

**Bruneau River Soil Conservation District**

P. O Box 590  
Bruneau Idaho, 83604

**ANNUAL PLAN**

**FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

**BUSINESS PLAN**

**JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2020**

The Bruneau River Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 51 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation Districts are charged with carrying out a program for the conservation, use and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

Conservation Districts are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. They are catalysts for coordinating and implementing conservation programs, channeling expertise from all levels of government into action at the local level. Programs are non-regulatory; science-based technical assistance, incentive-based financial programs and informational and educational programs at the local level.

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

This Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan was developed not only to guide the Conservation District, but also to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the Bruneau River Soil and Water Conservation District.

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

The Board of elected supervisors of the Bruneau River Soil and Water Conservation District this fifth day of March 27, 2015 do hereby approve the following document known as the Resource Conservation Business Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2018 during which time it will be updated annually and/or amended, as necessary.

As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do hereby affix our signatures to this document.

Mark Frost	Chairman
Russ Turner	Vice Chairman
Chris Black	Secretary
Chris Black	Treasurer
Sid Erwin	Member
Dave Hooley	Member
_____	Member
_____	Member

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners (As applicable)

_____	Natural Resources Conservation Service
_____	Soil Conservation Commission
_____	Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts



# Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan Business Plan (2015 to 2020) Bruneau River Soil & Water Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Mark Frost-chairman, 208-834-2247

*Picture of District  
Natural Resource  
Project*

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## Organization of the Bruneau River Soil & Water Conservation District

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

- Organized in \_\_\_\_\_ to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses within the Bruneau River BRSCD boundary.

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## Function of the Bruneau River Soil & Water Conservation District

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

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## Who We Serve & Why

- The people and natural resources in the Bruneau River , BRSCD, to conserve the natural resources for the beneficial and sustainable use by all.

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## Mission of the Bruneau River Soil & Water Conservation District

- *To take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources.*

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## Vision of the Bruneau River Soil & Water Conservation District

- *To help our local producers conserve irrigation water, control noxious weeds, reduce erosion, and develop sustainable agricultural practices to reduce nitrates in our water supply, while maximizing yields and decreasing inputs. This will ensure that farming and ranching will continue far into the future.*

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## Values of the Bruneau River Soil & Water Conservation District

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

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## Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

The following priorities and goals are examples. Each Conservation District should develop priorities and goals applicable to the natural resources issues in their District. Priorities might include:

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Animal Waste Management*   | ▪ Rangeland*                  |
| ▪ Carbon Sequestration       | ▪ Recreation                  |
| ▪ District Operations        | ▪ Riparian                    |
| ▪ Fish and Wildlife *        | ▪ Urban                       |
| ▪ Information and Education* | ▪ Water Quality*              |
| ▪ Irrigated Cropland         | ▪ Water Resources (quantity)  |
| ▪ Non-irrigated Cropland     | ▪ Woodland                    |
| ▪ Pasture/Hayland            | ▪ Other – District Determined |

\* *Meets Antidegradation Plan for Agriculture criteria*

## Priorities and goals

1. Reduction of invasive and noxious weeds
  - By date invasive and noxious weeds in Eastern Owyhee Cooperative Weed Management Area in BRSCD will be listed by location and degree of problem
  - By date, a work plan will be developed with Palisades Mitigation Weed Management Partners leading to a 25% reduction in noxious weed species by the end of date
  - District will sponsor a Weed Control Workshop annually in March with a target of reach 40 landowners and operators
2. Water Quantity.
  - Make available technical and financial assistance for improved irrigation water management to number of producers in dates through the Idaho Conservation Partners' programs.
  - By date provide information to District irrigators on current Idaho water issues
3. Wind Erosion Control
  - Target landowners and operators in priority wind erosion areas and encourage participation in EQIP, WHIP and other Farm Bill programs to use conservation measures to reduce wind erosion.
  - By the end of date five landowners or operators will have developed and implemented a conservation plan to reduce erosion on highly erodible cropland to T.
  - Conduct a Conservation Tree Sale Program annually to encourage constituents to develop conservation and farmstead windbreaks. Explore potential of carbon sequestration credits.
4. Water Quality
  - By date with assistance of Conservation Partners provide and/or determine nutrient management technical assistance needed by dairies and beef feeding operations.
  - Attend South Work Watershed Advisory Group and administer financial funds for administrative assistance.
5. Public Outreach
  - By date SWCD will provide current information to constituents on the Nez Perce Water Rights Settlement and Snake River Basin Adjudication through the District quarterly newsletter.
  - By date develop and implement an Urban Conservation Outreach Program.
  - Annually conduct youth environmental education programs and increase participation in – speech contest, poster contest, seek and sponsor Envirothon Team.
  - Annually sponsor a fair booth.

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### **Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)**

- *Enter here the names of the critical geographic areas for natural resource conservation in the district.*

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### **Information – Education Priorities and Goals:**

- By date all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation poster contest.
- By date all Conservation District cooperator addresses and files will be updated.

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### **District Operations Priorities, Goals:**

- New supervisors will have completed New Supervisor Training.
- By date complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, personnel management, training and development, annual planning and reporting.
- In cooperation with Conservation Districts develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 90% State matching funds for all Districts.
- Conduct Conservation District elections in dates.

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### **Trends Impacting Conservation in the Bruneau River Soil & Water Conservation District**

- Urban impact on agriculture production
- Poorly planned growth in agricultural areas
- Increasing small acreage farms, five acres or less
- Limited availability of State funds for conservation
- Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and environmental issues

- Increased paper work to getting the job done
- Trend to regulate agriculture and ranching

**Strategies to Address Trends**

- More education but not the usual – more outreach instead of publications
- Determine opportunities to coordinate outreach activities with traditional and non-traditional partners.
- Raising awareness of conservation values with state legislature and elected officials – help decision makers be better informed
- Strengthen Locally Led efforts
- Supervisors become more informed on current issues impacting working lands, Farm Bill programs, Information from agencies instead of relying on NRCS District Conservationist
- Determine how to become involved with County Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources.
- Map noxious and invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts
- Establish a data base to track resource conditions
- Host an open house to make public aware of goals
- Solicit input to improve Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan
- Take a proactive approach to funding water delivery systems on irrigated cropland
- Identify the information methods to communicated with small land owners
- Sponsor project proposals with other districts
- Training for Conservation District Supervisors and staff

**Staffing Needs**

- Part-time Conservation District Administrative Assistant.

**Annual Budget Needs**

- Enter a summary of the annual budget needed to carry out the plan of the Bruneau River Conservation District based on the above information.
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**Key Decision Makers**

- Citizens in Conservation District
- Owyhee County Commissioners and Planning and Zoning Board Members (list by name)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elected City Officials and Planning and Zoning Board Members (list by name)
- State legislators representing Conservation District (list by name)
- U.S. Senators, Representatives and Staffers
- Conservation District Supervisors
- Key contacts for cities
- Chamber of Commerce
- Urban
- Special Interest Groups

**Priority Actions – 6 Months**

- *Enter a summary of the priority actions needed to start the 5-year plan of the Bruneau River Soil & Water Conservation District based on the above information.*

Action	Begin Date	End Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek public comments on Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business</li> </ul>		

<p>Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Board of Supervisor review of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan priorities, actions, and public comment</li> <li>▪ Complete written update of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan</li> <li>▪ Identify budget and staff needs</li> <li>▪ Develop, adopt and submit annual budget</li> <li>▪ Adopt and submit Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan</li> </ul>		
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Idaho Conservation Districts assisting land owners and operators with their conservation choices





# FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work Bruneau River Conservation District

Picture of Natural Resource  
Projector Priority Area  
Optional

Conservation District Priority Number 1: Water Quality

Goal(s): For producers to install and maintain as many water quality BMP'S as possible

Objective: To improve and protect water quality in our streams as well as our ground water

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Encourage landowners to attend PFC (proper functioning condition)		
Continue to encourage board members and local ranchers and farmers to serve on WAGS<BAGS. Owyhee initiative, sage grouse working group, Owyhee watershed council etc.	Ongoing	The Board
Request BRCS to furnish Range Conservationist to assist ranchers in their rangeland management activities	Ongoing	NRCS

**Bruneau River Conservation District** assisting land managers with their conservation choices



## FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2020) Annual Plan of Work Bruneau River Conservation District

*Picture of Natural Resource  
Projector Priority Area  
Optional*

Conservation District Priority Number 2: Rangeland and Riparian

Goal(s): Monitor grazing so that the producer can maintain high production while protecting the upland

Objective: Educate ranchers on rangeland and riparian BMP'S

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Encourage landowners to attend PFC		The board
Continues to encourage board members and local ranchers and farmers to serve on WAGS,BAG'S, Owyhee watershed council etc.	Ongoing	
Request NRCS to furnish Range Conservationist to assist ranchers in their rangeland	Ongoing	NRCS
Encourage local producers to apply for EQIP contracts through NRCS in order to pay for BMP,S	Ongoing	The board &

*Bruneau River Conservation District* assisting land managers with their conservation choices



## FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2020) Annual Plan of Work Bruneau River Conservation District

*Picture of Natural Resource  
Projector Priority Area  
Optional*

Conservation District Priority Number 3: Water quality for irrigation water management

Goal(s): To reduce irrigation induced soil erosion on minimum of 1000 acres

Objective: To reduce soil erosion and reduce other pollutants leaving fields and entering waterways

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Educate producers on ways to reduce water induced erosion and aid producers to install BMP;S with the help of EQIP WQPA loans and technical help	Ongoing	Board Members NRCS,USCC,IASCD

Bruneau River Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices



## FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2020) Annual Plan of Work Bruneau River Conservation District

*Picture of Natural Resource  
Projector Priority Area  
Optional*

Conservation District Priority Number 4: Fish, wildlife, noxious weed control

Goal(s): To control noxious weeds, fish to stop non native fish past the Hot Creek diversion in the Bruneau River

Objective: To reduce white top Russian Knapweed, Puncturevine, Pepperweed, scotch thistle, Canadian thistle, hydrillia, eradication in the Bruneau River

Quagga mussel: stop infected boats with quagga mussels from entering waters

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Fish barrier at the Hot Creek Diversion	12/31/09	BRSCD irrigation district & fish & game
Hydrilla eradication	12/31/16	BRSCD-
3000 acres of noxious weeds strayed	12/31/09	


**Bruneau River Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices**



**FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2020) Annual Plan of Work  
Bruneau River Conservation District**

*Picture of Natural Resource  
Projector Priority Area  
Optional*

Conservation District Priority Number 5: Bruneau Hot Springs Snail

Goal(s): reduce the use of hot water irrigation to maintain the hot water aquifer for the Bruneau Hot spring snail population

Objective: Conserve hot water in the hot water aquifer to sustain Bruneau Hotspring snail.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Hot water users- convert surface irrigation to sprinkler irrigation, Install mainlines- replacing ditches when transporting hot water to fields. Install new gaskets and sprinkler nozzles to reduce hot water use.		


Bruneau River Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices



**FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2020) Annual Plan of Work  
Bruneau River Conservation District**

*Picture of Natural Resource  
Projector Priority Area  
Optional*

Conservation District Priority Number 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Goal(s):

Objective:

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
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***Bruneau River Conservation District*** assisting land managers with their conservation choices



**FY2016 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2020) Annual Plan of Work  
Bruneau River Conservation District**

*Picture of Natural Resource  
Projector Priority Area  
Optional*

Conservation District Priority Number 7: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal(s):

Objective:

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible


**Bruneau River Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices**

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

DISTRICT: III

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

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2015

DUE :

March 31, 2015

**CERTIFICATION**

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan is true and accurate, and further submit said Plan for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

*Sidney Brivers*

Board Supervisor Signature

*Sidney Brivers*

Printed Name

*April 17, 2015*

Date

208-845-2299

District Telephone

*briverscd@gmail.com*

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:  
\_\_\_\_\_