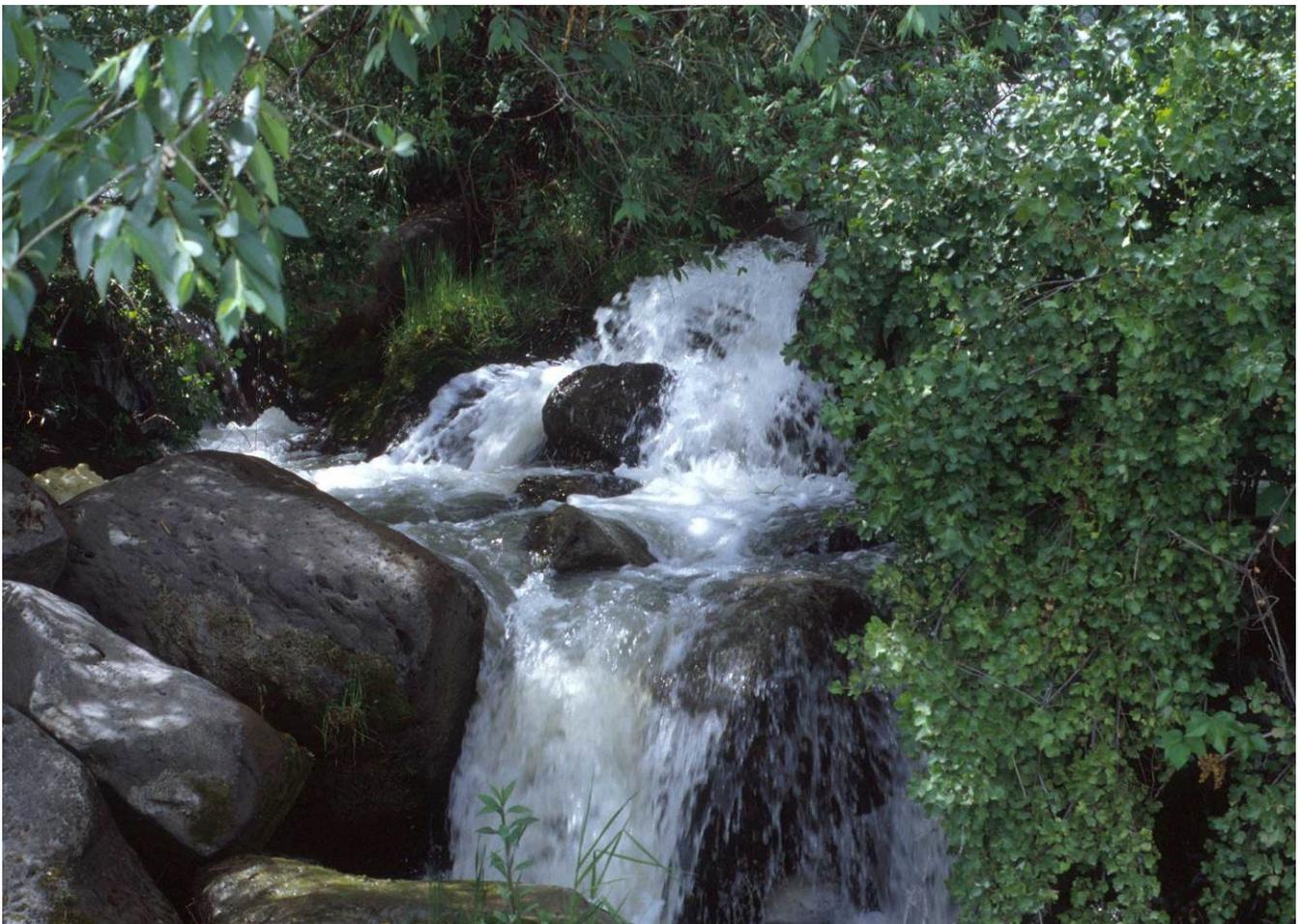


ONEIDA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**137 North 100 West
Malad City, Idaho 83252**

FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION PLAN



July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020

Forward

Five Year Resource Conservation Plan

The Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of State government, but are not State agencies. Conservation Districts are charged with carrying out a program for the conservation use and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

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

Both by legislation and by agreement, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 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 Agricultural and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This Five-Year Plan / Annual 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 Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District.

Background and brief history

Landowners in the Pocatello Valley area were the first to show interest in organizing a soil conservation district in southeastern Idaho's Oneida County. They believed a district could help them protect a section of the valley that was often inundated by heavy spring runoff. The idea caught on throughout the county and on May 22, 1941, the Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District was formally organized. The town of Malad City joined the District in 1975.

Members of the first Oneida SWCD board were James Williams, Samaria; O.W. Browder and Colen Sweeten, Holbrook; and John Blaisdell and Ruel Ipsen, Malad. Governor C.A. Bottolfson appointed Oneida County rancher Joe M. Isaacson to the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission in 1939. Isaacson held this position until 1945, helping organize the first conservation districts in the State of Idaho.

Oneida County provided \$1500.00 per year to help the new district carry out programs. In the 1950's the district became self-supporting through the sale of grass seed, renting equipment for conservation work, and by selling items such as irrigation pipe and headgates. The first farm conservation plan was completed June 10, 1942 on Charles E Thomas' land.

The District operated without an office until the 1950's, when the board was granted two abandoned barracks used by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Downey, Idaho. Personnel of the Soil Conservation Service designed a remodeling plan for the barracks. Supervisors invested about \$4000.00 and many hours to move the building to Malad and remodel it. The District then offered the Soil Conservation Service free office

space. The District took great pride in having their own office and the barracks were used until 1964, when supervisor Ray Eliason loaned the District money to build an office building.

Although many changes have occurred over the past sixty plus years, one thing remains constant – everyday all of us count on the care and skill of farmers and ranchers to conserve our most precious resources. We must all work to ensure that for those who come after us will have the same bounty that we enjoy. We will set our goals high and make it a record breaking conservation year!

Current Supervisors and Associate members include

Ron Blaisdell, Vice-Chairman
Tim Keller, Secretary, Treasurer
Dave Jones, Supervisor
Dallan Nalder, Supervisor

Function of the Oneida Soil & Water Conservation District

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

Who We Serve & Why

- The people and natural resources in the Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District, to conserve the natural resources for the beneficial and sustainable use by all.

Mission of the Oneida Soil & Water Conservation District

- To develop county solutions to sustain, conserve and improve our natural resources and promote sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.

Vision of the Oneida Soil & Water Conservation District

- Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District will safeguard soil and water within the County. We are committed to quality leadership, customer service and the preservation and conservation of our natural resources for present and future generations.

Values of the Oneida Soil & Water Conservation District

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

Physical Characteristics

Oneida County, with a population of 4,131, sits on the Idaho/Utah border nestled against the stately peaks of the Rocky Mountains. The county is heavily dependent on agriculture. Government and trade provide most of the jobs in the county with most of those in education. Mining and manufacturing, while small, are vital parts of the county's economy. Many residents work along the Utah Wasatch front and have located in

Malad and surrounding area for the relaxed lifestyle it provides and to take advantage of the area's wide open spaces and recreational activities.

There are 762,240 acres within the boundaries of the Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District. A large part is owned and operated by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service. The remaining land is owned by the State of Idaho, Oneida County, Malad City, private groups and individuals.

Major land uses have not changed a great deal. Federal land is used mainly for watersheds, grazing and wildlife. The next biggest land use is for production of dryland grain and alfalfa, irrigated grain, hay and pasture. The third major land use is private range and permanent pasture. Remaining areas are used for recreation, roads, town sites and etc.

Cropland acres total about 220,000 which is located primarily in the valley bottoms. About 28% of the county is dryland and used mainly for the production of winter wheat, spring wheat and barley. With the creation of the Conservation Reserve Program, the county has been at the cap of 55,000 acres. This has been a great benefit by reducing soil erosion from about 20 tons per acre to about 1 to 2 tons per acre. Irrigated land is approximately 4% and used to produce wheat, barley, alfalfa hay and small amounts of potatoes, silage, corn, pasture. Much of this land was surface irrigated and then starting in mid 80s canal companies started converting ditches to pipeline. This opened the door for landowners to convert to sprinkler irrigation.

Economic Conditions and Outlook

The economic trend in Oneida Soil and Water Conservation Districts looks very good with the unemployment rate at 5.3%. This is one of the lowest rates in Idaho since 1999. Nonfarm employment has been on the rise with a 17.1% increase since 1999. This has helped to stabilize the economy the last few years. Agriculture, trade, finance activities and leisure have had notable increases in jobs within Oneida County. Even with these increases in job opportunities and the low unemployment rate, Oneida County has one of the lowest per capita personal income rates in Idaho at \$24,818 per year. This low rate has been the most limiting factor in providing technical help to the farm producers within the District's boundaries.

Assessment

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Oneida Soil & Water Conservation District

- Limited availability of State funds for conservation
- Market outlets for agricultural production are outside of the area.
- Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and environmental issues.
- Increased paper work to getting the job done
- Trend to regulate agriculture and ranching

Strategies to Address Trends

- Sponsor project proposals with neighboring districts.
- Determine opportunities to coordinate outreach activities with traditional and non-traditional partners.
- Raising awareness of conservation values with State legislature and elected officials – help decision makers be better informed.
- Strengthen local working group and get them even more involved in District Operations.
- Supervisors become more informed on current issues impacting working lands and cost-share programs.
- Determine how to become more involved with County Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources.

- Map noxious and invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts
- Establish a data base to track resource conditions
- Host an open house to make public aware of goals
- Solicit input to improve Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan
- Identify the information methods to communicated with small land owners
- Sponsor project proposals with other districts
- Training for Conservation District Supervisors and staff

Identify and Prioritize Objectives

- Rangeland
- Non-Irrigated Cropland
- Irrigated Cropland
- Pasture/Hayland
- Woodland
- Fish and Wildlife
- Water Quality
- Information and Education
- Invasive Species
- District Operations
- Riparian
- Urban
- Carbon Sequestration
- Recreation

1. Water Quality

- Use various programs to help owners and operators meet the objectives of the Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District for Water Quality in Oneida County.
- Focus on new projects that include the “Little Malad” tributaries and Bear River TDML in cooperation with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and Division of Environmental Quality.
- Evaluate opportunities and apply for 319 projects and Water Quality Program for Agriculture.
- Continue to promote Environmental Quality Implementation Projects Fish and Wildlife grants and Fish and Game programs to address targeted water quality areas.

2. Invasive Species

- Control invasive vegetative species throughout Oneida County. Reach contract holders and stress the need to control invasive vegetative species.
- Seek opportunities to work in conjunction with the Oneida County weed department supervisor and federal and state agencies to control invasive vegetative species.
- Co-sponsor yearly weed school with Oneida County and offer recertification course to update applicator license.

3. Irrigated Cropland

- Provide assistance to EQIP contract holders with funded projects that increase efficiencies and improve irrigation and energy savings.
- Coordinate with Oneida County irrigation boards to assist with projects that result in water savings.
- Pursue engineering assistance to over 100 landowners owning shares of the St. John Irrigation Company to install pipeline from Daniels Reservoir.

4. Information and Education

- Provide daily precipitation and temperature data to three Idaho television stations, National Weather Service and USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service.
- Yearly display during Idaho legislative session, Oneida County events and various conservation activities.
- Sponsor annual rangeland tour. Conduct three conservation events with Malad High School agricultural classes.
- Assist with Boy and Cub Scout camps, give presentations and hold tree planting clinic.
- Co-sponsor yearly, Oneida County Habitat Restoration Partnership Opportunities Field Tour.

5. District Operations

- New supervisors will have completed New Supervisor Training.
- Complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, personnel management, training and development, annual planning and reporting.
- In cooperation with Conservation Districts and partnership agencies, develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 100% State matching funds.
- Conduct Conservation District elections.
- Assist with Arbor Day celebrations; sponsor and support “Tree City” annual event, continue to donate trees and conduct tree plantings at Oneida County and Malad City special events.

Water Quality Component

Streams within the Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District boundaries are impacted by sediment, nutrients and temperature. The Oneida SWCD identified streambank modifications, over utilized pastures, sheet and rill erosion, classic and ephemeral gully erosion, and streambank erosion as problems in the watershed. They also identified critical erosion periods as spring rains and runoff as well as summer thunderstorms.

The monitoring indicated that every stream, with the exception of the Little Malad spring, exceeded IDEQ targets for suspended sediment and/or phosphorus. Hill and Wrights Creeks had the poorest water quality above Wrights Creek consistently carried the highest loads of sediment and phosphorus. IASCD recommended that efforts be focused on Hill and Wrights Creeks for the greatest impact on water quality.

List of stream segment of concern:

- *Wrights Creek
- *Malad River
- *Little Malad River

List of impacted waters in the District:

- *Wrights Creek
- *Malad River
- *Dairy Creek
- *Indian Mill
- *Devil Creek
- *Deep Creek
- *Elkhorn
- *Little Malad River

Identify and prioritize projects

Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District assisted many producers with RCRDP loans and grants and 319 grants to increase irrigation water efficiency, providing containment for animal feeding operations, installing practices on dry land agriculture to reduce soil erosion and improve rangeland conditions.

Past projects:

- *Daniels Reservoir nonpoint sediment reduction 319 project
- *Wide Hollow SAWQP
- *Dairy Creek SAWQP
- *Daniels SAWQP
- *St. John's Irrigation Group project (ditch to pipeline conversion)
- *Installation of wheel lines and pivots
- *Wrights Creek stream restoration 319 project

Current projects:

- *Quagga Mussel and invasive species inspection stations at Malad rest area (Interstate 15)
- *Wide Hollow Erosion Reduction 319 project

Future projects:

- *Wrights Creek sediment reduction project
- *Deep Creek – Rock Creek stream restoration (Curlew Valley HUC)
- *Sage Grouse habitat improvement (Curlew Valley)

Staffing Needs

- Conservation District Manager with benefits
- Full-time Conservation District Administrative Assistant with benefits
- Conservation District Technician

Annual Budget Needs

- The Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District needs an annual budget of \$125,000.00 to carry out basic programs. Full time District Manager with benefits; administrative assistant and information and education specialist. Additional funding is needed for technical assistance.



FY2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Plan

Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District

For Information Contact: Chairman: John Wittman
Telephone Number: (208)766-4748 ext. 3
Email: linda.daniels@id.nacdnet.net
Counties Served: Oneida



Mission of the Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District: To develop county solutions to sustain, conserve and improve our natural resources and promote sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District: Land use is surprisingly dynamic, with increased annual shifts in and out of different uses and continual changes in ownership. Examining net change in land use reveals general trends, but masks the real extent of land use change over time. In agriculture there are frequent shifts in the use of land among cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forest land. Each land change use affects erosion potential, contiguity of habitat, or hydrologic features of the landscape. Cropland, pastureland, rangeland comprise the majority of our land resources and the condition of the land directly or indirectly influences the environment. Meeting the objectives for natural resources and environmental quality depend on how these lands are used and conserved.

Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed: Contracts developed for the “Wide Hollow Erosion Reduction Project” funded through the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 319 program. The “Little Malad Springs” riparian project, funded through the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and several sage grouse agreements with Idaho Fish & Game. Assist with applications and implementation of Resource Conservation loans funded through the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, with technical assistance provided by USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Department of Agriculture and other government entities. Projects in preliminary stages include a pipeline to bring irrigation water from the “Daniels Reservoir” to over one hundred share holders of the St. John Irrigation Company. A feasibility study was completed by utilizing engineering assistance from Utah State University of Logan, Utah. We are currently still seeking funding for the project. Successfully operate and manage, Idaho Department of Agricultural invasive species check stations.

Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects Coordinated: Continual efforts are expounded to obtain funding sources to support priority conservation projects. Various agencies coordinate with the District to obtain technical assistance for projects. Partnerships with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, US Forest Service, Cooperative Extension Service, Oneida County and many other state and federal agencies to coordinate conservation efforts.



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Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 1: Water Quality

Objective: Assist landowners and operators with Idaho Water Quality Law 39-3601, Federal Clean Water Act and the Anti-Degradation plan for Idaho on private land.

Goal(s): Use various conservation programs to help owners and operators meet the objectives of the Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District for water quality in Oneida County.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Participate with various agencies and seek funding opportunities that improve and protect Oneida County reservoirs and streams.	Through F.Y. 2016	Ron Blaisdell, Tori VanBebber Oneida SWCD Steve Smith, Idaho SWCC
Evaluate opportunities for 319 projects and continue to promote EQIP, Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game programs to address targeted water quality areas.	September-February F.Y. 2016	Steve Smith, Idaho SWCC; Ron Blaisdell and Tori VanBebber, Oneida SWCD
Identify potential Animal Feeding Operation's to protect water quality.	F.Y. 2016	Idaho Department of Ag. Idaho SWCC, Supervisors OSWCD
Reduce soil erosion through sound tillage practices and continue to implement nutrient management plans.	F.Y. 2016	Supervisors OSWCD



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Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District



Priority 2: Invasive Species

Objective: To control invasive vegetative species throughout Oneida County

Goal(s): Reach contract holders about the need to control invasive vegetative species

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Inform Oneida County landowners and farm bill program participants (contract holders), of the need to control invasive vegetative species through articles in newsletters, local media, information booklets, various presentations to local groups.	Quarterly F.Y. 2016	Information specialists, Oneida SWCD, NRCS, Oneida County
Seek opportunities to work in conjunction with the Oneida County weed department supervisor and federal and state agency personnel to control invasive vegetative species.	Spring through fall	Oneida County Commissioners, Oneida SWCD Supervisors
Co-sponsor weed school with Oneida County and offer recertification course to update applicator licenses.	February	Oneida County Commissioners, Oneida SWCD Supervisors
Approve new Memorandum of Understanding with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to supervise and operate invasive species watercraft boat inspection stations. Supply information to local media concerning result summary of inspections.	F.Y. 2016	Oneida SWCD Oneida SWCD Adm. Assistant
To work closely with Oneida County Weed Supervisor to emphasize benefits and encourage constant control of noxious weeds impacting Oneida County and the State of Idaho.	FY. 2016	Oneida SWCD Oneida SWCD Adm. Assistant



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Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 3: Irrigated Cropland

Objective: Improve irrigation water management practices

Goal(s): Provide technical and financial assistance

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Approve Best Management practices on contracts enrolled in our Division of Environmental Quality, 319 Wide Hollow Erosion Reduction Project.. Seek additional funding through various programs to improve irrigation water management practices throughout Oneida County.	F.Y. 2016	Ron Blaisdell, Oneida SWCD, IDOA, Idaho SWCC
Provide assistance to EQIP contract holders with funded projects that increase efficiencies and improve irrigation and energy savings.	F.Y. 2016	NRCS personnel, Idaho Department of Agriculture
Coordinate with Oneida County irrigation boards to assist with projects that result in water savings.	September-October	Ron Blaisdell, Oneida SWCD; Laren Nalder, NRCS
Pursue engineering assistance to over 100 landowners owning shares of the St. John Irrigation Company to install pipeline from Daniels Reservoir.	F.Y. 2016	Oneida SWCD; NRCS; St. John Irrigation Group
Continue to provide water availability data on a monthly basis to the local media. Provide daily temperatures readings and precipitation data to Idaho media, National weather Service And USDA Food safety and inspection Service.	F.Y. 2016	Tori Vanbebber, Oneida SWCD



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Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 4: Rangeland and Pastureland

Objective: Provide leadership and assistance for rangeland, pastureland and wildlife multi-use concept

Goal(s): Improve rangeland and pastureland resources

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Assist Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission personnel in preparing and submitting applications for funding through the Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program.	F.Y. 2016	NRCS field office staff; Tori VanBebber, OSWCD; Steve Smith, Idaho SWCC
Sign multiple contracts to design, assist and disperse cost share for implementation projects with funds from cooperative agreement with US Fish and Wildlife Service.	October	Ron Blaisdell, OSWCD; NRCS field office staff
Work with Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, to seek assistance and cost share for practices improving range and pasture on private land.	F.Y. 2016	District Supervisors, staff; NRCS; Oneida County FSA Committee; Local Working Group
Provide information to Conservation Security participants to meet requirements on rangeland and pastureland.	F.Y. 2016	Laren Nalder, NRCS; Linda Daniels, Oneida SWCD



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Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 5: District Operations

Objective: Conduct district business in accordance with Soil Conservation District law and sub-division of state government.

Goal(s): To promote a local priority for conservation and water quality programs

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Continue efficiency and effectiveness of district operations by conducting monthly meetings; local working group committee meetings and appoint representative to be in charge of local conservation working group.	F.Y. 2016	Ron Blaisdell, Vice chairman, Oneida SWCD
Continue to insure programs and accountability for the use of public funds.	Monthly	Tim Keller, Oneida SWCD treasurer; Tori VanBebber, Administrative Assistant
Report to legislators, Oneida County, Malad City officials and keep them abreast of district activities.	January 2016	Oneida SWCD Supervisors and staff
Sponsor students to Natural Resources Workshop and State Soil judging contests. Prepare and present three classroom curriculums for the Malad High School agricultural department and host and plan soil judging for Oneida County students.	September/ April/May	Oneida SWCD Supervisors and staff and agency personnel
Publish pertinent articles throughout the year in the local newspaper. Recruit interested landowners in serving on the district board and involve all agency personnel and local organizations on local working group committee.	F.Y. 2016	Oneida SWCD Supervisors and staff



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Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Area Number 6: Non-irrigated Cropland

Objective: Reduce erosion on dry cropland, that district cooperators maintain their USDA benefits

Goal(s): Seek projects and programs to assist producers with controlling erosion on dry cropland

Actions	Target Date	Person(s) Responsible
Promote programs that sustain agriculture production and environmental quality as a compatible goal.	F.Y. 2016	Oneida SWCD; NRCS
Promote structural or management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land through various cost share programs to achieve manageable erosion control on non irrigated cropland.	F.Y. 2016	NRCS, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Oneida SWCD
Provide information to Conservation Reserve Program contract holders on 333 contracts/70,000 acres, currently enrolled in the program.	F.Y. 2016	Oneida SWCD administrative assistant, Tori VanBebber
Provide information on noxious weeds and control on CRP acres.	F.Y. 2016	Oneida SWCD administrative assistant, Tori VanBebber



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Oneida Soil and Water Conservation District



On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Annual Plan Certification are true and accurate, and further submit said report for the above named District and fiscal year 2015.

A copy of this Annual Plan Certification and accompanying documentation shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

Board Supervisor Signature

Ron Blaisdell, Vice Chairman Oneida SWCD

Printed Name

March 21st, 2015

Date

(208) 766-4748 ext. 3

Telephone

ltori.vanbebbber@id.usda.gov

District Email Address

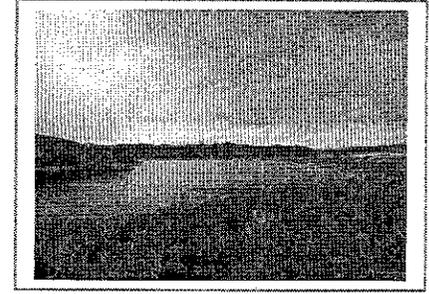
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DATE OF CONFIRMATION:



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