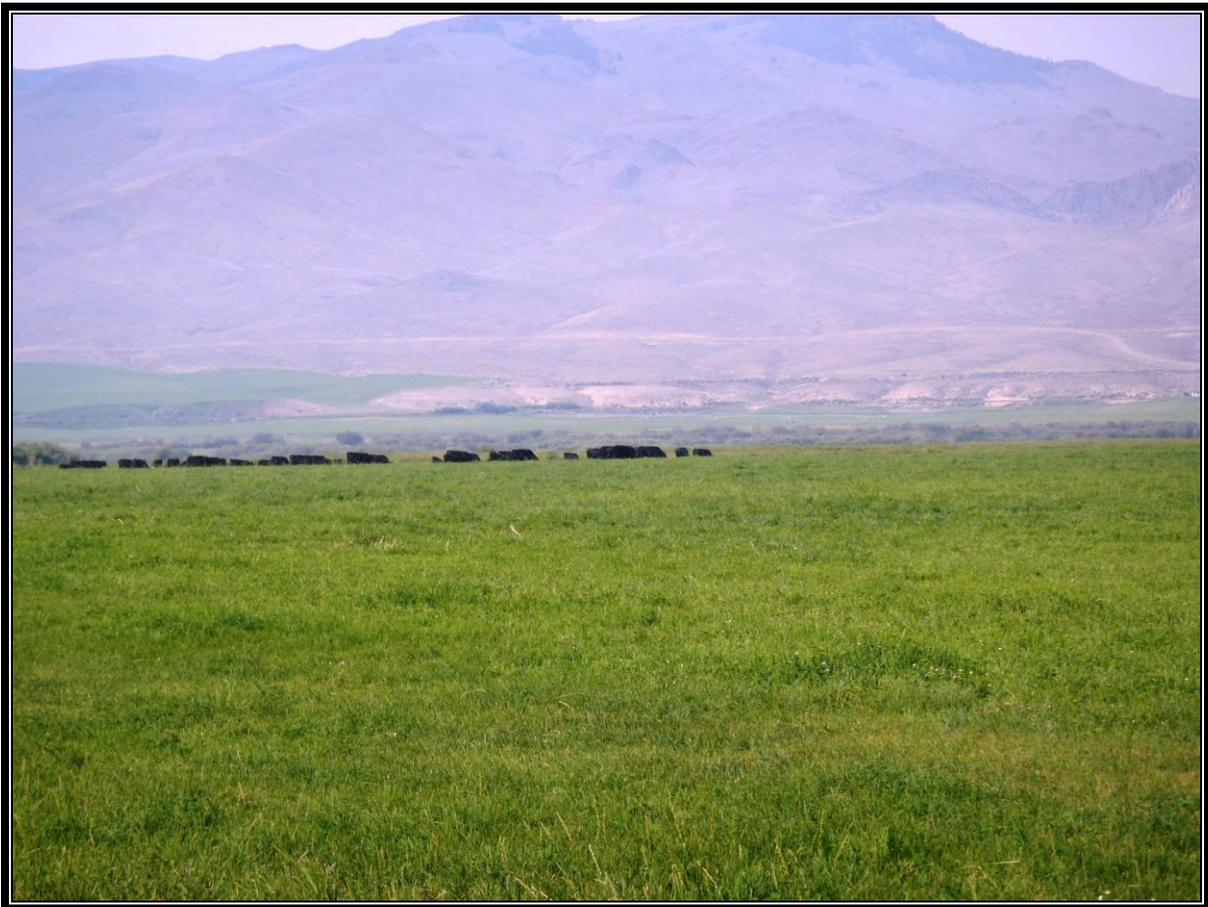


**CUSTER SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
P. O. BOX 305
1340 PLEASANT AVENUE, SUITE C & D
CHALLIS, IDAHO 83226



**FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION
BUSINESS PLAN**
JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2020
Annual Plan July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Index

Cover page photo – Last Chance – Pahsimeroi Valley

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Forward

Conservation Districts are subdivisions of state government charged with the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources. The Custer Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 50 Districts in Idaho, which together encompass 99 percent of our state.

Conservation Districts are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainability, 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.

It is the goal of the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District elected officials to set high standards for conservation of natural resources within the district. The district developed an action plan for meeting these needs. The Custer SWCD acknowledges that among their role as an elected board is the need to provide a service to the community, to assist in the economic stability of the area, to enhance the traditional way of life that is important to those we serve and to encourage the wise use of natural resources. The district further acknowledges the very important role our conservation partners play in the success of the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District Programs.

This 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 Custer 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.

Certificate of Adoption

The Board of elected supervisors of the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District this 11th Day of February 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, 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.

Ben O'Neal
Rick Philps,
Wayne Baker
Jimmie L. Downton
Dale Olson

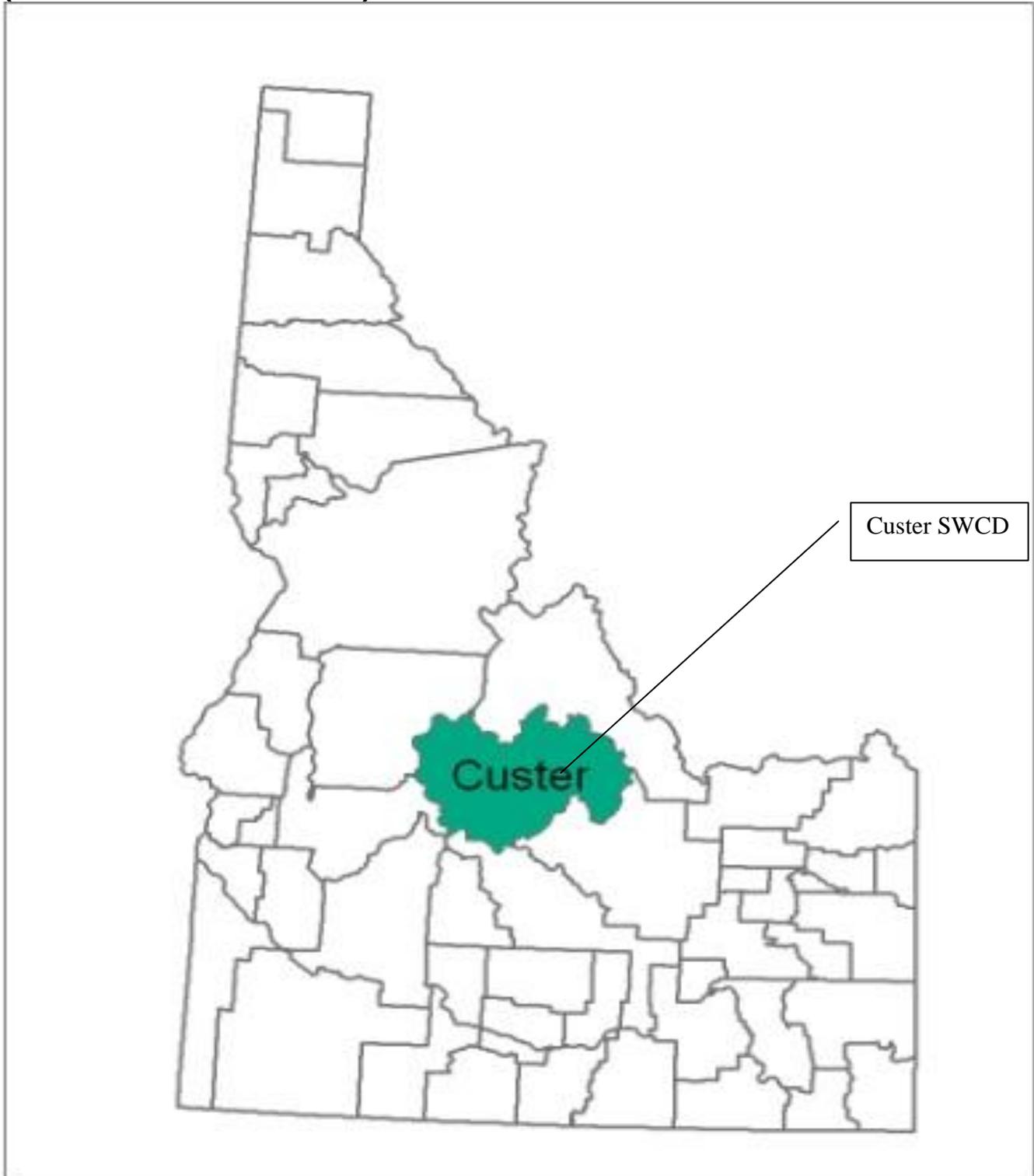
Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Member

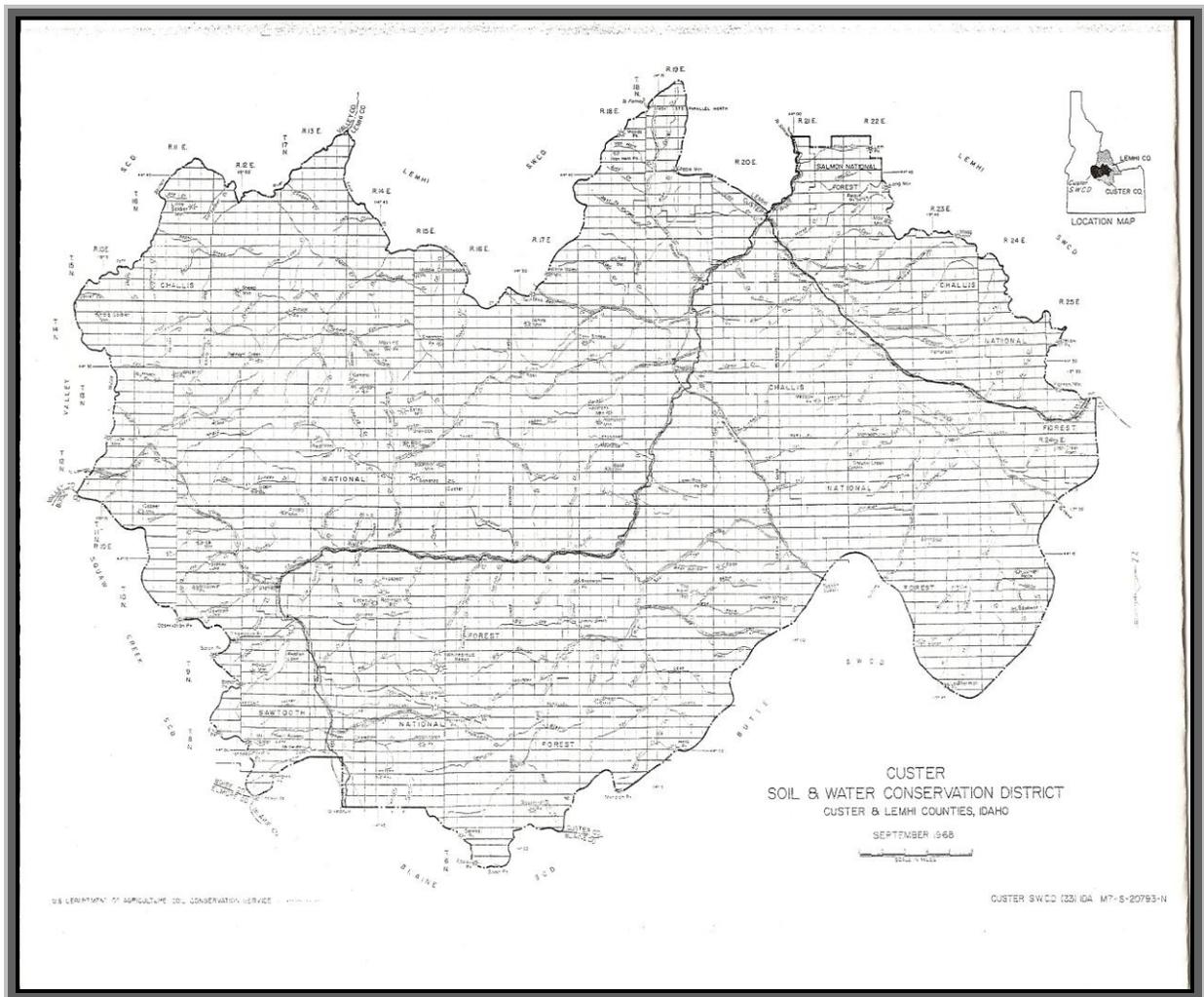
Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Mark Olson, District Conservationist
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission – Rob Sharpnack

(note: the official signature page is housed in the Custer SWCD with the official plan)

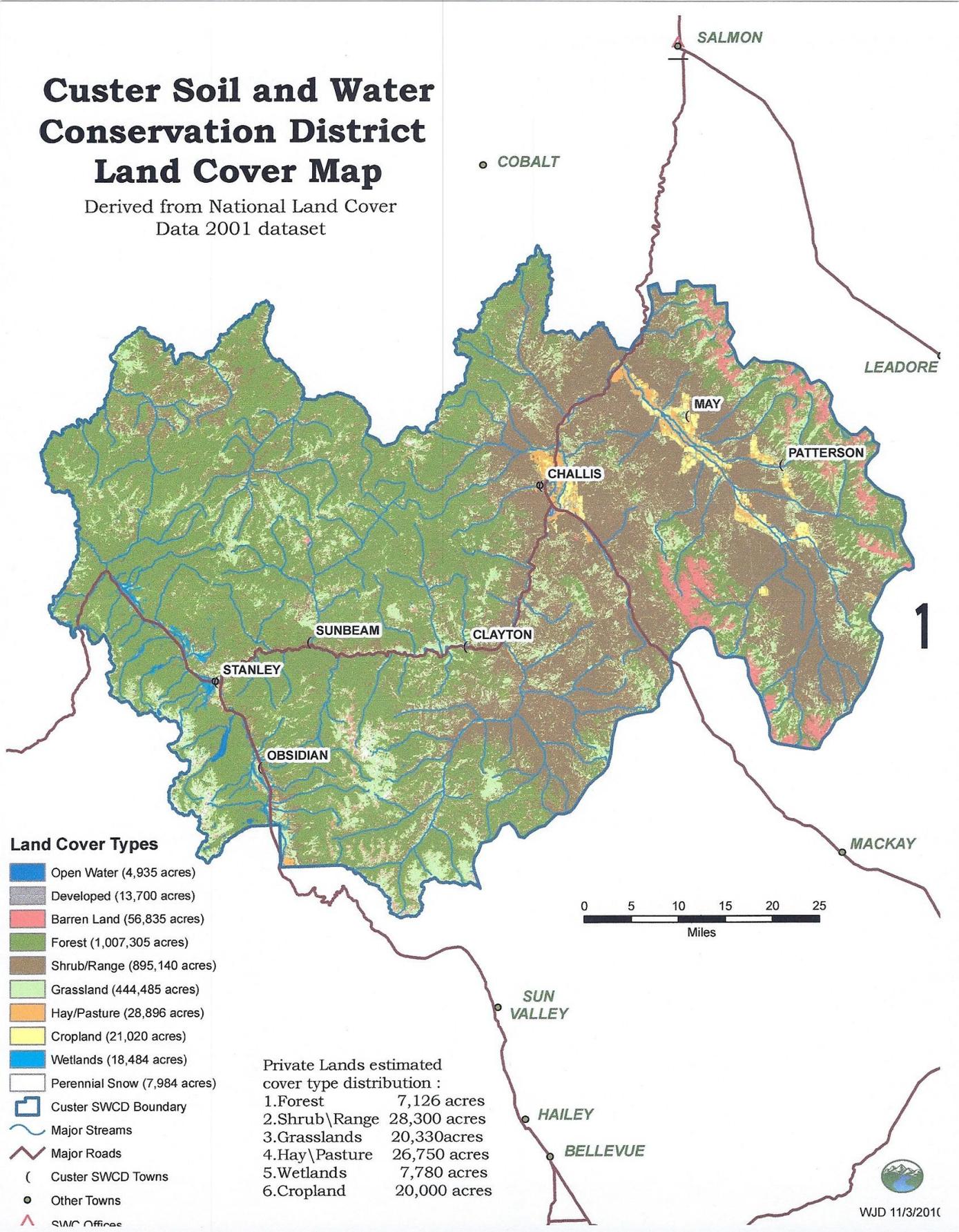
Section 1: Physical Characteristics of Custer SWCD (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.01)





Custer Soil and Water Conservation District Land Cover Map

Derived from National Land Cover
Data 2001 dataset



Land Cover Types

- Open Water (4,935 acres)
- Developed (13,700 acres)
- Barren Land (56,835 acres)
- Forest (1,007,305 acres)
- Shrub/Range (895,140 acres)
- Grassland (444,485 acres)
- Hay/Pasture (28,896 acres)
- Cropland (21,020 acres)
- Wetlands (18,484 acres)
- Perennial Snow (7,984 acres)
- Custer SWCD Boundary
- Major Streams
- Major Roads
- Custer SWCD Towns
- Other Towns
- SWC Offices

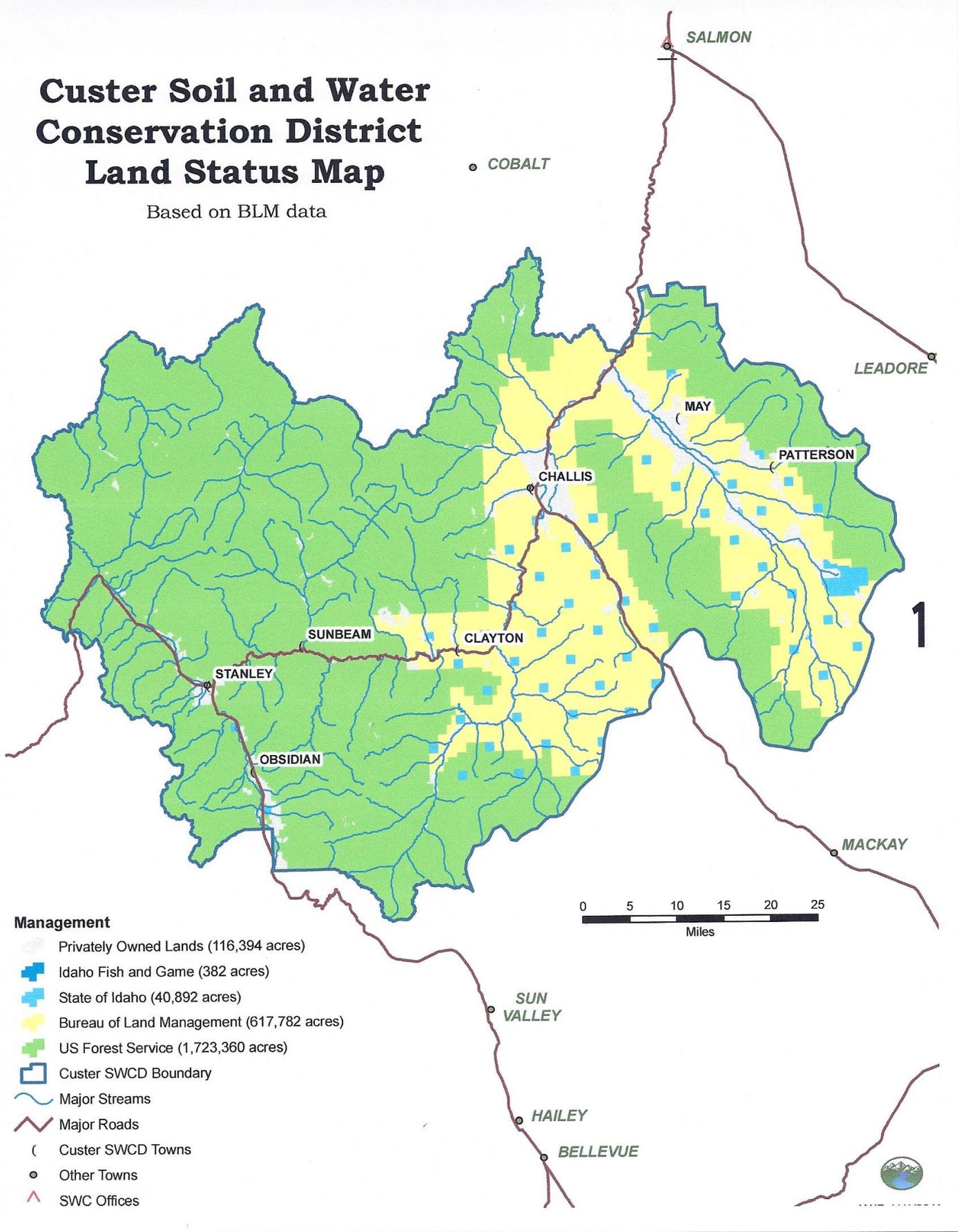
Private Lands estimated cover type distribution :

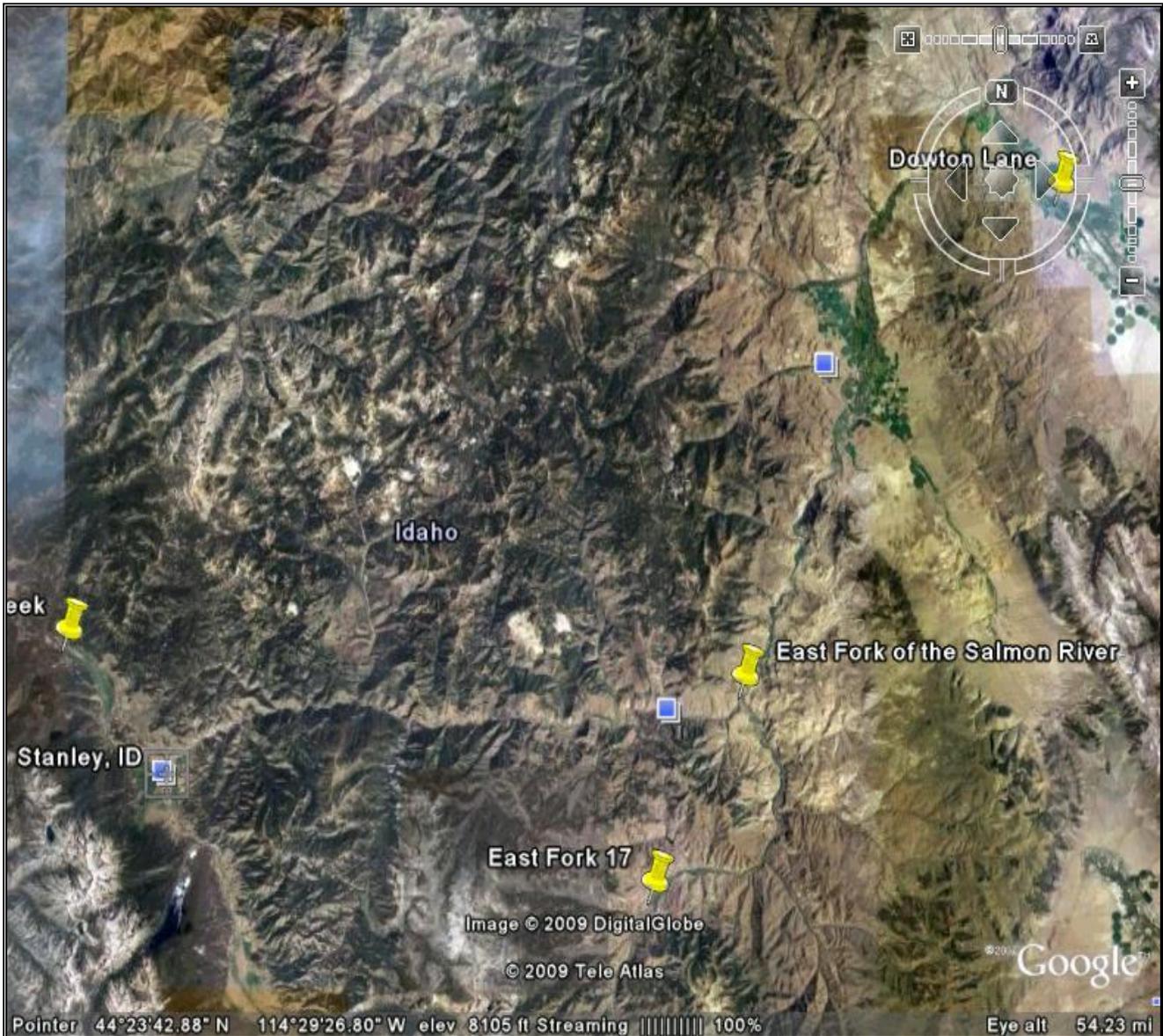
1.Forest	7,126 acres
2.Shrub \Range	28,300 acres
3.Grasslands	20,330 acres
4.Hay \Pasture	26,750 acres
5.Wetlands	7,780 acres
6.Cropland	20,000 acres



Custer Soil and Water Conservation District Land Status Map

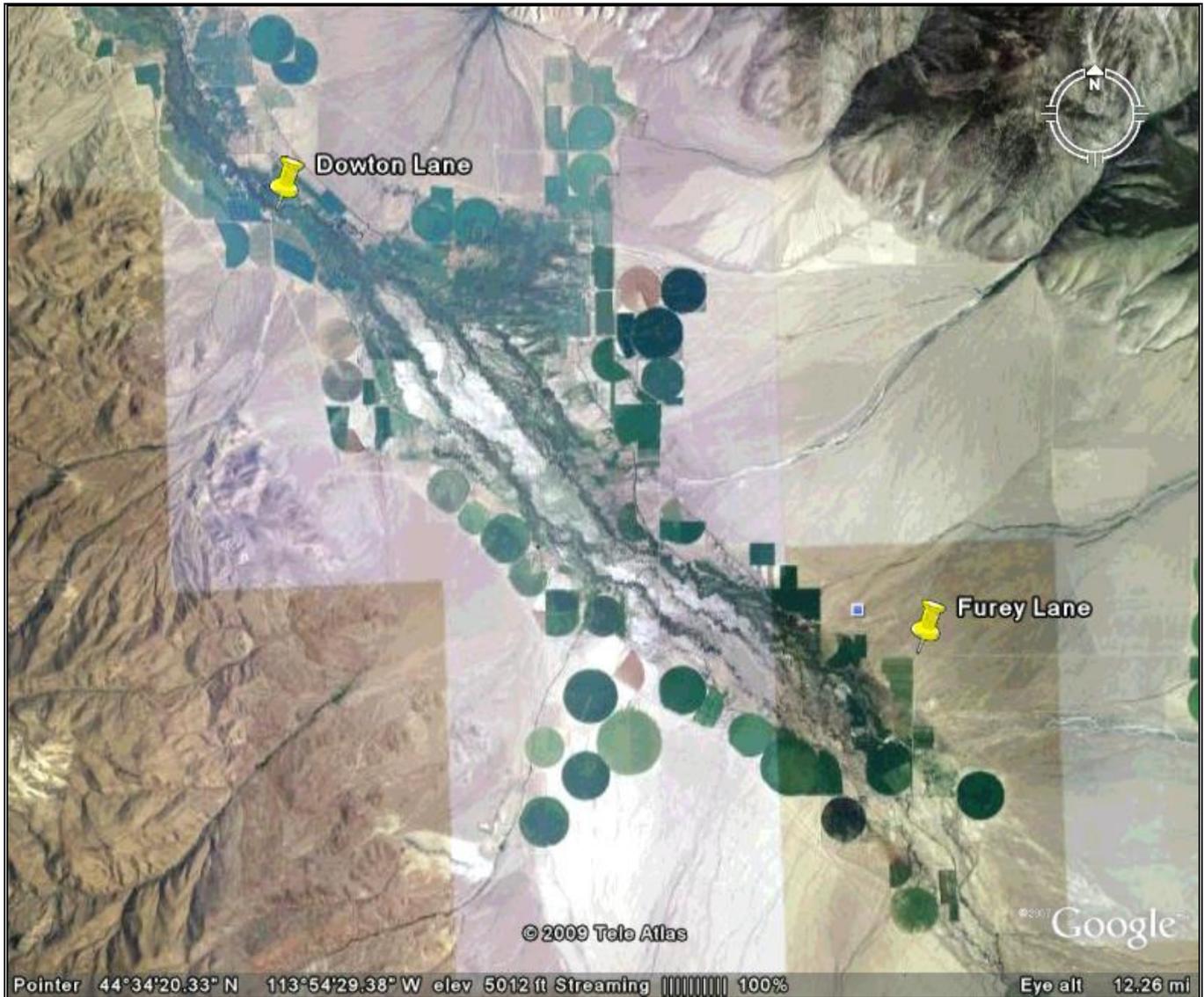
Based on BLM data





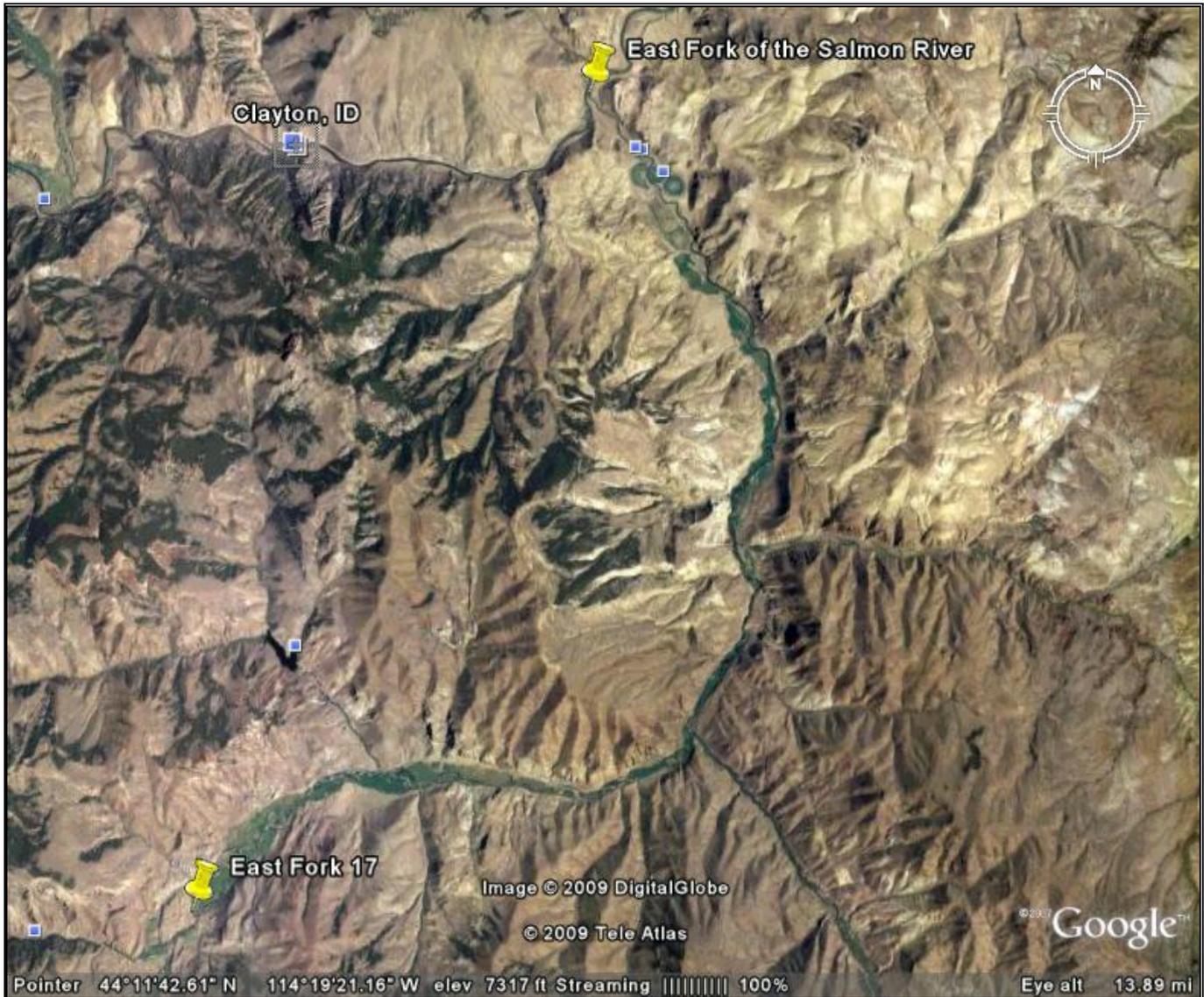
Anadromous Recovery Area of the Upper Salmon Basin from Stanley Basin to the Pahsimeroi

Historical and scenic Custer County, founded in 1881 and located in Central Idaho, has a population of 4,240 and an area of 4,938 sq. miles. Its landscape consists of arid desert, flat green valleys, and rugged rocky peaks and contains the highest mountain in Idaho, Mount Borah at 12,662 ft. The County Seat is Challis, with a population of just over 900. Other small towns included in the District is May, Stanley, and Clayton. Custer County relies on ranching, mining, and tourism as its main resources. Custer County contains much of the Frank Church River of No Return and the famous Salmon River as well as the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. The Lemhi County side of the Pahsimeroi Valley is included within the District Boundaries. The Pahsimeroi drainage is about 842 miles and consists of a valley surrounded by a rim of mountains. This area has become a focus for anadromous fisheries. This area is made up of agriculture, predominantly cattle and hay that provide the main source of income and economic base for its residents.



Anadromous Recovery Area – Pahsimeroi River from Dowton Lane to Furey Lane

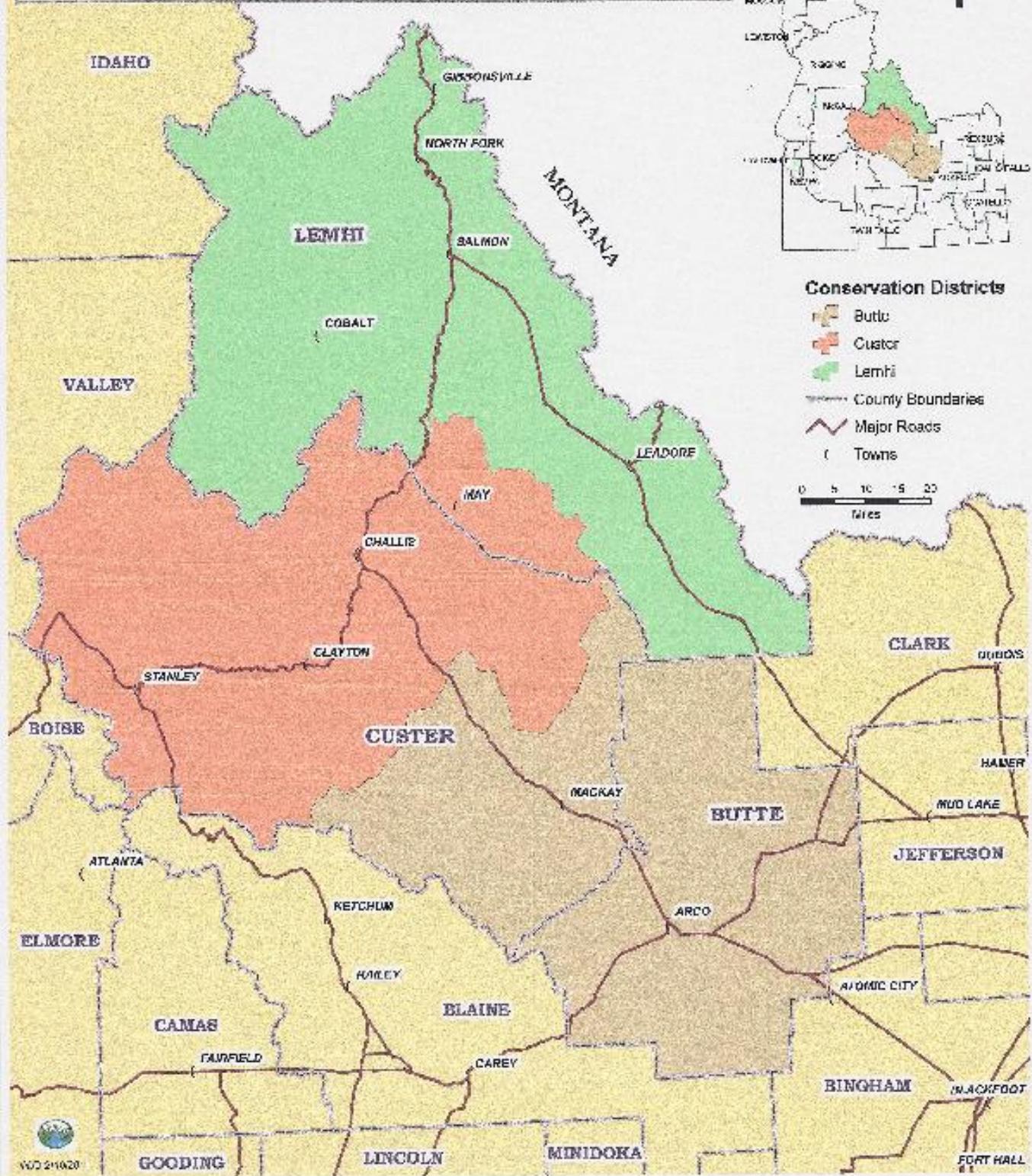
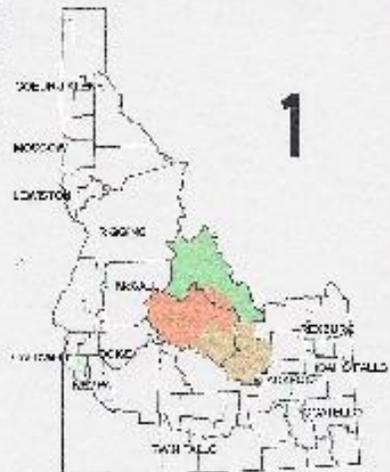
The Pahsimeroi and its tributary Patterson/Big Springs Creek (PBSC) has a unique population of anadromous Snake River Chinook salmon as well as steelhead, rain-bow, bull, and cutthroat trout. The Salmon population in Pahsimeroi River is a larger migrating summer-run Chinook salmon rather than spring run. Much of the Lower Pahsimeroi has been enhanced with diversion improvements, removals and riparian fencing. Patterson/Big Springs Creek and numerous spring fed systems that feed this system could benefit from additional enhancements. Funding has been identified via the Governor’s Office of Species Conservation and Bonneville Power Administration to assist with these enhancements. 98% of the Pahsimeroi area that is within the focus area of recovery is agricultural lands. Custer SWCD supports locally lead conservation and will provide planning, project development and administer funds where feasible and based on willing landowner cooperation and participation.



Anadromous Recovery Area East Fork of the Salmon River to East Fork 17 Diversion

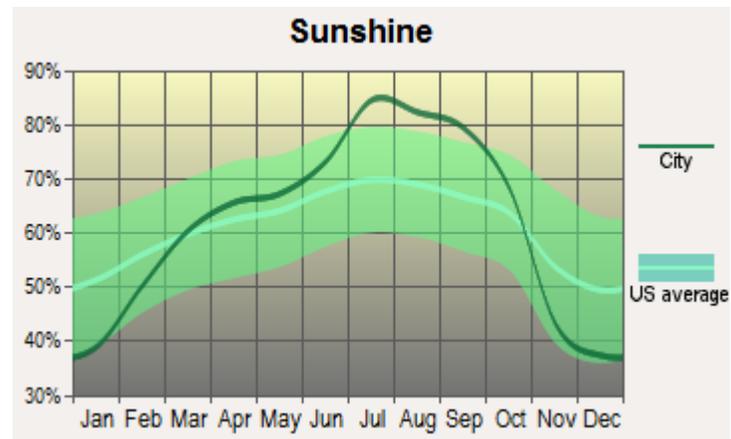
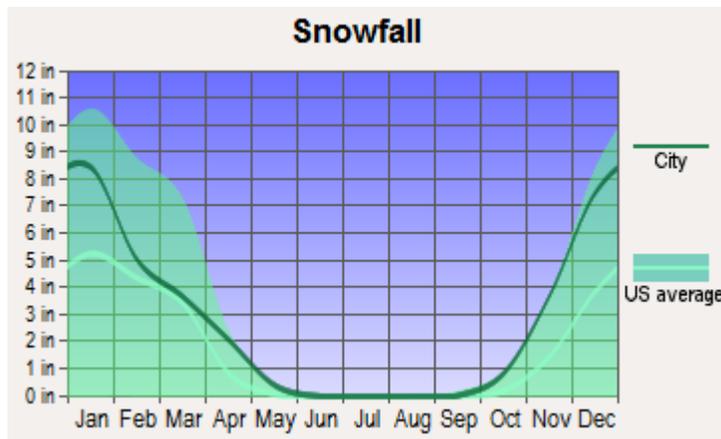
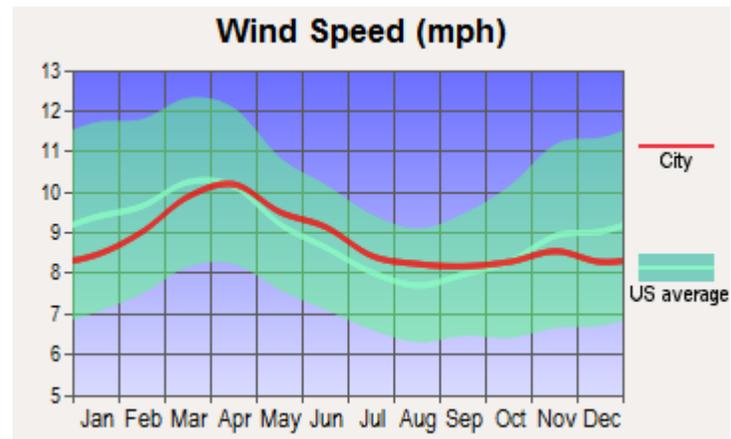
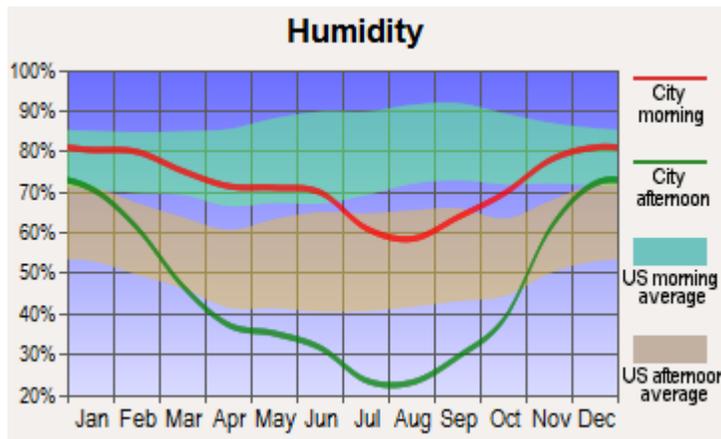
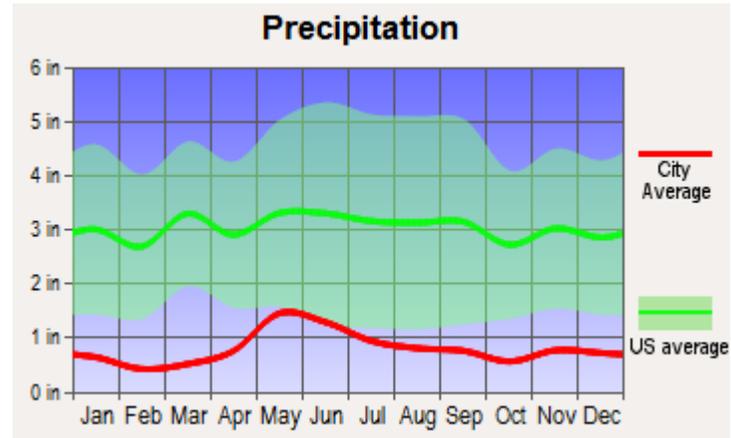
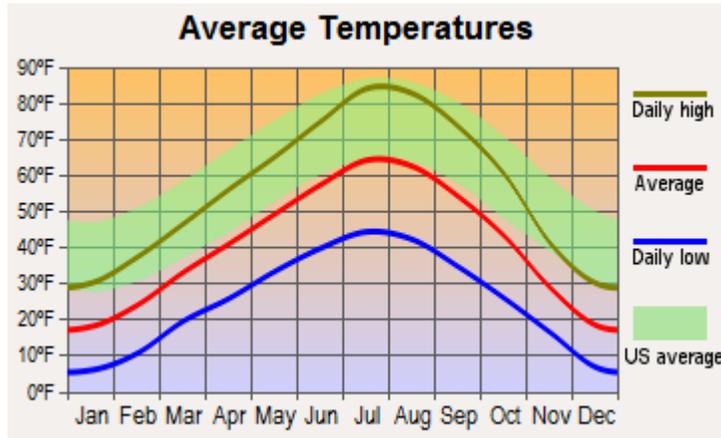
The East Fork of the Salmon River watershed (HUC 1706020109) is a major tributary of the Salmon River and covers about 560 square miles in Custer County, Idaho. The East Fork, in the anadromous recovery area is a meandering channel type and flows through a narrow valley. The streambed is composed of river cobbles topped with a layer of silt deposited by flooding. No special geologic conditions exist at the site. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Challis Field Office of the Idaho Falls District manages about 80% of the public land in the basin. However, much of the land adjacent to the East Fork River and the proposed recovery area is under private, agricultural ownership. Anadromous Fish recovery goals are to “provide safe and timely passage of migrating fish through critical reaches of the watershed”. The highest priority goals for the East Fork include reducing the number of physical barriers, such as removing existing pushup diversion structures and replacing inadequate fish screens, in the system. Funding has been made available through numerous funding sources. Custer SWCD supports locally lead conservation and will provide planning, project development and administer funds where feasible and based on willing landowner cooperation and participation.

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Lemhi, Custer, Butte) Location Map with County Boundaries



Average climate in Challis, Idaho

Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations



Climate

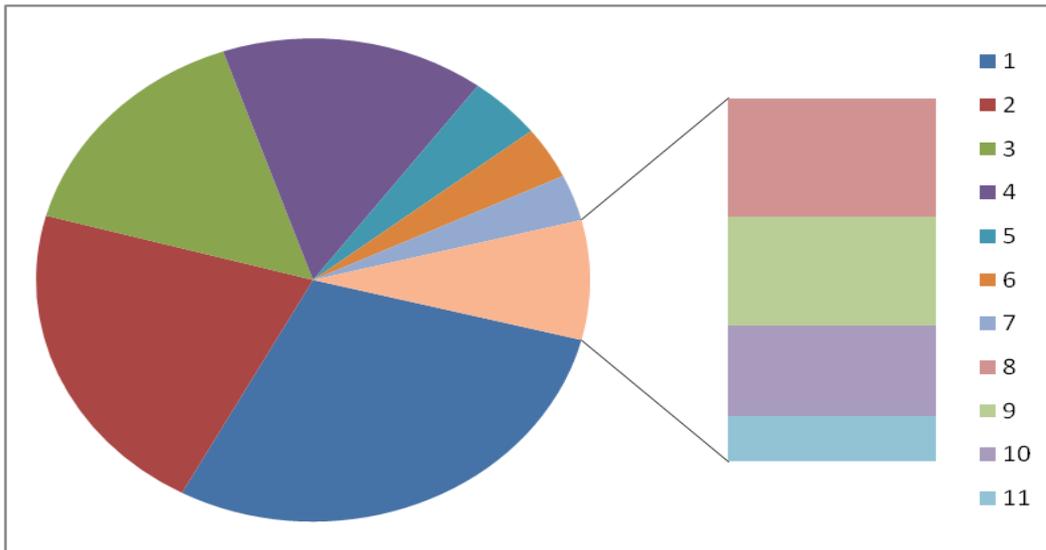
In winter, the average temperature is 23.1 degrees F at Challis, 15.6 degrees at Grouse, and 23.4 degrees at Salmon and the average daily minimum temperature is 12.9 degrees at Challis, 0.7 degrees at Grouse, and 10 degrees at Salmon. The lowest temperature on record is -34 degrees at Challis on December 22, 1990; -42 degrees at Grouse on December 23, 1983; and -34 degrees at Salmon on January 7, 1979. In summer, the average temperature is 65.6 degrees at Challis, 57.6 degrees at Grouse, and 66.8 degrees at Salmon and the average daily maximum temperature is 82.1 degrees at Challis, 76.3 degrees at Grouse, and 84.8 degrees at Salmon. The highest recorded temperature is 103 degrees at Challis on July 26, 1964; 94 degrees at Grouse on August 18, 1986; and 105 degrees at Salmon on July 10, 1973. During the month, growing degree days accumulate by the amount that the average temperature each day exceeds a base temperature (40 degrees F). The normal monthly accumulation is used to schedule single or successive plantings of a crop between the last freeze in spring and the first freeze in fall.

The total annual precipitation is 7.70 inches at Challis, 13.89 inches at Grouse, and 10.08 inches at Salmon. The foothill areas receive more precipitation; as much as 25 inches is received at the higher elevations in the northern and western parts. The growing season is quite short in most of the survey area, ranging from as little as 7 to 14 days late in July in the Stanley Basin to as much as 120 days near Salmon. During the growing season, about 30 to 40 percent of the total annual precipitation typically falls at the lower, warmer elevations. The heaviest 1-day rainfall during the period of record was 1.85 inches at Challis on July 10, 1983; 1.90 inches at Grouse on December 23, 1955; and 1.50 inches at Salmon on April 24, 1971. Thunderstorms occur on about 24 days each year, and most occur in May through August. The average seasonal snowfall varies across the survey area, ranging from less than 20 inches in the driest valleys to more than 100 inches in the mountains in the northern and western parts. The average seasonal snowfall is 15.4 inches at Challis, 69.5 inches at Grouse, and 28.3 inches at Salmon. The greatest snow depth at any one time during the period of record was 12 inches at Challis on December 26, 1971; 42 inches at Grouse on February 11, 1978; and 18 inches at Salmon on December 31, 1983. On the average, 13 days of the year at Challis, 68 days at Grouse, and 61 days at Salmon have at least 1 inch of snow on the ground. The number of such days varies greatly from year to year. The heaviest 1-day snowfall on record was 11 inches at Challis on November 8, 1985; 20 inches at Grouse on January 10, 1968; and 9.5 inches at Salmon on November 27, 1991. The average relative humidity in mid-afternoon is about 45 percent. Humidity is higher at night, and the average at dawn is about 75 percent. The sun shines 78 percent of the time possible in summer and 40 percent in winter. The prevailing wind is dependent on the location in the survey area. Generally, the wind flows parallel to the orientation of the valleys, except on ridges where it is similar to the upper airflow. Average wind-speed is highest, 8 miles per hour, in the valleys in spring and early in summer.

Section 2: Economic Conditions and Outlook (IDAPA.60.05.02.025.02)

Custer County Employment 2013

1	Government	30%
2	Mining	23%
3	Leisure/Hospitality	15.50%
4	Trade/Utilities/Transportation	15.50%
5	Education and Health Services	4.30%
6	Financial	3.50%
7	Construction	3.10%
8	Professional and Business Services	2.60%
9	Agriculture	2.40%
10	Information	2%
11	Other	1%



Custer County ranks 38th in the state of Idaho with a 2012 census population of 4,331. For each person the county offers more than a square mile. The Government followed by the mining industry are the top two employers followed by recreational support. Population peaked in 2000 and then declined to its low in 2005, losing over 300 residents as Hecla Mining closed. Thompson Creek Mining, still considered one of the largest employers, operates an open pit molybdenum mine. Population began growing again in 2006 and was up 218 since. The county has been concentrating on diversifying beyond mining. Economic developers are working hand-in-hand with government officials to attract new business and help existing ones expand in order to reverse, or at least slow, future decline. The Custer SWCD also takes in a section of the Pahsimeroi that is predominately agriculture in addition to two fish hatcheries and two private air fields.

Covered employment grew by 4.6% over the decade. At the same time, covered wages increased by 47% but fell and were down in 2008-2009. Wages among all industries except other services increased in 2010. The county's per capita income is slightly higher than the state average with mining wages still the highest of all industries. Mine staff was drastically reduced in 2014 taking nearly 150 jobs out of the community.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Custer Soil & Water Conservation District

- ✚ Continued reduction in state funding which further reduces the district's efforts to be effective as in conservation.
 - ✚ Unfunded mandates as it affects agricultural, natural resource and forest management.
 - ✚ Endangers Species Act mandates and enforcement
 - ✚ Urban development and absentee landowners
 - ✚ Recreational use and its impact to agricultural management
-

Strategies to Address Trends (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.03)

- ✚ Develop legislative outreach program to address funding shortfalls from State funds.
 - ✚ Secure funding to address agricultural mandates and landowner private property rights.
 - ✚ Implementation of water quality and water quantity projects to improve fish passage and habitat within the District to help address ESA issues.
 - ✚ Continue an active information and education program for landowners to address urban development.
 - ✚ Work with public land users to EDUCATE and encourage cooperation among private recreational entities and public land users/permitees and landowner private property rights.
-

Status of the Agricultural Economy and Outlook (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.02)

As stated by the Custer County Commissioners, in their land use plan, "the preservation of historic and customary agricultural, range, and forestry land use is important to the citizens of Custer County". With much of the economy derived from agriculture and related activities, maintaining viable tracts of agricultural and rangeland is a county goal.

The right of agriculture to exist and continue to operate is protected by Idaho law. Given the rural nature of the county, local ordinances and resolutions must not conflict with the right to farm protections for agricultural operations in *Idaho Code, Title 22, Agriculture and Horticulture, Chapter 45, Right to Farm*.

High-density residential development defined as more than one home per acre, or conflicting development should be directed away from irrigated agricultural land, taking into consideration the following factors:

- 1) Potential crop productivity
- 2) Availability of water
- 3) Grazing potential
- 4) Environmental factors
- 5) Availability of public services
- 6) Availability of adequate transportation systems
- 7) Historical land use practices

Lands designated for agricultural use are suitable for all types of agricultural and range operations, as well as single family homes, including manufactured homes, and accessory buildings necessary for agricultural operations.

Existing commercial, industrial, and residential land uses, home-based businesses and occupations and livelihoods are historical uses and will be allowed and will be managed to minimize the impacts on agriculture. Non-agricultural uses that could have adverse impacts on agricultural land use areas must be carefully reviewed.

District Staffing Requirements **(IDAPA 60.05.02.025.03)**

Full Time District Manager with Benefits

Part Time District Support Staff Intern

Full Time Technician via NRCS if possible and feasible under budget constraints.

Note: Custer SWCD is in need of continuation of an NRCS Technician placed in the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District Office to assist with the planning, design and implementation of the high priority water quality and water quantity projects funding via special project funds within the district.

Annual Budget Needs - All Funding

	Jul '14 - Jun 15
Income	
Administrative Reimbursement	85,000.00
County Appropriations	5,000.00
Equipment Rental	850.00
Interest Income	15.00
State Appropriation Match	8,000.00
Base Funding	8,500.00
Specail Project Funds	1,850,000.00
Total Income	1,957,365.00
Gross Profit	
	1,957,365.00
Expense	
Office Equip Purchase Expense	975.00
Audit	5,500.00
Contract Labor	3,000.00
District Employee Travel	2,750.00
Dues	3,925.00
Equipment Expense	1,000.00
Insurance	200.00
Office Supplies	1,450.00
Payroll Expenses	74,400.00
Public Outreach	4,500.00
Rent Expense	3,915.00
Supervisors Travel	3,000.00
Utilities	2,750.00
Special Project BMP Installed	1,850,000.00
Total Expense	1,957,365.00
Net Income	0.00

Section 3: Assessment (IDAPA.60.05.02.025.03)

Soil Resources:

Soil Survey for CUSTER-LEMHI AREA is in north-central Idaho. It consists of areas in Custer and Lemhi Counties and a small area in the northern part of Blaine County. It includes parts of the Salmon, Challis, and Targhee National Forests. The total area is 1,959,720 acres, or about 3,062 square miles. The lowest point in the survey area, which is at an elevation of about 3,700 feet, is north of Salmon, along the Salmon River. The highest point, which is at an elevation of about 10,390 feet, is just south of Monument Peak, along the Idaho-Montana border.

The general soil map in this area shows broad areas that have a distinctive pattern of soils, relief, and drainage. Each map unit on the general soil map is a unique natural landscape

Natural Resources

The natural resources in the survey area include soil, water, timber, and minerals. Most of the jobs in the area are dependent on these resources. The farmland along the major rivers and their tributaries is used for pasture and for alfalfa and some grain crops. Because of the extremely mountainous topography, gravelly soils, and low precipitation, most of the land in the area is used as rangeland. Surface water is used primarily for irrigation, livestock, and recreation. The Salmon and Pahsimeroi Rivers provide water for the area. Ranchers use the water for cattle and crops. The Salmon River is used heavily for recreational use, including fishing and river floating. Wells are used only in areas where crop returns are high enough for their use to be feasible. Lodge-pole pine supports two or three small pole and post operations. The area has rich gold, silver, copper, and lead mines. Cobalt and molybdenum have also been mined.

Farming and Ranching

Small grain and hay, including native grasses and alfalfa, are the main crops grown in the survey area. Ranchers reseed the native pastureland and hay-land to more productive varieties for cattle. Most of the land in the area is used as rangeland. The area has been used for ranching since the early 1870's.

Today, the average size farm/ranch in Custer County is approximately 525 acres with approximately 272 farms in the County. The value of livestock and their products as a percentage of total market value of agricultural products sold is 66%. Approximately 59.9% of farm land is irrigated cropland. Approximately 54% of the farms and ranches in operation in Custer County are family or individually owned properties down significantly from 98% only five years ago. The average age of the ranch and/or farm owners is about 58 years old. The majority of the ranches in the area grow hay and pasture that is utilized in the ranching operation. Several farms produce hay for re-sale out of the area. Most ranches in the area depend on the use of federal land grazing in addition to the production on private ground in order to maintain their ranching operations. However, due to regulatory mandates public land grazing has greatly reduced and in some areas eliminated over the past ten or more years. One large seed potato farm operates within Custer SWCD located in both Custer and Lemhi Counties. At least one operation in the round valley operates a hay/pellet production operation. Although once quite common, few sheep ranches remain in the area. Several organic operations also operate in the district. According to the Census for Agriculture, approximately 316 jobs are created by the cattle industry and support services tied to this industry.

Forest Resources:

Approximately 97% of Custer County is federal land. Both the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and much of the Frank Church Wilderness are within the Custer SWCD.

The Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness Area is located in central Idaho on the Boise, Bitterroot, Nez Perce, Payette, and Salmon-Challis National Forests. Portions of Custer, Idaho, Lemhi, and Valley Counties are contained within the wilderness.

The origins of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness began in 1930 with the administrative establishment of the 1,090,000-acre Idaho Primitive Area. A later addition brought this total to 1,224,350 acres. Creation of the primitive area was promoted by concerns in the Forest Service that large expanses of America's remaining wildlands be preserved in their natural state before they were developed. To the north, the Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area was established in 1936, including most of the area between the Salmon and Lochsa Rivers. In 1963, a portion of this primitive area was re-designated as an administrative wilderness, while another portion bordering the Salmon River and the Idaho Primitive Area was designated as the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area. The land between these two areas, known as the Magruder Corridor, was left unclassified, but has remained essentially undeveloped.

The 756,000-acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area (Sawtooth NRA) includes more than 20,000 acres of privately owned land, primarily in the Sawtooth Valley and Stanley Basin, and along the Salmon River for approximately 25 miles downstream from Stanley, Idaho. When the U.S. Congress established the Sawtooth NRA in 1972, it sought to preserve and protect the Area's "natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values and to provide for the enhancement of the recreation values associated therewith." The Statute that created the Sawtooth NRA are Public Law 92-400. Congress' effort to protect the Sawtooth NRA was in part aimed at preventing the development of high-density subdivisions that were beginning to spread throughout the area and mar its scenic beauty. Several subdivisions in particular were cause for concern and an indicator of things to come if preventative measures were not taken. These subdivisions were located on the west side of Highway 75, midway between the communities of Stanley and Sawtooth City, and contained more than 1,000 lots, an airstrip and a tangle of roads and overhead power lines.

Congress authorized the Forest Service to acquire land and development rights for the purpose of preserving and protecting the values for which the Sawtooth NRA was created. Since 1974, about 5900 acres have been purchased by the United States. Most structures and other improvements have been removed from those properties. In addition, conservation easements (sometimes called scenic easements) have been purchased to restrict development on private land, while allowing these lands to remain in private ownership.

To acquire scenic/conservation easements, the Forest Service negotiates with the landowner to purchase the right to permanently restrict certain uses of a property. From 1974 to 2005, the Forest Service acquired 91 scenic/conservation easements on approximately 17,000 acres comprising more than 85% of the total private land base in the Sawtooth NRA. This acquisition program continues. Significantly, Public Law 92-400 also directed the Secretary of Agriculture (the cabinet official with overall responsibility for the

U.S. Forest Service) to publish regulations setting standards for the use, subdivision, and development of all privately owned property within the boundaries of the Sawtooth NRA. These regulations were codified in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

In summary, very little forest ground is privately managed within the Custer SWCD. Some livestock grazing is “permitted” on BLM and Forest Service but is greatly hampered by regulatory mandates related to Endangered Species.

Endangered Species:

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 directs all federal agencies, or any project that has a Federal nexus, to implement measures to protect all federally listed species found in the project area. Custer SWCD has many listed or threatened species within the district boundaries. These species greatly affect the farming and ranching communities. While often they bring federal funds to the district for project administration, they also bring the federal “nexus” for ESA consultation for these projects.

The Snake River sockeye salmon was listed as endangered on November 20, 1991 (FR Vol. 56, 58619) and critical habitat was designated December 28, 1993 (FR Vol. 58, 68543) effective January 27, 1994. The mainstem Salmon River is a migratory corridor for Snake River sockeye salmon that spawn in lakes near Stanley, Idaho.

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) was delisted in 1999. The bald eagle and gray wolf were removed from the endangered species list in 2007 and 2008 respectively, but are included in the species discussion as “species of concern”.

Designated critical habitat for the Chinook salmon and steelhead trout encompasses much of the viable farming and ranching acreages in the Salmon River watershed.

Table of Federally listed species that may be found in the area (USFWS 20012) of Custer County, Idaho Species List

LISTED SPECIES	COMMENTS
Canada lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>)	LT
Bull trout (<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>)	LT
Sockeye salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>)	LE - NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction
Steelhead trout (<i>O. mykiss</i>)	LT - NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction
Spring/summer Chinook salmon (<i>O. tshawytscha</i>)	LT - NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction
PROPOSED SPECIES	
Steelhead trout	Critical Habitat - NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction
CANDIDATE SPECIES	
Yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)	C

LT = Listed Threatened; LE = Listed Endangered; C = Candidate

ESA Listed Fisheries within the Custer SWCD

The Upper Salmon River Basin (USRB) in central Idaho contains unique public lands, fish, wildlife, plants, scenic and cultural resources that are important to the nation. Threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) are of particular importance to the American people because they indicate a fragile ecosystem, and conservation needs of ESA-listed fish species are receiving increasing attention.

Native anadromous and resident fish species, including those listed under the ESA, may be affected by irrigation water diversions, livestock grazing, and associated agricultural and human activities. Fish species may be affected in several ways, including disconnection of tributaries from larger streams and rivers, insufficient flows at key periods to allow passage, increased water temperatures, smothering of eggs due to excessive sedimentation, and loss of vegetation along stream-banks. Water users and landowners in the Upper salmon River Basin (USRB) are have been proactive and are interested in ensuring their land and water management actions may continue in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of the ESA for protection and recovery of listed fish species. The Pahsimeroi, East Fork and Upper Salmon (Stanley) areas have been a focus of Salmon recovery since the early 1990s.

The Custer SWCD, as a locally lead conservation agency in the East Fork, Pahsimeroi and Upper Salmon continues to work with willing landowners to complete fisheries restoration projects. Funding has become available from the Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration and the Office of Species Conservation – Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery to assist with the fish recovery effort.

Although efforts and funding remain available for the key areas within the area include anadromous habitat, the Pahsimeroi area has been the main focus in the past three years. The Pahsimeroi River has a unique population of Snake River Chinook salmon, and in contrast with the Lemhi River and East Fork of the Salmon River watersheds, the salmon population in the Pahsimeroi River is a later migrating summer-run Chinook salmon rather than spring-run. Historically, spawning and rearing habitat was probably supported within the watershed for at least two federally – listed anadromous fish species, spring/summer Chinook salmon, and steelhead. (P. Murphy, 2008)

Water Resources:

The main stem Salmon River and several major tributaries, namely the East Fork of the Salmon and the Pahsimeroi are located in the Custer SWCD. The administration of water within the district has been a growing issue within the Custer SWCD. This is further challenged by the high number of water rights within the basin and often low flows brought on by many years of drought and a heightened awareness of ESA listed species found in the Upper Salmon Basin. The Custer SWCD works closely with the Idaho Department of Water Resources to ensure irrigation projects administered by the district meet Idaho Water Law.

Water District No. 170 (WD170), also referred to as the "Upper Salmon Water District", was created by IDWR order in 2006. The district was created to administer both surface water and groundwater rights tributary to the Salmon River above the confluence with the Pashimeroi River. However, IDWR plans to expand it to include five administrative basins to administer all water rights and tributaries to the Salmon River above the confluence with the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

The water district will be subdivided into a number of smaller, largely independent sub-districts that will operate within Water District No. 170. The WD170 Water Master will coordinate with the sub-districts to administer the water rights, perform reporting, and other district functions. Basins 71 and 72 are presently within Water District No. 170 and four sub-districts are currently active.

A large water district has been determined necessary by IDWR in the Upper Salmon area to effectively administer water rights that have been licensed by IDWR or have been partially decreed by the Snake River Basin Adjudication Court. A multi-basin district is necessary to ensure administration of complex, large-scale water rights and associated agreements (e.g. Nez Perce, Wild and Scenic Rivers). Although IDWR typically creates water districts following the adjudication, the timing and structure of the Upper Salmon Water District follows largely from an agreement regarding settlement of objections to federal reserved water rights related to the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. (IDWR, 2011)

District Operations (IDAPA 60.05.02.051.03)

Custer Soil Conservation District - A Brief History:

On January 27, 1953, the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District was formed with its headquarters at Mackay. The main goal of the district was to control water erosion in the area. In 1966 discussions began about splitting the district because of mileage involved. A series of films were made available to the schools. Other educational activities were frequent conservation articles in the local newspaper and sponsorship of a "speaking contest". The first poster contest was held in 1957. By May of 1967 all acreage south of Willow Creek Summit would be included in the Butte SWCD. By January 1968 another boundary change came about with the Pahsimeroi Valley portion of Lemhi County becoming a part of the Custer SWCD.

In the 1970's high water and flooding on Garden Creek, Challis Creek and Morgan Creek took a great deal of technical time for stream-bank protection projects which became a major part of the program emphases. In March 1979 the Custer Soil Conservation District joined with area ranchers, other economic and environmental groups and the local government agencies in the formation of an experimental Range Stewardship Program. By combining the on the ground knowledge of the ranchers with the technical skills of agency personnel, the best management will be obtained. This program is working today and is now used as the local basin advisory group.

In the spring of 1980, Custer Soil and Water Conservation District leased a one acre plot from Idaho Department of lands in the Bradbury Flat Area. The purpose was to establish a test seeding plat of 17 species of range plants. Seeds were furnished to the District by the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center and seeded by SCS. Six other similar seedings took place during the 1980s.

Early in the 1990's the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District began their first efforts into administering and implementing Bonneville Power Administration fish recovery projects. The district had continued and increased this program which includes administering Pacific Coast Funds from OSC, funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and many other sources.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Custer Soil & Water Conservation District

- ✚ Continued reduction in funding which further reduces the district's efforts to be effective as in conservation.
 - ✚ Increased reporting requirements & staff time required from to secure state funds
 - ✚ Unfunded mandates as it affects agricultural management
 - ✚ Endangers Species Act mandates and enforcement
 - ✚ Urban development and absentee landowners
 - ✚ Recreational use and it's impact to agricultural management
-

Strategies to Address Trends

- ✚ Develop legislative outreach program to address funding shortfalls and funding requirements from State funds.
 - ✚ Secure funding from outside the traditional state and county funding sources to maintain District office at appropriate level for workload.
 - ✚ Secure funding to address agricultural mandates and landowner private property rights.
 - ✚ Implementation of water quality and water quantity projects to improve fish passage and habitat within the District with a strong emphasis on the economics of farming and ranching.
 - ✚ Continue an active information and education program for landowners to address urban development
 - ✚ Work with public land users to EDUCATE and encourage cooperation among private recreational entities and public land users/permitees and landowner private property rights.
-

Key Decision Makers (in no particular priority order)

- Citizens within the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District
- City of Challis
 - Mayor Mark Luphur
 - Challis City Council
- Custer and Lemhi County Commissioners
 - Doyle Lamb, Custer County Chairman
 - John Jakovac, Lemhi County Chairman
- State legislators representing Conservation District:
 - Senator Steven Thayn
 - Representative Terry F Gestrin
 - Representative Merrill Beyeler
- U.S. Senators, Representatives and Staffers
- Conservation District Supervisors
- Idaho Governors Office of Species Conservation
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- School District 181
- District Project/Office Manager
- Custer County Economic Development Association, Jolie Turek, Coordinator
- Custer County Cooperative Extension Agent, Sarah Baker
- Custer County Weed Supervisor
- Surrounding Communities
- Bonneville Power Administration related to Project Funding Approvals

Energy Conservation: The High Country RC&D energy conservation program has closed out. However, the Salmon River Electric Cooperative has requested continued support from the district to implement this program on a local basis with agricultural energy incentives. Although the District has not been actively involved in the urban interface in the wild land fire prevention program, recent wildfires may bring this program a renewed interest for the partnership. These programs have brought additional workload and funding to the Custer SWCD.

The district's educational programs have continued to grow in leaps and bounds and this continues to be a focus for the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District. The district acknowledges that this education is necessary in order to educate the general public, youth and cooperators about our natural resources and the importance of the ranching economy in the Custer SWCD.

Section 4: Identify and Prioritize Objectives (IDAPA 60-.05.02.025.04)

Priority 1: District Natural Resource Education Program related to District Priorities of Water Quality, Water Quantity, Range, Pasture and Hay-land and Recreation:

The district maintains an active presence in all area schools within the district. The Envirothon program at Challis High School has been elevated to an extracurricular school club called the Natural Resource Club and is recognized as a school activity. CSWCD maintains their accounting system on QuickBooks and completed a single audit of this year's financial activity providing accountability for funds administered through the district.

- ✚ By October 30, all 5th and 6th grade students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation poster contest and all 9th through 11th grade students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation speech contest.
- ✚ By January 30, information will be provided to the Envirothon Advisor for the State Envirothon.
- ✚ By June 30, all Conservation District cooperator addresses and files will be updated.
- ✚ By June 30, the District will review and if needed update their policy and procedures manual and accountability policy.
- ✚ By October 15, the District will have completed their annual audit and provided the audit to the Division of Financial Management and others requiring this information.
- ✚ By September 30, Custer SWCD will have provided new supervisors training.

Priority 2: District Water Quality and Quantity Priorities and Goals:

- ✚ District projects related to Water Quality and Water Quantity include continued efforts to provide irrigation improvements, riparian protection and management. These efforts are focused on the enhancement of anadromous and native fisheries within the district as well as long term sustainability of the agricultural community.
- ✚ By June 30, the district will assist with the development of plans to install approximately 1 mile of riparian fencing to include pasture management and addresses weed control. Where feasible, full ranch planning will be accomplished.
- ✚ By June 30 CSWD will assist in the development of plans to improve irrigation diversions or where feasible consolidate and remove irrigation diversions.
- ✚ Development of off stream stock-water systems where appropriate.

Priority 3: Range Land

- ✚ Maintain an economic stability of the ranching industry and multiple uses by assisting cooperators to improve forage quality and quantity of rangeland within the district.
- ✚ Promote the development of coordinated resource management plans under EQIP.
- ✚ Develop relationships with BLM, USFS, USFWS, NMFS, NRCS and IDFG to assist with public land grazing issues and enhancements.
- ✚ Assist Ranchers to address Sage Grouse and Wolf Management on public grazing lands.

Priority 4: Pasture, Hay-land and Pasture:

- ✚ Provide administrative assistance to NRCS on USDA/Farm Bill programs
- ✚ Promote and provide information to improve control of noxious weeds on both public and private lands in cooperation with county weed supervisor.
- ✚ Evaluate water conservation opportunities of sprinkler irrigation versus flood irrigation.

Priority 5: Recreation

- ✚ Provide assistance to help reduce conflict between ranching and recreation.

Priority Actions – 6 Months

- *Summary of the priority actions needed to start the 5-year plan of the Custer Soil & Water Conservation District*

Action	Begin Date	End Date
▪ Seek public comments on Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan	3/15	4/1
▪ Board of Supervisor review of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan priorities, actions, and public comment	3/4	4/1
▪ Complete written update of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan	4/1	5/6
▪ Identify budget and staff needs	3/4	4/1
▪ Develop, adopt and submit annual budget	4/1	5/6
▪ Adopt and submit Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan	4/1	5/6
▪ Implement Annual Plan and Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan		

Section 5: Water Quality (IDAPA 60-.05.02.025.05)

Background for Stream Segments of Concern

The federal Clean Water Act requires that states and tribes restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. States and tribes must adopt water quality standards necessary to protect fish, shellfish, and wildlife while providing for recreation in and on the waters whenever possible.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act establishes requirements for states and tribes to identify and prioritize water bodies that are water quality limited (i.e., water bodies that do not meet water quality standards). States and tribes must periodically publish a priority list of impaired waters, currently every two years. For waters identified on this list, states and tribes must develop water quality improvement plans known as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) that establish allowable pollutant loads set at levels to achieve water quality standards.

Much of the current workload being completed by the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District has been to assist private landowners, predominately the agricultural base, address the requirements of the clean water act. At present there are approximately 3265 square miles of stream that is listed under the stream segments of concern.

Pahsimeroi River: The Pahsimeroi and tributaries: Patterson Creek, Morse Creek and Big Creek are listed for Nutrients, sediment and flow alterations. Over the past 15 years the Custer SWCD and their partners have addressed these concerns greatly with fencing and irrigation improvements on the Pahsimeroi and Patterson Creek. Big Creek and Morse Creek seldom reach the Pahsimeroi partially due to irrigation withdrawal but also the nature of the natural channel. In addition, numerous animal feedlot operations have been removed or addressed to meet water quality standards

Upper Salmon River: The Salmon River and its tributaries Challis Creek, Garden Creek, Warm Springs Creek, Thompson Creek, Yankee Fork, Lost Creek, Kinnikinic Creek, Road Creek and Squaw Creek are listed for sediment, temperature, nutrients, flow alterations and habitat alteration. Flow alterations have been addressed extensively on the Salmon River, Challis Creek and currently Garden Creek by improving irrigation practices and decreasing in-stream barriers where feasible. Fencing has been installed in voluntary cooperation with landowners and numerous animal feedlot operations have been removed or addressed to meet water quality standards. The Yankee Fork is under a full assessment by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Shoshone/Bannock Tribes. A plan is forthcoming to address limitations in this reach.

Most of the work that has been accomplished in these two areas are related to the Endangered Species Act and fish recovery effort. The voluntary cooperation of private landowners has been key to addressing the elements referenced in the clean water act and ESA.

A complete list of the stream segments of concern can be found in Exhibit B on page 34 of this document as developed by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

Section 6: Identify, Prioritize and Implement Projects: (IDAPA 60-.05.02.025.06&07)

By April Custer SWCD has identified projects for State and County Funding as follows:

- Staff Hours to secure grants and or funds for projects and to retain the office
- Workshops or Tours and Publications on Water Quality Improvement/Management
- Idaho Envirothon Teams
- Natural Resource Awareness Day
- Annual 5th Grade Tour
- Agricultural Awareness Week – Community and K-12 Grades (all schools)
- Support to FFA
- Poster Contest – 5th and 6th Grade
- Speech Contest –High School
- Bread in a Bag – 4th Grade
- District Equipment Program
- Support of the State Lands Judging Contest
- Support of the Idaho Forestry Contest
- Community Support
- Dues support of IASCD (at \$400 level), RC&D, IDEA

The above projects and activities are ranked in a priority order however Custer SWCD believes they have secured adequate funding to provide both staff and sponsorship of these activities for the next fiscal year.

By April Custer SWCD will have identified funding under Bonneville Power Administration Funding, Pacific Coast Funding, Bureau of Reclamation and Energy Conservation Funding. Of the 14 projects listed below. Of these projects 13 (Thirteen) were ranked High and 1 (one) Medium.

- 2 - Irrigation Diversion and Fish Passage Improvements (Water Quantity)
- 1- Stream Reconnect - (Water Quality and Water Quantity)
- 4- Irrigation Improvements – Water Conservation Projects (Water Quantity)
- 3- Stock-water systems to provide off stream water (Water Quality and Water Quantity)
- 3- Culvert replacements to provide fish passage (Fish Passage)
- Identify at least 5 landowners for Ag Energy Conservation (Water Quantity)

The above listed projects were ranked on technical merit by an independent ranking committee made up of numerous natural resource specialists from various agencies with a focus on anadromous fish recovery. The above projects were reviewed in a publically advertised meeting along with the Custer SWCD Annual Resource Plan in February 2015) Implementations of these projects are scheduled to take place through the fiscal year starting July 2014 and have secured project funding. Custer SWCD Board of Supervisors, Project Manager and Administrative Staff will oversee the implementation of this work with the assistance of the NRCS, USBoR and IDFG as project support. Other multiple agencies and groups (noted on page 16) will provide assistance on some level.

The fish recovery projects listed above address the stream segments of concern and will be implemented under the best management practices of the NRCS and adopted by the Custer SWCD.

AGENCIES AND GROUPS COOPERATING WITH THE CUSTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Landowners/Cooperators

Bonneville Power Administration
Butte Soil & Water Conservation District
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
City of Challis
Challis Area Chamber of Commerce
Challis School District #181
Challis Experimental Stewardship Committee
Custer County Commissioners
Custer County Economic Development Asso.
Custer County Farm Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
East Fork Grazing Association
High Country Resource Conservation and Development
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho Department of Agriculture
Idaho Department of Fish And Game
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Idaho District Employees Association
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Auxiliary
Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission
Idaho Mining Association
Lemhi County Commissioners
Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District
Morgan Creek Grazing Association
Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Salmon River Electric Co-Op
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
State of Idaho
The Challis Messenger
Thompson Creek Minerals
University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service
U. S. Farm Service Agency
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**CUSTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

July 2016

4 Fourth of July - office closed
 13 CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
 * Custer County Fair – Display at Fair

August 2016

* Custer County Fair Concludes
 10 CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.

September 2016

1 Labor Day – Office Closed
 14 CSWCD Board Meeting and Annual Conservation Tour
 Poster Judging/Speech Contest Judging
 22 5th Grade Annual Outdoor Field Day – Pahsimeroi Valley

October 2016

Columbus Day office closed
 12 CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
 ** Fall Division VI meeting
 Division VI Poster Contest and Speech Contest Judging

November 2016

9 CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
 ** Veterans Day office closed
 ** Thanksgiving - Office closed
 ** IASCD Conference – Lewiston, Idaho

December 2016

24 Office closed for Christmas
 25 Christmas Day

January 2017

11 CSWCD Board meeting – 1:30 P.M.
 * Workshop sponsored by CSWCD
 ** MLK Day – Federal Holiday
 Legislative Displays – State Capitol

February 2017

8 CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 P.M.
 * Spring Division 3 meeting
 President’s Day – Office Closed
 Bread in a Bag – Challis Elementary 4th Graders

March 2017

8 CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 P.M.
* Ag Week Activities co-sponsored with Custer Co Extension

April 2017

12 CSWCD Board Meeting – Time TBD
Natural Resources Awareness Day – Challis, Stanley
Elementary Schools – All day event
* Start of Stewardship Week

May 2017

9 CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m. Review Final Budget/Plan
State Envirothon
Memorial Day office closed

June 2017

14 CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
30 FY09 Fiscal Year ends

** Indicates do not know date or dates have not been set.

APPENDIX A: Soils General Soils Map Units: Cool Soils on Flood Plains, Stream Terraces, Fan Terraces, and Outwash Fans

Percentage of survey area: About 26 percent

1. Mooretown-Tohobit-Bursteadt

Very deep, nearly level, somewhat poorly drained and moderately well drained soils that formed in mixed alluvium.

- Percentage of survey area: 2 percent
- Position on landscape: Flood plains and stream terraces
- Elevation: 3,700 to 6,300 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 8 to 14 inches
- Frost-free period: 50 to 90 days
- Minor components: Aquents and Blackfoot, Cowbone, Smout, and Wimpy soils
- Major uses: Irrigated cropland, hayland, and pastureland, and rangeland

2. Simeroi-Whitecloud-Ringle

Very deep, undulating to hilly, somewhat excessively drained and well drained soils that formed in alluvium derived from limestone.

- Percentage of survey area: 10 percent
- Position on landscape: Fan terraces and outwash fans
- Elevation: 4,500 to 7,000 feet Average annual precipitation: 6 to 11 inches
- Frost-free period: 50 to 100 days
- Minor components: Paint, Sanfelipe, and Snowslide soils
- Major uses: Irrigated cropland, hayland, and pastureland, and rangeland
-

3. Pahsimeroi-Whiteknob-Leadore

Very deep, undulating to hilly, somewhat excessively drained and well drained soils that formed in alluvium derived from quartzite

- Percentage of survey area: 14 percent
- Position on landscape: Fan terraces and outwash fans
- Elevation: 4,500 to 6,700 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 7 to 11 inches
- Frost-free period: 50 to 90 days
- Minor components: Bartonflat, Bock, Bunting, Dawtonia, Derwell, Dickeypeak, Firebox, Kadletz, Packmo, Pedoli, Sparmo, Sprabat, and Zer soils
- Major uses: Irrigated cropland, hayland, and pastureland, and rangeland

Cool Soils Dominantly on Hills and Mountains

Percentage of survey area: About 31 percent

4. Millhi-Badland-Perreau

Very deep, undulating to steep, moderately well drained and well drained soils that formed in lacustrine sediment, and Badland

- Percentage of survey area: 4 percent
- Position on landscape: Hills, lacustrine terraces, and stream terraces
- Elevation: 3,900 to 6,000 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 7 to 11 inches
- Frost-free period: 75 to 100 days
- Minor components: Lacrol, Morphey, and Oxhead soils
- Major uses: Irrigated cropland, hayland, and pastureland, and rangeland

5. Dacont-Gaciba-Farvant

Shallow and very deep, rolling to very steep, well drained soils that formed in colluviums and residuum derived from extrusive igneous rock and tuff

- Percentage of survey area: 12 percent
- Position on landscape: Hills and mountains
- Elevation: 5,000 to 7,300 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 6 to 14 inches
- Frost-free period: 50 to 90 days
- Minor components: Bayhorse, Frailton, Gradco, Howcan, Mitring, Mogg, and Ureal soils
- Major uses: Rangeland and wildlife habitat

6. Calcids-Dawtonia-Venum

Moderately deep to very deep, rolling to very steep, well drained soils that formed in colluvium and alluvium derived from quartzite and Position on landscape: Hills and mountains

- Percentage of survey area: 15 percent
- Elevation: 3,900 to 7,000 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 7 to 14 inches
- Frost-free period: 60 to 100 days
- Minor components: Challis, Cronks, Snowslide, and Zer soils
- Major uses: Rangeland and wildlife habitat

Cold Soils on Flood Plains, Stream Terraces, Fan Terraces, and Outwash Fans

Percentage of survey area: About 12 percent

7. Biglost-Copperbasin-Thosand

Very deep, nearly level, poorly drained to moderately well drained soils that formed in mixed alluvium.

- Percentage of survey area: 4 percent
- Position on landscape: Flood plains and stream terraces
- Elevation: 4,500 to 7,400 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 8 to 18 inches
- Frost-free period: 5 to 60 days
- Minor components: Bigrant, Fezip, Leecreek, Lemroi, Lilylake, Redfish, and Wiskisprings soils
- Major uses: Irrigated pastureland, rangeland, and wildlife habitat

8. Arbus-Fandow-Mountainboy

Shallow to a hardpan and very deep, undulating to hilly, somewhat excessively drained and well drained soils that formed in alluvium derived from limestone

- Percentage of survey area: 5 percent
- Position on landscape: Fan terraces and outwash fans

- Elevation: 6,000 to 7,500 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 8 to 16 inches
- Frost-free period: 30 to 80 days
- Minor components: Bluedome, Goosebury, Surrect, and Windcoat soils
- Major uses: Rangeland

9. Chamberlain-Wiggleton-Busterback

Very deep, nearly level to undulating, well drained and somewhat excessively drained soils that formed in glacial outwash and alluvium derived from granite, quartzite, and limestone and mixed rock sources.

- Percentage of survey area: 3 percent
- Position on landscape: Fan terraces, stream terraces, and outwash fans
- Elevation: 6,200 to 7,500 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 12 to 20 inches
- Frost-free period: 5 to 60 days
- Minor components: Castlepeak, Geemore, and Yankeefork soils
- Major uses: Irrigated pastureland and rangeland mixed rock sources

Cold Soils Dominantly on Hills and Mountains

Percentage of survey area: About 31 percent

10. Heathcoat-Escarlo-Brabas

Very deep, rolling to steep, well drained soils that formed in uplifted lacustrine sediment and alluvial deposits

- Percentage of survey area: 2 percent
- Position on landscape: Hills
- Elevation: 6,500 to 8,400 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 11 to 16 inches
- Frost-free period: 30 to 60 days
- Minor components: Goldhill and Soen soils
- Major uses: Rangeland and wildlife habitat

11. Klug-Povey-Threedot

Very deep, hilly to very steep, well drained and moderately well drained soils that formed in colluvium and glacial till derived from quartzite and granite

- Percentage of survey area: 6 percent
- Position on landscape: Mountains and moraines
- Elevation: 6,000 to 9,000 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 12 to 22 inches
- Frost-free period: 10 to 70 days
- Minor components: Goldhill, Hagenbarth, Langer, and Reck soils
- Major uses: Rangeland and wildlife habitat

12. Zeebar-Donkehill-Parkay

Shallow and very deep, hilly to very steep, well drained soils that formed in colluviums and residuum derived from extrusive igneous rock

- Percentage of survey area: 9 percent

- Position on landscape: Mountains and hills
- Elevation: 6,500 to 9,000 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 12 to 22 inches
- Frost-free period: 30 to 60 days
- Minor components: Friedman, Gaciba, Nielsen, Nurkey, and Resoot soils
- Major uses: Rangeland and wildlife habitat

13. Cryolls-Zeale-Zeelnot

Moderately deep to very deep, hilly to very steep, well drained soils that formed in colluvium and alluvium derived from limestone and mixed rock sources

- Percentage of survey area: 8 percent
- Position on landscape: Mountains and hills
- Elevation: 6,500 to 10,390 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 12 to 30 inches
- Frost-free period: 5 to 60 days
- Minor components: Adek, Jimbee, Meegernot, Meegero, and Nitchly soils, Rock outcrop, and Skibo soils
- Major uses: Rangeland and wildlife habitat

14. Cryepts-Lag-Ketchum

Moderately deep to very deep, hilly to very steep, well drained soils that formed in colluvium derived from quartzite, phyllite, and sandstone and mixed rock sources

- Percentage of survey area: 6 percent
- Position on landscape: Mountains
- Elevation: 6,000 to 10,000 feet
- Average annual precipitation: 18 to 30 inches
- Frost-free period: 5 to 60 days
- Minor components: Coalkiln, Ezbin, Gany, and Lemco soils, Rock outcrop, and Struggle and Zeebar soils
- Major uses: Woodland and wildlife habitat

Exhibit B. Stream Segments of Concern:

Stream Segments of Concern in Custer SWCD (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.05)

Surface Water: Pahsimeroi River

Sub-basin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Loads

Hydrologic Unit Code	17060202
Size	839 square miles
§303(d) Listed Stream Segments	Pahsimeroi River, Patterson Creek, Morse Creek, Big Creek (Currently under review by DEQ)
Beneficial Uses	Domestic water supply, cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, cold water biota, primary contact recreation, special resource water
Pollutants of Concern	Nutrients, sediment, flow alteration
Major Land Uses	Irrigated agriculture, dryland agriculture, rangeland, forest
Date Approved by U.S. EPA	December 2001

Background

The federal Clean Water Act requires that states and tribes restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. States and tribes must adopt water quality standards necessary to protect fish, shellfish, and wildlife while providing for recreation in and on the waters whenever possible.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act establishes requirements for states and tribes to identify and prioritize water bodies that are water quality limited (i.e., water bodies that do not meet water quality standards). States and tribes must periodically publish a priority list of impaired waters, currently every two years. For waters identified on this list, states and tribes must develop water quality improvement plans known as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) that establish allowable pollutant loads set at levels to achieve water quality standards.

Overview

From *Pahsimeroi River Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load 2013 Addendum and Five-Year Review – DRAFT* “Temperature was determined to be impairing water quality in the 2 listed AUs, and temperature load allocations are provided in this document. In addition, 3 AUs received updated TMDLs using the current Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) method for estimating shade and an additional AU added for a temperature TMDL that was not previously listed as being impaired. Sediment was found to be impairing beneficial uses in 3 AUs, and allocations for sediment load reductions are provided in this document. *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) was determined to be impairing water quality in 1 AU, and a bacteria TMDL is provided for restoring beneficial uses to this AU. In total, 8 AUs received new or updated TMDLs, with one of those AUs receiving multiple TMDLs (i.e., for temperature, sediment, and bacteria).”





FY2016 (7/1/2016 – 6/30/2017) Annual Plan of Work Custer Soil and Water Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Number 1: Natural Resource Education Program related to Water Quality& Quantity, Range, Pasture and Hay-land and Recreation. (IDAPA 60.05.051.02.03)

Objective: The Custer Soil and Water Conservation District will provide leadership and management of the highest quality standards to meet goals and of objectives established by the District.

Goal(s): Maintain district operations and information and education programs effectively and efficiently with an emphasis on agriculture and the local economy.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Maintain administrative policies and procedures for district operations: Update District Policy and Procedures Manual, open meeting law; conduct annual elections; complete annual plan of work, provide administrative assistance to NRCS.	6/30/16	Board of Supervisors, Admin. Assistant
Assist landowners with USDA/Farm Bill programs and applications.	6/30/16	Supervisors District Employee's NRCS
Schedule and hold 10 Board Meetings and two conference calls to conduct district business.	Monthly	Ben O' Neal, Chairman Karma Bragg, Office Mgr.
Develop and submits Conservation District Budget; request of funds from Lemhi and Custer Counties.	5/1/16	Board of Supervisors District Employee's
Develop and submit Conservation District Annual Plan of Work	5/1/16	Admin. Assistant
Maintain financial management system using QuickBooks software including annual audit. Submittal of financial reports and budget to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission as may be required.	Annually	Board of Supervisors Jimmie Dowton, Treasurer Karma Bragg, Office Mgr.
Identify, secure and administer alternative funding to assist in meeting Conservation District goals and actions.	9/30/16	Board of Supervisors District Employee's
Develop and maintain employee and staff development program to include attendance at IASCD Division Meetings, IASCD Annual Conference, IDEA Workshops and other local, state and regional meetings.	6/30/16	Board of Supervisors District Employee's

Actions: Priority 1: Natural Resource Education Program related to Water Quality& Quantity, Range, Pasture and Hayland and Recreation. (Continued)	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<p>Use comprehensive and effective youth information and education program to promote and enhance District programs and increase public awareness of conservation and agricultural issues and opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sponsor Annual Natural Resource Awareness Day in the Elementary School (4/13) ➤ Sponsor Annual Bread in a Bag program for fourth grade (Feb) ➤ Sponsor 5th Grade Tour (fall) ➤ Sponsor Annual 5th and 6th Grade Poster Contest (Fall) ➤ Sponsor Local Envirothon Team (s) ➤ Sponsor Annual Speech Contest (Spring) ➤ Provide financial assistance to the State Forestry and Idaho Land judging contests. ➤ Provide educational and financial assistance to local FFA ➤ Develop Power Point and District Display for youth education opportunities. ➤ Assist Custer County Extension office with observance of Agricultural Week 	Annually 7/1/16 to 6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's Lead Person: I&E Specialist Custer County Weed Supervisor
<p>Use comprehensive and effective community information and education program to promote and enhance District programs and increase public awareness of conservation issues and opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sponsor District tour to target 25-30% of landowners to offer assistance ➤ Develop material and sponsor workshops for Energy Conservation Program ➤ Maintain District website ➤ Appoint SWCD board member to Custer County CWMA ➤ Develop Power Point and District Display for County Fairs and Legislative outreach ➤ Appoint District Supervisors to local civic and community groups to promote District Awareness ➤ Develop District Brochures for District outreach and district policy information ➤ Recruit school teacher as alternate member to advise education programs ➤ Sponsor Teacher of the year ➤ Develop quarterly news articles for the local media about district activities ➤ Develop an Annual Report to be inserted in the local paper for the District ➤ Request attendance and an overview of the programs from RC&D ➤ Sponsor Open House in two outlying areas during the year. 	Annually 7/1/16 to 6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's Custer County Weed Supervisor FSA NRCS ISWC RC&D EC Project Lead



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Conservation District Priority Number 2: Water Quality and Water Quantity

Objective: Address conditions water quantity and water quality as it affects fisheries and wildlife resources within the district while maintaining multiple use and meet regulations of the Clean Water Act, Anti-degradation and Endangered Species Act.

Goal(s): Maintain and improve resources conditions on wetlands and riparian pastures and implement programs to enhance anadromous fish, resident fish and bull trout within the District.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Coordinate conservation programs and projects within the boundaries of the Custer SWCD between interested landowners and agencies (NRCS, IDWR, IDFG, US BoR). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assist OSC BPA and IDFG prioritize and utilize project funding for ACCORD money in the Pahsimeroi ➤ Assist in identification of priority areas and generate local support for stream enhancements within the watershed of the Upper Salmon Basin. ➤ Seek funding and assistance to implement projects that are identified to enhance fisheries in priority areas within the District including but not limited to BPA and PCSRF. ➤ Work with local agencies willing to assist landowners meet compliance with ESA by providing information and potential funding opportunities related to in-stream diversions, fish screens and riparian fencing opportunities. ➤ Administer project funding according to policies and procedures established by the District and in compliance with state and federal laws and funding source requirements. ➤ Meet reporting requirements as identified by funding entities. ➤ Develop and/or maintain riparian management areas within the District to protect waterways from noxious weeds ➤ Assist SREC while pursuing projects for implementation under the Energy Conservation Program. 	7/30/16 Through 6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS, IDWR, BoR, TNC, Custer County Weed Supervisor, RC&D

Actions: (Priority #2 Water Quality and Water Quantity Continued)	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Assist landowners comply with Idaho Department of Water Resources and Corps of Engineers permit process for irrigation and projects on wetlands and stream-banks.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS
Evaluate water conservation opportunities of sprinkler irrigation versus flood irrigation and address irrigation diversions where appropriate (address 2 this FY).	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS
Work with ISWC/FSA/NRCS to promote water quality and water quantity opportunities through EQIP, CRP and WHIP programs within District Priority areas to assist cooperators to develop BMP's and multiple uses on riparian areas and wetlands.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS ISWC
Coordinate with interested landowners and groups to establish willows plantings on streams and utilize youth groups such as FFA or Envirothon whenever possible.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS, IDFG.
Seek non-traditional funding to assist cooperators with implementation of BMP's identified by NRCS technical staff and BOR staff.	1/30/16	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS, BOR
Assist cooperators with technical assistance and funding on irrigation measuring devices and head-gates.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS, BOR, IDWR
Work with NRCS/ISWC/IDA to seek EQIP and 319 funding to implement AFO projects within the District. Assist landowners to comply with AFO regulations.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS, IDA
Assist IDA inspector and engineer, ISWC and NRCS to inform cooperators of Water Quality Rules on AFO's.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS
Consider land use effects on water quality (i.e.; urban interface and recreation)	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's
Assist the Custer County Weed Supervisor with public awareness of aquatic invasive species	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's Custer County Weed Supervisor



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Conservation District Priority Number 3: Range Land

Objective: Maintain an economic stability of the ranching industry and multiple uses by assisting cooperators to improve forage quality and quantity of rangeland within the district.

Goal(s): Improve rangeland within the Custer SWCD

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Identify local ranchers willing to develop comprehensive grazing and resource management systems.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors Dist. Employee's, NRCS
Maintain an active role in the Challis Experimental Stewardship program	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors
Promote the development of coordinated resource management plans under EQIP.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors NRCS
Develop relationships with BLM, USFS, USFWS, NMFS, NRCS and IDFG to assist with public land grazing issues and enhancements.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's
Promote and provide information to improve control of noxious weeds on both public and private lands in cooperation with county weed supervisor.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS, Extension Agent, County Weed Supervisor
Assist the NRCS to develop an economic grazing land improvement system.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors NRCS
Assist NRCS and encourage local grazing associations to work in cooperation with BLM/USFS and environmental interests to develop sound economic use of public grazing lands with emphasis on multiple use.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors Dist, Employee's, NRCS
Assist encourage cooperators to address Wolf Depredation issues in the District	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors
Assist and encourage cooperators to address Sage Grouse issues in the District	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors NRCS



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Conservation District Priority Number 4: Pasture/Hay/Cropland

Objective: Maintain an economic stability of the ranching industry and multiple uses by assisting cooperators to improve forage quality and quantity of their pasture, hay and rangeland within the district.

Goal(s): Improve pasture, hay and rangeland within the Custer SWCD

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Identify local ranchers willing to develop comprehensive resource management systems.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors Dist. Employee's, NRCS
Promote the development of coordinated resource management plans under EQIP.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors NRCS
Provide administrative assistance to NRCS on USDA/Farm Bill programs.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors Dist, Employee's, NRCS
Promote water conservation and energy conservation including but not limited to improved irrigation management, conversion from flood to sprinkler where appropriate	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors NRCS
Promote and provide information to improve control of noxious weeds on both public and private lands in cooperation with county weed supervisor.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS, Extension Agent, County Weed Supervisor
Evaluate water conservation opportunities of sprinkler irrigation versus flood irrigation.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS
Assist cooperators with available loan programs	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's ISWC



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Conservation District Priority Number 5: Recreation

Objective: Seek partnerships with recreational entities to enhance the resources and economics of Custer Soil and Water Conservation District.

Goal(s): Enhance the aesthetics of the recreational resources within the district by encouraging a partnership between recreational entities, grazing associations and ranchers.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Assist local grazing associations and coordinate with local recreational entities to enhance the resource and aesthetics in areas with high recreational impact. This includes request for funding when appropriate.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS
Provide a forum for recreational entities to express input into resource planning associated with the District.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS
Seek cooperation from landowners interested in assisting the district to address recreational interests to include recreational properties.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS
Develop cooperative working relationships with public land management agencies to assist with the enhancement of recreational opportunities.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's NRCS
Work with SNRA to develop riparian projects in the Stanley area that complement the scenic value of the basin and still maintain agricultural stability in the area.	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's SNRA
Assist the Custer County Weed Supervisor with public awareness about certified weed free hay	6/30/17	Board of Supervisors District Employee's County Weed Supervisor

Acronym	Defined
AFO	Animal Feedlot Operation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
USBoR	U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
Custer County CWMA	Custer County Cooperative Weed Management Area
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FSA	Farm Service Agency
IDA	Idaho Department of Agriculture
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
ISWC	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PCSRF	Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund
OSC	Idaho Governors Office of Species Conservation
RC&D	Resource Conservation and Development
SNRA	Sawtooth National Recreation Area
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
WQPA	Water Quality Program for Agriculture

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

DISTRICT: *Custer SWCD*

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2016/2017

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.

Ben O'Neal

Board Supervisor Signature

Ben O'Neal

Printed Name

2/11/2015

Date

208-879-4428

Telephone

csxcd@custer.tel.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:
