

**LEWIS SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
521 OAK ST. ROOM 8
NEZPERCE, ID 83543
208-937-2291 x 3**



**FIVE-YEAR
RESOURCE CONSERVATION
BUSINESS PLAN
July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2019**

**ANNUAL PLAN
JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016**

Table of Contents

Cover page	Pg 1
Table of Contents.....	Pg 2
Forward	Pg 3
Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners & Key Decision Makers.....	Pg 5
Districts Structure	Pg 6, 7
Section 1: Physical Characteristics of the District.....	Pg 8
Map of County with perennial rivers and streams.....	Pg 9
Average climate in Nezperce, Idaho	Pg 10
Section 2: Economic Conditions and Outlook	Pg 11, 12
Lewis County 2014 Reported Acres	
Section 3: Assessment	Pg 13, 14, 15
Section 4: Objectives	Pg 16, 17
Section 5: Water Quality Component.....	Pg 18
Section 6: Identify and Prioritize Projects.....	Pg 19
District Operations	Pg 20
Section 7: Implementation – Actions	Pg 21
Five –Year Plan and Annual Work Plan Certification.....	Pg 22
Annual Plan of Work 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016.....	Pg 24-30

FORWARD

The Lewis Soil Conservation District (LSCD) is one of 50 Conservation Districts in the State of 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 programs 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 nonregulatory; science-based technical assistance, incentive-based financial programs and informational and educational programs at the local level.

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

This Five-Year Plan was developed to guide the Conservation District, and 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 Lewis Soil Conservation District.

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

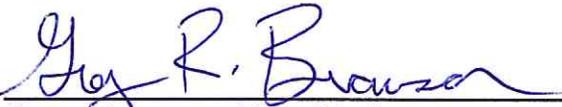
Certificate of Adoption

The board of elected supervisors of the Lewis Soil Conservation District on March 9, 2015 does hereby approve the following document known as the Five- Year Plan. This plan will be in effect for a five year period ending June 30, 2019 during which time it is updated annually and or amended, as necessary.

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



Eric Hasselstrom, Chairman



Greg Branson, Vice Chairman



Tyler Nelson, Secretary/Treasure



Drew Leitch, Member



Steve Bateman, Member

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

The following agencies work with the Lewis Soil Conservation District carrying out the Five-Year Plan. They participate in tours, workshops, and information and education meetings. They also provide technical assistance when the District needs information and are welcome to attend and contribute to the monthly LSCD meetings.

National Association of Conservation Districts
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho District Employees Association
Nez Perce Tribe
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Idaho Department of Agriculture
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
U. of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service
Cities of: Craigmont, Nezperce, Reubens, Winchester, and Kamiah
Public School Districts of: Highland, Nezperce, and Kamiah
News Media: Lewis County Herald, Lewiston Morning Tribune, and Clearwater Progress

Lewis County Commissioners
U. S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Basin Advisory Groups
Watershed Advisory Groups
Winchester State Parks and Recreation
Clearwater RC& D
Farm Service Agency
Lewis County Weed Board

Key Decision Makers

- **The elected District Board members:** Eric Hasselstrom – Chairman, Greg Branson – Vice Chairman, Tyler Nelson – Secretary/Treasurer, Drew Leitch – Member, Steve Bateman – Member
- **Lewis County Commissioners:** Carroll Keith – Chairman – Member - Greg Johnson Don Davis - Member
- **City of Nezperce elected official:** Mayor – Steve Bateman
- **City of Craigmont elected official:** Mayor – Roger Riggers
- **State Legislators representing District 6–** Senator Dan Johnson, Representative Dan Rudolph, Representative John Rusche
- **The producers and citizens in Lewis County**
- **Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission**
- **Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation**





Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan July 1, 2014- June 30, 2019 Lewis Soil Conservation District



For More Information Contact: Eric Hasselstrom, 208-937-2291 ext 3

Organization of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The Lewis Soil Conservation District (LSCD) is a political subdivision of the State of Idaho charged under the authorities, powers and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code with the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources on Idaho's private land. The LSCD was officially organized on June 17, 1941 and is governed by a board of locally elected officials. These five supervisors are unpaid and serve a minimum four year term. The LSCD encompasses Lewis County in North Central Idaho.

Function of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The function of the LSCD is to coordinate and deliver technical, financial, and educational assistance to landowners for responsible natural resources management that conserves and improves soil, water, air quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. Funding is provided primarily through county and state allocations with additional funds through grants. All District funds, regardless of source, are public funds and are accountable to the taxpaying citizens of Idaho.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) are principle sources of technical assistance provided to the District.

Who We Serve & Why

We serve the citizens of our community (county, state, country) to ensure the long term use of natural resources in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner using non-regulatory, voluntary approaches.

The LSCD provides technical assistance to landowners and operators in Lewis County in areas such as non-irrigated cropland, non-industrial private forestland and rangeland management. We strive to provide local leadership in the conservation development and productive use of soil, water and related resources to improve soil quality, soil health, water quality and long term sustainability of the land.

In addition to providing technical assistance to landowners in the district the other primary service is to inform and educate the public. We provide numerous educational programs to the schools with the District.

Mission of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The LSCD is dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.

Vision of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The LSCD works towards conserving and enhancing resources (soil, water, air, plants and animals) for the economic and environmental benefit of the present and future generations of Lewis County. The LSCD is recognized by all private landowners as a source of financial, technical and educational assistance in Lewis County, and by local, state and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities.

Values of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The LSCD values the resources of Lewis County. We are dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound best management practices. We promote clean water and productive soil. The District strives to ensure that local people make decisions on conservation problems at the local level.

The District supports and encourages the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) and Resource Management Systems (RMS) on agricultural lands within the District in an effort to control soil erosion and improve water quality. We value and have respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership. We act as a catalyst to bring people and programs together, to bring about a quality way of life, a quality resource base and a quality environment.



Winchester Lake

It is important to protect our resources for our benefit and the benefit of future generations

Physical Characteristics of the District



The cities located within the County are Nezperce, Craigmont, Kamiah, Winchester and Reubens. Neighboring Counties are Nez Perce to the west, Clearwater to the north and Idaho the south Lewis County consists of 480 square miles made up of private, federal, state and tribal lands. Most of Lewis Soil Conservation District is located within the Nez Perce Indian Reservation. There are sixteen streams within Lewis County. All streams are tributaries of the the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers.

Critical Geographic Areas:

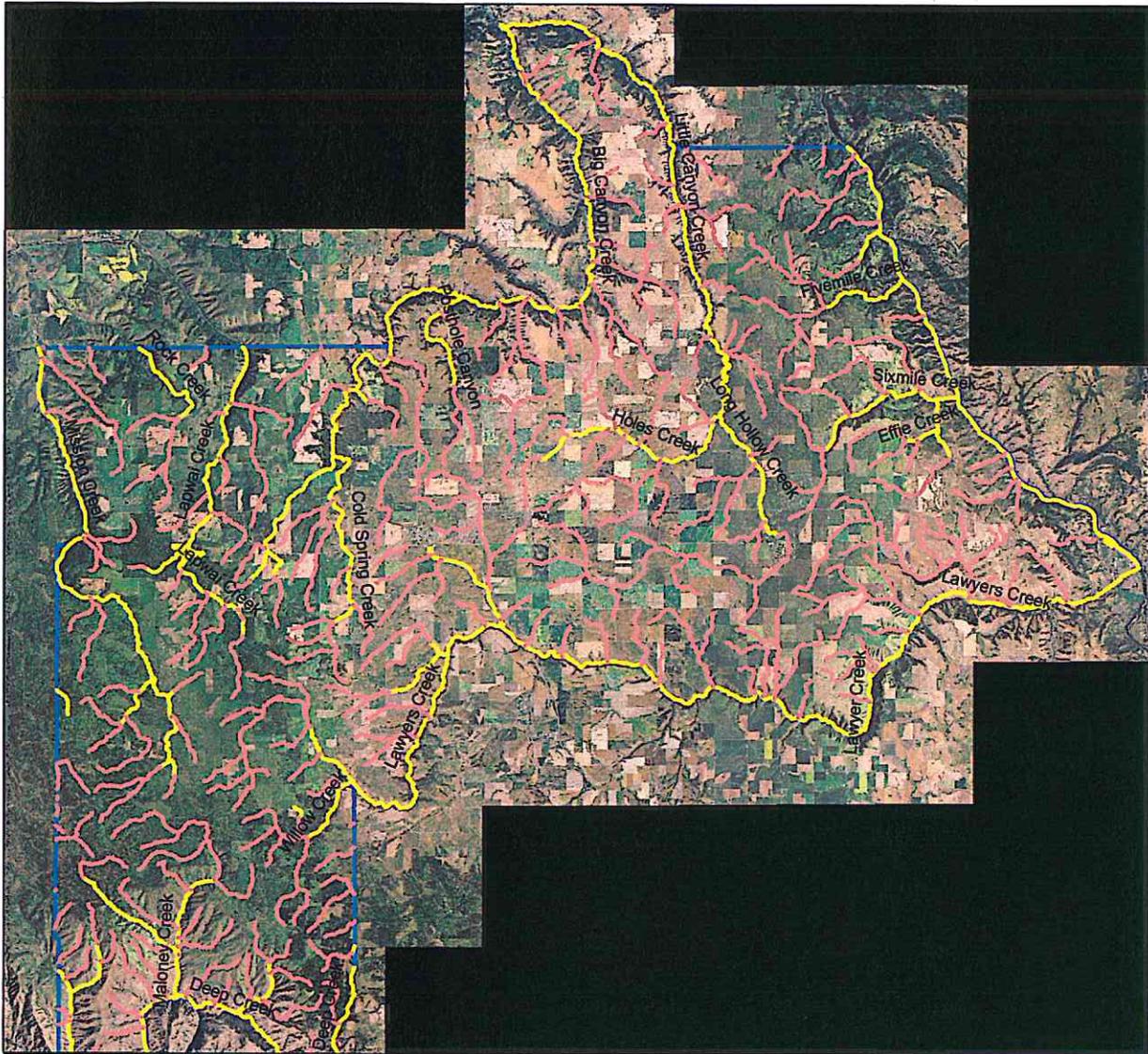
Lewis County is located on a high plateau sloping towards the east and south. Deep canyon bottoms form the north, east and south boundaries of the district making the area a distinct physiographic unit. The district is characterized by a moderately undulating to strongly rolling plateau that has been cut into blocks by deeply entrenched streams. Lewis County has approximately 93,000 acres of highly erodible cropland. Elevations vary from about 1,000 Mean Sea Level (MSL) along the Clearwater River to approximately 4,600 MSL at Mason Butte. Most of the plateau is approximately 3,000 to 3,500 feet elevation. Slopes on the agriculture land rarely exceed 30 percent with the majority ranging from 5 to 15 percent.

Lewis Geology:

According to the USGS geology maps approximately 85% of Lewis County geology is basalt flows from the Middle Miocene flood-basalt flows forming from the Columbia River Plateau. These flows are characterized by fine crystalline rocks, often exposed on upper slopes. The Blue Mountain Complex flows, characterized by Quartz diorites and granodiorites, make up another 10% of the geology in Lewis County.

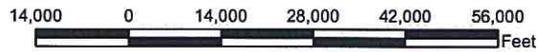
District: Lewis Soil Conservation District

Field Office: Nezperce
Agency: NRCS



Legend

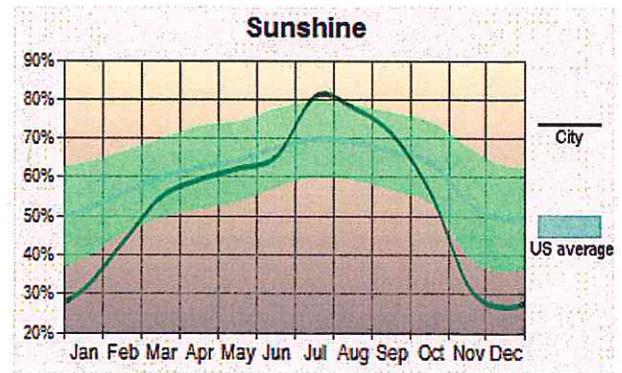
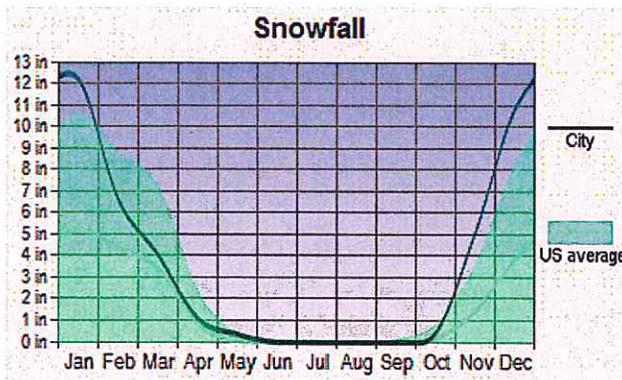
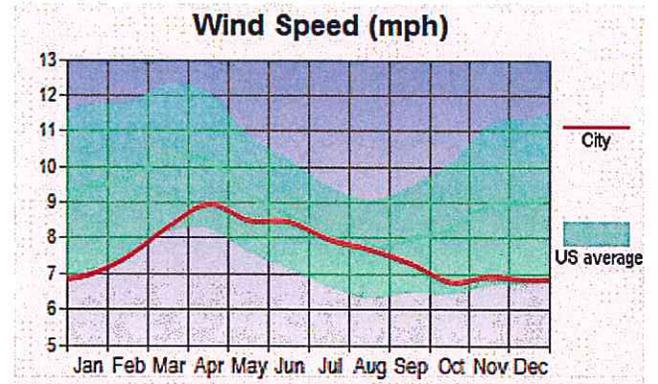
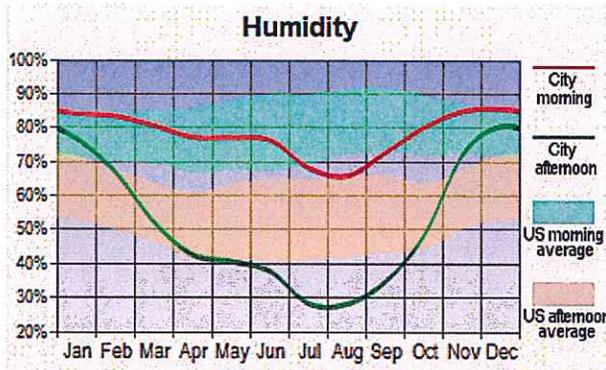
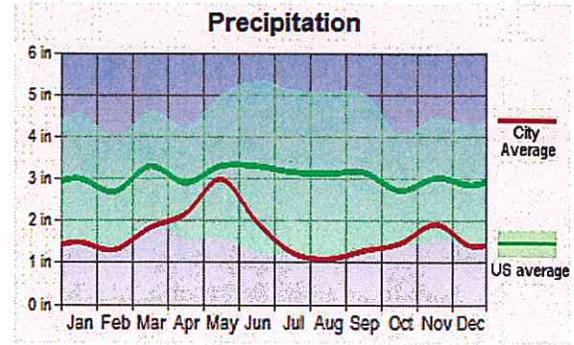
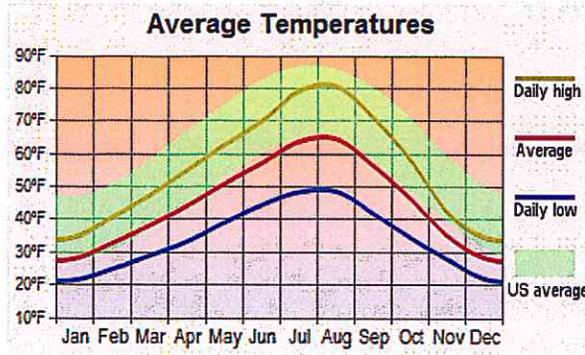
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-  LEWIS COUNTY



Lewis County precipitation averages 18-28 inches per year. The average ground snow depths for January range from 8-10 inches. Snow is usually melted from the area by early April. On average, there are 169 sunny days per year in Lewis County, ID.

Average climate in Nezperce, Idaho

Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations



Sources

- <http://www.city-data.com/city/Nezperce-Idaho.html#ixzz1n986XSwp>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_County,_Idaho
- http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Idaho/Publications/County_Estimates/index.asp
- <http://www.homefacts.com/county/Idaho/Lewis-County.html>

Economic Condition and Outlook of Lewis Soil Conservation District

The population in Lewis County is 3,889 (all rural)

Land Area – 480 square miles

Homeownership Rate – 74.8%

Median Household Income in Lewis County, ID: \$37,340

Lewis County is the 7th least populated county in the state, ranks 40th in population and 41st in area

Most common industries of Lewis County

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (23%)
- Construction (11%)
- Wood products (10%)
- Public administration (8%)
- Truck transportation (4%)
- Educational services (4%)
- Paper (3%)

Agriculture in Lewis County:

Average size of farms: 1,224 acres

Average value of agricultural products sold per farm: \$156,792

Average value of crops sold per acre for harvested cropland: \$186.51

The value of livestock, poultry, and their products as a percentage of the total market value of agricultural products sold: 5.91%

Average total farm production expenses per farm: \$118,569

Harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 64.65%

Average market value of all machinery and equipment per farm: \$163,864

The percentage of farms operated by a family or individual: 83.05%

Average age of principal farm operators: 56 years

Average number of cattle and calves per 100 acres of all land in farms: 1.99

The primary economic base is dryland farming and livestock production. Lewis County relies on precipitation to irrigate the crops and surface water sources or groundwater wells for livestock productions. Lewis County is heavily dependent on natural resources, especially agriculture and forest products. Ranching and farming remain one of the major industries of the area. Farm income remains a major factor in the spending power of the county residents. The county ranks 23rd in the State for agricultural products sold.

The table below is provided by the Lewis County Farm Service Agency.

Lewis/Clearwater County 2014 Reported Acres						
Category	Crop	Type	Acres		Sub-Total	Total
			Lewis	Clearwater		
Small Grains	Wheat	Soft White Winter	66,981.5	3,989.3	102,284.0	
		Soft White Spring	10,945.6	1,846.8		
		Hard Red Winter	7,486.6	1,304.1		
		Hard Red Spring	8,157.0	1,266.8		
		Hard White Winter	3.8	0.0		
		Hard White Spring	302.5	0.0		
	Barley	Spring	9,205.4	484.8	9,753.9	

		Winter	63.7	0.0	
	Oats		1,033.3	8.9	1,042.2
	Buckwheat		130.6	0.0	130.6
Total Small Grains					113,210.7
Oilseeds	Canola	Winter	1,123.3	0.0	10,652.9
		Spring	9,508.1	21.5	
	Flax		131.2	0.0	131.2
Total Oilseeds					10,784.1
Legumes	Lentils		616.5	0.0	616.5
	Dry Peas	Austrian Winter	1,004.4	0.0	11,993.0
		Green	10,592.0	396.6	
	Beans	Garbanzo (GAS)	3,080.4	387.3	6,104.0
		Garbanzo (GAD)	0.0	0.0	
Garbanzo (GAR)		2,636.3	0.0		
Total Legumes					18,713.5
Forage	Hay	Alfalfa	2,625.4	36.6	14,957.5
		Alfalfa Mix	1,426.9	419.3	
		Grass Mix w/ Alfalfa	1,881.8	170.0	
		Interseeded Grasses	2,024.7	2,285.7	
		Native Grass	603.1	113.6	
		Small Grain	695.4	7.5	
		Oats	1,608.4	34.0	
		Timothy	396.7	218.5	
		Brome	50.0	114.7	
		Fescue	183.6	0.0	
		Other	61.6	0.0	
	Grazing		3,628.5	1,274.3	4,902.8
Total Forage					19,860.3
Seed Crops	Grass	Bluegrass, Kentucky	6,792.6	0.0	7,470.7
		Brome	80.7	0.0	
		Crested Wheatgrass	117.5	0.0	
		Fescue	130.5	0.0	
		Idaho Fescue	97.3	0.0	
		Sandburg Blue	61.2	0.0	
		Blue Bunch Wheatgrass	99.8	0.0	
		Small Burnett	83.0	0.0	
		Perennial Ryegrass	8.1	0.0	
	Clover	White	306.9	0.0	363.1
		Red	56.2	0.0	
Wildflowers		36.7	0.0	36.7	
Radishes		145.4	0.0	145.4	
Nursery		193.3	6.7	200.0	
Total Seed Crops					8,215.9
Other	CRP		6,624.5	1,345.4	7,969.9
	Prevented Planting		65.0	0.0	65.0
	Left Standing		873.8	101.1	974.9
	WL Food Plot		184.5	9.1	193.6
	Trees		0.0	88.1	88.1
	NRCS Cover Crops		345.2	0.0	345.2
	Fallow		7,736.4	103.5	7,839.9
Total Other					17,476.6
Grand Total					188,261.1

Assessment

Soil Resources:

Soil Erosion

- Erosion occurs mainly as a result of winter runoff from snow melt and rainfall on frozen saturated soils. Gully erosion occurs in cropland areas.
- Approximately 47,954 acres are Non-highly erodible cropland and 93,015 acres are Highly erodible cropland
- Water Quality projects have reduced soil erosion in cropland areas
- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural practices reduce the amount of stream bank erosion
- Erosion occurring on range and forest lands is often the result of improper grazing and improper road development and maintenance
- The District seeks funding sources for cost sharing the installation of BMP's
- Encourage producers to properly manage riparian areas

Soil Quality

- Seventy percent of Lewis County acres have been adopted to no till/direct seed
- We promote tillage and residue management practices that leave stubble standing during winter months, which is the critical erosion period
- Crop rotation which includes cereal, legumes, mustards, cover crops and perennial crops
- Cover crops planted to benefit soil health and future crops in numerous ways

Three broad groups of soil occur with the District

1. Medium and moderately coarse textured soil on terraces and valley floors (1% of District)
2. Silty soils on Plateaus (60% of the District)
3. Fine to moderately coarse textured soils containing rich fragments, and canyon slopes (39% of the District)

Water Resources:

The water resources in LSCD vary widely in quality and quantity from year to year. Surface water quality at times can be very poor. Spring and winter runoff and thunderstorms contribute a significant amount of sediment to creeks in the area.

- The majority of the LSCD jurisdiction is in the Camas Prairie High Nitrate Priority Area.
- Applying split fertilizer helps the water quality and crop production.
- Nutrient management practices are adopted to help reduce nitrates leaching into the ground water and surface water.
- Most rural residents rely on septic systems and drain fields to treat their waste water. We offer cost share to repair failing septic systems.
- Livestock watering systems and pipelines are primary uses of surface water in the agricultural sector
- BMP's offered through cost share programs enhance the surface water quality

Air Quality:

Air quality is worse during the fall when producers burn bluegrass

- The District encourages grass producers to follow the NPGP smoke management recommendations.
- Encourage producers to maintain and manage crop residue by adopting no-till and reduced tillage systems rather than burning grain stubble.

Forest lands, grasslands, pasture, hay land and rangeland:

- Forest land erosion occurs mostly on skid trails, landings and roads
- Forestlands and interface areas provide important habitat for many species of birds and mammals
- Coordinate with producers to development grazing plans that leave appropriate amounts of vegetation
- Hay is used as part of a rotation in many areas
- Encourage control of noxious and invasive weeds

Livestock production:

- Encourage producers to install Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's) and pasture management systems including exclusion fencing, offsite watering, waste management facility and riparian treatment

Fish and Wildlife:

According to old timer's fish number have decreased over the years.

Lewis County is home to a diverse array of fish and wildlife species.

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

- Decrease threats to threatened and endangered species (T&E)
- We address: salmon, steelhead, bull trout
- Conceivably all land in the county could be used for wildlife but it not currently economically feasible

Improving stream habitat

- Reducing the amount of sediment, pathogens and nutrients entering streams, and increasing shade improves fish habitat
- Lewis County streams provide habitat for salmon and steelhead, including populations that are listed as threatened and endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act

District Operations:

- Budget cuts are a big concern of the district
- Limited funds from County and State
- Funds for Grants from DEQ
- Actively looking for grants to provide financial help to landowners installing conservation practices on their land

- Cooperate with units of local, state, federal and tribal government
- Maintain staff to have a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them to provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs
- Have a good working relationship with partner staff personnel
- Retain the Technical Assistance provided to us from ISWCC
- Dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound management practices
- Publish newsletters throughout the year reaching over 200 households

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District

- *Limited or decrease in State funds available for conservation*
- *Limited Grant funding*
- *Limited Technical Support available from the ISWCC*
- *Soil pH is affecting crop yields*
- *Nutrient Management to reduce nitrates from leaching into the ground water and runoff entering surface water*
- *Pest Management to reduce pesticides leaching into the ground water and runoff entering surface water*
- *Animal Feeding Operations to improve surface water and ground water quality*
- *Forest Health to improve forest health, reduce disease and erosion*
- *Endangers Species Act mandates and enforcement*

Strategies to Address Trends

- Coordinate conservation planning with agricultural producers
- Look for new and innovative ways for funding, i.e; grants, projects etc.
- Supervisors to become more informed of current issues impacting working lands, Farm Bill programs
- Continue efforts to raise awareness of conservation values with state legislators and elected officials
- Strengthen locally led efforts
- Hold informational meetings to inform producers of programs available for cost share to improve soil health and water quality
- Offering cost share for lime applications for pH showing 5.5 or less
- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural measures to reduce the amount of stream bank erosion
- Increase awareness of forestland management. Work with the Idaho Department of Lands
- Lead voluntary implementation of conservation efforts
- Implementation of water quality and water quantity projects to improve fish passage and habitat within the District to help address ESA issues
- Actively seeking additional funding through grants, 319, NRCS, IASCD and ISWCC
- Coordinate with the Tribe to implement projects, this helps to leverage the funding

Identify and Prioritize Objectives

1. Promote soil health and nutrient management practices

Assist landowners with implementing BMP's

- Encourage livestock producers to develop pasture, grazing and nutrient management plans
- Implement animal feeding management operations and pasture BMP's at \approx 15 sites
Reduce nutrient, bacteria and sediment delivery to Lawyer Creek
- Implement residue and nutrient management BMP's
- Implement riparian restoration, fencing, planting & weed control BMP's on \approx 786 feet of stream habitat
- Encourage producers to implement cover crops to reduce soil erosion
- Improve nutrient use efficiency through proper timing, placement, rate and application of crop nutrients
- Organized soil health meetings

2. Promote Forestry practices

Strategic tree planting to address critical issues

- Improve Plant Health
- Tree and Shrub Establishment reduces sediment load
- Encourage producers to properly manage fire zones
- Collaborate with public land management agencies
- Prevent or stop the spread of exotic insects and diseases

3. Improve surface and groundwater quality

Work with landowners to reduce nutrient and sediment

- Follow U of I fertilizer guide to avoid over application of fertilizer
Work with producers to help reduce nitrates in the groundwater
- Implement residue and nutrient management BMP's
Work toward decreasing sediment, nutrients and bacteria in Lewis County by assisting landowners with implementing BMP's
- Develop off site stock-water systems where appropriate

4. Environmental Information and Education

The District encourages a strong effective public outreach program. The District works with the youth in different activities to educate them. We also work with adults to assist them with conservation practices and needs.

- Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District (IASCD) poster contest for students in 4-6 grades in Nezperce and Highland schools
- Work with students, schools and cities in planting trees for Arbor Day
- ISWCC, NRCS, Department of Land, Nez Perce Tribe, Western Forest Systems, Idaho Fish and Game provide educational workstations during the 6th Grade Field Day at Winchester State Park with about 115 youth participating.
- Worm Races teaching K-2 about earth worms and soils
- Annual fair booth display
- Coordinate with the U of I Cooperative Extension to sponsor an annual Crop and Conservation Tour
- Held educational meetings informing people the importance of soil health

5. Air Quality

Encourage landowners to follow the Ida/Nez Perce Tribe recommendation to reduce the impact of smoke in the air.

The District encourages grass producers to follow the Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Program

- An agricultural burn is the burning of vegetative debris from an agricultural activity that is necessary for disease or pest control, or for crop propagation and/or crop rotation.

Discourage landowners from burning annual crop stubble

- Publish articles in the local newspaper to help educate the public on a number of issues concerning bluegrass seed production

6. District Operations

State of Idaho Funding

- Provides \$8,500.00 for their base of operations
- 2:1 Match

Funding supported from Lewis County

- \$8,000.00

Working with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and NRCS through grants to improve conservation

- The District administers a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) and a 319 Non Source Grant which are in progress. ISWCC provides technical assistance to get conservation on the ground.

Water Quality Component

Much of the current workload being completed by the Lewis Soil Conservation District has been to assist private landowners, predominately the agricultural base, addressing the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

The critical areas of projects focus on cropland acres, animal feeding areas, pastures and riparian areas. These are the primary concerns found during the 2006 Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) effort. Sediment and bacteria loading were the two largest pollutants found from the SVAP effort. The practices that will be implementing will be practices that have a past record of decreasing these pollutants. As resource concerns are identified the established BMP to target the pollution source are designed and installed.

LSCD is working with producers towards water quality goals for The Camas Prairie High Nitrate Priority Area.

Problems for Creeks:

- sediment
- nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen)
- temperature
- bacteria

Problems for Ground Water:

- nitrogen, both organic (waste) and inorganic (fertilizer)

Waters with TMDLs:

- Winchester Lake
- Lapwai Creek

The District is or will implement BMPs:

- For creeks where TMDLs will be developed (Integrated Report category 5),
- for creeks with a TMDL (Category 4), and
- Ground Water Nitrate Priority Areas (Camas Prairie Nitrate Priority Area)
http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/470848-camas_prairie_nitrate_gw_plan.pdf
http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/451023-winchester_lake_entire.pdf

Identify and Prioritize Projects

The LSCD designs Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address non point source pollutants. Some of the BMP's include: Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Water Developments, Pipelines, Fencing, Pasture Plantings, Cover Crop plantings, Stream Crossing, Erosion Control, Windbreaks, Roof Runoff, Gully Plugs and many more.

We will maintain a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them and provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs. Fulfill responsibilities of all contracts and projects with technical support from Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission staff. We support locally lead conservation and will provide planning, project development and administer funds where feasible and based on willing landowner cooperation and participation.

- Currently administers a 319 Lewis County Soil Health Grant. This project is to address groundwater pollutants.
- Currently administers a CIG Demonstration Project. This project demonstrates how cover crops hold nutrients in the soil.
- Will continue to obtain cost-share funding to control non-point source pollution and soil erosion.

The LSCD hosts various activities aimed at the youth of Lewis County. The goal is to enhance their appreciation of our natural resources by offering hands on events and contests.

- In May 2015 we will sponsor the 43th Annual 6th Grade Field Day reaching approximately 120 students in the area. Instructors from ISWCC, Department of Lands, NRCS, Fish and Game, Western Forest System, Nez Perce Tribe and Winchester Quick Response Unit.
- Hatchery in the Classroom with 4 schools working with Dworshak Fish Hatchery
- In the spring of the year we go to the local schools to present the rules and the theme of the IASCD poster contest. We judge the posters and send them on to the division and state levels.
- In April the District coordinates with the Idaho Department of Lands and the city of Reubens and local schools to plant trees for Arbor Day.
- In the spring we coordinate Worm Races for K-2 teaching student about earthworms and soil.
- In October we coordinate with U of I and FFA for the soil judging contest.
- We also coordinate with University of Idaho Extension to inform producers of different varieties of crops to produce for this area
- Annual Crop Tour for producers to attend



District Operations Priorities

Present annual budget to the County Commissioners

Retain the Technical Assistance provided to us from ISWCC to assist with the planning, design and implementation of project funds within the district

Retain a good relationship with local schools and communities, teaching about soil, water and other natural resources

Maintain the accounting system on Quick Books

Prepare monthly financial reports

Schedule audit of the year's financial activity providing accountability for funds administered through the district.

Explore alternative funding sources to meet conservation needs

Provide administrative partnership to NRCS and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Continue to build partnerships with agencies and organizations that share the same goals and objectives

Expand and strengthen relationship in the conservation partnership

Retain a relationship with our legislators

Strengthen relationship with political decision makers to obtain support for the District

Keep the Board Members directly involved in planning and proceedings

Attend IASCD Division meetings and IASCD Annual Conference.

Provide landowners and operators with natural resource technical, financial, and educational assistance.

Submit reports to DEQ, & ISWCC

Explore other available grants

Publish educational material on topics such as funding available and ways to improve resources

Coordination with the U of I Extension for the Lewis and Idaho County Annual Crop Tour

Participate in legislative display to educate and promote Natural Resource conservation to our legislative leaders

Action	Begin Date	End Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect cropland from erosion through the implementation of BMP's. Fulfill responsibilities of all contracts and projects 	7-2014	12-2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote Forest Stand Improvements 	7-2014	12-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide funding for Animal Feeding Operations and encourage development of nutrient plans 	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate the development of grazing plans that maintain appropriate levels of groundcover 	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with producers to promote sustainable agriculture systems, improve cropland productivity 	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen relationships with political decision makers and partner agencies 	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue educating the public and youth about conservation. 	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue a one on one contact with producers about conservation practices. 	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Write articles for the local newspaper discouraging annual burning of stubble. 	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sponsor several youth actives teaching conservation. 	7-2014	6-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify budget and staff needs, continue to pursue funding through grants 	7-2014	6-2019



FY2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Plan of Work Lewis Soil Conservation District

For Information Contact: Eric Hasselstrom, Chairman

Telephone Number: 1-208-937-2291 EXT 3

Email: karol.holthaus@id.nacdnet.net

Counties Served: LEWIS Legislative District: District 6



Mission of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The Lewis Soil Conservation District is dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.

Trends & Issues Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District

- *Limited or decrease in State funds available for conservation*
- *Limited Grant funding*
- *Limited Technical Support available from the ISWCC*
- *Precision Farming*
- *Soil pH is affecting crop yields - offering cost share for lime applications for pH showing 5.5 or less*
- *Nutrient Management to reduce nitrates from leaching into the ground water and runoff entering surface water*
- *Pest Management to reduce pesticides leaching into the ground water and runoff entering surface water*
- *Animal Feeding Operations to improve surface water and ground water quality*
- *Forest Health to improve forest health, reduce disease and erosion*
- *Endangers Species Act mandates and enforcement*

Projects Planned, Coordinated and Managed by the Lewis Soil Conservation District

319 Lewis County Soil Health Grant
Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)

Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects Coordinated

<i>Lewis County</i>	\$ 8,000.00	<i>(County Contribution -District Operations)</i>
<i>State of Idaho</i>	\$ 8,500.00	<i>(Base funding -District Operations)</i>
<i>State of Idaho Special funds</i>	\$ 2,830.00	<i>(Capacity Building and Operations)</i>
<i>State of Idaho (2:1 match)</i>	\$ 11,962.16	<i>(2 to 1 Match- District Operations)</i>
<i>SRBA- 5 Mile/6Mile</i>	\$ 34,000.00	<i>(BMP's)</i>
<i>CIG</i>	\$ 26,820.00	<i>(BMP's)</i>
<i>319</i>	\$ 55,487.71	<i>(BMP's)</i>

TOTAL

\$ 147,599.87



FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Plan of Work Lewis Soil Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 1: Nutrient Management/Soil Health

Objective: *Promote nutrient management*

Goal(s): *Improve soil health through good sound tillage practices and continue to implement nutrient management plans*

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<i>Hosted soil health workshop</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors District staff, ISWCD, CSWCD</i>
<i>Inform agriculture landowners regarding efficient nutrient use. Promote conservation plans which incorporate direct seed, increased crop residue percentage and other relative BMP's.</i>	<i>On going</i>	<i>NRCS,ISWCC, District Staff and Board of Supervisors</i>
<i>Educating landowners the importance of lime in the soil which improves the pH levels for more productive crops</i>	<i>Year Long</i>	<i>NRCS,ISWCC, District Staff and Board of Supervisors</i>
<i>Promote management and tillage practices that decrease the amount of soil disturbance</i>	<i>Year Long</i>	<i>NRCS,ISWCC, District Staff and Board of Supervisors</i>
<i>Promote cover crop to improve crop production and soil health to minimize erosion</i>	<i>Year Long</i>	<i>NRCS,ISWCC, District Staff and Board of Supervisors</i>

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice



FY2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Plan of Work Lewis Soil Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 2: Forestry Improvements

Objective: Maintain and enhance a viable and sustainable forest economy

Goal(s): Ensure a healthy, productive woodlands within Lewis County

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<i>Work with landowners/operators to identify ways to voluntarily apply needed conservation practices</i>	<i>On-going</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, NRCS, District Staff</i>
<i>Identify areas needing weed control and do follow up on procedures for control</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, NRCS</i>
<i>Develop cooperative working relationship with public land management agencies to assist in planning and implementing forest improvement practices</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Agencies, District, ISWCC</i>
<i>Promote tree planting, reforestation and control of tall brush that prohibits tree establishment</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC, NRCS</i>
<i>Increase reforestation on cut-over timber land that has been removed from agricultural production</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>District, NRCS, ISWCC</i>

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FY2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Plan of Work Lewis Soil Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 3: Water Quality

Objective: *Improve Surface and Ground Water Quality*

Goal(s): *To Reduce leaching of nutrients out of the root zone. To eliminate or reduce nutrient and sediment loading in receiving water within the District by use of BMP's.*

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<i>Provide nutrient management technical assistance to producers on cropland</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors, ISWCC</i>
<i>Work with landowners to provide assistance to reduce erosion to improve water quality</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors and District staff, ISWCC</i>
<i>Work with producer to implement BMP's to reduce nitrate leaching</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>ISWCC, Producers, Board of Supervisors, District staff</i>
<i>Educate livestock producers about Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's) to protect water quality, including the development of offsite stock water system where appropriate</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, District staff</i>
<i>Provide technical assistance to develop comprehensive nutrient management plans</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>ISWCC</i>

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FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Plan of Work Lewis Soil Conservation District



Conservation District Priority 4: Information and Education

Objective: *To Inform the Local Area on Conservation*

Goal(s): *To increase the effectiveness of the Lewis SCD through a strong public outreach program. Implementation of I&E programs to public school systems and local landowners promoting the Idaho partnership of conservation programs.*

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<i>Hatchery in the Classroom working with 4 schools and Dworshak Fish Hatchery</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Karol Holthaus, Elaine Sonnen</i>
<i>Distribute information through various avenues such as; district newsletters, local newspaper, county fair, Legislative display etc. to increase public awareness of the importance of conservation</i>	<i>Continuously</i>	<i>Karol Holthaus, Elaine Sonnen</i>
<i>Annual Poster contest and worm races - Go to local schools with contest information for the 4th 5th and 6th graders and have the worm races for the k-2nd graders</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Karol Holthaus, Elaine Sonnen</i>
<i>Assist with the FFA soil judging contest</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>U of I staff, ISWCC, District staff, students</i>
<i>"Sixth Grade Conservation Field Day" with five area schools attended with a total of 110 students. The students rotate through eight different stations learning a variety of conservation skills</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>District Staff, Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, NRCS, Students, Winchester State Park, Volunteer Instructors</i>

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FY2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Plan of Work Lewis Soil Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Area 5: *Air Quality*

Objective: *Education on the importance of bluegrass seed production industry*

Goal(s): *To continue bluegrass for seed production as a viable alternative crop for landowners
Improve Soil Health through good sound tillage practices and continue to implement nutrient management plans*

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<i>Residue management practices are encouraged</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, NRCS</i>
<i>Write newspaper article discouraging annual stubble burning</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>District staff, ISWCC, NRCS</i>
<i>The District is aggressively seeking grants for cost share for Best Management Practices to protect our top soil</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Karol Holthaus, ISWCC</i>
<i>Promote conservation plans which incorporate direct seed, increased crop residue percentage and other relative BMP's.</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors, Cooperators, ISWCC</i>
<i>Protect cropland from erosion through the implementation of grass and hay plantings</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>NRCS, ISWCC, and District</i>

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices



FY2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Plan of Work Lewis Soil Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Area 6: District Operations

Objective: To manage the ongoing business and activities of the district

Goal(s): Identify needed work throughout the district and promote and increase the awareness of the District's conservation work in the area.

Actions	Target Date	Person(s) Responsible
<i>Continue to look for new and productive projects</i>	<i>On-going</i>	<i>Karol Holthaus, Board of Supervisors</i>
<i>Prepare Annual Work Plan, 5 Year Plan, Report of Accomplishment, yearly financial budget</i>	<i>Per request dates</i>	<i>Karol Holthaus</i>
<i>Maintain financial records using Quick Books accounting program, submit records for yearly audit</i>	<i>Year Long</i>	<i>Karol Holthaus</i>
<i>Prepare and hold monthly Board of Supervisor meeting to act upon agenda items. Attend District related meetings – Division II, IASCD</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Karol Holthaus, Board of Supervisors</i>
<i>Continue building a working partnerships with agencies that share the same goals and objectives</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>District Staff & Board, ISWCC, NRCS</i>

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

DISTRICT: Lewis Soil Conservation
District

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2016

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.

Eric Hasselstrom

Board Supervisor Signature

ERIC Hasselstrom

Printed Name

3/9/15

Date

208-937-2291

Telephone

karol.holthaus@id.nacdnet.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:
