2.6	8	49
	ECC Georgetown Proj Reporting, TA	26	26	80	2.6	8	41
	Stauffer Cr 319 Project			210			109
	PBJ 319 Project			40			21
	Paris AFO & Stock Yards Project	51	18	180	5.1	6	93
	Nounan 319 AFO Project	51	18		5.1	6	
	Thomas Cr AFO Project		122	195		40	101
	319 BLT Project	26	18	23	2.6	6	12
	Dingle BOR Project	77		23	7.7		12
	Fern Creek BOR Project	77			7.7		
	BEAR LAKE TOTALS	334	268	859	33.4	87	445
CARIBOU SCD (POC=Allan)	Upper Blackfoot River Phase II		92	80		30	41
	Pebble Cr Irrigators Project		42	65		14	34
	Cove Stream Bank Restoration Proj		92	75		30	39
	N Extension BOR Project	183	52	40	18.3	17	21
	E Branch BOR Project	200	52	40	20	17	21
	Lower Trout Cr 319 Project		84	60		27	31
	CARIBOU TOTALS	383	414	360	38.3	135	186
C BINGHAM CD (George)	Meeting attendance & development of a source water protection project	40			4		
FRANKLIN SWCD (George)	ECC Brian Jensen Project		24			8	
	ECC John Mussler Project		42	7		14	4
	Cub River WD Stream Flow Project		14			5	
	Mink Cr Monitoring		14			5	
	Consolidated Irrig. GIS Project		60			20	
	Bear River-Mound Valley Project		32	42		10	22
	Station Cr 319 Project		140	50		46	26
	Clifton Irr. Co ID-40 Project		72	10		24	5
	New Grant App Development	40			4		
	Culinary Water Co Eng. Review			28			15
	Riverdale Canal Proj TA & Eng Rev.		72	10		24	5
	8th Grade Water Fair	23			0		
	Consolidated Irrig. GIS Project		36			12	
	FCHS Ecology: Water Education	18			1.8		
Dist Staff Training	108			10.8			
FRANKLIN TOTALS	189	506	147	16.6	165	76	
NORTH BINGHAM CD (George)	District mtng attendance, educational program participation	40			4		

DIVISION 5 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ALLOCATIONS FOR FY2016

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED			ALLOCATED HOURS		
					GEORGE		ALLAN
		CA	TA	ENG	CA	TA	ENG
ONEIDA SWCD (George)	Oneida Resource Protection		75	195		24	101
	Malad Clean Water Project		60	170		20	88
	Wide Hollow 319 Project		32	55		10	28
	ONEIDA TOTALS	0	167	420		55	218
PORTNEUF SWCD (George)	Lava Urban 319 Project		45			15	
	Jackson Creek Project	15	80		1.5	26	
	Middle Portneuf River Project	15	100		1.5	33	
	PORTNEUF TOTALS	30	225		3	73	
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		1016	1580	1786	99	516	925
GEORGE'S HRS REQUESTED & RANKED TOP PRIORITY		993	1580		99	516	
ALLAN'S HRS REQUESTED & RANKED TOP PRIORITY				1786			925

SWCC Staff Hours Available For District Support		
Staff	For Allocation	Discretionary
George	615	200
Allan	925	
Total	1540	

DIVISION 6 -- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ALLOCATIONS FOR FY2016

#5a

DISTRICT	PROJECT	HOURS REQUESTED	ALLOCATED HRS	
			BRIAN	ROB
BUTTE SWCD (Rob)	Soil health workshop	30		30
CLARK SCD (Briain)	District meeting attendance	32	32	
EAST SIDE SWCD (Brian)	District meeting attendance	6	6	
JEFFERSON SWCD (Brian)	District meeting attendance	16	16	
MADISON SWCD (Brian)	District meeting attendance	27	27	
TETON SCD (Brian)	District meeting attendance	25	25	
WEST SIDE SWCD (Brian)	District meeting attendance	16	16	
TOTAL HOURS REQUESTED		152		
TOTAL BRIAN'S HOURS		122	122	
TOTAL ROB'S HOURS		30		30

SWCC Staff Hours Available For District Support		
Staff	For Allocation	Discretionary
Brian	122	148
Rob	30	25
Allan	0	233
Total	152	0



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 5b

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, TREBESCH, AND SLICHTER
FROM: DELWYNE TREFZ, DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES
DATE: JUNE 1, 2015
RE: DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING AND UNMET PROGRAM/PROJECT NEEDS

Twenty-six districts submitted Budget Hearing Request Worksheets detailing the financial assistance they would need in order to address unmet program and project needs within their districts. The 26 districts requested a total of \$4.9M with which they would leverage an additional \$3.8M from other partners to put \$8.7M worth of locally led water quality improvement work on the ground.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accept Report

Attachment:

- Spreadsheet, District Requests For Financial Assistance With Unmet Program & Project Needs.
- Copy of each District Budget Hearing Project/Program Needs Worksheet submitted by districts.
(not attached)

DISTRICT REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH UNMET PROGRAM AND PROJECT NEEDS

#5b

District	Funding Source				Total Project Cost	
	SWCC	Federal	Other State	District		Other
Ada	\$45,000			\$36,000		\$81,000
Adams	\$100,000	\$80,000		\$7,000	\$50,000	\$237,000
Benewah	\$37,500	\$38,000		\$9,050	\$3,700	\$88,250
Bonner	\$9,000	\$6,600		\$14,400	\$1,000	\$31,000
Butte	\$20,154			\$10,077		\$30,231
Canyon	\$297,500	\$500,000		\$2,000		\$799,500
Caribou	\$1,300			\$500	\$300	\$2,100
Central Bingham	\$1,700	\$1,700		\$500		\$3,900
Clearwater	\$451,875	\$451,875				\$903,750
Franklin	\$15,000		\$70,000	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$103,000
Gem	\$72,000				\$72,000	\$144,000
Gooding	\$64,000	\$101,000	\$100,070	\$52,540		\$317,610
Idaho	\$380,400			\$9,600	\$95,100	\$485,100
Jefferson	\$1,500				\$13,411	\$14,911
Kootenai-Shoshone	\$520,000	\$615,000			\$30,000	\$1,165,000
Latah	\$102,500	\$75,000		\$30,000		\$207,500
Lewis	\$936,360					\$936,360
Minidoka	\$1,200		\$800		\$400	\$2,400
North Bingham	\$1,650		\$1,700	\$2,200		\$5,550
Payette	\$208,500			\$211,000	\$500	\$420,000
Power	\$5,000			\$5,000		\$10,000
South Bingham	\$318,000				\$76,560	\$394,560
Squaw Creek	\$115,000				\$115,000	\$230,000
Valley	\$255,000					\$255,000
Weiser River	\$923,000		\$575,000	\$78,000	\$270,000	\$1,846,000
Wood River	\$4,100	\$1,100		\$2,300	\$7,000	\$14,500
TOTAL	\$4,887,239	\$1,870,275	\$747,570	\$482,167	\$740,971	\$8,728,222

The \$4.9M requested by districts would leverage an additional \$3.8M from other partners to put \$8.7M worth of locally led, voluntary conservation work on the ground.



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 5c

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, TREBESCH, AND SLICHTER
FROM: DELWYNE TREFZ, DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES
DATE: JUNE 1, 2015
RE: FY2016 DISTRICT CAPACITY BUILDING FUNDS REQUESTS

The Commission has \$50,000 available to disburse to districts as capacity building grants in FY2016.

A portion of the available capacity building funds are typically used to support conservation district sponsored programs with a regional or statewide area of impact. In FY2015 these included the State Forestry Contest (Bonner SWCD), the North Central Idaho Grazing Conference (Idaho SWCD), the Agricultural Symposium (Payette SWCD), Idaho Envirothon (Bear River SWCD), the Rangeland Skillathon (Adams SWCD), and a Soil Health Workshop (Lewis SCD). The remaining funds were then divided equally amongst the 50 districts, resulting in each district receiving an \$830 capacity building grant.

For FY2016, eight districts have requested capacity building funds to help with projects that offer regional or state-wide benefits. In addition to the six programs funded by the Commission in FY2015, districts submitted requests for financial assistance with the following two additional programs:

West Cassia SWCD has requested assistance with a Land & Soil Evaluation Event (LSEE) they host together with East Cassia SWCD. The event is a competition open to FFA and High School students statewide and the top two teams at the Idaho event qualify to progress to a nationwide competition. The funds requested by the district will be used to help finance the Idaho event and to help sponsor the winner's trip to the national event.

Led by district administrator Krystal Harmon, Portneuf SWCD has developed a series of training modules intended to provide district supervisors and staff with everything they need to know about functioning as a governmental entity. During the IASCD conference last November, Portneuf SWCD staff introduced their materials to districts from around the state during a break-out session. The reception was overwhelmingly positive and Portneuf SWCD is requesting funding to enable them to make these materials available to all 50 districts.

The table below shows a recommended allocation of FY2016 capacity building funds. Providing Lewis SCD with the \$1,000 they requested for their Soil Health Workshop, and funding each of the other requests at the \$1,500 level will leave \$38,500 available to be divided equally between the 50 conservation districts. This calculates to \$770 per district which they may use in whichever way they choose to help build their capacity to provide voluntary natural resources conservation.



IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ALLOCATION OF FY2016 \$50,000 DISTRICT CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT FUNDS

PROGRAM	SPONSORING DISTRICT	DIVISION	FY2015 FUNDING GRANTED	FY2016 FUNDING REQUESTED
State Forestry Contest	Bonner SWCD	1	\$1,500	\$1,500
Grazing Conference	Idaho SWCD	2	\$1,500	\$1,500
Soil Health Workshop	Lewis SCD	2	\$1,000	\$1,000
Agricultural Symposium	Payette SWCD	3	\$1,500	\$1,500
Rangeland Skillathon	Adams SWCD	3	\$1,500	\$1,500
Land & Soil Evaluation Event	West Cassia SWCD	4		\$1,500
Idaho Envirothon	Bear Lake SWCD	5	\$1,500	\$1,500
District Education Program	Portneuf SWCD	5		\$1,500
Total Program Funding			\$8,500	\$11,500
Balance Available for Districts			\$41,500	\$38,500
Capacity Building Grant Funds per District			\$830	\$770

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

Attachments, funding requests for:

- Idaho State Forestry Contest from Bonner SWCD
- North Central Idaho Grazing Conference from Idaho SWCD
- Agricultural Symposium from Payette SWCD
- Idaho Envirothon from Bear Lake SWCD
- Rangeland Skillathon from Adams SWCD
- Soil Health Workshop from Lewis SCD
- Land & Soil Evaluation Event from West Cassia SWCD
- District Education Program from Portneuf SWCD

Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101 ~ Sandpoint, ID 83864
Phone 208-263-5310 ext 100 ~ Email Linda.OHare@id.nacdn.net
Visit our website at <http://www.bonnerswcd.org>

May 5, 2015

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 2016

Dear Teri and ISWCC 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, 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 IDL 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
Bonner SWCD Chairman

xc: Delwyne Trefz

IDAHO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Scott Wasem

District
Administrator
Stefanie Hays

Conservation Planner
Jinny Cash

District
Conservationist:
Richard Spencer

April 13, 2015

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
% Delwyne Trefz
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 \$1,500 contribution towards the 2016 Annual Grazing Conference that will take place in Lewiston at the Lewis Clark State College Campus in January of 2016.

This will be the 12th Annual Grazing Conference and each year it is more successful than the previous. We had approximately 225 participants in January of 2015, 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 \$1,500 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



Payette Soil & Water Conservation District

501 North 16th St., Suite 102 • Payette, ID 83861 • Ph. (208) 642-6129 • email: johna.gabiola@payetteswcd.org

June 3, 2015

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 Seventh Annual Soil Health Symposium in 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to request financial assistance for the Payette SWCD 7th Annual Soil Health Symposium scheduled for February 2016. The annual Payette SWCD symposium was created by our district as an education and outreach program in 2010 to provide a forum to bring nationally known presenters to speak to Treasure Valley and regional farmers about soil biology, soil health and sustainable agricultural practices. For the past 5 years the Payette SWCD has partnered with neighboring Malheur County (Oregon) SWCD to aid with planning this event. In 2015 two additional conservation districts, Canyon and Adams County provided personnel support. This symposium is formatted 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, Where Profits Take Root" and featured three speakers, Jay Fuhler, Soil Health Specialist from North Dakota NRCS, Jerry Hatfield from NRCS-ARS and Marlon Winger, Idaho State NRCS Agronomist. The symposium also hosted panels of producers presenting their local experience. A half day cover crop workshop, with presenters representing a cover crop seed company and University of Idaho Extension Educator, was held the following day.

Financial assistance from ISWCC of \$6,000 would aid our district to continue this popular informative education and outreach program in 2016. Our program costs are approximately \$10,000 - \$12,000 including conference facility rental, speaker fees, lunch, and administration. In past years our administrative assistant has spent significant time to help organize this event and our district volunteers meet frequently for several months to create a program, plan, advertise, and contact potential speakers, financial sponsors, and exhibitors. The 2015 event had over 200 attendees at the symposium and 35 at the workshop. It is our wish to keep the registration fee affordable to continue to increase attendance.

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

Respectfully,

Jo Anne Smith



IDAHO ENVIROTHON

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

Idaho Soil & Water Commission
% Teri Murrison
650 W. State Street, Rm 145
Boise, ID 83702

December 17, 2014

Dear Teri,

Thank you for your past support of the Idaho Envirothon. The Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the Idaho Envirothon State Committee would like to ask for your continued support or donation for the Idaho State Envirothon Competition.

The Idaho Envirothon is a hands-on environmental problem solving competition for high school aged students. The Idaho Competition averages 196 students from all over the state, competing annually. This year's competitions will again be held May 4th and 5th at the Living Water Ranch in Challis Idaho. This is a very exciting program and we are pleased to education so many young students about our nations very important natural resources. To read more about the Idaho State Envirothon go to our new website at www.idahoenvirothon.weebly.com.

Participating teams complete training and testing in five natural resource categories: Soils & Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and a current issue topic that is developed annually. This year's current issue is "**Urban/Community Forestry**".

Teams all across the United States and Canada compete at local competitions. The winning team from each state or province advance on to compete at the International Competition. The 2015 National Competition will be held at the Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri from July 27 to August 2, 2015.

Your monetary support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Respectfully,

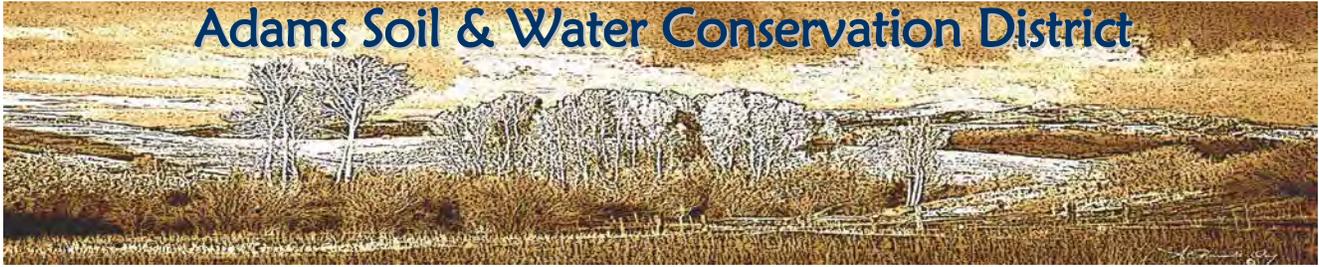
Kit Tillotson
IASCD President

Please clip and return donation to: Bear Lake Soil & Water Conservation District
785 North 4th Street, Suite B
Montpelier, Idaho 83254

Make Donation out to: Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Donation Received From: _____



PO Box 26, Council, ID 83612

E-mail: aswd@ctcweb.net

208-253-4668

www.adamsconservationdistrict.org

June 3, 2015

Idaho Soil & Water Commission
Att: Teri Murrison
650 W. State St., Room #145
Boise, ID 83702

Re: Capacity Building Grant for Rangeland Health Education

Dear Teri and Commission Members:

The Adams Soil & Water Conservation District is seeking a capacity building grant in the amount of \$1,500 to help develop a new statewide rangeland health education program for middle school students. We will again partner with the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and U of I Extension to provide in-the-field, hands-on experiences that will teach students about the importance of Idaho's rangelands and how we can properly manage those resources.

The IRRC will provide matching funds to promote and implement this event. This program will also serve as a pilot for similar programs that would be offered throughout the state. This year's pilot program was well attended and the students were well prepared for the day's activities.

Our board supports this effort because rangelands are an important resource in our District and opportunities for this type of program are rare. Both education and rangelands are among the top five issues in our five-year plan. Therefore, we are excited to be able to partner with IRRC and U of I Extension on the ground level to bring this kind of a program eventually to all of Idaho.

Funding will be used for office supplies, postage, awards and prizes, stationery supplies, and lunches for volunteers and students.

Sincerely,

Julie M. Burkhardt

Julie M. Burkhardt, Chair
Adams SWCD Board of Supervisors

LEWIS SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*Eric Hasselstrom, Chairman
Greg Branson, Vice Chairman
Tyler Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer
Drew Leitch, Supervisor
Steve Bateman, Supervisor*

The Lewis Soil Conservation District request financial assistance of \$1000.00 to organize and sponsor informational Soil Health Workshops in FY 16. The Lewis District has set February 9, 2016 to hold the 2016 workshop. A guest speaker has not been selected at this time.

In February 2015 we brought with Jay Fuhrer, NRCS Agronomist, Bismarck ND, as guest speaker. There were over 80 producers that attended the workshop. The Lewis District has been promoting soil health practice and without this funding the District would not be able to provide these workshops for cooperators and educate them about conservation and how important it is to the local area. This funding source helps district to be able to maintain their mission statement: *We are dedicated to conserving natural resources and promote sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.*

From: [Teri Murrison](#)
To: [Delwyne Trefz](#)
Subject: Fwd: 2015 donation request for 2015
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 2:33:08 PM
Attachments: [Billing Statement for SWC 2015.doc](#)

Fyi

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: East West Cassia
<ewcswcd@pmt.org> Date: 05/26/2015
4:13 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Carolyn Watts
<Carolyn.Watts@swc.idaho.gov> Cc: Teri
Murrison <Teri.Murrison@swc.idaho.gov>
Subject: 2015 donation request for 2015

Dear: SWCC, Carolyn Watts

Please consider this the official request for your donation to the 2015 Idaho State Land & Soil Evaluation Event to be held in October of 2015 in Burley, Idaho. In years past your agency has generously donated to this event. Please consider donating for this upcoming 2015 event and if your finances allow donating to the 2014 event to help with event costs.

Your donation goes toward the arrangements for the state contest, the awards banquet, and to help sponsor the top 2 teams in their attendance to the National Event held in Oklahoma City each year.

Please mark your donation check with "LSEE" (Land & Soil Evaluation Event) and mail to: West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District
1361 East 16th
Street
Burley, ID
83318

If you have any questions, you may contact me at 678-1225 x 100 or by email at ewcswcd@pmt.org.

Thank you, Megan Heward
*Administrative Assistant for East & West Cassia SWCD
Treasurer for Idaho State Land and Soil CDE Advisory Committee*

East and West Cassia SWCD
1361 East 16th Street
Burley, ID 83318
208-678-1225 x 100
ewcswcd@pmt.org



East Cassia & West Cassia
Soil & Water Conservation District
1361 East 16th Street
Burley, ID 83318

Phone (208) 678-1225 x100

STATEMENT

To: Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Date:		Amount:
May 26, 2015	Donation to support the Idaho State FFA & 4-H Land & Soil Evaluation 2015 Event	\$ 1,500.00
		\$ 1,500.00
	Suggested donation amount:	\$ 1,500.00

*Please send payment to the above address and make check payable to:
West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District
Attn: LSEE*



Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District

1551 Baldy Ave Suite 2
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 237-4628 x111
www.portneufswcd.wordpress.com

Board of Supervisors

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JOHN SIGLER
Pocatello, ID

HANNAH SANGER
Pocatello, ID

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission,

The Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District met at our Board of supervisors meeting where our district manager approached us with an idea to develop a training program for the district. She expressed the concern over a rapidly increasing number of staff and supervisors that have entered into retirement. We are enthusiastic about this proposal and request the support of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission in the amount of \$1500.00 as we move forward in this endeavor.

Currently, the neither ISWCC nor IASCD has a formal training program for supervisors or employees. The goal of this training program is to give the new supervisor or staff an introduction to conservation districts, legal responsibilities, and an introduction to the conservation partnership as well as give supervisors and staff a network of people to work with in order to succeed and a general roadmap for progression. Many other states have either started to develop a similar training or have already implemented one. We will be working with other states to customize Idaho's program to be specific to our needs and programs. We envision an online program to supplement information in the Supervisor's handbook and employee handbook as well as set expectations and allow progression of conservation districts statewide.

The program will be spearheaded by Division V staff and by Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District's Administrator, Krystal Harmon. Ms. Harmon received her undergraduate degree in Political Science with an Emphasis in Environmental Policy and her graduate degree in Public Administration. She is also a certified Public Risk Manager.

We are certain that this will fill a void in the capacity building initiative that has been missing for several years. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chairman Kevin Koester



TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, TREBESCH, AND SLICHTER
FROM: DELWYNE TREFZ, DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES
DATE: JUNE 1, 2015
RE: TMDL WORK PLAN UPDATE – SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE COMMISSION’S FY2016 TMDL WORK PLAN, PROVIDED TO SUPPLEMENT THAT PRESENTED DURING LAST MONTH’S COMMISSION MEETING

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Basics:

- A TMDL is a pollutant budget based on a calculation of a waterbodies load capacity, i.e., the maximum amount of a pollutant that water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. The budget is expressed in terms of “loads”, or the amounts of pollutants that can be added to a water body during a given time or per a volume of water, e.g., 5 kg of phosphorus per day, from a given source.
- TMDLs can be expressed as:

Load Capacity = margin of safety + natural background + wasteload allocation + load allocation = TMDL

- Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) drives Idaho’s TMDL programs
- Section 303(d) of CWA requires states to develop a list of “impaired waters”
 - Impaired waters are those surface waters (streams, rivers, lakes & reservoirs) that do not meet the applicable water quality standards for one or more designated beneficial uses by one or more pollutants
- Every two years Idaho is required to submit to EPA an “Integrated Report” which lists the current conditions of all state waters, including those needing a TMDL as required by §303(d)
- The most current EPA-approved Integrated Report is the 2012 report, summarized here:

Support Status by Category--2012 Integrated Report

Category	Miles of Stream	Acres of Lake	Percent of Statewide Total	
			Miles of Stream	Acres of Lake
Fully Supporting Beneficial Uses				
Cat 1	4,751	5,653	5%	1%
Cat 2	23,888	22,030	25%	5%
Totals, Supporting Beneficial Uses	28,639	27,683	30%	6%
Not Assessed				
Cat 3	32,034	179,653	34%	38%
Not Supporting Beneficial Uses				
Cat 4a - TMDL completed & approved	23,894	210,267	25%	45%
Cat 4b - pollution control measures in place, no TMDL needed	51	0	0%	0%
Cat 4c - impaired by pollution but not pollutants, no TMDL needed	7,342	85,727	8%	18%
Cat 5 - do not meet applicable WQ stds, need a TMDL	13,237	208,036	14%	44%
Totals, Not Supporting Beneficial Uses	44,524	504,030	36%	56%
Statewide Totals	95,119	469,045		

- Once a water body is listed as a category 5 water, DEQ prepares a subbasin assessment and determines appropriate water quality targets, develops a TMDL and submits it to EPA
- Once EPA approves a TMDL, the designated agencies (SWCC for grazing & ag activities; IDL for timber, oil, gas & mining activities; ITD for public road construction; ISDA for aquaculture; and DEQ for all other activities) develop implementation plans that provide details of the actions needed to achieve the goals established in the TMDL.

Five-Year Reviews of TMDLs:

- TMDLs are subject to a review every 5 years conducted by DEQ
- 5-year reviews compile progress made towards achieving water quality goals
- SWCC assists DEQ by providing data regarding BMP implementation in the watershed

Addendums to TMDLs:

- An addendum is a water quality impairment requiring a TMDL that is found to exist in a watershed subsequent to development of an EPA-approved TMDL
- Often a 5-year review will bring to light needed addendums to an existing TMDL
 - New data may indicate the need for a TMDL for a segment of a waterbody found to not be meeting water quality standards for all designated beneficial uses, or;
 - A new pollutant requiring a TMDL may be found to be impairing the quality of a segment of a waterbody which already had a TMDL developed for other pollutants.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For information only



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

COMMISSION

Item 5e

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TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS STUTZMAN, RADFORD, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH

FROM: TERRY HOEBELHEINRICH, LOAN OFFICER

DATE: May 27, 2015

RE: RCRDP MARKETING PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

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"> • \$25,000 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"> • \$5,400 Budget • 6-8 Shows including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Idaho Cattle Association Trade Show (Boise) ○ Ag Pavilion (Boise & Twin Falls) ○ North Idaho Grazing Conference (Lewiston) ○ Idaho Irrigation Equipment Show & Conference (Nampa) ○ Soil Health Symposium (Ontario) ○ 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 on