

FORWARD

The Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) 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, providing 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 and the Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission provide 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 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.

Our Vision: Productive and sustainable natural resources in harmony with an elevated land stewardship ethic of the people.

Our Mission: To provide local leadership to educate and assist the public on the stewardship of soil, water, air, plant and animal resources, and to promote strong conservation partnerships to find practical, economical solutions to natural resource problems and coordinate their implementation.

Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the Clearwater 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 along with an operational plan. The Conservation District office is located in the lower level of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center, 12730 Hwy 12, Orofino.

Our supporting staff members are:

Michael Hoffman, Conservation District Manager
Cathy L Bolin, Conservation District Office Manager

Primary Technical assistance is from:

Eileen Rowan, Idaho State SWC, Water Quality Specialist
Amber Brocke, NRCS District Conservationist

Certificate of Adoption:

The Board of elected supervisors of the Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District this 19th day of February 2015, do hereby approve the following document known as the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Antidegradation Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2020, 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.

Terry White

Chairman

Gordon White

Vice Chairman

Joyce Simonsen

Treasurer

Robert Reggear

Secretary

Bruce Hanson

Member

Section 1- Physical Characteristics of the District:



Land Ownership and Land Use		
Private Land acres 479,959		
Cultivated	33,261	acres
Highly Erodible Land	28,210	acres
Irrigated land (golf course)	17	acres
Non-Irrigated Cropland	21,331	acres
CRP	3,406	acres
Hay land	7,500	acres
Pasture	7,500	acres
Rangeland ...	6,852	acres
Forest	419,716	acres
Non-Industrial	82,236	acres
Industrial	337,480	acres
Urban, built-up, mining, etc	5,806	acres
Tribal land (mostly forest)	11,076	acres
State Land (mostly forest)	252,078	acres
Federal Land (mostly forest)	864,088	acres
Water	16,558	acres
Total Acres in Clearwater County		
1,607,201		

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

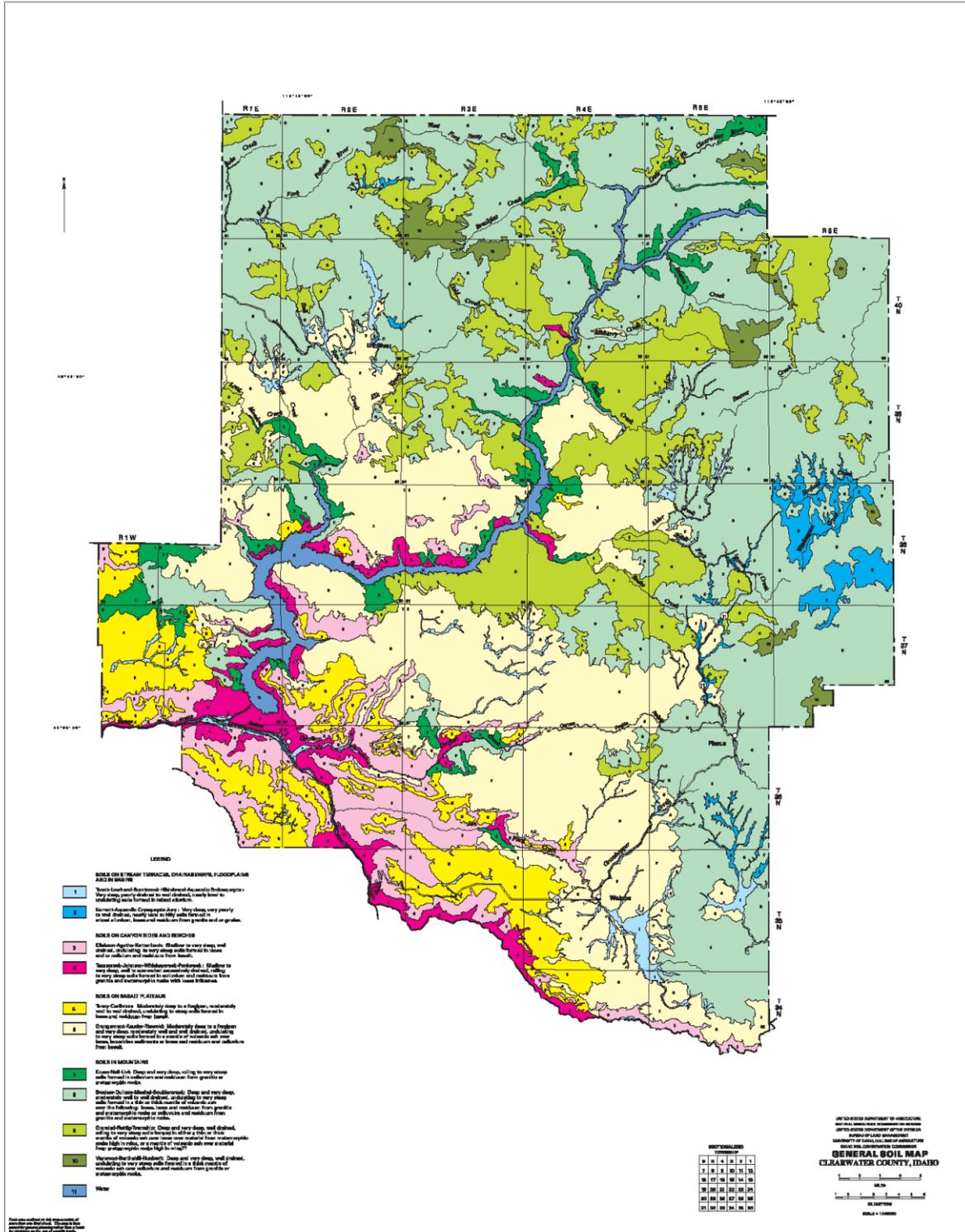
The eastern part of the District is characterized by deeply dissected mountain ranges and somewhat narrow valleys with abundant streams. The Clearwater Mountains are mostly granitic rock. Higher elevation valleys tend to be u-shaped from glaciation. The highest elevation is 7930 ft. at Rhoades Peak.

The southwest section of the District is a dissected basalt plateau drained by the Clearwater River. Topography in this section consists of rolling, broad upland sections separated by deep, narrow, steep canyons cut into the plateau. Many basalt flows make up this plateau which is capped with windblown soil and volcanic ash deposits that contribute to its productivity. The lowest elevation is 1000 ft. along the Clearwater River.

CLIMATE

The sun shines about 75 percent of the time in summer and about 30 percent in winter when most of the precipitation falls. Cropland in the southwestern part of the county averages 26 inches of precipitation with an average of 120 growing degree days. Although Orofino may only have a few inches of snow at any one time, the cropland is typically covered for about 60 days each winter. The forested part of the county has an average precipitation range from 40 to over 90 inches, increasing as you go north and

eastward toward Montana. The annual snow depth on the mountain ridges over 6000 ft. elevation is typically between 10 and 14 ft.



GENERAL SOIL MAP UNITS

Soils Map Legend:

SOILS ON STREAM TERRACES, DRAINAGEWAYS, FLOODPLAINS AND IN BASINS

- 1 Teneb-Lewhand-Burntcreek-Hildebrand-Aquandic Endoaquepts: Very deep, poorly drained to well drained, nearly level to undulating soils formed in mixed alluvium
- 2 Narnett-Aquandic Cryaquepts-Jury: Very deep, very poorly to well drained, nearly level to hilly soils formed in mixed alluvium, loess and residuum from granite and or gneiss.

SOILS ON CANYON SIDES AND BENCHES

- 3 Klickson-Agatha-Kettenbach: Shallow to very deep, well drained, undulating to very steep soils formed in loess and or colluvium and residuum from basalt
- 4 Texas creek-Johnson-Whiskey creek-Jim Fords creek: Shallow to very deep, well to somewhat excessively drained, rolling to very steep soils formed in colluvium and residuum from granitic and metamorphic rocks with loess influence.

SOILS ON BASALT PLATEAUS

- 5 Taney-Carlinton: Moderately deep to a fragipan, moderately well to well drained, undulating to steep soils formed in loess and residuum from basalt.
- 6 Grangemont-Kauder-Riswold: Moderately deep to a fragipan and very deep, moderately well and well drained, undulating to very steep soils formed in a mantle of volcanic ash over loess, lacustrine sediments or loess and residuum and colluvium from basalt

SOILS IN MOUNTAINS

- 7 Kruse-Noil-Uvi: Deep and very deep, rolling to very steep soils formed in colluvium and residuum from granitic or metamorphic rocks
- 8 Brodeer-Dullaxe-Mushel-Boulder creek: Deep and very deep, moderately well to well drained, undulating to very steep soils formed in a thin or thick mantle of volcanic ash over the following: loess, loess and residuum from granitic and metamorphic rocks or colluvium and residuum from granitic and metamorphic rocks
- 9 Grandad-Rettig-Township: Deep and very deep, well drained, rolling to very steep soils formed in either a thin or thick mantle of volcanic ash over loess over material from metamorphic rocks high in mica, or a mantle of volcanic ash over material from metamorphic rocks high in mica??
- 10 Vaywood-Berthahill-Hucberit: Deep and very deep, well drained, undulating to very steep soils formed in a thick mantle of volcanic ash over colluvium and residuum from granitic or metamorphic rocks
- 11 Water

Section 2 - Economic Conditions and Outlook:

Clearwater County borders the state of Montana in Northern Idaho. It is the state's twenty-sixth most populous county and the tenth largest in area. Nearly 27 square miles of the county is water and about 54% of the land area is federally owned. Historically, forest and wood products employment have driven the economy. Major employers include Joint School District #171, The U. S. Forest Service, Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Welfare (including State Hospital North) Clearwater Valley Hospital and Nightforce Optics.

Population:

During the early 1990s, Clearwater County's population grew, peaking at 9,232 in 1996. But hard economic times drove the population down 12 percent from 9,033 in 1999 to 8,590 in 2012, while U.S. population grew 12 percent and Idaho's population grew 21 percent. New registrations for driver's licenses and job registrations indicate that the few people who did move to Clearwater County came from other parts of the Pacific Northwest and California to enjoy the scenery, recreational opportunities and rural lifestyle. The county seat, Orofino, has a population of 3,142 Pierce, 494; and Weippe, 419.

Labor Force & Employment:

The decline in the forest products industry climaxed in 2000 with the closure of Pierce's Jaype Mill. In 2006, Clearwater County began to show signs of recovery. Jobs were added in manufacturing, construction, retail, health care and tourism. Unfortunately, trouble in the lumber industry once again unsettled the area and pushed the unemployment rate above 8.7 percent in 2015.

An industrial park was built in Orofino, and Architectural Signs and Engraving Inc. was the first tenant. The SJX Boats plant opened there in 2008. Nightforce Optics moved to the area in 2002 and now employs nearly 50 people making high-quality rifle scopes for hunters, police and the military. Federal and state employment provides some job stability; the U.S. Forest Service employs 80 year-round and a few dozen more in the summer. Orofino is home to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Hatchery, which employs 45 people. A state penitentiary and mental health facility (Hospital North) employs 230 people. Tourists come to enjoy hunting, fishing and boating opportunities, at Dwarshak Reservoir. The Lodge at River's Edge in Orofino opened in 2005 to provide upscale lodging and dining to help attract more visitors for longer stays.

Clearwater County has struggled with high unemployment since the mid-1990s. Because of that, the county is an eligible labor surplus area, giving local businesses priority for government contracts. Clearwater County Economic Development and local officials are making efforts to strengthen and diversify the economy.

Economic/Mining Geology:

Clearwater County has been an important source of many economic minerals in Idaho. The combination of igneous intrusive and highly metamorphosed sediments with the complex geologic structure resulted in mineralization or formation of mineable deposits of gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, iron ore, magnetite, wolframite (tungsten), rutile (titanium), asbestos, monazite (thorium), fluorspar, garnets, and marble, mainly in the metamorphosed areas.

Gold and garnets are also present as placer deposits in alluvial and colluvial material throughout the county, weathered from vein and crystalline deposits upstream. Nearly all of the streams in the area have been worked for gold mainly by dredging and washing. This has removed much of the fine sediment in some drainages' leaving only the coarse-grained fraction in the streambeds and banks.

Section 3 – Assessment:

Natural Resource Issues and Concerns:

Cropland Soil Quality and Stability	Rural-Urban Interface
Pasture and Hay-land Condition	Air Quality
Forest Health and Productivity	Fish and Wildlife*
Watershed Health	Information and Education*
Land Use Planning and Conversions	Animal Waste Management*
Water Quality and Quantity*	Outdoor Recreation
Riparian Area Condition and Function	Renewable Energy
Natural Disaster Hazard Mitigation	Rangeland Health*
Pest Management	Conservation District Operations

* Meets Idaho's Anti-degradation Plan for Agriculture criteria

Trends and Issues Impacting Conservation in Clearwater County:

- Urban impacts on agriculture and forest production, increasing small acreage farms, less than 40 acres
- Fragmentation of agricultural and forest land
- Limited availability of funds for conservation
- The recent focus on water quality has lost sight of other conservation issues
- Increased administrative tasks and decreased agency funding have reduced technical assistance to landowners
- Trends to regulate agriculture, ranching and forestry
- Increasing recreational pressures on forest land
- A decline in timber harvest due to low prices and/or management decisions have resulted in a corresponding reduction in forest health
- Reduced funding sources for the District and State conservation programs

Natural Resource Assessment and Objectives:

Cropland Soil Quality and Stability – Cropland soils in Clearwater County are all cut-over forest soils that are not as deep, have less structure, more clay in the subsoil, a restrictive layer underneath the subsoil, and a higher erosion risk than prairie soils in surrounding counties. If an inch of topsoil is lost here, it is much more critical than losing an inch from deep prairie soils. All cropland greater than 3% slope is determined Highly Erodible. Farming trends have been to reduce tillage operations, leaving more surface crop residue for runoff protection. This must continue to meet erosion control objectives and reduce transport of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides to the numerous drainages and streams in this high precipitation area.

- a. Participate in planning meetings with local landowners, the NRCS and Idaho State SWC to identify priorities and alternatives for implementation.
- b. Promote no-till and other conservation tillage practices.
- c. Provide soil quality educational information and testing through the university.
- d. Promote operations that maintain proper pH levels and organic matter for agricultural crops.
- e. Explore county-wide project needs for roadside seeding.
- f. Promote the use of soil tests and precision agriculture to apply nutrients specific for crops and production goals.
- g. Promote the practice of split nutrient application, or use of slow-release fertilizers for grain crops planted in the fall.

Pasture and Hayland Condition - Pastures are dominated by cool season grasses. Adequate levels of nutrients and grazing management are most common problems. Hayland is normally a mixture of alfalfa or clover with grass that is cut once per year. Because of the wet spring weather haying is usually delayed until July to get more tonnage, which is also past maturity of the grasses. Hayland nutrient management and grazing on fall re-growth both need to be managed closely in order to sustain hayland.

- a. Promote proper livestock stocking levels matched with plant growth and availability through grazing management plans.
- b. Promote vegetation improvement practices with management, seeding, nutrients, pest management and livestock control.
- c. Provide information on proper management through agency guides on pasture condition, livestock nutrition balancing and soil testing.

Forest Health and Productivity – There are large acreages of prime forestland which have been cut over at least once in the past century. Some early logging practices were to hi-grade valuable saw logs and leave less desirable species of grand fir which now dominate many landscapes. There are also areas with root disease, insect infestations, or tall brush that prevents healthy tree growth.

- a. Promote active management of forests, using a minimum standard of removing dead, dying and diseased trees for proper sanitation and protection of the remaining trees.
- b. Participate in forest management plan discussions with federal, state, tribal and industrial forest landowners to emphasize active management, not non-use.
- c. Promote tree planting, reforestation, and control of tall brush that prohibits tree establishment.
- d. Provide information on forest road Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the public.

Watershed Health – The most critical watershed problems are short peak spring runoff periods and the lack of sustained flows from streams in the late summer and early fall. A 150 year history of land use changes has contributed toward this. Lack of late summer stream flow results in higher stream temperatures than what are targeted for survival of some fish species.

- a. Promote land management practices on uplands that maintain healthy plant communities and soil conditions.
- b. Promote tree establishment on logged areas and idle land.
- c. Promote wetland restoration and creation for improved groundwater levels.
- d. Promote riparian area vegetation, stable stream banks, grassed waterways and other buffers zones.

Land Use Planning and Land Use Conversions – Many decisions made in local statues for land use, can benefit from technical information the District and their conservation partner agencies provide. Improved communication with the Planning and Zoning Board and other local government services would be mutually beneficial to meet the District objectives.

- a. Reduce Impacts of Land Use Conversions to Rural Residences.
- b. Determine how to provide more input on County Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources.
- c. Provide the resource information the County Planning and Zoning board needs to make better informed decisions for land use planning and on subdivisions of properties.
- d. Encourage road districts to reduce sediment and maintain grass cover on barrow ditches.

Water Quality and Quantity – There is an abundance of water in this county with its high precipitation. Water quality is constantly under scrutiny because of drinking water supplies from surface runoff, and because of requirements to maintain salmonid fish populations in the streams, including bull trout and anadromous salmon and steelhead. Summer water temperatures in small streams and sediment amounts are the most critical water quality issues.

- a. Annually meet with the Watershed Advisory Groups (WAG) to review work progress and future implementation tasks on 303(d) listed streams to meet the pollutant load reductions spelled out in the Total Maximum Daily Loadings (TMDL's).
- b. Look for future project needs through the locally led process.
- c. Provide information on snowpack, stream runoff predictions, and drought conditions as they apply to crop, forage and fiber production and management.
- d. Ensure water quality information gets out to cities and rural residences, including topics such as wellhead protection, septic system evaluations, nutrient and pesticide use, and other topics to protect surface runoff that enters drinking water systems.
- e. Support water quality monitoring efforts, especially on priority streams and reservoirs.
- f. Communicate regularly with DEQ and other agencies about water quality issues.

Riparian Area Condition and Function – Land areas adjacent to streams and other water bodies are important buffer zones that need a different type of management. Their ability to recover after disturbance is crucial in maintaining water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, cycling nutrients, providing natural floodplains, and other functions. Sometimes the competing land uses for roadways, logging, grazing, annual field crops, and even rural homes can compromise the ability of these buffer zones to function.

- a. Promote proper functioning riparian areas in all projects, programs and contracts the District enters into with landowners and managers.
- b. Promote riparian vegetation plantings where needed, with trees, shrubs and herbaceous materials.
- c. Sponsor workshops and information handouts on “Proper Function and Condition of Riparian Areas”.

Natural Disaster Hazard Mitigation – Local residents have to be prepared for many natural hazards. Quite often there are land management practices that can reduce the impacts of disasters. The District needs to be active in advocating these with local leaders.

- a. Contact IDL, local fire districts and Clearwater RC&D to identify ways to promote “Fire Wise/Defensible Space” programs to reduce wildfire hazards.
- b. Work with County fire prevention agencies to provide information to rural residence on wildfire hazard reduction.
- c. Promote the construction of ‘dip ponds’, frost free hydrants on rural ponds, and other resource developments to assist wildfire suppression.
- d. Determine how to provide more input on the County Emergency Management’s All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- e. Actively pursue flood hazard reduction projects on Orofino Creek.
- f. Provide assistance to the county for landslide hazard reduction associated with roads and other construction.

Pest Management – Weeds, insects, disease, damage from rodents and wildlife, including predator control, all impact forestry, agriculture, and the people of the county. Controlling ‘pests,’ is often one of the most expensive and time consuming land management practices. The District will promote up-to-date technical information for land managers for pest control that will have many beneficial impacts.

- a. Support the Clearwater Basin Co-op Weed Management Area so that Clearwater County invasive and noxious weeds will be listed by location and degree of problem.
- b. Map noxious & invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts.
- c. Develop a work plan with the Clearwater Basin Co-op Weed Management Area partners leading to a reduction in noxious weed species.
- d. Promote precision use and safe application of agricultural pesticides.
- e. Work with forestland managers to identify disease and insect areas that impact forest health and coordinate control efforts whenever possible.

Rural-Urban Interface - Many rural homes are being developed with small acreage ownerships. Many of these landowners have not lived away from cities and want information on the natural resources they now own. They also need information on what to expect from their neighbors who are involved with production agriculture or forestry, from natural hazards, such as wildfire, and what statues they should be aware of for water quality, air quality, weed control, and more.

- a. Identify information methods to promote resource stewardship on small acreage properties.

- b. Lead efforts to provide information to small acreage landowners by coordinating programs with the local Cooperative Extension System, NRCS, and Idaho State SWC and county entities.
- c. Sponsor at least one workshop per year to promote land stewardship practices.

Air Quality – Air quality is generally excellent. There is limited agricultural burning, usually on fields planted for grass seed production that are burned in August when warm temperatures carry smoke high into the atmosphere. More abundant are the burning activities on forestland to clean up logging slash and/or improve habitat for big game. The forest burns start with the first rainy period in early fall and continue until heavy snowfall.

- a. Promote adherence to local restrictions on agricultural burning and forest slash burning through Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association, federal and state land management agencies and wildlife agencies, the Nez Perce Tribe, the University of Idaho, EPA, Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality, Idaho Dept. of Agriculture, and the forest and agriculture producer groups.
- b. Concentrate on developing a program in conjunction with the “Fire Wise” program to chip the slash pile and re-sale the end product.

Fish and Wildlife – Land management practices can easily impact the fish and wildlife populations. The District promotes ways to improve habitat and reduce negative impacts on fish and wildlife. This is also addressed in the assessment of Riparian Condition.

- a. Promote habitat enhancement in all conservation programs and land treatments.
- b. Utilize IDF&G personnel, programs and species guides as resources to assist landowners.
- c. Provide resource information and program support for local problems with deer overpopulation, lack of winter range for elk and deer, and predator control.

Information and Education – One of the most important things Conservation Districts can do is provide information on natural resources to the local people and local government leaders. The Clearwater District needs to maintain these information services for all age groups.

- a. Determine opportunities to coordinate outreach activities with all partners.
- b. Host an open house to make public aware of Conservation District goals.
- c. Annually conduct youth environmental education programs and sponsor youth groups that compete in natural resource contests within the state.
- d. Provide opportunities for schools to participate in the conservation poster contest, outdoor classrooms and tours of our natural resources and their management.
- e. Annually display a fair booth to educate the public on District programs.
- f. Keep open communications with community leaders and state legislators about natural resource issues within the county.

Outdoor Recreation – Because of the large amount of public land in the county and the large amount of forested acreage, there are many diverse opportunities for outdoor activities. To reduce any negative impacts from user groups, there needs to be some organized areas for the various outdoor enthusiasts.

- a. Provide stewardship information to the public concerning their impacts on water quality, the spread of noxious weeds, off-road vehicle impacts, and other issues.
- b. Provide input and support to expand uses of abandoned railroads for recreation.
- c. Promote hiking, skiing and equestrian trails around Dworshak Reservoir.
- d. Promote trail development for motorcycles, ATVs, and snowmobiles.

Renewable Energy – With the amount of outdoor space, diverse topography, and high precipitation for abundant plant growth and stream flows, renewable energy sources are being looked at more and more. Oil seed crops, like canola and rapeseed, are proven to be a good source of biofuel. The topography and abundance of water yields a high potential for small hydro energy. There are many tons of woody material burned after logging operations that could be used for heat and power facilities.

- a. Collect information on solar, wind, small hydro projects, waste oil furnaces, biofuel and any other energy resources.
- b. Identify grants or projects that can promote use of logging slash and wood fiber waste as bio-fuel for heat and power production.
- c. Determine the feasibility of developing an alternate fuel source from the slash piles in conjunction with the U of I Extension office.

Rangeland Health – Rangelands in the District are predominantly on south slopes of the major canyons and drainages near the Clearwater River. They are ripe areas for invasive weeds. Soil compaction is a problem if grazed in wet conditions, as well as soil displacement from hoof action. Of more importance and abundance are the grazeable forestlands. Livestock grazing is common after timber harvest and on tree plantations for several years until the tree canopy closes out the sunlight and understory forage production. Thousands of cattle are brought into the county every summer to graze the fresh green growth in the forest areas and meadows. Timing, duration, and intensity of grazing is critical, as well as the distribution of livestock over large acreages.

- a. Co-sponsor the Annual North Central Idaho Grazing Workshop each January with IASCD Div. II.
- b. Promote grazing management plans that match livestock stocking levels with plant growth, availability, and animal nutrition needs.
- c. Provide input on federal, state and private grazing lease programs to promote sustainable forage use while meeting other objectives of timber production, water quality, weed control, wildlife habitat, recreation and more.
- d. Provide information to managers who lease land for grazing, and to the Grazing Associations and other rancher groups that lease land on technical and financial assistance available for management plans, monitoring and improvements.

Conservation District Operations – The Clearwater SWCD has many needs to carry out its planning objectives. This includes an active Board of Supervisors who volunteer their time, administrative staff, technical assistance and financial assistance. The District is actively trying to maintain opportunities to address the natural resource issues identified for the county.

- a. Training for District Supervisors and staff on operational responsibilities and authorities. New Supervisor Training will be completed within their first 2 years.
- c. More informed District Supervisors on current issues impacting working lands, Farm Bill programs, and information from agencies.
- d. Maintain District infrastructure and efficient operations with long-range plans and budgets, annual plans and budgets, and effective personnel management.
- e. In cooperation with other Conservation Districts, carry out an effective legislative outreach program to provide information on the state’s natural resource conditions, and ensure matching funds are available for all Districts.
- f. Conduct Conservation District Board elections in even years (2016, 2018, 2020). Maintain full Board membership.
- h. Strengthen local technical assistance by participation in federal and state program development, regional assessments and commitments through mutual agreements.
- k. Actively pursue grants and other funding sources to carry out all issues in the District plans, including administration, technical assistance, financial assistance to landowner adopting conservation treatments, and public outreach with demonstration projects, workshops, and other information and education.

Section 4- Identify and Prioritize Objectives

CONSERVATION DISTRICT NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITIES

Water Resource and Water Quality:

- 1) Replacing a 24” “shotgun” culvert with a 16 ft. x 30 ft. prefabricated steel bridge; 8 culvert upgrades; 2.7 miles of road upgrade including 50 rolling dips, culvert cleaning and any necessary spot rocking. This work will be implemented along Bonner Creek and completed in 2015.
North Fork Clearwater River Bull Trout Habitat Restoration Ph. III, Funded by: SRBA,
- 2) Abandoning 0.9 miles of forest road; reconstruct 2.4 miles of forest road; resurface 3.4 miles of forest road on Burcham Creek and will be completed in 2015.
Jim Brown Creek Salmon/Steelhead Habitat Restoration Phase I, Funded by: SRBA
- 3) *Removal of a 54” “shotgun” culvert and installing a 28’ x 65’ Bridge on Snake Creek which will be completed in 2015.*
Snake Creek Road Restoration Project, Funded by: Clean Water Act 319
- 4) Bridge installation: (30 ft. x 16 ft.) bridge on the West Fork of Cedar Creek; 1.5 miles of road rocking on the Main Haul Road on Floodwood Creek; 0.43 miles of road obliteration on Forest Road 181; and 1.71 miles of road abandonment on the Gut Road.

Floodwood Creek Bull Trout Habitat Restoration, Funded by: SRBA

- 5) Three bridge installations: a 35 ft x 16 ft. bridge and a 35 ft. x 20 ft. bridge, both on Breakfast Creek, and a 30 ft. x 14 ft. bridge on Silver Creek. Culvert upgrades include: a 7 ft. x 40 ft. open-bottomed culvert on Crystal Creek; a 57" x 38" arch pipe on Irish Creek and a 64" x 43" arch pipe on Bailey Gulch. This work will be implemented along the Shanghi Road and completed in 2016.

Orogrande Creek Bull Trout Habitat Restoration, Funded by: SRBA

Renewable Energy:

- 1) Procure and operate a mobile chipper in conjunction with the U of I Extension office to produce a biofuel alternative energy source for sale to local residents.
- 2) Orofino will continue to promote the implementation of a biomass facility and search for grants to accomplish this project

Hazard Mitigation:

- 1) Orofino Creek hazard mitigation and flood control (Railroad owner presently working on the track and trestle repair)
- 2) Procure and operate a mobile chipper in conjunction with the U of I Extension office to produce a biofuel alternative energy source for sale to local residents.

Community Outreach:

- 1) Procure and operate a mobile chipper in conjunction with the U of I Extension office to produce a biofuel alternative energy source for sale to local residents.
- 2) Complete "Youth Environmental Education Projects" annually, search for funding to reduce costs and encourage participation for K-12.
- 3) Conduct Weed Management and Soil Health Training Programs at small landowner workshops series in-conjunction with the U of I Extension office.

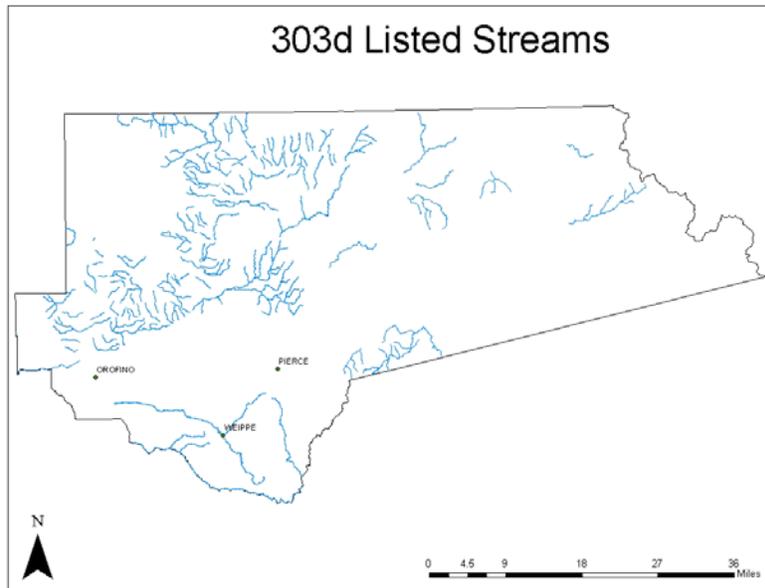
Conservation Commission District Capacity Building funds

Section 5- Water Quality Component:

- A list of impacted waters within the district boundaries as designated by the approved DEQ Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.

Stream segments and water bodies in Clearwater County

(Waters that Support Beneficial Uses) on the 2008 Integrated 303(d) / 305(b) list as meeting full support status but Jim Brown Creek, a tributary to Lolo Creek, is listed in Section 5 (Impaired Waters), as a water quality limited stream because of excessive nutrients, bacteria, sediment and temperature (Table 1). Musselshell Creek and Eldorado Creek are listed in Section 5 because of low biota and habitat ratings, based on the DEQ Bio assessment BURP Protocol. §303(d) listed Streams in Clearwater County :



17060306 Clearwater: Main Stem of the Clearwater River, Eldorado Creek, Jim Brown Creek, Musselshell Creek, Orofino Creek, Whiskey Creek, Bedrock Creek,

17060307 Upper North Fork Clearwater: Hem Creek, Lake Creek

17060308 Lower North Fork Clearwater: NF Clearwater Segment-Dwarshak Reservoir, Elkberry Creek, Middle Fork Robinson Creek, Gold Creek, Meadow Creek, Reeds Cree-Alder Creek, Gold Creek, Deer Creek, Beaver Creek, Bingo Creek,

Breakfast Creek, Cranberry Creek, Dog Creek, Elk Creek, Elk Creek Reservoir, Elk Creek (West Fork), Floodwood Creek, Isabella Creek, Stony Creek, Johnson Creek, Long Meadow Creek, Pinchot Creek, Goat Creek, Glover Creek,

Hydrology of the Clearwater Sub-basin is dominated by the Clearwater River main stem as it flows through mostly semi-arid canyons and agricultural ground before it drains into the Snake River at Lewiston, Idaho.

The Clearwater River provides approximately 10 percent of the flow of the Columbia River system annually; it contributes roughly one-third of the Snake River's annual flow (Maughn, 1972). The Clearwater flows from southeast to northwest in the upper half of the Sub-basin, from Kooskia to Orofino. It flows from east to west in the lower half of the Sub-basin, from Orofino to Lewiston.

The average annual (daily) flow of the Clearwater River near Spalding is 14,490 cfs; this is based on 30 years of flow data (1976 to 2005). Major tributaries to the Clearwater River in the Sub-basin include the Potlatch River, Lapwai Creek, Big Canyon Creek, Orofino Creek, Jim Ford Creek, and Lawyers Creek.

Section 6 – Identify and Prioritize Projects:

Water Resource and Water Quality Projects

North Fork Clearwater River Bull Trout Habitat Restoration, Phase III(est. complete 2015)	
Lolo Creek Steelhead Population/Burcham Creek Project	(est. complete 2015)
Snake Creek Bridge Installation Project	(est. complete 2015)
Floodwood Creek Bull Trout Habitat Restoration, Phase I	(est. complete 2015)
Orogrande Creek Bull Trout Habitat Restoration Phase I	(est. complete 2016)

Renewable Energy

Procure and operate a mobile chipper in conjunction with the U of I Extension office to produce a biofuel alternative energy source for sale to local residents.
Continue to promote the implementation of a biomass facility and search for grants to accomplish this project

Hazard Mitigation

Orofino Creek hazard mitigation and flood control (Railroad owner presently working on the track and trestle repair)
Work with County Hazard Mitigation team to develop and promote a Fire Wise program (research the option to purchase of a chipper by the District)

Community Outreach

Youth Environmental Education Projects (Earth Day-Poster Contest)
Soil Health workshops / Small Landowner workshops
Rails with Trails

Section 7 – Implementation: Annual Work Plan

Priority Number 1:

Water Resources and Water Quality

Goal: Restore North Fork Clearwater River Bull Trout Habitat Phase III,
Funded by: SRBA,

Objective: To decrease road degradation from erosion and prevent sediment delivery to Beaver Creek and NF Clearwater River while improving fish passage

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Upgrade 8 undersized and/or failing culverts that will meet the 50 year storm event standards.	Aug/2015	IDL, CSWCD
Upgrade 2.7 miles of forest road along Bonner Creek including: installing 50 rolling dips, culvert cleaning and any necessary spot rocking.	Sept/2015	IDL, CSWCD
Install a 16' x 30' steel fabricated bridge on Bonner Creek to replace a 24" "shotgun" undersized culvert	Aug/2015	IDL/CSWCD

Priority Number 2:

Water Resources and Water Quality

Goal: Restore Burcham Creek/Lolo Creek Salmon/Steelhead Habitat Phase 1,
Funded by: SRBA,

Objective: To improve fish passage, eliminate potential for road failure and sediment delivery to Burcham Creek, Jim Brown Creek and Lolo Creek.

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Abandon and restore .9 miles of forest road on Burcham Creek no longer necessary for Potlatch Forest Holdings, Inc.	Aug/2015	Potlatch, CSWCD
Reconstruct 2.4 miles of forest road, 1.4 miles on newly constructed forest road	Aug/2015	Potlatch, CSWCD
Resurface 3.8 miles of road on Burcham Creek	Oct/2015	Potlatch, CSWCD

Priority Number 3:

Water Resources and Water Quality

Goal: Install 65 ft. x 28 ft. prefabricated steel bridge on Snake Creek,
Funded by: *Clean Water Act 319*

Objective: To eliminate the potential of culvert failure and tons of sediment entering Snake Creek and to return “full support” status to Snake Creek.

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Removal of an undersized 54” culvert that is insufficient for existing stream flow and replace it with a 65 ft. x 28 ft. prefabricated steel bridge.	Sept/2015	Potlatch/CSWCD

Priority Number 4:

Water Resources and Water Quality

Goal: Restore Floodwood Creek Bull Trout Habitat, Funded by: *SRBA*,

Objective: To reduce the potential for slope failure and eliminate the threat of sediment transport to the Floodwood Creek, while improving water quality

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Install a 30 ft. x 16 ft. pre-fabricated steel bridge on the West Fork of Cedar Creek	Sept/2016	IDL, CSWCD
Rock 1.5 miles of the Floodwood Creek Main Haul Road	Oct/2015	IDL, CSWCD
Obliterate 0.43 miles of Forest Road 181	Sept/2015	IDL, CSWCD
Abandon 1.71 miles of Gut Road	Sept/2015	IDL, CSWCD

Priority Number 5:

Water Resources and Water Quality

Goal: Restore Orogrande Creek Bull Trout Habitat, Funded by: SRBA

Objective: To decrease sediment delivery to the 5 major tributaries in Orogrande Creek while improving fish passage and stream health for bull trout habitat.

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Install two bridges: - a 35 ft. x 16 ft. bridge and a 35 ft. x 20 ft. bridge, both on Breakfast Creek.	Sept/2016	Potlatch, CSWCD
Install one open-bottom 7 ft. x 40 ft. culvert on Crystal Cr.	Sept/2016	Potlatch, CSWCD
Install a 30 ft. x 14 ft. bridge on Silver Creek	Aug/2016	IDL, CSWCD
Install two large arch pipe culverts - a 57" x 38" arch pipe on Irish Creek - a 64" x 43" arch pipe on Bailey Gulch	Aug/Sept 2016	IDL, SWCD

Priority Number 6:

Renewable Energy

Goal(s): Utilize Available renewable resources to produce energy

Objective: To pursue various avenues to best utilize available resources

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Procure and operate a mobile chipper	Sept/2015	CSWCD
In conjunction with the U of I Extension office secure a grant to produce a biofuel alternative fuel source for sale to local residents.	On-going	CSWCD

Priority Number 6:

Renewable Energy

Goal(s): Develop Bio Fuel Plant in the Community

Objective: To utilize multiple renew-able resources in the County

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Search for funding for construction of biomass plant	On-going	CSWCD

Priority Number 7:

Hazard Mitigation

Goal(s): Remain active in Hazard Mitigation for the Community

Objective: *To identify possible environmental hazards in Orofino Creek and work with appropriate agencies to implement Flood Control measures.*

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Contact County Emergency Management Coordinator to determine critical areas in the county, prioritize projects and ways the District can assist with natural hazard mitigation, i.e. flood control and wildfire hazard reduction	On-going	CSWCD
Work with the railroad to prevent future build-up of debris behind the 38 Trestles on Orofino Creek	On-going	CSWCD

Priority Number 8:

Hazard Mitigation

Goal(s): Remain active in Hazard Mitigation for the Community

Objective: *Work with County Hazard Mitigation team to develop and promote a Fire Wise program*

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Contact County Emergency Management Coordinator to determine critical areas in the county, prioritize projects and ways the District can assist with natural hazard mitigation, i.e. wildfire hazard reduction	On-going	CSWCD

Priority Number 9:

Community Outreach

Goal(s): Create a sustainable Youth Environmental Education program,

Objective: Complete “Youth Environmental Education Projects” annually, search for funding to reduce participation costs and encourage participation.

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Sponsor and participate in the Sixth grade Forestry and Natural Resource Tour	July	CSWCD/Extension Office/Forest Service/School District
Sponsor and participate in the Sixth grade Poster Contest	April/Sept	CSWCD
Sponsor and participate in the Fourth grade Earth Day Outdoor Classroom	April	CSWCD/Forest Service/School District
Sponsor and participate in the Eight grade Overnight Field and Forest Trip	May	Reggear Tree Farm/CSWCD/NRCS/Forest Service/School District

Priority Number 11:

Community Outreach

Goal(s): Coordinate with Landowners to develop a Weed Management/Soil Health Program

Objective: Develop workshops to engage landowners in resolving problem areas

Actions:	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Develop a workshop that focuses on landowner concerns with weeds, soil health and cover crops	June 2014	Landowner/SWC Technical Staff/NRCS/CSWCD
Coordinate with NRCS/SCC and the U of I Extension to develop test plots for examples of soil improvements	Nov 2014	Landowner/SWC Technical Staff/NRCS/CSWCD

District Calendar of Events

Regular monthly Board meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday

JULY

- Submit financial records for annual audit
- 6th Grade Forestry Tour
- Begin preparation of Financial and Match Report
- Receive Base funding from Commission

AUGUST

- Submit Financial and Match reports/ Audit materials to Auditors
- Resolutions to Districts in respective Division and IASCD
- File Candidacy Requirements for Supervisor Elections (Sept 1 – even numbered years)
- Begin planning District's county fair exhibit

SEPTEMBER

- Set up exhibit at Clearwater County Fair
- Review election materials and petitions (even numbered years)
- IASCD and IDEA Award nominations due
- Visit schools and hold the 6th Grade Conservation Poster Contest
- Letter to Potlatch requesting donation

OCTOBER

- IASCD Division II Fall meeting
- Discuss IASCD resolutions and appoint a voting delegate for the annual conference
- Notices of election published in legal section of newspaper
- Letter to Commissioners requesting allocation disbursement
- Review Auditor report and file State Website

NOVEMBER

- Conduct District Elections (even years)
- IASCD Annual Conference (Boise 2015)
- Work on Commission Performance reports due in December

DECEMBER

- Provide input for USDA's Locally Led Working Group on conservation priorities (NRCS)
- Employee Performance Evaluations Due
- District Performance Report due to Commission
- Employee/District Health Reimbursement Agreement (HRA)

JANUARY

- Change Officers for Board of Supervisors
- New Supervisor Training/Orientation
- North Central Idaho Grazing Conference, Lewiston
- Small Acreage Land Stewardship Course Planning
- Tax forms mailed out

FEBRUARY

- Review Conservation Agreements and MOUs with NRCS and other agencies
- Review and Update 5-Year plan
- Area wide Soil Health Conference in Orofino, Lewiston and Nez Perce
- Idaho Community Foundation Report Due

MARCH

- IASCD Division II meeting
- Family Forest Landowners and Managers Workshop, Moscow
- 5 Year Plan due to Commission
- Commission Technical Assistance Request due

APRIL

- 4th Grade Earth Day Activities
- Clearwater County Community Cleanup day
- IASCD Division II Spring meeting
- Presentation to County Commissioners
- Capacity Building Needs to Commission

MAY

- 8th Grade Science field trip Reggear Tree Farm/Envirothon Introduction
- Soil Stewardship Week

JUNE

- Sponsor local crops and conservation tour & Soil Health Workshops
- Complete Budget new FY
- SRBA Annual Report for active grants
- Annual Conservation District Surveys (due by 31 July)

Conservation District Organization and Policies:

District Organization:

The Clearwater SWCD is a governmental subdivision of the State of Idaho, a public body corporate and politic, and authorized to exercise public powers. The governing body of the district is a board of five supervisors who are publically elected and who serve without pay. The District is dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound management practices. We promote clean water and productive soils. The district strives to ensure that local landowners make decisions on conservation problems at the local level.

The Clearwater SWCD willingly supports, accepts and promotes the responsibilities inherent to the Conservation Districts anti-degradation policy in order to preserve a locally administered voluntary approach addressing agriculture non-point source pollution.

The District will provide technical assistance to all landowners and operators in Clearwater County and provide information and guidance for local, state, federal and tribal programs.

The District will continue to provide effective local leadership for conservation programs and conduct well publicized supervisor elections.

The District will cooperate with units of local, state, federal and tribal government. The District reviews all programs and determines what progress has been made with improvements and determines any changes the District should make in implementing conservation programs.

The District will keep a personnel handbook and supervisors' handbook up-to-date and available to personnel and supervisors.

Guiding Principles:

Value and respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership to make available technical, financial and educational resources to better manage the soil, water and related natural resources.

The planned management of natural resources, for the beneficial and sustainable use by all. To conserve natural resources and use practical, economical management practices. We encourage a strong public outreach program reaching students and adults.

Administration and Finance:

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission anti-degradation rules for agriculture – IDAPA 02.05.025 require each district to complete a five year plan and update it annually in order to receive matching funds from the state.

The mission of the District is largely, but not wholly carried out and its purpose and objectives are achieved in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding: with the NRCS, provides for the assignment of technical and other personnel to assist the District in carrying out its program. As additional "Agreement of Gratuitous Use of

Benefits Available from Non-Federal Sources” sets forth the conditions under which the District may furnish personnel to further discharge of the duties and functions of the service.

Coordinated but separate lines of communication and channels of responsibility are united in the accomplishment of the missions of both District and the Service.

Board Members’ tenure rotates with two vacancies being filled one year and three vacancies filled two years later. Elections are held on the first Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of November in even numbered years in conjunction with county elections. Supervisors elected serve four-year terms, without pay, which commence on the second Monday of January next following the election.

Financing is received from Clearwater County, State of Idaho and the administration of grants. All District funds regardless of source are public funds and are accountable to the taxpaying citizens of Idaho.

Policies:

Local Governance:

To lead and support local conservation planning efforts by building strong conservation partnerships with landowners, operators, and managers to identify natural resource concerns, alternative solutions and funding sources to resolve priority issues.

Coordinated Implementation:

To lead voluntary implementation efforts with projects, grants, demonstrations and programs by coordinating the technical resources and incentives to meet long term economic, ecologic and social objectives.

Outreach:

The District encourages a strong, effective public outreach program reaching students and adults. The District conducts various forms of public outreach on a yearly basis. A new District web site has been created and will announce events for the District as well as NRCS. The Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District assists teachers with the development of outdoor classroom sites provides educational materials and makes special presentations on soil and water conservation and natural resource management. The Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors contest and award programs such as poster, essay and speech contests for local students. We are making plans to sponsor participation in the annual Nation-wide Envirothon.

Conservation Partners:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho District Employee Ass.
Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality
Clearwater Basin Advisory Group
Local Watershed Advisory Groups
County Commission, Planning & Zoning, Road Dep., Weed Dept.
County Highway Districts
Univ. of Idaho Cooperative Extension System
Idaho Dept. of Agriculture
Idaho Dept. of Lands
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
Office of Species Conservation
Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association
Clearwater Resource Conservation & Development
Clearwater Economic Development Association
Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area Steering Committee
Clearwater Basin Collaborative
Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources
Farm Service Agency
Forest Service
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Protection Agency
Nez Perce Tribe
US Army Corps of Engineers
Potlatch Corporation
Industrial forest owners
NOAA Fisheries
Cities of Orofino, Pierce, Weippe, Elk River

Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis and Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Other Partner Organizations:

Farm Bureau
Agricultural Chemical Companies
Women in Agriculture
Idaho Forest Owners Association
Christmas Tree Association
Idaho Nursery Association
Pacific NW Direct Seed Association
Idaho Cattlemen, Wool Producers, Grain Producers
Idaho Conservation League
Guides and Outfitters
Federal, State and Tribal Fish Hatcheries
School District #171
Idaho Dept. of Transportation
Power companies
Land Trusts
Friends of the Clearwater
Palouse Environmental Institute
The Nature Conservancy

Services Provided to Landowners:

Education on local natural resources
Equipment/tool rental for tree planting
Providing Information

Services Provided to General Public:

School classroom talks, poster & speech contests
Outdoor classrooms, tours, natural resource camps
Other youth activities
Libraries
On-line resources
Marketing and/or Brokerages
Newspaper articles, Radio announcements, Internet web site

Certificate of Adoption:

The Board of elected supervisors of the Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District this 19th day of February 2015, do hereby approve the following document known as the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Antidegradation Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2020, 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.



Terry White

Chairman



Gordon White

Vice Chairman



Joyce Simonsen

Treasurer



Robert Reggear

Secretary



Bruce Hanson

Member