

Owyhee Conservation District

250 N. Bruneau Hwy.

Marsing, Idaho 83639

Five Year Plan

July 1, 2015- June 30, 2020



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Owyhee Conservation District

Five Year Plan of Work 2015-2020

Executive Summary

The Owyhee Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are elected political subdivisions of state government. The conservation districts are not state agencies and are charged with carrying out a number of programs for conservation, use and development of soil, water and other natural resources.

The Owyhee Conservation District prime objective is to provide farmers, landowners, and users assistance in improving, sustaining and conserving Idaho's natural resources. The Conservation District programs are voluntary based on scientific information. The district encourages landowners to take part in cost share incentive programs that financially and technically improve current practices.

Both by legislation and by agreement, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission provide technical assistance to landowner and land users through conservation district. The Owyhee Conservation District has signed a mutual agreement with the Secretary of Agricultural and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This Five Year Resource Conservation s 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 Owyhee Conservation District.

This document identifies the resource needs in Owyhee Conservation District and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting these needs along with an operation plan.

Certification of Adoption

The elected board of supervisors for the Owyhee Conservation District this **5th** day of February do hereby approve the following document known as the Resource Conservation Five Year 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.

Charles Kiester, Chairman

Charles Chadez, Vice Chairman

Levi Loucks, Treasurer/Secretary

Ray Mansisor, Supervisor

Tim Volk, Supervisor

John Cossel, Supervisor

Jeanette Farrell, Supervisor

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

Idaho Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC)

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD)

Vision of the Owyhee Conservation District

To cultivate a prosperous agricultural lifestyle for producers of Owyhee Conservation District, by supporting their choices and encouraging sustainable viable production of commodities and livestock in a free market society.

Mission of the Owyhee Conservation District

OCD Mission is to preserve a locally administered voluntary approach for control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution, protect our soil and water resources on working lands, educate the public, and protect our food source.

Who We Serve & Why

- Producers, landowners, and public of Owyhee CD
- To assist the constituents to conserve, maintain and improve the valuable natural resources for sustainable use by all.

Population and Size

- Owyhee County covers 7639 sq. miles
- Owyhee County encompasses 2,072 square miles
- County Population size 10998 persons
- Homedale population 2633
- Marsing population 1316
- Owyhee County -Median Income \$24,500

Community Outreach

The OCD uses a number of ways to reach the community from Information and Education to community events: Owyhee County Fair- information booth, Jr. Livestock 4H sale, poster and speech contest, "WET" water education for 5-6 grades, College Scholarship, Newsletters in local paper, FSA quarterly paper, community letters, Conservationist of the Year-Annual Banquet, Summer Tour, monthly OCD board meetings, monthly NOCWMA weed meetings, Division meetings biyearly, IASCD Conference, Farm Bill programs, legislature contact

Coordinated Implementation through healthy Partnerships

Owyhee Conservation District Partners with a number of local, state and federal agencies to accomplish a wide range of projects and programs to support the producers, landowners and the nations: Natural Resource Conservation Service, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, GEM Irrigation District and South Board of Control, Cities of Homedale and Marsing, Idaho South West Resource Conservation District, Idaho Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Lands, and Owyhee Planning and Zoning.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Owyhee Conservation District

- a) Awareness to diverse complexities agriculture faces
- b) Building housing developments on quality agriculture land
- c) Increase numbers of small acreage farms: five acres or less plots
- d) Limited quantities of surface and ground water
- e) Invasive species and noxious weeds from other counties invading Owyhee agricultural lands
- f) Limited or decrease in State funds for conservation
- g) Lack of communications with county, state or federal agencies
- h) Changing regulations for water demand uses: fish, Ag, golf courses, water parks, river activities
- i) Increased documentation for non essential projects by other agencies

Strategies to Address Trends Impacting Conservation in Owyhee CD

- a) Educational outings for state and county officials: summer tour
- b) Coordinate outreach activities with compatible partners: County Fair, Garden Club, FFA etc.
- c) Educational activities and sponsorship for Ag minded students; contests, educational games-water trunk
- d) Keep state legislatures and other elected officials abreast of agriculture issues and concerns
- e) Keep supervisors current on issues impacting working lands i.e. Farm Bill programs, State grants etc.
- f) Record and distribute information with County officials for natural resources concern
- g) Request regular contact or notification from county boards for critical agriculture changes
- h) Seek direct notification from county planning and zoning for changes affecting agriculture lands
- i) Map noxious and invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts
- j) Establish a data base to track resource conditions (GPS mapping noxious weeds)
- k) Host a district public awareness event -Farmers Appreciation Day
- l) Solicit farmers input to improve Annual Plan through local venues.
- m) Offer producers information on project NRCS, SWRCD and IDSA & loans ISCC
- n) Publish and make available district accomplishments to county land owners
- o) Conservation District Supervisors and staff receive updated training

Owyhee Conservation District

Natural Resource Priorities

1. Water quality
2. District Operations
3. Information and Education-Public Awareness/Endangered Species
4. Soils: Rangeland, Riparian, Crop
5. Fish and Wildlife
6. Noxious Weed
7. Urban/Rural /Recreation
8. Water quantities

Priorities, goals, and objectives

1. Water Quality

- To reduce irrigation induced soil erosion on 9,000 acres to tolerable limits by 2020
- To improve ground water through education encouraging pesticide reduction by 2020
- To improve irrigation water management through Idaho Conservation Partners technical and financial assistance programs for county producers by 2020

2. District Operations

- To maintain and enhance the administrative capabilities of the District by 2020
- To maintain an ongoing working relationship with state legislatures
- To meet the requirements contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code
- To increase district operations: by improving computer skills: excel, word, power point, QuickBooks etc. through ongoing education & training yearly.
- In cooperation with other Conservation Districts, develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 90% State matching funds for all Districts 2020
- To conduct Conservation District elections in 2016

3 Information and Education-Public Awareness/Endangered Species

- To increase public awareness of conservation resource problems and opportunities by 2020
- To annually conduct youth education programs and increase participation in various programs
- To annually sponsor a fair booth and Jr livestock sales
- To maintain quarterly communications with other state and federal governmental agencies
- To provide current information to producers through local paper and FSA newsletters
- By 2020 all 3, 4, 5, grade students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation poster contest.
- By 2020 all Conservation District cooperator addresses and files will be updated.

4. Soils: Rangeland, Riparian, Crop

- To restore and improve identified rangeland values for the best application of resource conservation practices by 2020
- To protect stream channels and riparian areas by 2020
- To promote BMP's on crop land by 2020

5. Fish and Wildlife

- To annually maintain awareness of endangered species in Owyhee Conservation District
- To reduce the threatened nature of the endangered species listings 2020

7. Noxious Weeds: Reduction of invasive and noxious weeds

- To support or sponsor the NOCWMA annually
- To target 100 landowners annually for weed management by 2020
- To reduce invasive and noxious weeds in Northwest Owyhee CWMA per granting cycle

8. Urban/Rural

- To identify rural development needs within district boundaries by 2020
- To address rural needs as identified with support of Southwest Idaho RC&D annually

9. Water Quantities

- To regularly obtain current and accurate water condition information for distribution
- To make available water information to producers in OCD annually

District Operations Key Decision Makers

Key Decision Makers and Contributors for Owyhee Conservation District

- a) Owyhee Conservation District Supervisors: Charles Kiester, Chairman; Charles Chadez, Vice Chairman; Levi Loucks, Sect./ Trea., Supervisors: Ray Mansisor, Tim Volk, John Cossel, Jeanette Farrell
- b) Producers, landowners and public *supporters*
- c) Owyhee County Commissioners: Joe Merrick, Jerry Hoagland, Kelly Aberasturi,
- d) Planning and Zoning: Mary Huff, Administrator mhuff@co.owyhee.id.us; Commissioners: Connie Brandau, Chairman; Clay Atkins, Scott Jensen's, Chad Nettleton, Lori Badiola
- e) Idaho District 23 Senator Bert Brackett, Rich Wills, Pete Nielsen
- f) U.S. Senators, Mike Crapo, and US Senator Jim Risch,
- g) Representatives Labrador 1st District and Representative Mike Simpson 2nd District
- h) Homedale City Mayor Christoffersen and Marsing City Mayor Keith Green
- i) Homedale City Council Members Aaron Tines, Steve Atkins, Vonnie Harkin and Kim Murray
- j) Marsing City Council Chris Evan, Aron Streibel, Chris Even, Stella Bush, Cory Percifield

Owyhee Conservation Districts Current 6 Months Priority Actions

- a) Develop a projected budget for FY2016 by May 1, 2016 to accurately reflect the districts needs; based on the Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code.
- b) To build a comprehensive Annual & 5 Year plan by March 31, 2015
- c) Hold monthly district board meeting – open to the public -2nd Thursday of month
- d) Meet with Owyhee County Commissioners for FY 2015 budget request and supply them with written materials of the districts accomplishments, before May 1, 2015
- e) Contact State and US Legislators of producers needs and issues.
- f) Manage NOCWMA weed management.
- g) Share information with school age children in the future of agricultural projects: Envirothon, summer camps, High school Agricultural Scholarships, various contest.
- h) Organize educational summer District tour for June 2015

Owyhee Conservation District

Annual Plan of Work

FY2015 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016)

USDA Service Center
250 N. Bruneau Hwy.
Marsing, Idaho 83639

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Owyhee Conservation District

2015 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work



Priority Number 1: Water Quality

Goal A: *To reduce irrigation induced soil erosion on approximately 9000 acres to TMDL tolerable limits and to improve surface water quality by 2019*

- Objectives
- To preserve a locally administered voluntary approach for control and abatement of agricultural Non-point source water pollution
 - To be actively involved in implementing plans for all 303d streams in Owyhee CD watershed boundaries: on creeks- Jordan, Jump, Succor, & Sinker
 - To document natural event occurrences: flash floods, heavy rain fall, wash outs, and monitor average surface water conditions

Goal B: *To improve ground water*

Objective To decrease ground water pollutants and nitrates with soil sampling information & recommending guidelines

Goal A: Objectives	Target Date	Person(s) Responsible
Objective a. <u>Actions</u>		
1. To support and promote policy, that protects farmers and ranchers who Voluntarily implement water quality BMP's.	On going	District DC & supervisors
2. To request technical help from NRCS and ISCC staff for high priority BMP's projects in Owyhee and GEM Irrigation Districts for landowners.	On going	District DC & supervisors
3. To Promote use of "nutrient management" as an appropriate tool for erosion control.	on going	"
Objective b. <u>Actions</u>		
1. To apply for 319 grants when feasible to improve water quality in OCD watershed	On going	OCD, employees,
2. To provide technical assistance to landowners through the Idaho One Plan	On going	SCC, NRCS DC,
Objective c. <u>Actions</u>		
1. To monitor when ,where, and why flooding occurred by natural events – pictures	As needed	ISCC, OCD
2. To document high water events and make info available to public	As needed	ISCC,NRCS
Goal B: Objectives		
1. To support Dairy Nutrient Management plans for project participants	As needed	District Board, employee
2. To support CAFO Nutrient Management plans for project participants	As needed	NRCS, ISCC



Owyhee Conservation District

F Y2015 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work



Priority 2: District Operations

OCD Supervisors

Goal A: *To maintain and enhance the administrative capabilities of the district*

- Objectives:
- To plan and conduct twelve monthly board meetings
 - To provide accurate record keeping, financial accountability, and fiscal integrity of district
 - To enhance working relationship among the conservation partnerships
 - To Influence actions and activities occurring at the State and National levels that affect Districts
 - To be a coordinating entity as needed in the district & division
 - To clearly define board and staff relationship, policies, and supervision

Goal B: *To seek state & federal funding programs to address natural resource concerns*

Objective To apply for available local, state, and federal grants to address resource concerns

Goal A. Objective a. <u>Actions</u>	Target Date	Person(s) Responsible
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To schedule & hold twelve regular monthly board meetings To prepare meeting agenda 5 days in advance for board meeting To announce meeting in local newspapers, calendars of events and in office through year (identify changes from summer and winter mtgs.) To remind all OCD board members and associates prior to meeting To prepare and distribute minutes from each meeting 	2 nd Thurs month Week before Monthly calendar 2 days Week before	Admin. Asst. Admin. Asst. Admin. Asst. Admin. Asst. Admin. Asst
Objective b. <u>Actions</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To reconcile bank statement with ledger with Quick Books program To prepare monthly financial statements, and bills for board meeting. To organize monthly bank statements, financial statements for yearly audit/review. To prepare Annual budget request for Board, ISCC, and Owyhee Count Commssionrs 	Monthly Monthly July 1, March/ April	Admin. Asst. Admin. Asst. Admin. Asst. Admin. Asst.
Objective c. <u>Actions</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To review & or revise the Mutual Agreement and Cooperative Working Agreement with NRCS To invite NRCS State Conservationist and ISCC Admin. to Annual Banquet To participate in supervisor/district staff training opportunities To have <i>One Plan</i> available to producers 	Annually Annually Ongoing Ongoing	Admin. ,Board Admin. Asst. Admin. Asst Website NRCS

<p>Objective d. <u>Actions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To invite District 23 Legislators to annual summer tour and banquet 2. To attend local, state and national conferences 3. To support division representatives 4. To support division and national association by paying dues 	<p>Target Date</p> <p>May/January November On going Annually</p>	<p>Persons Responsible</p> <p>Admin. Asst. Board and employee Board Admin. Asst.</p>
<p>Objective e. <u>Action</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be available to assist as needed to coordinate events, programs, project 	<p>On going</p>	<p>Admin and Board</p>
<p>Objective f. <u>Action</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To make available Supervisors policy manual for rules and regulations 	<p>On going</p>	<p>Admin. Asst.</p>
<p>Goal B.</p>		
<p>Objective <u>Actions</u></p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To research, contact, and attend grant workshops 2. To compose and write grant and submit to granting agency 	<p>On going</p>	<p>Admin. Asst</p>

Priority 3: Information and Education:

Public Education Awareness

Goal: A *To increase public awareness of OCD educational opportunities*

Objective: To provide the public with information on workshop & opportunities and events offered by the OCD

Endangered species awareness

Goal: B To provide educational information to landowners concerning endangered species and species of un concern.

- Objectives**
1. To safeguard the threat to landowners of listing species as endangered
 2. To protect landowner rights and land use linked to C/E habitat on his land



(continued on next page)

Rangeland

Goal A.

Objective: <i>To improve rangeland condition and protect resource base</i> Actions	Target Date	Person(s) Responsible
1. To invite rangeland and BLM conservationist to OCD mtg. To discuss problems with rangeland conservationist at OCD mtgs. 2. To keep rangeland open and available to ranchers & livestock 3. To have BLM coordinate with OCD prior to regulatory changes. 4. To have OCD review and comment on regulatory changes. 6. To increase native grasses for forage to sustainable levels through BMP's 7. To hold an annual board meeting with Pleasant Valley cooperators as requested 8. To encourage prescribed burning as needed for healthy rangelands.	On going On going By request On going As needed ongoing upon request on going	NRCS Landowners, BLM Board and employee OCD OCD OCD OCD All

Crops

Goal B.

Objective: <i>To improve and maintain crop land for future use.</i> Actions	Target\Date	Responsible
1. To educate the public about soil health and its benefits to crops 2. To offer classes about benefits of diverse cover crops to aid soil health 3. To increase use of cover crops by 2017 in Owyhee County 4. Encourage No till and reduce till practices in Owyhee County	On going On going On going On going	District and NRCS District and NRCS District and NRCS District and NRCS

Riparian

Goal C.

Objectives: <i>To promote use of BMP's in riparian areas, wetlands and on stream banks</i> Actions	Target\Date	Responsible
1. To educate the public of riparian & wetlands significance to the environment 2. To recommend reduction of negative use and its impact 3. To work with landowners to implement BMP's based on Jump and Jordan Creek TMDL: North & Middle Fork of Owyhee, Mid- Snake and Succor, 4. To invite soil techs to discuss planning in riparian areas with landowners 5. To educate land users of the importance of riparian plants and forbs species used for a healthy riparian environment	On going On going On going On going On going	All partners OCD, NRCS & partners NRCS, and partners All partners All partners

FY2015 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work

Priority 5. Fish and Wildlife

Goal: *To keep abreast of environmental concerns regarding fish and wildlife*

Objective To educate locals and interested parties of habitat status
Actions



Spotted Frog

1. To advise landowners to be proactive in protecting species on their land	on going	all partners
2. To have landowners be observant of potential problems to species on their land	on going	all partner

Priority 6: Noxious Weeds

Goal: *To decrease the spread of noxious weeds through public awareness & education*

Objective: To reduce noxious weeds, increase native plants and forage to sustainable levels

Puncture vine



Objective	<u>Actions</u>	Target Date	Party(s) Responsible
	1. To continue NOCWMA by applying for ISDA grant money annually.	December	Board and admin
	2. To annually Host Farmers Appreciation Day luncheon & Pesticide License renewal class for pesticide users with up to date laws	December	Board & admin NRCS, OCD
	3. To make available noxious weed information: USDA Service Center, Farmers Luncheon, County Fair Display, local paper, FSA newsletter etc.	Year round	
	4. To educate the local residents/producers of the damage and economic cost of the spread of noxious weeds	Year round	NRCS,OCD.ISCC
	5. To encourage weed eradication, containment and control	Spring, Summer	NRCS,OCD,CWMA
	6. To make available herbicide to participants who needs it	Spring, Summer & fall	NOCWMA
	7. To encourage residents to plant native grasses & forbs after weed eradication	“ “	NOCWMA
		Fall	OCD

FY2015 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work

Priority 7: Urban/ Rural

Goal: *To address rural development to AG Land in OCD boundaries through county coordination*

- Objective:**
- a. To continue to support Southwest RC&D program
 - b. To encourage Ag land use on superior farm land

Objective a. <u>Actions</u>	Target Date	Person(s) Responsible
1. To pay dues, attend and participate at regular SWRCD meetings	On going	All partners
2. To educate public regarding ISRCD role for growth related to farming community	On going	All partners
Objective b. <u>Actions</u>		
1. To have Owyhee County Commissioners & Planning and Zoning provide information of land use change to OCD district prior to making the changes.	On going	OCD board

FY2015 (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016) Annual Plan of Work

Priority 8: Water Quantities

Goal: *To make available, accurate current water year conditions and predictions*

Objective: To ensure up to date information for irrigation water supply



Objective	<u>Actions</u>	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
1	To actively maintain contact with public officials.	On going	Supervisors and employee
2	To provide up to date information to the public on the water supply	On going	Supervisors and employee
3	To cultivate communications with district irrigation agencies	On going	Supervisors and employee
4	To request NRCS technical staff assigned to Marsing Field office give high	On going	Supervisors and employee
5	To give priority to efficient irrigation water systems.	On going	Supervisors and employee

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

DISTRICT: Owyhee Conservation District

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

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

FY2015 5 year Plan

DUE :

March 31, 2015

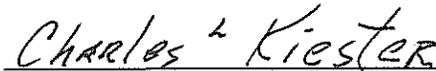
CERTIFICATION

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.



Board Supervisor Signature



Printed Name

February 19, 2015

Date

208-896-4544 ext 102

Telephone

gina.millard@id.nacdnet.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:
