



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 ACTION: Approve	Murrison
*#	e.	Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan 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 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Thurs. June 11, 2015 Reg. Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice::June 4, 2015



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
 - 38 • 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



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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)

Business Address

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

ANNUAL
REPORT
2014

Connecting People to Conservation



RESOURCES FIRST FOUNDATION

www.resourcesfirstfoundation.org

Our Mission

The mission of the Resources First Foundation is to support and develop innovative conservation programs to strengthen and sustain rural communities, economies and green businesses, and to support private sector conservation initiatives.

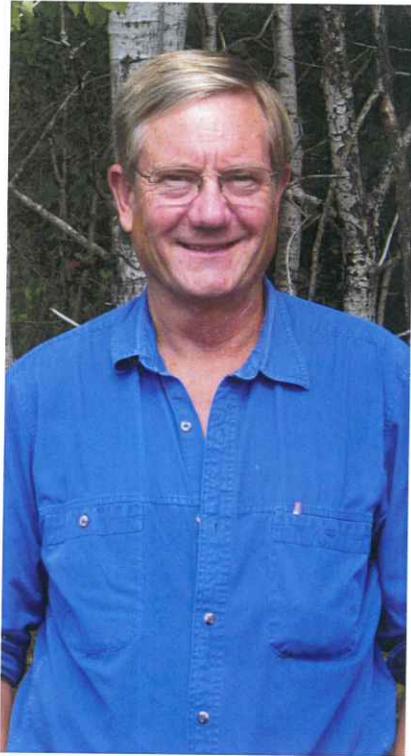
PRIVATE LANDOWNER NETWORK

We connect private landowners, who are the best and most efficient stewards of our country's land, to conservation through the Private Landowner Network, an extensive online database of conservation resources and information. Resources First Foundation engages with and educates farmers, forest owners and ranchers throughout the U.S. to inspire sustainable business and conservation practices.

Our program focus is to support and educate those who own our nation's critical lands, lead them to conservation, describe the benefits of conservation practices (both economic and environmental), and put it in a format that can be easily accessed and individualized.

Eagle Valley Ranch in Lemhi Valley, Idaho





Message From Amos S. Eno President And Founder

In 2000 when I established Resources First Foundation, I did so because of my conviction the market for conservation in the 21st century was going to shift from its historical public land acquisition focus to one where the private market place and privately owned lands would be both the most investible sector and the route to provide the highest conservation returns. The success of this shift requires a more inclusive approach to conservation; collaboration between private landowners, federal and state agencies, and private sector conservation organizations.

Just before Christmas, I read an article by Sallie Krawcheck, Chair of Ellevest Network and Ellevest Asset Management, entitled *The Big Idea 2015: Inclusive Capitalism = A More Prosperous Capitalism*, which reminded me that another essential element to this inclusivity is fostering the growth of underrepresented demographics in private lands conservation, namely women and millennials – both of whom polls have shown express a greater enthusiasm than men for conservation practices on their working lands.

A century ago, my stentorian relative Gifford Pinchot recognized the looming importance of women in conservation. He wrote: "The success of the conservation movement in the United States depends on the understanding the women have of it." Uncle Gifford was always a little wooden in his pronouncements but he was a prescient soul.

If you look around the country today the leadership presence of women in conservation is obvious. Last month we did a blog on the Malpais Group, which I funded in the 1990s while Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Malpais' Executive Director, and heart and soul, was Wendy Glenn, who sadly passed away this past year. Sharon O'Toole, who is on my RFF advisory board, plays a similar role in her ranching community on the border of Colorado and Wyoming. If you look at the three fastest growing land trusts in the country: the first Executive Director of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust was Lynn Sherrod; Nita Vail is the founder and Executive Director of the California Rangeland Trust; and Texas Agricultural Land Trust's Director is Blair Fitzsimmons. Is this coincidence that the founding directors are all women? No. It is a sign of our times.

However, while there are many woman leaders in private sector conservation organizations, women represent only 14 percent of principal farm operators and 30 percent of all operators (principal, second and third operators). Although currently small, the good news is that the number of women principal farm and ranch operators is growing – up 19 percent in 2012 from 2002.

Fostering this growing of women farmers, ranchers and forest land owners is vital to forming a system of inclusive conservation that will create prosperous rural communities and a proliferation of natural resources and wildlife on productive working lands.

STAY CONNECTED

Read Eno's *Keep Working Lands Working Blog*, a newsworthy and inspirational blog featuring discussions of innovative programs, organizations, and private land conservation.



Photo by Edward Stojakovic

Idaho Conservation Connection

Idaho will be our first state conservation center in the Rocky Mountains, where public lands outnumber private, but farmers and ranchers manage a disproportionate amount of wildlife habitat. In the state's Lemhi Valley, ranchers are pioneering "inclusive conservation" on a scalable basis to restore endangered Pacific salmon species in the Columbia River drainage headwaters. One of these ranchers is Nikos Monoyios, Princeton '72 classmate of RFF President Eno, and the embodiment of the conservation leadership and stewardship of private landowners in Idaho.

According to Monoyios:

"In Idaho 66.6 percent of the land is owned by the Federal and State government which is the fourth highest percentage in the nation. In Lemhi County where we live, private lands are only 8% of the total. Yet 75 percent of Bald Eagle nesting sites and most of the redds (spawning nests) for endangered Chinook salmon and Steelhead are found on private lands. Private landowners are the economic engine for the State and the best stewards of the land. RFF is giving us the resources and information we need to better conserve our lands and way of life for future generations."

Given the outsized economic and ecological importance of private landowners such as Monoyios, Idaho is the natural place for Resources First Foundation to bring our innovative conservation tools and resources for working lands and rural economies.

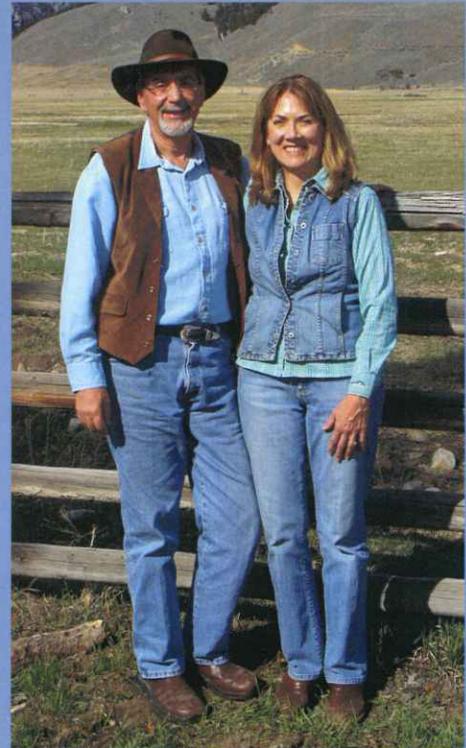


Photo by Steve Stuebner

"Private landowners are the economic engine for the State and the best stewards of the land. RFF is giving us the resources and information we need to better conserve our lands and way of life for future generations."

Nikos Monoyios
and Valerie Brackett

Conservation Habitat Management Portal

The Conservation Habitat Management Portal (CHMP) helps private landowners manage candidate, threatened and endangered species habitat on their land.

We first built the CHMP to assist the implementation of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' recovery plan for the lesser prairie chicken, a prairie, dry land grouse recently listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The prairie chicken's habitat is overwhelmingly (95 percent) on private farms and ranch lands ranging across Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas.

We designed the CHMP website so that it readily can accommodate additional species the FWS is considering for listing under the Endangered Species Act. In June, we added the greater sage-grouse, the largest grouse species in North America, and a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The grouse inhabits eleven states from California to the Dakotas, including Idaho. As such, the new Idaho Conservation Center will be an important link to CHMP for Idaho landowners.

Greater Sage-Grouse

The largest grouse species in North America and a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.



The lesser prairie chicken's habitat is overwhelmingly (95 percent) on private farms and ranch lands ranging across Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas.



Looking Forward: Future State Site Development

In 2015, we will build a state wide site for Texas to be called the Lone Star Conservation Center in honor of their unique history. Texas is over 95% privately owned and is a test bed for new approaches to conservation. In the mid-1990s, while working at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), RFF President Amos Eno gave the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TDWD) NFWF's largest grant to that date to create a Private Lands Program. Today the former Director of TPWD's Private Lands Program, Linda Campbell, is helping us design the Texas site. Because Texas is so huge, with 246 counties, we shall be building the Lone Star Conservation Center for the next two years.

Finally, we are building the Virginia Conservation Center in honor of Maggie Orhstrom Bryant, former chairman of the board at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



Photo by Kay Gaensler Photography

“Maggie was chairman of the board at NFWF for almost a decade while I was the organization’s executive director. She provided stalwart support through an era of difficult politics; she provided keen intelligence and insight on a monthly basis, and through her leadership she corralled unprecedented financial support from the board. Maggie embodies the leadership role that my Granduncle Gifford Pinchot envisioned for women in conservation.”

Amos Eno,
RFF President

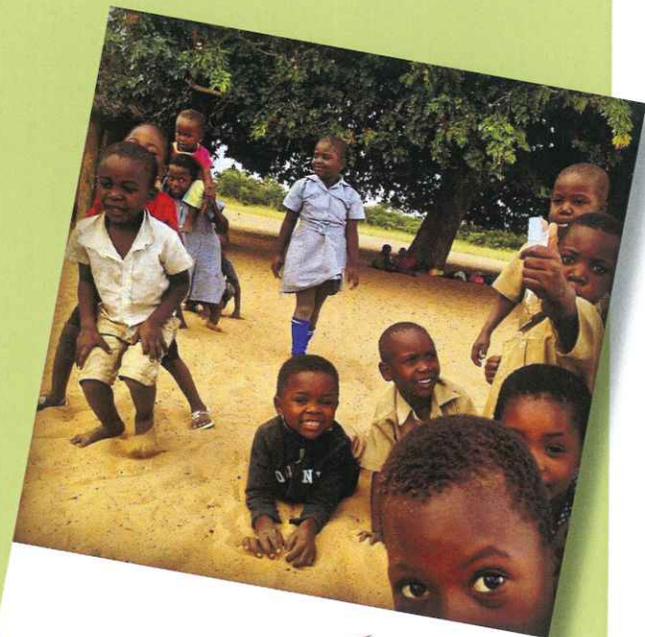


International Programs RFF Supports



Resources First Foundation acts in partnership with the Wilderness Wildlife Trust on successful grant programs for wildlife conservation, community infrastructure support and education to communities throughout southern Africa.

We are particularly proud of the efforts on the Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project, which raised nearly \$218,000. With the poaching of rhinoceros rampant across southern Africa, Wilderness Wildlife Trust is collaborating with Wilderness Safaris, Botswana's Department of Wildlife, and the Governments of Botswana and South Africa to reintroduce black and white rhinos into the relative safety of Botswana's Moremi Game Reserve.



CHILDREN IN THE
WILDERNESS



Children in the Wilderness (CITW) facilitates sustainable conservation through leadership development of rural children in Africa. This is achieved in a variety of ways, from running three- to five-day camps at Wilderness Safaris camps, to running Eco-Clubs and Follow-up Programs at schools, within the rural communities that live on the edges of the wild areas of Africa.

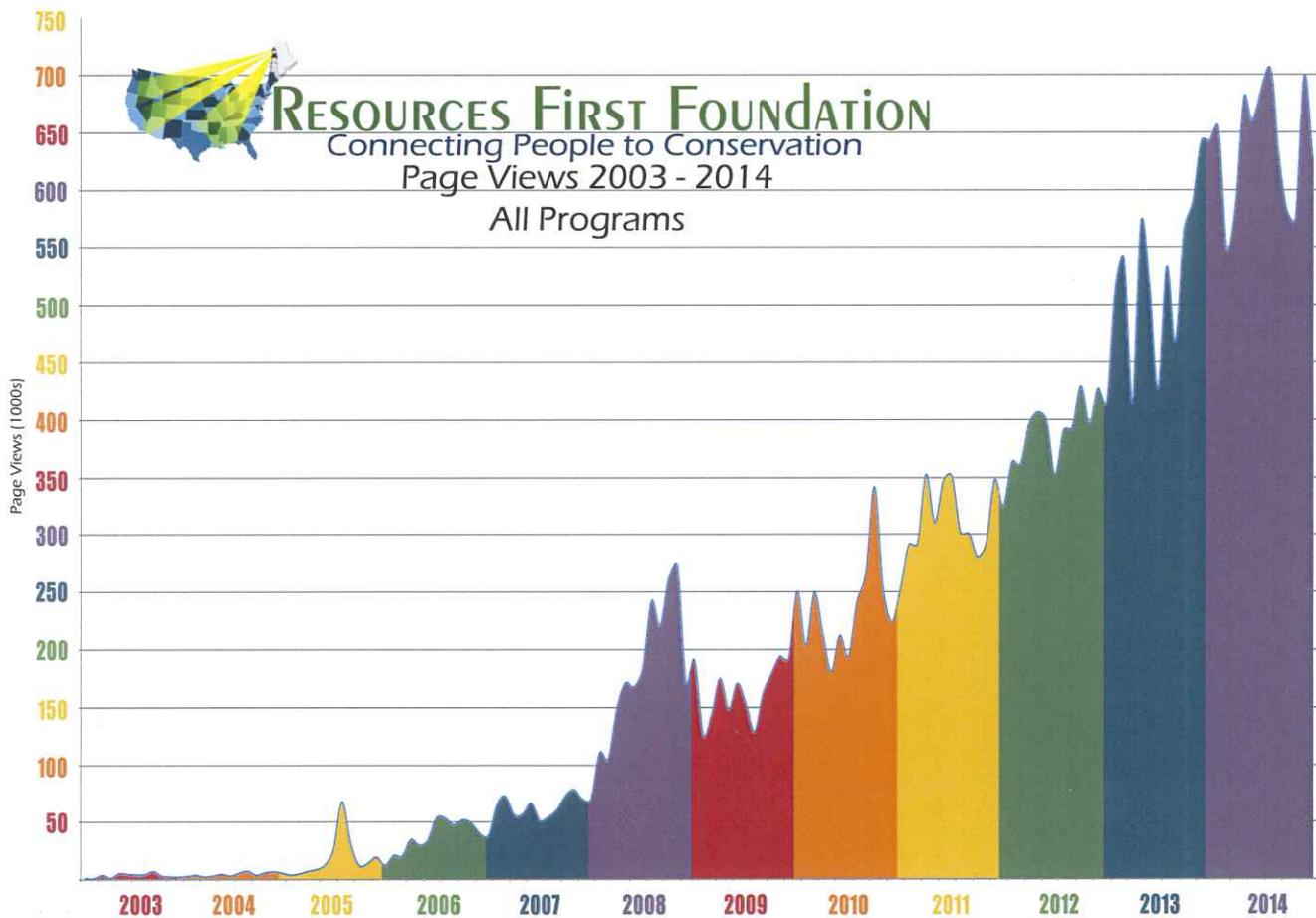
The camp program, run at Wilderness Safaris camps, combines leadership skills, environmental education and recreation – all in a unique and safe wilderness environment, where nature is both teacher and healer. The program aims at increasing the children's understanding and appreciation of the diversity of natural environments, as well as to encourage them by demonstrating the opportunities that exist for them.

Finally, the program is designed to increase self-esteem, teach new skills and impart knowledge to our children.



Landowner Outreach

Since Resources First Foundation's creation in 2001, we've enjoyed sustained growth in website traffic year after year. This past year was no different. Thanks to our continuous efforts at search engine optimization and internet media outreach, website traffic increased nearly 20 percent in 2014 over 2013.

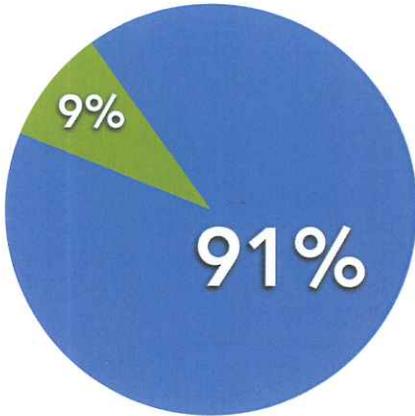


“The Private Landowner Network is an invaluable resource. I’ve relied on it as a ranch manager, a planning commissioner and to support collaborative conservation among private landowners. There’s a great deal more to managing land than many people realize and the Private Landowner Network is a go-to source for the many different types of necessary information. There is nothing else like it out there for landowners.”

Lesli Allison,
Western Landowners Alliance

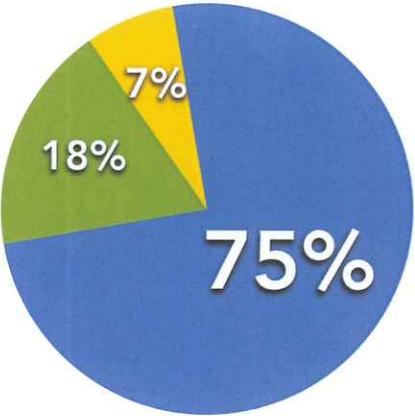


2014 FINANCIALS



Support & Revenue

- Contributions & Grants: \$908,264
- Interest & Dividends: \$87,144



Expenses

- Programs & Services: \$742,863
- Fundraising: \$182,902
- Management & General: \$68,905

Resources First Leadership

Board of Directors

Amos S. Eno

Founder and President

Pamela K. McClelland

RFF Secretary

Fishery/Riparian Specialist

Howard Burris

RFF Treasurer

Alex A. Beehler

Senior Advisor

Faegre Baker Daniels Consulting

Kenneth Berlin

CEO

Climate Reality Project

James W. Gorman, Jr.

L.L. Bean, Inc.

Robert E. Grady

Partner

Gryphon Investors

Mark Rey

Executive in Residence, Center for
Systems Integration & Sustainability,
MSU & The Livingston Group

Grace Terpstra

Terpstra Associates

Independent Government and
Public Affairs Advocacy

Michael Webert

Virginia House of Delegates 2012

David Weiman

AgResources

Adam White

Advisory Board

Elizabeth Butler

Joan Chevalier

Lawrence Clark

James Cummins

Tom Daniels

Diandra DeMorrell Douglas

Stewart Fefer

Jay Fetcher

Philip W. Grone

Monty Halcomb

Carol Hamilton

Bruce Knight

Rick Knight

Sharon S. O'Toole

Keith Ross

Walter Sedgwick

Steven J. Shimberg

Steve Thompson

Bill Vail

Chandler Van Voorhis

Robert Wallace

Douglas Wheeler

Douglas E. Williams

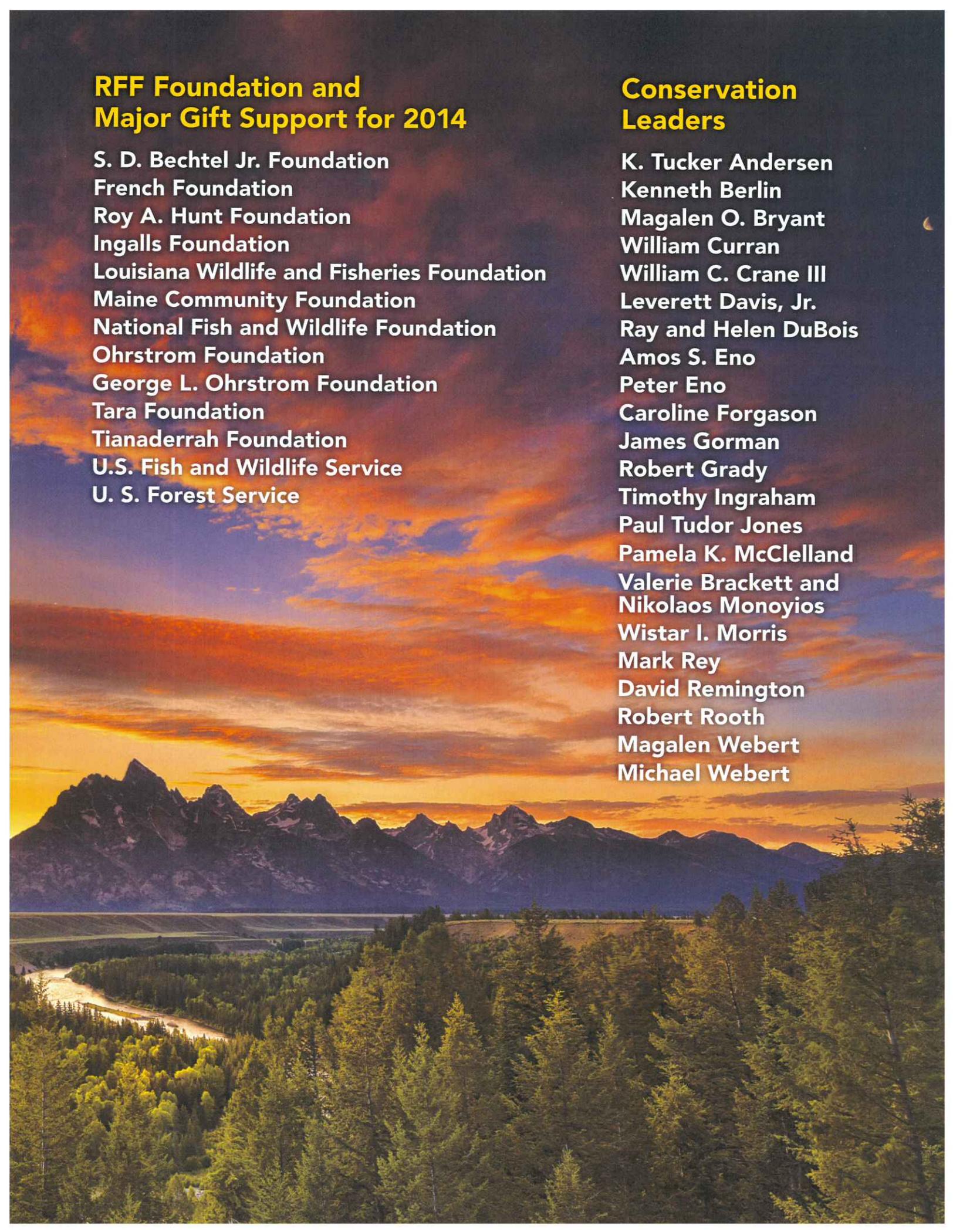
Robert R. Williams

RFF Foundation and Major Gift Support for 2014

**S. D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation
French Foundation
Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Ingalls Foundation
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation
Maine Community Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Ohrstrom Foundation
George L. Ohrstrom Foundation
Tara Foundation
Tianaderrah Foundation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U. S. Forest Service**

Conservation Leaders

**K. Tucker Andersen
Kenneth Berlin
Magalen O. Bryant
William Curran
William C. Crane III
Leverett Davis, Jr.
Ray and Helen DuBois
Amos S. Eno
Peter Eno
Caroline Forgason
James Gorman
Robert Grady
Timothy Ingraham
Paul Tudor Jones
Pamela K. McClelland
Valerie Brackett and
Nikolaos Monoyios
Wistar I. Morris
Mark Rey
David Remington
Robert Rooth
Magalen Webert
Michael Webert**



Connecting People to Conservation

Harnessing the power of the internet, RFF has developed an extensive suite of web-based solutions for conservation.



Conservation
Tax
Center



Idaho
Conservation
Connection



Conservation
Habitat
Management
Portal



Louisiana
Conservation
Connection



Arkansas
Conservation
Center



Maine
Conservation
Center



California
Conservation
Center



Mississippi
Conservation
Center



Houston
Conservation
Center

COMING SOON

Texas and Virginia
Conservation Centers



RESOURCES FIRST FOUNDATION

74 Lunt Road, Suite 300-302 • Falmouth, ME 04105 • 207.232.0134

www.resourcesfirstfoundation.org

**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

Celia Gould, Director

7/17/14
Date

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

Timothy M. Murphy

Timothy Murphy, Acting Idaho State Director

06/30/2014
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><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><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><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><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

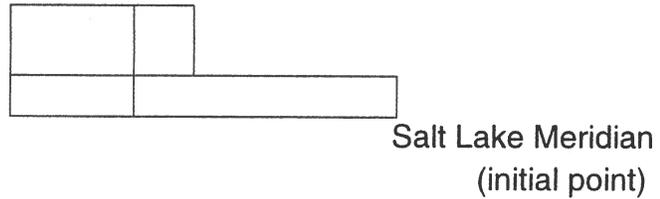
The following guidance is provided for reference only, and does not supersede local study and photograph identification systems already in use at Idaho BLM field offices.

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:

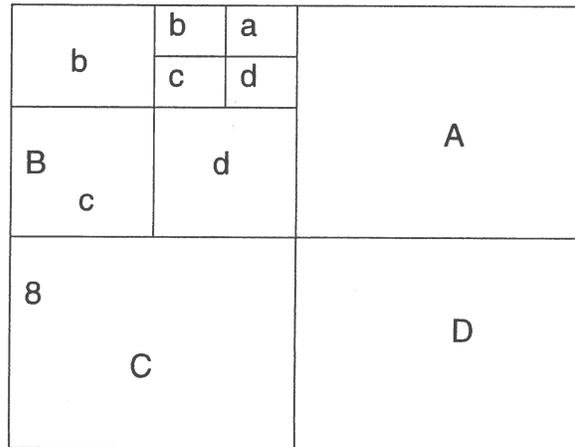
Numbering Scheme 1. Consecutive numbers may be assigned to studies within an allotment. For example, Mooncreek #1 and Moon Creek # 2 would be studies Number 1 and 2 within the Mooncreek Allotment. A disadvantage to using the names of allotments in a numbering scheme is that these names can, an often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

[USA.GOV](#) | [No Fear Act](#) | [DOI](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [About BLM](#) | [Notices](#) | [Social Media Policy](#)
[Privacy Policy](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Kids Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Home](#)



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

DRAFT FY 2016-2019 Strategic Plan

Conservation the Idaho Way: sowing seeds of stewardship



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 W. State Street, Room 145
Boise, Idaho 83702
208-332-1790
www.swc.idaho.gov



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship

DRAFT

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The Conservation Commission was created in 1939 during the Dust Bowl to address significant soil erosion issues. At the time, there were more than 27 million acres of land in Idaho ~~had with~~ serious soil erosion problems.

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

*Today there are 50 soil and water conservation districts ~~located~~ from Bonners Ferry to Montpelier. Their efforts are guided by 5-year plans ~~containing~~ ~~establishing local~~ conservation goals, ~~and~~ prioritized projects, and activities. ~~We~~ ~~The Commission~~ provides funding and technical staff to empower districts - the boots on the ground - to get **things done**.*

While we began working 75 years ago to reduce soil erosion, our efforts now include soil, water, plants, air, and animal conservation activities, as well. This FY2016-2019 Strategic Plan provides ~~out a~~ detailed roadmap for sowing seeds of stewardship across ~~this~~ ~~the~~ great State ~~of~~ Idaho.

H. Norman Wright, Chairman

Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DRAFT

CONSERVATION THE IDAHO WAY

Idaho is endowed with a magnificent blend of diverse natural landscapes — rivers, lakes, mountains, forests and desert canyons -- combined with rich and fertile agricultural lands well suited for growing a wide variety of crops and raising livestock. People who work in Idaho agriculture have deep roots in the land. They know that caring for the land will reap benefits for future generations.

"Conservation the Idaho Way" reflects the conviction that the very best way to care for and enhance the soil, water, air, plants and wildlife is through voluntary, locally led projects. Our philosophy is to use the state's natural resources to benefit Idaho people while maintaining and improving those resources for future generations.

MISSION

We facilitate coordinated non-regulatory, voluntary, and locally-led conservation by federal, state, and local governments including Idaho's conservation districts and other partners to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources. (IC 27:22)

SLOGAN

Conservation the Idaho Way: sowing seeds of stewardship

VISION

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



Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DRAFT

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Address legislative intent and statute
- Benefit the environment and Idaho's agricultural-based economy
- Benefit conservation districts' locally led, voluntary, non-regulatory priorities and projects
- Benefit the Commission's ability to serve and meet statutory authorities
- Promote fiscal responsibility
- Strengthen existing and build new conservation partnerships
- Incorporate valid scientific data and practices
- Benefit conservation work on natural resource priority issue area-
- Promote innovative conservation measures



CORE FUNCTIONS

The Conservation Commission focuses on three core functions:

1. Providing support to Idaho's 50 locally led, volunteer conservation districts.
2. Providing incentive-based and general conservation programs and services.
3. Supporting services and programs in a fiscally prudent, inclusive, and transparent manner.

KEY EXTERNAL FACTORS

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

- Changing demographics and land use designations.
- State and federal regulatory pressure and mandates that could shift priorities and resources away from current activities.
- Changing economics and pressures of agricultural and natural resources dependent industries which could result in significant increases or decreases in conservation program participation.
- Changing economics of state and federal budgets, which could result in additional agency cuts or fewer conservation dollars available to be spent in the state.

Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DRAFT

CORE FUNCTIONS & KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES	BENCHMARKS
1. Support Districts' voluntary conservation efforts	Provide districts w/technical and capacity building assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct annual survey to identify satisfaction with services & programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of districts satisfied with services & programs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist in updating 5-Year Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # district 5-Year Plans updated
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct annual technical & comprehensive assistance request process, assign field staff reasonable/flexible discretionary time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantify and track assistance provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # of technical assistance hours requested/awarded ▪ # served with projects ▪ # new projects ▪ # ongoing projects ▪ # landowners served
2. Provide Conservation Programs & Services	Incentive-Based Programs	Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP) Make low interest conservation loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantify and track: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # of new loans ▪ Total \$ loaned in prior FY
		Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Provide technical leadership and oversight to reduce ground water use, improve water quantity and quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and decrease the risk of agriculture-related chemical and sediment runoff in Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantify & track: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # contracts ▪ # of acres ▪ # contracts certified (achieving program goals) ▪ # certified acres

DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES	BENCHMARKS
	General Conservation Programs & Services	Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Planning Program – subject to DEQ priorities, write plans/ designated lead for voluntary ag/grazing projects on listed/impaired waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantify & track: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # of new plans assigned by DEQ ▪ # plans completed ▪ # in progress ▪ # pending
		Ground Water Quality/Nitrate Priority Areas - Facilitate cooperative ground water protection, promote and support implementation of water quality projects to maintain and enhance ground water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantify & track: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # acres treated ▪ Nitrates reduced (#s) ▪ Phosphorus reduced (#s) ▪ Sediments reduced (tons)
3. Build Support for Voluntary Conservation	Conduct outreach and communication – educate/inform public, decision makers, partners, and other stakeholders	Maintain Facebook & Twitter content about voluntary conservation activities of Commission and districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # of Facebook posts ▪ # of Twitter tweets
		Publish monthly newsletter about voluntary conservation activities of Commission and districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantify # of subscriptions

DRAFT FY 2016-2019 Strategic Plan

Conservation the Idaho Way: sowing seeds of stewardship

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

Board

H. Norman Wright, Chairman
Roger Stutzman, Vice Chair
Gerald Trebesch, Secretary
Dave Radford, Member
Leon Slichter, Member

Administrator

Teri Murrison

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 W. State Street, Rm. 145
Boise, ID 83702
208-332-1790
www.swc.idaho.gov

Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DRAFT

FY 2016 WORK PLAN & INTERNAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
1. Support District conservation efforts			
	1.1 Provide technical assistance	Technical assistance available to districts that request services (as resources allow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct inventory of available field staff hours ▪ Invite district requests through formal allocation process ▪ Convene Division stakeholder workgroup(s) to rank and recommend awards ▪ Leadership Team allocates district support time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ~40% of available field staff time to technical assistance ○ ~10% of available field staff time to general discretionary hours ▪ Provide technical assistance to awarded projects and on discretionary basis as time permits ▪ Conduct pilot project with Div. 2 Nez Perce District to determine feasibility of using task-based assistance requests, adjust process if warranted ▪ Convene division Technical Assistance Work Group (TAWG) meetings (6), review prior year's processes

DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
	1.2 Provide comprehensive assistance	Comprehensive assistance and capacity building assistance services provided to districts as resources allow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See deliverables above relating to process for awarding district requests ▪ Field staff attend district board meetings min. of once per quarter
		All districts update 5-Year Plans annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist districts that request service
		Statutory requirements met for annually holding district budget hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct annual budget/unmet needs for implementation of water quality improvement projects as identified/prioritized in 5-year, other plans in June ▪ Disseminate results to Board, public, decision-makers as appropriate
		Districts aware of potential capacity building opportunities with other partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify new partnership and funding opportunities, notify districts, facilitate connections
	1.3 Distribute State Funding	Base allocations distributed in compliance with IDAPA 60.05.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribute by July 31 ▪ Annually award district requests for available funding for capacity building activities. Distribute funds by July 31
		\$100,000 in operating funds distributed annually (equal distribution to each district)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribute by July 31
		\$50,000 distributed annually to districts for capacity building/outreach purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solicit requests, set awards for following fiscal year by June 15th ▪ Distribute by July 31st of each year ▪ Districts report on funds use by 12/20

DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
		Funds distributed annually subject to local matching formula in IDAPA 60.05.04.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advise districts in timely documenting submission of the receipt of local matching contributions ▪ Districts submit reports detailing local matching funds by August 15th ▪ Convene workgroup annually to review Financial & Match Reports, make recommendations to Conservation Commission by August 30th ▪ Assess and recommend need for 10% holdback due to economy ▪ Distribute state matching funds by September 30th of each year
2. Provide Conservation Programs & Services			
Incentive-Based Programs			
	2.1 Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP)	Low interest loans provided to individual borrowers for conservation practices and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase loan portfolio by a minimum of the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase ▪ Set %s and terms, monitor, evaluate, revise loan policies annually ▪ Support Commissioner Loan Committee to review and recommend actions to Board
		Loan review process conducted timely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct annual tracking of two loan applications, report results to Board

DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
		Program marketed to agricultural landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and update marketing plan annually ▪ Conduct annual review of prior year's marketing efforts ▪ Provide regular training to all field staff and districts as identified in Marketing Plan.
	2.2 State Revolving Loan Fund	Existing loan and/or future loans serviced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service and track existing loan ▪ If RCRDP resources become fully committed, seek re-capitalization from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
	2.3 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	Ground water usage reduced, water quantity and quality improved, wildlife habitat enhanced, and the risk of agriculture-related chemical and sediment runoff in Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer decreased via program efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serve as lead agency for statewide program, provide technical leadership and oversight ▪ Conduct annual leadership and regular interagency meetings ▪ Strive to achieve goals and objectives for the CREP program as outlined in the 2006 agreement with the USDA Farm Service Agency as feasible ▪ Work to achieve increased program goals as outlined in CREP annual reports ▪ Submit annual report to Farm Service Agency and other partners
	<i>Unfunded: Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA)</i>	Funding pursued to reactivate water quality implementation grant funding program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report annually to Board ▪ Work with partners to identify and secure new funding

DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
	<i>Unfunded: Conservation Improvement Grants</i>	Funding pursued to reactivate program to provide cost sharing for conservation practices, evaluate feasibility of funding the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report annually to Board ▪ Work with partners to identify and secure new funding
General Conservation Programs & Services			
	2.6 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Planning Program	Timely implementation plans written for approved TMDLs on listed/impaired waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In coordination with DEQ, complete existing TMDL Agricultural Implementation Plans within 18 months of approval of TMDL by EPA ▪ Initiate assigned addendums, and assist with five-year reviews on existing DEQ Sub-basin Assessment (SBA) TMDLs ▪ Conduct annual meetings with six DEQ regional offices to coordinate activities , conduct Interagency meetings with DEQ/ other partners ▪ Provide technical assistance to districts implementing BMPs outlined in implementation plans (as requested in allocation process and resources allow)
	2.7 Ground Water Quality/Nitrate Priority Areas <i>(unfunded, but some work done through district technical allocation process)</i>	Reduce nitrate contamination in Nitrate Priority Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide technical assistance to districts through allocation process (see 1.1, above) ▪ Meet responsibilities as outlined in the Cooperative Agreement and in agreement with the updated Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan as resources allow
	2.8 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan	Guidance document in support of the abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution updated every 10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement strategies as funding is available ▪ Work with other state agencies and stakeholders to increase funding for implementation measures

DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
	<i>Unfunded: Watershed Improvement District Services (low effort maintenance)</i>	Per statute, provide mechanism for creation/discontinuance of Watershed Improvement Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respond to formation and dissolution requests
	<i>Unfunded: Idaho OnePlan Services (minimum level of maintenance)</i>	Promote OnePlan Conservation Planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make annual report to Partner Executive Committee on potential for enhancements, ongoing funding, and operation ▪ Pursue funding to develop web-based infrastructure as available ▪ Evaluate relevant statute to determine need to adjust requirements for steering committee, etc. and ensure flexibility for continued participation and funding
	<i>Unfunded: Carbon Sequestration Program</i>	Sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with agricultural and forestry practices, management systems, and land uses on cropland, forest land, and rangeland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor support for program and seek funding if reactivated ▪ Monitor ongoing carbon issues
3. Build Support for Conservation			
	3.1 Partner Participation	Commission engaged in district issues, meetings, activities/districts engaged in Commission issues, meetings, activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct annual district listening session to solicit input from partners ▪ Administrator attend district meetings (5-10), tours (4) ▪ Invite districts to present results of capacity building funding distributed prior year from Board

DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
		Districts satisfied with services & programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 85% of technical & comp assistance awards accomplished to districts' satisfaction ▪ Annual survey demonstrates maintenance or improvement in district satisfaction ▪ Conduct annual Listening Session, address emerging issues as they arise ▪ Prepare, disseminate 1 page district fact sheets to Legislature
		Transparency & involvement maximized, info regarding services and activities shared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Post regular and special public meeting agendas online, provide supporting documentation, and minutes/audio ▪ Utilize online video streaming to encourage participation
		Important district/Commission news and updates shared regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilize field staff, social media, Commission website, newsletter, and email distribution lists to keep districts informed
	3.2 Internal and External Communications	Staff, public, partners, and others informed of progress - successes and challenges	<p>Internal Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribute Monthly Updates to staff for presentations at district meetings, and their own knowledge ▪ Conduct bi-weekly LTeam (leadership) video conferences ▪ Conduct monthly ATeam (all staff) video conferences ▪ Conduct annual All Staff meetings, communicate info, training <p>External Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publish monthly newsletter for districts, public, partners, Legislature and Executive Branch, maintain presence on social media ▪ Attend Governor's Capitol for the Day (3), legislative events ▪ Encourage newsletter reprinting (Farm Bureau, etc.) ▪ Publish Performance Measures Report (Sept. 1) ▪ Distribute newsletters through businesses, resources permitting ▪ Make presentations to germane committees, JFAC (district fact sheets included), IASCD participate in presentations ▪ Plan & execute tri-state Commission meeting, tour

DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
	3.3 Intergovernmental Relations	Actively-facilitated interaction and participation in other agency programs and projects (local, state, and federal governments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop new partnerships, resources for programs and districts ▪ Provide technical assistance to other agencies (including engineering) ▪ Review rules/policies that impact Commission and/or districts; review proposed and adopted plans, programs, environmental documents, activities and initiatives impacting conservation, take action as appropriate ▪ Convene advisory group as needed to make recommendations to Board and staff
	3.4 Collaborate w/industry associations and other stakeholders	Commission services, programs enhanced by regular interaction and collaboration with associations and other voluntary conservation stakeholders	<p>IASCD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend IASCD meetings (annual conference, spring and fall division meetings, and Board meetings) ▪ Report at Spring & Fall IASCD Division Meetings ▪ Conduct biannual joint Board meetings to identify and promote common goals and strategy ▪ Form Commission/IASCD leadership planning group, meet as needed ▪ Encourage IASCD participation in monthly Commission meetings via partner reports <p>IDEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend IDEA Board meetings biannually and/or when invited ▪ Provide district employee training opportunities as requested and resources permit

DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
			<p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meet with resource and ag groups to publicize partnership activities ▪ Attend association meetings including Food Producers meetings weekly during legislative session. ▪ Participate in natural resource groups and processes to attract partners and resources. ▪ Participate in, speak at, and attend field trips and tours, annual conferences, attend meetings, conferences, and other functions to represent the Conservation Commission and promote good stewardship of Idaho's natural resources.
4. Provide Agency & Board Administrative & Support Services			
	4.1 Administer agency	Operations provide fiscally sound, efficient support to achieve mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fiscal - Conduct all day to day fiscal activities and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review existing agreements, update ○ Change over from contract fiscal support to ¾ time in-house financial specialist ○ Develop monthly cumulative sub-object budget tracking for expenditures, evaluate internal tracking and monitoring reports for all funds ○ Oversee risk management renewals for property, inventory ○ Facilitate annual audit ▪ HR - Perform regular recordkeeping, evaluation, and planning activities and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recruit, retain highly qualified staff to carry out mission of agency ○ Evaluate field staff annually in March. ○ Update Performance Plans in June for field staff to include technical assistance allocations ○ Update Compensation Policy and Plan annually ○ Annually evaluate employee performance and eligibility for compensation adjustments/bonuses ○ Annually evaluate employee comp ratios and adjust compensation as appropriate and as funding is available ○ Identify and offer advanced training as needed

DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fleet Management Regularly maintain fleet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replace vehicles at ~150,000 miles ○ Evaluate ATVs for replacement ▪ Facilities – Ensure office and work space is ample, safe, and functional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update ongoing contract with NRCS for field staff office space and IT support ○ Secure new office space that meets need for increased Boise FTPs ▪ IT – Provide IT support on a day to day basis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluate need and implement IT replacement schedule ○ Convert staff file and data retention from local hard drives to centralized, shared system ▪ Operating procedure documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluate and if necessary, update operating manuals for programs, services, and positions
	4.2 Agency governance	Facilitate excellent governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist Commissioners and Governor’s office during appointment process ▪ Support Commissioners to establish & oversee policies, ops ▪ Conduct up to 12 regular monthly Commission meetings annually and special meetings as necessary to conduct business ▪ Staff ad hoc and ongoing committees ▪ Agendas and reports distributed electronically and filed on website ▪ Provide Commissioners with laptops to use at Board meetings ▪ Propose legislation, promulgate rules, and issue guidance as necessary ▪ To promote increased access and efficiency, conduct video and teleconference (vs. in person) for Board meetings as feasible



DRAFT

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	FY 2016 WORK PLAN DELIVERABLES
	4.3 Planning & Reporting	Short and long term planning maximizes potential for success and efficacy, findings reported to stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop annual budget, blueprint ▪ Review existing and develop new policies ▪ Develop annually updated Strategic and Work Plans ▪ Deliver annual Performance Measures Report to Governor & Legislature ▪ Make annual reports to Senate and House Agricultural Affairs Committees, other germane committees as appropriate ▪ Inventory staff workload to quantify available resources for services and programs



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

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

... a guidance document addressing nonpoint source water quality pollution

2015



Idaho Soil and Water
Conservation Commission

Prepared by:
Resource Planning Unlimited, Inc.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Introduction

Section A: Goal and Strategy

Section B: Authorities, Roles, and Responsibilities

Section C: Agricultural Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

Section D: Water Quality Law

Section E: Best Management Practices

Section F: Implementation

Section G: BMP Monitoring and Evaluation

Section H: Plan Development



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFO	Animal Feeding Operation
Ag Plan	Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
ARS	United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service
BAG	Basin Advisory Group
BLM	United States Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CAFO	Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
Conservation Commission	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Corps	United State Army Corps of Engineers
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CWA	Clean Water Act
DEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Districts	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
EPHA	Environmental Protection and Health Act
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FPA	Idaho Forest Practices Act
FOTG	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide
FSA	USDA Farm Services Agency
FWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
IASCD	Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
IDAPA	Idaho Administrative Procedures Act
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
ISDA	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
IWRB	Idaho Water Resource Board
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	USDC NOAA Fisheries – National Marine Fisheries Service
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS Plan	Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan
NRCS	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
OSC	Idaho Office of Species Conservation
PL	Public law
RCPD	Rural Conservation Partnership Program
RCRDP	Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program Loans
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UI Extension	University of Idaho Extension
UIC	Underground Injection Control
USDC	United States Department of Commerce
USFS	United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service
WAG	Watershed Advisory Group

INTRODUCTION

The original Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (Ag Plan) was certified in 1979 by Governor John Evans. The Ag Plan was Idaho's response to §208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33USC 1251 et seq.), referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA) and represented the agricultural portion of the State Water Quality Management Plan.¹ The previous Ag Plan versions detailed how agricultural nonpoint source pollution was to be addressed. The Ag Plan was revised in 1983, 1991 (published in 1993), and in 2003.

This version of the Ag Plan builds on the foundation laid specifically by the Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan (NPS Plan),² which describes Idaho's strategy for collaboratively addressing nonpoint source pollution with local, state and federal partners. The NPS Plan identifies the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's efforts for protecting and restoring beneficial uses of Idaho waters. In addition, the NPS Plan identifies goals and objectives, agreed upon by various state and federal agencies, for addressing nonpoint source pollution. The NPS Plan provides guidance on evaluating and measuring success in meeting water quality goals for the state.

The Ag Plan is the action plan for all nonpoint source agricultural activities in the state. This latest revision of the Ag Plan was undertaken with the review, guidance and input of an Advisory Committee consisting of twenty members representing state and federal agencies with water quality responsibilities, and representation from industry and commodity groups. Advisory Committee members are listed in Section H, Table H-1.

The Ag Plan is intended to be a dynamic guidance document, with periodic updates provided as needed. Water quality laws, policies and programs are constantly changing to meet resource and society needs. The Ag Plan will be reviewed and amended as necessary to ensure consistency and compatibility with state water quality programs and plans, state and federal legislation and local needs. The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (Conservation Commission) will be responsible for initiating and coordinating this review. When substantial revision is warranted, the Advisory Committee will be convened to provide guidance.

The Ag Plan is structured to include eight main sections, including:

Section A: GOAL AND STRATEGY

Section A outlines the Ag Plan's purpose, goal and implementation strategy.

Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section B describes the authorities of numerous units of state and federal government and their roles and responsibilities as they relate to addressing agricultural nonpoint source pollution of surface and ground waters of Idaho.

¹ Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is required by §303(e) of the Clean Water Act to develop a continuing planning process that describes ongoing processes and planning requirements of the state's Water Quality Management Plan. The Water Quality Management Plan is a compilation of the guidance and programs Idaho Department of Environmental Quality uses to implement Clean Water Act requirements. Further detail can be found at <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/planning.aspx#wqmp>

² The NPS Plan was published in 2015 and updates the state's 1999 version developed by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

Section C: AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY IMPACT WATER QUALITY

Current agricultural activities and associated potential pollutants, which may cause water quality impacts, are reviewed in Section C.

Section D: WATER QUALITY LAW

Section D provides a background and overview of current Idaho water quality law. The section reviews the elements of applicable statutes and discusses agency authorities relating to carrying out water quality protection.

Section E: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Best management practices (BMPs) for the reduction of nonpoint sources of pollutants from agricultural activities are listed in Section E. This section contains the Catalog of Component Practices and reviews BMP application, selection, and evaluation as well as the development and modification process for component practices.

Section F: IMPLEMENTATION

Section F defines the implementation strategy that includes action items necessary to reach the goal of restoring and maintaining surface and ground water quality.

Section G: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Section G reviews the feedback loop process—a process designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution through the development, installation, evaluation, and refinement of BMPs.

Section H: PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Section H describes the development of this plan and lists the Advisory Committee members.

IDAHO
Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
2015

Section A:
GOAL and STRATEGY



GOAL and STRATEGY

Purpose

The Ag Plan is a guidance document that describes the state's process for the abatement of agricultural nonpoint source pollution as it relates to water quality.

Goal

The goal of the Ag Plan is to:

Contribute toward full support of identified beneficial uses through enhancement and maintenance of the quality of surface and ground waters of Idaho, to the extent that they are impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants.

The goal is based on implementing federal and state water quality laws. Implementation of these laws occurs through adoption of state water quality rules, standards, state policy statements, agreements, and development of specific programs.

Mechanism

The Ag Plan's mechanism to address nonpoint source pollution is the feedback loop process, which is based on the implementation and effectiveness evaluation of BMPs.³ The process provides a mechanism to direct BMP implementation adjustments and follow-up monitoring requirements. It is critical that results of agricultural nonpoint source pollution abatement activities are evaluated, communicated, and made available for review so program adjustments and recommendations can continue to be implemented.

Implementation Strategy

The Ag Plan's goal is achieved through an implementation strategy containing action items. The implementation strategy and development is discussed in complete detail in Section F (Implementation). Overviews of the action items are listed as follows:

Action Item 1: Identify waters and/or watersheds in which beneficial uses are threatened or impaired by agricultural activities.

Action Item 2: Prioritize waters and/or watersheds to determine level of implementation efforts needed.

Action Item 3: Identify specific watershed management strategies for implementation and allow for the continued use of voluntary BMPs and accepted agricultural practices.

Action Item 4: Define authorities, regulations and commitments to ensure that implementation will take place.

³ The feedback loop process is discussed in Section G (Monitoring and Evaluation) and referenced in federal and state water quality laws—CWA §319 Nonpoint Source Management Program, and the Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements.

Action Item 5: Implement the feedback loop process.

Action Item 6: Communicate evaluation results, conclusions, and recommendations from the process of assessing agricultural BMP effectiveness in achieving water quality goals.

IDAHO
Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
2015

Section B:
Authorities, Roles, and Responsibilities



AUTHORITIES, ROLES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Introduction

Numerous units of local, state, and federal government have authorities, roles, and responsibilities that play a part in addressing nonpoint source pollution of surface and ground waters of Idaho, originating from agricultural activities. The Conservation Commission is the state agency organized to provide guidance and program implementation for private and state agricultural land use activities.

This section outlines the authorities, roles and responsibilities of the Conservation Commission as well as local, state, and federal agencies, and other entities that participate in addressing nonpoint source pollution. Those agencies and other entities include:

Local Agencies:

- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts

State Agencies:

- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho State Department of Agriculture
- University of Idaho Extension
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Idaho Water Resource Board
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Office of Species Conservation

Federal Agencies:⁴

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- USDA Agricultural Research Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- USDA Forest Service
- USDI Bureau of Land Management
- USDI Bureau of Reclamation
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDC National Marine Fisheries Service

Other Entities:

- Basin Advisory Groups
- Watershed Advisory Groups

⁴ USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
USDI: United States Department of Interior
USDC: United States Department of Commerce

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Districts)

Background and Authorities:

The Soil Conservation District Law, Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 27, establishes the organization and purposes of Districts. The 50 Districts are governmental subdivisions of the state and include private, state and federal land, with the exception of some incorporated cities and portions of the Idaho National Engineering Environmental Laboratory. The Soil Conservation District Law provides the Districts with broad-based natural resource responsibilities.

Districts contribute financial support to the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), a private, non-profit corporation. IASCD assists the Districts by coordinating programs with public agencies and organizations to achieve common goals; encourages coordination between agricultural commodity and conservation programs to achieve long-term conservation goals; and sponsors and conducts many programs which provide information and educational opportunities concerning natural resource concerns and issues to Districts and citizens of Idaho.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Implement the Ag Plan at the local level for private and state agricultural lands.
2. Provide assistance to landowners and land users for the conservation, management and treatment of natural resources within District boundaries.
3. Coordinate public outreach activities and bring together technical and financial resources in addressing local and state natural resource concerns.
4. Develop comprehensive natural resource management plans to protect and enhance the quality of soil, water, air, plants and animal resources.
5. Assist landowners in implementing comprehensive natural resource management plans through integration of cooperating state and federal agency programs.
6. Conduct surveys, investigations and research relating to the character of natural resources, for conservation, development and utilization.
7. Conduct local demonstration projects.
8. Through local sponsorship of outreach and incentive programs, provide education, planning, technical assistance and financial incentives to promote the application of BMPs.
9. Develop Five Year Resource Conservation Plans establishing and recognizing agricultural nonpoint source water quality priorities.
10. Review local needs, and develop and/or modify and adopt, component practices to be used to develop BMPs to meet state water quality standards and to protect beneficial uses.

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (formerly the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission)

Background and Authorities:

The Conservation Commission is a non-regulatory state agency created by the Idaho Legislature in 1939. The Conservation Commission is composed of five members appointed by the Governor for five year terms. The Conservation Commission and the Districts are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. The Conservation Commission provides assistance to supervisors of Districts in implementing locally-led conservation projects and the water quality program for agriculture (Idaho Code, Title 22,

Chapter 27). Under Idaho Code Title 39, Chapter 36, the Conservation Commission is named the designated agency for grazing and agricultural activities.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Implement the Ag Plan at the state level for private and state agricultural lands. Coordinate periodic review and update of the Ag Plan, in consultation with the advisory committee (see Section H), and chair the Ag Plan BMP Technical Committee.
2. Provide technical assistance to owners and operators of private lands for the planning, implementation and evaluation of agricultural BMPs. The Conservation Commission provides assistance to promote “Conservation the Idaho Way,” using the state’s natural resources to benefit Idaho people while maintaining and improving those resources for future generations.
3. Offer assistance to Districts in carrying out their powers and programs—allocate state funds to Districts to assist with conservation projects.
4. Inform District supervisors of actions and priorities of other Districts to facilitate a sharing of information and to promote cooperation.
5. Secure the cooperation and assistance of federal and state agencies in District programs.
6. Review and analyze District-related workload inventories and recommend resources needed to apply conservation practices, including those affecting water quality.
7. Support local Districts in the wise use and enhancement of soil, water, and related resources. Assist Districts in the coordination of public outreach activities, and technical and financial resources to develop natural resource conservation improvements in the state.
8. Administer, jointly with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), the Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program for Idaho.
9. Administer the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program providing low interest conservation loans.
10. Promote the Idaho OnePlan effort as the primary computer-based conservation planning process for all natural resource concerns.
11. Lead state efforts on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); a federal program, which offers financial incentives to landowners to reduce ground water consumption in the Snake River Plain Aquifer by taking marginal farm ground out of production.
12. Develop the agricultural component of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watershed implementation plans in consultation with Districts and watershed advisory groups.
13. Provide technical and administrative assistance to Districts and watershed advisory groups for TMDL planning and implementation.
14. Assist the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in administering a nonpoint source water quality loan under the State Revolving Fund Program.
15. Facilitate cooperative ground water protection programs in conjunction with other state agencies pursuant to a 2008 Interagency Cooperative Agreement. Promote implementation of water quality projects across the state to maintain and enhance ground water quality.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Background and Authorities:

The Environmental Protection and Health Act (EPHA), Idaho Code §39-101 et seq., gives authority to DEQ regarding the protection of public health and the environment, including planning, permitting, enforcement, and certification authorities. The EPHA provides authority for DEQ to administer a system to safeguard the quality of the waters of the state, including but

not limited to the enforcement of standards relating to the discharge of effluent into the waters of the state and the storage, handling, and transportation of solids, liquids and gases which may cause or contribute to water pollution.

Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq. provides authority to DEQ implement applicable provisions of the CWA, including designating beneficial uses for surface waters of the state and determining whether the beneficial uses are supported. For waterbodies that do not fully support beneficial uses, DEQ must develop TMDLs and a priority ranking list for their development. Idaho Code §§39-3613 through 39-3616 provides for the creation of Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) and outlines their duties in advising DEQ regarding water quality issues. Idaho Code §39-3603 includes an antidegradation policy that requires the protection and maintenance of existing uses of all waters of the state and that precludes a lowering of water quality in high quality waters, unless the lowering is justified.

Under the authority of the EPHA and §39-3601 et seq., DEQ has promulgated the Idaho Water Quality Standards, which includes designated uses for waters of the state and criteria to protect those uses (IDAPA 58.01.02). The Water Quality Standards address nonpoint sources of pollution through the development, application, and review of BMPs. The Water Quality Standards identifies the Ag Plan as the source for BMPs to address nonpoint sources of pollution from agriculture.

The CWA §319 establishes a grant program under which DEQ receives funds for, among other things, nonpoint source BMP implementation projects. DEQ awards CWA §319 grants for nonpoint source projects, including projects associated with agricultural activities.

Idaho Code §39-3624 et seq., provides authority for DEQ to provide grants and loans for eligible projects that include projects for the application of BMPs to manage nonpoint sources of pollution. The funding for these projects is separate from the CWA §319 grants discussed above.

The Ground Water Quality Protection Act, Idaho Code §39-120 et seq., authorizes DEQ to adopt ambient ground water quality standards. Under Idaho Code §39-126, all state agencies shall incorporate the Ground Water Quality Plan, adopted by the legislature, in the administration of their programs and are granted authority to promulgate rules to protect ground water quality as necessary to administer such programs.

Under the authority of the EPHA and the Ground Water Quality Protection Act, DEQ has adopted the Ground Water Quality Rule (IDAPA 58.01.11) that includes ground water quality standards for contaminants, antidegradation provisions, and provisions that require actions in response to the discovery of ground water contamination.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Assist in the identification of agricultural BMPs to protect beneficial uses through the Ag Plan.
2. Periodically review progress of the Ag Plan in meeting water quality goals and make recommendations for corrective strategy.
3. Work jointly with the Conservation Commission and the advisory committee to periodically review and update the Ag Plan.

4. Work with state and federal agencies, local user groups, and interest groups to implement the Ag Plan.
5. Provide continuity with EPA to assure the Ag Plan meets the goals and procedural requirements of the federal CWA.
6. Work cooperatively with federal, state, and local entities to implement the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan (1996).
7. Utilize the Policy for Addressing Degraded Ground Water Quality Areas (Policy No. PM00-4) for identifying, prioritizing, planning and implementing management strategies.
8. Develop TMDLs that may include load allocations for agricultural nonpoint sources, and work with the Commission and Districts to implement the TMDLs.
9. Coordinate with the ISDA regarding surface and ground water quality associated with CAFOs.
10. Provide grants and loans for the implementation of projects that apply BMPs for agriculture nonpoint sources.
11. Regulate swine facilities through the Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry Facilities (IDAPA 58.01.09).

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Background and Authorities:

ISDA is responsible for the regulation of pesticides, pesticide registrations, pesticide certification and training, pesticide enforcement, waste pesticide disposal and container recycling programs, urban pesticide programs, pesticide endangered species reviews and the pesticides and water quality programs. ISDA is also responsible for registration of fertilizers and soil and plant amendments. Authority for ISDA's role in the control of nonpoint and point source pollution related to agriculture, including dairy, beef cattle feedlot, and poultry facilities, comes from a variety of laws, rules, plans, programs, and cooperative agreements with EPA.

ISDA is recognized as a lead state water quality agency working to implement laws and rules, water quality management and planning, engineering and technical services, monitoring, permits, and education and licensing efforts related to agriculture. Related to ground water quality protection, ISDA implements the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996). ISDA chairs the Agricultural Ground Water Coordination Committee, which reviews and evaluates potential agricultural point and nonpoint source impacts and coordinates in the development and implementation of prevention and response strategies. ISDA coordinates with DEQ and Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) in administering the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan under provision of the Ground Water Quality Protection Act of 1989.

The pesticides and water quality program includes the creation and implementation of the Idaho State Pesticide Management Plan for Ground Water Protection, monitoring of ground water for pesticides, education of applicators, identification of potential pesticide ground water BMPs and regulation of specific active ingredients. The control of dairy cattle animal manure and waste⁵ is regulated by ISDA through the Dairy Environmental Control Act and related laws and rules. The control of beef cattle animal manure and waste is regulated by ISDA through the Idaho Beef Cattle Environmental Control Program and related laws and rules. The control of

⁵ For the purposes of this Ag Plan, manure refers to animal excrement that may also contain bedding, spilled feed, water or soil. Animal waste refers to a material composed of excreta, with or without bedding materials collected from poultry, ruminants, or other animals except humans.

poultry manure and waste is regulated by ISDA through the Idaho Poultry Environmental Control Program and related laws and rules.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Regulate the certification and licensing of pesticide applicators and chemigators.
2. Regulate the registration and sale of pesticides.
3. Regulate, monitor, and inspect chemigation systems.
4. Collect restricted use pesticide sales records from dealers.
5. Implement the EPA Pesticides Cooperative Agreement including a water quality and pesticide component.
6. Implement the State Pesticide Management Plan for Idaho⁶ to address the EPA Pesticides in Ground Water Strategy.⁷
7. Implement the Regional and Local Agricultural Ground Water Quality Monitoring program, which assists in implementing the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (authorized in 1996), EPA Pesticides and Water Quality Program and Laws, and EPA's Pesticide Management Plan.
8. Participate in the development and evaluation of BMPs for pesticide and fertilizer use.
9. Implement the surface water quality program, which assists in fulfilling CWA and state requirements to implement surface water monitoring related to pesticides. The program conducts monitoring to fill data and information gaps to monitor pesticides in surface waters of the state.
10. Cooperate with industry, federal, and state agencies to develop plans to address nutrient run-off and water quality impacts from dairies, beef cattle animal feeding operations, poultry animal feeding operations, and livestock grazing.
11. Lead the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) siting team.
12. Regulate beef cattle, dairy, and poultry nutrient management planning and implementation.
13. Work cooperatively with federal, state and local entities to implement the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan (1996).
14. Participate in the Ground Water Monitoring Technical Committee.

University of Idaho Extension (UI Extension)

Background and Authorities:

Established under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, UI Extension was designated as the education arm of the USDA. In 1989 the USDA Water Quality Program designated UI Extension as having the key role in water quality education.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Conduct research and disseminate findings to landowners, cooperating agencies and the general public.

⁶ IDAPA 02.03.01 Rules Governing Pesticide Management Plans for Ground Water Protection (PMP Rule), 2005.

⁷ *Pesticides and Groundwater Strategy*. 1991. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Washington, DC.

2. Assist agricultural producers with recommendations for application of commercial fertilizers, nutrients and pesticides using research-based information/data.
3. Develop and deliver educational programs to clientele on protecting water quality from agricultural activities.
3. Educate clientele on safe and effective use of pesticides and nutrients.
4. Deliver educational programming for the state pesticide safety education program and subsequent licensing requirements.
5. Develop new irrigation strategies and water use efficiency for Idaho and disseminate research results.

Idaho Department of Water Resources

Background and Authorities:

IDWR has statutory responsibility for administering the appropriation and allotment of surface and ground water resources of the state and to protect the ground water resources against waste and contamination.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Administer the Underground Injection Control (UIC) for the State of Idaho.
2. Insure that all deep injection wells are under state permit and condition permits to protect the ground waters of the state from pollution.
3. Insure that all active deep injection wells are in compliance with permit conditions.
4. Insure that non-compliant deep injection wells are brought into compliance or properly decommissioned.
5. Perform periodic reviews of injection wells in Idaho and maintain a current UIC data base.
6. Supervise the construction and decommissioning of injection wells to prevent pollution of ground waters by injection well activities.
7. Provide public information on UIC activities.
8. Administer the licensing of well drillers operating in the State of Idaho.
9. Collect, review, and assimilate Driller's Reports on wells drilled in Idaho.
10. Permit and regulate the proper construction and abandonment of water wells, monitor wells, injection wells, geothermal or other wells or drilled bore holes which may provide a source of waste or contamination of the ground water.
11. Assist the public and well drillers with geological and technical information that will result in the proper construction of wells and the efficient development of the state's ground water resource.
12. Supervise construction or abandonment of wells which are complicated and/or are located in controversial areas.
13. Administer and enforce the Idaho Stream Channel Protection Act.
14. Consult with other interested state and federal agencies, to determine the effects a proposed alteration is likely to have on a stream.
15. Insure compliance with all permits issued to construct in a stream channel.
16. Provide the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) with the official state position letter on each activity being considered by the Corps for permitting.
17. Seek mitigation, penalties and injunctive relief for all violations to the Stream Channel Protection Act.

18. Work cooperatively with federal, state and local entities to implement the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan (1996).

Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)

Background and Authorities:

The IWRB was formed in 1965 under Article 15, Chapter 17 of the Constitution of the State of Idaho to, among other responsibilities, formulate and implement a state water plan for optimum development of the water resources in the public interest. The IWRB is the constitutional water agency within IDWR. IDWR provides staff for the IWRB, and the activities of the two entities are highly collaborative and closely coordinated. However, IWRB duties are defined through constitutional and statutory authorities (Title 42, Chapter 17 Idaho Code) and are separate from IDWR.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Develop and implement a statewide water policy plan for conservation, development, management and optimum use of all unappropriated water resources and waterways of the state in the public interest (Comprehensive State Water Plan Part A).
2. Designates natural and protected rivers and files applications for and holds minimum stream flow water rights.
3. Provide financial assistance for water development and conservation projects in the form of revenue bonds, loans, and grants.
4. Adopts rules governing:
 - Well Construction
 - Well Driller Licensing
 - Construction and Use of Injection Wells
 - Drilling for Geothermal Resources
 - Mine Tailings Impoundment Structures
 - Safety of Dams
 - Stream Channel Alteration
5. Administer the water supply bank to make use of and obtain the highest duty for beneficial use from water and to provide a source of adequate water supplies to benefit new and supplemental water uses.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)

Background and Authorities:

Authority for the agency's role comes from Idaho Code, which gives IDFG responsibility to manage fish and wildlife populations. The Department has minimal legal authority over water quality.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Monitor fish and wildlife species to assess the status of populations.

2. Assess the potential impacts of land and water management and development on the habitats of fish and wildlife species and populations.
3. Enter into cooperative agreements with universities, state and federal agencies, and other entities to promote wildlife research and to train students for fish and wildlife management careers.
4. Acquire, manage, and administer lands for the purposes of public access for fishing, hunting, and trapping, and to protect important fish and wildlife habitats.
5. Enter into cooperative agreements with state and federal agencies, local government entities, corporations, landowners, associations, or individuals to develop, manage, and protect fish and wildlife habitats.
6. Provide technical assistance, expertise, and support on fish and wildlife matters.

Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)

Background and Authorities:

Under Executive Order 88-23 (the Antidegradation Policy), IDL is designated as the lead agency to address surface mining, dredge and placer mining, and forestry practices on all lands within the state. With respect to agricultural activities, IDL leases state endowment land to generate revenue from grazing and agriculture.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Manage approximately 2.5 million acres of state endowment lands for maximum income consistent with sound long term resource management practices and in accordance with existing water quality laws.
2. On state and private forestlands, when carrying out statutorily defined forest practice, implement and regulate the standards defined in the Idaho Forest Practices Act Rules (FPA Rules) to protect water quality. Take enforcement action when needed to ensure compliance with these FPA Rules (the silvicultural nonpoint source BMPs).
3. Provide other state and federal agencies the opportunity to review and comment on mine applications, BMP design and reclamation plans. Preoperational site reviews and subsequent site inspections are often conducted in coordination with other state and federal agencies.
4. Take regulatory responsibility for any encroachment on, in or above the beds or waters of any navigable lake or stream in Idaho (Title 58, Chapter 104 (9) and 142 et seq., Idaho Code).

Idaho State Office of Species Conservation (OSC)

Background and Authorities:

OSC was created by the Idaho State Legislature in 2000 (Idaho Code §67-818). Within the Office of the Governor, OSC provides coordination, cooperation and consultation among state, federal and private interests in order to preserve and restore species currently listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to preclude future ESA listings in Idaho. OSC coordinates actions with germane state agencies to protect listed species with an overall goal of recovery of the species and removal from federal listing. OSC does not have regulatory authority or licensing authority over water quality or pollution control.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Coordinate ESA activities with various state, federal, and private entities.
2. Coordinate ESA activities with water quality activities where they overlap.
3. Where ESA/water quality issues arise on agricultural land, work with the Conservation Commission and landowners to develop management plans for protection of the listed species as well as protection of the landowner's interests.
4. Coordinate Subbasin Planning in Idaho to holistically address fish and wildlife restoration throughout Idaho's watersheds.
5. Through Subbasin Planning, provide a mechanism for Idaho citizens to become involved in ESA/water quality issues.
6. Solicit, provide and delegate funding for ESA programs, including ESA water-related programs.

US Environmental Protection Agency

Background and Authorities:

EPA administers the CWA. The CWA embodies a federal-state partnership, where federal guidelines, objectives, and limits are set under the authority of the EPA, while states and authorized tribes largely administer and enforce the CWA programs, with significant federal technical and financial assistance. The CWA directs states to develop and implement voluntary nonpoint pollution management programs, and encourages states to pursue groundwater protection.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Under §303 of the CWA, review and approve or disapprove Idaho Water Quality Standards. Provide oversight and approval of the CWA §303(d) list of impaired waters and associated TMDLs developed by DEQ.
2. Administer CWA §319, under which, among other things, EPA provides grants to states for nonpoint source BMP implementation projects.
3. Work cooperatively with federal, state, and local entities to implement the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan (1996), the EPA Pesticides and Water Quality Program and Laws, and EPA's Pesticide Management Plan.
4. Administer the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Rule. The 2006 rule outlines requirements for prevention of, preparedness for, and response to oil discharges with 2009 *Federal Register* SPCC compliance date requirements for 2010. Regulated facilities, including some farms, must develop and implement SPCC Plans that establish procedures and equipment requirements to help prevent oil discharges from reaching waters of the US. The SPCC rule applies to owners or operators of farms that store, transfer, use, or consume oil or oil products; and could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Background and Authorities:

The NRCS administers the government's conservation policy to benefit natural resources on private lands. The NRCS receives its direction and authority from the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (PL 74-46), Flood Control Act (PL 78-534), Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566), the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act (PL 110-246, as amended), the Food Security Act of 1985 (PL 99-198, as amended by subsequent Farm Bills), and the Agricultural Act of 2014 (PL 113-79).

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Provide technical assistance to units of government and private land users for the planning and implementation of water quality measures and initiatives.
2. Administer and provide technical assistance and/or financial support to NRCS programs such as Conservation Technical Assistance, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Soil Survey, Snow Survey, Emergency Watershed Protection, and the Plant Materials Program, each of which has a water quality component.
3. Maintain, periodically revise, and supplement the Field Office Technical Guide which serves as the major source of technical information for the state to consider in adopting agricultural BMPs.
4. Provide leadership in implementing USDA water quality initiatives.
5. Assist in developing tools to quantify environmental and economic effects of BMPs.
6. Support and encourage surface and ground water research and data collection, including monitoring.
7. Administer agricultural programs outlined in the adopted Farm Bill.
8. NRCS has the lead responsibility for identifying wetlands on agricultural lands for purposes of implementing the Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Compliance provisions introduced in the 1985 Farm Bill, with amendments in 1990, 1996 and 2002 (referred to as Swampbuster). The purposes of the provisions are to remove certain incentives to produce agricultural commodities on converted wetlands or highly erodible land, unless the highly erodible land is protected from excessive soil erosion. The Corps has the lead for identifying wetlands on agricultural lands for purposes of determining CWA jurisdiction through CWA §404. Many normal farming practices are exempt from CWA §404. The CWA §404(f) exempts from regulation discharges associated with certain specified activities, provided the discharges do not convert an area of waters of the US to a new use, and do not impair the flow or circulation of waters of the US or reduce the reach of waters of the US.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Background and Authorities:

The FSA administers conservation programs to assist farmers in protecting highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage. The FSA receives its authority and direction for conservation programs from the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by subsequent Farm Bills.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Administer annual and long term cost-share programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Program.
2. Administers eligibility determinations for the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act, as amended. NRCS provides technical assistance for conservation compliance.

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Background and Authorities:

The ARS is the principal in-house research agency of the USDA. ARS is one of the four component agencies of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area. Congress first authorized federally supported agricultural research in the Organic Act of 1862, which established what is now USDA. That statute directed the Commissioner of Agriculture “to acquire and preserve in his Department all information he can obtain by means of books and correspondence, and by practical and scientific experiments.”

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Plan, develop, and implement research that is designed to produce new knowledge and technologies required to assure the continuing vitality of the nation’s food and agricultural enterprise.
2. Conduct research on the cause and effect relationships between agricultural management practices and soil and water conservation.
3. Conduct water quality research at the Soil and Water Management Research Unit in Kimberly and at the Northwest Watershed Research Center in Boise.

USDA Forest Service (USFS)

Background and Authorities:

USFS authority and responsibility for management is governed in part by the Organic Act; the Multiple Use, Sustained Yield Act; the Wilderness Act; the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act; the National Forest Management Act; the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the CWA.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Manage approximately 20.5 million acres of National Forest lands in Idaho.
2. Manage the range resource program on National Forest lands to control or avoid erosion sources, riparian and stream disturbances through the development and implementation of range NEPA decisions, Allotment Management Plans, Annual Operating Plans, and enforcement of permit terms and conditions.
3. Design and implement watershed improvement programs that restore impaired watershed processes and functions including riparian areas and waterbodies.

4. Incorporate fish habitat improvements to provide or restore quality fish habitats.
5. Conduct soil and water resource inventories, resource condition analyses and assessments.
6. Conduct forest research, such as the research project located at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Boise, to improve management of riparian grazing interactions.
7. Conduct water quality monitoring with emphasis on implementation and effectiveness monitoring of BMPs.
8. Implement the appropriate Ag Plan strategies and guidelines on federal National Forest lands where agricultural uses are employed.

USDC NOAA Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Background and Authorities:

NMFS is charged by Congress with the protection and enhancement of marine, estuarine, and anadromous species and their habitat. In Idaho the primary species of concern are salmon and steelhead. The primary laws that provide guidance and give NMFS authority in matters relating to the protection salmon, steelhead and their habitat are: the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, NEPA, the ESA, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to the protection of Salmon, Steelhead and their habitat):

1. Provide management assistance to federal, tribal, state, local, and private organizations toward the protection and restoration of anadromous fish and the habitat upon which they depend.
2. Under the ESA, NMFS provides consultation to federal agencies regarding the effects of an action on listed anadromous fish species. This authority specifically relates to activities that are funded permitted or authorized by a federal agency.
3. Provide grants to state, local, and private organizations to conserve and restore anadromous fish habitat.

USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Background and Authorities:

The BLM receives its authority from the Taylor Grazing Act, the CWA, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act, NEPA, the Emergency Wetlands Resource Act, the Agricultural Credit Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, and the Executive Orders for Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Administer, manage and protect approximately 12 million acres of public lands in Idaho.
2. Regulate, license and enforce land use activities that affect nonpoint source pollution control on public lands.
3. Maintain, restore and improve riparian areas as healthy and productive plant communities.
4. Develop riparian management demonstration areas to evaluate various riparian management techniques.
5. Conduct water quality monitoring with emphasis on implementation and BMP effectiveness monitoring.
6. Implement the Ag Plan on federal agricultural lands administered by the BLM.

USDI Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Background and Authorities:

The National Reclamation Act of 1902 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to develop irrigation and hydropower projects in 17 western states, administered by BOR.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Manage and administer approximately 130,000 acres of public lands in Idaho.
2. Plan, construct, operate, and maintain federal irrigation projects, until such time as the operation and maintenance of irrigation projects may be transferred to project beneficiaries.
3. Provide technical assistance in irrigation BMP evaluation.
4. Implement structural and nonstructural water management programs.
5. Design, finance and construct structural aspects of irrigation project operations.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Background and Authorities:

Authority for the FWS comes from the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; the ESA; the Food Security Act as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act; the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act; the National Wildlife Refuge System Act and the Executive Orders: 11990-Protection of Wetlands and 11988-Floodplain Management. It is the mission of the FWS to provide leadership toward achieving a national net gain of fish and wildlife and the natural systems which support them.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Provide assistance to government agencies, organizations and private landowners to protect, conserve, manage and restore wildlife and fish resources.
2. Provide for the conservation of ecosystems upon which threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife and plants depend.
3. Provide assistance to the USDA on matters relating to wetland identification, determination of exemptions to the wetland conservation provisions, issuance of implementing regulations, mitigation and restoration of values and functions on converted wetlands.
4. Conduct studies and make recommendations to EPA concerning measures for eliminating or reducing polluting substances detrimental to fish and wildlife in interstate or navigable waters, or their tributaries.
5. Establish National Wildlife Refuges to protect a) areas of high species diversity; b) critical, declining or vulnerable habitats; and c) corridors to link protected habitats.
6. Aid in the review of state water quality standards for BMPs, and the indemnification of areas where water quality adversely affects fish and wildlife or human use.

Basin Advisory Groups

Background and Authorities:

BAGs are groups of citizens that advise DEQ's director on water quality objectives within Idaho's six basins; Panhandle, Clearwater, Salmon, Southwest, Upper Snake, and Bear River basin advisory groups. BAG members are appointed by the director of DEQ and represent a cross section of interests in the basin. By statute, the membership of BAGs must be representative of the industries and interests directly affected by implementing water quality programs within the basin. Each member must either reside within the basin or represent persons with a real property interest within the basin. Among the interests that are represented on BAGs are agriculture, mining, non-municipal point source discharge permittees, forest products, local government, grazing, Native American tribes (for areas within reservation boundaries), water-based recreation, and environmental concerns. In addition, each BAG must include a person to represent the public at large who may reside outside the basin.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. BAGs advise DEQ's director on:
 - a. Priorities for monitoring with their respective basin,
 - b. Revisions needed in the designated beneficial uses for water bodies within the basins,
 - c. Categories to which water bodies in the basin should be assigned,
 - d. Members to be appointed to the Watershed Advisory Groups
 - e. Priorities for water quality programs within the basin based on available economic resources.

Watershed Advisory Groups

Background and Authorities:

WAGs are groups of citizens that provide DEQ with local public input and guidance regarding specific watersheds during TMDL development. Individual WAG members come from a broad cross section of the community and respective watershed. The DEQ director appoints WAG members after receiving input from the appropriate BAG. As appropriate, WAG members include representatives from the agriculture, mining, forest products, livestock, and water-based recreation industries; point source dischargers; local government; Native American tribes; environmental groups; and affected land management or regulatory agencies.

WAGs help DEQ identify local concerns regarding water quality, provide qualitative and quantitative data, and address the relevance of anecdotal information. WAGs are consulted on water quality problems, advise DEQ on the amount of pollution reduction necessary to meet water quality standards, and suggest options to allocate the necessary pollutant limits among the various pollutant sources in the watershed. The WAG's involvement continues through the implementation phase of the TMDL.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Advise DEQ on matters of concern to the community.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

2. Contribute, with DEQ, to the education of watershed residents on water quality issues.
3. Help DEQ identify contributing pollution sources in the watershed.
4. Assist DEQ in assigning pollution reduction allocations among contributors.
5. Recommend to DEQ the specific actions needed to effectively control sources of pollution.
6. Help DEQ develop an implementation plan and set in motion what is needed to meet the water quality targets identified in the TMDL.

IDAHO

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

2015

Section C:

Agricultural Activities Which May Impact Water Quality



AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY IMPACT WATER QUALITY

Background

The Water Quality Act of 1987 (PL 100-4), commonly referred to as the CWA, is the primary federal law in the United States governing water pollution. The objective of the CWA is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters by preventing point and nonpoint pollution sources, providing assistance to publically owned treatment works for the improvement of wastewater treatment, and maintaining the integrity of wetlands. The CWA authorizes measures to address nonpoint source pollution by directing states to develop and implement nonpoint pollution management programs (CWA §319 of the act). Utilizing EPA guidelines, state water quality agencies are to assess nonpoint sources of water pollution in their states and describe a management plan to deal with identified pollutant sources.

For the purpose of this Ag Plan, agricultural practices are defined as any activity where land is used for the production of crops and livestock. Agricultural practices are one of six major nonpoint source pollution categories assessed in Idaho (agricultural practices, grazing, natural resource extraction, timber/silviculture management, urban/suburban development, and transportation). Four primary sub-categories of production and land use activities under the agricultural practice category are addressed in this plan. These sub-categories include:

- Nonirrigated Cropland
- Irrigated Cropland
- Pastureland and Rangeland
- Animal Feeding Operations⁸

In order to address nonpoint source impacts to surface and ground water quality from agricultural practices, it is necessary to describe the activities and associated potential pollutants causing the water quality impacts, their location, and magnitude. Impacts from hydrologic and habitat modification are addressed in the Ag Plan under the four sub-categories of production and land use activities. Activities in this category include channelization, dredging, dam construction and bridge construction, removal of riparian vegetation and streambank modification or destabilization.

Although timber/silviculture management (forest management and/or harvest activities) are activities closely aligned with agricultural practices, impacts from timber/silvicultural management are not addressed in the Ag Plan because the Idaho Forest Practices Water Quality Management Plan was developed to address silviculture. Rules and regulations concerning private and commercial forestry activities, such as harvesting, are contained in the Idaho Forest Practices Act.⁹

Nonpoint Source Pollution Which May Impact Water Quality

Nonpoint source pollution comes from many diffuse sources, unlike point source pollution originating from permitted industrial and sewage treatment plants and concentrated animal feeding operations. Nonpoint source pollution delivery is caused by rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation water moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away naturally occurring and

⁸ Animal feeding operations, which are Concentrated Feeding Operations, are point sources subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program (40 CFR 122.23).

⁹ Idaho Code Title 38, Chapter 13.

anthropogenic pollutants, and potentially deposits them into streams, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, and aquifers. Designated beneficial uses and general water quality can be negatively affected by these pollutants. An excess of these pollutants can result in violations of state surface and ground water quality standards.¹⁰ Some of these pollutants include sediment, nutrients, pathogens, metals, and others (including grease and oil, pesticides, nitrogen compounds). Excessive contributions of these pollutants can result in water quality criteria exceedances and violate state standards for water temperature, dissolved oxygen levels, turbidity, and pH values.

Cropland

In 1982, an inventory tabulated more than 6.38 million cropland acres in Idaho.¹¹ In 1997, the cropland acreage was reduced to approximately 5.48 million acres. In 2010, the cropland acreage in the state was again reduced, totaling 5.16 million acres. Cropland acres used for annual crop production significantly decreased between 1982 and 2010, decreasing by 1.22 million acres; this decrease is attributed to development and acres enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program. Nearly 47% of Idaho's total cropland tabulated in 2010 is irrigated (2.42 million acres), 26% is nonirrigated (1.36 million acres), and 27% (1.38 million acres) is non-cultivated irrigated and nonirrigated cropland.

Nonirrigated Cropland Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

About 56% of the nonirrigated cropland acreage occurs in the northern part of the state.¹² Approximately 25% occurs in the southeastern corner of the state.¹³ The remaining 19% of the nonirrigated cropland¹⁴ is scattered throughout the southwestern corner, south-central section south of the Snake River, and southeast portion north of the Snake River.¹⁵

Surface water runoff containing sediment and associated pollutants generally occurs when two conditions occur simultaneously. One condition is winter and spring snow melt, and heavy rainfall periods when the soil profile is often nearly saturated or frozen. This condition combined with cropland soil surfaces unprotected from erosion by the lack of crop residue and plant growth can result in excess erosion and sediment delivery off site. Erosion, and/or subsequent delivery of sediment and associated pollutants to receiving waters, can also be problematic during early summer rain events that possess enough intensity to erode newly spring seeded fields if soil surfaces are unprotected by the lack of crop residues and/or plant growth. Wind erosion may also contribute sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other pollutants to nearby surface waters if there is a lack of vegetative cover or crop residue. Removal of excessive amounts of crop residue can result in lower soil organic matter content, depleted soil infiltration rates and reduced moisture holding capacity. These conditions can lead to habitat alterations and hydrologic modifications in downstream receiving waters.

¹⁰ Idaho Administrative Code-Department of Environmental Quality, IDAPA 58.01.02 – Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements, §080 – Violation of Water Quality Standards. Idaho Administrative Code-Department of Environmental Quality, IDAPA 58.01.11 – Ground Water Quality Rule.

¹¹ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Summary Report National Resources Inventory, 2010. Statistics referenced are for 2010; http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1167354.pdf

¹² The northern part of the state includes Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Clearwater, Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis, and Idaho counties.

¹³ The southeast corner of the state includes Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties.

¹⁴ The southwest corner of the state, involves acres within Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties. The south central portion of the state south of the Snake River, involves acres within Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties.

¹⁵ Statistics derived from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho. 2002. National Resources Inventory, a summary of natural resource trends in Idaho between 1982 and 1997.

The acres of nonirrigated cropland throughout the state are diverse. For example, the nonirrigated cropland areas in the northern portion of the state, including the Palouse and Camas Prairies, occur on steep, highly erosive, and sometimes shallow soils. Nonirrigated cropland, where the average annual precipitation exceeds 20 inches and occurs predominately in winter and spring months, may leach nutrients and mobile pesticides below the crop root zone. This creates a potential for excess nutrients and agricultural chemicals to enter receiving streams and/or aquifers through subsurface water movement where plant uptake and soil holding capacity is exceeded.

Southeastern Idaho nonirrigated croplands and those along the Snake River Plain are generally on deep soils with calcic horizons and receive less annual precipitation than areas in the north. Moisture deficit areas have low potential to move agri-chemicals below the crop root zone to pollute ground water supplies or receiving waters through subsurface water movement. The potential for ground water quality impacts is less from nonirrigated cropland than from irrigated cropland, primarily because nonirrigated cropland does not receive as much water compared with irrigated cropland. Nonirrigated cropland could impact ground water quality if certain hydrogeologic conditions are present. A reduction in the amount of water infiltrating through the soil profile reduces the ability of the water to leach agricultural chemicals to the ground water.

Irrigated Cropland Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

An estimated 94% of the total irrigated cropland lies within 30 miles of the Snake River in the southern part of the state. About 39% of irrigated cropland acreage occurs in the south-central portion of the state, south of the Snake River. Approximately 25% occurs in the southeast area of the state, north of the Snake River. The southeast corner of the state includes approximately 19% of the total irrigated cropland acres, while the southwest corner includes 15%. Very few acres of irrigated cropland occur in the northern counties, with only 2% of the overall irrigated cropland acres.¹⁶

The sedimentation that results from irrigation induced erosion may contribute nutrients and pesticides to receiving surface waters. There can be dissolved nutrients and pesticides in irrigation runoff. As in nonirrigated croplands, wind erosion may also contribute sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other pollutants to nearby surface waters if there is a lack of vegetative cover or crop residue. Ground water quality below the effective crop root zone can be impacted by deep percolation of improperly managed nutrient and pesticide applications. Drift into surface waters from applied pesticides can be another pollutant source. Pesticide and nutrient impacts on ground water and surface water depends on chemical characteristics, method of chemical application, the soil characteristics, crop needs, and irrigation water management.

Irrigation disposal (injection) wells are used in parts of Idaho to dispose of irrigation wastewater and other agricultural runoff water and are regulated by IDWR. Most of these injection wells are located in two regions of the state, the Eastern Snake River Plain, including Madison, Jefferson and Bonneville counties; and the Central Snake River Plain located in Minidoka, Gooding, Jerome and Twin Falls counties. The majority of these wells were drilled decades ago when flood irrigation was the prevailing method of applying water to crops and were placed where no return-flow ditches existed to carry the excess water back to the river. Improved irrigation water management and irrigation efficiencies could reduce the problem of excess irrigation wastewater.

Some irrigation disposal wells were drilled to terminate above the water table and some wells were

¹⁶ Statistics derived from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho. 2002. National Resources Inventory, a summary of natural resource trends in Idaho between 1982 and 1997.

drilled below the water table. Those wells that terminate below the water table have an increased potential to contaminate the ground water due to the lack of separation distance between the well bottom and water table surface. Regardless of the well depth, these wells act as direct conduits connecting the land surface and the subsurface. These wells have the potential to degrade water quality if the irrigation water to be injected contains fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides from the land surface as it flows towards the injection well. The potential for spilled hazardous materials to enter injection wells, either active or those that are improperly abandoned is also of concern.

Pastureland and Rangeland

Today, livestock grazing is the largest single land use in Idaho. Nearly half of the state's land area is grazed, totaling nearly 26 million acres. Idaho's grazing resource is composed of 7.2 million acres of private and state-owned rangeland, 1.3 million acres of privately owned pasturelands, and nearly 18 million acres of federally owned (primarily BLM and USFS) rangeland.¹⁷

Beef and dairy cattle, sheep, hogs, and goats are the primary species involved in land used by animal agricultural activities throughout the state. Some hobby farms may also include horses, llamas, emus, poultry, and other nontraditional livestock. Two principal land uses are associated with domestic animal husbandry—grazing and feeding operations (including dairies and supplemental winter feeding operations); the following narrative discusses grazing activities.

Pastureland and Rangeland Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

Throughout the state, late spring, summer, fall and winter grazing activities occur, with some yearlong grazing. The proximity of grazed areas to surface waters and aquifers, as well as the intensity at which pastures and rangeland are grazed, determines the impact to water quality from potential nonpoint source contributions. The principal pollutants of concern associated with grazing activities are pathogens, nutrients, and sediment. Pollutants of concern from animal manure and waste may be transported from range and pastureland and/or leach into subsurface waters. Overstocking of pastures and rangelands, inadequate growing-season rest, or prolonged season-long use can lead to plant community changes and an increase in bare soil which may cause these lands to be more susceptible to erosion and offsite sediment delivery as phosphorus often binds to soil organic and mineral particles. Overgrazing of riparian areas can impact riparian and wetland vegetation and may cause stream bank deterioration. Grazing animals with unrestricted access to streams can disturb the streambeds and cause pathogen and nutrient contaminations.

Across the state, there is an increase in urbanization, which includes some hobby farm activity (the activity of raising nontraditional livestock). Although not viewed as a traditional agricultural operation, those activities also have a potential to contribute to nonpoint source pollution. The potential to impact water quality may be as great or greater from multiple small operations as from a single animal agriculture operation.

¹⁷ Information retrieved from the 2003 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan referencing the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. 2002.

Animal Feeding Operations

In Idaho, there are several categories of animal feeding operations: dairies, beef cattle animal feeding operations, poultry, and swine. ISDA regulates the dairies (IDAPA 02.04.14), beef cattle animal feeding operations (IDAPA 02.04.15), and poultry facilities (IDAPA 02.04.32). DEQ regulates the swine facilities (IDAPA 58.01.09). ISDA references the Ag Plan for the continued review and update of BMPs addressing animal feeding operations, such as the Nutrient Management standard (NRCS Practice Code no. 590).

The Idaho dairy industry has been regulated by ISDA since 1995. All dairies regardless of size must have a state approved nutrient management plan and have a wastewater and process water containment capacity for a minimum storage period of 180 days.

Beef cattle and poultry animal feeding operations are categorized within the state based on the size of the operation, the number of animals in a given confined area, the duration of animal confinement, and the amount of surface vegetation present. These beef animal cattle and poultry animal feeding operations are referred to as either an animal feeding operation (AFO) or CAFO.

All large beef cattle concentrated animal feeding operations and all medium and large poultry concentrated animal feeding operations are required to have a state approved nutrient management plan. Nutrient management plans following the NRCS Nutrient Management standard for designated beef cattle and poultry AFOs are required.

Animal Feeding Operations Which May Impact Water Quality

Animal manure and waste can be considered a nonpoint source of pollution. Riparian areas and wetlands located adjacent to, or within livestock production areas, including grazing lands and AFOs, may be impacted by pathogen and/or nutrient contamination if livestock access is not restricted. Unrestricted access by animals from an AFO may result in the operation being regulated under the Rules of the Department of Agriculture Governing Beef Cattle Animal Feeding Operations (IDAPA 02.04.15.040.01, and 02.04.15.02.01).

Animal manure and waste applied to agricultural land may reach ground water primarily if application rates exceed crop uptake, or if carried below the crop root zone by excessive application of irrigation water or high amounts of precipitation. A nutrient management plan considers this potential impact and is developed to prevent excess amounts of pollutants from entering the ground water (see IDAPA 02.04.15.030 and Dairy Rules IDAPA 02.04.14).

IDAHO
Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
2015

Section D:
Water Quality Law



WATER QUALITY LAW

Authority for addressing nonpoint source pollution on a national level is provided in the CWA, administered under the authority of EPA. Idaho Code §§39-120 through 127 designates DEQ as the primary state agency to coordinate and administer ground water quality protection programs. Rules have been approved under these statutes to ensure DEQ maintains and protects the existing quality of the state's ground water and the existing and projected future beneficial uses of ground water and interconnected surface water.

The Idaho Statutes include 73 titles. Individual titles include a set of chapters which are further divided into numerous sections. Within those sections, applicable to the implementation of this Ag Plan, authorities, rules, regulations and standards necessary to address problems related to personal health and water pollution are defined. The elements within each section are defined within the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (rules), referred to as IDAPA. To provide a background and overview of current Idaho water quality law, several citations within the Idaho Administrative Code address water quality and are referenced as follows:

- Violations of Water Quality Standards (IDAPA 58.01.02.080-Violation of Water Quality Standards)

“No pollutant shall be discharged from a single source or in combination with pollutants discharged from other sources in concentrations or in a manner that: will or can be expected to result in violation of the water quality standards applicable to the receiving water body or downstream waters; or will injure designated or existing beneficial uses.”

- Surface Water Use Designations (IDAPA 58.01.02.100-Surface Water Use Designation)

“Waterbodies are designated in Idaho to protect water quality for existing or designated uses. ...Wherever attainable, the designated beneficial uses for which the surface waters of the state are to be protected include: aquatic life; recreation; water supply; wildlife habitats; and aesthetics.”

- Administrative Policy (IDAPA 58.01.02.050.02-Administrative Policy, Protection of Waters of the State)

“Whenever attainable, surface waters of the state shall be protected for beneficial uses...”

- Antidegradation Policy (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01-Antidegradation Policy, Maintenance of Existing Uses for All Waters)

“The existing in stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected.”

- Ground Water Quality Protection (IDAPA 58.01.11.006.01-Ground Water Quality Protection)

“It is the policy of the State of Idaho to maintain and protect the existing high quality of the state's ground water.”

- Prevention of Ground Water Contamination (IDAPA 58.01.11.006.05-Prevention of Ground Water Contamination)

“The policy of the State of Idaho is to prevent contamination of ground water from all regulated and nonregulated sources of contamination to the maximum extent practical.”

Idaho Code §39-101 et seq.¹⁸ and 39-3601¹⁹ et seq., define authorities of DEQ, including the authority to adopt rules as necessary to address problems related to public health and water pollution. The Idaho legislature, in Idaho Code §39-3601, recognizing that surface water is one of the state's most valuable natural resources, has approved the adoption of water quality standards and granted legal authority to the DEQ Director to implement these standards.

The purpose of the Idaho Code water quality chapter, Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq., is to enhance and preserve the quality and value of the navigable waters of the United States within the State of Idaho and to define the responsibilities of public agencies in the control and monitoring of water pollution. This purpose addresses the expressed intent of Congress to control pollution of streams, lakes, and other navigable waters in order to maintain and achieve existing and designated beneficial uses.

With the adoption of Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq. in 1995, Idaho entered a new era of local watershed planning and management. Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq. sets forth a public process which created BAGs in each of the State's six hydrologic basins.²⁰ The BAGs represent members of agriculture, livestock, forest products, mining, water based recreation, non-municipal point source dischargers, local government, conservation groups, Indian tribes, and the general public.

In addition, these Code Sections authorized the development of WAGs and recognized the existence of several ongoing WAGs throughout the state. The 27 WAGs recognized to date represent industries and interests affected by the management of their respective watershed.

Both BAGs and WAGs advise DEQ on water quality objectives for each basin and provide guidance on specific pollution control actions to restore designated beneficial uses of impaired water bodies. For waters on the state's CWA §303(d) list, an action plan is formulated by DEQ, referred to as the TMDL. The TMDL quantifies the acceptable pollutant level for each point and nonpoint source necessary to achieve the applicable water quality standard within a specified amount of time.

Because the Ag Plan focuses on nonpoint source pollution prevention from agricultural activities, a reiteration of definitions is appropriate. Nonpoint source activities are defined as, "Activities on a geographical area on which pollutants are deposited or dissolved or suspended in water applied to or incident on that area, the resultant mixture being discharged into the waters of the state. Nonpoint source activities include, but are not limited to: irrigated and nonirrigated lands used for grazing and/or crop production; silviculture including log storage or rafting; construction sites; recreation sites; septic tank disposal fields; mining; runoff from storms or other weather related events; and other activities not subject to regulation under the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system."²¹

Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq. also established and defined roles of other state agencies by assigning designated agency responsibilities for those activities within the state that are the major contributors of nonpoint source loadings to waterbodies. These designations are: IDL for timber harvest activities, for oil and gas exploration and development and for mining activities; the Conservation Commission for grazing activities and for agricultural activities; the Idaho Transportation Department for public road

¹⁸ Idaho Code, Title 39 (Health and Safety), Chapter 1 (Environmental Quality-Health). 39-105: Powers and Duties of the Director.

¹⁹ Idaho Code, Title 39 (Health and Safety), Chapter 36 (Water Quality). 39-3601: Declaration of Policy and Statement of Legislation.

²⁰ The six hydrologic basins in Idaho include the Panhandle, Clearwater, Salmon, Southwest, Upper Snake, and Bear River basins.

²¹ IDAPA 58.01.02.003.63-Definitions

construction; the ISDA for aquaculture; and the DEQ for all other activities.

The designation of lead state agencies provides an ability to target projects and programs toward specific activities. Inclusive of the roles for these agencies are other state and federal programs with funding sources, recommended best management practices, regulatory and non-regulatory components, and indicators of program achievements, available at their disposal to help ensure meeting the state standards for water quality. These state designated roles are also significant in that the designated agencies automatically partner with those federal agencies having similar traditional roles, such as the agricultural partnership of the Conservation Commission and Districts with the NRCS. Setting of similar goals, priorities, and program requirements has enhanced the ability of project implementation, stretched available funding, and ensured state/federal consistency in approaching the challenges posed by nonpoint source pollution and TMDL implementation.

Minimum stream flows may be appropriated by the Idaho Water Resource Board for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic life, recreation, aesthetic beauty, transportation and navigation values, and water quality. These minimum stream flow water rights are subject to senior water rights.²²

Ground Water

The Ground Water Quality Protection Act of 1989, Idaho Code §39-120 through 39-127, designates DEQ as the primary agency, along with ISDA and IDWR as partner agencies, in coordinating and administering ground water quality protection programs for the state.

DEQ, IDWR, and ISDA are responsible for adopting applicable rules which specify the standards for determining actions necessary to prevent ground water contamination and cleanup actions necessary to meet the goals of the state. It is the policy of the state to maintain and protect the existing quality of the state's ground water. The existing and projected future beneficial uses of ground water shall be maintained and protected, and degradation that would impair existing and projected future beneficial uses of ground water and interconnected surface water shall not be allowed. Additionally, the policy of the state is to prevent contamination of ground water from all regulated and non-regulated sources of contamination to the maximum extent practical.²³

No person shall cause or allow the release, spilling, leaking emissions, discharge, escape, leaching, or disposal of a contaminant into the environment in a manner that causes ground water quality standards to be exceeded; injures a beneficial use of ground water; or is not in accordance with a permit, consent order or applicable BMP, best available method or best practical method.²⁴

When a numerical standard is not exceeded, but degradation of ground water quality is detected and deemed significant, DEQ can take several actions: 1) require a modification of regulated activities to prevent continued degradation; 2) coordinate with appropriate agencies and responsible persons to develop and implement prevention measures for activities not regulated by DEQ; or 3) for certain pollutants, allow limited degradation of ground water quality for the identified constituents if BMPs, best available methods or best practical methods are applied and the degradation is justifiable based on necessary and widespread social and economic considerations. For other specified pollutants, DEQ may also allow limited degradation up to the standards if BMPs are being applied and the degradation will

²² Idaho Statute, Title 42, Irrigation and Drainage-Water Rights and Reclamation, Chapter 15, Minimum Stream Flow (42-1501 et seq.)

²³ IDAPA 58.01.11.006-Policies

²⁴ IDAPA 58.01.11.400.01-Releases Degrading Ground Water Quality

not adversely impact a beneficial use.²⁵

Enforcement Provisions

Enforcement provisions for nonpoint source activities have been incorporated into several state statutes and rules, including the Water Quality Standards,²⁶ the Ground Water Quality Rule,²⁷ the Rules Governing Dairy Waste,²⁸ the Beef Cattle Environmental Control Act,²⁹ and the Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry.³⁰

These rules governing nonpoint source activities recognize that nonpoint source pollution management, including BMP implementation and follow-up monitoring and evaluation, is a process for protecting designated beneficial uses and ambient water quality. This process is referred to as the feedback loop and is described in Section G of this Ag Plan. The Idaho Administrative Code cites that BMPs should be designed, implemented and maintained to provide full protection or maintenance of beneficial uses and cites this Ag Plan as the source for applicable BMPs.³¹

Violation of Water Quality Standards³²

Violations of water quality standards that occur in spite of implementation of approved BMPs, or if no approved BMPs, that occur in spite of an activity that is conducted in a manner that demonstrates a knowledgeable and reasonable effort to minimize resulting adverse water quality impacts, will not be subject to enforcement action. However, in this situation, the approved BMPs or other control measures may be evaluated and modified as necessary by the appropriate agencies in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act. In other words, the feedback loop process will be implemented. The Ag Plan is the source for approved BMPs for agricultural activities.

For an activity occurring in a manner not in accordance with approved BMPs, or in a manner which does not demonstrate a knowledgeable and reasonable effort to minimize resulting adverse water quality impacts, the DEQ Director may, with appropriate inter-departmental coordination, prepare a compliance schedule or institute administrative or civil proceedings (IDAPA 58.01.02.350.02.b.i). This authority, however, must be read together with statutory provisions that specify the agency responsible for certain nonpoint source activities. For example, the Dairy Environmental Control Act specifies that ISDA is solely responsible for protecting surface water within the boundaries of dairy farms that are not under, or required to be under, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (Idaho Code §37-603). In all cases, if imminent and substantial danger to the public health or environment is occurring, or may occur as a result of a nonpoint source by itself or in combination with other point or nonpoint source activities, then the DEQ Director may seek immediate injunctive relief to stop or prevent that danger, as provided in Idaho Code §39-108.

Proper application of BMPs on one agricultural nonpoint source may not adequately meet a beneficial use need. Unless a particular agricultural nonpoint source is proven solely responsible for degradation of natural resources that directly affect beneficial use support, multiple nonpoint source pollution controls

²⁵ IDAPA 58.01.11.400.02-Prevention Measures

²⁶ IDAPA 58, Title 01, Chapter 2, the Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements

²⁷ IDAPA 58, Title 01, Chapter 11, the Ground Water Quality Rule

²⁸ IDAPA 02.04.14 Rules of the Department of Agriculture Governing Dairy Waste

²⁹ IDAPA 02.04.15 Rules of the Department of Agriculture Governing Beef Cattle Animal Feeding Operations

³⁰ IDAPA 58.01.09 Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry Facilities

³¹ IDAPA 58.01.02.055.07-Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

³² IDAPA 58.01.02.080-Violation of Water Quality Standards

may be necessary.

Application to Agricultural Land Use - Private Lands

The state has adopted a voluntary approach for the implementation of TMDLs with respect to agricultural nonpoint source water quality pollution consistent with the CWA and Idaho Code §39-3610. BMPs are applied on private agricultural lands through landowner initiative often facilitated through incentive programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and CWA §319 Nonpoint Source Management Program, which are based on provision of technical assistance, information and education, and cost-share incentives.

Districts are the local delivery system for the voluntary pollution abatement programs; Conservation Commission is the designated agency for grazing activities and agricultural activities; and DEQ is responsible for implementing and enforcing the water quality standards.

Application to Agricultural Land Use – State Lands

The nonpoint source provisions of the water quality standards apply to state lands in the same manner as private lands. DEQ has entered into memorandums of understanding with IDL for silviculture and mining activities; Conservation Commission for agriculture and grazing; and ISDA for dairy manure and waste management. The IDFG is responsible for ensuring consistency in habitat and fish restoration activities statewide on state and private lands, as well as coordinating efforts with the agency's federal partners on federal lands. Enforcement of agricultural BMPs on lands managed by state agencies is implemented through the respective state agency's policies.

Application to Agricultural Land Use – Federal Lands

The enforcement mechanism for nonpoint source pollution control is different on federal lands than it is on state and private lands due to the nature of the state-federal relationship as described in the CWA and implementing executive orders.

CWA §313 directs federal agencies to meet state requirements with respect to the abatement of pollution in the same manner and to the same extent as any nongovernmental entity. Under "Executive Order 12088" a federal agency is to promptly consult with the state upon notification of a violation of water quality standards, and develop a mitigation plan with an implementation schedule to come into compliance.

IDAHO

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

2015

Section E:

Best Management Practices



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

As set forth in the Idaho Administrative Code,³³ the Ag Plan is the source for BMPs for the control of nonpoint sources of pollution from agriculture. In the context of this Ag Plan, BMP is defined as a practice or combination of component practices determined to be the most effective, practicable means of reducing the amount of nonpoint source pollution generated by agricultural activities.³⁴ BMP component practices are defined as practices used alone or in combination to address site-specific issues.

For a BMP to accomplish the task of reducing nonpoint source pollution on a voluntary basis, it must meet three criteria. BMPs must be: 1) technically feasible; 2) economically feasible; and 3) acceptable. By meeting all three of these criteria the BMP is defined as practicable.

Technical Feasibility is based on research findings, field trials and years of practical field experience that demonstrate the BMP's effectiveness, alone or in combination with other component practices, in reducing the amount of nonpoint source pollution from agricultural activities.

Economic Feasibility is based on economic evaluation and practical experience that demonstrate the BMP to be cost-effective in reducing the amount of pollution from agricultural nonpoint source activities.

Acceptable practices are those component practices that the responsible party is willing to apply and maintain.

BMP Application

A BMP is developed for application to a particular site to address a specific nonpoint source pollution concern based on site-specific data gathered and analyzed by a trained and experienced resource specialist. Site data may include soils, slope, climate, topography, crops grown, equipment used, water quality, water quantity, pests, and resource conditions. The land owner/operator's objectives, site data, and natural resource needs are used to select the BMP component practices. The conservationist or resource specialist may prescribe a number of alternative practices that not only meet the natural resource objectives, but also meet the landowner/operator's needs and capabilities. Because of the distinctive combination of site characteristics and natural resource objectives, the selected BMP and component practice(s) applied is unique.

On public lands the process involves environmental evaluations, land use plans, and interdisciplinary teams of resource specialists. BMP implementation is generally accomplished through contract or direct involvement of the management agency, such as the USFS or the BLM.

³³ IDAPA 58.01.02 – Water Quality Standards. §054.07 – Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (3-20-97).

³⁴ IDAPA 60.05.02 – The Antidegradation Plan for Agriculture for the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and Soil Conservation Districts. §011.02 – Best Management Practice (12-11-89).

BMP Selection

During the Ag Plan revision in 2003, the technical solutions or practices selected to obtain water quality benefits were referred to as component practices that are used individually or in combination to develop BMPs. The NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) is the source of BMP component practices accepted by the Conservation Commission and DEQ and included in the Ag Plan's Catalog of Component Practices (see Table E-2). The Catalog, housed and updated by the Conservation Commission, contains those practices determined to be effective in the treatment of natural resource concerns.

The FOTG is maintained in each local NRCS Field Office³⁵ and includes the standards and specifications for conservation practices designed and adapted to solve local land use concerns and natural resource problems. The Technical Standard for each component practice sets forth the minimum limits of technical excellence for its planning, design and construction. The following information is given in the Technical Standard:

- Definition – a description of the character or nature of the component practice.
- Purpose – a description of the use of and specific needs filled by the component practice in the overall effort to control natural resource impacts.
- Conditions Where Component Practice Applies – a statement of the specific condition or pollution control needs that can be met by the component practice alone or in combination with others.
- Key Points in Component Practice Application – a list of special features, ideas and suggestions for practice application such as timeliness, soil conditions, and/or special equipment needs that significantly influence the success or failure of the practice. Key points are practice-specific and may not be included in the standard for all component practices.
- Specifications Guide – a statement of where the technical requirements for the planning, designing, construction or application of the component practice can be found, e.g. NRCS FOTG. The referenced specifications set forth the required materials, operations and procedures to obtain the desired standards of construction and installation.

Component practices are modified or new ones developed when there is improvement in technology through research and demonstration; change in crops and cropping systems; change in economic conditions; change in social conditions; and/or change in water quality concerns, such as ground water emphasis. This is an ongoing process to keep up with technology and needs identified at the local level.

Evaluation of Applied BMPs

Water Quality Law, Idaho Code §39-3621³⁶ states that the Conservation Commission, in cooperation with appropriate land management agencies, is responsible for ensuring agricultural BMPs are monitored for their effect on water quality. BMP effectiveness evaluation has been identified as imperative for the validation of successful TMDL implementation within the agricultural sector. Monitoring programs are dependent on appropriations.

The Idaho Agricultural Best Management Practices Field Guide for Evaluating BMP Effectiveness³⁷ provides guidelines for evaluating site specific BMPs and the cumulative effects of BMPs within a

³⁵ Located at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/fotg/>

³⁶ Idaho Code Title 39 (Health and Safety), Chapter 36 (Water Quality), §3621 (Monitoring Provisions).

³⁷ Idaho Agricultural Best Management Practices Field Guide for Evaluating BMP Effectiveness. Revised April 2013.

watershed. The focus of the field guide is the onsite BMP evaluation process. The process serves as a guide for developing a plan for site-specific BMP effectiveness evaluation and the cumulative effects of BMPs within a watershed.

Technical evaluation of applied agricultural BMPs is a part of the feedback loop mechanism and is a two-step process. The first step, implementation monitoring, is carried out to ensure the adequacy of each of the component practices as designed and installed. The NRCS is the technical agency that provides assistance in the planning and implementation of BMPs on privately owned and state lands. NRCS conservation planning is guided by the NRCS National Planning Procedures Handbook. This is a three phase, nine step planning process that evaluates soil, water, air, plant and animal resources. Resource quality criteria in the FOTG for resource sustainability are used to identify resource problems and the BMPs that will solve those problems. The result is a conservation plan developed at the Resource Management System level. The three phase, nine step process is as follows.

Phase I - Collection and Analysis (Understanding the Issues and Opportunities)

1. Identify Issues and Opportunities
2. Determine Objectives
3. Inventory Resources
4. Analyze Resource Data

Phase II - Decision Support (Understanding the Solutions)

5. Formulate Alternatives
6. Evaluate Alternatives
7. Make Decisions

Phase III - Application and Evaluation (Understanding the Results)

8. Implement the Plan
9. Evaluate the Plan

Implementation monitoring is accomplished through a formal quality check procedure in which a representative number of practices are evaluated annually by the NRCS on private lands. The USFS and BLM have been delegated the responsibility to assure implementation quality control on federal lands they administer.

The second step in the evaluation of BMPs is effectiveness monitoring. This requires monitoring and evaluation of water quality following BMP application. If effectiveness monitoring indicates that natural resource objectives have been met, the applied BMP(s) are effective. If, on the other hand, the objectives are not met, the findings may be used to modify the BMP to attain the desired natural resource objectives. Part of this process will involve an assessment of the natural resource objectives and monitoring procedures. As implementation of the BMP occurs and more site-specific information is gathered, the compatibility of the natural resource objectives with the site potential will be reevaluated. Likewise, the monitoring procedures will be reevaluated to see if the proper water quality parameters are being evaluated by the appropriate techniques. All component practices need to be evaluated for effectiveness in providing water quality benefits for both surface and ground water. Pollution source identification may show that other non-agricultural sources hinder the effectiveness of applied

agricultural BMPs on the quality of a water body. It is important to note that where multiple pollutant sources exist, complete treatment of agricultural lands alone may not meet watershed-scale natural resource objectives.

Component Practice Development and Modification Process

The Catalog of Component Practices is developed and maintained through the following process.

1) The first step in modifying or developing new component practices is for the Districts, in consultation with the Conservation Commission, and the technical agencies to review current component practices and identify local needs that are not being addressed. The review will be conducted by the District Board of Supervisors and include area agency representatives and others as needed and appropriate. Factors considered in the review will include but are not limited to:

- Research findings
- BMP evaluation and monitoring information from demonstration projects
- All pertinent water quality monitoring information
- Experience and observations of individuals and groups as to the economic, social and practical application aspects of the practice, and its effectiveness in achieving the desired results

2) If a need for modifications or development of new component practices is identified as a result of the review, the District will hold a meeting to provide an opportunity for public input on the proposals. This meeting may be held in connection with the monthly District Board of Supervisors meeting.

3) The proposed modifications or development of new component practices along with comments from the public input meeting will be forwarded to the Conservation Commission with recommendations.

4) The Conservation Commission will convene the BMP Technical Committee as needed and present the proposals and recommendations forwarded through Districts for evaluation. This committee will be chaired by the Conservation Commission. Membership consists of a technical representative from:

- Conservation Commission
- Districts
- DEQ
- EPA
- ISDA
- FSA
- IDL
- BLM
- IDWR
- USFS
- UI Extension
- NRCS
- Agricultural Industries
- Others as needed and appropriate

Technical specialists from these or other entities with expertise needed to review specific component practices may be appointed as ad hoc members. Also, it is appropriate for the BMP Technical Committee to call upon industry and conservation group technical specialists to assist in evaluating the practicability of component practices.

5) The BMP Technical Committee will evaluate each recommendation forwarded through the District by comparing existing component practices to see if any of these meet the identified needs. If modifications or development of new component practices are needed, the Technical Committee will use research data, monitoring, project evaluations, experience and observations to modify existing or develop new component practices. Resulting component practices will be evaluated for technical feasibility, economic feasibility and social acceptability.

6) The BMP Technical Committee's recommendations on component practices will be forwarded to the Conservation Commission and DEQ. The Conservation Commission and DEQ will act upon modified or newly developed component practices, by accepting them into the Ag Plan Catalog of Component Practices, rejecting them, or returning them to the BMP Technical Committee for further action.

7) NRCS develops practice standards and receives input from the Conservation Commission and DEQ.

8) The Districts or local technical agency may adopt modified or newly developed component practices that are listed in the Ag Plan Catalog of Component Practices. Each District or technical agency local unit will maintain a list of the adopted component practices along with the appropriate standards and specifications.

9) The Conservation Commission will convene the BMP Effectiveness Subcommittee as needed for the review and evaluation of the effectiveness of BMP component practices.

Developing BMPs from Component Practices

Typical agricultural BMPs that are developed using the Catalog of Component Practices (Table E-2) include the following categories:

- Nonirrigated Cropland
- Irrigated Cropland
- Grazing Land
- Animal Manure and Waste
- Riparian/Wetland

A BMP usually requires the use of several component practices to meet natural resource objectives. A combination of BMPs may be needed to meet natural resource objectives on a particular land management unit, for example it may require both an Animal Waste Management BMP and an Irrigated Cropland BMP to adequately treat an individual farm.

Component practices listed in the Catalog of Component Practices are referenced by the NRCS FOTG number along with other pertinent rules, regulations, and guidelines. Guidelines other than those specified in the NRCS FOTG can be used for application of a component practice, if such guidelines have been approved as adequate to meet the desired water quality objectives by the agency responsible for ensuring the technical adequacy of the design and installation of the component practice.

Practices considered normal and proper components of a selected BMP are identified in the Catalog of Component Practices. Such designation is not intended to be limiting or comprehensive since each situation is unique and may require other component practices from the catalog for the BMP to be functional. The following are lists of component practices commonly selected to develop each of the five agricultural BMP categories.

Nonirrigated Cropland BMPs

Conservation Crop Rotation	Lined Waterway or Outlet
Contour Farming	Nutrient Management
Cover Crop	Residue Management—No Till
Critical Area Planting	Residue Management—Reduced Till
Deep Tillage	Sediment Basin
Diversion	Surface Roughening
Filter Strip	Subsurface Drain
Grade Stabilization Structure	Terrace
Grassed Waterway	Underground Outlet
Integrated Pest Management	Water and Sediment Control Basin

Irrigated Cropland BMPs

Agrichemical Handling Facility	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM)	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery
Conservation Crop Rotation	Irrigation Water Management
Constructed Wetland	Land Smoothing
Cover Crop	Mulching
Critical Area Planting	Nutrient Management
Deep Tillage	Pumping Plant
Filter Strip	Residue Management—No Till
Grade Stabilization Structure	Residue Management—Reduced Till
Integrated Pest Management	Sediment Basin
Irrigation Field Ditch	Sprinkler System
Irrigation Land Leveling	Structure for Water Control
Irrigation Reservoir	Underground Outlet
Irrigation System, Microirrigation	Well Decommissioning

Grazing Land BMPs

Access Control	Nutrient Management
Brush Management	Pond
Critical Area Planting	Prescribed Grazing
Fence	Range Planting
Forage and Biomass Planting	Riparian Forest Buffer
Forage Harvest Management	Spring Development
Grade Stabilization Structure	Trails and Walkways
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
Integrated Pest Management	Watering Facility
Livestock Pipeline	

Animal Manure and Waste Management BMPs

Access Road	Pumping Plant
Composting Facility	Roof Runoff Structure
Constructed Wetland	Underground Outlet
Critical Area Planting	Waste Facility Closure
Dike	Waste Recycling
Diversion	Watering Separation Facility
Fence	Waste Storage Facility
Grade Stabilization Structure	Waste Transfer
Heavy Use Area Protection	Waste Treatment
Livestock Pipeline	Waste Treatment Lagoon
Nutrient Management	Water Well
Pond Sealing or Lining	

Riparian/Wetland BMPs

Access Control	Riparian Forest Buffer
Aquatic Organism Passage	Spring Development
Constructed Wetland	Stream Channel Stabilization
Critical Area Planting	Stream Crossing
Dam, Diversion	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
Fence	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Filter Strip	Trails and Walkways
Grade Stabilization Structure	Tree/Shrub Establishment
Heavy Use Area Protection	Watering Facility
Livestock Pipeline	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
Pond	Wetland Restoration
Prescribed Grazing	

Water Quality Standards and Beneficial Uses

This Ag Plan provides guidance to contribute toward full support of identified beneficial uses through enhancement and maintenance of the quality of surface and ground waters of Idaho, to the extent that they are impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants. Water quality standards are set for each designated beneficial use within Idaho. Meeting those surface and ground water quality standards ensures support of designated beneficial uses.

Designated beneficial uses for surface waters within the state include:³⁸

- Aquatic Life
- Recreation
- Water Supply
- Wildlife Habitats
- Aesthetics

³⁸ IDAPA 58.01.02 – Water Quality Standards. §100 – Surface Water Use Designation (3-15-02).

Designated beneficial uses for ground water include:³⁹

- Domestic Water Supplies
- Industrial Water Supplies
- Agricultural Water Supplies
- Aquaculture Water Supplies
- Mining

Water quality standards listed per beneficial use are shown in table E-1. Table E-2 lists component practices found in the Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan Catalogue of Component Practices (July 2015). Tables E-3 through E-7 display agricultural BMP component practices and their ability to improve beneficial uses for each of the five BMP categories. The water quality standards directly affected are shown for each component practice per BMP.

³⁹ IDAPA 58.01.11 – Ground Water Quality Rule. §007.04 – Beneficial Uses (3-20-97).

Table E-1. Water Quality Standards per Designated Beneficial Use

Designated Beneficial Use – Surface Water	Water Quality Standards
Aquatic Life	pH dissolved gas chlorine residual water temperature ammonia turbidity dissolved oxygen
Recreation	E. coli
Water Supply	hazardous materials toxic substances deleterious materials radioactive materials (radioactivity) floating, suspended or submerged matter excess nutrients oxygen demanding materials sediment turbidity
Wildlife Habitats	hazardous materials toxic substances deleterious materials radioactive materials (radioactivity) floating, suspended or submerged matter excess nutrients oxygen demanding materials sediment
Aesthetics	hazardous materials toxic substances deleterious materials radioactive materials (radioactivity) floating, suspended or submerged matter excess nutrients oxygen demanding materials sediment
Designated Beneficial Use – Ground Water	Water Quality Standards
Domestic Water Supplies Industrial Water Supplies Agricultural Water Supplies Aquaculture Water Supplies Mining	primary constituent standards (numerical) ⁴⁰ secondary constituent standards (numerical) narrative standards ⁴¹

⁴⁰ IDAPA 58.01.11.200.01 Numerical Ground Water Quality Standards

⁴¹ IDAPA 58.01.11.200.02 Ground Water Quality Rule-Narrative Ground Water Quality Standards

Table E-2. Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan Catalog of Component Practices

Component Practice	NRCS Practice Code
Access Control	472
Access Road	560
Agrichemical Handling Facility	702
Alley Cropping	311
Anaerobic Digester	366
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control	450
Aquatic Organism Passage	396
Brush Management	314
Cover Crop	340
Composting Facility	317
Conservation Cover	327
Conservation Crop Rotation	328
Constructed Wetland	656
Contour Buffer Strips	332
Contour Farming	330
Contour Stripcropping	585
Cover and Green Manure Crop	340
Critical Area Planting	342
Dam, Diversion	348
Dam, Multiple-Purpose	349
Deep Tillage	324
Dike	356
Diversion	362
Fence	382
Field Border	386
Filter Strip	393
Firebreak	394
Forage and Biomass Planting	512
Forage Harvest Management	511
Grade Stabilization Structure	410
Grassed Waterway	412
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	548
Heavy Use Area Protection	561
Integrated Pest Management	595
Irrigation Canal or Lateral	320
Irrigation Field Ditch	388
Irrigation Land Leveling	464
Irrigation Reservoir	436
Irrigation System, Microirrigation	441
Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	443
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	447
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Ditch or Canal Lining	428
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline	430
Irrigation Water Management	449
Land Smoothing	466
Lined Waterway or Outlet	468
Livestock Pipeline	516

Table E-2. Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan Catalog of Component Practices (*Continued*)

Component Practice	NRCS Practice Code
Mulching	484
Nutrient Management	590
Pond	378
Pond Sealing or Lining	521
Prescribed Burning	338
Prescribed Grazing	528
Pumping Plant	533
Range Planting	550
Residue Management—No Till	329
Residue Management—Reduced Till	345
Residue Management, Ridge Till	329C
Residue Management, Seasonal	344
Riparian Forest Buffer	391A
Roof Runoff Structure	558
Sediment Basin	350
Spoil Spreading	572
Sprinkler System	442
Spring Development	574
Stream Crossing	578
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	395
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580
Stream Channel Stabilization	584
Stripcropping, Field	586
Structure for Water Control	587
Subsurface Drain	606
Surface Drainage, Field Ditch	607
Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral	608
Surface Roughening	609
Terrace	600
Trails and Walkways	575
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612
Underground Outlet	620
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645
Waste Facility Closure	360
Waste Recycling	633
Waste Storage Facility	313
Waste Transfer	634
Watering Facility	614
Waste Separation Facility	632
Waste Treatment	629
Waste Treatment Lagoon	359
Water Harvesting Catchment	636
Water and Sediment Control Basin	638
Well Decommissioning	351
Wetland Restoration	657
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	644
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	380

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

Table E-3. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the **Nonirrigated Cropland** BMP Category

Designated Beneficial Use Affected		Ground Water	Surface Water										
		Ground Water Supplies*	Recreation	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitats Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	
NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected^	Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E.coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Dissolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	Toxic substances
328	Conservation Crop Rotation				✓	✓							
330	Contour Farming				✓	✓							
340	Cover Crop				✓	✓							
342	Critical Area Planting				✓	✓							
324	Deep Tillage				✓	✓							
362	Diversion				✓	✓							
393	Filter Strip				✓	✓				✓			
410	Grade Stabilization Structure				✓	✓							
412	Grassed Waterway				✓	✓							
595	Integrated Pest Management	✓										✓	✓
590	Nutrient Management	✓				✓							
329	Residue and Tillage Management—No Till				✓	✓							
345	Residue and Tillage Management—Reduced Till				✓	✓							
350	Sediment Basin				✓	✓							
606	Subsurface Drain				✓	✓				✓			
609	Surface Roughening				✓	✓							
612	Terrace				✓	✓							
620	Underground Outlet				✓	✓							
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin				✓	✓							

^ Water quality standards **directly** affected are shown for each component practice per BMP category. Nearly all water quality standards are indirectly affected by component practices.

* Ground Water designated beneficial uses include: Domestic Water Supplies, Industrial Water Supplies, Agricultural Water Supplies, Aquaculture Water Supplies, and Mining.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

Table E-4. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the **Irrigated Cropland** BMP Category

Designated Beneficial Use Affected		Ground Water	Surface Water										
		Ground Water Supplies*	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Habitat	Wildlife	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Habitat	Wildlife	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics
NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected^	Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E.coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Dissolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	Toxic substances
309	Agricultural Handling Facility	✓											✓
450	Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM)				✓	✓							
328	Conservation Crop Rotation				✓	✓							
656	Constructed Wetland				✓	✓		✓					
340	Cover Crop				✓	✓							
342	Critical Area Planting				✓	✓							
324	Deep Tillage				✓	✓							
393	Filter Strip				✓	✓							
410	Grade Stabilization Structure				✓	✓							
595	Integrated Pest Management	✓										✓	✓
388	Irrigation Field Ditch				✓	✓							
464	Irrigation Land Leveling				✓	✓							
436	Irrigation Reservoir	✓											
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	✓			✓	✓					✓		
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	✓			✓	✓							
447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	✓			✓	✓					✓		
449	Irrigation Water Management	✓			✓	✓							
466	Land Smoothing				✓	✓							
484	Mulching				✓	✓							
590	Nutrient Management	✓				✓							
533	Pumping Plant	✓											
329	Residue and Tillage Management—No Till				✓	✓							
345	Residue and Tillage Management—Reduced Till				✓	✓							

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

Table E-4. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the **Irrigated Cropland** BMP Category (*continued*)

Designated Beneficial Use Affected		Ground Water	Surface Water										
		Ground Water Supplies*	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life
NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected^	Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E.coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Dissolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	Toxic substances
350	Sediment Basin				✓	✓					✓		
442	Sprinkler System	✓			✓	✓					✓		
587	Structure for Water Control				✓	✓					✓		
620	Underground Outlet				✓	✓					✓		
351	Well Decommissioning	✓											

^ Water quality standards **directly** affected are shown for each component practice per BMP category. Nearly all water quality standards are indirectly affected by component practices.

* Ground Water designated beneficial uses include: Domestic Water Supplies, Industrial Water Supplies, Agricultural Water Supplies, Aquaculture Water Supplies, and Mining.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

Table E-5. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the **Grazing Land** BMP Category

Designated Beneficial Use Affected		Ground Water	Surface Water										
		Ground Water Supplies*	Recreation	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics
NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected [^]	Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E.coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Dissolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	Toxic substances
474	Access Control	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
314	Brush Management				✓								
342	Critical Area Planting			✓	✓	✓							
382	Fence		✓		✓	✓							
512	Forage and Biomass Planting				✓	✓							
511	Forage Harvest Management				✓	✓							
410	Grade Stabilization Structure				✓	✓							
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment				✓	✓							
595	Integrated Pest Management	✓										✓	✓
516	Livestock Pipeline		✓		✓	✓							
590	Nutrient Management	✓				✓							
528	Prescribed Grazing			✓	✓	✓							
550	Range Planting				✓	✓							
391A	Riparian Forest Buffer		✓	✓	✓	✓							
574	Spring Development		✓										
575	Trails and Walkways				✓	✓							
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt.			✓	✓	✓							
614	Watering Facility				✓	✓							

[^] Water quality standards **directly** affected are shown for each component practice per BMP category. Nearly all water quality standards are indirectly affected by component practices.

* Ground Water designated beneficial uses include: Domestic Water Supplies, Industrial Water Supplies, Agricultural Water Supplies, Aquaculture Water Supplies, and Mining.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

Table E-6. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the **Animal Manure and Waste** BMP Category

Designated Beneficial Use Affected		Ground Water	Surface Water										
		Ground Water Supplies*	Recreation	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Water Supply Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Aesthetics	Water Supply Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Aesthetics	Water Supply Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Aesthetics	Water Supply Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Aesthetics
NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected [^]	Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E.coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Dissolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	Toxic substances
560	Access Road				✓								
317	Composting Facility	✓	✓			✓	✓						
656	Constructed Wetland				✓	✓		✓					
342	Critical Area Planting				✓	✓							
356	Dike		✓		✓	✓							
362	Diversion		✓		✓	✓							
382	Fence		✓	✓	✓	✓							
410	Grade Stabilization Structure				✓	✓							
561	Heavy Use Area Protection			✓	✓	✓							
590	Nutrient Management	✓				✓				✓	✓		
521	Pond Sealing or Lining	✓	✓										
533	Pumping Plant	✓											
558	Roof Runoff Structure	✓	✓			✓					✓		
620	Underground Outlet				✓								
360	Waste Facility Closure		✓			✓							
633	Waste Recycling	✓	✓										
632	Waste Separation Facility	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓		
313	Waste Storage Facility	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓		
634	Waste Transfer	✓	✓										
633	Waste Treatment	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓		

[^] Water quality standards **directly** affected are shown for each component practice per BMP category. Nearly all water quality standards are indirectly affected by component practices.

* Ground Water designated beneficial uses include: Domestic Water Supplies, Industrial Water Supplies, Agricultural Water Supplies, Aquaculture Water Supplies, and Mining.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

Table E-7. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the **Riparian/Wetland** BMP Category

Designated Beneficial Use Affected		Ground Water	Surface Water										
		Ground Water Supplies	Recreation	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Toxic substances			
NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected [^]	Primary, Secondary, and Narrative	E.coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Dissolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	
474	Access Control	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
656	Constructed Wetland				✓	✓		✓					
342	Critical Area Planting			✓	✓	✓							
348	Dam, Diversion				✓								
386	Fence		✓										
393	Filter Strip		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
410	Grade Stabilization Structure			✓	✓			✓					
561	Heavy Use Area Protection			✓	✓	✓							
516	Livestock Pipeline				✓								
378	Pond		✓		✓	✓							
528	Prescribed Grazing			✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
391A	Riparian Forest Buffer		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
574	Spring Development		✓										
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection			✓	✓	✓		✓					
584	Stream Channel Stabilization			✓	✓								
518	Stream Crossing			✓	✓								
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management			✓	✓								
575	Trails and Walkways				✓	✓							
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment			✓	✓	✓							
614	Watering Facility		✓		✓	✓							
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management		✓	✓	✓	✓							
657	Wetland Restoration			✓	✓	✓							

[^] Water quality standards **directly** affected are shown for each component practice per BMP category. Nearly all water quality standards are indirectly affected by component practices.

* Ground Water designated beneficial uses include: Domestic Water Supplies, Industrial Water Supplies, Agricultural Water Supplies, Aquaculture Water Supplies, and Mining.

IDAHO

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

2015

Section F: Implementation



IMPLEMENTATION

The NPS Plan serves as the foundation for management of all nonpoint source related activities throughout the state. Agricultural activities are identified as one of six nonpoint source sectors of water pollution in the state (as mentioned, other sectors include grazing, natural resource extraction, timber/silviculture management, urban/suburban development, and transportation). The NPS describes the State of Idaho's strategy for addressing nonpoint source pollution collaboratively with local, state, and federal partners and serves as the basis for which to achieve the goal of this Ag Plan. General and specific goals for addressing nonpoint source pollution from agricultural activities are identified in the NPS Plan and include:

General NPS Plan Program Goals

- Continue to build and maintain partnerships. Partnerships are needed to utilize a collaborative approach to addressing issues associated with NPS water pollution.
- Provide continued technical assistance, outreach, and education. Providing these services and tools will help facilitate nonpoint source assessment, planning, and implementation.
- Continue to support ground and surface water monitoring efforts.
- Continue to integrate ground and surface water quality activities within basins and watersheds to improve program efficiencies and provide for better protection and restoration (where needed) of ground and surface water beneficial uses.
- Implement pollutant trading through the on-going policy and requirements addressed in the Water Quality Pollutant Trading Guidance.
- Continue to implement measures to protect drinking water from the effects of NPS pollution.
- Encourage the use of bioremediation techniques and biofiltration systems in project plans that involve a need for erosion control and stream channel stabilization.
- Implement the Ground Water Quality Rule.
- Provide a minimum of ten WQ-10 success stories by 2020 (EPA National Measure WQ-10, known as the 319 Program Measure, looks at the number of water bodies identified by states as being primarily nonpoint source pollution impaired that are partially or fully restored. These success stories include projects designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution and attain sediment TMDL goals).

Agricultural Activities Goals

- Update, maintain, and implement the terms of the AG Plan.
- Update and maintain the Idaho OnePlan.
- Update the Field Guide for Evaluating BMP Effectiveness (updated in 2014).
- Maintain and improve fish habitat within impacted streams on agricultural lands.
- Complete TMDL implementation plans (watershed management plans) and conservation accomplishment components of 5-year reviews.
- Encourage farm planning and BMP implementation.
- Encourage and implement, when possible, the use of grazing control methods such as fencing, developing riparian buffer zones, implementing grazing systems, providing alternative water sources and supplemental feed, and providing alternative shade sources to limit livestock impacts to streams.
- Restore riparian functions affected by past hydrological modification through BMPs.
- Develop and implement other initiatives to address channel modification, irrigation practices, and flow issues.

The stated goal of the Ag Plan is: Contribute toward full support of identified beneficial uses through enhancement and maintenance of the quality of surface and ground waters of Idaho, to the extent that they are impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants. In order to achieve this goal, an implementation strategy that includes pollution prevention tactics and programs for all identified nonpoint source pollutants from agricultural activities must be developed, executed, evaluated, maintained and improved as water quality laws and circumstances change, and as funds become available.

The Ag Plan implementation strategy builds on the Idaho NPS Management Plan goals and includes several action items discussed on the following pages.

Action Item 1: Identify waters and/or watersheds threatened or impaired by agricultural activities.

Land managers and natural resource specialists will continue to evaluate existing information from monitoring and watershed inventories, and collect information as needed. Waters and/or watersheds threatened or impaired by agricultural nonpoint source pollution are identified using these ongoing evaluations.

Action Item 2: Prioritize waters and/or watersheds to determine the level of implementation efforts needed, including pollution prevention tactics and programs.

Currently, priorities for implementing agricultural BMPs are established through the Idaho TMDL schedule; ground water Nitrate Priority Areas; Drinking Water Protection Plans; Agricultural Ground Water Protection Program for Idaho; District five year plans; impacted habitat areas related to aquatic species listed under the Endangered Species Act; NRCS water quality priorities, and other local water quality and habitat protection priorities.

Action Item 3: Identify specific watershed management strategies for implementation.

Specific water quality or watershed management strategies are identified by initiating communication and planning at the local level with Districts, Watershed Advisory Groups, and technical agencies, with overall guidance and support from the designated state or federal agencies. Landowners, operators and agency representatives should define and verify water quality priorities, identify appropriate BMPs and component practices needed for effective treatment, and proceed with protective or restorative land treatment through the voluntary implementation of BMPs. BMP implementation strategies should also define the implementation schedule and project anticipated time frames necessary to meet water quality goals.

Action Item 4: Define authorities, regulations and commitments to ensure that implementation will take place.

Authorities, regulations, permits, contracts, commitments, and other evidence sufficient to ensure that implementation will take place should be defined. Technical and financial resources at the local, state and federal levels will be coordinated.

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission is the state agency organized to provide guidance and program implementation for private and state agricultural land use activities with respect to water quality. Numerous units of state and federal government also have authorities,

roles and responsibilities that play a part in the control and management of nonpoint source pollution, originating from agricultural activities, of surface and ground waters of Idaho (see Section B). Implementation of the Ag Plan is accomplished through a variety of programs which provide:

- a) Technical assistance to identify problems, design solutions, and evaluate practice effectiveness;
- b) Information and education to raise awareness of agricultural pollution problems and solutions available; and
- c) Financial resources as they become available and tax incentives to assist with the cost of BMP installation.

Planning water quality improvement projects requires integrating water quality objectives, resource needs, operator needs, and capabilities among many ownerships and available programs.

The implementation of Idaho's Ag Plan will involve coordination and cooperation among appropriate agencies and entities to ensure its use on all federal, state, and private agricultural lands in the state. Programs that may be available to assist landowners and operators with technical assistance and the voluntary installation of BMPs include:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Program
- Conservation Operations Program
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-up
- Cooperative River Basin Studies Program (CRBS)
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program
- Food Security Act of 1985 (FSA)
- Food, Agricultural, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (FACTA)
- Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative
- Natural Resource Conservation Credit
- Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)
- Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP) loans
- Rural Clean Water Program (RCWP)
- Rural Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- CWA §319 Nonpoint Source Management Program Grants
- Soil and Water Conservation Assistance Program
- Source Water Protection Program
- State Revolving Fund
- Wetland Reserve Program

Action Item 5: Implement the feedback loop process.

The feedback loop process should be implemented as an imperative step for program effectiveness appraisal. The feedback loop describes a process of nonpoint source pollution management based on the implementation and evaluation of BMPs (see Section G). Evaluating the results of the feedback loop process should direct BMP implementation adjustments and follow-up monitoring requirements.

Action Item 6: Communicate evaluation results, conclusions, and recommendations from the process of assessing agricultural BMP effectiveness in achieving water quality goals.

Through the feedback loop review, the effectiveness of the BMP, as well as the BMP's ability to assist in achieving water quality goals, is evaluated. Results of agricultural nonpoint source pollution abatement and its effect on water quality improvement should be communicated and made available for review so program adjustments and recommendations can continue to be implemented.

IDAHO

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

2015

Section G:

Monitoring and Evaluation



BMP MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Introduction

An important part of the Ag Plan is the evaluation of BMPs. Water pollution reductions and beneficial use improvements achieved through application of BMPs are recognized through monitoring and evaluation. When water quality goals are not achieved, monitoring and evaluation are used to determine the need for new or modified BMPs.

Agricultural nonpoint source pollution control in Idaho has been carried out to a great extent through voluntary actions, state and federal incentive programs, and regulatory programs. Therefore, the review of monitoring and evaluation procedures within these programs is essential for determining overall effectiveness of BMPs in controlling agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

The Feedback Loop Process

The premise of the feedback loop process is that nonpoint source pollution abatement, and ultimately water quality improvements and maintenance, are achieved through BMP installation, evaluation, and modification. An integrated system of BMPs are approved by state process (see Section E, Best Management Practices), implemented on a site-specific basis, evaluated through monitoring and modified as needed to achieve water quality standards. Implementing the feedback loop process to modify BMPs until water quality standards are met results in compliance with the standards.

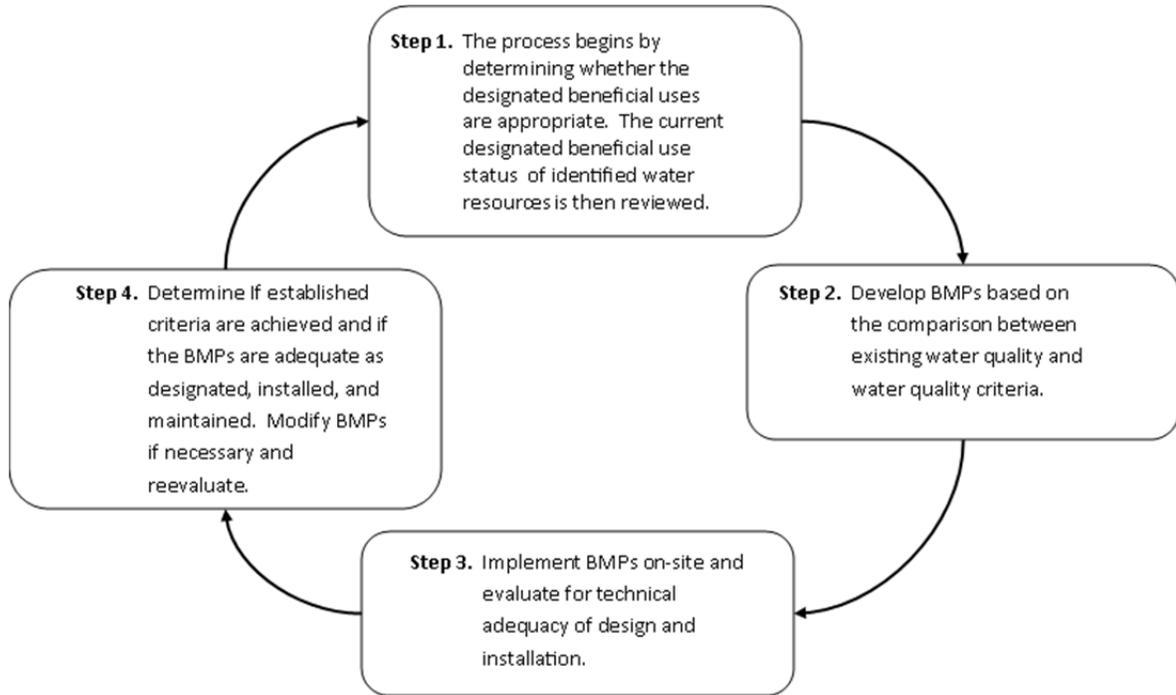
The feedback loop process is designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution through the development, installation, evaluation, and refinement of BMPs.⁴² This process first originated in the Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements.⁴³ An important component in evaluation strategies, which precedes the feedback loop process, is determining whether the designated beneficial uses are appropriate. The process mainly applies to surface waters as drinking water is a beneficial use of all ground water in Idaho. Appropriateness of designated beneficial uses is evaluated on a case-specific basis in accordance with DEQ guidelines. The feedback loop process consists of four steps (presented graphically in Figure G-1):

- Step 1. The process begins by determining whether the designated beneficial uses are appropriate. The current designated beneficial use status of identified water resources is then reviewed.
- Step 2. The existing water quality is compared to the water quality criterion established in Step 1. This comparison is the basis for developing or modifying BMPs.
- Step 3. The BMP is implemented on-site and evaluated for technical adequacy of design and installation.
- Step 4. The effectiveness of the BMP in achieving the criteria established in Step 1 is evaluated by comparison to water quality monitoring data. If the established criteria are achieved, the BMP is adequate as designed, installed, and maintained. If not, the BMP is modified and the process of the feedback loop continues.

⁴² As per the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan, Protecting Ground Water Quality In Idaho. December 1996 (page 77). Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Water Resources, and Department of Agriculture.

⁴³ IDAPA 58.01.02 – Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements. Modification of BMPs, §16.01.02350,02.c.iii.

Figure G-1. Feedback Loop Process



Monitoring Approach

BMP Effectiveness Monitoring

The BMP effectiveness review process includes evaluation of installation adequacy of component practices, progress in application of the BMP (resource management systems), and protection of the quality of the water resource. The process involves the entities with appropriate technical capabilities (i.e. Conservation Commission, ISDA, and DEQ) as well as the participating landowner. BMP effectiveness should be an integral component of every monitoring plan and follow these basic steps:

- Categorize appropriate local water quality concerns into measurable monitoring objectives;
- Select parameters that can be used to address each objective;
- Design an appropriate monitoring strategy, describe the rationale for that strategy and the intended and appropriate uses of the data;
- Describe the resources required to do the monitoring; and
- Assign responsibilities for all facets of the monitoring, from sample collection through data assessment and evaluation, to writing the final report.

A comprehensive evaluation of BMP effectiveness requires the integration of three types of monitoring:

- On-site evaluation of practice design and adequacy;
- Pollutant source and transport monitoring; and
- Instream and ground water beneficial use assessment monitoring.

On-site implementation evaluations are used to determine whether component practices are designed and installed according to project plans and in compliance with appropriate practice standards and

whether they are being adequately maintained. The practice's relationship to other component practices is also evaluated in order to help determine if a complete resource management system has been achieved.

Pollutant source and transport monitoring assists in determining movement and delivery of nonpoint source pollution to receiving streams and aquifers. This can be done by sample collection and analysis, modeling, or a combination of the two methods.

Instream and ground water beneficial use assessment monitoring include surface water monitoring, groundwater monitoring, and drinking water monitoring.

Due to the diversity of the monitoring objectives and the plan composition, monitoring intensity will vary between projects. Monitoring intensity can be categorized into the following three levels:

Level I - administrative level: This includes project administration and information gathering activities. Project reviews, financial audits, Level I riparian assessments and ground water vulnerability maps fall into this level.

Level II - field reconnaissance and inventory level: This includes qualitative assessment, expert judgment, and quantitative evaluation to the extent possible. Inventories conducted in the field and visual estimates are means by which information may be gathered. An example of BMP effectiveness monitoring at this level is the process established by Conservation Commission which utilizes on-site evaluation, measurement, and documentation outlined in the Idaho Agricultural Best Management Practices, Field Guide for Evaluating BMP Effectiveness (revised April 2013). BMP implementation reviews and status reports are examples of qualitative monitoring activities.

Level III - intensive level: This is comprised of quantitative assessment techniques. Measurements of hydrology, streambank stability, fish population estimates, water chemistry analysis and vegetation community measurements are examples of pollutant source and transport monitoring and in-stream beneficial use assessment monitoring.

Surface Water Monitoring

Beneficial uses are the desired uses that water bodies should support. Beneficial uses include water supply (domestic, agricultural, and industrial); recreation (such as swimming, boating, and fishing); and aquatic life. Each beneficial use has a unique set of water quality requirements or criteria that must be met for the use to be supported. Most water bodies have multiple beneficial uses. A water body is considered impaired when it does not meet the water quality criteria needed to support one or more of its beneficial uses.

DEQ determines whether a water body fully supports its beneficial uses by evaluating whether the applicable water quality standards and criteria are being achieved and whether a healthy, balanced biological community is present. DEQ's Water Body Assessment Guidance describes a process that uses biological and aquatic habitat parameters, as well as traditional water quality data, to assist in assessing beneficial use status.

Currently, DEQ recognizes three categories of beneficial use support status: fully supporting, not fully supporting, and not assessed. “Fully supporting” means that the water body is in compliance with water quality standards and criteria, and meeting the reference conditions for all designated and existing beneficial uses. “Not fully supporting” refers to a water body that is not in compliance with water quality standards or criteria, or not meeting reference conditions for each beneficial use. The “not assessed” category describes water bodies that have been monitored to some extent, but are missing critical information needed to complete an assessment. “Not assessed” can also mean that DEQ has not monitored nor assessed the water body.

BMP effectiveness evaluations are conducted by the Conservation Commission at the field level to determine adequacy of installation of selected BMPs, consistency of operation maintenance, and relative effectiveness in reducing water quality impacts. Supporting documentation of water quality effects of applied BMPs was provided through the Agricultural TMDL Implementation Monitoring Program. The program was enabled through a memorandum of understanding, and was coordinated by ISDA, in conjunction with Conservation Commission and Districts, to supply water quality data for identification of agricultural pollution sources, support BMP effectiveness evaluations, and assist in implementing agricultural components of TMDLs. The monitoring program does not currently exist as the memorandum of understanding was eliminated in 2008.

Ground Water Monitoring

Several state agencies currently perform ground water quality monitoring. IDWR conducts the statewide ambient ground water monitoring; ISDA conducts agricultural related regional, local, dairy, enforcement, and BMP effectiveness monitoring; and DEQ conducts regional and local monitoring. Other agencies such as the US Geological Survey also conduct regional and local monitoring. These agencies work together to combine data for review and use by the DEQ lead Ground Water Monitoring Technical Committee. These efforts address objectives within a variety of programs including the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan (1996), Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996), ISDA’s Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act cooperative agreement with EPA, the NPS Plan, and the Ag Plan.

DEQ issued a policy memorandum on March 1, 2000 to address degraded ground water quality areas (Policy No: PM00-4). The purpose of this policy is to set forth a process to identify, designate, and delineate areas where ground water quality is significantly degraded as defined by rule; prioritize the significantly degraded areas; with the use of local input, develop ground water quality management strategies for improving ground water quality in high priority areas based on current categorization and applicable standards; periodically review the effectiveness of the area-specific ground water quality management strategies; pursue re-categorization of high priority ground water areas when management strategies are ineffective and additional protection to improve or maintain water quality standards or preserve beneficial uses is necessary; and remove high priority designation when management strategies have proven to be protective of aquifer water quality and beneficial uses.

DEQ may initiate an evaluation at any time to determine whether ground water quality trends identify an area as being significantly degraded or having impaired beneficial uses. Water quality data used to identify degraded areas involves samples that are representative of the aquifer in question and/or representative of the impacted beneficial use. The DEQ recognizes that improvements to ground water quality from the effective implementation of BMPs, or other corrective and preventive measures, could involve significant time frames.

The DEQ, the local ground water quality advisory committee, other agencies, and the public will periodically review the implementation strategy and progress toward preventing further contamination of degraded areas. If corrective and preventive measures are being pursued without adequate improvements to ground water quality or other indicators of success, then the DEQ will work with the appropriate entities to refine the existing strategy. If ground water quality objectives are not being met due to inadequate implementation of BMPs, best practical methods, or other corrective or preventive measures, then regulatory actions as authorized by law may be pursued.

Drinking Water Monitoring

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments require states to assess the water (called source water) from which public water systems draw to provide drinking water. Once completed, the source water assessments provide information on potential contaminant threats to public drinking water systems. The Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan⁴⁴ was developed in response to requirements set forth by the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments passed by Congress in 1996. The Idaho DEQ, in conjunction with its public advisory committee, has developed the Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan to describe the major components of, and the procedures for, conducting source water assessments. The Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan provides a structure for planning and achieving consistent, rational assessments, while promoting public involvement.

⁴⁴ Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan. October 1999. State of Idaho DEQ-Ground Water Program.

IDAHO

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

2015

Section H:

Plan Development



PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The original Ag Plan was certified in 1979 by Governor John Evans. The Ag Plan was Idaho’s response to CWA §208 and represented the agricultural portion of the State Water Quality Management Plan. The previous Ag Plan versions detailed how agricultural nonpoint source pollution was to be managed. The Plan was revised in 1983, 1991 (published in 1993), and 2003.

The Ag Plan builds on the foundation laid specifically by the NPS Plan which sets goals and provides guidance for the management of all nonpoint source related activities throughout the state. The Ag Plan is the implementing action plan for all nonpoint source agricultural sector activities in the state.

An EPA grant to the Conservation Commission through the DEQ is the mechanism which allowed this version of the plan to be developed. Working from 2014 through 2015, the Conservation Commission hired a contractor with general funds through the state legislature to revise the plan and incorporate the most recent changes in state and federal water quality laws.

The Ag Plan was undertaken with the guidance of an Advisory Committee consisting of members representing state and federal agencies with water quality responsibilities, and industry and commodity groups.

Table H-1. 2015 Ag Plan Advisory Committee

Committee Member	Association
Art Beal	Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Britany Hurst	Idaho Cattle Association
Bob Naerebout	Idaho Dairymen’s Association
Kathryn Elliott	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Neeley Miller	Idaho Department of Water Resources
Dennis Tanikuni	Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Rick Waitley	Idaho Food Producers
Cathy Wilson	Idaho Wheat Commission and Idaho Grain Producers Association
Patrick Kole	Idaho Potato Commission
Teri Murrison	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Delwyne Trefz	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Gary Bahr	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
John Bilderback	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Mark Duffin	Idaho Sugarbeet Growers Association
Lynn Tominaga	Idaho Water Policy Group, Inc.
Norm Semanko	Idaho Water Users Association, Inc.
Cally Younger	Office of Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter
Ronda Hirnyck	University of Idaho Extension
Mario De Haro Marti	University of Idaho Extension
Dee Carlson	USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Ag Plan is intended to be a dynamic guidance document, with periodic updates provided as needed. Sections may need to be updated on a regular basis as new information is accumulated. Development, review, and modification of BMP component practices, as an ongoing process through the Ag Plan, will provide a continual update of the Catalog of Component Practices.

Water quality laws, policies and programs are constantly changing to meet resource and society needs. The Ag Plan will be reviewed periodically (regular intervals anticipated) and amended as necessary to ensure consistency and compatibility with state water quality programs and plans, state and federal legislation and local needs. The Conservation Commission will be responsible for initiating and coordinating this review. When substantial revision is warranted the Advisory Committee will be convened to provide guidance.

IDAHO

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

... a guidance document addressing nonpoint source water quality pollution

2015



Idaho Soil and Water
Conservation Commission

Prepared by:
Resource Planning Unlimited, Inc.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[List of Abbreviations and Acronyms](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Section A: Goal and Strategy](#)

[Section B: Authorities, Roles, and Responsibilities](#)

[Section C: Agricultural Activities Which May Impact Water Quality](#)

[Section D: Water Quality Law](#)

[Section E: Best Management Practices](#)

[Section F: Implementation](#)

[Section G: BMP Monitoring and Evaluation](#)

[Section H: Plan Development](#)



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms	
<u>AFO</u>	<u>Animal Feeding Operation</u>
<u>Ag Plan</u>	<u>Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan</u>
<u>ARS</u>	<u>United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service</u>
<u>BAG</u>	<u>Basin Advisory Group</u>
<u>BLM</u>	<u>United States Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management</u>
<u>BMP</u>	<u>Best Management Practice</u>
<u>BOR</u>	<u>Bureau of Reclamation</u>
<u>CAFO</u>	<u>Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation</u>
<u>Conservation Commission</u>	<u>Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission</u>
<u>Corps</u>	<u>United State Army Corps of Engineers</u>
<u>CREP</u>	<u>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program</u>
<u>CWA</u>	<u>Clean Water Act</u>
<u>DEQ</u>	<u>Idaho Department of Environmental Quality</u>
<u>Districts</u>	<u>Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts</u>
<u>EPA</u>	<u>US Environmental Protection Agency</u>
<u>EQIP</u>	<u>Environmental Quality Incentives Program</u>
<u>EPHA</u>	<u>Environmental Protection and Health Act</u>
<u>ESA</u>	<u>Endangered Species Act</u>
<u>FPA</u>	<u>Idaho Forest Practices Act</u>
<u>FOTG</u>	<u>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide</u>
<u>FSA</u>	<u>USDA Farm Services Agency</u>
<u>FWS</u>	<u>US Fish and Wildlife Service</u>
<u>IASCDC</u>	<u>Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts</u>
<u>IDAPA</u>	<u>Idaho Administrative Procedures Act</u>
<u>IDFG</u>	<u>Idaho Department of Fish and Game</u>
<u>IDWR</u>	<u>Idaho Department of Water Resources</u>
<u>ISDA</u>	<u>Idaho State Department of Agriculture</u>
<u>IWRB</u>	<u>Idaho Water Resource Board</u>
<u>NEPA</u>	<u>National Environmental Policy Act</u>
<u>NMFS</u>	<u>USDC NOAA Fisheries – National Marine Fisheries Service</u>
<u>NPDES</u>	<u>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System</u>
<u>NPS Plan</u>	<u>Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan</u>
<u>NRCS</u>	<u>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service</u>
<u>OSC</u>	<u>Idaho Office of Species Conservation</u>
<u>PL</u>	<u>Public law</u>
<u>RCPP</u>	<u>Rural Conservation Partnership Program</u>
<u>RCRDP</u>	<u>Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program Loans</u>
<u>SPCC</u>	<u>Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure</u>
<u>TMDL</u>	<u>Total Maximum Daily Load</u>
<u>UI Extension</u>	<u>University of Idaho Extension</u>
<u>UIC</u>	<u>Underground Injection Control</u>
<u>USDC</u>	<u>United States Department of Commerce</u>
<u>USFS</u>	<u>United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service</u>
<u>WAG</u>	<u>Watershed Advisory Group</u>

INTRODUCTION

The original Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (Ag Plan) was certified in 1979 by Governor John Evans. The Ag Plan was Idaho's response to ~~Section §~~208 of the ~~federal-Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33USC 1251 et seq.)~~, referred to as the Clean Water Act (~~PL-92-500~~CWA) and represented the agricultural portion of the State Water Quality Management Plan.¹ The previous Ag Plan versions detailed how agricultural nonpoint source pollution was to be ~~managed~~addressed. The Ag Plan was revised in 1983, 1991 (published in 1993), and in 2003.

This version of the Ag Plan builds on the foundation laid specifically by the Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan (NPS Plan),² which describes Idaho's strategy for collaboratively addressing nonpoint source pollution with local, state and federal partners. The NPS Plan identifies the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's efforts for protecting and restoring beneficial uses of Idaho waters. In addition, the NPS Plan identifies goals and objectives, agreed upon by various state and federal agencies, for addressing nonpoint source pollution. The NPS Plan provides guidance on evaluating and measuring success in meeting water quality goals for the state.

The Ag Plan is the action plan for all nonpoint source agricultural ~~sector~~activities in the state. This latest revision of the Ag Plan was undertaken with the review, guidance and input of an Advisory Committee consisting of ~~nineteentwenty~~ members representing state and federal agencies with water quality responsibilities, and representation from ~~conservation~~, industry and commodity groups. Advisory Committee members are listed in Section H, Table H-1.

The Ag Plan is intended to be a dynamic guidance document, with periodic updates provided as needed. Water quality laws, policies and programs are constantly changing to meet resource and ~~societal~~society needs. The Ag Plan will be reviewed and amended as necessary to ensure consistency and compatibility with state water quality programs and plans, state and federal legislation and local needs. The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (Conservation Commission) will be responsible for initiating and coordinating this review. When substantial revision is warranted, the Advisory Committee will be convened to provide guidance.

The Ag Plan is ~~includes the following~~structured to include eight main sections, including:

Section A: GOAL AND STRATEGY

Section A outlines the Ag Plan's purpose, goal and implementation strategy.

Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section B describes the authorities of numerous units of state and federal government and their roles and responsibilities ~~relating as they relate~~ to ~~the control and management of~~addressing agricultural ~~-~~nonpoint source pollution of surface and ground waters of Idaho.

¹ Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is required by §303(e) of the Clean Water Act to develop a continuing planning process that describes ongoing processes and planning requirements of the state's Water Quality Management Plan. The Water Quality Management Plan is a compilation of the guidance and programs Idaho Department of Environmental Quality uses to implement Clean Water Act requirements. Further detail can found at <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/planning.aspx#wqmp>

² The NPS Plan was published in ~~xxxxx~~, 2014 2015 and updates the state's 1999 version developed by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality ~~as part of its 2012-2014 grant work plans.~~

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
INTRODUCTION

|

Section C: ~~AGRICULTURAL NONPOINT SOURCE WATER QUALITY PRIORITIES~~

~~Section C discusses both surface and ground water quality priorities throughout the state and the programs in place to address those priorities.~~

Section D: AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY IMPACT WATER QUALITY

Current agricultural activities and associated potential pollutants, which may cause water quality impacts, are reviewed in Section ~~D~~C.

Section ~~E~~D: WATER QUALITY LAW

Section ~~E~~D provides a background and overview of current Idaho water quality law. The section reviews the elements of applicable statutes and discusses agency authorities relating to carrying out water quality protection.

Section ~~F~~E: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Best management practices (BMPs) for the ~~control~~reduction of nonpoint sources of pollutants from agricultural activities are listed in Section ~~F~~E. This section contains the Catalog of Component Practices and reviews BMP ~~development~~application, selection, and evaluation as well as the development and modification process for component practices.

Section ~~G~~F: IMPLEMENTATION

Section ~~G~~F defines the implementation strategy that includes action items necessary to reach the goal of restoring and maintaining surface and ground water quality.

Section ~~H~~G: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

~~An important part of the Ag Plan is the evaluation of applied best management practices. Section H—Section G reviews the feedback loop process—the mechanism for agricultural process designed to reduce nonpoint source management based on the implementation—pollution through the development, installation, evaluation, and evaluation refinement of the practices~~BMPs.

Section ~~I~~H: PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Section ~~I~~H describes the development of this plan and lists the Advisory Committee members.

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

IDAHO

2015

Section A:
GOAL and STRATEGY



GOAL and STRATEGY

Purpose

The ~~Idaho~~ **Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan** (Ag Plan) is a guidance document that describes the state's process for the abatement of agricultural nonpoint source pollution as it relates to water quality.

Goal

The goal of the Ag Plan is to:

Contribute toward full support of identified beneficial uses through enhancement and maintenance of the quality of surface and ground waters of Idaho, to the extent that they are impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants.

The goal is based on implementing federal and state water quality laws. Implementation of these laws occurs through adoption of state water quality rules, standards, state policy statements, agreements, and development of specific programs.

Mechanism

The Ag Plan's mechanism to ~~control~~ **address** nonpoint source pollution is the feedback loop process.³ ~~The feedback loop describes a process of nonpoint source pollution management, which is~~ based on the implementation and effectiveness evaluation of ~~best management practices (BMPs).~~⁴ The process provides a mechanism to direct BMP implementation adjustments and follow-up monitoring requirements. It is critical that results of agricultural nonpoint source pollution abatement **activities** are evaluated, communicated, and made available for review so program adjustments and recommendations can continue to be implemented.

Implementation Strategy

The Ag Plan's goal is achieved through an implementation strategy containing action items. The implementation strategy and development is discussed in complete detail in Section ~~G~~ **F** (Implementation). ~~Section G describes in more detail~~ Overviews of the following action items are listed as follows:

³ ~~The feedback loop process is discussed in Section H (Monitoring and Evaluation) and referenced in federal and state water quality laws: Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program, and the Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements.~~

⁴ ~~The feedback loop process is discussed in Section G (Monitoring and Evaluation) and referenced in federal and state water quality laws—CWA §319 Nonpoint Source Management Program, and the Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements.~~

Action Item 1: Identify waters and/or watersheds in which beneficial uses are threatened or impaired by agricultural activities.

Action Item 2: Prioritize waters and/or watersheds to determine level of implementation efforts needed.

Action Item 3: Identify specific watershed management strategies for implementation and allow for the continued use of voluntary BMPs and accepted agricultural practices.

Action Item 4: Define authorities, regulations and commitments to ensure that implementation will take place.

Action Item 5: Implement the feedback loop process.

Action Item 6: Communicate evaluation results, conclusions, and recommendations from the process of assessing agricultural BMP effectiveness in achieving water quality goals.

IDAHO
Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
2015

Section B:
Authorities, Roles, and Responsibilities



AUTHORITIES, ROLES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Introduction

Numerous units of local, state, and federal government have authorities, roles, and responsibilities that play a part in ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution of surface and ground waters of Idaho, originating from agricultural activities, ~~of surface and ground waters of Idaho~~. The ~~Idaho Soil~~ Conservation Commission (~~SCC~~) is the state agency organized to provide guidance and program implementation for private and state agricultural land use activities.

This section outlines the authorities, roles and responsibilities of the ~~SCC, and the~~ Conservation Commission as well as local, state, and federal agencies, and other entities that participate in ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution. ~~Those state and federal agencies~~ and other entities include:

Local Agencies:

- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts

State Agencies:

- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- ~~Soil Conservation Districts~~
- Idaho State Department of Agriculture
- University of Idaho ~~Cooperative Extension System~~
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Idaho Water Resource Board
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Office of Species Conservation

Federal Agencies:⁵

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- USDA Agricultural Research Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- USDA Forest Service
- USDI Bureau of Land Management
- USDI Bureau of Reclamation
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDC National Marine Fisheries Service

Other Entities:

⁵ USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
USDI: United States Department of Interior
USDC: United States Department of Commerce

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

- Basin Advisory Groups
- Watershed Advisory Groups

Idaho Soil ~~Conservation Commission~~ (SCC)

~~Background and Authorities: Water Conservation Districts (Districts)~~

Background and Authorities:

~~The SCC was created by the Idaho Legislature in 1939. The SCC has the authority to organize Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) and to provide assistance and guidance to the supervisors of SCDs in order to enhance their capabilities in carrying out effective local conservation programs (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 27). Under Idaho Code Title 39, Chapter 36, the SCC is named the designated agency for grazing activities and for agricultural activities. The SCC is composed of five members appointed by the Governor for five year terms and administers the 51 state SCDs throughout Idaho. The SCC operates through the local SCDs and does not have regulatory authority or licensing authority over water quality or pollution control.~~

~~The Soil Conservation District Law, Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 27, establishes the organization and purposes of Districts. The 50 Districts are governmental subdivisions of the state and include private, state and federal land, with the exception of some incorporated cities and portions of the Idaho National Engineering Environmental Laboratory. The Soil Conservation District Law provides the Districts with broad-based natural resource responsibilities.~~

~~Districts contribute financial support to the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), a private, non-profit corporation. IASCD assists the Districts by coordinating programs with public agencies and organizations to achieve common goals; encourages coordination between agricultural commodity and conservation programs to achieve long-term conservation goals; and sponsors and conducts many programs which provide information and educational opportunities concerning natural resource concerns and issues to Districts and citizens of Idaho.~~

~~Roles and Responsibilities (related to the control and management of addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):~~

- ~~1. Implement the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (Ag Plan) at the local level for private and state agricultural lands.~~
- ~~2. Provide assistance to landowners and land users for the conservation, management and treatment of natural resources within District boundaries.~~
- ~~3. Coordinate public outreach activities and bring together technical and financial resources in addressing local and state natural resource concerns.~~
- ~~4. Develop comprehensive natural resource management plans to protect and enhance the quality of soil, water, air, plants and animal resources.~~
- ~~5. Assist landowners in implementing comprehensive natural resource management plans through integration of cooperating state and federal agency programs.~~
- ~~6. Conduct surveys, investigations and research relating to the character of natural resources, for conservation, development and utilization.~~
- ~~7. Conduct local demonstration projects.~~
- ~~8. Through local sponsorship of outreach and incentive programs, provide education, planning, technical assistance and financial incentives to promote the application of BMPs.~~
- ~~9. Develop Five Year Resource Conservation Plans establishing and recognizing agricultural nonpoint source water quality priorities.~~

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

10. Review local needs, and develop and/or modify and adopt, component practices to be used to develop BMPs to meet state water quality standards and to protect beneficial uses.

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (formerly the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission)

Background and Authorities:

The Conservation Commission is a non-regulatory state agency created by the Idaho Legislature in 1939. The Conservation Commission is composed of five members appointed by the Governor for five year terms. The Conservation Commission and the Districts are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. The Conservation Commission provides assistance to supervisors of Districts in implementing locally-led conservation projects and the water quality program for agriculture (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 27). Under Idaho Code Title 39, Chapter 36, the Conservation Commission is named the designated agency for grazing and agricultural activities.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Implement the Ag Plan at the state level for private and state agricultural lands. Coordinate periodic review and update of the Ag Plan, in consultation with the advisory committees, committee (see Section H), and chair the Ag Plan BMP Technical Committee.
2. Provide technical assistance to owners and operators of private lands for the planning, implementation and evaluation of agricultural ~~best management practices~~ BMPs. The Conservation Commission provides assistance to promote "Conservation the Idaho Way," using the state's natural resources to benefit Idaho people while maintaining and improving those resources for future generations.
3. Offer assistance to ~~SCDs~~Districts in carrying out their powers and programs—~~allocate state funds to Districts to assist with conservation projects.~~
4. Inform ~~SCD~~District supervisors of actions and priorities of other ~~SCDs~~Districts to facilitate a sharing of information and to promote cooperation.
- ~~5-5.~~ Secure the cooperation and assistance of federal and state agencies in District programs.
- ~~6.~~ Review ~~SCD~~and analyze District-related workload inventories and ~~analyses and~~ recommend financing and legislation resources needed to apply needed programs and conservation practices, including those affecting water quality.
- ~~6.~~ Organize and support ~~7. Support~~ local ~~SCDs~~ in addressing state ~~Districts in the wise use and enhancement of soil, water, and local natural resource concerns.~~ related resources. Assist ~~SCDs~~Districts in ~~bringing together~~the coordination of public outreach activities, and technical and financial resources to ~~meet these goals.~~ develop natural resource conservation improvements in the state.
- ~~78.~~ Administer, jointly with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), the Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program for Idaho.
- ~~89.~~ Administer the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program for grants and providing low interest conservation loans, the Grazing Land Conservation Initiative grants, and the Natural Resource Conservation Credit program.
- ~~9.~~ Lead ~~10. Promote~~ the Idaho OnePlan effort as the primary computer-based conservation planning process for all natural resource concerns.
- ~~10-11.~~ Lead state efforts on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); a federal program, which offers financial incentives to landowners to reduce ground water consumption

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

12. ~~in the Snake River Plain Aquifer by taking marginal farm ground out of production.~~
Develop the agricultural component of ~~comprehensive total maximum daily load~~Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watershed implementation plans in consultation with ~~SCDs~~Districts and watershed advisory groups.
- ~~11~~13. Provide technical and administrative assistance to ~~SCDs~~Districts and watershed advisory groups for TMDL planning and implementation.
14. ~~Assist the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in administering a nonpoint source water quality loan under the State Revolving Fund Program.~~
15. ~~Facilitate cooperative ground water~~12 ~~Coordinate subbasin-wide fish and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement through the Clearwater Focus Program and Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project.~~
- ~~13.~~ ~~Provide support and technical assistance to the National Cooperative Soil Survey.~~

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Background and Authorities:

~~Background and Authorities:~~

The Environmental Protection and Health Act (EPA), Idaho Code §39-101 ~~to §39-130, et seq.~~, gives authority to DEQ regarding the protection of public health and the environment, including planning, permitting, enforcement, and certification authorities. The EPA provides authority for DEQ to administer a system to safeguard the quality of the waters of the state, including but not limited to the enforcement of standards relating to the discharge of effluent into the waters of the state and the storage, handling, and transportation of solids, liquids and gases which may cause or contribute to water pollution. ~~Under the authority of the EPA, DEQ has promulgated state water quality standards, develops water quality plans to attain these standards, and makes determinations regarding 401 certifications for point source pollution.~~

~~The Idaho Water Quality Act (Act), Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq., provides for the state determination authority to DEQ implement applicable provisions of designated uses and when those uses are impaired. The Act includes an anti-degradation provision. The Act requires the state to determine the CWA, including designating beneficial uses and the status of those uses and prepare and provide reports to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Act provides for the development of TMDLs on impaired surface waters, and a priority ranking for the development of TMDLs, regarding of the state and determining whether the beneficial uses are supported. For waterbodies that do not fully support beneficial uses. The Act establishes basin advisory groups and watershed advisory groups to advise, DEQ must develop TMDLs and a priority ranking list for their development. Idaho Code §§39-3613 through 39-3616 provides for the creation of Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) and outlines their duties in advising DEQ regarding water quality issues.~~

~~The Ground Water Quality Rule IDAPA 58.01.11 gives the Board of Environmental Quality the authority to promulgate the Ground Water Quality Rule pursuant to Sections 39-105, 39-107, 39-120, and 39-126, Idaho Code. The authority to formulate and adopt rules as are necessary and feasible to protect the environment and the health of the citizens of the state is vested in the Director and Board pursuant to §30-105 and §39-107, Idaho Code. §39-3603 includes an antidegradation policy that requires the protection and maintenance of existing uses of all waters of the state and that precludes a lowering of water quality in high quality waters, unless the lowering is justified.~~

Under ~~§39-120~~, the authority of the EPA and §39-3601 et seq., DEQ has promulgated the Idaho Water Quality Standards, which includes designated uses for waters of the state and criteria to protect those uses (IDAPA 58.01.02). The Water Quality Standards address nonpoint sources of pollution through the development, application, and review of BMPs. The Water Quality Standards identifies the Ag Plan as the source for BMPs to address nonpoint sources of pollution from agriculture.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

The CWA §319 establishes a grant program under which DEQ receives funds for, among other things, nonpoint source BMP implementation projects. DEQ awards CWA §319 grants for nonpoint source projects, including projects associated with agricultural activities.

Idaho Code §39-3624 et seq., provides authority for DEQ to provide grants and loans for eligible projects that include projects for the application of BMPs to manage nonpoint sources of pollution. The funding for these projects is separate from the CWA §319 grants discussed above.

The Ground Water Quality Code, the Board is authorized Protection Act, Idaho Code §39-120 et seq., authorizes DEQ to adopt, by rule, ambient ground water quality standards.-. Under Idaho Code §39-126, Idaho Code, all state agencies shall incorporate the Ground Water Quality Plan, adopted by the legislature, in the administration of their programs and are granted authority to promulgate rules to protect ground water quality as necessary to administer such programs. Under the Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements IDAPA 58.01.02, pursuant to §39-105 and §39-3601 et seq., Idaho Code, the Director is authorized to identify beneficial uses, establish standards, and identify a feedback loop process as the control strategy for nonpoint source control.

Authority for DEQ's role in the control of agricultural pollution comes from Idaho Code and delegation under the federal Clean Water Act. The Idaho Environmental Protection and Health Act (Idaho Code, Title 39, Chapter 1) provides authority to the DEQ Director to adopt rules and regulations and take enforcement actions to implement the policy of the state in protecting the public health and environment.

Under the authority of the EPHA and the Ground Water Quality Protection Act, DEQ has adopted the Ground Water Quality Rule (IDAPA 58.01.11) that includes ground water quality standards for contaminants, antidegradation provisions, and provisions that require actions in response to the discovery of ground water contamination.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of addressing~~ nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. ~~1.——~~ Assist in the setting of attainable goals for water quality improvement and protection of identification of agricultural BMPs to protect beneficial uses through the Ag Plan.-.
2. ~~2.——~~ Periodically review progress of the Ag Plan in meeting water quality goals and make recommendations for corrective strategy.
- ~~3.——~~ Periodically evaluate applied BMPs developed via the Ag Plan for efficacy in meeting water quality goals.
- ~~4.——~~ Develop monitoring programs to evaluate effectiveness of the Ag Plan.
3. ~~5.——~~ Jointly Work jointly with the SCC Conservation Commission and the advisory committees, committee to periodically review and update the Ag Plan.
4. ~~6.——~~ Work with state and federal agencies, local user groups, and interest groups to implement the Ag Plan.
5. ~~7.——~~ Provide continuity with EPA to assure the Ag Plan meets the goals and procedural requirements of the federal Clean Water Act CWA.
6. ~~8.——~~ Work cooperatively with federal, state, and local entities to implement the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan (1996).-

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

7. ~~9.~~ Utilize the Policy for Addressing Degraded Ground Water Quality Areas (Policy No. PM00-4) for identifying, prioritizing, planning and implementing management strategies.
- ~~10.~~ Coordinate integration of the Ag Plan with the Agricultural Chemical Ground Water Protection Program for Idaho (1996) and the Idaho State Pesticide Management Plan for Ground Water Protection (2001).

Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs)

Background and Authorities:

~~The Soil Conservation District Law, Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 27, establishes the organization and purposes of SCDs. The 51 SCDs are governmental subdivisions of the state and include private, state and federal land, with the exception of some incorporated cities and portions of the Idaho National Engineering Environmental Laboratory. The Soil Conservation District Law provides the SCDs with broad based natural resource responsibilities.~~

~~SCDs contribute financial support to the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), a private, legislatively approved, non-profit corporation. IASCD assists the SCDs by coordinating programs with public agencies and organizations to achieve common goals; encourages coordination between agricultural commodity and conservation programs to achieve long-term conservation goals; and sponsors and conducts many programs which provide information and educational opportunities concerning natural resource concerns and issues to SCDs and citizens of Idaho.~~

~~Roles and Responsibilities (related to the control and management of nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):~~

- ~~1. Implement the Ag Plan at the local level for private and state agricultural lands.~~
 - ~~2. Provide assistance to landowners and land users for the conservation, management and treatment of natural resources within SCD boundaries.~~
 - ~~3. Coordinate public outreach activities and bring together technical and financial resources in addressing local and state natural resource concerns.~~
 - ~~4. Develop comprehensive natural resource management plans to protect and enhance the quality of soil, water, air, plants and animal resources.~~
 - ~~5. Assist land owners in implementing comprehensive natural resource management plans through integration of cooperating state and federal agency programs.~~
 - ~~6. Conduct surveys, investigations and research relating to the character of natural resources, for conservation, development and utilization.~~
 - ~~7. Conduct local demonstration projects.~~
 - ~~8. Through local sponsorship of outreach and incentive programs, provide education, planning, technical assistance and financial incentives to promote the application of BMPs.~~
 - ~~9. Develop Five Year Resource Conservation Programs establishing and recognizing agricultural nonpoint source water quality priorities.~~
 - ~~10. Review local needs, and develop and/or modify and adopt, component practices to be used to develop BMPs to meet state water quality standards and to protect beneficial uses.~~
8. Develop TMDLs that may include load allocations for agricultural nonpoint sources, and work with the Commission and Districts to implement the TMDLs.
 9. Coordinate with the ISDA regarding surface and ground water quality associated with CAFOs.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

10. Provide grants and loans for the implementation of projects that apply BMPs for agriculture nonpoint sources.
11. Regulate swine facilities through the Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry Facilities (IDAPA 58.01.09).

Idaho State Department of Agriculture ~~(ISDA)~~

Background and Authorities:

~~**Background and Authorities:**~~

ISDA is responsible for the regulation of pesticides, pesticide registrations, pesticide certification and training, pesticide enforcement, waste pesticide disposal and container recycling programs, urban pesticide programs, pesticide endangered species reviews and the pesticides and water quality programs. ISDA is also responsible for registration of fertilizers, and soil and plant amendments. Authority for ISDA's role ~~for~~ in the control of nonpoint and point source pollution related to agriculture, including dairy ~~and~~, beef cattle feedlot, and poultry facilities, comes from a variety of laws, rules, plans, programs, ~~memorandums of understanding~~, and cooperative agreements with EPA.

ISDA is recognized as a lead state water quality agency working to implement laws and rules, water quality management and planning, engineering and technical services, monitoring, permits, and education and licensing efforts related to agriculture. ~~Related to ground water quality protection, ISDA implements the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996). Through authority of this program,~~ ISDA chairs the Agricultural Ground Water Coordination Committee, which reviews and evaluates potential agricultural point and nonpoint source impacts and coordinates in the development and implementation of prevention and response strategies. ~~ISDA coordinates with DEQ and Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) in administering the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan under provision of the Ground Water Quality Protection Act of 1989.~~

The pesticides and water quality program includes the creation and implementation of the Idaho State Pesticide Management Plan for Ground Water Protection, monitoring of ground water for pesticides, education of applicators, identification of potential pesticide ground water BMPs and regulation of specific active ingredients. ~~The control of dairy cattle animal manure and waste⁶ is regulated by ISDA as the result of the Idaho Dairy Pollution Prevention Initiative, which is implemented through law the Dairy Environmental Control Act and related laws and rules, and a Memorandum of Understanding between ISDA, DEQ, EPA, and the Idaho Dairymen's Association. The control of beef cattle animal manure and waste is regulated by ISDA as the result of through the Idaho Beef Cattle Environmental Control Program, implemented through law and related laws and rules, and a Memorandum of Understanding between ISDA, DEQ, EPA, the Idaho Cattle Association, and the Idaho Cattle Feeding Operations Interagency Cooperative Agreement between ISDA. The control of poultry manure and DEQ waste is regulated by ISDA through the Idaho Poultry Environmental Control Program and related laws and rules.~~

⁶ For the purposes of this Ag Plan, manure refers to animal excrement that may also contain bedding, spilled feed, water or soil. Animal waste refers to a material composed of excreta, with or without bedding materials collected from poultry, ruminants, or other animals except humans.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

- 1.- Regulate the certification and licensing of pesticide applicators and chemigators.
- 2.- Regulate the registration and sale of pesticides.-
- 3.- Regulate, monitor, and inspect chemigation systems.
4. ~~Collect pesticide sales records from dealers.~~
- 5.- Collect restricted use pesticide sales ~~reports from applicators under the United States Department of Agriculture Record Keeping Law~~ records from dealers.
- 6-5. Implement the EPA Pesticides Cooperative Agreement including a water quality -and pesticide component.
- 7-6. Implement the State Pesticide Management Plan (PMP) for Idaho⁷ to address the EPA Pesticides in Ground Water Strategy (1991), and the EPA Draft PMP Rule (1997).⁸
- 8-7. Implement the Regional and Local Agricultural Ground Water Quality Monitoring program, which assists in implementing the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996) authorized in 1996, EPA Pesticides and Water Quality Program and the Agricultural Ground Water Coordination Committee Laws, and EPA's Pesticide Management Plan.
- 9-8. Participate in the development and evaluation of BMPs for pesticide and fertilizer use.
109. Implement the Agricultural Ground Water Monitoring Program relative surface water quality program, which assists in fulfilling CWA and state requirements to nutrients, implement surface water monitoring related to pesticides, and animal waste.
11. ~~Implement the Agricultural TMDL Monitoring and Evaluation Program to evaluate. The program conducts monitoring to fill data and assess information gaps to monitor pesticides in surface waters related to agricultural TMDL impacts and BMP evaluations; this program assists the SCC and SCDs in implementing the EPA TMDL program and Idaho water quality law of the state.~~
1210. Cooperate with industry, federal, and state agencies to develop plans to address nutrient run-off and water quality impacts ~~off from~~ dairies, beef ~~confined~~ cattle animal feeding operations, poultry animal feeding operations, and livestock grazing.
13. ~~Implement~~11. Lead the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) siting team.
14. ~~Implement Dairy~~12. Regulate beef cattle, dairy, and ~~CAFO~~ poultry nutrient management planning and implementation.
1513. Work cooperatively with federal, state and local entities to implement the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan (1996).
1614. Participate ~~with DEQ and IDWR in the Ground Water Coordination Agreement Meeting Group (1996).~~
17. ~~Participate~~ in the Ground Water Monitoring Technical Committee.

University of Idaho ~~Cooperative~~ Extension System (CES/UI Extension)

~~Background and Authorities:~~

Background and Authorities:

⁷ IDAPA 02.03.01 Rules Governing Pesticide Management Plans for Ground Water Protection (PMP Rule), 2005.

⁸ Pesticides and Groundwater Strategy. 1991. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Washington, DC.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

Established under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, ~~CESUI Extension~~ was designated as the education arm of the USDA. In 1989 the USDA Water Quality Program designated ~~CESUI Extension~~ as having the key role in water quality education ~~and a lesser role in providing technical assistance.~~

~~Roles and Responsibilities~~ (related to ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. ~~Disseminate~~ Conduct research and disseminate findings to landowners, cooperating agencies and the general public.
2. ~~Assist~~ agricultural producers with recommendations for application of commercial fertilizers, nutrients and pesticides ~~based on~~ using research ~~based information/data.~~
3. ~~Develop~~ and ~~field trials~~ deliver educational programs to clientele on protecting water quality from agricultural activities.
3. ~~Assist with calibration~~ Educate clientele on safe and effective use of pesticides and nutrients.
4. ~~Deliver educational programming for the state pesticide and fertilizer application equipment safety education program and subsequent licensing requirements.~~
5. ~~Develop~~ new irrigation strategies and water use efficiency for Idaho and disseminate research results.

Idaho Department of Water Resources (~~IDWR~~)

~~Background and Authorities:~~

Background and Authorities:

IDWR has statutory responsibility for administering the appropriation and allotment of surface and ground water resources of the state and to protect the ground water resources against waste and contamination.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Administer the Underground Injection Control (UIC) for the State of Idaho.
2. Insure that all deep injection wells are under state permit and condition permits to protect the ground waters of the state from pollution.
3. Insure that all active deep injection wells are in compliance with permit conditions.
4. Insure that non-compliant deep injection wells are brought into compliance or properly decommissioned.
5. Perform periodic reviews of injection wells in Idaho and maintain a current UIC data base.
6. Supervise the construction and decommissioning of injection wells to prevent pollution of ground waters by injection well activities.
7. Provide public information on UIC activities.
8. Administer the licensing of well drillers operating in the State of Idaho.
9. Collect, review, and assimilate Driller's Reports on wells drilled in Idaho.
10. Permit and regulate the proper construction and abandonment of water wells, monitor wells, injection wells, geothermal or other wells or drilled bore holes which may provide a source of waste or contamination of the ground water.
11. Assist the public and well drillers with geological and technical information that will result in the proper construction of wells and the efficient development of the state's ground water resource.
12. Supervise construction or abandonment of wells which are complicated and/or are located in controversial areas.
13. Administer and enforce the Idaho Stream Channel Protection Act.
14. Consult with other interested state and federal agencies, to determine the effects a proposed alteration is likely to have on a stream.
15. Insure compliance with all permits issued to construct in a stream channel.
16. Provide the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) with the official state position letter on each activity being considered by the Corps for permitting.
17. Seek mitigation, penalties and injunctive relief for all violations to the Stream Channel Protection Act.
18. Work cooperatively with federal, state and local entities to implement the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan (1996).

Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB)

Background and Authorities:

The IWRB was formed in 1965 under Article 15, Chapter 17 of the Constitution of the State of Idaho to, among other responsibilities, formulate and implement a state water plan for optimum development of the water resources in the public interest.— The IWRB is the constitutional water agency within IDWR.— IDWR provides staff for the IWRB, and the activities of the two entities are highly collaborative and closely coordinated. However, IWRB duties are defined through constitutional and statutory authorities (Title 42, Chapter 17 Idaho Code) and are separate from IDWR.—

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. ___ Develop and implement a statewide water policy plan for conservation, development, management and optimum use of all unappropriated water resources and waterways of the state in the public interest (Comprehensive State Water Plan Part A).
- ~~2. ___ Prepare detailed water management plans for each Idaho river basin, ground water aquifer, or other geographic consideration as components of the Comprehensive State Water Plan Part B. This includes designation of selected waterways as state protected rivers.~~
2. ___ Designates natural and protected rivers and files applications for and holds minimum stream flow water rights.
3. ___ Provide financial assistance for water development and conservation projects in the form of revenue bonds, loans, and grants.
4. ~~___ Appropriate water for minimum stream flows or other uses beneficial to the public. ___ Adopts rules governing:~~
 - Well Construction
 - Well Driller Licensing
 - Construction and Use of Injection Wells
 - Drilling for Geothermal Resources
 - Mine Tailings Impoundment Structures
 - Safety of Dams
 - Stream Channel Alteration
5. ___ Administer the water supply bank to make use of and obtain the highest duty for beneficial use from water and to provide a source of adequate water supplies to benefit new and supplemental water uses. -.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)

Background and Authorities:

Authority for the agency's role comes from Idaho Code, which gives IDFG responsibility to manage fish and wildlife populations. The Department has minimal legal authority over water quality.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Monitor fish and wildlife species to assess the status of populations.
2. Assess the potential impacts of land and water management and development on the habitats of fish and wildlife species and populations.
3. Enter into cooperative agreements with universities, state and federal agencies, and other entities to promote wildlife research and to train students for fish and wildlife management careers.
4. Acquire, manage, and administer lands for the purposes of public access for fishing, hunting, and trapping, and to protect important fish and wildlife habitats.
5. Enter into cooperative agreements with state and federal agencies, local government entities, corporations, landowners, associations, or individuals to develop, manage, and protect fish and wildlife habitats.
6. Provide technical assistance, expertise, and support on fish and wildlife matters.

Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)

Background and Authorities:

Under Executive Order 88-23 (the Antidegradation Policy), IDL is designated as the lead agency to address surface mining, dredge and placer mining, and forestry practices on all lands within the state. With respect to agricultural activities, IDL leases state endowment land to generate revenue from grazing and agriculture.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Manage approximately 2.5 million acres of state endowment lands for maximum income consistent with sound long term resource management practices and in accordance with existing water quality laws.
2. On state ~~forest lands, apply BMPs which will provide for beneficial uses of water.~~
3. ~~On~~ and private ~~lands~~ forestlands, when carrying out statutorily defined forest practice, implement and regulate the standards defined in the Idaho Forest Practices Act Rules and Regulations (FPA Rules) to protect water quality ~~and to take.~~ Take enforcement action when needed to ~~achieve this goal.~~ ensure compliance with these FPA Rules (the silvicultural nonpoint source BMPs).
4. Provide other state and federal agencies the opportunity to review and comment on mine applications, BMP design and reclamation plans. Preoperational site reviews and subsequent site inspections are often conducted in coordination with other state and federal agencies.
5. Take regulatory responsibility for any encroachment on, in or above the beds or waters of any navigable lake or stream in Idaho (Title 58, Chapter 104 (9) and 142 et seq., Idaho Code).

Idaho State Office of Species Conservation (OSC)

Background and Authorities:

OSC was created by the Idaho State Legislature in 2000 (Idaho Code §67-818). Within the Office of the Governor, OSC provides coordination, cooperation and consultation among state, federal and private interests in order to preserve and restore species currently listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to preclude future ESA listings in Idaho. OSC coordinates actions with germane state agencies to protect listed species with an overall goal of recovery of the species and removal from federal listing. OSC does not have regulatory authority or licensing authority over water quality or pollution control.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Coordinate ESA activities with various state, federal, and private entities.
2. Coordinate ESA activities with water quality activities where they overlap.
3. Where ESA ~~/~~ water quality issues arise on agricultural land, work with the ~~SEE~~ Conservation Commission and landowners to develop management plans for protection of the listed species as well as protection of the landowner's interests.
4. Coordinate Subbasin Planning in Idaho to holistically address fish ~~&~~ wildlife restoration throughout Idaho's watersheds.
5. Through Subbasin Planning, provide a mechanism for Idaho citizens to become involved in ESA ~~/~~ water quality issues.
6. Solicit, provide and delegate funding for ESA programs, including ESA water-related programs.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Background and Authorities:

~~In July of 1970, the White House and Congress worked together to establish the EPA in response to the growing public demand for cleaner water, air and land. Prior to the establishment of the EPA, the national government was not structured to make a coordinated effort to control pollutants which harm human health and degrade the environment.~~

~~EPA administers the CWA. The CWA embodies a federal-state partnership, where federal guidelines, objectives, and limits are set under the authority of the EPA, while states and authorized tribes largely administer and enforce the CWA programs, with significant federal technical and financial assistance. The CWA, directs states to develop and implement voluntary nonpoint pollution management programs, and encourages states to pursue groundwater protection.~~

~~Roles and Responsibilities (related to the control and management of addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):~~

- ~~1. Maintain oversight responsibilities for sections of the federal Clean Water Act.~~
- ~~2. Periodically Under §303 of the CWA, review the management plans and their revisions and approve or disapprove Idaho Water Quality Standards. Provide oversight and approval of the CWA §303(d) list of impaired waters and associated TMDLs developed under Sections 208 and 319 (Nonpoint Source Control) and determine if those plans should continue to be approved by DEQ.~~
- ~~2. Administer CWA §319, under which, among other things, EPA provides funding grants to the states for nonpoint source pollution control BMP implementation projects through the Section 319 program.~~
- ~~3. Jointly administer the Section 404 (Wetlands Protection) program with the Corps. EPA has enforcement authority over un-permitted discharges to wetlands.~~
- ~~4. Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of pollutants through a point source to surface waters of the United States except by the authority of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. These permits establish technology based limits on the amount of pollutants that can be discharged. More stringent limitations are required if necessary to maintain Idaho Water Quality Standards. Section 309 provides authority to enforce the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Because the State of Idaho has never sought delegated authority for this program, NPDES permits are issued in Idaho by the EPA.~~
- ~~5. Work cooperatively with federal, state, and local entities to implement the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan (1996), the EPA Pesticides and Water Quality Program and Laws, and EPA's Pesticide Management Plan.~~
- ~~6. Provide oversight and approval for the development of the Section 303(d) list of impaired waters with DEQ. Under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, each listed waterbody must have a TMDL report completed which contains load allocations and wasteload allocations for each pollutant for which a waterbody has been listed. EPA provides oversight and approval to DEQ for the development of TMDLs. In addition, EPA develops TMDLs for impaired waterbodies within tribal reservation boundaries.~~
- ~~7. EPA is a signatory party to two memorandums of understandings that address water pollution from dairies and beef cattle operations. Signatory parties include ISDA, DEQ, the Idaho Cattle Association and the Idaho Dairymen's Association. These memorandums of understanding provide the ISDA with primary responsibilities for inspecting and bringing dairy and beef animal~~

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

~~feeding operations into compliance. EPA reserves the right to inspect problem dairies and feedlots but has agreed to discontinue routine inspections. EPA and the other signatory parties participate in annual reviews of the dairy and beef cattle programs.~~

- ~~4. Administer the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Rule. The 2006 rule outlines requirements for prevention of, preparedness for, and response to oil discharges with 2009 Federal Register SPCC compliance date requirements for 2010. Regulated facilities, including some farms, must develop and implement SPCC Plans that establish procedures and equipment requirements to help prevent oil discharges from reaching waters of the US. The SPCC rule applies to owners or operators of farms that store, transfer, use, or consume oil or oil products; and could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines.~~

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Background and Authorities:

The NRCS administers the government's conservation policy to benefit natural resources on private lands. The NRCS receives its direction and authority from the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, ~~Section 7 (Public Law (PL 74-46-74; USCA 590(3)), the Agriculture and Consumer), Flood Control Act (PL 78-534), Watershed Protection Act, Title 10, and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566), the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act (PL 110-246, as amended), the Food Security Act of 1985 (PL 99-198, as amended by subsequent Farm Bills), and the Agricultural Credit Act, Title 4, Act of 2014 (PL 113-79).~~

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Provide technical assistance to units of government and private land users for the planning and implementation of water quality measures and initiatives.
2. Administer and provide technical assistance and/or financial support to ~~USDA~~-NRCS programs such as ~~PL 566 Small Watershed Program~~, Conservation ~~Operations~~Technical Assistance, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, ~~Wetland Reserve Program~~, ~~Farmland Protection Program~~, ~~Soil and Water~~Agricultural Conservation Assistance~~Easement~~ Program, ~~Resource Conservation and Development~~, ~~River Basin Planning~~, ~~Soil Stewardship Program~~, ~~Regional Conservation Partnership Program~~, ~~Soil~~ Survey, Snow Survey, Emergency Watershed Protection, ~~Forest Incentives Program~~, and the Plant Materials Program, each of which has a water quality component.
3. Maintain, periodically revise, and supplement the Field Office Technical Guide which serves as the major source of technical information for the state to consider in adopting agricultural BMPs.
4. Provide leadership in implementing USDA water quality initiatives.
5. Assist in developing tools to quantify environmental and economic effects of BMPs.
6. Support and encourage surface and ground water research and data collection, including monitoring.
7. Administer agricultural programs outlined in the adopted Farm Bill.
8. NRCS has the lead responsibility for identifying wetlands on agricultural lands for purposes of implementing the Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Compliance provisions introduced in the 1985 Farm Bill, with amendments in 1990, 1996 and 2002 (referred to as Swampbuster). The purposes of the provisions are to remove certain incentives to produce agricultural commodities on converted wetlands or highly erodible land, unless the highly erodible land is protected from excessive soil erosion. The Corps has the lead for identifying wetlands on agricultural lands for purposes of determining CWA jurisdiction through CWA §404. Many normal farming practices are exempt from CWA §404. The CWA §404(f) exempts from regulation discharges associated with certain specified activities, provided the discharges do not convert an area of waters of the US to a new use, and do not impair the flow or circulation of waters of the US or reduce the reach of waters of the US.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Background and Authorities:

The ~~Farm Service Agency (FSA)~~ administers conservation programs to assist farmers in protecting highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage. The FSA receives its authority and direction for conservation programs from the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002~~subsequent Farm Bills.~~

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. ~~1.——~~Administer annual and long term cost-share programs—, such as the Conservation Reserve Program.

2. Administers eligibility determinations for the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act, as amended. NRCS provides technical assistance for conservation compliance.

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Background and Authorities:

The ARS is the principal in-house research agency of the USDA. ARS is one of the four component agencies of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area. Congress first authorized federally supported agricultural research in the Organic Act of 1862, which established what is now ~~the~~ USDA. That statute directed the Commissioner of Agriculture “to acquire and preserve in his Department all information he can obtain by means of books and correspondence, and by practical and scientific experiments.”

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Plan, develop, and implement research that is designed to produce new knowledge and technologies required to assure the continuing vitality of the nation’s food and agricultural enterprise.
2. Conduct research on the cause and effect relationships between agricultural management practices and soil and water conservation.
3. Conduct water quality research at the Soil and Water Management Research Unit in Kimberly and at the Northwest Watershed Research Center in Boise.

USDA Forest Service (USFS)

Background and Authorities:

USFS authority and responsibility for management is governed in part by the Organic Act; the Multiple Use, Sustained Yield Act; the Wilderness Act; the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act; the National Forest Management Act; the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the ~~Clean Water Act~~ CWA.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Manage approximately 20.5 million acres of National Forest lands in Idaho.
2. Manage the range resource program on National Forest lands to control or avoid erosion sources, riparian and stream disturbances through the development and implementation of range NEPA decisions, Allotment Management Plans, Annual Operating Plans, and enforcement of permit terms and conditions.
3. Design and implement watershed improvement programs that restore impaired watershed processes and functions including riparian areas and waterbodies.
4. Incorporate fish habitat improvements to provide or restore quality fish habitats.
5. Conduct soil and water resource inventories, resource condition analyses and assessments.
6. Conduct forest research, such as the research project located at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Boise, to improve management of riparian grazing interactions.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

7. Conduct water quality monitoring with emphasis on implementation and effectiveness monitoring of BMPs.
8. Implement the appropriate Ag Plan strategies and guidelines on federal National Forest lands where agricultural uses are employed.

USDC NOAA Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Background and Authorities:

NMFS is charged by Congress with the protection and enhancement of marine, estuarine, and anadromous species and their habitat. In Idaho the primary ~~anadromous~~ species of concern are salmon and steelhead. The primary laws that provide guidance and give NMFS authority in matters relating to the ~~control~~ protection salmon, steelhead and ~~management of nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities~~ their habitat are: the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, NEPA, the ESA, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, ~~and the Executive Orders 11990 Protection of Wetlands and 11988 Floodplain Management.~~

~~Roles and Responsibilities~~ (related to the ~~control~~ protection of Salmon, Steelhead and ~~management of nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities~~ their habitat):

1. Provide management assistance to federal, tribal, state, local, and private organizations toward the protection and restoration of anadromous fish and the habitat upon which they depend.
2. Under the ESA, NMFS provides consultation to federal, ~~state and private entities~~ agencies regarding the effects of an action ___ on listed anadromous fish species. This authority specifically relates to ~~nonpoint source pollution when these types of activities occur on federal land that are funded permitted or are controlled~~ authorized by a federal ~~permitting authority~~ agency.
3. Provide grants to state, local, and private organizations to conserve and restore anadromous fish habitat.

USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Background and Authorities:

The BLM receives its authority from the Taylor Grazing Act, the ~~federal Clean Water Act~~ CWA, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act, NEPA, the Emergency Wetlands Resource Act, the Agricultural Credit Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, and the Executive Orders for Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~ addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Administer, manage and protect approximately 12 million acres of public lands in Idaho.
2. Regulate, license and enforce land use activities that affect nonpoint source pollution control on public lands.
3. Maintain, restore and improve riparian areas as healthy and productive plant communities.
4. Develop riparian management demonstration areas to evaluate various riparian management techniques.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

5. Conduct water quality monitoring with emphasis on implementation and BMP effectiveness monitoring.
6. Implement the Ag Plan on federal agricultural lands administered by the BLM.

USDI Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Background and Authorities:

The National Reclamation Act of 1902 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to develop irrigation and hydropower projects in 17 western states—, administered by BOR.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Manage and administer approximately 130,000 acres of public lands in Idaho.
2. Plan, construct, operate, and maintain federal irrigation projects, until such time as the operation and maintenance of irrigation projects may be transferred to project beneficiaries.
3. Provide technical assistance in irrigation BMP evaluation.
4. Implement structural and nonstructural water management programs.
5. Design, finance and construct structural aspects of irrigation project operations.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Background and Authorities:

Authority for the FWS comes from the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; the ESA; the Food Security Act as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act; the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act; the National Wildlife Refuge System Act and the Executive Orders: 11990-Protection of Wetlands and 11988-Floodplain Management. It is the mission of the FWS to provide leadership toward achieving a national net gain of fish and wildlife and the natural systems which support them.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to ~~the control and management of~~addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Provide assistance to government agencies, organizations and private landowners to protect, conserve, manage and restore wildlife and fish resources.
2. Provide for the conservation of ecosystems upon which threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife and plants depend.
3. Provide assistance to the USDA on matters relating to wetland identification, determination of exemptions to the wetland conservation provisions, issuance of implementing regulations, mitigation and restoration of values and functions on converted wetlands.
4. Conduct studies and make recommendations to EPA concerning measures for eliminating or reducing polluting substances detrimental to fish and wildlife in interstate or navigable waters, or their tributaries.
5. Establish National Wildlife Refuges to protect a) areas of high species diversity; b) critical, declining or vulnerable habitats; and c) corridors to link protected habitats.
6. Aid in the review of state water quality standards for BMPs, and the indemnification of areas where water quality adversely affects fish and wildlife or human use.

Basin Advisory Groups

Background and Authorities:

BAGs are groups of citizens that advise DEQ's director on water quality objectives within Idaho's six basins; Panhandle, Clearwater, Salmon, Southwest, Upper Snake, and Bear River basin advisory groups. BAG members are appointed by the director of DEQ and represent a cross section of interests in the basin. By statute, the membership of BAGs must be representative of the industries and interests directly affected by implementing water quality programs within the basin. Each member must either reside within the basin or represent persons with a real property interest within the basin. Among the interests that are represented on BAGs are agriculture, mining, non-municipal point source discharge permittees, forest products, local government, grazing, Native American tribes (for areas within reservation boundaries), water-based recreation, and environmental concerns. In addition, each BAG must include a person to represent the public at large who may reside outside the basin.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. BAGs advise DEQ's director on:
 - a. Priorities for monitoring with their respective basin,
 - b. Revisions needed in the designated beneficial uses for water bodies within the basins,
 - c. Categories to which water bodies in the basin should be assigned,
 - d. Members to be appointed to the Watershed Advisory Groups
 - e. Priorities for water quality programs within the basin based on available economic resources.

Watershed Advisory Groups

Background and Authorities:

WAGs are groups of citizens that provide DEQ with local public input and guidance regarding specific watersheds during TMDL development. Individual WAG members come from a broad cross section of the community and respective watershed. The DEQ director appoints WAG members after receiving input from the appropriate BAG. As appropriate, WAG members include representatives from the agriculture, mining, forest products, livestock, and water-based recreation industries; point source dischargers; local government; Native American tribes; environmental groups; and affected land management or regulatory agencies.

WAGs help DEQ identify local concerns regarding water quality, provide qualitative and quantitative data, and address the relevance of anecdotal information. WAGs are consulted on water quality problems, advise DEQ on the amount of pollution reduction necessary to meet water quality standards, and suggest options to allocate the necessary pollutant limits among the various pollutant sources in the watershed. The WAG's involvement continues through the implementation phase of the TMDL.

Roles and Responsibilities (related to addressing nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural activities):

1. Advise DEQ on matters of concern to the community.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section B: AUTHORITIES, ROLES, and RESPONSIBILITIES

2. Contribute, with DEQ, to the education of watershed residents on water quality issues.
3. Help DEQ identify contributing pollution sources in the watershed.
4. Assist DEQ in assigning pollution reduction allocations among contributors.
5. Recommend to DEQ the specific actions needed to effectively control sources of pollution.
6. Help DEQ develop an implementation plan and set in motion what is needed to meet the water quality targets identified in the TMDL.

IDAHO

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

AGRICULTURAL NONPOINT SOURCE WATER QUALITY PRIORITIES

Stream segments, lakes, reservoirs, aquifers and wetlands within Idaho that do not fully support beneficial uses because of impacts from agricultural nonpoint source pollution are considered water quality priorities under this plan. This plan also promotes implementing agricultural best management practices (BMPs) in an effort to maintain and enhance waters within the state that fully support beneficial uses, and ensure aquatic habitat is protected.

Idaho Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) assess and prioritize for action, stream segments, lakes, reservoirs, aquifers and wetlands within their district. These local priorities are based on both importance to the state and to the geographical area covered by the SCD. SCDs each develop and maintain a Five Year Resource Conservation Plan which sets forth and annually documents specific actions relative to these priorities. Through SCDs, statewide agricultural water quality priorities, both surface and ground water, are recognized at the local level for response. This response includes planning and outreach activities, technical and financial assistance for implementation of selected treatment alternatives, and support to Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs).

Surface Water

As required by §303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), surface waters that do not fully support beneficial uses are placed on the state's list of water quality limited waterbodies. Idaho Code 39-3601 et seq. sets the current standard for regulatory action for surface waterbodies where beneficial uses are not fully supported. Under this statute, waterbodies that are listed as a "high" priority indicate that unless remedial actions are taken in the near term, there will be significant risk to designated or existing beneficial uses. "Medium" priority waterbodies are those which water quality data indicates that unless remedial action is taken, there will be risks to designated or existing beneficial uses. "Low" priority waterbodies are where limited or subjective water quality data indicates designated beneficial uses are not fully supported, but risks to human health, aquatic life, or the recreational, economic or aesthetic importance of a particular water body are minimal. This rating from high to low priority affects the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development schedule and impacts the technical evaluation scores of each proposed project. The higher the priority of the water body, the quicker a TMDL is scheduled for development, and the higher the technical evaluation score will be for the proposed project.⁹

The Idaho Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Plan¹⁰ is responsible for coordinating all nonpoint source activities within the state. The primary purposes of the Idaho NPS Management Plan are to provide comprehensive and consistent direction on priorities, and implementation guidance for addressing impaired or threatened water quality.

⁹ ~~State of Idaho Guidance for Development of Total Maximum Daily Loads, June 8, 1999. Water Quality Programs/Surface Water Section Idaho Division of Environmental Quality. Overview for the Implementation of Nonpoint Source TMDLs, August 1999, Idaho Division of Environmental Quality.~~

¹⁰ ~~Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan, December 1999, G. Daily, C. Bidondo, T. Maguire, Water Quality Program, Division of Environmental Quality.~~

2015

Section C:
Agricultural Activities Which May
Impact Water Quality



~~The State of Idaho uses a variety of legislative and programmatic approaches to protect its waters. Idaho's TMDL process and NPS Management Plan are linked through regulatory and non-regulatory components of the CWA, state water quality law and regulations. The TMDL process provides the necessary implementation targets to improve water quality on impaired waterbodies, while the NPS Management Plan acknowledges acceptable BMPs, and allows land owners and operators to selectively choose BMPs best suited to their individual economic, social, and water quality objectives.~~

~~Addressing these priorities, in general, is based on the State of Idaho's TMDL schedule. This schedule lists the waterbodies identified in the Environmental Protection Agency's 1994 §303(d) list, and the respective dates for TMDL completion. Waters which have been documented as meeting beneficial uses have been removed from subsequent §303(d) lists (i.e. years 1996, 1998), whereas waters shown to not fully support beneficial uses are included on the most current list as required under the CWA.⁴⁴~~

~~Basin Advisory Groups review data from within the basin watersheds and make recommendations concerning monitoring, designated beneficial use status revisions, prioritizations of impaired waters, public input, and establishment of a priority listing of watersheds needing pollution management. In addition, the individual WAGs advise state designated agencies on the development and implementation of actions necessary to achieve full support of designated beneficial uses within a timely manner.~~

Ground Water

~~The Idaho State Legislature passed the Ground Water Act (1989) and the Ground Water Quality Plan (1992) for overall guidance and protection of ground water. The lead agencies identified in the act and plan are Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), and Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). The Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996) established ISDA as the lead implementing agency through the Agricultural Ground Water Coordination Committee. ISDA is the lead agency in Idaho working to complete and implement the Idaho State Pesticide Management Plan for Ground Water Protection (2002) along with the supporting monitoring program.~~

~~The goal of the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996) is to protect the state's ground water and interconnected surface water from contamination originating from agricultural activities. The purpose of the program is to describe the management approaches to prevent ground water contamination and to respond to the occurrence(s) of such ground water contamination. Objectives of the program include the identification of agricultural sources of ground water contamination, description of management and implementation approaches; and the identification of roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in the protection of ground water quality.~~

~~The Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996) identified the following twelve potential agricultural contaminant sources:~~

- ~~• Agricultural chemical storage and handling~~

⁴⁴ ~~The most recent TMDL schedule available at the time of this listing is the [State of Idaho Eight \(8\) Year TMDL Schedule](http://www2.state.id.us/deq/water/tmdlschd_97.htm). At URL http://www2.state.id.us/deq/water/tmdlschd_97.htm~~

- ~~• Agricultural chemical mixing and loading~~
- ~~• Agricultural chemical application practices~~
- ~~• Agricultural practices~~
- ~~• Confined animal feeding operations~~
- ~~• Agricultural chemical waste disposal~~
- ~~• Aquaculture waste management practices~~
- ~~• Injection wells and other underground disposal methods~~
- ~~• Agricultural chemical spills~~
- ~~• Urban/nonagricultural chemical uses~~
- ~~• Land applied waste and wastewater~~
- ~~• Agricultural waste disposal~~
- ~~• Well construction and abandonment~~

~~These potential agricultural contaminant sources and their impacts on ground water are being addressed through education, voluntary BMPs, and regulation.~~

~~IDWR has been implementing the Statewide Ambient Ground Water Monitoring Program since 1990, with ISDA implementing regional, local, dairy, BMP effectiveness, and regulatory monitoring since 1992. Monitoring information, data, and planning efforts related to these programs and those of other agencies such as United States Geological Service, DEQ, and others are coordinated through the Ground Water Monitoring Technical Committee. DEQ manages a multiple agency monitoring technical committee to support programs, projects, and policies in implementing the DEQ Ground Water Rule (1997), the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996), and the Ag Plan.~~

~~These efforts have also assisted DEQ, cities, and other groups to implement the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Source Water Protection Program (2000). Source Water Protection Plans are being created for more than 2,000 public drinking water systems in Idaho. Implementation efforts will then follow the~~

~~approval of each plan. **Implementation** of these plans by DEQ, ISDA, SCDs, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (SCC), and others will be a significant effort linking to Ag Plan to the SDWA and other laws and rules.~~

~~In March of 2000, DEQ established a Policy for Addressing Degraded Ground Water Quality Areas (DEQ Policy No. PM00-4). The policy sets forth a process to 1) identify, designate, and delineate areas where ground water quality is significantly degraded as defined by rule; 2) prioritize the significantly degraded areas; 3) with the use of local input, develop ground water quality management strategies for improving ground water quality in high priority areas based on current categorization and applicable standards; 4) periodically review the effectiveness of the area specific ground water quality management strategies; 5) pursue recategorization of high priority ground water areas when management strategies are ineffective and additional protection to improve or maintain water quality standards or preserve beneficial uses is necessary; and 6) remove high priority designation when management strategies have proven to be protective of aquifer water quality and beneficial uses.~~

~~DEQ may initiate an evaluation at any time to determine whether ground water quality trends identify an area as being significantly degraded or having impaired beneficial uses. Areas will be screened for selection if they are deemed to have significant degradation as set forth in the Ground Water Quality Rule, IDAPA 16.01.11.400.02.b. Water quality data used to identify degraded areas should involve~~

~~samples that are representative of the aquifer in question and/or representative of the impacted beneficial use.~~

~~Delineation of significantly degraded ground water quality areas requires a determination of the potential area of impact or the known location and aerial extent of the contaminant of interest. Each area will be defined by the boundaries of aquifers or portions of aquifers that contain the contaminant of interest, land use information, and/or other considerations deemed appropriate by DEQ. With input from other agencies and the public, DEQ will establish a state wide priority list for managing significantly degraded ground water quality areas. This list will be used to prioritize the implementation of protective management strategies or corrective action measures throughout the state.~~

~~DEQ shall ensure the participation of and coordination with the public and relevant agencies and entities during the development of management strategies. Once an affected portion of an aquifer has been designated as a significantly degraded area, DEQ will work with local groups, other agencies, and the public to develop ground water quality management strategies for that area. The strategies will focus on prevention, protection, and remediation measures to maintain or improve water quality or prevent impairment of a beneficial use.~~

~~DEQ, in coordination with other agencies and stakeholders, will be responsible for reviewing and ensuring that the activities are consistent with the overall goals of the Ground Water Quality Plan, Ground Water Quality Rule, Agricultural Coordination Committee, and IDWR/ISDA/DEQ Memorandum of Understanding. Special emphasis will be placed on public education, implementation of effective BMPs and best practical methods, technical assistance, and other forms of mitigation.~~

~~Upon completion of the local ground water management strategy implementation, DEQ and other appropriate agencies will assess the data for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the strategy. The high priority designation will be removed from areas when management strategies have proven to be protective of aquifer water quality and beneficial uses.~~

~~An example of evaluating strategy effectiveness is the DEQ Nitrate Priority Ranking Process which provides criteria to determine where state efforts should be focused to address nitrate contaminated ground water. The ranking process provides a basis for ranking areas in Idaho with identified ground water impacts from nitrates. Areas are ranked based on population, existing water quality, and water quality trends. The ranking process also takes into account impacts on beneficial uses other than water supply.~~

Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section C: AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY IMPACT WATER QUALITY

DRAFT - Dec 22, 2014
 File Name: Idaho AgPlan 2015
 Section C_Ag Activities Which
 May Impact WQ_V1

~~The DEQ Ground Water Program finalized the State Nitrate Priority Area ranking in 2001. A Ground Water Monitoring Technical Committee was formed to develop criteria and procedures to prioritize areas of concern in order of significance in terms of impact, as well as implement the DEQ policy memorandum, Policy for Addressing Degraded Ground Water Quality Areas (Policy No. PM00-4). The 2001 list of Group 1 Nitrate Priority Areas (Table C-1) is based on the criterion of at least 25% of the wells sampled within the area exceeding 5 milligrams/liter nitrate. The list is scheduled to be reevaluated in 2003.~~

~~**Table C-1. Group 1 Nitrate Priority Areas (2001)**~~

Area (Rank)	Name
1	Weiser
2	Twin Falls
3	Burley/Marsh Creek
4	Lower Boise/Canyon County
5	Camas Prairie
6	Grand View
7	Fort Hall
8	Ashton, Drummond, Teton River
9	Rupert
10	Payette
11	Eagle/Star
12	Homedale/Marsing
13	Hammett
14	Bruneau
15	Lapwai Creek
16	St. Anthony
17	Pocatello
18	Soda Springs/Bear River
19	Mountain Home
20	Hibbard
21	Mud Lake
22	Preston/Cache Valley
23	Genesee/Cow Creek
24	Boise/Meridian
25	Bliss

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY IMPACT WATER QUALITY

Background

The ~~federal~~ Water Quality Act of 1987 (PL 100-4) ~~emphasizes~~, commonly referred to as the ~~state's role in implementing~~ CWA, is the primary federal law in the United States governing water pollution. The objective of the CWA is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters by preventing point and nonpoint pollution sources, providing assistance to publically owned treatment works for the improvement of wastewater treatment, and maintaining the integrity of wetlands. The CWA authorizes measures to address nonpoint source ~~provisions of the Act~~ pollution by directing states to develop and implement nonpoint pollution management programs (CWA §319 of the act). Utilizing ~~US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)~~ guidelines, state water quality agencies, are to assess nonpoint sources of water pollution in their states and describe a management plan to deal with identified pollutant sources.

For the purpose of this ~~Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (Ag Plan)~~, agriculture is, ~~agricultural practices are~~ defined as any activity where land is used for the production of crops and livestock. ~~Agriculture is~~ Agricultural practices are one of ~~eight~~ six major nonpoint source pollution categories assessed in Idaho.¹² ~~The Ag Plan addresses four (agricultural practices, grazing, natural resource extraction, timber/silviculture management, urban/suburban development, and transportation). Four primary sub-categories of production and land use activities under the agricultural practice category, are addressed in this plan.~~ These sub-categories include:

- Nonirrigated Cropland
- Irrigated Cropland
- Pastureland and Rangeland
- Animal Feeding Operations¹³

In order to address nonpoint source impacts to surface and ground water quality ~~impacts from agricultural practices~~, it is necessary to describe the ~~agricultural~~ activities and associated potential pollutants causing the water quality impacts, their location, and magnitude. ~~This categorization scheme allows for the characterization of surface and ground water pollution degradation resulting from agricultural activities.~~

Impacts from hydrologic and habitat modification are addressed in the Ag Plan under the four sub-categories of production and land use activities. Activities in this category include channelization, dredging, dam construction and bridge construction, removal of riparian vegetation and streambank modification or destabilization.

~~Impacts from~~ Although timber/silviculture management (forest management and/or harvest activities)

¹² ~~The Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan (DEQ 1999) identifies agriculture, silviculture, hydrologic and habitat modification, mining, subsurface sewage disposal, industrial chemicals, urban stormwater runoff, and roadways as activities that potentially contribute to nonpoint source pollution.~~

¹³ Animal feeding operations, which are Concentrated Feeding Operations, are point sources subject to the **NPDES** National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program (40 CFR 122.23).

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section C: Agricultural Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

are activities closely aligned with agricultural practices, impacts from timber/silvicultural management are not addressed in the Ag Plan. ~~The because the~~ Idaho Forest Practices Water Quality Management Plan ~~has been~~was developed to address silviculture. Rules and regulations concerning private and commercial forestry activities, such as harvesting, are contained in the Idaho Forest Practices Act.¹⁴

Nonpoint Source Pollution Which May Impact Water Quality

Nonpoint source pollution comes from many diffuse sources, unlike point source pollution originating from permitted industrial and sewage treatment plants and concentrated animal feeding operations. Nonpoint source pollution delivery is caused by rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation water moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away ~~natural~~naturally occurring and ~~human-made~~anthropogenic pollutants, and potentially deposits them into streams, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, and aquifers. Designated beneficial uses and general water quality can be negatively affected by these pollutants. An excess of these pollutants can result in violations of state surface and ground water quality standards.¹⁵ Some of these pollutants include:

- ~~—~~ Sediment
- ~~—~~ Nutrients
- ~~—~~ Bacteria
- ~~—~~ Metals
- ~~—~~ Others sediment, nutrients, pathogens, metals, and others (including grease and oil, pesticides, ~~ammonia~~)

nitrogen compounds). Excessive contributions of these pollutants can result in water quality criteria exceedances and violate state standards for water temperature, dissolved oxygen levels, turbidity, and pH values.

Cropland

In ~~1997~~1982, an inventory tabulated more than ~~5.56.38~~ million cropland acres in Idaho (~~NRCS 2002~~). ~~Those~~.¹⁶ In 1997, the cropland acreage was reduced to approximately 5.48 million acres. In 2010, the cropland acreage in the state was again reduced, totaling 5.16 million acres. Cropland acres used for annual crop production significantly decreased between 1982 and ~~1997~~2010, decreasing by 1.22 million acres; this decrease is attributed to development and acres enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program. Nearly 62.47% of Idaho's total cropland tabulated in 2010 is irrigated (3.452.42 million acres), ~~while 38.26%~~ is nonirrigated (2.1.36 million acres) (~~NRCS 2002~~), and 27% (1.38 million acres) is non-cultivated irrigated and nonirrigated cropland.

Nonirrigated Cropland Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

¹⁴ Idaho Code Title 38, Chapter 13.

¹⁵ Idaho Administrative Code-Department of Environmental Quality, IDAPA 58.01.02 – Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements, Section 5080 – Violation of Water Quality Standards. -Idaho Administrative Code-Department of Environmental Quality, IDAPA 58.01.11 – Ground Water Quality Rule.

¹⁶ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Summary Report National Resources Inventory, 2010. Statistics referenced are for 2010; http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1167354.pdf

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section C: Agricultural Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

About 56% of the nonirrigated cropland acreage occurs in the northern part of the state.¹⁷ Approximately 25% occurs in the southeastern corner of the state.¹⁸ The remaining 19% of the nonirrigated cropland¹⁹ is scattered throughout the southwestern corner, south-central section south of the Snake River, and southeast portion north of the Snake River²⁰ (NRCS 2002).²¹

Runoff Surface water runoff containing sediment and associated pollutants generally occurs when two conditions occur simultaneously. Winter One condition is winter and spring snow melt, and heavy rainfall periods when the soil profile is often nearly saturated or frozen. This condition combined with cropland soil surfaces unprotected from erosion by the lack of crop residue and plant growth can result in excess erosion and sediment delivery off site. Erosion, and/or subsequent delivery of sediment delivery and associated pollutants to receiving waters, can also be problematic during early summer rain events that possess enough intensity to erode newly spring seeded fields if soil surfaces are unprotected by the lack of crop residues and/or plant growth. Wind erosion may also contribute sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other pollutants to nearby surface waters if there is a lack of vegetative cover or crop residue. Removal of excessive amounts of crop residue can result in lower soil organic matter content, depleted soil infiltration rates and reduced moisture holding capacity. These conditions can lead to habitat alterations and hydrologic modifications in downstream receiving waters.

The acres of nonirrigated cropland throughout the state are diverse. For example, the nonirrigated cropland areas in the northern portion of the state, including the Palouse and Camas Prairies, occur on steep, highly erosive, and sometimes shallow soils. Nonirrigated cropland, where the average annual precipitation exceeds 20 inches and occurs predominately in winter and spring months, may leach nutrients and mobile pesticides below the crop root zone. This creates a potential for excess nutrients and agricultural chemicals to enter receiving streams and/or aquifers through subsurface water movement where plant uptake and soil holding capacity is exceeded.

Southeastern Idaho nonirrigated croplands and those along the Snake River Plain are generally on deep soils with calcic horizons and receive less annual precipitation than areas in the north. Moisture deficit areas have low potential to move agri-chemicals below the crop root zone to pollute ground water supplies or receiving waters through subsurface water movement. The potential for ground water quality impacts is less from nonirrigated cropland than from irrigated cropland, primarily because nonirrigated cropland does not receive as much water as does irrigated cropland compared with irrigated cropland. Nonirrigated cropland could impact ground water quality if certain hydrogeologic

¹⁷ The northern part of the state includes Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Clearwater, Latah, Nez Perce, Perce, Lewis, and Idaho counties.

¹⁸ The southeast corner of the state includes Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power Counties counties.

¹⁹ The southwest corner of the state, involves acres within Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties. The south central portion of the state south of the Snake River, involves acres within Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties.

²⁰ The southwest corner of the state, involves acres within Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties. The south central portion of the state south of the Snake River, involves acres within Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties. The southeast portion of the state north of the Snake River, involves acres in Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton counties.

²¹ Statistics derived from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho, 2002. National Resources Inventory, a summary of natural resource trends in Idaho between 1982 and 1997.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section C: Agricultural Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

conditions are present. A reduction in the amount of water infiltrating through the soil profile reduces the ability of the water to leach agricultural chemicals to the ground water.

~~Removal of excessive amounts of crop residue can result in lower soil organic matter content, depleted soil infiltration rates and reduced moisture holding capacity. These conditions can lead to habitat alterations and hydrologic modifications in downstream receiving waters.~~

Irrigated Cropland Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

An estimated 94% of the total irrigated cropland lies within 30 miles of the Snake River in the southern part of the state. About 39% of irrigated cropland acreage occurs in the south-central portion of the state, south of the Snake River. Approximately 25% occurs in the southeast area of the state, north of the Snake River. The southeast corner of the state includes approximately 19% of the total irrigated cropland acres, while the southwest corner includes 15%. Very few acres of irrigated cropland occur in the northern counties, with only 2% of the overall irrigated cropland acres ~~(NRCS 2002).~~²²

The sedimentation that results from irrigation induced erosion may contribute ~~sediment,~~ nutrients and pesticides to receiving surface waters. ~~Any irrigation system~~There can be ~~a problem if improperly managed~~dissolved nutrients and ~~excessive pesticides in irrigation~~ runoff ~~occurs.~~

. As in nonirrigated croplands, wind erosion may also contribute sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other pollutants to nearby surface waters if there is a lack of vegetative cover or crop residue. Ground water quality below the effective crop root zone can be impacted by deep percolation of improperly managed nutrient and pesticide applications. ~~Agricultural chemical and nutrient~~Drift into surface waters from applied pesticides can be another pollutant source. Pesticide and nutrient impacts on ground water and surface water depends on chemical characteristics, method of chemical application, the soil characteristics, crop needs, and irrigation water management. ~~impacts on ground water depends on the physical properties and application of the chemical, the soil characteristics, crop needs, and irrigation water management. Soils and natural background levels of minerals and nutrients should be considered when evaluating potential impacts to ground water quality as it relates to irrigation practices.~~

Irrigation disposal (injection) wells are used in parts of Idaho to dispose of irrigation wastewater and other agricultural runoff water and are regulated by ~~Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). IDWR is currently revising injection well rules to conform to revised federal guidelines for deep injection wells (greater than 18 feet).~~IDWR. Most of these injection wells are located in two regions of the state, the Eastern Snake River Plain, including Madison, Jefferson and Bonneville counties; and the Central Snake River Plain located in Minidoka, Gooding, Jerome and Twin Falls counties. ~~A portion of these injection wells are either abandoned or in the process of being decommissioned. The majority of these wells were drilled decades ago when flood irrigation was the prevailing method of applying water to crops and were placed where no return-flow ditches existed to carry the excess water back to the river. Improved irrigation water management and irrigation efficiencies could reduce the problem of excess irrigation wastewater.~~

Some irrigation disposal wells were drilled to terminate above the water table and some wells were drilled below the water table. Those wells that terminate below the water table have an increased

²² Statistics derived from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho, 2002. National Resources Inventory, a summary of natural resource trends in Idaho between 1982 and 1997.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section C: Agricultural Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

~~potential to contaminate the ground water due to the lack of separation distance between the well bottom and water table surface. Regardless of the well depth, these wells act as direct conduits connecting the land surface and the subsurface. These wells have the potential to degrade water quality if the irrigation water to be injected contains fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides from the land surface as it flows towards the injection well.~~ The potential for spilled hazardous materials to enter injection wells, either active or those that are improperly abandoned is also of concern. ~~Irrigation water management and improved irrigation efficiencies could eliminate the problem of excess irrigation wastewater.~~

Pastureland and Rangeland

Today, livestock grazing is the largest single land use in Idaho. Nearly half of the state's land area is grazed, totaling nearly 26 million acres. Idaho's grazing resource is composed of 7.2 million acres of private and state-owned rangeland, 1.3 million acres of privately owned pasturelands, and nearly 18 million acres of federally owned (primarily ~~USDI Bureau of Land Management~~ BLM and ~~US Forest Service~~ USFS) rangeland ~~(IRRC 2002).~~²³

Beef and dairy cattle, sheep, hogs, and goats are the primary species involved in land used by animal ~~agriculture~~ agricultural activities throughout the state. Some hobby farms may also include horses, llamas, emus, poultry, and other nontraditional livestock. Two principal land uses are associated with domestic animal husbandry—grazing and feeding operations (including dairies and supplemental winter feeding operations), ~~and~~; the following narrative discusses grazing activities.

Pastureland and Rangeland Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

Throughout the state, late spring, summer, fall and winter grazing activities occur, with some yearlong grazing. The proximity of grazed areas to surface waters and aquifers, as well as the intensity at which pastures and rangeland are grazed, determines the impact to water quality from potential nonpoint source contributions. The principal pollutants of concern associated with grazing activities are ~~bacteria~~ pathogens, nutrients, and sediment. Pollutants of concern from animal manure and waste may be transported from range and pastureland and/or leach into subsurface waters. Overstocking of pastures and rangelands, inadequate growing-season rest, or prolonged season-long use can lead to plant community changes and an increase in bare soil which may cause these lands to be more susceptible to erosion and offsite sediment delivery as phosphorus often binds to soil organic and mineral particles. Overgrazing of riparian areas can impact riparian and wetland vegetation and may cause stream bank deterioration. Grazing animals with unrestricted access to streams can disturb the streambeds and ~~contribute bacteria~~ cause pathogen and ~~nutrients~~ nutrient contaminations.

Across the state, there is an increase in urbanization, which includes some hobby farm activity (the activity of raising nontraditional livestock). Although not viewed as a traditional agricultural operation, those activities also have a potential to contribute to nonpoint source pollution. The potential to impact water quality may be as great or greater from multiple small operations as from a single animal agriculture operation.

²³ Information retrieved from the 2003 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan referencing the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. 2002.

Animal Feeding Operations

In Idaho, there are several categories of animal feeding operations: dairies, beef cattle animal feeding operations, poultry, and swine. ISDA regulates the dairies (IDAPA 02.04.14), beef cattle animal feeding operations (IDAPA 02.04.15), and poultry facilities (IDAPA 02.04.32). DEQ regulates the swine facilities (IDAPA 58.01.09). ISDA references the Ag Plan for the continued review and update of BMPs addressing animal feeding operations, such as the Nutrient Management standard (NRCS Practice Code no. 590).

The Idaho dairy industry has been regulated by ISDA since 1995. ~~Animal~~All dairies regardless of size must have a state approved nutrient management plan and have a wastewater and process water containment capacity for a minimum storage period of 180 days.

Beef cattle and poultry animal feeding operations are categorized within the state based on the size of the operation, the number of animals in a given confined area, the duration of animal confinement, and the amount of surface vegetation present. ~~These operations are referred to as either an animal feeding operation (AFO) or concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO). CAFOs are subject to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for point source discharges, authorized and enforced by EPA. AFOs designated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) as beef cattle animal feeding operations are regulated by ISDA under the Rules Governing Beef Cattle Animal Feeding Operations (IDAPA 02.04.15). Nutrient management plans following the Idaho Nutrient Management Standard (no. 590) for designated beef cattle AFOs are required. According to IDAPA 02.04.15, beef cattle AFOs that are operating on or before July 1, 2000 shall submit a nutrient management plan to the ISDA Director for approval by January 1, 2005. Beef cattle AFOs commencing operations after July 1, 2000 shall not operate prior to the Director's approval of a nutrient management plan.~~These beef animal cattle and poultry animal feeding operations are referred to as either an animal feeding operation (AFO) or CAFO.

All large beef cattle concentrated animal feeding operations and all medium and large poultry concentrated animal feeding operations are required to have a state approved nutrient management plan. Nutrient management plans following the NRCS Nutrient Management standard for designated beef cattle and poultry AFOs are required.

~~The Idaho dairy industry has been regulated by ISDA since 1995. This occurs through the Idaho Dairy Pollution Prevention Initiative, which is a public/private partnership through Rules of the Department of Agriculture Governing Dairy Waste (IDAPA 02.04.14). To implement these rules, ISDA relies in part on the Ag Plan for the continued review and update of BMPs addressing animal feeding operations, such as the Idaho Nutrient Management Standard (no. 590). Nutrient management plans following this standard are required by all dairies in Idaho. Swine and poultry facilities are permitted by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality through the Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry Facilities (IDAPA 58.01.09).~~

Animal Feeding Operations Which May Impact Water Quality

Animal manure and waste can be considered a nonpoint source of pollution. Riparian areas and wetlands located adjacent to, or within livestock production areas, including grazing lands and AFOs, may be impacted by pathogen and/or nutrient contamination if livestock access is not restricted. Unrestricted access by animals from an AFO may result in the operation being regulated under the Rules of the Department of Agriculture Governing Beef Cattle Animal Feeding Operations (IDAPA 02.04.15.040.01, and 02.04.15.02.01).

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section C: Agricultural Activities Which May Impact Water Quality

~~Nutrients from animal wastes~~

Animal manure and waste applied to agricultural land may reach ground water primarily if application rates exceed crop uptake, or if carried below the crop root zone by excessive application of irrigation water or high amounts of precipitation. A nutrient management plan considers this potential impact and is developed to prevent excess amounts of pollutants from entering the ground water (see IDAPA 02.04.15.030 and Dairy Rules IDAPA 02.04.14).

IDAHO
Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
2015

Section D:
Water Quality Law



WATER QUALITY LAW

Authority for addressing nonpoint source pollution on a national level is provided in the CWA, administered under the authority of EPA. Idaho Code §§39-120 through 127 designates DEQ as the primary state agency to coordinate and administer ground water quality protection programs. Rules have been approved under these statutes to ensure DEQ maintains and protects the existing quality of the state's ground water and the existing and projected future beneficial uses of ground water and interconnected surface water.

The Idaho Statutes include 73 titles. Individual titles include a set of chapters which are further divided into numerous sections. Within those sections, applicable to the implementation of this Ag Plan, authorities, rules, regulations and standards necessary to address problems related to personal health and water pollution are defined. The elements within each section are defined within the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (rules), referred to as IDAPA. To provide a background and overview of current Idaho water quality law, several citations within the Idaho Administrative Code address water quality and are referenced as follows:

- Violations of Water Quality Standards (IDAPA 58.01.02.080-Violation of Water Quality Standards)

"No pollutant shall be discharged from a single source or in combination with pollutants discharged from other sources in concentrations or in a manner that: will or can be expected to result in violation of the water quality standards applicable to the receiving water body or downstream waters; or will injure designated or existing beneficial uses."

- Surface Water Use Designations (IDAPA 58.01.02.100-Surface Water Use Designation)

"Waterbodies are designated in Idaho to protect water quality for existing or designated uses. ...Wherever attainable, the designated beneficial uses for which the surface waters of the state are to be protected include: aquatic life; recreation; water supply; wildlife habitats; and aesthetics."

- Administrative Policy (IDAPA 58.01.02.050.02-Administrative Policy, Protection of Waters of the State)

"Whenever attainable, surface waters of the state shall be protected for beneficial uses..."

- Antidegradation Policy (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01-Antidegradation Policy, Maintenance of Existing Uses for All Waters)

"The existing in stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected."

- Ground Water Quality Protection (IDAPA 58.01.11.006.01-Ground Water Quality Protection)

"It is the policy of the State of Idaho to maintain and protect the existing high quality of the state's ground water."

- Prevention of Ground Water Contamination (IDAPA 58.01.11.006.05-Prevention of Ground Water Contamination)

"The policy of the State of Idaho is to prevent contamination of ground water from all regulated and nonregulated sources of contamination to the maximum extent practical."

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section D: Water Quality Law

Idaho Code §39-101 et seq.²⁴ and 39-3601²⁵ et seq., define authorities of DEQ, including the authority to adopt rules as necessary to address problems related to public health and water pollution. The Idaho legislature, in Idaho Code §39-3601, recognizing that surface water is one of the state's most valuable natural resources, has approved the adoption of water quality standards and granted legal authority to the DEQ Director to implement these standards.

The purpose of the Idaho Code water quality chapter, Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq., is to enhance and preserve the quality and value of the navigable waters of the United States within the State of Idaho and to define the responsibilities of public agencies in the control and monitoring of water pollution. This purpose addresses the expressed intent of Congress to control pollution of streams, lakes, and other navigable waters in order to maintain and achieve existing and designated beneficial uses.

With the adoption of Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq. in 1995, Idaho entered a new era of local watershed planning and management. Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq. sets forth a public process which created BAGs in each of the State's six hydrologic basins.²⁶ The BAGs represent members of agriculture, livestock, forest products, mining, water based recreation, non-municipal point source dischargers, local government, conservation groups, Indian tribes, and the general public.

In addition, these Code Sections authorized the development of WAGs and recognized the existence of several ongoing WAGs throughout the state. The 27 WAGs recognized to date represent industries and interests affected by the management of their respective watershed.

Both BAGs and WAGs advise DEQ on water quality objectives for each basin and provide guidance on specific pollution control actions to restore designated beneficial uses of impaired water bodies. For waters on the state's CWA §303(d) list, an action plan is formulated by DEQ, referred to as the TMDL. The TMDL quantifies the acceptable pollutant level for each point and nonpoint source necessary to achieve the applicable water quality standard within a specified amount of time.

Because the Ag Plan focuses on nonpoint source pollution prevention from agricultural activities, a reiteration of definitions is appropriate. Nonpoint source activities are defined as, "Activities on a geographical area on which pollutants are deposited or dissolved or suspended in water applied to or incident on that area, the resultant mixture being discharged into the waters of the state. Nonpoint source activities include, but are not limited to: irrigated and nonirrigated lands used for grazing and/or crop production; silviculture including log storage or rafting; construction sites; recreation sites; septic tank disposal fields; mining; runoff from storms or other weather related events; and other activities not subject to regulation under the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system."²⁷

Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq. also established and defined roles of other state agencies by assigning designated agency responsibilities for those activities within the state that are the major contributors of nonpoint source loadings to waterbodies. These designations are: IDL for timber harvest activities, for oil and gas exploration and development and for mining activities; the Conservation Commission for

²⁴ Idaho Code, Title 39 (Health and Safety), Chapter 1 (Environmental Quality-Health). 39-105: Powers and Duties of the Director.

²⁵ Idaho Code, Title 39 (Health and Safety), Chapter 36 (Water Quality). 39-3601: Declaration of Policy and Statement of Statement of Legislation.

²⁶ The six hydrologic basins in Idaho include the Panhandle, Clearwater, Salmon, Southwest, Upper Snake, and Bear River basins.

²⁷ IDAPA 58.01.02.003.63-Definitions

grazing activities and for agricultural activities; the Idaho Transportation Department for public road construction; the ISDA for aquaculture; and the DEQ for all other activities.

The designation of lead state agencies provides an ability to target projects and programs toward specific activities. Inclusive of the roles for these agencies are other state and federal programs with funding sources, recommended best management practices, regulatory and non-regulatory components, and indicators of program achievements, available at their disposal to help ensure meeting the state standards for water quality. These state designated roles are also significant in that the designated agencies automatically partner with those federal agencies having similar traditional roles, such as the agricultural partnership of the Conservation Commission and Districts with the NRCS. Setting of similar goals, priorities, and program requirements has enhanced the ability of project implementation, stretched available funding, and ensured state/federal consistency in approaching the challenges posed by nonpoint source pollution and TMDL implementation.

Minimum stream flows may be appropriated by the Idaho Water Resource Board for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic life, recreation, aesthetic beauty, transportation and navigation values, and water quality. These minimum stream flow water rights are subject to senior water rights.²⁸

Ground Water

The Ground Water Quality Protection Act of 1989, Idaho Code §39-120 through 39-127, designates DEQ as the primary agency, along with ISDA and IDWR as partner agencies, in coordinating and administering ground water quality protection programs for the state.

DEQ, IDWR, and ISDA are responsible for adopting applicable rules which specify the standards for determining actions necessary to prevent ground water contamination and cleanup actions necessary to meet the goals of the state. It is the policy of the state to maintain and protect the existing quality of the state's ground water. The existing and projected future beneficial uses of ground water shall be maintained and protected, and degradation that would impair existing and projected future beneficial uses of ground water and interconnected surface water shall not be allowed. Additionally, the policy of the state is to prevent contamination of ground water from all regulated and non-regulated sources of contamination to the maximum extent practical.²⁹

No person shall cause or allow the release, spilling, leaking emissions, discharge, escape, leaching, or disposal of a contaminant into the environment in a manner that causes ground water quality standards to be exceeded; injures a beneficial use of ground water; or is not in accordance with a permit, consent order or applicable BMP, best available method or best practical method.³⁰

When a numerical standard is not exceeded, but degradation of ground water quality is detected and deemed significant, DEQ can take several actions: 1) require a modification of regulated activities to prevent continued degradation; 2) coordinate with appropriate agencies and responsible persons to develop and implement prevention measures for activities not regulated by DEQ; or 3) for certain pollutants, allow limited degradation of ground water quality for the identified constituents if BMPs, best available methods or best practical methods are applied and the degradation is justifiable based on

²⁸ Idaho Statute, Title 42, Irrigation and Drainage-Water Rights and Reclamation, Chapter 15, Minimum Stream Flow (42-1501 Flow (42-1501 et seq.)

²⁹ IDAPA 58.01.11.006-Policies

³⁰ IDAPA 58.01.11.400.01-Releases Degrading Ground Water Quality

necessary and widespread social and economic considerations. For other specified pollutants, DEQ may also allow limited degradation up to the standards if BMPs are being applied and the degradation will not adversely impact a beneficial use.³¹

Enforcement Provisions

Enforcement provisions for nonpoint source activities have been incorporated into several state statutes and rules, including the Water Quality Standards,³² the Ground Water Quality Rule,³³ the Rules Governing Dairy Waste,³⁴ the Beef Cattle Environmental Control Act,³⁵ and the Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry.³⁶

These rules governing nonpoint source activities recognize that nonpoint source pollution management, including BMP implementation and follow-up monitoring and evaluation, is a process for protecting designated beneficial uses and ambient water quality. This process is referred to as the feedback loop and is described in Section G of this Ag Plan. The Idaho Administrative Code cites that BMPs should be designed, implemented and maintained to provide full protection or maintenance of beneficial uses and cites this Ag Plan as the source for applicable BMPs.³⁷

Violation of Water Quality Standards³⁸

Violations of water quality standards that occur in spite of implementation of approved BMPs, or if no approved BMPs, that occur in spite of an activity that is conducted in a manner that demonstrates a knowledgeable and reasonable effort to minimize resulting adverse water quality impacts, will not be subject to enforcement action. However, in this situation, the approved BMPs or other control measures may be evaluated and modified as necessary by the appropriate agencies in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act. In other words, the feedback loop process will be implemented. The Ag Plan is the source for approved BMPs for agricultural activities.

For an activity occurring in a manner not in accordance with approved BMPs, or in a manner which does not demonstrate a knowledgeable and reasonable effort to minimize resulting adverse water quality impacts, the DEQ Director may, with appropriate inter-departmental coordination, prepare a compliance schedule or institute administrative or civil proceedings (IDAPA 58.01.02.350.02.b.i). This authority, however, must be read together with statutory provisions that specify the agency responsible for certain nonpoint source activities. For example, the Dairy Environmental Control Act specifies that ISDA is solely responsible for protecting surface water within the boundaries of dairy farms that are not under, or required to be under, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (Idaho Code §37-603). In all cases, if imminent and substantial danger to the public health or environment is occurring, or may occur as a result of a nonpoint source by itself or in combination with other point or nonpoint source activities, then the DEQ Director may seek immediate injunctive relief to stop or prevent that danger, as provided in Idaho Code §39-108.

³¹ IDAPA 58.01.11.400.02-Prevention Measures

³² IDAPA 58, Title 01, Chapter 2, the Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements

³³ IDAPA 58, Title 01, Chapter 11, the Ground Water Quality Rule

³⁴ IDAPA 02.04.14 Rules of the Department of Agriculture Governing Dairy Waste

³⁵ IDAPA 02.04.15 Rules of the Department of Agriculture Governing Beef Cattle Animal Feeding Operations

³⁶ IDAPA 58.01.09 Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry Facilities

³⁷ IDAPA 58.01.02.054055.07-Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

³⁸ IDAPA 58.01.02.080-Violation of Water Quality Standards

Proper application of BMPs on one agricultural nonpoint source may not adequately meet a beneficial use need. Unless a particular agricultural nonpoint source is proven solely responsible for degradation of natural resources that directly affect beneficial use support, multiple nonpoint source pollution controls may be necessary.

Application to Agricultural Land Use - Private Lands

The state has adopted a voluntary approach for the implementation of TMDLs with respect to agricultural nonpoint source water quality pollution consistent with the CWA and Idaho Code §39-3610. BMPs are applied on private agricultural lands through landowner initiative often facilitated through incentive programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and CWA §319 Nonpoint Source Management Program, which are based on provision of technical assistance, information and education, and cost-share incentives.

Districts are the local delivery system for the voluntary pollution abatement programs; Conservation Commission is the designated agency for grazing activities and agricultural activities; and DEQ is responsible for implementing and enforcing the water quality standards.

Application to Agricultural Land Use – State Lands

The nonpoint source provisions of the water quality standards apply to state lands in the same manner as private lands. DEQ has entered into memorandums of understanding with IDL for silviculture and mining activities; Conservation Commission for agriculture and grazing; and ISDA for dairy manure and waste management. The IDFG is responsible for ensuring consistency in habitat and fish restoration activities statewide on state and private lands, as well as coordinating efforts with the agency's federal partners on federal lands. Enforcement of agricultural BMPs on lands managed by state agencies is implemented through the respective state agency's policies.

Application to Agricultural Land Use – Federal Lands

The enforcement mechanism for nonpoint source pollution control is different on federal lands than it is on state and private lands due to the nature of the state-federal relationship as described in the CWA and implementing executive orders.

CWA §313 directs federal agencies to meet state requirements with respect to the abatement of pollution in the same manner and to the same extent as any nongovernmental entity. Under "Executive Order 12088" a federal agency is to promptly consult with the state upon notification of a violation of water quality standards, and develop a mitigation plan with an implementation schedule to come into compliance.

~~The majority of Idaho's livestock are removed from summer pastures and moved closer to the operation's base facilities during the winter months. The land used during the winter months may not produce enough growing forage or crops while livestock are present, and the producer may have to provide supplemental feeds. This activity is often referred to as a winter supplemental feeding operation. Impacts to water quality may occur at these sites during spring snowmelt and can be further impacted if the livestock have a direct access to surface waters. Generally, those lands used as winter feeding operations may be used to produce forages or crops during the normal growing season. Winter feeding operations are considered nonpoint sources of water quality pollution.~~

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section D: Water Quality Law

|

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section D: Water Quality Law

REFERENCES CITED

~~{IRRC} Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. 2002. Referenced at web site location <http://www.irrc.state.id.us/range/facts.htm>~~

~~{NRCS} USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho. 2002. National Resources Inventory, A summary of natural resource trends in Idaho between 1982 and 1997. Revised 12/2000 referenced at web site location http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/1997/summary_report/table3.html~~

IDAHO
Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
2015

Section E:
Best Management Practices



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

As set forth in the Idaho Administrative Code,³⁹ the ~~Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan~~ (Ag Plan) is the source for ~~best management practices~~ (BMPs) for the control of nonpoint sources of pollution from agriculture. In the context of this Ag Plan, BMP is defined as a practice or combination of component practices determined to be the most effective, practicable means of reducing the amount of nonpoint source pollution generated by agricultural activities.⁴⁰ BMP component practices are defined as practices used alone or in combination to address site-specific issues.

For a BMP to accomplish the task of reducing nonpoint source pollution on a voluntary basis, it must meet three criteria. BMPs must be: 1) technically feasible; 2) economically feasible; and 3) acceptable. By meeting all three of these criteria the BMP is defined as practicable.

- **Technical Feasibility** is based on research findings, field trials and years of practical field experience that demonstrate the BMP's effectiveness, alone or in combination with other component practices, in reducing the amount of nonpoint source pollution from agricultural activities.

—**Economic Feasibility** is based on economic evaluation and practical experience that demonstrate the BMP to be cost-effective in reducing the amount of pollution from agricultural nonpoint source activities.

—**Acceptable** practices are those component practices that the responsible party is willing to apply and maintain.

BMP Application

A BMP is developed for application to a particular site to address a specific nonpoint source pollution concern based on site-specific data gathered and analyzed by a trained and experienced resource specialist. Site data may include soils, slope, climate, topography, crops grown, equipment used, water quality, water quantity, pests, and resource conditions. The land owner/operator's objectives, site data, and natural resource needs are used to select the BMP component practices ~~that alone, or in combination, will meet the goals for that site.~~ The conservationist or resource specialist may prescribe a number of alternative practices that not only meet the natural resource objectives, but also meet the landowner/operator's needs and capabilities. Because of the distinctive combination of site characteristics and natural resource objectives, the selected BMP and component practice(s) applied is unique.

³⁹ ~~IDAPA 58.01.02 – Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements. Section . §054.07 – Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan— (3-20-97).~~

⁴⁰ ~~IDAPA 58.01.02 – Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements. Section 00260.05.02 – The Antidegradation Plan for Agriculture. for the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and Soil Conservation Districts. §011.02 – Best Management Practice (12-11-89).~~

On public lands the process involves environmental evaluations, land use plans, and interdisciplinary teams of resource specialists. BMP implementation is generally accomplished through contract or direct involvement of the management agency, such as the ~~US Forest Service (USFS)~~ or the ~~USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM)~~.

~~There is currently a proposed Environmental Protection Agency policy on water quality trading that addresses innovative approaches to water quality protection. The policy supports trading of pollutants from point or nonpoint sources where such trading achieves a net water quality or environmental benefit and does not cause adverse localized impacts. The purpose of the policy is to encourage the adoption of trading programs that facilitate implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs); reduce the cost of compliance with Clean Water Act regulations; establish incentives for voluntary reductions; and promote watershed-based initiatives that result in greater water quality and environmental benefits (EPA 2002). States and tribes will be authorized to trade nutrients, sediments, and other pollutants through legislation, rule making, incorporating provisions for trading into National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits, establishing provisions for trading in TMDLs, or a combination of these.~~

BMP Selection

During the ~~development of the~~ Ag Plan in 1979 and the revision in 1983~~2003~~, the “technical solutions” or practices selected to obtain water quality benefits were referred to as ~~BMPs and were listed as such in the Ag Plan. These practices are now recognized and referred to as~~ component practices that are used individually or in combination to develop BMPs ~~(see Tables F-3 through F-7).~~

~~The~~ ~~USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)~~ Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) is the source of BMP component practices accepted by the ~~Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (SCC) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (and DEQ) for inclusion and included~~ in the Ag ~~Plan~~Plan’s Catalog of ~~BMP Component Practices (see Table FE-2).~~ ~~The Catalog of Component Practices~~, housed and updated by ~~SCC~~~~the Conservation Commission~~, contains those practices determined to be effective in the treatment of natural resource concerns.

The FOTG is maintained in each local NRCS Field Office⁴¹ and includes the standards and specifications for conservation practices designed and adapted to solve local land use concerns and natural resource problems. The Technical Standard for each component practice sets forth the minimum limits of technical excellence for its planning, design and construction. The following information is given in the Technical Standard:

- Definition ~~=~~ a description of the character or nature of the component practice.
- Purpose ~~=~~ a description of the use of and specific needs filled by the component practice in the overall effort to control natural resource impacts.
- Conditions Where Component Practice Applies ~~=~~ a statement of the specific ~~conditions~~condition or pollution control needs that can be met by the component practice alone or in combination with others.
- Key Points in Component Practice Application ~~=~~ a list of special features, ideas and suggestions for practice application such as timeliness, soil conditions, and/or special equipment needs that significantly influence the success or failure of the practice. ~~Key points are practice-specific and may not be included in the standard for all component practices.~~
- Specifications Guide ~~=~~ a statement of where the technical requirements for the planning, designing, construction or application of the component practice can be found, ~~i.e.g.~~ NRCS FOTG. The referenced specifications set forth the required materials, operations and procedures to obtain the desired standards of construction and installation.

Component practices are modified or new ones developed when there is improvement in technology through research and demonstration; change in crops and cropping systems; change in economic conditions; change in social conditions; and/or change in water quality concerns, such as ground water emphasis. This is an ongoing process to keep up with technology and needs identified at the local level.

Evaluation of Applied BMPs

Water Quality Law, Idaho Code ~~In the early stages of BMP implementation, data is seldom adequate to accurately and precisely design the treatment needed to solve natural resource problems. In the absence of such data, the conservationist or resource specialist must draw from experience and the~~

⁴¹ ~~URL site for Idaho NRCS: Located at~~ <http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/fotg/>

~~research findings from areas having similar characteristics to prescribe treatment alternatives. It must be understood by both the technical entity and the decision maker that BMP modifications or “fine-tuning” may be needed over time to fully attain established natural resource objectives. In some cases new component practices may need to be developed.~~

§39-3621⁴² states that the Conservation Commission, in cooperation with appropriate land management agencies, is responsible for ensuring agricultural BMPs are monitored for their effect on water quality. BMP effectiveness evaluation has been identified as imperative for the validation of successful TMDL implementation within the agricultural sector. Monitoring programs are dependent on appropriations.

The Idaho Agricultural Best Management Practices Field Guide for Evaluating BMP Effectiveness⁴³ provides guidelines for evaluating site specific BMPs and the cumulative effects of BMPs within a watershed. The focus of the field guide is the onsite BMP evaluation process. The process serves as a guide for developing a plan for site-specific BMP effectiveness evaluation and the cumulative effects of BMPs within a watershed.

Technical evaluation of applied agricultural BMPs is a part of the feedback loop mechanism and is a two-~~phased~~step process. The first ~~phased~~step, implementation monitoring, is carried out to ensure the adequacy of each of the component practices as designed and installed. The NRCS is the technical agency that provides assistance in the planning and implementation of BMPs on privately owned and state lands. NRCS conservation planning is guided by the NRCS National Planning Procedures Handbook. This is a three phase, nine step planning process that evaluates soil, water, air, plant and animal resources. Resource quality criteria in the FOTG for resource sustainability are used to identify resource problems and the BMPs that will solve those problems. The result is a conservation plan developed at the Resource Management System level. The three phase, nine step process is as follows.

Phase I - Collection and Analysis (Understanding the ~~Problems~~Issues and Opportunities)

1. Identify ~~Problems~~Issues and Opportunities
2. Determine Objectives
3. Inventory Resources
4. Analyze Resource Data

Phase II - Decision Support (Understanding the Solutions)

5. Formulate Alternatives
6. Evaluate Alternatives
7. Make Decisions

Phase III - Application and Evaluation (Understanding the Results)

8. Implement the Plan
9. Evaluate the Plan

⁴² Idaho Code Title 39 (Health and Safety), Chapter 36 (Water Quality), §3621 (Monitoring Provisions).

⁴³ Idaho Agricultural Best Management Practices Field Guide for Evaluating BMP Effectiveness. Revised April 2013.

Implementation monitoring is accomplished through a formal quality check procedure in which a representative number of practices are evaluated annually by the NRCS ~~on private lands~~. The USFS and BLM have been delegated the responsibility to assure implementation quality control on federal lands they administer.

The second ~~phasetep~~ in the evaluation of BMPs is effectiveness monitoring. This requires monitoring and evaluation of water quality following BMP application. If effectiveness monitoring indicates that natural resource objectives have been met, the applied BMP(s) are effective. If, on the other hand, the objectives are not met, the findings may be used to modify the BMP to attain the desired natural resource objectives. Part of this process ~~shouldwill~~ involve an assessment of the natural resource objectives and monitoring procedures. As implementation of the BMP occurs and more site-specific information is gathered, the compatibility of the natural resource objectives with the site potential ~~shouldwill~~ be reevaluated. Likewise, the monitoring procedures ~~shouldwill~~ be reevaluated to see if the proper water quality parameters are being evaluated by the appropriate techniques. All component practices need to be evaluated for effectiveness in providing water quality benefits for both surface and ground water. Pollution source identification may show that other non-agricultural ~~nonpoint~~ sources ~~may~~ hinder the effectiveness of applied agricultural BMPs on the quality of a water body. It is important to note that where multiple pollutant sources exist, complete treatment of agricultural lands alone may not meet watershed-scale natural resource objectives.

Component Practice Development and Modification Process

The Catalog of Component Practices is developed and maintained through the following process.

1) The first step in modifying or developing new component practices is for the ~~Soil~~Districts, in consultation with the Conservation ~~Districts (SCDs)Commission~~, and the technical agencies to review current component practices and identify local needs that are not being addressed. The review will be conducted by the SCDDistrict Board of Supervisors and include area agency representatives and others as needed and appropriate. Factors considered in the review will include but are not limited to:

-
- Research findings;
- ~~BMP~~ evaluation and monitoring information from demonstration projects;
- ~~All~~ pertinent water quality monitoring information; ~~and~~
- Experience and observations of individuals and groups as to the economic, social and
- practical application aspects of the practice, and its effectiveness in achieving the desired
 - ~~_____~~ results.

2) If a need for modifications or development of new component practices is identified as a result of the review, the SCDDistrict will hold a meeting to provide an opportunity for public input on the proposals. This meeting may be held in connection with the monthly SCDDistrict Board of Supervisors meeting.

3) The proposed modifications or development of new component practices along with comments from the public input meeting will be forwarded to the SCCConservation Commission with recommendations.

4) The SCCConservation Commission will convene the BMP Technical Committee ~~annually (or as needed)~~ and present the proposals and recommendations forwarded through SCDsDistricts for

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section ~~FE~~: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

evaluation. This committee will be chaired by the ~~SCC-Conservation Commission~~. Membership ~~shall consist~~consists of a technical representative from:

- ~~Idaho Soil Conservation Commission~~ ————— ~~Idaho Soil Conservation Districts~~
- ~~Idaho Department of Environmental Quality~~ ————— ~~Environmental Protection Agency~~
- ~~Idaho State Department of Agriculture~~ ————— ~~Farm Service Agency~~
- ~~Idaho Department of Lands~~ ————— ~~Bureau of Land Management~~
- ~~Idaho Department of Water Resources~~ ————— ~~Forest Service~~
- ~~University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System~~ — ~~Natural Resources~~ Conservation Commission
- Districts
- DEQ
- EPA
- ISDA
- FSA
- IDL
- BLM
- IDWRService —
- USFS
- UI Extension
- NRCS
- Agricultural Industry ————— Industries
- Others as needed and appropriate

Technical specialists from these or other entities with expertise needed to review specific component practices may be appointed as ad hoc members. Also, it is appropriate for the BMP Technical Committee to call upon industry and conservation group technical specialists to assist in evaluating the practicability of component practices.

5) The BMP Technical Committee will evaluate each recommendation forwarded through the ~~SCDDistrict~~ by comparing existing component practices to see if any of these meet the identified needs. If modifications or development of new component practices are needed, the Technical Committee will use research data, monitoring, project evaluations, experience and observations to modify existing or develop new component practices. Resulting component practices will be evaluated for technical feasibility, economic feasibility and social acceptability.

6) The BMP Technical Committee's recommendations on component practices will be forwarded to the ~~SCCConservation Commission~~ and DEQ. The ~~SCCConservation Commission~~ and DEQ will act upon modified or newly developed component practices, by ~~either~~ accepting them into the Ag Plan Catalog of Component Practices, rejecting them, or returning them to the BMP Technical Committee for further action.

~~7) Upon acceptance of modified or newly developed component practices by the SCC and DEQ, they will be listed in the Ag Plan Catalog of Component Practices. Standards and specifications for these practices will be maintained and provided at the state level by NRCS.~~

7) NRCS develops practice standards and receives input from the Conservation Commission and DEQ.

8) The ~~SCDDistricts~~ or local technical agency may adopt modified or newly developed component practices that are listed in the Ag Plan Catalog of Component Practices. ~~Each SCDDistrict~~ or technical agency local unit will maintain a list of the adopted component practices along with the appropriate standards and specifications.

9) The ~~SCCConservation Commission~~ will convene the BMP Effectiveness Subcommittee as needed for the review and evaluation of the effectiveness of BMP component practices.

Developing BMPs from Component Practices

Typical agricultural BMPs that are developed using the Catalog of Component Practices (Table ~~FE-2~~) ~~are~~include the following categories:

- Nonirrigated Cropland ~~BMP~~
- Irrigated Cropland ~~BMP~~
- Grazing Land ~~BMP~~
- Animal Manure and Waste Management ~~BMP~~
- Riparian/Wetland ~~BMP~~

A BMP usually requires the use of several component practices to meet natural resource objectives. A combination of BMPs may be needed to meet natural resource objectives on a particular land

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section ~~F~~**E**: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

management unit, for example it may require both an Animal Waste Management BMP and an Irrigated Cropland BMP to adequately treat an individual farm.

~~In~~ Component practices listed in the Catalog of Component Practices, ~~the standards and specifications for each component practice~~ are referenced by the NRCS FOTG number along with other pertinent rules, regulations, and guidelines. Guidelines other than those specified ~~or referenced~~ in the NRCS FOTG can be used for application of a component practice, if such guidelines have been approved as adequate to meet the desired water quality objectives by the agency responsible for ensuring the technical adequacy of the design and installation of ~~that~~the component practice.

Practices considered normal and proper components of a selected BMP are identified in the Catalog of Component Practices. Such designation is not intended to be limiting or comprehensive since each situation is unique and may require other component practices from the catalog for the BMP to be functional. The following are lists of component practices commonly selected to develop each of the five agricultural ~~BMPs~~BMP categories.

Nonirrigated Cropland BMP

~~Other component practices that may be necessary for development of this BMP are in the Catalog of Component Practices at the end of this section.~~BMPs

Conservation Crop Rotation	Nutrient Management
Contour Farming	Pest Management
Cover Crop	Residue Management (Mulch—No Till, No till, etc.)
Critical Area Planting	<u>Residue Management—Reduced Till</u>
Deep Tillage	Sediment Basin
Diversion	Surface Roughening
Filter Strip	Subsurface Drain
Grade Stabilization Structure	Terrace
Grassed Waterway	Underground Outlet
<u>Integrated Pest Management</u>	Water and Sediment Control Basin
Lined Waterway or Outlet	

Irrigated Cropland BMP~~BMPs~~

~~Other component practices that may be necessary for development of this BMP are in the Catalog of Component Practices at the end of this section.~~

Agrichemical Mixing <u>Handling</u> Facility	Irrigation Land Leveling
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM)	Irrigation Pit or Regulating Reservoir
Conservation Crop Rotation	Irrigation Field Ditch
Constructed Wetland	<u>Irrigation Land Leveling</u>
Cover Crop	<u>Irrigation Reservoir</u>
Critical Area Planting	Irrigation System, Microirrigation
Deep Tillage	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
Filter Strip	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery
Grade Stabilization Structure	Irrigation Water Management
<u>Integrated Pest Management</u>	Land Smoothing

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
 Section ~~FE~~: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Mulching	Sediment Basin
Nutrient Management	<u>Sprinkler System</u>
Pest Management	Structure for Water Control
Pumping Plant for Water Control	<u>Underground Outlet</u>
<u>Residue Management—No Till</u>	Well Decommissioning
Residue Management— (Mulch—Reduced Till;	Underground Outlet
No-till, etc.)	
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	

Grazing Land BMPBMPs

~~Other component practices that may be necessary for development of this BMP are in the Catalog of Component Practices at the end of this section.~~

~~Animal~~

<u>Access Control</u>	<u>Nutrient Management</u>
Trails and Walkways	<u>Pasture and Hayland Planting</u>
Brush Management	<u>Pipeline</u>
Critical Area Planting	Pond
Fence	Prescribed Grazing
<u>Forage and Biomass Planting</u>	Range Planting
Forage Harvest Management	Riparian Forest Buffer
Grade Stabilization Structure	Spring Development
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	<u>Trails and Walkways</u>
Nutrient Management	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
<u>Integrated</u> Pest Management	<u>Use Exclusion</u>
	Watering Facility <u>Pest Management</u>

Livestock Pipeline

Animal Manure and Waste Management BMPBMPs

~~Other component practices that may be necessary for development of this BMP are in the Catalog of Component Practices at the end of this section.~~

Access Road	<u>Livestock Pipeline</u>
Composting Facility	<u>Nutrient Management</u>
Closure of Waste Impoundments	Pond Sealing and/or Lining
Constructed Wetland	Pumping Plant for Water Control
Critical Area Planting	Roof Runoff Structure
Dike	Underground Outlet
Diversion	Waste Management System <u>Facility Closure</u>
Fence	<u>Waste Recycling</u>
Grade Stabilization Structure	<u>Watering Separation Facility</u>
Heavy Use Area Protection	Waste Storage Facility
Manure Transfer	<u>Waste Transfer</u>
<u>Nutrient Management</u>	<u>Waste Treatment</u>
	Waste Treatment Lagoon

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section ~~FE~~: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

~~Waste Utilization~~
~~Watering Facility~~

Water Well

Riparian/Wetland ~~BMP~~BMPs

~~Other component practices that may be necessary for development of this BMP are in the Catalog of Component Practices at the end of this section.~~

~~Animal~~

~~Access Control~~

~~Aquatic Organism Passage~~

~~Trails and Walkways~~

~~Channel Vegetation~~

Constructed Wetland

Critical Area Planting

Dam, Diversion

~~Ephemeral Watercourse Planting~~

Fence

Filter Strip

~~Fish Passage~~

Grade Stabilization Structure

Heavy Use Area Protection

~~Livestock Pipeline~~

Pond

~~Pipeline~~

Prescribed Grazing

Riparian Forest Buffer

Spring Development

~~Streambank and Shoreline Protection~~

Stream Channel Stabilization

~~Stream Crossing~~

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management

~~Streambank and Shoreline Protection~~

~~Trails and Walkways~~

Tree/Shrub Establishment

~~Use Exclusion~~

~~Water Well~~ Watering Facility

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

Wetland Restoration

Water Quality Standards and Beneficial Uses

This Ag Plan provides guidance to contribute toward full support of identified beneficial uses through enhancement and maintenance of the quality of surface and ground waters of Idaho, to the extent that they are impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants. Water quality standards are set for each designated beneficial use within Idaho. Meeting those surface and ground water quality standards ensures support of designated beneficial uses.

Designated beneficial uses for surface waters within the state include:⁴⁴

-

- Aquatic Life
- -Recreation
- -Water Supply
- -Wildlife Habitats
- -Aesthetics

⁴⁴ IDAPA 58.01.02 – Water Quality Standards ~~and Wastewater Treatment Requirements, Section 100~~ – Surface ~~Water~~ Use Designation ~~(3-15-02)~~.

~~Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan~~
~~Section F: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES~~

Designated beneficial uses for ground water include:⁴⁵

-

- Domestic Water ~~Supply~~Supplies
- ~~Industrial Water~~ ~~Supply~~Supplies
- ~~Agricultural Water~~ ~~Supply~~Supplies
- ~~Aquaculture Water~~ ~~Supply~~Supplies
- ~~Mining~~

~~Water quality standards listed per beneficial use are shown in table E-1. Table E-2 lists component practices found in the Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan Catalogue of Component Practices (July 2015). Tables FE-3 through FE-7 graphically displays selected display agricultural BMP componentscomponent practices and their ability to improve beneficial uses for each of the five BMPs-BMP categories. The water quality standards directly affected are shown for each component practice per BMP. Nearly all water quality standards are indirectly affected by component practices.~~

~~Water quality standards listed per beneficial use are displayed in the following table:~~

⁴⁵ ~~IDAPA 58.01.11-200~~ – Ground Water Quality ~~Rule. §007.04 – Beneficial Uses (3-20-97).~~

Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section F: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section F: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Table E-1. Water Quality Standards per Designated Beneficial Use

Designated Beneficial Use – Surface Water	Water Quality Standards
Aquatic Life	pH dissolved gas chlorine residual water temperature ammonia turbidity dissolved oxygen
Recreation	E. coli
Water Supply	hazardous materials toxic substances deleterious materials -radioactive materials (radioactivity) floating, suspended or submerged matter excess nutrients oxygen demanding materials sediment turbidity
Wildlife Habitats	hazardous materials toxic substances deleterious materials radioactive materials (radioactivity) floating, suspended or submerged matter excess nutrients oxygen demanding materials sediment
Aesthetics	hazardous materials toxic substances deleterious materials radioactive materials (radioactivity) floating, suspended or submerged matter excess nutrients oxygen demanding materials sediment
Designated Beneficial Use – Ground Water	Water Quality Standards
Domestic Water Supply Supplies	primary constituent standards (numerical) ⁴⁶
Industrial Water Supply Supplies	secondary constituent standards (numerical) ⁴⁶
Agricultural Water Supply Supplies	narrative standards standards ⁴⁷
Aquaculture Water Supply Supplies	
Mining	

⁴⁶ IDAPA 58.01.11.200.01 Numerical Ground Water Quality Standards

⁴⁷ IDAPA 58.01.11.200.02 Ground Water Quality Rule-Narrative Ground Water Quality Standards

Table E-2. Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan Catalog of Component Practices ~~Table F-1. Water Quality Standards per Designated Beneficial Use~~

- ~~⁶ IDAPA 58.01.11.200.01 Numerical Ground Water Quality Standards~~
- ~~² IDAPA 58.01.11.200.02 Ground Water Quality Rule Narrative Ground Water Quality Standards~~

Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section F: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

~~Table F-2. Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan Catalog of Component Practices (02/21/03)~~

Component Practice	NRCS Practice Code
Access Control	472
Access Road	560
Agrichemical Mixing Handling Facility	702
Alley Cropping	311
Animal Trails and Walkways-Anaerobic Digester	575-366
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control	450
Aquatic Organism Passage	396
Brush Management	314
Channel Vegetation	322
Cover Crop	340
Closure of Waste Impoundments	360
Composting Facility	317
Conservation Cover	327
Conservation Crop Rotation	328
Constructed Wetland	656
Contour Buffer Strips	332
Contour Farming	330
Contour Stripcropping	585
Cover and Green Manure Crop	340
Critical Area Planting	342
Dam, Diversion	348
Dam, Multiple-Purpose	349
Deep Tillage	324
Dike	356
Diversion	362
Ephemeral Watercourse Planting	308
Fence	382
Field Border	386
Filter Strip	393
Firebreak	394
Fish Passage-Forage and Biomass Planting	396512
Forage Harvest Management	511
Grade Stabilization Structure	410
Grassed Waterway	412
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	548
Heavy Use Area Protection	561
Integrated Pest Management	595
Irrigation Canal or Lateral	320
Irrigation Field Ditch	388
Irrigation Land Leveling	464
Irrigation Pit or Regulating Reservoir	552
Irrigation Storage -Reservoir	436
Irrigation System, Microirrigation	441
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	442
Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	443
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	447

Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section F: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Irrigation Water Conveyance, Ditch or Canal Lining	428
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline	430
Irrigation Water Management	449
Land Smoothing	466
Lined Waterway or Outlet	468
<u>Livestock Pipeline</u>	<u>516</u>

Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section F: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Table E-2. Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan Catalog of Component Practices (Continued)

<u>Component Practice</u>	<u>NRCS Practice Code</u>
Mulching	484

Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section F: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Table F-2. Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan Catalog of Component Practices (02/21/03) Continued

Component Practice	NRCS Practice Code
Manure Transfer	634
Nutrient Management	590
Pasture and Hayland Planting	512
Pest Management	595
Pipeline	516
Pond	378
Pond Sealing and/or Lining	521
Prescribed Burning	338
Prescribed Grazing	528
Pumping Plant for Water Control	533
Range Planting	550
Residue Management, Direct Seed	777
Residue Management, — No Till and Strip Till	329A-329
Residue Management, Mulch— Reduced Till	329B345
Residue Management, Ridge Till	329C
Residue Management, Seasonal	344
Riparian Forest Buffer	391A
Roof Runoff Structure	558
Sediment Basin	350
Spoil Spreading	572
Sprinkler System	442
Spring Development	574
Stream Crossing	578
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	395
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580
Stream Channel Stabilization	584
Stripcropping, Field	586
Structure for Water Control	587
Subsurface Drain	606
Surface Drainage, Field Ditch	607
Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral	608
Surface Roughening	609
Terrace	600
Trails and Walkways	575
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612
Underground Outlet	620
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645
Use Exclusion-Waste Facility Closure	472-360
Waste Management System Recycling	312-633
Waste Storage Facility	313
Waste Transfer	634
Watering Facility	614
Waste Separation Facility	632
Waste Treatment	629
Waste Treatment Lagoon	359
Waste Utilization	633
Watering Facility	614
Water Harvesting Catchment	636

Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section F: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Water and Sediment Control Basin	638
Water Well	642
Well Decommissioning	351
Wetland Restoration	657
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	644
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	380

Table E-3. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the **Nonirrigated Cropland BMP Category**

Designated Beneficial Use Affected	Ground Water	Surface Water											
	Ground Water Supplies*	Recreation	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics					
NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected [^]	Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E.coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Disolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	Toxic substances
328	Conservation Crop Rotation				✓	✓							
330	Contour Farming				✓	✓							
340	Cover Crop				✓	✓							
342	Critical Area Planting				✓	✓							
324	Deep Tillage				✓	✓							
362	Diversion				✓	✓							
393	-Filter Strip				✓	✓				✓			
410	Grade Stabilization Structure				✓	✓							
412	Grassed Waterway				✓	✓							
595	Integrated Pest Management	✓										✓	✓
590	Nutrient Management	✓				✓							
595 329	Pest Residue and Tillage Management—No Till	✓			✓	✓						✓	✓
329 345	Residue and Tillage Management (Mulch—Reduced Till, No Till, etc.)				✓	✓							
350	Sediment Basin				✓	✓							
606	Subsurface Drain				✓	✓				✓			
609	Surface Roughening				✓	✓							
612	Terrace				✓	✓							
620	Underground Outlet				✓	✓							
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin				✓	✓							

[^] Water quality standards **directly** affected are shown for each component practice per BMP **category**. Nearly all water quality standards are indirectly affected by component practices.

* Ground Water designated beneficial uses include: Domestic Water Supplies, Industrial Water Supplies, Agricultural Water Supplies, Aquaculture Water Supplies, and Mining.

Table E-4. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the Irrigated Cropland BMP Category

NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected ^A	Ground Water	Surface Water										
		Ground Water Supplies*	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life
		Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E.coli	Water Temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Dissolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	Toxic substances
309	Agricultural Handling Facility	✓											✓
450	Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM)				✓	✓							
328	Conservation Crop Rotation				✓	✓							
656	Constructed Wetland				✓	✓		✓					
340	Cover Crop				✓	✓							
342	Critical Area Planting				✓	✓							
324	Deep Tillage				✓	✓							
393	Filter Strip				✓	✓							
410	Grade Stabilization Structure				✓	✓							
595	Integrated Pest Management	✓			✓	✓						✓	✓
388	Irrigation Field Ditch				✓	✓							
464	Irrigation Land Leveling				✓	✓							
436	Irrigation Reservoir	✓											
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	✓			✓	✓					✓		
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	✓			✓	✓							
447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	✓			✓	✓					✓		
449	Irrigation Water Management	✓			✓	✓							
466	Land Smoothing				✓	✓							
484	Mulching				✓	✓							
590	Nutrient Management	✓				✓							
533	Pumping Plant	✓											
329	Residue and Tillage Management—No Till				✓	✓							

345	<u>Residue and Tillage Management— Reduced Till</u>				✓	✓							
-----	---	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Table E-4. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the **Irrigated Cropland** BMP Category (continued)

Designated Beneficial Use Affected	Ground Water	Surface Water											
	Ground Water Supplies*	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat
Designated Beneficial Use Affected	Ground Water Supplies	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat
Designated Beneficial Use Affected	Ground Water Supplies	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat	Water Supply	Aquatic Life	Aesthetics	Wildlife Habitat
NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected^	Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E.coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Dissolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	Toxic substances
450	Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM)				↘	↘							
328	Conservation Crop Rotation				↘	↘							
656	Constructed Wetland				↘	↘		↘					
340	Cover Crop				↘	↘							
342	Critical Area Planting				↘	↘							
324	Deep Tillage				↘	↘							
393	Filter Strip				↘	↘							
410	Grade Stabilization Structure				↘	↘							
464	Irrigation Land Leveling				↘	↘							
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	↘			↘	↘					↘		
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler	↘			↘	↘					↘		
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	↘			↘	↘							
447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	↘			↘	↘					↘		
428-30	Irrigation Water Conveyance	↘			↘	↘							

Table E-5. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the Grazing Land BMP Category

NRCs Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected ^A	Ground Water	Surface Water										
		Ground Water Supplies*	Recreation	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life Water Supply	Aquatic Life Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Water Supply	Aquatic Life Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Water Supply	Aquatic Life Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life Water Supply	Aquatic Life Wildlife Habitat
		Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E. coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Dissolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	Toxic substances
575-474	Animal Access Control Trails and Walkways	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
314	Brush Management				✓								
656	Constructed Wetland				✗	✗		✗					
342	Critical Area Planting			✓	✓	✓							
382	Fence		✓		✓	✓							
512	Forage and Biomass Planting				✓	✓							
511	Forage Harvest Management				✓	✓							
410	Grade Stabilization Structure				✓	✓							
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment				✓	✓							
590 595	Nutrient Integrated Pest Management	✓				✗						✓	✓
512-516	Pasture and Hayland Planting Livestock Pipeline		✓		✓	✓							
595 590	Pest Nutrient Management	✓				✓						✗	✗
378	Pond												
528	Prescribed Grazing			✓	✓	✓							
550	Range Planting				✓	✓							
391A	-Riparian Forest Buffer		✓	✓	✓	✓							
574	Spring Development		✓										
575	Trails and Walkways				✓	✓							
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt.			✓	✓	✓							
472	-Use Exclusion		✗	✗	✗	✗							
614	-Watering Facility				✓	✓							

^ Water quality standards directly affected are shown for each component practice per BMP category. Nearly all water quality standards are indirectly affected by component practices.

* Ground Water designated beneficial uses include: Domestic Water Supplies, Industrial Water Supplies, Agricultural Water Supplies, Aquaculture Water Supplies, and Mining.

Table E-6. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the **Animal Nutrient Byproduct Manure and Waste** BMP Category

NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected ^A	Ground Water	Surface Water										
		Ground Water Supplies	Recreation	Aquatic Life Aesthetics	Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply Wildlife Habitat Aesthetics	
		Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E.coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Disolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials	Toxic substances
560	Access Road				✓								
360	Closure of Waste Impoundments		✓			✓							
317	-Composting Facility	✓	✓			✓	✓						
656	Constructed Wetland				✓	✓		✓					
342	Critical Area Planting				✓	✓							
356	Dike		✓		✓	✓							
362	Diversion		✓		✓	✓							
382	Fence		✓	✓	✓	✓							
410	Grade Stabilization Structure				✓	✓							
561	Heavy Use Area Protection			✓	✓	✓							
590	Nutrient Management	✓				✓				✓	✓		
516521	Pipeline Pond Sealing or Lining	✓	✓										
524-533	Pond Sealing and Lining Pumping Plant	✓	✓										
558	-Roof Runoff Structure	✓	✓			✓					✓		
620	Underground Outlet				✓								
360	Waste Facility Closure		✓			✓							
633	Waste Recycling	✓	✓										
632	Waste Separation Facility	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓		
313	-Waste Storage Facility	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓		
634	Waste Transfer	✓	✓										
633	Waste Treatment	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓

Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
 Section ~~E: WATER QUALITY LAW~~ **E: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

633	Waste Utilization	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
614	Watering Facility												
642	Water Well												

^ Water quality standards **directly** affected are shown for each component practice per BMP category. Nearly all water quality standards are indirectly affected by component practices.

* Ground Water designated beneficial uses include: Domestic Water Supplies, Industrial Water Supplies, Agricultural Water Supplies, Aquaculture Water Supplies, and Mining.

Table E-7. Agricultural BMP Component Practices and Their Ability to Improve Beneficial Uses for the **Riparian/Wetland** BMP Category

NRCS Practice Code	Water Quality Standards Directly Affected ^A	Ground Water	Surface Water														
		Ground Water Supplies	Recreation	Aquatic Life	Aquatic Life Water Supply	Aquatic Life Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply	Aquatic Life Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply	Aquatic Life Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Aesthetics	Aquatic Life Water Supply	Aquatic Life Wildlife Habitat	Aquatic Life Aesthetics	Toxic substances
		Primary, Secondary and Narrative	E.coli	Water temperature	Sediment and Turbidity	Excess nutrients	Ammonia	Dissolved oxygen	pH	Oxygen demanding materials	Floating, suspended, submerged matter	Hazardous materials					
575-474	Animal Access Control Trails and Walkways	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓					
322	Channel Vegetation			✓	✓	✓		✓				✓					
656	Constructed Wetland				✓	✓		✓									
342	Critical Area Planting			✓	✓	✓											
348	Dam, Diversion				✓												
308	Ephemeral Watercourse Planting				✓												
386	Fence		✓														
393	-Filter Strip		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓					
396	Fish Passage																
410	Grade Stabilization Structure			✓	✓			✓									
561	Heavy Use Area Protection			✓	✓	✓											
516	Livestock Pipeline				✓												
378	Pond		✓		✓	✓											
528	Prescribed Grazing			✓	✓	✓		✓				✓					
391A	-Riparian Forest Buffer		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓									
574	Spring Development		✓														
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection			✓	✓	✓		✓									
584	Stream Channel Stabilization			✓	✓												
518	Stream Crossing			✓	✓												
395	Stream Habitat Improvement & Wetland Management			✓	✓												
575	Trails and Walkways				✓	✓											
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment			✓	✓	✓											
474	Use Exclusion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓					
614	-Watering Facility		✓		✓	✓											

644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mgt-Management		✓	✓	✓	✓							
657	Wetland Restoration			✓	✓	✓							

^ Water quality standards directly affected are shown for each component practice per BMP category. Nearly all water quality standards are indirectly affected by component practices.

WATER QUALITY LAW

~~The Idaho Statutes include 73 titles. Individual titles include a set of chapters which are further divided into numerous sections. Within those sections, applicable to the implementation of this Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (Ag Plan), authorities, rules, regulations and standards necessary to address problems related to personal health and water pollution are defined. The elements within each section are defined within the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (rules), referred to as IDAPA. To provide a background and overview of current Idaho water quality law, several citations within the Idaho Administrative Code address water quality and are referenced as follows:~~

• ~~Violations of Water Quality Standards (IDAPA 58.01.02.080 Violation of Water Quality Standards)~~

~~“No pollutant shall be discharged from a single source or in combination with pollutants discharged from other sources in concentrations or in a manner that will or can be expected to result in violation of the water quality standards applicable to the receiving water body or downstream waters, or will injure designated or existing beneficial uses.”~~

• ~~Surface Water Use Designations (IDAPA 58.01.02.100 Surface Water Use Designation)~~

~~“Waterbodies are designated in Idaho to protect water quality for existing or designated uses. Wherever attainable, the designated beneficial uses for which the surface waters of the state are to be protected include: aquatic life, recreation, water supply, wildlife habitats, and aesthetics.”~~

• ~~Administrative Policy (IDAPA 58.01.02.050.02 Administrative Policy, Protection of Waters of the State)~~

~~“Whenever attainable, surface waters of the state shall be protected for beneficial uses.”~~

• ~~Antidegradation Policy (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01 Antidegradation Policy, Maintenance of Existing Uses for All Waters)~~

~~“The existing in stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected.”~~

• ~~Ground Water Quality Protection (IDAPA 58.01.11.006.01 Ground Water Quality Protection)~~

~~“It is the policy of the State of Idaho to maintain and protect the existing high quality of the state’s ground water.”~~

• ~~Prevention of Ground Water Contamination (IDAPA 58.01.11.006.05 Prevention of Ground Water Contamination)~~

~~“The policy of the State of Idaho is to prevent contamination of ground water from all regulated and nonregulated sources of contamination to the maximum extent practical.”~~

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

~~Water Quality Law, Idaho Code Sections 39-105⁴⁶ and 39-3601⁴⁶ et seq., define authorities, rules, regulations and standards necessary to address problems related to personal health and water pollution. The Idaho legislature, in Idaho Code §39-3601, recognizing that surface water is one of the state's most valuable natural resources, has approved the adoption of water quality standards and granted legal authority to the Director of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to implement these standards in accordance with Idaho Code §39-104.~~

~~In order to maintain and achieve existing and designated beneficial uses and to conform to the expressed intent of Congress to control pollution of streams, lakes and other surface waters, the legislature declares that it is the purpose of the Idaho Code water quality chapter to enhance and preserve the quality and value of the surface water resources of the State of Idaho, and to define the responsibilities of public agencies in the control and monitoring of water pollution.~~

~~With the adoption of Water Quality Law, Idaho Code §39-3601 et seq. in 1995, Idaho entered a new era of local watershed planning and management. Water Quality Law §39-3601 sets forth a public process which created Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) in each of the State's six hydrologic basins.⁵⁰ The BAGs represent members of agriculture, livestock, forest products, mining, water based recreation, non municipal point source dischargers, local government, conservation groups, Indian tribes, and the general public.~~

~~In addition, the Water Quality Law authorized the development of Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) and recognized the existence of several ongoing WAGs throughout the state. The 27 WAGs recognized to date represent industries and interests effected by the management of their respective watershed.~~

~~Both BAGs and WAGs advise Idaho DEQ on water quality objectives for each basin and provide guidance on specific pollution control actions to restore designated beneficial uses of impaired water bodies. For waters on the state's §303(d) list, an action plan is formulated by DEQ, referred to as the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL quantifies the acceptable pollutant level for each point and nonpoint source necessary to achieve the applicable water quality standard within a specified amount of time.~~

~~Because the Ag Plan focuses on nonpoint source pollution prevention from agricultural activities, a reiteration of definitions is appropriate. Nonpoint source activities are defined as, "Activities on a geographical area on which pollutants are deposited or dissolved or suspended in water applied to or incident on that area, the resultant mixture being discharged into the waters of the state. Nonpoint sources activities include, but are not limited to: irrigated and nonirrigated lands used for grazing and/or crop production; silviculture including log storage or rafting; construction sites; recreation sites; septic tank disposal fields; mining; runoff from storms or other weather related events; and other activities not subject to regulation under the federal national pollutant discharge elimination~~

⁴⁶ Idaho Code, Title 39 (Health and Safety), Chapter 1 (Environmental Quality Health), 39-105: Powers and Duties of the
—of the Director.

⁴⁹ Idaho Code, Title 39 (Health and Safety), Chapter 36 (Water Quality), 39-3601: Declaration of Policy and Statement of
—Statement of Legislation.

⁶⁰ The six hydrologic basins in Idaho include the Panhandle, Clearwater, Salmon, Southwest, Upper Snake, and Bear
—River basins.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

system.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ IDAPA 58.01.02.003.63-Definitions

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

~~Water Quality Law §39-3602 also established and defined roles of other state agencies by assigning designated agency responsibilities for those activities within the state that are the major contributors of nonpoint source loadings to waterbodies. These designations are: Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) for timber harvest activities, for oil and gas exploration and development and for mining activities; the Soil Conservation Commission (SCC) for grazing activities and for agricultural activities; the Idaho Transportation Department for public road construction; the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) for aquaculture; and the Department of Environmental Quality for all other activities.~~

~~The designation of lead state agencies provides an ability to target projects and programs toward specific activities. Inclusive of the roles for these agencies are other state and federal programs with funding sources, recommended best management practices, regulatory and non-regulatory components, and indicators of program achievements, available at their disposal to help ensure meeting the state standards for water quality. These state designated roles are also significant in that the designated agencies automatically partner with those federal agencies having similar traditional roles, such as the agricultural partnership of the SCC and local Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) with the federal USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Setting of similar goals, priorities, and program requirements has enhanced the ability of project implementation, stretched available funding, and ensured state/federal consistency in approaching the challenges posed by nonpoint source pollution and TMDL implementation.~~

~~Minimum stream flows may be appropriated by the Idaho Water Resource Board for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic life, recreation, aesthetic beauty, transportation and navigation values, and water quality. These minimum stream flow water rights are subject to senior water rights.⁵²~~

~~Ground Water~~

~~Water Quality Law, Idaho Code Section 39-120 et seq., designates DEQ as the primary agency, along with ISDA and Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) as partner agencies, in coordinating and administering ground water quality protection programs for the state.~~

~~DEQ, IDWR, and ISDA are responsible for adopting applicable rules which specify the standards for determining actions necessary to prevent ground water contamination and cleanup actions necessary to meet the goals of the state. It is the policy of the state to maintain and protect the existing quality of the state's ground water. The existing and projected future of beneficial uses of ground water shall be maintained and protected, and degradation that would impair existing and projected future beneficial uses of ground water and interconnected surface water shall not be allowed. Additionally, the policy of the state is to prevent contamination of ground water from all regulated and non-regulated sources of contamination to the maximum extent practical.⁵³~~

~~No person shall cause or allow the release, spilling, leaking, emissions, discharge, escape, leaching, or disposal of a contaminant into the environment in a manner that causes ground water quality standards to be exceeded; injures a beneficial use of ground water; or is not in accordance with a permit, consent order or applicable BMP, best available method or best practical method.⁵⁴~~

⁵² Idaho Statute, Title 42, Irrigation and Drainage Water Rights and Reclamation, Chapter 15, Minimum Stream Flow (42-1501 -Flow (42-1501 et seq.)

⁵³ IDAPA 58.01.11.006 Policies

⁵⁴ IDAPA 58.01.11.400.01 Releases Degrading Ground Water Quality

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

~~When a numerical standard is not exceeded, but degradation of ground water quality is detected and deemed significant, DEQ can take several actions: 1) requiring a modification of regulated activities to prevent continued degradation; 2) coordinating with appropriate agencies and responsible persons to develop and implement prevention measures for activities not regulated by DEQ; or 3) allowing limited degradation of ground water quality for the identified constituents if BMPs, best available methods or best practical methods are applied and the degradation is justifiable based on necessary and widespread social and economic considerations. DEQ may also allow limited degradation up to the standards if BMPs are being applied and the degradation will not adversely impact a beneficial use.⁵⁵~~

~~**Enforcement Provisions**~~

~~Enforcement provisions for nonpoint source activities have been incorporated into several state statutes and rules, including the Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements,⁵⁶ the Ground Water Quality Rule,⁵⁷ the Rules Governing Dairy Waste,⁵⁸ the Beef Cattle Environmental Control Act,⁵⁹ and the Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry.⁶⁰~~

~~These rules governing nonpoint source activities recognize that nonpoint source pollution management, including BMP implementation and follow up monitoring and evaluation, is a process for protecting designated beneficial uses and ambient water quality. This process is referred to as the feedback loop and is described in Section H of this Ag Plan. The Idaho Administrative Code cites that BMPs should be designed, implemented and maintained to provide full protection or maintenance of beneficial uses and cites this Ag Plan as the source for applicable BMPs.⁶¹~~

~~**Violation of Water Quality Standards⁶²**~~

~~Violations of water quality standards that occur in spite of implementation of BMPs will not be subject to enforcement action. However, if subsequent water quality monitoring and surveillance by the DEQ indicate beneficial uses are not met due to nonpoint source impacts even with the use of current BMPs, the practices will be evaluated and modified as necessary by the appropriate agencies in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act. In other words, the feedback loop will be implemented.~~

~~If necessary, injunctive or other judicial relief may be initiated against the landowner and/or operator of a nonpoint source activity in accordance with the DEQ Director's authorities provided in Section 39-108, Idaho Code. In certain cases, revision of the water quality standards may be appropriate. Failure to meet general or specific water quality criteria, or failure to fully protect a beneficial use, shall not be considered a violation of the water quality standards for the purpose of enforcement. Instead, water quality monitoring and evaluation of nonpoint source activities and BMPs will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of~~

⁵⁵ IDAPA 58.01.11.400.02 Prevention Measures

⁵⁶ IDAPA 58, Title 01, Chapter 2, the Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements

⁵⁷ IDAPA 58, Title 01, Chapter 11, the Ground Water Quality Rule

⁵⁸ IDAPA 02.04.14 Rules of the Department of Agriculture Governing Dairy Waste

⁵⁹ IDAPA 02.04.15 Rules of the Department of Agriculture Governing Beef Cattle Animal Feeding Operations

⁶⁰ IDAPA 58.01.09 Rules Regulating Swine and Poultry Facilities

⁶¹ IDAPA 58.01.02.054055.07 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

⁶² IDAPA 58.01.02.080 Violation of Water Quality Standards

~~BMPs in protecting beneficial uses.~~

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section E: Best Management Practices

~~As long as a nonpoint source activity is being conducted in accordance with applicable rules, regulations and BMPs as referenced in Subsection 350.03 (Approved Best Management Practices), or in the absence of referenced applicable BMPs, conducted in a manner that demonstrates a knowledgeable and reasonable effort to minimize resulting adverse water quality impacts, the activity will not be subject to conditions or legal actions. In all cases, if imminent and substantial danger to the public health or environment is occurring, or may occur as a result of a nonpoint source by itself or in combination with other point or nonpoint source activities, then the Director may seek immediate injunctive relief to stop or prevent that danger, as provided in Section 39-108, Idaho Code.~~

~~For an activity occurring in a manner not in accordance with approved BMPs, or in a manner which does not demonstrate a knowledgeable and reasonable effort to minimize resulting adverse water quality impacts, the DEQ Director may, with appropriate inter-departmental coordination, prepare a compliance schedule; formally request that the responsible agency conduct a timely evaluation and modification of the practices to insure full protection of beneficial uses; and develop and recommend to the operator control measures necessary to fully protect the beneficial uses. Such control measures may be implemented on a voluntary basis, or where necessary, through appropriate administrative or civil proceedings.~~

~~Proper application of BMPs on one agricultural nonpoint source may not adequately meet a beneficial use need. Unless a particular agricultural nonpoint source is proven solely responsible for degradation of natural resources that directly affect beneficial use support, multiple nonpoint source pollution controls may be necessary.~~

Application to Agricultural Land Use – Private Lands

~~The state has adopted a voluntary implementation plan for agricultural nonpoint source water quality pollution consistent with the federal Clean Water Act and Idaho Code §39-3610. BMPs are applied on private agricultural lands through landowner initiative often facilitated through incentive programs such as the Water Quality Program for Agriculture, Environmental Quality Incentive Program and Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program, which are based on provision of technical assistance, information and education, and cost-share incentives.~~

~~SCDs are the local delivery system for the voluntary pollution abatement programs; SCC~~

~~* Ground Water designated beneficial uses include: Domestic Water Supplies, Industrial Water Supplies, Agricultural Water Supplies, Aquaculture Water Supplies, and Mining.~~

IDAHO

~~is the designated agency for grazing activities and agricultural activities, and DEQ is responsible for implementing and enforcing the water quality standards.~~

Application to Agricultural Land Use – State Lands

~~The nonpoint source provisions of the water quality standards apply to state lands in the same manner as private lands. DEQ has entered into memorandums of understanding with IDL for silviculture and mining activities; SCC for agriculture and grazing; and ISDA for dairy waste management (DEQ 1999). The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) is responsible for ensuring consistency in habitat and fish restoration activities statewide on state and private lands, as well as coordinating efforts with the agency's federal partners on federal lands. Enforcement of agricultural BMPs on lands managed by state agencies is implemented through the respective state agency's policies.~~

Application to Agricultural Land Use – Federal Lands

~~The enforcement mechanism for nonpoint source pollution control is different on federal lands than it is on state and private lands due to the nature of the state-federal relationship as described in the federal Clean Water Act and implementing executive orders.~~

~~Section 313 of the Clean Water Act directs federal agencies to meet state requirements with respect to the control and abatement of pollution in the same manner and to the same extent as any nongovernmental entity. Under "Executive Order 12088" a federal agency is to promptly consult with the state upon notification of a violation of water quality standards, and develop a mitigation plan with an implementation schedule to come into compliance.~~

Pollution Abatement Plan

2015

Section F:

Implementation ~~The Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan (DEQ~~

Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section G: IMPLEMENTATION

~~1999) describes the methods used by the state to achieve federal consistency in nonpoint source pollution reduction programs. Additionally, the State of Idaho has developed the 1999 Guidance for the Development of TMDLs, and its companion draft document, the 1999 Overview of the Implementation of nonpoint source TMDLs. These documents call for cooperation with, and the assistance of, federal agencies. The April 1999 Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Protocol for Addressing Clean Water Act 303(d) Listed Waters outlines the process of how these federal agencies can work with the state to support state TMDL requirements.~~

~~The Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan (1999) describes the process for achieving federal consistency. Federal consistency is obtained by federal agencies notifying DEQ regional offices of planned actions and sends environmental assessments, management plans, and environmental impact statements to solicit state input on a wide range of environmental effects including water quality. Once a contributing source of nonpoint source pollution is identified, the appropriate designated state agency works with the corresponding federal resource agency to develop the necessary adjustments to management plans to minimize pollution and protect and/or restore beneficial uses.~~



IMPLEMENTATION

The ~~Idaho Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Plan (DEQ 1999)~~ serves as the foundation for management of all nonpoint source related activities throughout the state. ~~Because the scale of land management varies widely across Idaho, it is important to address nonpoint source pollution by contributors.~~ Agricultural activities are identified as one of ~~eight~~^{SIX} nonpoint source sectors of water pollution ~~within the Idaho~~ in the state (as mentioned, other sectors include grazing, natural resource extraction, timber/silviculture management, urban/suburban development, and transportation). The NPS Management Plan. Several long and short term goals are identified ~~in~~ describes the Idaho NPS Management Plan in an effort to address State of Idaho's strategy for addressing nonpoint source pollution. ~~These goals included:~~

Figure G-1. Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan Long and Short Term Goals ⁴

Long Term Goal:	Update the Ag Plan for consistency with the Idaho NPS Management Plan. Short Term Goal: Review and revise the Ag Plan and Idaho OnePlan best management practices (BMP) component practices.
Long Term Goal:	Develop and implement a strategy with public land management agencies for consistent implementation of agricultural nonpoint source programs. Short Term Goal: agricultural -Develop state incentive program(s) for installation of BMPs.
Long Term Goal:	As agricultural TMDL/WRAS plans are developed, implement and maintain BMPs on all critical agricultural lands (using the Idaho OnePlan). Short Term Goals: Integrate state and federal programs for BMP implementation. Identify agricultural nonpoint sources of pollution to section 303(d) listed waters and develop watershed plans for treating critical acres.
Long Term Goal:	Maintain and enhance fish habitat within impacted streams on agricultural lands. Short Term Goal: Through Lemhi Model and Clearwater Focus Watersheds, coordinate local interests, agencies, landowners, and Indian tribes to maintain and enhance fish habitat and improve water quality.
Long Term Goal:	Enhance the feedback loop process through design and implementation of BMP effectiveness evaluations and agricultural water quality monitoring. Short Term Goal: Establish and coordinate technical assistance from multiple sources to assist agricultural BMP installation and maintenance.

⁴ -Idaho NPS Management Plan (DEQ 1999) Table 1.3, pages 18-19.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section F: Implementation

These long and short term goals of the Idaho NPS Management Plan serve collaboratively with local, state, and federal partners and serves as the basis for which to achieve the goal of this Idaho Ag Plan. General and specific goals for addressing nonpoint source pollution from agricultural activities are identified in the NPS Plan and include:

General NPS Plan Program Goals

- Continue to build and maintain partnerships. Partnerships are needed to utilize a collaborative approach to addressing issues associated with NPS water pollution.
- Provide continued technical assistance, outreach, and education. Providing these services and tools will help facilitate nonpoint source assessment, planning, and implementation.
- Continue to support ground and surface water monitoring efforts.
- Continue to integrate ground and surface water quality activities within basins and watersheds to improve program efficiencies and provide for better protection and restoration (where needed) of ground and surface water beneficial uses.
- Implement pollutant trading through the on-going policy and requirements addressed in the Water Quality Pollutant Trading Guidance.
- Continue to implement measures to protect drinking water from agricultural the effects of NPS pollution.
- Encourage the use of bioremediation techniques and biofiltration systems in project plans that involve a need for erosion control and stream channel stabilization.
- Implement the Ground Water Quality Rule.
- Provide a minimum of ten WQ-10 success stories by 2020 (EPA National Measure WQ-10, known as the 319 Program Measure, looks at the number of water bodies identified by states as being primarily nonpoint source pollution impaired that are partially or fully restored. These success stories include projects designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution and attain sediment TMDL goals).

Agricultural Activities Goals

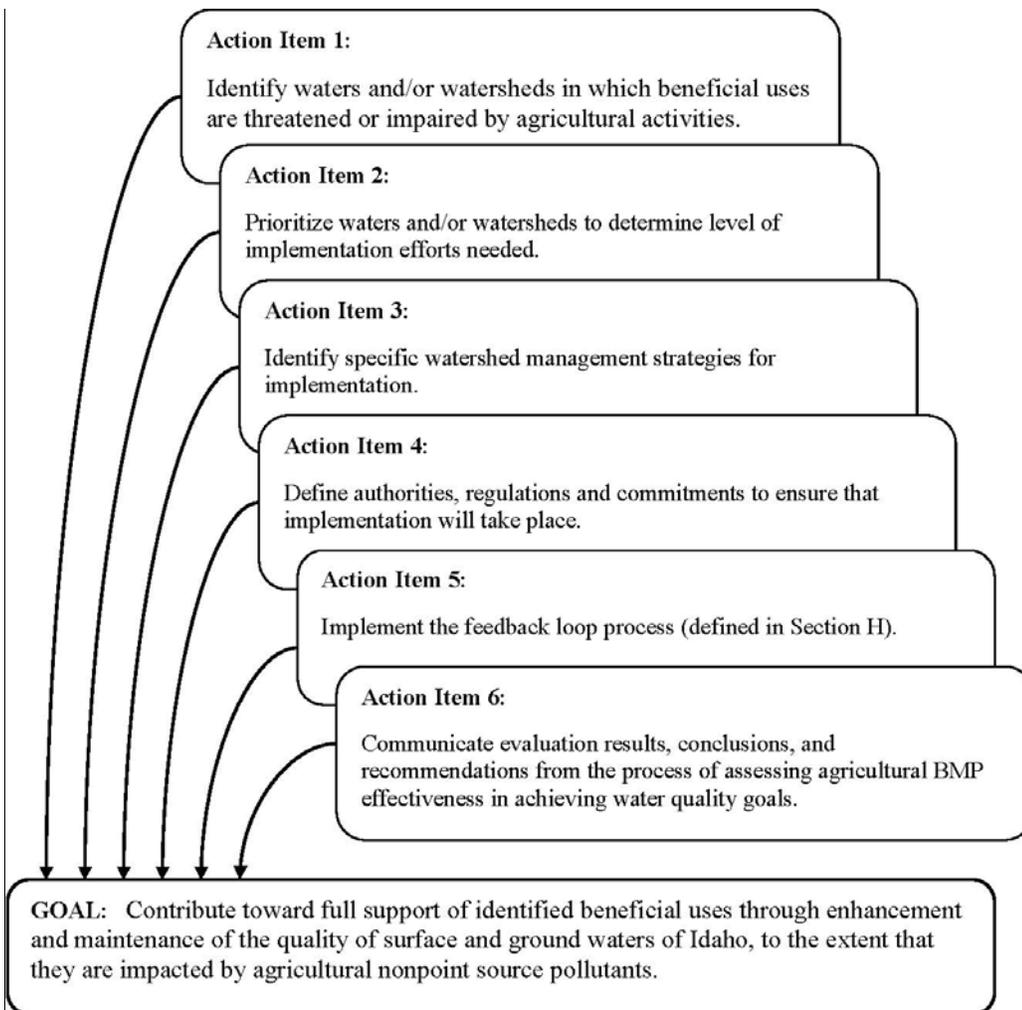
- Update, maintain, and implement the terms of the AG Plan.
- Update and maintain the Idaho OnePlan.
- Update the Field Guide for Evaluating BMP Effectiveness (updated in 2014).
- Maintain and improve fish habitat within impacted streams on agricultural lands.
- Complete TMDL implementation plans (watershed management plans) and conservation accomplishment components of 5-year reviews.
- Encourage farm planning and BMP implementation.
- Encourage and implement, when possible, the use of grazing control methods such as fencing, developing riparian buffer zones, implementing grazing systems, providing alternative water sources and supplemental feed, and providing alternative shade sources to limit livestock impacts to streams.
- Restore riparian functions affected by past hydrological modification through BMPs.
- Develop and implement other initiatives to address channel modification, irrigation practices, and flow issues.

The stated goal of the Ag Plan is: Contribute toward full support of identified beneficial uses through enhancement and maintenance of the quality of surface and ground waters of Idaho, to the extent that

they are impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants. In order to achieve this goal, an implementation strategy that includes pollution prevention tactics and programs for all identified nonpoint source pollutants from agricultural nonpoint sources activities must be developed, executed, evaluated, maintained and improved as water quality laws and circumstances change—, and as funds become available.

The Ag Plan implementation strategy builds on the Idaho NPS Management Plan goals and includes several action items ~~displayed in the following figure and~~ discussed on the following pages.

~~Figure G-2. Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan Implementation Strategy~~



Action Item 1: Identify waters and/or watersheds threatened or impaired by agricultural activities.

Land managers and natural resource specialists will continue to evaluate existing information from monitoring and watershed inventories, and collect information as needed. Waters and/or watersheds threatened or impaired by agricultural nonpoint source pollution are identified using these ongoing evaluations.

Action Item 2: Prioritize waters and/or watersheds to determine the level of implementation efforts needed, including pollution prevention tactics and programs.

Currently, priorities for implementing agricultural BMPs are established through the Idaho ~~Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)~~ schedule; ground water ~~nitrate priority areas~~ Nitrate Priority Areas; Drinking Water Protection Plans; Agricultural Ground Water Protection Program for Idaho; ~~Soil Conservation District (SCD)~~ five year plans; impacted habitat areas related to aquatic species listed under the Endangered Species Act; NRCS water quality priorities, and other local water quality and habitat protection priorities.

Action Item 3: Identify specific watershed management strategies for implementation.

Specific water quality or watershed management strategies are identified by initiating communication and planning at the local level with ~~SCDs~~ Districts, Watershed Advisory Groups, and technical agencies, with overall guidance and support from the designated state or federal agencies. Landowners, operators and agency representatives should define and verify water quality priorities, identify appropriate BMPs and component practices needed for effective treatment, and proceed with protective or restorative land treatment through the voluntary implementation of BMPs. BMP implementation strategies should also define the implementation schedule and project anticipated time frames necessary to meet water quality goals.

Action Item 4: Define authorities, regulations and commitments to ensure that implementation will take place.

Authorities, regulations, permits, contracts, commitments, and other evidence sufficient to ensure that implementation will take place should be defined. Technical and financial resources at the local, state and federal levels will be coordinated.

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission is the state agency organized to provide guidance and program implementation for private and state agricultural land use activities with respect to water quality. Numerous units of state and federal government also have authorities, roles and responsibilities that play a part in the control and management of nonpoint source pollution, originating from agricultural activities, of surface and ground waters of Idaho (see Section B). Implementation of the Ag Plan is accomplished through a variety of programs which provide:

- a) ~~a)~~ Technical assistance to identify problems, design solutions, and evaluate practice effectiveness;
- b) ~~b)~~ Information and education to raise awareness of agricultural pollution problems and solutions available; and
- c) ~~c)~~ Financial resources as they become available and tax incentives to assist with the cost

of BMP installation.

Planning water quality improvement projects requires integrating water quality objectives, resource needs, operator needs, and capabilities among many ownerships and available programs.

The implementation of Idaho's Ag Plan will involve coordination and cooperation among appropriate agencies and entities to ensure its use on all federal, state, and private agricultural lands in the state. Programs ~~currently that may be~~ available to assist landowners and operators with technical assistance and ~~installing the voluntary installation of~~ BMPs include:

- ~~Water Quality Agricultural Conservation Easement Program for Agriculture (WQPA)~~
- [Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Program](#)
- Conservation Operations Program
- [Conservation Reserve Program](#)
- [Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-up](#)
- ~~Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)~~
- ~~Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)~~
- ~~Small Watershed and Flood Prevention Program (PL-566)~~
- Cooperative River Basin Studies Program (CRBS)
- [Emergency Watershed Protection Program \(EWP\)](#)
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#)
- [Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program](#)
- ~~Rural Clean Water Program (RCWP)~~
- Food Security Act of 1985 (FSA)
- Food, Agricultural, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (FACTA)
- ~~Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program Grants~~
- ~~Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP), loans and grants~~
- Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative
- Natural Resource Conservation Credit
- [Resource Conservation and Development \(RC&D\)](#)
- ~~Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP) loans~~
- [Rural Clean Water Program \(RCWP\)](#)
- ~~Environmental Quality Incentives Program~~
- ~~Rural Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)~~
- ~~CWA §319 Nonpoint Source Management Program Grants~~
- Soil ~~&and~~ Water Conservation Assistance Program
- ~~Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program~~
- ~~Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Program~~
- ~~Conservation Reserve Program~~
- ~~Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-up~~
- ~~Source Water Protection Program~~
- [State Revolving Fund](#)
- Wetland Reserve Program
- ~~Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program~~
- ~~Habitat Improvement Program~~

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section F: Implementation

|

- ~~State Revolving Fund~~

Action Item 5: Implement the feedback loop process.

The feedback loop process should be implemented as an imperative step for program effectiveness appraisal. The feedback loop describes a process of nonpoint source pollution management based on the implementation and evaluation of BMPs (see Section F.G). Evaluating the results of the feedback loop process should direct BMP implementation adjustments and follow-up monitoring requirements.

Action Item 6: Communicate evaluation results, conclusions, and recommendations from the process of assessing agricultural BMP effectiveness in achieving water quality goals.

Through the feedback loop review, the effectiveness of the BMP, as well as the BMP's ability to assist in achieving water quality goals, is evaluated. Results of agricultural nonpoint source pollution abatement and its effect on water quality improvement should be communicated and made available for review so program adjustments and recommendations can continue to be implemented.

IDAHO

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan

2015

Section G:
Monitoring and Evaluation



BMP MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Introduction

An important part of the ~~Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan~~ (Ag Plan) is the evaluation of ~~applied best management practices (BMPs)~~. Water pollution reductions and beneficial use improvements achieved through application of BMPs are ~~detected~~recognized through monitoring and evaluation. When water quality goals are not achieved, monitoring and evaluation are used to determine the need for new or modified BMPs.

Agricultural nonpoint source pollution control in Idaho has been carried out to a great extent through voluntary actions, state and federal incentive programs, and regulatory programs. Therefore, the review of monitoring and evaluation procedures within these programs is essential for determining overall effectiveness of BMPs in controlling agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

The Feedback Loop Process

~~The Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements⁶³ were revised in 1987 to address the feedback loop concept. The feedback loop concept is a mechanism for nonpoint source pollution management based on the implementation and evaluation of BMPs. The premise of the feedback loop process is that nonpoint source pollution abatement, and ultimately water quality improvements and maintenance, are achieved through BMP installation, evaluation, and modification. An integrated system of BMPs are approved by state process (see Section E, Best Management Practices), implemented on a site-specific basis, evaluated through monitoring and modified as needed to achieve water quality standards. Implementing the feedback loop process to modify BMPs until water quality standards are met results in compliance with the standards.~~

~~The feedback loop process is designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution through the development, installation, evaluation, and refinement of BMPs.⁶⁴ This process first originated in the Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements.⁶⁵ An important component in evaluation strategies, which precedes the feedback loop process, is determining whether the designated beneficial uses are appropriate. The process mainly applies to surface waters as drinking water is a beneficial use of all ground water in Idaho. Appropriateness of designated beneficial uses is evaluated on a case-specific basis in accordance with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) guidelines. The feedback loop ~~occurs in process~~ consists of four steps (presented graphically in Figure ~~HG-1~~):~~

Step 1. The process begins by ~~reviewing~~determining whether the designated beneficial uses are appropriate. The current designated beneficial use status of identified water resources is then reviewed.

Step 2. The existing water quality is compared to the water quality criterion established in Step 1. This comparison is the basis for developing or modifying BMPs.

⁶³ ~~IDAPA 58.01.02 – Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements. Modification of BMPs, — Section 16.01.02350,02.c.iii.~~

⁶⁴ ~~As per the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan, Protecting Ground Water Quality In Idaho. December 1996 (page 77). Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Water Resources, and Department of Agriculture.~~

⁶⁵ ~~IDAPA 58.01.02 – Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements. Modification of BMPs, §16.01.02350,02.c.iii.~~

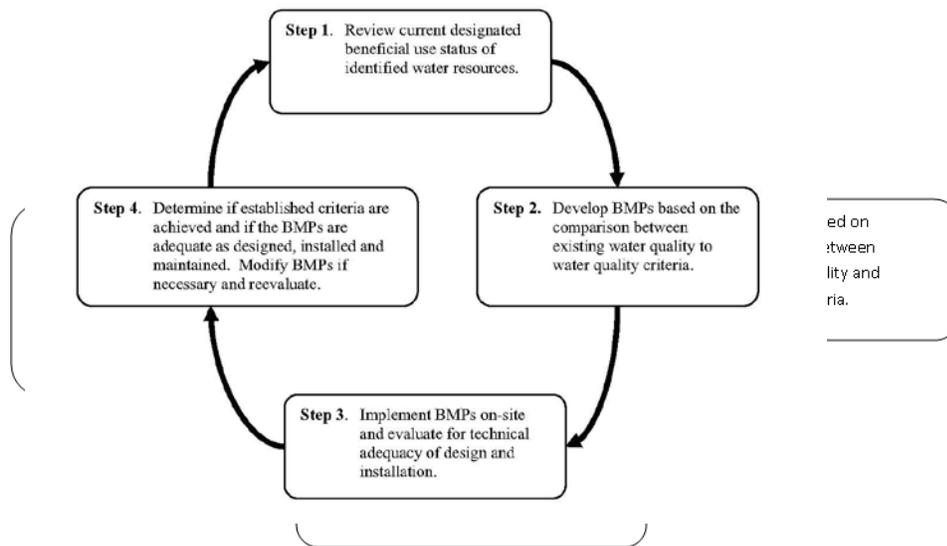
2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section G: BMP Monitoring and Evaluation

Step 3. The BMP is implemented on-site and evaluated for technical adequacy of design and installation.

Step 4. The effectiveness of the BMP in achieving the criteria established in Step 1 is evaluated by comparison to water quality monitoring data. If the established criteria are achieved, the BMP is adequate as designed, installed, and maintained. If not, the BMP is modified and the process of the feedback loop continues.

The premise of the feedback loop is that nonpoint source pollution control, and ultimately water quality improvements and maintenance, are achieved through BMP installation, evaluation and modification. An integrated system of BMPs are approved by state process (see Section F, Best Management Practices), implemented on a site-specific basis, evaluated through monitoring and modified as needed to achieve water quality standards. Implementing the feedback loop to modify BMPs until water quality standards are met results in compliance with the standards.

Figure HG-1. Feedback Loop Process



Monitoring Approach

BMP Effectiveness Monitoring

The BMP effectiveness review process includes evaluation of installation adequacy of component practices, progress in application of the BMP (resource management systems), and protection of the quality of the water resource. The process involves the entities with appropriate technical capabilities (i.e. Conservation Commission, ISDA, and DEQ) as well as the participating landowner. BMP effectiveness should be an integral component of every monitoring plan and follow these basic steps:

- Categorize appropriate local water quality concerns into measurable monitoring objectives;
- Select parameters that can be used to address each objective;
- Design an appropriate monitoring strategy, describe the rationale for that strategy and the intended and appropriate uses of the data;
- Describe the resources required to do the monitoring; and
- Assign responsibilities for all facets of the monitoring, from sample collection through data assessment and evaluation, to writing the final report.

A comprehensive evaluation of BMP effectiveness requires the integration of three types of monitoring:

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section G: BMP Monitoring and Evaluation

- On-site evaluation of practice design and adequacy;
- Pollutant source and transport monitoring; and
- Instream and ground water beneficial use assessment monitoring.

On-site implementation evaluations are used to determine whether component practices are designed and installed according to project plans and in compliance with appropriate practice standards and whether they are being adequately maintained. The practice's relationship to other component practices is also evaluated in order to help determine if a complete resource management system has been achieved.

Pollutant source and transport monitoring assists in determining movement and delivery of nonpoint source pollution to receiving streams and aquifers. This can be done by sample collection and analysis, modeling, or a combination of the two methods.

Instream and ground water beneficial use assessment monitoring include surface water monitoring, groundwater monitoring, and drinking water monitoring.

Due to the diversity of the monitoring objectives and the plan composition, monitoring intensity will vary between projects. Monitoring intensity can be categorized into the following three levels:

Level I - administrative level: This includes project administration and information gathering activities. Project reviews, financial audits, Level I riparian assessments and ground water vulnerability maps fall into this level.

Level II - field reconnaissance and inventory level: This includes qualitative assessment, expert judgment, and quantitative evaluation to the extent possible. Inventories conducted in the field and visual estimates are means by which information may be gathered. An example of BMP effectiveness monitoring at this level is the process established by Conservation Commission which utilizes on-site evaluation, measurement, and documentation outlined in the Idaho Agricultural Best Management Practices, Field Guide for Evaluating BMP Effectiveness (revised April 2013). BMP implementation reviews and status reports are examples of qualitative monitoring activities.

Level III - intensive level: This is comprised of quantitative assessment techniques. Measurements of hydrology, streambank stability, fish population estimates, water chemistry analysis and vegetation community measurements are examples of pollutant source and transport monitoring and in-stream beneficial use assessment monitoring.

Surface Water Monitoring

The beneficial uses of water in Idaho are defined as any of the various uses of water including, but not limited to, aquatic biota, recreation, water supply, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics. The four beneficial use categories include 1) aquatic life support, 2) contact recreation, 3) water supply and 4) other (including wildlife habitat, aesthetics and special resource waters).

Since 1993, the State's Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) has been used to determine the status of these beneficial uses and to establish existing uses. The purpose of BURP is to collect and measure key water quality variables that aid DEQ in determining the beneficial use support status of Idaho's water bodies. The determination will tell if a water body is in compliance with water quality

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section G: BMP Monitoring and Evaluation

~~standards and criteria and if the water is meeting reference conditions. Reference conditions are those that fully support applicable beneficial uses with little affect from human activity and represent the highest level of support attainable, by major hydrologic regions or hydrologic unit codes.~~

Beneficial uses are the desired uses that water bodies should support. Beneficial uses include water supply (domestic, agricultural, and industrial); recreation (such as swimming, boating, and fishing); and aquatic life. Each beneficial use has a unique set of water quality requirements or criteria that must be met for the use to be supported. Most water bodies have multiple beneficial uses. A water body is considered impaired when it does not meet the water quality criteria needed to support one or more of its beneficial uses.

DEQ determines whether a water body fully supports its beneficial uses by evaluating whether the applicable water quality standards and criteria are being achieved and whether a healthy, balanced biological community is present. DEQ's Water Body Assessment Guidance describes a process that uses biological and aquatic habitat parameters, as well as traditional water quality data, to assist in assessing beneficial use status.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section G: BMP Monitoring and Evaluation

Currently, DEQ recognizes three categories of beneficial use support status: fully supporting, not fully supporting, and not assessed. "Fully supporting" means that the water body is in compliance with water quality standards and criteria, and meeting the reference conditions for all designated and existing beneficial uses. "Not fully supporting" refers to a water body that is not in compliance with water quality standards or criteria, or not meeting reference conditions for each beneficial use. The "not assessed" category describes water bodies that have been monitored to some extent, but are missing critical information needed to complete an assessment. "Not assessed" can also mean that DEQ has not ~~visited~~~~monitored nor assessed~~ the water body ~~and has no information on it.~~

BMP effectiveness evaluations are conducted by the ~~Idaho Soil~~ Conservation Commission (~~SCC~~) at the field level to determine adequacy of installation of selected BMPs, consistency of operation maintenance, and relative effectiveness in reducing water quality impacts. Supporting documentation of water quality effects of applied BMPs ~~is~~~~was~~ provided through the Agricultural ~~Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)~~ Implementation Monitoring Program. ~~This~~~~The~~ program ~~is~~~~was~~ ~~enabled through a memorandum of understanding, and was~~ coordinated by ~~Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)~~, in conjunction with ~~SCC and Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Commission and~~ Districts, to supply water quality data for identification of agricultural pollution sources, support BMP effectiveness evaluations, and assist in implementing agricultural components of TMDLs. ~~The monitoring program does not currently exist as the memorandum of understanding was eliminated in 2008.~~

Ground Water Monitoring

Several state agencies currently perform ground water quality monitoring. ~~Idaho Department of Water Resources~~~~DWR~~ conducts the statewide ambient ground water monitoring; ISDA conducts agricultural related regional, local, dairy, enforcement, and BMP effectiveness monitoring; and DEQ conducts regional and local monitoring. Other agencies such as ~~the~~ US Geological Survey also conduct regional and local monitoring. These agencies work together to combine data for review and use by the DEQ lead Ground Water Monitoring Technical Committee. These efforts address objectives within a variety of programs including the Idaho Ground Water Quality Plan (~~1994~~~~1996~~), Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996), ISDA's Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act cooperative agreement with ~~US Environmental Protection Agency, Idaho's Nonpoint Source Management~~~~EPA, the NPS~~ Plan (~~1999~~), and the Ag Plan.

DEQ issued a policy memorandum on March 1, 2000 to address degraded ground water quality areas (Policy No: PM00-4). The purpose of this policy is to set forth a process to identify, designate, and delineate areas where ground water quality is significantly degraded as defined by rule; prioritize the significantly degraded areas; with the use of local input, develop ground water quality management strategies for improving ground water quality in high priority areas based on current categorization and applicable standards; periodically review the effectiveness of the area-specific ground water quality management strategies; pursue re-categorization of high priority ground water areas when management strategies are ineffective and additional protection to improve or maintain water quality standards or preserve beneficial uses is necessary; and remove high priority designation when management strategies have proven to be protective of aquifer water quality and beneficial uses.

DEQ may initiate an evaluation at any time to determine whether ground water quality trends identify an area as being significantly degraded or having impaired beneficial uses. ~~Areas will be screened for selection if they are deemed to have significant degradation as set forth in the Ground Water Quality Rule; IDAPA 16.01.11.400.02.b.~~ Water quality data used to identify degraded areas involves samples that are representative of the aquifer in question and/or representative of the impacted beneficial use. The DEQ recognizes that improvements to ground water quality from the effective implementation of

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section G: BMP Monitoring and Evaluation

BMPs ~~and best practical methods~~, or other corrective and preventive measures, could involve significant time frames.

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section G: BMP Monitoring and Evaluation

The DEQ, the local ground water quality advisory committee, other agencies, and the public will periodically review the ~~strategy~~ implementation strategy and progress toward preventing further contamination of degraded areas. If corrective and preventive measures are being pursued without adequate improvements to ground water quality or other indicators of success, then the DEQ will work with the appropriate entities to refine the existing strategy. If ground water quality objectives are not being met due to inadequate implementation of BMPs, best practical methods, or other corrective or preventive measures, then regulatory actions as authorized by law may be pursued. ~~In instances where management strategies consistent with the current categorization are determined to be ineffective and additional protective measures are necessary to maintain or improve water quality or prevent impairment of a beneficial use, re-categorization of the aquifer or portions of the aquifer to Sensitive Resource Aquifer may be pursued.~~

Drinking Water Monitoring

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments require states to assess the water (called source water) from which public water systems draw to provide drinking water. Once completed, the source water assessments provide information on potential contaminant threats to public drinking water systems. The Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan⁶⁶ was developed in response to requirements set forth by the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments passed by Congress in 1996. The Idaho DEQ, in conjunction with its public advisory committee, has developed the Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan to describe the major components of, and the procedures for, conducting source water assessments. The Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan provides a structure for planning and achieving consistent, rational assessments, while promoting public involvement.

⁶⁶ Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan, October 1999. State of Idaho DEQ-Ground Water Program.

IDAHO

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan BMP Effectiveness Monitoring

2015

Section H:
Plan Development



Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section I: ~~PLAN DEVELOPMENT~~ **G: IMPLEMENTATION**

- ~~A comprehensive evaluation of BMP effectiveness requires the integration of three types of monitoring: on-site evaluation of practice design and adequacy; pollutant source and transport monitoring; and instream beneficial use assessment monitoring.~~

~~On site implementation evaluations are used to determine whether component practices are designed and installed according to project plans and in compliance with appropriate practice standards and whether they are being adequately maintained. The practice's relationship to other component practices is also evaluated in order to help determine if a complete resource management system has been achieved.~~

~~Pollutant source and transport monitoring assists in determining movement and delivery of nonpoint source pollution to receiving streams. This can be done by sample collection and analysis, modeling, or a combination of the two methods. Instream beneficial use assessment is discussed above in surface water monitoring.~~

~~The BMP effectiveness review process includes evaluation of installation adequacy of component practices, progress in application of the BMP (resource management systems), and protection of the quality of the water resource. The process involves the entities with appropriate technical capabilities (i.e. SCC, ISDA, DEQ) as well as the participating landowner. BMP effectiveness should be an integral component of every monitoring plan and follow these basic steps:~~

- ~~Categorize appropriate local water quality concerns into measurable monitoring objectives;~~
- ~~Select parameters that can be used to address each objective;~~
- ~~Design an appropriate monitoring strategy, describe the rationale for that strategy and the intended and appropriate uses of the data;~~
- ~~Describe the resources required to do the monitoring;~~
- ~~Assign responsibilities for all facets of the monitoring, from sample collection through data assessment and evaluation, to writing the final report.~~

~~Due to the diversity of the monitoring objectives and the plan composition, monitoring intensity will vary between projects. Monitoring intensity can be categorized into the following three levels:~~

~~Level I— administrative level: This includes project administration and information gathering activities. Project reviews, financial audits, Level I riparian assessments and ground water vulnerability maps fall into this level.~~

~~Level II— field reconnaissance and inventory level: This includes qualitative assessment, expert judgment, and quantitative evaluation to the extent possible. Inventories conducted in the field and visual estimates are means by which information may be gathered. An example of BMP effectiveness monitoring at this level is the process established by SCC which utilizes on site evaluation, measurement, and documentation (Appendix B). BMP implementation reviews and status reports are examples of qualitative monitoring activities.~~

~~Level III— intensive level: This is comprised of quantitative assessment techniques. Measurements of hydrology, streambank stability, fish population estimates, water chemistry analysis and vegetation community measurements are examples of quantitative monitoring techniques.~~

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The original ~~Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan~~ (Ag Plan) was certified in 1979 by Governor John Evans. The Ag Plan was Idaho’s response to ~~Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act (PL 92-500)CWA §208~~ and represented the agricultural portion of the State Water Quality Management Plan. The previous Ag Plan versions detailed how agricultural nonpoint source pollution was to be managed. The Plan was revised in 1983 ~~and again in~~, 1991 (published in 1993) ~~), and 2003.~~

~~This version of the~~

~~The~~ Ag Plan builds on the foundation laid specifically by the ~~Idaho Nonpoint Source ManagementNPS Plan (DEQ 1999)~~ which ~~sets~~ goals and provides guidance for the management of all nonpoint source related activities throughout the state. The Ag Plan is the implementing action plan for all nonpoint source agricultural sector activities in the state.

~~This version of the Ag Plan was developed with an US Environmental Protection Agency An EPA grant to the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (SCC) through the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality-DEQ is the mechanism which allowed this version of the plan to be developed.~~ Working from ~~2001~~2014 through ~~2002, SCC~~2015, the ~~Conservation Commission~~ hired a contractor ~~with general funds through the state legislature~~ to revise the plan and incorporate the most recent changes in state and federal water quality laws.

~~This latest revision of the~~

~~The~~ Ag Plan was undertaken with the guidance of ~~a Technical~~an Advisory Committee (~~Table I-1~~) consisting of ~~ten~~ members representing state and federal agencies with water quality responsibilities.

Table I-1. Technical Advisory Committee

Member	Agency or Entity Represented
Kent Foster	Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Todd Maguire	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Phil Bandy	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Mike Thomas	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Biff Burleigh	Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
Tony Bennett	Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
David Ferguson	Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
Gary Bahr	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Tom Coates	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Lee Brooks	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

~~An Agricultural Water Quality Advisory Committee (Table I 2) consisting of eight members representing conservation, , and industry and commodity groups reviewed and provided input to this revision. After review and comments from the Agricultural Water Quality Advisory Committee, the plan was presented again to the Technical Advisory Committee for final review and edits. A joint meeting between the two committees was then held to review and edit a final draft.~~

Table H-1. 2015 Ag Plan Advisory Committee

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section H: Plan Development

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Association</u>
<u>Art Beal</u>	<u>Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts</u>
<u>Britany Hurst</u>	<u>Idaho Cattle Association</u>
<u>Bob Naerebout</u>	<u>Idaho Dairymen's Association</u>
<u>Kathryn Elliott</u>	<u>Idaho Department of Environmental Quality</u>
<u>Neeley Miller</u>	<u>Idaho Department of Water Resources</u>
<u>Dennis Tanikuni</u>	<u>Idaho Farm Bureau Federation</u>
<u>Rick Waitley</u>	<u>Idaho Food Producers</u>
<u>Cathy Wilson</u>	<u>Idaho Wheat Commission and Idaho Grain Producers Association</u>
<u>Patrick Kole</u>	<u>Idaho Potato Commission</u>
<u>Teri Murrison</u>	<u>Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission</u>
<u>Delwyne Trefz</u>	<u>Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission</u>
<u>Gary Bahr</u>	<u>Idaho State Department of Agriculture</u>
<u>John Bilderback</u>	<u>Idaho State Department of Agriculture</u>
<u>Mark Duffin</u>	<u>Idaho Sugarbeet Growers Association</u>
<u>Lynn Tominaga</u>	<u>Idaho Water Policy Group, Inc.</u>
<u>Norm Semanko</u>	<u>Idaho Water Users Association, Inc.</u>
<u>Cally Younger</u>	<u>Office of Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter</u>
<u>Ronda Hirnyck</u>	<u>University of Idaho Extension</u>
<u>Mario De Haro Marti</u>	<u>University of Idaho Extension</u>
<u>Dee Carlson</u>	<u>USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service</u>

2015 Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
Section H: Plan Development

The Ag Plan is intended to be a dynamic guidance document, with periodic updates provided as needed. ~~Agricultural Nonpoint Source Water Quality Priorities (Section C) will~~ Sections may need to be updated on a regular basis as new information is accumulated ~~and problems are solved.~~ Development, review, and modification of BMP component practices, as an ongoing process through the Ag Plan, will provide a continual update of the Catalog of Component Practices.

~~Table I-2. Agricultural Water Quality Advisory Committee~~

Member	Agency or Entity Represented
Kent Foster	Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Lloyd Knight	Idaho Cattle Association
Lewis Eilers	Idaho Dairymen's Association
Dennis Tanikuni	Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Steve Johnson	Idaho Grain Producers Association
Lynn Tominaga	Idaho Water Policy Group
Norm Semanko	Idaho Water Users Association, Inc.
Gayle Batt	Idaho Water Users Association, Inc.

Water quality laws, policies and programs are constantly changing to meet resource and society needs. The Ag Plan will be reviewed periodically (regular intervals anticipated) and amended as necessary to ensure consistency and compatibility with state water quality programs and plans, state and federal legislation and local needs. The ~~SCC~~Conservation Commission will be responsible for initiating and coordinating this review. When substantial revision is warranted the ~~Agricultural Water Quality Advisory Committee and Technical~~ Advisory Committee will be convened to provide guidance.



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

COMMISSION

H. Norman Wright
Chairman

Roger Stutzman
Vice Chairman

Jerry Trebesch
Secretary

Dave Radford
Commissioner

Leon Slichter
Commissioner

Teri A. Murrison
Administrator

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR IN FY 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)	RCPD 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		
		CA	TA	ENG	GEORGE		ALLAN
					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.

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.

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs

Worksheet Budget Request

District: THE WOOD RIVER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Address: 217 WEST F STREET

Phone: 208-886-2258 EXT 100

E-mail: WRSWCD@GMAIL.COM

Contact: BARBARA MESSICK / CARL PENDLETON - CHAIRMAN

DATE: 1-1 -2015

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title:	
Trees Against the Wind Project on Highway 75	
<p><i>Description of Project/Program: The WRSWCD is proposing a ½ mile single row windbreak on highway 75. The District will be working with landowner Mark Kerner to prepare the site and drip system for the project. The District will organize a tree planting day with student and a celebration of Arbor Day with the City of Shoshone and Lincoln County. The project has multiple benefits to the adjacent lands. Primarily the trees will provide Aesthetic screening of the corrals reducing noise and traffic impacts to livestock. It will also increase energy efficiency to the livestock by providing shade for summer and snow drifts in the winter.</i></p>	
<p><i>Project/Program Timeline: Spring of 2015 - 2016</i></p>	<p><i>Priority: 1</i></p>
<p><i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil Erosion, Air Quality, Wildlife Habitat Enhancement, Energy Savings, Snow fence decrease drifting snow, Esthetic Value for community of Shoshone and travel's on highway 75 , Living Screen for Dairy, Livestock Enhancement.</i></p>	
<p><i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i></p>	
<p><i>Federal:</i></p>	<p><i>\$0</i></p>
<p><i>State:</i></p>	<p><i>\$0</i></p>
<p><i>District: Supervisors time and Admin time</i></p>	<p><i>1200.00</i></p>
<p><i>Other: Lincoln County and Northwest Farm</i></p>	<p><i>500.00</i></p>
<p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>Credit Service,</i></p>	<p><i>1000.00</i></p>
<p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>Student's time</i></p>	<p><i>1200.00</i></p>
<p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>Boot Jack Dairy</i></p>	<p><i>3200.00</i></p>
<p><i>Notes:</i></p> <p><i>Much of the project will be funded by the landowner and the other portion is from the District time applying for grants , City and County and setting up students and community involvement. The District needs roughly \$3000.00 more to complete the project.</i></p>	
<p>TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:</p>	<p>\$3000.00</p>

Project/Program Title: SOIL HEALTH NUTRIENT TOOL PROJECT	
Description of Project/Program: The project would be involvement of 20 landowners in Lincoln county, which have already expressed interest in correlating soil health test to standard soil tests. The District would go out and samples from one field and compare data with their standard soil samples already taken. The objective is to gain an understanding of the science behind the soil health nutrient tool, discuss various roles that each can do to make their soil healthier. Improve Soil Health by enhancing and understanding, Identify impact of cover crops and different mixes; evaluated different soil management systems, Develop a national data base.	
Project/Program Timeline: 3 years project taking samples	Priority: 2
Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil Erosion, Soil Health, Irrigation water management, Air Quality	
Funding Sources (list all sources):	
Federal:	\$1100.00
State:	\$0
District: Administrative time	\$500.00
Landowners': standard testing	\$600.00
Other: Soil Health Test 20 @ \$50.00	\$1000.00
Mailing to Nebraska	\$100.00
Notes:	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$1100.00

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

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Weiser River Soil Conservation District
Contact: Vicki Lukehart

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: Crane Creek/Mill Creek Head Gate Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program: This project is to regulate the amount of wasted water to better manage for farming, ranching and water shortage years. We have implemented several in Washington County and have had a very positive reduction in wasted water, thus allowing us to extend our watering cycle an additional month in a drought year.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> 2016-2019	<i>Priority:</i> 1
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Water and Soil Quality as well as load reductions into the Snake River TMDL and the Weiser River TMDL listed streams.	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State: 319 Grant</i>	\$75,000
<i>District: Weiser River SCD board/volunteer</i>	\$18,000
<i>Other: Landowner & Irrigation District</i>	\$20,000
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$113,000

Project/Program Title: City of Weiser Inlet Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Over the past 20 years there has been a noticeable amount of rock and sand that has created a bar leading into the inlet drinking water for the City of Weiser. The stream bank needs stabilization to curtail the "cutting" of stream bank that is eroding and creating this sand bar.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> 2016-2020	<i>Priority:</i> 2
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Water Quality and Stream-bank erosion producing large load amounts to the City drinking water.	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State: 319 Grant</i>	\$250,000
<i>District: Weiser River SCD Board/volunteers</i>	\$30,000
<i>Other: City of Weiser</i>	\$125,000
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$405,000

Project/Program Title: Weiser River TMDL Restoration Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program: The Weiser River has miles of farmland along the banks that need to be stabilized and sediment basins installed to reduce the sediment load downstream.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 2017-2021</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality, Sediment and Nutrient reductions.</i>	
<i>Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal: NRCS</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>State: 319 Grant</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>
<i>District: Board Member/Volunteer</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>
<i>Other: Landowners, City of Weiser & Irr. Dist.</i>	<i>\$125,000</i>
<i>Notes: This project would probably need several phases to complete as well as partnership with NRCS, ISWCC, IDEQ and the Weiser River SCD.</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$405,000

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY2017 Budget Request

District: Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

Address: PO Box 580 Cascade, ID 83611

Phone: (208) 382-3317

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

Contact: Kay Coski, District Manager

DATE: May 20, 2015

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: North Fork Payette River Watershed BMP Water Quality Improvement Projects

1. ***Description of Project/Program:*** The North Fork Payette River is the highest load contributor of phosphorus, comprising 46% of the inflow, into Cascade Reservoir. Therefore, the Valley SWCD is seeking funding sources to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help meet TMDL goals and implement Valley SWCD 5 Year and Annual Plan goals and objectives. This watershed wide project engages a diverse group of stakeholders, volunteers and partners in restoration projects to ultimately decrease sediment, nutrients, bacteria and heat loading to North Fork Payette River Watershed. State cost share funds would be used to leverage in-kind funding, USDA-Farm Bill Program cost share funds and additional grants, e.g. such as 319 and a Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions Grant.

Our project planning shows that the Valley SWCD can hit the ground running. Here is a summary of proposed Watershed Wide Projects:

- (1) **Boulder Creek Subwatershed:** *Ten landowners* have expressed interest to *stabilize over 1½ miles of streambank*, reducing sediment input to the North Fork Payette River and Boulder/Willow Creek Subwatershed to help meet sediment reduction goals. Continuing the riparian restoration approach, projects include a combination of bioengineering techniques, which incorporate in-channel improvements through the installation of tree revetments and root wads and riparian plantings. Based on the Cascade TMDL Five Year Review this watershed is static in terms of nutrient loading to the Lake Cascade from the initial TMDL, which has spurred Valley SWCD's to work with additional Boulder Creek landowners.
- (2) **Gold Fork (River) Subwatershed:** Currently 2 landowners are interested in stabilizing *1100 ft. of unstable streambank* that includes a *combination of bioengineering improvement treatments*. Gold Fork has a high level of total phosphorus associated with sediment and thus these water quality improvements would meet both the Cascade Tributary TMDL sediment load reduction for the Gold Fork watershed and also the nutrient TMDL load reductions for Cascade Reservoir.
- (3) **Big Creek Subwatershed:** Continue bioengineering of tree revetments and root wads along the remaining *300 ft. of streambank restoration improvements* begun with Valley SWCD 319 cost share funds.

Estimated Annual Load Reductions - Based on direct volume calculations by Darcy Sharp, DEQ for the above three Subwatershed bioengineering projects proposed:

1. **Boulder Creek:** 498 tons sediment, 797 lbs. phosphorus; 1591 lbs. nitrogen
2. **Gold Fork:** 212 tons sediment; 339 lbs. phosphorus; 677 lbs. nitrogen
3. **Big Creek:** 35 tons sediment; 60 lbs. phosphorus; 122 lbs. nitrogen

In addition the area above Lake Cascade (Cascade Reservoir), *irrigation improvement practices, grazing management, livestock off site watering and stream restoration projects* are also projects that will incorporate BMPs identified in the respective TMDL Implementation Plans. A majority of the BMPs will focus on riparian stream bank and shoreline bioengineering improvements. Landowner conservation management plans, irrigation practice improvements, hill slope re-vegetation, off-site watering, and sediment ponds would also be part of the effort *in order to obtain as much load reduction as possible while leveraging additional funds and involving as many different stakeholders as possible.*

This watershed wide project proposal covers several different Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) load reduction efforts, including the Cascade Reservoir Phase II Management Plan, Cascade Reservoir Tributary TMDL and North Fork Payette River TMDL.

This watershed wide project addresses the Valley SWCD 5 Year and Annual Plan top priority and continues incentive efforts started in 1993 to improve Lake Cascade water quality by integrating watershed stewardship and education by incorporating a unique group of participants and volunteers. The Valley SWCD is partnering with the Idaho Fish and Game volunteer crew, University of Idaho MOSS program, Idaho Master Naturalists, the Payette Children's Forest program, Trout Unlimited, Donnelly Elementary School 5th grade class, Positive Outdoor Teen Service (POTS), Cascade High School, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and landowners.

<i>Project/Program Timeline: 2016-18</i>		<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>		
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>		
<i>Federal:</i>		\$0
<i>State:</i>		\$0
<i>District:</i>		\$0
<i>Other:</i>		\$0
<i>Notes:</i>		
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:		\$70,000

Project/Program Title: Lake Irrigation District Pipeline	
<p>Description of Project/Program: Lake Irrigation District (LID) is located in the northwest portion of Valley County in west central Idaho. The LID system originally put into operation in 1927, delivers irrigation water to approximately 7,000 acres of cropland, pasture and hay land through approximately 36 miles of main canal, pipeline and diversions. In addition, water rights for irrigation water includes delivery to over 1000 subdivision acres. Several resource problems have been identified including high delivery water losses, poor irrigation efficiencies, and sediment and water quality issues. Both Lake Fork Creek and Mud Creek flow through the LID and are tributaries of Lake Cascade (Cascade Reservoir). Mud Creek is significantly impacted by irrigation and land use practices within its drainage area.</p> <p>LID is in the planning stages of replacing several miles of open earthen ditches with pipeline including beginning stages of searching for funding sources. In July 2014 the Natural Resources Conservation Service engineering staff completed a preliminary survey with a pipeline analysis and a project cost estimate of \$699,457. Currently there are 60 water users in this section with more than 17 diversion turnouts.</p> <p>Potential other project funding sources include NRCS (Farm Bill-EQIP), Department of Water Resources and LID. This LID pipeline project to replace several miles of earthen ditches would save water; improve water efficiencies; help get water to the landowners with water rights and help improve the water quality of Lake Fork Creek and Mud Creek that flows into Cascade Reservoir helping meet TMDLs. Project would accomplish two of Valley SWCD 5 Year and Annual Plan top three priorities and goals.</p> <p>Having a state funding source for District's to assist Irrigation Districts dovetail other funding sources such as USDA - NRCS and Department of Water Resources would help make this project a reality.</p>	
Project/Program Timeline: 2016-18	Priority: 2
Resource Concern(s) Addressed:	
Funding Sources (list all sources):	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<p>Notes: This project request is for 25% Cost Share to help with match funds to combine with other potential funding sources such as USDA- NRCS (Farm Bill-EQIP), Department of Water Resources and Lake Irrigation District funds.</p>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$175,000

Project/Program Title: Roseberry Irrigation District Diversion/Pipeline	
<p>Description of Project/Program: Replacement of one of the larger Roseberry Irrigation District diversion structures that has deteriorated over the years. A new diversion structure would help ensure the viability of irrigation supplies to irrigators especially downstream from the diversion by saving water and improving water efficiency. Water measuring equipment would be installed to monitor delivery of irrigation water. In addition a pipeline to replace old dirt ditches to 10 landowners to improve water efficiencies; help get water to landowners with water rights and help improve water quality of Boulder and Willow Creek and Gold Fork River that flows into Lake Cascade (Cascade Reservoir). This project is only in the planning stages until technical assistance and funding can be secured.</p> <p>Project would help address Priority #3 of Valley SWCD 5 Year and Annual Plan priorities and goals.</p> <p>Having a state funding source for District's to assist Irrigation Districts and landowners dovetail other funding sources such as USDA - NRCS and Department of Water Resources would help replace an insufficient diversion structure and replace old dirt ditches with a pipeline.</p>	
Project/Program Timeline: 2016-18	Priority: 3
Resource Concern(s) Addressed:	
Funding Sources (list all sources):	
Federal:	\$0
State:	\$0
District:	\$0
Other:	\$0
Notes:	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$10,000

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District
Contact: Sheryl Stelling

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: <i>Sweet Sprinkler Project</i>	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> With limited NRCS EQIP funding in Idaho, combined with a very large number of applications, fewer cooperators are getting the assistance they need in order to install Best Management Practices. With funding assistance from the State, the Squaw Creek SCD would like to assist with the conversion of 20 acres of hayland from flood irrigation to sprinklers in the Sweet area. This will eliminate irrigation runoff from the field and reduce nutrient inputs to Squaw Creek, a tributary to the Payette River subject to TMDL pollutant reduction goals. Conversion to sprinklers will also conserve irrigation water.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> <i>Spring</i>	<i>Priority:</i> <i>1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Nutrients and sediment delivery to streams and Irrigation efficiency	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other: Landowner</i>	\$27,000.
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$27,000.

Project/Program Title: Forest Stand Improvement Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Requests for forestry assistance have increased in the Squaw Creek SCD to the point that the NRCS EQIP program is not able to meet this need. Forest thinning and slash treatment are needed to improve forest health and productivity on 250 acres. Treatment will also help reduce the threat of large wildfires. Planned treatment will also address erosion from forest roads, thereby reducing sediment delivery to streams.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Spring</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Forest Health and productivity, wildfire hazard, soil erosion from forest roads, sediment delivery to streams	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other: Landowner</i>	\$88,000.
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$88,000.

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$0

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: South Bingham

Address: PO Box 854

Aberdeen, ID 83210

Phone: 208-397-4917

E-mail: southbingham@gmail.com

Contact: Amber Tilley

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: PMC Maintenance and Improvement	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Maintenance and improvement of Farm rented by PMC and the equipment and buildings on the farm, to help further their research in the area of conservation.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> Ongoing	<i>Priority:</i> 1
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Soil, water, and plant	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other: Rent from USDA Farm</i>	\$26,559.96
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$15,000

Project/Program Title: Danielson Creek Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Create a better flow in the channel to help fish. Remove Russian Olive trees. Canopy Tree placement. Creation of a place to take students for educational purposes.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> 5 years	<i>Priority:</i> 2
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Spring Water Improvement, Native Animal Habitat, Noxious Weed removal	

<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other: Local Match, 319 Grant</i>	\$50,000
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$300,000

Project/Program Title: Education for Wind Erosion	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Create and run a program to help farmers and landowners learn about wind erosion and how to combat it.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Ongoing</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> <i>Wind and Soil</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$3,000

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Power Soil Conservation District
Contact: Pegi Long

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: Soil Tunnel	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Inflatable large tree trunk, children -- and their grown-up relatives and friends -- can get an earthworm's perspective of the life that thrives in the soil when they enter the "Soil Tunnel." With its oversized earthworms, grubs and other soil critters, the interior of the Soil Tunnel is meant to generate curiosity about the world below our feet, while the exterior shows various soil profiles found throughout New Jersey. Soil is the basis for so many vital functions, yet it is one of the most overlooked natural resources. The soil tunnel is approximate size is 16'L x 16'W x 12'H)	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> June 15, 2015-Sept.15, 2015	<i>Priority:</i> 1
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Public Outreach, Youth Education on Soil Conservation	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i> 9 Division V districts	5000.00
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<p>Notes: Nine Conservation Districts in 6 Counties will have access to the Soil Tunnel making the potential for hundreds of adults along with children to gain additional information on how important the "dirt" we walk on is a major part of our everyday existence. Soil plays a part in the ecosystem that is very important and some would say crucial for life. Soil acts as a water filter to our plant life and of course helps our plants to grow. Without soil we have no plants, and without plants we have no life. The plants that we have as part of our ecosystem is what helps to provide us with the oxygen that we need in order to survive, so one can easily see why soil is so important to life as we know it. Soil conservation is vital to the health of both urban and rural environments. Without proper care, wildlife, plants and people may suffer from its effects. The need for conserving our soils can be reinforced with continual reinforced education.</p> <p>Power Soil Conservation District: Arbor Day and Fifth grade field day in both Rockland and American Falls both of which are in May reaching at least 300 students and 100 adults. Library Summer Program in June which would involve approximately 75 students and 30 adults Power County Fair in August for 4 days reaching out to approximately 400 students and 200 adults Power County Search & Rescue Bar-B-Que will reach 750 adults and children American Falls Days will reach 450 children and 600 adults</p> <p>Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District: Ag Days the last week of September every year and there is about 4000 youth and 250 adults.</p>	

Environmental Fair and that is the weekend closest to Earth Day and about 5000 people attend that event.

**Central and North Bingham Soil and Water Conservation District:
2 Field Day's April reaching 400 students and 50 adults per day.**

**South Bingham Soil Conservation District:
Fifth Grade field day reaching 60 students and 20 adults
Aberdeen Daze in June reaching 200 students and 500 adults**

**Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District:
Fifth grad presentations in March reaching 500 students.
Eighth grade Water Fair in May reaching 350 students.
Franklin County Fair in August reaching 700 adults and students.**

**Bear Lake Soil and Water Conservation District:
Second week in August for the County fair reaching 2,000 people
April for school program reaching 300 students and 30 adults**

**Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District:
Fall for school poster day reaching 400 students and 30 adults**

Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	5,000.00
--	-----------------

Project/Program Title:	
Description of Project/Program:	
Project/Program Timeline:	Priority: 2
Resource Concern(s) Addressed:	
Available Funding (list all sources):	
Federal:	\$0
State:	\$0
District:	\$0
Other:	\$0
Notes:	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$0

Project/Program Title:
Description of Project/Program:

<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>		<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>		
<i>Funding (list all sources):</i>		
<i>Federal:</i>		\$0
<i>State:</i>		\$0
<i>District:</i>		\$0
<i>Other:</i>		\$0
<i>Notes:</i>		
<i>Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:</i>		\$0



District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Payette Soil & Water Conservation District

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

Phone: 208-642-6129

E-mail: johna.gabiola@payetteswcd.org

Contact: Johna Gabiola

DATE: 05/22/2015

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Soil Health Symposium	
<i>Description of Project/Program: 7th Annual Soil Health Symposium is an event that brings both vendors and speakers to the area farmers to present farming practices and products to aid in restoring soil health.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Spring 2016</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Making new information on conservation practices available to area farmers</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	
<i>State:</i>	8500.00
<i>District:</i>	1000.00
<i>Other: Water District #65</i>	500.00
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$8,500.00

Project/Program Title: Middle-Snake Payette Clean Water Project Phase III	
<i>Description of Project/Program: The PSWCD would apply for an additional 319 grant through IDEQ to continue cooperating with area irrigation and drainage entities to reduce sediment loads into canals, drains, and rivers with implementation of BMPs.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Fall 2015 to Spring 2016</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Helping area farmers keep their topsoil on their farms with the installation of various BMPs and to reduce sediment load in canals, drains and rivers.</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State: Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality</i>	200,000.00
<i>District: Match Funds</i>	135,000.00

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

Project/Program Title: Full Time Technical Employee or Part-Time Contractor	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Full time field employee or contractor that is on the ground working with area farmers and other interested parties to increase the number of conservation projects and installation of BMPs to help in the promotion of soil health and cleaning up our area canals ,drains and rivers.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Fall 2015 to Future Years</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil Conservation</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	75,000.00
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes: This dollar figure arrived at for full-time employee includes health coverage, PERSI and the use of a vehicle for use on job or allowance for contractor fees.</i>	
DATE:5/22/2015	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$75,000.00

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: North Bingham
Contact: Kerry Christiansen (administrative assistant)

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: Highly Erodible Soil Growers Workshop	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Workshop focused on 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance. The workshops would include field trips to local farms that have made changes to current practices and experienced success.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> Spring & Fall (2 meetings)	<i>Priority:</i> 1
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Highly Erodible Soils	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$750
<i>District:</i>	\$750
<i>Other: District Staff hours</i>	\$200
<i>Notes:</i> Venue \$400 Food \$400 Travel \$300 Class Materials \$100 Presenter \$400 Prep. and setup \$100	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$750

Project/Program Title: Cooperative Weed Management Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Combining with the Upper Snake CWMA on noxious weed removal projects	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority:</i> 2
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Noxious weed invasion on farmland	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$950
<i>District:</i>	\$950
<i>Other: District Staff Hours</i>	\$300
<i>Notes:</i> Herbicides \$1000, 26 gallon 12 volt spot Sprayer \$300.00, 2-Solo Back Pack Sprayers \$200, Travel & Vehicle Expense \$300 Man Hours \$400	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$900

Project/Program Title:	
Description of Project/Program:	
Project/Program Timeline:	Priority: 3
Resource Concern(s) Addressed:	
Funding (list all sources):	
Federal:	\$0
State:	\$0
District:	\$0
Other:	\$0
Notes:	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$0

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District

Contact: Lori Anderson

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title:

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District Signs

Description of Project/Program:

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District would like to install four 4x6 signs at four different points of entry onto the Conservation District informing the traveler of our District boundaries.

Project/Program Timeline: Installed by November 2015

Priority: 1

Resource Concern(s) Addressed:

The District has no available funding for this project.

Available Funding (list all sources):

Federal:	\$0
State: (capacity building fund)	800.00
District:	\$0
Other: (Project Program Needs)	400.00

Notes:

Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:

1200.00

Project/Program Title:

Description of Project/Program:

Project/Program Timeline:

Priority: 2

Resource Concern(s) Addressed:

Available Funding (list all sources):

Federal:	\$0
State:	\$0
District:	\$0
Other:	\$0

Notes:

Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:

\$0

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Lewis Soil Conservation District	
Contact: Karol Holthaus	email: karol.holthaus@id.nacdn.net

May 2015

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: Soil Health in Lewis County	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> This project would focus on improving soil health by assisting producers in Lewis County to implement lime application on 6000 acres, 3000 acres of split fertilizer applications, 100 ac cover crops, 300 ac micronutrient applications, 500 ac precision ag. This project would focus on improving soil health in Lewis County to target 303 (d) water bodies in Lapwai Creek, Mission Creek, Big Canyon, Little Canyon Holes/Long Hollow Creeks, Lawyer Creek, 5 Mile Creek, 6 Mile Creek and the Clearwater Plateau Groundwater priority area.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Temperature, sediment and nutrient loading for water quality in streams within Lewis County. Improve soil health by promoting nutrient management and improve groundwater	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes: The District would like funding to help producers in Lewis County which have asked for cost share funding. The purpose of this project is to demonstrate precision agriculture principles of right amount, right place, right time and right application method with respect to commercial fertilizer and lime applications to halt or reverse acidification, to improve pH levels for more productive crop and cover crop seeding. This is a great concern of producers in Lewis SCD.</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$360,860

Project/Program Title: Lewis County Forest Health	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> This project would work with landowners/operators to identify ways to voluntarily apply needed conservation practices. This funding would help with implementing 200 acres pre-commercial thinning, 100 acres tree/shrub plantings, and 2,000 acres of weed control. It would encourage producers to properly manage timber stands, and fire zones, while collaborating with public land management agencies in planning and implementing forest improvement practices.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Reduce sediment load, prevent or stop the spread of exotic insects and disease, and reduce wildfire hazard.</i>	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i> <i>These practices would ensure a healthy, productive woodlands within Lewis County. This is a great concern of producers in Lewis SCD</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$355,500

Project/Program Title: Big Canyon Watershed BMP Installations	
<p><i>Description of Project/Program:</i> This project would provide cost share and technical assistants for producers to work with 9 livestock facilities, installing 60,000' of fence, 9 water and sediment control structures, 2 acres filter strips, 60 acres of riparian plantings. These BMP's would treat critical acres and water quality problems, erosion control and associated improvements in stream quality which will benefit land and water users in the watershed, downstream areas and surrounding communities within Big Canyon.</p>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Temperature, bacteria, sediment and nutrient loading for water quality in Big Canyon.</i>	
<i>Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<p><i>Notes:</i> Producers have ask the district if there is any cost share available to implement these practices. These practices would benefit the land and water and reduce soil erosion. Lewis County is in the High Priority are and the district feels there is a need for a County wide funding source to help implement BMP's to reduce leaching of pollutants into the surface and groundwater. This is a great concern of producers in Lewis SCD.</p>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$220,000

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Latah Soil and Water Conservation District

Contact: Kenneth Stinson, District Manager

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: Soil pH Mapping for Developing Variable Rate Lime Applications – Phase II

Description of Project/Program:

Research has shown that agricultural soils in northern Idaho are acidifying beyond critical levels for crop growth. Rapid soil acidification in surface soils of the region has been correlated with the use of ammonium based N fertilizers at relatively high rates since the 1970s. A growing number of producers in the region are experiencing yield declines associated with low pH soils but high applications of N are necessary for maximum economic yields. Increasingly high applications of N can increase nutrient loading in local surface waters. Hence, a correlation between decreasing water quality due to nutrient loading, higher applications of N fertilizer, and increasing soil acidification can be drawn. This proposal seeks to minimize nutrient loading within agricultural streams of Latah County by directly addressing soil acidification with the belief that an increase in soil pH (i.e., reducing soil acidification) through liming practices will reduce the need for relatively high applications of N fertilizer.

The TMDLs affected by nutrient issues within Latah County include: Potlatch River, Cow Creek, Palouse River Tributaries, South Fork Palouse River, and Paradise Creek.

The addition of lime to agricultural soils has been shown to raise soil pH. However, liming has yet to become an adopted practice in the Palouse region of North Central Idaho. The purpose of this project is to (i) demonstrate precision agriculture principles of optimal amount, place, source, timing and/or application method with respect to lime application; (ii) develop quantitative guidelines on soil health and productivity improvements achieved under site-specific lime application; and (iii) stimulate grower innovation in applying precision agriculture principles.

Phase I of this project was funded by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Idaho Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program. The original project design seeks to undertake these trials on eight (8) agricultural fields within the Palouse region. Due to funding limitation within the NRCS CIG program, the project will be implemented on four (4) agricultural fields. Phase I will cost approximately \$152,500 and \$75,000 was funded from the CIG program. The \$77,500 balance of funding is to be provided by participating operators through the purchase and application of lime, Latah SWCD, and private companies.

Phase II of this project is being resubmitted to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWC) to add additional fields into the project area as originally envisioned. Surveys on these additional fields will cost approximately \$140,000 with \$102,500 proposed as a FY17 request to SWC. The balance of funding will be provided by the participating operators and Latah SWCD. This Phase II project was previously submitted to SWC for consideration in the FY15 budget request.

<i>Project/Program Timeline: July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2018</i>		<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil acidification of agricultural soils within the Palouse region.</i>		
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>		
<i>Federal:</i>		\$75,000
<i>State:</i>		\$0
<i>District:</i>		\$30,000
<i>Other:</i>		\$0
<i>Notes:</i>		
<i>Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:</i>		\$102,500

<i>Project/Program Title:</i>		
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>		
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>		<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>		
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>		
<i>Federal:</i>		\$0
<i>State:</i>		\$0
<i>District:</i>		\$0
<i>Other:</i>		\$0
<i>Notes:</i>		
<i>Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:</i>		\$0

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

Notes:

Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:

\$0

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Kootenai-Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District
Contact: Bob Flagor

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: Efficient office administrative assistance	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> One part-time employee is inadequate to implement projects, administer requirements, maintain records, report to authorities, etc. A full-time manager with at least a part-time assistant would allow better implementation of conservation and most likely provide at least several times the return on investment.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority:</i> 1
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$60,000
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$60,000

Project/Program Title: Cover Crop/Soil Health/Water Quality Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Purchase 15' and 7.5' no-till drills for both large and small-acreage farmers. The local producers continually express their need for these types of drills to reduce tillage. The drills would be rented to the farmers at competitive rates. The reduced tillage would improve water and air quality, soil health, crop yields, infiltration, and reduce soil compaction. It would also be used for interseeding pastures. Equipment maintenance is included.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> 5 years	<i>Priority:</i> 2
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Water quality, soil health, erosion, noxious weeds	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$110,000
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$30,000
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$110,000

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Soil pH Mapping	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> 5 years	<i>Priority:</i> 3
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Soil health, aquifer protection, nutrient management, crop yield	
<i>Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$145,000
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i> \$45,000 required first year for startup; \$25,000/year for subsequent 4 years	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$145,000

Project/Program Title: Kootenai & Shoshone Counties Forest Health/Wildfire Protection Project Phase 1	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Forest thinning and biomass removal for 200,000 acres of overstocked forest in the I-90 and SH 3 corridors. This area has 2.5 times the woody biomass that existed prior to the 1910 fire. This project would improve forest health and reduce wildfire danger to the area. Biomass would be removed to a processing facility in Kellogg for heat, electricity, and potentially biofuel. This is a top priority in our workplan. This project would provide the foundation for a sustainable industry that would provide jobs for generations.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> 20 years	<i>Priority:</i> 4
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$615,000
<i>State:</i>	\$205,000
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i> This is an annual cost for a 20-year project.	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$205,000

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Jefferson SWCD
Contact: Jennifer Saathoff

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: 2016 Envirothon Donation Request	
<i>Description of Project/Program: The Idaho Envirothon: is a hands-on environmental problem solving competition for high school aged students in Idaho. Participating teams complete training and testing in five natural resource categories: Soils & Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and the current issue. Winning teams from each state advance to the North American Envirothon for an opportunity to compete for recognition, scholarships, and prizes</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 1st Monday and Tuesday of May 2016</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Education of high school students</i>	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other: Cash and in-kind donations from state and private entities.</i>	\$13,411.24
<i>Notes: Costs for this program are approximately \$19,000 each year. Many funds are donated with cash others are paid in-kind.</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$1500

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	

Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$0

Project/Program Title:	
Description of Project/Program:	
Project/Program Timeline:	Priority: 3
Resource Concern(s) Addressed:	
Funding (list all sources):	
Federal:	\$0
State:	\$0
District:	\$0
Other:	\$0
Notes:	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$0

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Idaho SWCD

Address: 102 South Hall St, Grangeville, ID 83530

Phone: 208-983-1046 ext 111

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

Contact: Stefanie Hays

Date: 5/13/15

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Fish Passage/Water Quality/Culvert Replacements	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Currently have 4 Highway Districts that are interested in doing culvert replacements to not only improve the flow of the creeks, but to improve the water quality and fish passages in their areas. The Keuterville Highway District has 5 culverts that need to be replaced, to stop the washing out of the road every spring, Threemile Creek has 2 culverts that needs to be replaced due to under sizing and erosion issues. Grangeville Hwy District has 3 culverts in the Rock Creek drainage that need to be replaced to reduce the amount of cutting the creek does each year, and the Cottonwood Hwy District has 10 culverts they would like to replace to reduce erosion due to improper sizing.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 1 year</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: sediment, nutrients, soil quality</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State: Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission</i>	\$70,000.00
<i>District: Idaho SWCD Board Supervisors (In Kind)</i>	\$3,200.00
<i>Other: Landowners 25% match</i>	\$17,500.00
<i>Notes: We have worked with the Grangeville Hwy District this past year in replacing some culverts in their area that needed to be done, it was the start of a great working relationship with the Highway Districts and opened up more doors for us. We are currently doing a project with the Deer Creek Highway District in which we are replacing 6 culverts to help them install fish friendly culverts. With these projects, we are finding we are getting more requests for assistance around our area, but we currently don't have funding in any of the areas that we are getting requests. All of the culverts that would be installed would follow ITD standards and specs and the Highway District would be required to follow the designs closely, with a Conservation Planner on site while work is in progress.</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$70,000.00

Project/Program Title: Idaho County Soil Health	
<p><i>Description of Project/Program: cover crop installations with producers in Idaho county on 300 acres for cover crops and 3000 acres with precision ag. All applications to participate will be ranked by the Idaho SWCD District Board. Field staff will develop plans and contracts that will be in accordance with NRCS specifications and seeding plan recommendations for cover crops. Cover crops will enhance the soil biological community in the soils leading to decreased soil erosion, more efficient nutrient cycling, decreased use of commercial fertilizers and herbicides. Precision Agriculture, variable rate technology (VRT), is a practice that budgets and supplies adequate nutrients for plant production, to minimize non-point source pollution of surface or groundwater resources, to protect air quality by reducing nitrogen emissions, and to maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of soils. Producers work with professionals to determine the power zones in their fields. This can be done using historic yield data, yield maps, elevations, drainages, slopes, aspect, soil types, infrared technology, topography, and electrical conductivity. The information is collected and analyzed on maps and in tables to determine the best distribution of zones in the fields. Once zones are established, soil testing will be done in zones to determine fertility. Technology allows the graphing of all data collected for comparisons and future fertilizing or seeding. Seeding, lime applications, nitrogen applications, and starter fertilizer are the most common items to use with variable rate technology. Variable rate technology allows producers to place the correct amount of fertilizer, in the correct location at the correct time. Expected benefits are to decrease sediment loads by an estimated 3 tons/year, nutrient decrease of 1 lb/year. Groundwater reductions in nitrates are estimated at 200 lbs/year. These reductions and improvements will address essential physical and biological features that will improve soil and water quality.</i></p>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 1 Year</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: sediment, temperature, pathogens, nutrients</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State: Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission</i>	\$37,800.00
<i>District: Idaho SWCD Board Supervisors (In Kind)</i>	\$3,200.00
<i>Other: Landowners 25% match</i>	\$9,450.00
<p><i>Notes: We have had numerous producers requesting assistance with soil health. Currently no funding is available outside of NRCS funding which is limited. We would like to get these producers taken care of and to help them with their soil health goals. These producers would greatly benefit from having even a small amount of funding available to get a project started on their land. We have had many projects in the past that were very successful. Our producers desire to be on the cutting edge of the soil health movement. This desire will make this project a success, just as past projects.</i></p>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$37,800.00

Project/Program Title: Idaho County AFO	
<p><i>Description of Project/Program: BMP installations on feeding area projects within Idaho County. We currently have producers located throughout Idaho County that have volunteered to implement practices on their livestock operation, to improve feeding and management of livestock and improve water quality. Volunteers are expected to increase in the future. If the producers that have already volunteered were to do a project, they would be implementing 20,000 feet of fence; 5-off stream water systems; 10 heavy use feeding pads; 5 acres of buffer zones with plantings and shaping. Expected outcomes from these practices (over time) are a sediment reduction of 1000 ton/year, phosphorus reduction of 380 lbs./year, nitrogen reduction of 700 lbs./year, a 25% reduction in bacteria and a 25% increase in shade. These reductions are based on IDL and IASCD in-stream monitoring results from past projects and visual assessments.</i></p>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: 1 Year</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: sediment, temperature, nutrients,</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State: Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission</i>	\$272,600.00
<i>District: Idaho SWCD Board Supervisors (In Kind)</i>	\$3,200.00
<i>Other: Landowners 25% match</i>	\$68,150.00
<p><i>Notes: In the past couple of years we have had numerous producers ask for small scale or even large scale AFO project help. With the ending of the 319 Division II AFO project, we no longer have the dedicated funds to help these producers and the current funding we have is watershed based only. The producers that have approached us since the Division II AFO project ended are all located outside the watershed boundaries that we are currently able to fund within. The amount of \$272,600.00 would work toward assisting with a larger amount of the needed implementations.</i></p>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$272,600.00

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs

Worksheet Budget Request

District: GOODING SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Address: 820 MAIN STREET

Phone: 208-934-8481 EXT 100

E-mail: GOODINGSCD1@GMAIL.COM

Contact: BARBARA MESSICK OR KAY HULTS / CHAIRWOMAN

DATE: APRIL 3, 2015

Project/Program Title: <i>Trees Against the Wind</i>	
Description of Project/Program: <i>The Gooding SCD would like to continue the Trees against the wind project south of Gooding continuing on highway 46. We would be looking at a ¼ mile stretch with a one row windbreak using 1 gallon rocky mountain junipers and 1 gallon Austrian pine staggered. The project would help to reduce soil erosion and snow blowing causing many accidents along that stretch of road. In the past it has been a good project for students in the community as they prepare for Envirothon to get hands on education on how to plant trees and shrubs. We have also combined this effort with Arbor Day because we are a Tree City USA and make it a great celebration.</i>	
Project/Program Timeline: <i>Spring of 2016</i>	Priority: <i>2</i>
Resource Concern(s) Addressed: <i>Soil & Wind Erosion, Snow Fence, Air Quality, Beautification</i>	
Funding Sources (list all sources):	
<i>Federal: NRCS Design and time</i>	\$500.00
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	
<i>High School Students =Time 10students x \$10 per @ 4hrs =</i>	\$400.00
<i>Supervisors Time 5 x\$15 x4 =</i>	\$300.00
<i>Wood River SWCD 130 Trees @ 8.00</i>	\$1040.00
<i>Gooding SCD 2 rolls of Fabric Mulch</i>	\$300.00
<i>Other: Landowners Time and Investment Irrigation Water Management</i>	\$1000.00
Notes: TOTAL REQUEST	\$3540.00
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$3,000.00

Project/Program Title: Soil Health Demonstration	
Description of Project/Program: <i>The District has reserved an area of land within the Community Garden to plant and demonstrate a "Cover Crop." The plots are located in the center of town behind the USDA building where many people travel and have the opportunity to see what new and innovative tools and ideas are we using. Landowners who do business with NRCS and FSA can see firsthand how the cover crop works and how the soil health will be improved.</i>	
Project/Program Timeline: Summer / Fall of 2015	Priority: 3
Resource Concern(s) Addressed: The District's concern is soil health and soil erosion in the county, while we want to educate and reach landowners any way possible.	
Funding Sources (list all sources):	
Federal: NRCS consulting and design	\$500.00
State: University of Idaho Soils Testing 2 x's \$35.00 and consulting	\$70.00
District: Administrative and Supervisors Time, organization & labor	\$500.00
Other: Seed Mix	\$85.00
Equipment and landowners time	\$200.00
City Water use for summer	\$400.00
Notes: Total Project Cost	\$1715.00
DATE 4- 01 - 2015	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$1,000.00

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: <i>Sage Grouse Candidates Conservation Agreements with Assurance "CCAA"</i>	
Description of Project/Program: The Gooding SCD is working together with Office of species of concern, US Fish & Wildlife, NRCS and landowners throughout Magic Valley to establish a possible CCAA. While we were involved by partnership in the development of the LWG plan it is not totally representative of the wishful direction of the respective counties. Primarily we are looking at a larger CCAA including 9 counties much like the Oregon State CCAA that has been very successful. The districts would use this project to benefit the landowners by the following: Develop, coordinate, and implement Conservation Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support ongoing efforts to maintain viable populations of Greater Sage Grouse in occupied and suitable habitat; • Serve as a range-wide document Conservation Measures implemented by Participants; • Encourage the creation of a 9 county CCAA, identifying threats and conservation measures necessary to provide high quality habitat for the Greater Sage Grouse, Participants will reclaim Assurances granted from USFWS as a long as the conservation plan and monitoring efforts are followed. • Provide Participants assurances that during the duration of this CCAA, additional conservation measures above and beyond those contained in the agreement will not be required and that additional land, water, or resource use limitations will not be imposed upon them should the Greater Sage Grouse become listed in the future, so long as Participants properly implement the Conservation Measures agreed. 	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Spring and Summer 2015</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Wildlife Habitat, Grazing Management, Soil Health</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal: NRCS time & assistance</i>	<i>100,000.00</i>
<i>State: Legislative appropriation</i>	<i>100,000.00</i>
<i>District: Hourly Match Workshops, advertising, postage</i>	<i>50,00.00</i>
<i>Other: SWCC funds for grants</i>	<i>10,000.00</i>
<i>Notes:</i>	
<i>Southwest CCAA:</i>	
<i>10 counties = Fed</i>	<i>1,000,000.00</i>
<i>State</i>	<i>1,000,000.00</i>
<i>SWCD (RCPD)</i>	<i>500,000.00</i>
<i>SWC</i>	<i><u>90,000.00</u></i>
<i>TOTAL REQUESTED <u>2,590,000.00</u></i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$50,000.00

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Gem Soil and Water Conservation District
Contact: Sheryl Stelling

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: <i>Sprinkler Conversion Project</i>	
<p>NRCS EQIP funds are limited in Idaho, combined with a very large number of applications, fewer cooperators are getting the assistance they need in order to install Best Management Practices. With funding assistance from the State, the Gem SWCD would like to assist with the conversion of 42 acres of hayland from flood irrigation to sprinklers in high nitrate area. This will eliminate irrigation runoff from the field and reduce nutrient inputs to the Lower Payette River subject to TMDL pollutant reduction goals. Conversion to sprinklers will also conserve irrigation water.</p>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Spring or Fall</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Nutrients and sediment delivery to streams and Irrigation efficiency	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other: Landowner</i>	\$52,000
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$52,000.

Project/Program Title: Rangeland Project	
Description of Project/Program:	
<p>Rangeland ecology and management uniquely integrates information from multiple system components to address current and pending challenges confronting rangelands. Approximately 50% of the Earth's land area is considered range. Rangelands have undergone and continue to undergo rapid change in response to changing land use and climate. A research priority in the emerging science of eco hydrology is an improved understanding of the implications of vegetation change. Interactions between vegetation and water on rangelands pose many questions. To effectively address these questions, we must expand our knowledge of how it changes the scale and landscape and pass the knowledge on to landowners and cooperators through workshops and tours. Also wildfires are a part of life in southern Idaho. Firewise landscaping can help reduce the risk of wildfire.</p>	
Project/Program Timeline: Spring through Fall	Priority: 2
Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Soil, water, forage, outreach	
Available Funding (list all sources):	
Federal:	\$0
State:	\$0
District:	\$0
Other: Landowner	\$20,000.
Notes:	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$20,000.

Project/Program Title:	
Description of Project/Program:	
Project/Program Timeline:	Priority: 3
Resource Concern(s) Addressed:	
Funding (list all sources):	
Federal:	\$0
State:	\$0
District:	\$0
Other:	\$0
Notes:	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$0

FRANKLIN COUNTY RESERVOIR ALLIANCE

After attending an informational meeting held by the Bureau of Reclamation-Upper Colorado and National Park Service, Consolidated Irrigation Company and the Franklin SWCD began in-depth discussions regarding Quagga/Zebra Mussels. M. Jeremy Fields Regional Director from Senator Risch's office was met with and he ensured us that Senator Risch would continue to pressure the National Park Service regarding their management of Lake Powell.

Additional concerns still existed and what has become called The Franklin County Alliance of Reservoirs was initiated. Members of this group include decision makers from the owners of the reservoirs that are heavily used by recreational users according to data collected by the ISDA. Additional representatives such as Commissioners from Franklin County, the Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District (FSWCD), Franklin County Abatement District, Idaho Fish & Game (IF&G), Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), and Representative Marc Gibbs have been involved in the many discussions and meetings. Local water users representing bass fishing clubs such as "Hooked on Bass" have recently joined the group as their input has been actively sought. A group of recreation boat owners has been formed to represent those interests such as waterskiing etc. and they too have recently joined the group.

The reservoirs are owned by either private irrigation companies or Rocky Mountain Power with the sole purpose of storing appropriated water that is later delivered to their shareholders for agricultural and energy uses. Recreational use of these waters is due to facilities managed by outside sources or provided by Franklin County and Idaho Fish & Game. Energy reservoirs are regulated by a Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) settlement. Based on numbers provided by the Franklin County Waterways Committee the reservoir use generates 14.5 million dollars that is contributed to the local community.

The primary movement of mussels from one water body to the next is attributed to boat traffic. Since 2011 Franklin SWCD has contracted with ISDA to provide a roadside Quagga/Zebra Mussel inspection station for boats entering Idaho at Highway 91 in Franklin city. This is entered into as a cooperative agreement using the Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008. In 2015 ISDA/FSWCD will begin operation of a part-time, weekends station located on the Westside Highway in Weston City. The intent of these operations is to protect Idaho waters, because prevention is more cost effective than treatment after the infestation occurs. In 2011 Lake Mead was already infected with the mussels. In 2014 Lake Powell Utah was declared contaminated and in February of 2015 Deer Creek Reservoir. Utah was also listed as containing mussel veligers.

This steady movement north places the southern border of Idaho directly on the front lines. None of the reservoirs in Franklin County want to be the first listed waterbody contaminated with Quagga/Zebra Mussels in Idaho!

The Alliance has diligently investigated the following four options: 1-Continue as is, 2- provide secondary review of inspection and launch controls at reservoirs, 3-limit the boats to 10 hp motors or less, or 4- close reservoirs to boat access.

At this point we are pursuing a combination of option 3 and option 2. The reservoirs known as Foster, Johnson, Lamont, Condie, and Winder Reservoirs will be limited to 10 hp motors or less. The reservoir

Twin Lakes, Glendale and Treasureton will have secondary review of inspections and launch controls added to their management. Oneida Narrows Reservoirs is still undecided due to FERC requirements.

As stated earlier the sole purpose of reservoirs is delivering of water to shareholder not recreation. Based on this the shareholders of each company do not feel a responsibility to incur additional costs associated with providing the recreational opportunities to the public.

Based on FSWCD experience with inspection stations we have devised a plan that involves utilizing a qualified third party to administer a secondary review looking for a recent adequate inspection from a qualified ISDA inspection station. This will occur at the reservoirs and all boat launches will be limited to authorized locations. To allow for the differences in recreational users, the secondary review locations need to be open 16 hours from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 pm. The estimated costs for time & materials associated with the secondary review locations is \$ 51,200.00 per reservoir. The time frame for inspection is 7 days a week from April 1, 2015 to September 9, 2015.

Innovative funding sources such as the Franklin County Abatement District were investigated. But based on recommendations from staff of the ISDA, the governing board of the abatement district does not feel that their district can provide the funding mechanism for the prevention of contamination of Franklin County waterbodies from invasive species such as Quagga/Zebra Mussels.

Thus we need the assistance of the State of Idaho and the recreational users. We are formally requesting \$153,600.00 from the State of Idaho to begin the 2015 secondary inspections. Please let us know if we can plan on your support as soon as possible. Attached is a list of the Alliance members and an itemized budget per reservoir.

Thanks

Franklin County Alliance of Reservoirs

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Franklin Soil & water Conservation District
Contact: Lyla Dettmer

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: Quagga Inspection Franklin County	
<p><i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Please see the attached letter from the Franklin County Alliance We are requesting any financial help you can give. Representative Gibbs has convinced ISDA and IDF&G to undertake a 2015 pilot data collection project that will assist in the protection of franklin county reservoir and use this data in a review of the statewide Invasive Species Act of 2008.</p>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: April to September 2015</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Invasive species, Water Quantity, Water Quality</i>	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State: Idaho Department of agriculture (ISDA)</i>	\$60,000.00
<i>State: Idaho Fish & Game (IDF&G)</i>	\$10,000.00
<i>District: Franklin SWCD</i>	\$12,000.000
<i>Other: Consolidated Irrigation company</i>	\$3,000.00
<i>Other: Twin Lakes Irrigation Company</i>	\$3,000.00
<p><i>Notes:</i> After creating our budget the group changed the hours to 12 hours daily at Twin Lakes and Glendale and limited inspection to 12 days at Treasureton. The acquired monies will now carry the project through July 1. Further discussion on which of the four options will be utilized at that time will follow. They are currently short \$15,000.00 that would get the current plan to Labor day.</p>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$15,000.00

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District
Contact: Cathy Bolin

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: Huckleberry Butte Road – Slide Repair- Whiskey Creek	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> <i>The objective of this project is to stabilize 90 linear feet of failing slope on the outboard shoulder of Huckleberry Butte Road in Clearwater County, Idaho which lies 60 feet directly above Whiskey Creek, a Class I tributary to Orofino Creek and the Clearwater River. The project will stabilize and improve the upland habitat and protect the water quality in Whiskey Creek to maintain the overall productivity of O.mykiss steelhead. This worksite stabilization plan includes the installation of approximately 80 Self Drilling Super Nails and faced with reinforced structural shotcrete at the start of the failing slope. The fill will be removed and four rows of Super Nails will be spaced at 4 foot deep increments to a total 15 foot depth below the road surface for the 90 feet of linear run.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> 2-3 weeks – Start to Finish	<i>Priority:</i> 1
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Stabilize Whiskey Creek’s upland habitat in area of concern; prevent passage barrier to migrating anadromous (steelhead, Coho salmon), eliminate sediment delivery at point of potential slope failure, and potential loss of riparian vegetation.	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other: County</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$206,875.00

Project/Program Title: Firewise Communities/Defensible Space/ Fuels Reduction	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> <i>Promote a strong coordinated interagency educational approach to wildland fire, including prevention and protection strategies, a greater understanding of the ecology and role that fire plays in Idaho’s ecosystems, and illustrating the negative impacts caused by wildland fires. Advance the knowledge and use of standard, science-based methods of hazard reduction treatments using a mechanical “chipper” through a rental program. Finally, to increase the effectiveness of local wildfire prevention programs by supporting and enhancing existing relationships with county fire and emergency services, fire prevention cooperatives, and decision making personnel, as well as state, tribal, and local partners.</i>	

<i>Project/Program Timeline: On-going to permanent</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Fuels reduction, forest health and fire suppression.</i>	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>State:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>District:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Other: Clearwater County</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Notes:</i>	
<i>Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:</i>	<i>\$45,000.00</i>

<i>Project/Program Title:</i> <i>Rhoades Creek Road Abandonment</i>	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> <i>The existing forest road was built adjacent to Rhoades Creek, a major Class I tributary to Orofino Creek. The existing road lies within a series of wetland meadows and pond cells. Rhoades Creek frequently leaves it's banks in high flow situations and ends up covering the existing road. Subsequent sedimentation is an on-going problem. The proposal is to abandon the lower 3 miles of existing road paralleling Rhoades Creek and build a new road higher up on the slope.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: Two field seasons (weather dependent)</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Sedimentation, water quality and fisheries enhancement</i>	
<i>Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>State:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>District:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Other: Potlatch Forest Holdings, Inc.</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Notes:</i>	
<i>Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:</i>	<i>\$200,000.00</i>

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet Budget Request

District: Caribou Soil Conservation District

Address: 390 East Hooper Ave., Soda Springs, Idaho 83276

Phone: (208) 547-4396

E-mail: pauline.bassett@id.nacdnet.net

Contact: Pauline Bassett

DATE: January 22, 2015

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: Water Fair	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Interested in doing an Educational Water Fair out at the Alexander Reservoir in Soda Springs. This water fair would help educate Middle School Students about water quantity and quality as well as how pollution, erosion, etc. effects our water supply.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> April or May	<i>Priority:</i> 1
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$800.00
<i>District:</i>	\$300.00
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$800.00

Project/Program Title: Windbreak	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Caribou County has been interested in putting up a windbreak around their county sheds along highway 30. This would help tremendously cutting down the wind and snow that blows across the highway.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> spring of 2016	<i>Priority:</i> 2
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	

<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$500.00
<i>District:</i>	\$200.00
<i>Other:</i>	\$300.00
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$500.00

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

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Canyon Soil Conservation District, 2208 E. Chicago, Ste A, Caldwell, ID 83605	
Contact: Mike Swartz/Lori Kent	DATE: 5/7/15

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: Farmers Coop Ditch Sediment Basin	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> This project consist of installing a sediment basin of about six acres. This basin will be along a major canal and will serve to clean up the water in the canal system to provide cleaner water to the downstream water users. Currently, the downstream users are experiencing problems with filters on drip systems due to the amount to sediment being transported in the canal. The origination of the sediment in the canal system is coming off fields upstream from the canal and is not from the acreage being irrigated by this canal. Total estimated cost is \$120,000.00 The State funding would be for 50% cost share.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> to be installed and completed fall 2015	
<i>Priority: 1</i>	
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Water Quality	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$60,000.00
<i>District:</i>	\$2,000.00
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i> The Farmers Coop Canal would provide in-kind funding by providing maintenance, leased land, and automated control gates.	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$62,000.00

Project/Program Title: Canyon County Regional Conservation Partnership Program	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> This project consists of a proposal under RCPP for funding to address water quality on the Farmers Coop Canal. Runoff water from upstream would be treated to clean the water entering the canal and provide a better chance of installing drip systems downstream. This project would also be for the installation of better irrigation systems (less or no runoff), and management practices to improve the water quality. Funding would be through NRCS.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> the estimated timeline is 2015-2017	
<i>Priority: 2</i>	
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Water Quality	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$500,000
<i>State:</i>	\$50,000
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0

<i>Notes:</i> The Farmers Coop Canal would provide in-kind funding as needed for maintenance of installed practices where applicable.	
<i>Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:</i>	\$550,000

<i>Project/Program Title: Permanent Drip Irrigation Systems</i>	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> This project would consist of permanent drip systems on hops in Canyon County. Currently there is an interest of about 250 acres to be converted from surface irrigation to drip irrigation. Installation of these systems would provide excellent water quality benefits by eliminating the runoff from all these fields. Expected cost shares of 50% and expected cost of \$1500 per acre.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$187,500
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i> These systems would be a permanent installation to improve water quality. Additional funding may be available through the RCPP in the future.	
<i>Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:</i>	\$187,500

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

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Central Bingham
Contact: Kerry Christiansen (administrative assistant)

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title: Highly Erodible Soil Growers Workshop	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Workshop focused on 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance. The workshops would include field trips to local farms that have made changes to current practices and experienced success.	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> Spring & Fall (2 meetings)	<i>Priority:</i> 1
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Highly Erodible Soils	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$750
<i>District:</i>	\$750
<i>Other: District Staff hours</i>	\$200
<i>Notes:</i> Venue \$400 Food \$400 Travel \$300 Class Materials \$100 Presenter \$400 Prep. and setup \$100	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$750

Project/Program Title: Cooperative Weed Management Project	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Combining with the Upper Snake CWMA on noxious weed removal projects	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority:</i> 2
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Noxious weed invasion on farmland	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$950
<i>District:</i>	\$950
<i>Other: District Staff Hours</i>	\$300
<i>Notes:</i> Herbicides \$1000 26 gallon 12 volt spot Sprayer \$300.00 2-Solo Back Pack Sprayers \$200 Travel & Vehicle Expense \$300 Man Hours \$400	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$850

Project/Program Title:	
Description of Project/Program:	
Project/Program Timeline:	Priority: 3
Resource Concern(s) Addressed:	
Funding (list all sources):	
Federal:	\$0
State:	\$0
District:	\$0
Other:	\$0
Notes:	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$0

April 30, 2015

To: Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

From: Butte SWCD

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

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

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

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs

Worksheet Budget Request for FY2016

District: Bonner SWCD

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

Phone: 208-263-5310x100

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

Contact: Linda O'Hare

DATE: 5-5-15

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: <i>Lake Assist Program</i>	
<i>Description of Project/Program: Lake Assist is a grassroots educational program sponsored by BSWCD and developed out of the TMDL for Near Shore Waters of Lake Pend Oreille. Its mission is to protect water quality in Bonner County through education and on-the-ground activities. The Lake Assist program has been funded solely by grants since 2005, and the district is funding it this year. Grant sources have dried up in the area of outreach, and the district believes in the local need for this program enough to fund it for a 2nd year with district reserves. The program coordinator is requested to participate in many activities such as teaching at educational events, consulting with local weed officials and state Department of Agriculture officials on noxious weeds both terrestrial and aquatic, consulting on urban development with agencies and local government regarding water quality and quantity, and consultation with private and public shoreline landowners and best management practices to maintain water quality. There continue to be water quality projects related to and required by TMDLs on the Pack River, Sand Creek, Pend Oreille River, and Lake Pend Oreille. Funding from the SWC would provide the Lake Assist program to expand to the capacity needed to maintain these services, and to complete projects related to sediment load reduction, nutrient reduction, and fish & wildlife habitat improvement on these impaired water bodies.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: FY2016</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: Water Quality/Riparian; Information & Education; Fish, Wildlife & Recreation</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal: NRCS – in-kind</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>State: DEQ</i>	<i>\$7,000</i>
<i>District: in-kind</i>	<i>\$10,400</i>
<i>Other:</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$12,000

Project/Program Title: Bonner County Resource Assessment and Priority List	
<i>Description of Project/Program: The district has taken some preliminary steps regarding a resource inventory in Bonner County. To take this process further, funding will be needed to hire someone to coordinate with state, county, and local agencies to gather the information and compile it in a format usable by the district and other agencies. After a review of this information, a list of projects prioritized by urgency would be given to the district board for their consideration for future projects. This will improve efficiency in streamlining decision-making for future projects. Included in our resource inventory input would be US Forest Service, IDL, Bonner County Road & Weeds & Waterways, Greater Sandpoint Greenprint, Army Corps of Engineers, Fish & Game, NRCS, DEQ, and local cities.</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline: FY2016</i>	<i>Priority: 2</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed: ALL - Water Quality/Riparian; Timber & Woodland; Fish, Wildlife & Recreation; Traditional Ag, Grazing & Cropland</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	<i>\$ 1600</i>
<i>State: DEQ and SWC – in-kind</i>	<i>\$2000</i>
<i>District: in-kind</i>	<i>\$4000</i>
<i>Other: Bonner County in-kind</i>	<i>\$1000</i>
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$6,000

A REQUEST FOR EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT WAS ALSO SENT DIRECTLY TO THE COMMISSION FOR \$1500 FOR THE FORESTRY CONTEST.

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.bonnierswcd.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

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Benewah SWCD

Address: P.O. Box 488, Plummer, ID 83851

Phone: 208-686-1699

E-mail: James.Pierce2@id.nacdnet.net

Contact: James Pierce

DATE: May 20, 2015

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Stream Bank Restoration/Education Program	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> Begin FY 2017-Ongoing	<i>Priority:</i> 1
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Water Quality	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$15,000
<i>District:</i>	\$5,000
<i>Other:</i>	\$2,500
<i>Notes:</i> Create small willow nursery using conservation partner property. Use willows on local stream banks to stabilize marginal eroding banks before the erosion worsens. Create education program with workshops to educate the landowners on the use of willows to slow down or even prevent further erosion damage.	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$22,500

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Natural Resource & Conservation Youth Outreach Program	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> Begin FY 2017, annual events	<i>Priority:</i> 2
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Water quality, sustainable agriculture, forest health, natural resource & conservation awareness	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	

<i>Federal:</i>	\$5,000
<i>State:</i>	\$7,500
<i>District:</i>	\$750
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
Notes: Initial purchase of demonstration equipment, models, maps, lesson plans, annual cost of student field trip transportation, and funding for program support staffing	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$13,250

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i> Benewah SWCD Resource Inventory Assessment	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> Begin FY2017, Ongoing	<i>Priority:</i> 3
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Water quality, forest health, soil quality, & natural resource and conservation prioritization	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$33,000
<i>State:</i>	\$15,000
<i>District:</i>	\$3,300
<i>Other:</i>	\$1,200
Notes: Funding to establish an assessment of resource inventory within the Benewah SWCD. Such an assessment would provide immediate and continuous access to the District's current and anticipated natural resource and conservation challenges, providing support and direction for the District's goals, mission, and strategic plan.	
DATE	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$52,500

2015 District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs Worksheet for FY 2017 Budget Request

District: Adams Soil & Water Conservation District
Contact: Beverly Clagg, Admin Assistant or Julie Burkhardt, Chairman

Priority Project/Program Needs

Project/Program Title:	
District Operations	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>	
Water Quality Projects in the Upper Weiser Basin and Little Salmon watershed	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i> Ongoing	<i>Priority:</i> 1
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i> Sediment, Temperature and E. Coli; All other program priorities.	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i> NRCS and 319 grants	\$80,000
<i>State:</i> Match allocation and SWC support	\$100,000
<i>District:</i> Supervisor volunteer and Admin Asst	\$7,000
<i>Other:</i> Grants	\$50,000
<i>Notes:</i> Local match/landowner participation could equate to \$100,000 which increases the value of the project by up to 50%. Water quality projects in these two watersheds could easily reduce sediment and increase shading on streams and tributaries and help to meet clean water standards for Idaho. Idaho should increase its support for Districts engaged in these projects. Voluntary work by private landowners is crucial in order for Idaho to meet federal clean water mandates. SWC plays a vital role in helping Districts with putting this work on the ground. The return on state funding would be many times the dollars invested. The dollars invested return to local communities and the citizens/ taxpayers of the state reap the benefit of improved water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, protection of agricultural land and flood protection.	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$237,000

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority:</i> 2
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Available Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0

<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$0

Project/Program Title:	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$0
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
Total State Funds Needed To Complete Project:	\$0

District Budget Hearing: Project/Program Needs

Worksheet Budget Request

District: Ada Soil & Water Conservation District

Address: 9173 W. Barnes Drive Suite C

Phone: 208-685-6981

E-mail: Diane.Miller@id.nacdnet.net

Contact: Diane Miller

DATE: April 29, 2015

PART 1: Project/Program Priorities

Project/Program Title: <i>Treasure Valley Soil Health Initiative</i>	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>	
<p>In 2013, Ada SWCD purchased a large 15ft no-till drill to help promote soil health on farms that we lease to large scale producers in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. Local producers want to reduce their tillage, incorporate cover crops, reduce wind and water erosion, incorporate livestock using forage cover crops, expand their diversity, reduce their dependence on commercial fertilizers and pesticides, build soil health, and combat drought by increasing their water holding capacity and infiltration rate. It was used on roughly 2000 acres.</p> <p>We have recently purchased a small 7 1/2ft drill that can be used on small properties. We are hoping to see the same success for small producers. We have also purchased a roller crimper. This piece of equipment allows farmers to kill cover crops without herbicide or incorporation.</p> <p>Our primary goal is to improve water quality and address the impairments listed in the TMDL's found in our area and promote soil health. No-till farming has been proven to reduce sheet and rill erosion, increase soil quality and organic matter content, reduce energy use, reduce particulate emissions, increase plant available moisture, and provide food and escape cover for wildlife. Another conservation benefit of no-till farming is improvement in soil biological activity and diversity, which has been shown to reduce the need for commercial fertilizers and pesticides. No-till also serves to make soils more resilient, which is imperative as we witness more extreme and unseasonable weather patterns in the area.</p>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 1</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$30,000
<i>District:</i>	\$25,000
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
<i>Notes:</i>	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$55,000

Project/Program Title: 5th Grade Conservation Field Days
Description of Project/Program:

This program addresses education about conservation efforts children can make and also strengthening our partnerships

Ada SWCD feels that children need to be equipped for tomorrow's challenges, and we must adequately prepare our children for the future they will inherit. That requires a commitment to providing children with environmental education. We want to grow the next generation of conservation leaders.

In 2013 the board of the Ada SWCD wanted to facilitate an onsite conservation education for children. We identified that in our urban area there is no group reaching out to educate children about soil, water, or native species habitat conservation.

We held our first Fifth Grade Field Day (FGFD) at Peaceful Belly Farm and in 2014 the District held FGFD in two locations and over 500 children attended. This year we will hold the FGFD at 3 separate locations with 1,500 children attending.

This year our field day will be centered around the topic of erosion and how it effects all aspects of our life from the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we depend on, the wild places we play and all of the natural insect, bird and animal habitat. Providing hands on conservation education to children has been a proven approach in helping them understand application of practices. Children's understand when they are able to experience education with all of their senses. To be truly effective, this body of knowledge must be integrated into all aspects of the curriculum and into every aspect of conservation.

Our field days have been very well attended and the list of schools who would like to attend is growing and we would like to see this program grow to someday accommodate all of the 5th graders in our district. Our main objective, with these field days, is to help empower these children through understanding and help bring conservation into their daily lives. These field days are an entire day long field trip where the children move from one station to the next learning about farming, urban areas and natural conservation practices.

Each station is led by one of our partner conservation/educational organizations. Our partners have included; City of Boise, Boise Watershed, Idaho Rivers United, NRCS, BLM, Idaho Range Land Resource Council, Idaho Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Snake River Birds of Prey Center, Idaho fish and Game, Treasure Valley Bee Keepers, Boise Co-op and our local Canal companies. These organizations all donate their time to help create interactive stations where the children can see demonstrations, models, and experiments. They are a part of each activity that further helps them understand soil, water, and habitat conservation. This year we would like for each child to understand how erosion affects all elements and how it is all interconnected. This type of **conservation education is influencing the children's attitudes, emotions, knowledge, and behaviors about water, soil, air, wildlife, wild places and the way they are changed or harmed by erosion. This is done through the efforts of skilled educators and interpreters, who use a variety of techniques, methods, and assessments to reconnect these children to their natural world.** With the partners we have assembled, we would like to create a more connective field day for these children by asking each presenter to create their presentation around erosion and what it means to the part of the environment they represent.

Project/Program Timeline:
Priority: 2
Resource Concern(s) Addressed:
Funding Sources (list all sources):

<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$10,000
<i>District:</i>	\$6,000
<i>Other:</i>	\$0
Notes:	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$16,000

Project/Program Title: Avimor Easement	
<i>Description of Project/Program:</i>	
<p>This program highlights our dedication to open space and protecting our natural resources.</p> <p>Ada SWCD is unique in the fact that we are the most urban district in Idaho. We have taken a leadership role in securing and actively managing conservation easements for open space preservation and natural resource enhancement. Conservation Districts in general are ideally suited to fulfill this role from a land stewardship perspective, and we have taken great effort to develop the proper framework for conservation easement management within our jurisdiction.</p> <p>The Ada Soil & Water Conservation District is responsible for holding and managing the conservation easement for the Avimor Planned Community in the foothills north of Eagle. The land within the conservation easement consists of almost 649 acres of natural open space to be preserved and enhanced in perpetuity by the conservation district.</p> <p>In 2015, we will begin a reintroduction of native plant species back into the easement area. Just like much of the open foothills of Idaho native species have been lost to fire or noxious weed competition. We are going to be planting bitterbrush, willows and native flowers into the easement. We will be adding more signs that will help educate the public about the native species and what they can do to help prevent fire</p>	
<i>Project/Program Timeline:</i>	<i>Priority: 3</i>
<i>Resource Concern(s) Addressed:</i>	
<i>Funding Sources (list all sources):</i>	
<i>Federal:</i>	\$0
<i>State:</i>	\$0
<i>District:</i>	\$5,000
<i>Other: Avimor Grant</i>	\$5,000
<i>Notes:</i>	
DATE	
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$8,000



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

**Board of
Supervisors:**

Chairman
Leon Slichter

Vice Chairman
Tom Gehring

Secretary
Jim Paradiso

Treasurer
Adam Sonnen

Member
Elaine Sonnen

Associate
Bob Rylaarsdam
Mike Duclos
Pete Lane
Ed Stuivenga
Scott Wasem

District
Administrator
Stefanie 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 Fuhrer, 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,

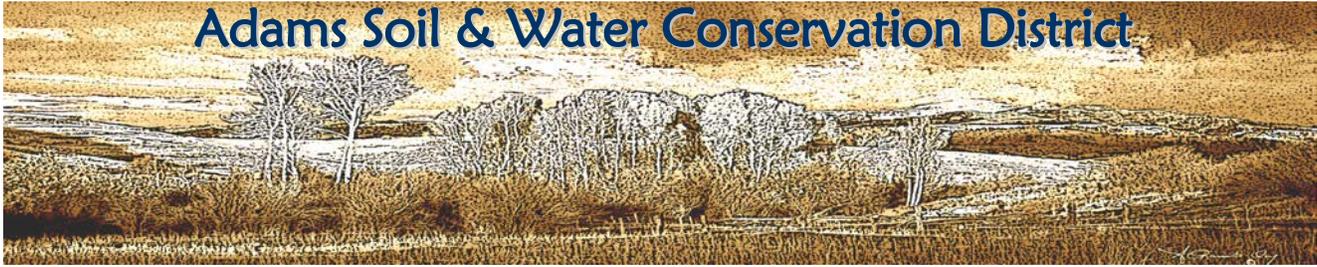
Kit Tillotson
IASCD President

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

KEVIN KOESTER
Lava Hot Springs, ID

SCOTT HENDERSON
Swan Lake, ID

DAVE JACKSON
Tybee, ID

KIT TILLOTSON
Lava Hot Springs, ID

JOHN McNABB
Inkom, ID

Associates

KIRK IRICK
Lava Hot Springs, ID

MORGAN EVANS
Downey, ID

BRAD KENT
Arimo, ID

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

H. Norman Wright
Chairman

Roger Stutzman
Vice Chairman

Jerry Trebesch
Secretary

Dave Radford
Commissioner

Leon Slichter
Commissioner

Teri A. Murrison
Administrator

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

FROM: TERRY HOEBELHEINRICH, LOAN OFFICER

DATE: May 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