

VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**PO Box 580
209 North Idaho Street
Cascade, ID 83611**



FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN (7/1/15 – 6/30/20)

AND

FY16 ANNUAL PLAN (7/1/15 – 6/30/16)

The Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), one of 50 soil and water conservation districts in the State of Idaho, organized on February 11, 1957 following a public referendum. Conservation districts are one of the primary non-regulatory entities that help protect, sustain and improve Idaho's soil, water and other natural resources. They are separate legal entities and political subdivisions of state government, but are not state agencies. Districts are led by a locally elected board of Supervisors who serve on a volunteer basis.

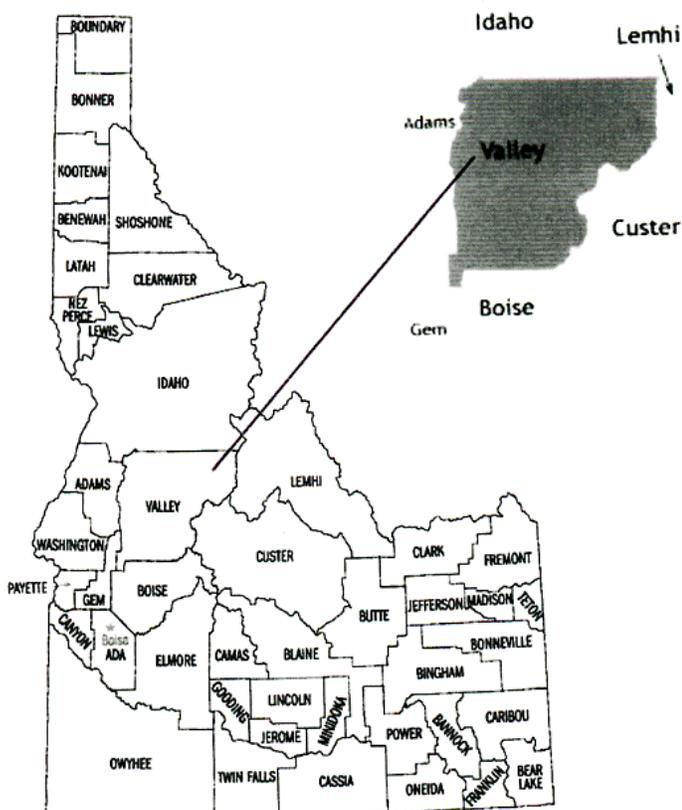
Valley SWCD encourages cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations and elected officials to protect and develop multiple and beneficial uses of our natural resources. We believe that knowledge, peer involvement, cooperation and incentives are the best methods to improve and conserve our soil and water resources.

Conservation Districts are catalysts for coordinating and implementing conservation programs, channeling expertise from all levels of government into action at the local level. Programs are non-regulatory; science-based technical assistance, incentive-based financial programs and informational and educational programs at the local level. Both by legislation and by agreement the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance to landowners and land users through Conservation Districts. Each District in Idaho has a signed Mutual Agreement with the USDA Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan and Annual Plan was developed not only to guide the Valley SWCD, but as a tool to help coordinate local joint partnership efforts to increase the productivity of agriculture, protect and ensure a sustainable nature resource base for present and future generations. This document identifies Valley SWCD resource needs and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting those needs.

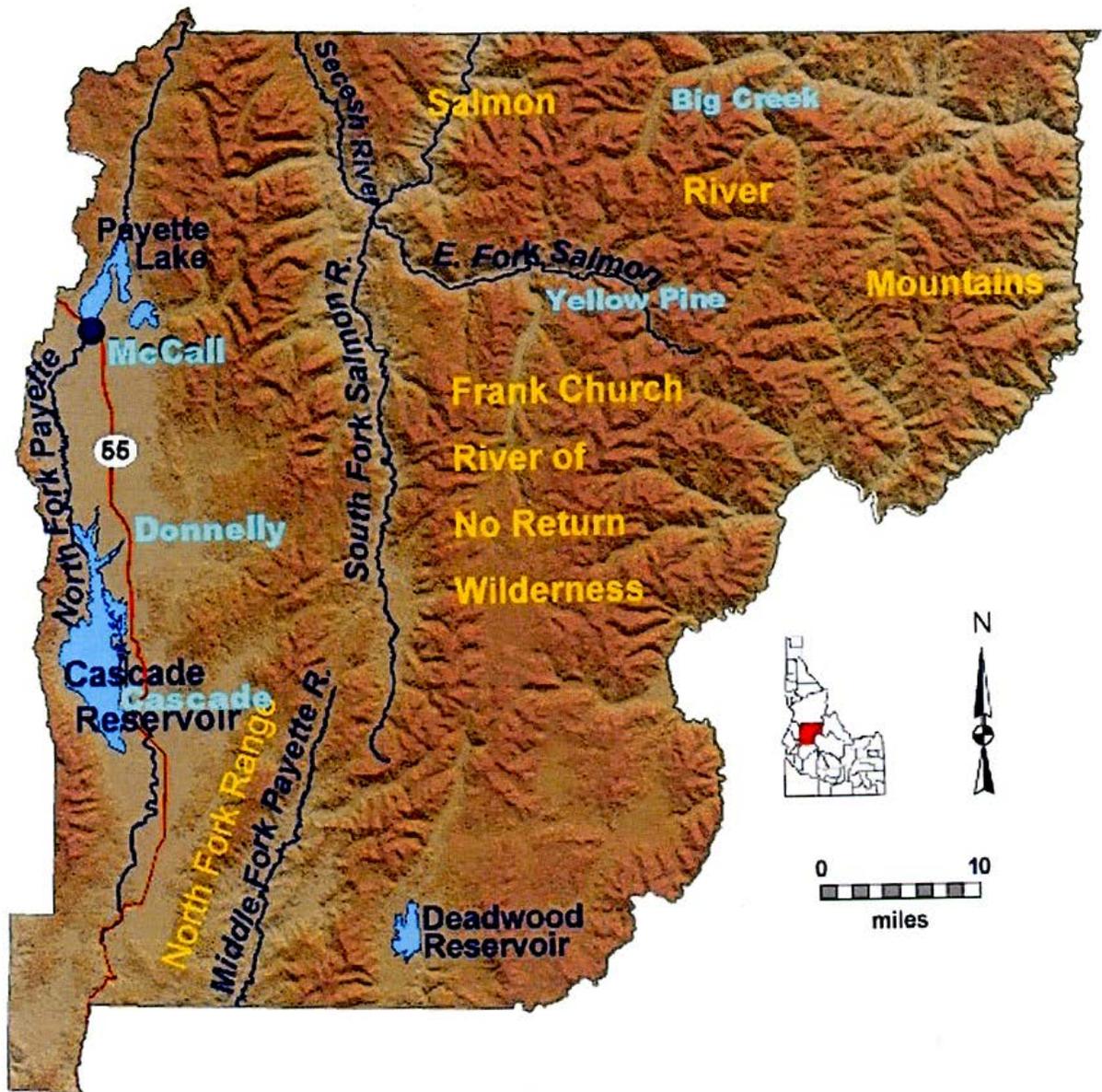
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

A. Location, Land Ownership and Uses



Since completion of the Cascade Dam in 1948, the Cascade Reservoir (Lake Cascade) now covers much of the western central valley floor. The total land and water area of the Valley SWCD is nearly 3,680 square miles, over 2.3 million acres. Most is federally owned (88%), predominately forestland and overseen by the USDA National Forest Service.

Approximately two-thirds of the privately and state owned lands are woodlands. They have multiple uses – timber harvest, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat and recreation. About one-tenth of the District is rangeland and is utilized by livestock and wildlife.



Recreation and tourism are of major importance to the Valley County economy. Fishing, boating, hunting and camping attract many visitors. Wildlife is abundant in the District. Big game animals, particularly deer and elk, utilize the woodlands and rangelands. Waterfowl and raptors live on and around the many lakes, reservoirs and stream. Small animals and birds abound throughout the county. Many species of fish inhabit the water bodies. However, only a small amount of acres have been set aside as wildlife acres.

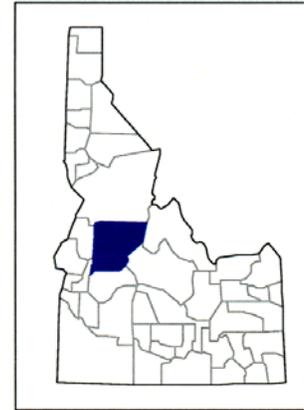
Other land uses include mining, lands incorporated in towns, platted subdivisions and some industrial uses. Conservation efforts for these lands involve integrated new land use changes with surrounding and existing uses.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture for Valley County lists 62,044 acres as farmland with 11,443 acres as cropland and 4,603 acres as harvested cropland. Most of the farmland is irrigated pasture and hay land. Cattle are trucked in for the summer to graze a majority of the pastureland. The census also reports that there were 145 farms in 2007 compared to 156 farms in 2002. The average farm size is 428 acres with 72 acres as median farm size. A Census of Agriculture is completed every five years. The 2012 Census of state and county agriculture data is tentatively available May 2014.

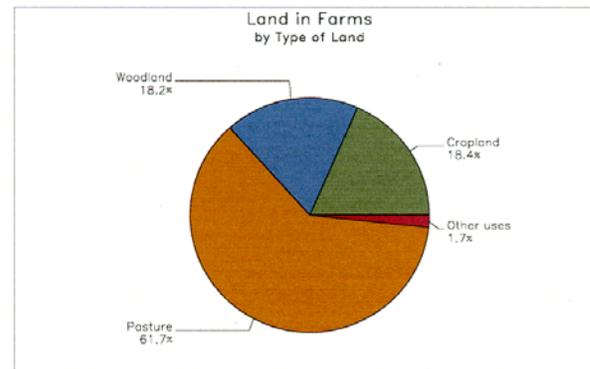
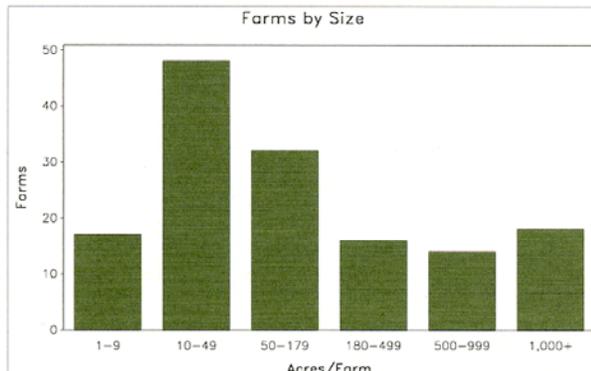
2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

County Profile

Valley County Idaho



	2007	2002	% change
Number of Farms	145	156	- 7
Land in Farms	62,044 acres	65,501 acres	- 5
Average Size of Farm	428 acres	420 acres	+ 2
Market Value of Products Sold	\$5,148,000	\$3,494,000	+ 47
Crop Sales \$528,000 (10 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$4,620,000 (90 percent)			
Average Per Farm	\$35,505	\$22,397	+ 59
Government Payments	\$43,000	\$91,000	- 53
Average Per Farm Receiving Payments	\$3,099	\$5,056	- 39



B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations

The Valley SWCD has established effective working partnerships with many federal, state and local agencies and organizations to promote the wise use of our natural resources. Most contacts are through informal, cooperative arrangements although the District does have several Memorandums of Understanding. The District has partnered with agencies, organizations and groups to provide assistance in resource planning and to carry out the Districts Resource Plan.

The Star News of McCall is the only local newspaper that reports District activities, concerns, and information pieces.

C. Climate

Valley SWCD temperatures show a high of 104 degrees in August and a low of -50 degrees in January. The latest killing frost is usually mid-June and earliest is normally in early September, however, frosts may occur during any of the summer months. The usual daytime summer temperatures range from 70 to 90 degrees.

<u>Precipitation</u>													
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann	
(Alpha)	3.49	2.65	2.96	2.30	1.72	1.61	.48	.60	.78	1.84	3.44	3.62	25.4
(Deadwood)	5.35	4.25	4.10	2.02	1.48	1.73	.99	.60	.68	1.80	2.68	6.77	32.5
(McCall)	3.57	3.05	2.56	1.91	1.72	1.59	.48	.61	.99	1.86	2.77	3.58	24.6

<u>Temperature</u>		
	Jan	July
(Alpha)	-47	100
(Deadwood)	-48	98
(McCall)	-34	104

(McCall has a growing season of 75 days)

Most of the precipitation comes in the winter in the form of snow. Of the total annual precipitation, 32% normally occurs in April through September, which includes the growing season for most crops. The average relative humidity during the mid afternoon is about 40%. Humidity is higher at night, and the average at dawn is about 65%.

D. Geology

The Idaho Batholith occupies in nearly all the mountainous areas surrounding Long Valley and Round Valley. A few intrusions of Columbia River basalt occupy on the valley floor in the upper Long Valley area. The northern end of the West Mountain range near McCall is made up of Columbia River basalt. The valley floor is the result of glaciations and sediment deposition by water.

The valleys are the result of a combination of glaciations and faulting. A survey in 1957 indicated a thickness of 7,000 feet of sediments in the Long Valley area between West Mountain and Donnelly (Geological Survey Bulletin 1331-A, 1970). The soils are developed in thin layers of sandy till and residuum weathered from bedrock in the Idaho Batholith and Columbia River basalt areas. In the McCall area, Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake areas are the result of glaciations.

Valley County

Valley County covers a huge area in central Idaho, from Long Valley and McCall east to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The South Fork of the Salmon divides the county in two, flowing north toward the Main Salmon river, which is north across the border in Idaho county. The Payette River drains southward in the western part of the county.

On the extreme northwest are accreted terrane rocks west of the Idaho suture zone.

East of the suture are Cretaceous tonalites and orthogneiss of the Idaho batholith, which pass eastward to granodiorite that underlies the bulk of the county. A few inliers of Proterozoic and Paleozoic sedimentary rocks remain, as roof pendants to the batholith.

On the northeast is a downdropped block, the Thunder Mountain caldera, filled with Eocene Challis volcanic group rocks. North of this block of volcanic rocks is a northwest trending belt along Big Creek that exposes Mesoproterozoic Belt Supergroup strata and unique Neoproterozoic intrusive rocks.

Miocene and younger north-striking faults, part of the Basin and Range system, cut the batholith of the central part of the county, and form the Long Valley graben near Cascade Reservoir and Payette Lake.

Geology near McCall

Three major rock groups are exposed near McCall, Idaho. These include: the Cretaceous Idaho batholith, the Triassic-Jurassic metamorphosed island-arc sedimentary and volcanic rocks of the Seven Devils Group and the Miocene flood-basalt flows of the Columbia River Basalt Group. Several structural features are prevalent in the area and most likely control along with the past glaciation the geomorphology in the region.

Structurally, McCall is situated at the end of Long Valley, a major tectonic and structural feature of west central Idaho. The West Mountain escarpment is the high ridge formed along the west side of the Long Valley fault. West Mountain and Long Valley are part of a group of linear north-south ranges and valleys formed by block faulting during the late Tertiary and Quaternary. As West Mountain rose and Long Valley subsided, as much as 7,000 feet of alluvium accumulated in the valley (Idaho Geological Survey website .)

Glacial deposits are divided into two categories on the basis of origin. "Till" is unsorted, rounded glacial sediments which commonly form moraines. Moraines can be one of four types. "Lateral" moraines are formed from the large accumulations of unsorted debris at the glacier-valley wall interface. "Medial" moraines form when two glaciers merge, and their lateral moraines are incorporated into the center – or medial portion – of the glacier, much like when two streams come together. A "Terminal" moraine is one that marks the furthest advance of the glacier; each farther-reaching advance wipes out the previous terminal moraine. "Recessional" moraines mark periods when the glacier is retreating – that is, the end of the glacier (the snout) where moraine is being deposited is short of the terminal glacier. It is important to remember, however, that even when a glacier is retreating the ice and sediment movement is always forward. In terms of glacial sediment transport, a glacier is not unlike a conveyor belt that can lengthen and shorten as conditions mandate.

The second category of glacial deposit is not formed by flowing ice, but flowing water and is referred to as outwash. "Outwash" is deposited by meltwater discharging at the base of glaciers. Outwash from glaciers commonly forms expansive braided stream networks downvalley from glaciers and differ from moraines in that outwash sediments are well-sorted. For further information on glaciers and glacial geomorphology, please visit the USGS website .

Glacial features can be found around the area as most of the broad, high elevation region north of McCall was buried by an ice cap during the Pleistocene. Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake were formed as a result of glaciation in the region as valley glaciers carved the basin and deposited the moraines which impound the lakes. Other glacial geomorphic features, such as cirques – the alpine headwalls where glaciers begin – and medial moraines, around the area are visible in the landscape. An example would be Timber Ridge which formed originally as a large prominent medial moraine. Meltwater streams from these glaciers coursed across the valley depositing thick deposits of sand and gravel that can be seen as high terraces above the Payette River. These terraces are relict valley floors that have been incised as the post-glacial climate has changed and discharges in the Payette drainages have diminished.

See Winston et al. article in Guidebook to the Geology of Eastern Idaho.

Tamra Schiappa and P.K. Link, 10/02

Qa	Quaternary alluvial deposits
Qm	Quaternary moraine (unsorted boulders, cobbles and sand) and glaciofluvial outwash (bedded stream deposits formed from streams draining active glacial ice).
Qs	Quaternary surficial cover, including colluvium, fluvial, alluvial fan, lake, and windblown deposits. Included fluveolian cover on Snake River Plain, (Snake River Group).
Tcr	Miocene basalt (Columbia River Basalt Group); flood basalt, extensively exposed in western Idaho; fed by fissures, many of which are near the Idaho-Oregon border. Flowed eastward up valleys cut into the Idaho mountains.
Tcv	Eocene Challis Volcanic Group, volcanics and volcanoclastics; Older andesitic lavas, intermediate age dacite lava and tuff and younger rhyolite flows and tuffs; 51 to 44 Ma. (Includes Potato Hill and Kamiah volcanics of northern Idaho).
Tgs	Eocene granite, pink granite, syenite, rhyolite dikes, and rhyolitic shallow intrusive; last phase of the Challis magmatic event (46 to 44 Ma). Forms craggy scenic mountain landscape in central and northern Idaho.
Tgdd	Eocene granodiorite and dacite porphyry intrusive, also includes diorite and, in northern Idaho, minor granitic rock; intermediate phase of Challis magmatic event (50 to 46 Ma). Summit Creek stock.
Kog	Cretaceous orthogneiss, and foliated granodiorite and granite (includes mylonitic plutonic rocks in western Idaho suture zone); deformed early phases of the Idaho batholith.
Kgdh	Cretaceous granitic rocks of the hornblende-biotite suite; granite, granodiorite and megacrystic granodiorite. Potassium (K) rich. Age about 80 to 90 Ma.
Ktg	Cretaceous tonalite and quartz diorite; hornblende and biotite bearing early phases of the Idaho batholith. Intruded about 90 to 95 Ma.
Kgd	Cretaceous granitic rocks of the 2 mica suite. Idaho batholith and related plutons; granite and granodiorite that contains both muscovite and biotite. Sodium (Na) rich. Intruded between 80 and 65 Ma.
PzZm	Paleozoic/Neoproterozoic metasedimentary rocks, mainly quartzose sandstone (includes formation of Leaton Gulch).
PzYsq	Paleozoic/Mesoproterozoic schist and quartzite; age uncertain.
Zi	Neoproterozoic dioritic and syenitic intrusive rocks along Big Creek, west of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River; about 600 to 700 Ma.
Zw	Windermere Supergroup (metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks in Big Creek area and northern Idaho).
Ybe	Belt Supergroup undivided; contains siltite, argillite, sandstone (quartzite) and minor conglomerate in Lemhi Range and near Salmon; includes Meadow Creek metamorphic sequence east of Elk City in the Clearwater River drainage.
Yh	Hoodoo Quartzite (Ravalli Group); light-colored feldspathic sandstone, cross bedded.
Yy	Yellowjacket Formation in the type area near Yellowjacket Mine, Bighorn Crags, and west to town of Big Creek. Contains siltite, calc-silicate rocks, and fine sandstone.
YXm	High-grade metamorphic rocks (schist, gneiss, quartzite, calc-silicate rocks); includes Elk City metamorphic sequence and related rocks, Syringa metamorphic sequence, and Priest River metamorphic complex.

E. Soil Resources

General Soil Map and Legend: Soil Survey Valley Area, Idaho information can be found on the web soil survey at <http://soils.usda.gov/survey>

Highly Erodible Land (HEL): A map of highly erodible land has not been prepared. Most HEL is forested and administered by the USDA Forest Service. Except for limited grazing by livestock, these lands are not used for agriculture.

Wetlands: Copies of quadrangle sheets of the National Wetlands Inventory prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service are located in the District Office. Most wetlands are located along the banks of rivers and creeks and larger waterbodies. High mountain meadows in forested areas make up a small part of the wetlands.

F. Water Resources and Water Quality

The Valley SWCD is in the upper watershed of the Payette River Drainage. Also included are large portions of the South and Middle Forks of the Salmon River Drainages. Major water users include irrigation, power generation, recreation and spawning waters for anadromous fish (salmon and steelhead). Several irrigation districts supply water to farms and ranches in one quarter of the District.

Surface and Groundwater: Valley SWCD has a complex surface water system with an abundance of streams, lakes and reservoirs. Irrigation canals and laterals are abundant and transport water through out the valley. Major rivers include the North and Middle Forks of the Salmon River, which drain into the Main Salmon River. Numerous creeks feed these rivers. The largest lakes within the District are Payette Lakes located near McCall. Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs are major storage sources for irrigation and power generation to Gem, Payette, Washington and Canyon Counties. Several small reservoirs store water for local irrigation needs. Most of these are in the Cascade Reservoir Watershed.

Ground water supplies are adequate to meet present needs. Most of the District is part of the Idaho Batholith, a huge granitic intrusion covering most of central Idaho. This area has no extensive deep aquifers. Wells obtain water from fractures in the rock. The intermountain valley floor sediments have been estimated to have a thickness up to 7,000 feet. Domestic water supplies have used an existing shallow water table aquifer. Possible decline in water table levels could occur as more farmland is sprinkler irrigated and irrigation canals and laterals eliminated. Development of deeper aquifer has been limited because of adequate shallow water of good quality. Due to the great sediment thickness under the valley floor an extensive aquifer system could exist and provide a good source of water for future development. Many springs supply domestic and livestock water. Some springs are induced due to irrigation water drainage and would stop producing if irrigation water usage decreases. Several hot springs are located in the District as well as geothermal wells that produce warm water. The Cascade School building is heated by one of these geothermal wells.

Many farmers and ranchers depend on stream flow from creeks to irrigate agricultural lands. These streams have little or no storage and water supplies are short in the summer. In spite of the seemingly abundant amount of water, conflicts arise over water rights. Local water uses are concerned over federal regulations that may preempt state water laws. Increasing demands for waterpower generation, recreation, stream flows and wildlife are major concerns to irrigators and others alike.

Flooding and Drainage: There is periodic flooding that causes property damage and threatens the health and safety of Valley County residents. (e.g., flooding that occurred winter 1996/97 and April 2002). Minor flooding occurs along some creeks during spring runoff with damage mainly to creek banks where vegetation is depleted.

Poorly drained soils are common in Long and Round Valleys and in mountain meadows. Erosion of creek channels and some straightening of channels have lowered the shallow water table in some places. Over irrigation has created wet spots, particularly in poorly managed irrigated pastures.

Water Quality: Water quality improvements have been a focal point of the District's activities for over twenty years. The Cascade Reservoir, one of Idaho's prime recreation facilities, attracts thousands of visitors each year. Since 1994, there has been substantial progress made in implementing the Cascade Reservoir TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) to reduce phosphorus loading. This reduction progress is from the sum of both point source improvements (McCall Wastewater Treatment Plant and Idaho Department of Fish and Game fish hatchery) and nonpoint source improvements (Forestry, Agriculture and Urban/Suburban).

Progress made toward the TMDL goal has resulted in improved water quality at a cost of over \$20 million of both private and public funds. This represents a tremendous amount of work on the part of numerous private landowners, local governments, and state and federal entities. A critical part of the success has been the commitment of local agricultural landowners who have participated in improvements in grazing and irrigation practices, streambank stabilization and riparian revegetation. However, with budget and grant funding cutbacks it becomes increasingly difficult to provide cost share assistance to keep efforts moving forward to implement the TMDL goals.

Idaho's 303(d) List and Water Quality Law: The 303(d) list is dynamic, and will change as water bodies are added from additional monitoring or removal as TMDL's are developed for the listed water bodies.

The following is the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 2008 Integrated Report – Valley County 303 d listing:

- Round Valley Creek (Assessment Unit AU SW002_03)--bacteria (that is also on the 2010 list)
- Beaver Creek (AU SW006_02)-- combined biota/habitat bioassessments (that means that a stream inventory score was low and no specific pollutant has been identified)
- Gold Fork--upper 5th order above Gold Fork Ditch (SW008_5)--sediment (I think this is a mistake--we developed a TMDL for sediment for the section below the ditch SW008_05a)
- Boulder Willow Creek (AUSW011_02) (combined biota/habitat bioassessments)-- a draft TMDL for sediment is being reviewed by DEQ (the WAG has reviewed this).
- Cascade Reservoir (AU SW011_03) (sediment/temperature)--this is really Boulder Creek and a draft TMDL for sediment is being reviewed by DEQ. A temperature TMDL will be written this year.
- Mud Creek (SW015_02) E. coli and sediment. A draft TMDL for sediment is being reviewed by DEQ
- Mud Creek (SW015_03) ammonia, combined biota/habitat bioassessments, bacteria. A draft TMDL for sediment is being reviewed for Mud Creek. This TMDL recommends delisting ammonia from the next integrated report (that will end up being 2012).

G. Population and Employment



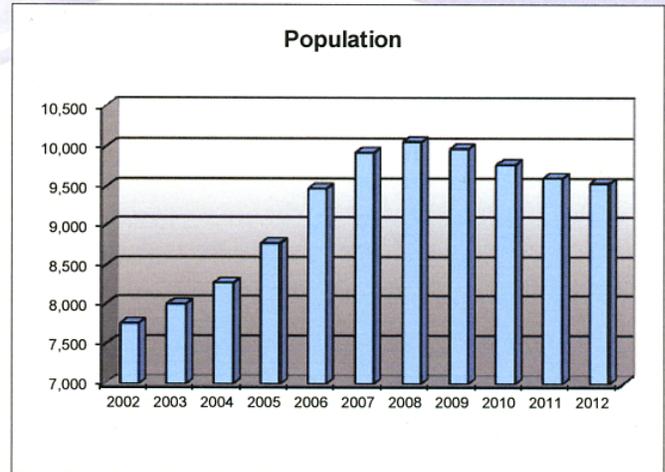
Valley County

November 2013

Work Force Trends

Population

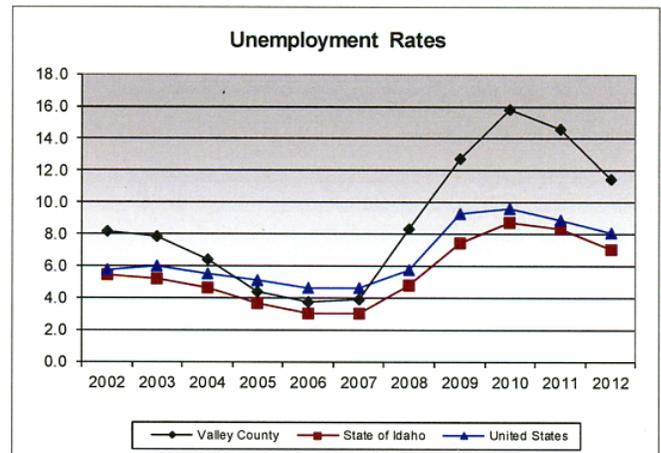
Valley County is the 29th most populous among Idaho's 44 counties. Valley experienced robust population growth from 2002 through 2007, largely fueled by real estate speculation around the Tamarack Resort. Wealthy investors and second-home owners were lured by the resort, inflating land prices. With the economy slowing in 2008 and Tamarack's well publicized financial problems, land prices fell and population growth ebbed in 2009. The decline in population continued into 2012 down to 9,500, but that still equates to 23 percent growth since 2002.



Labor Force & Employment

The labor force has kept level since 2009 staying around 4,600. This is still 8 percent less than the 2007 peak of 5,000. Some improvement was reported in 2012 with an increase in the number employed as well as a 3 point decline in unemployment.

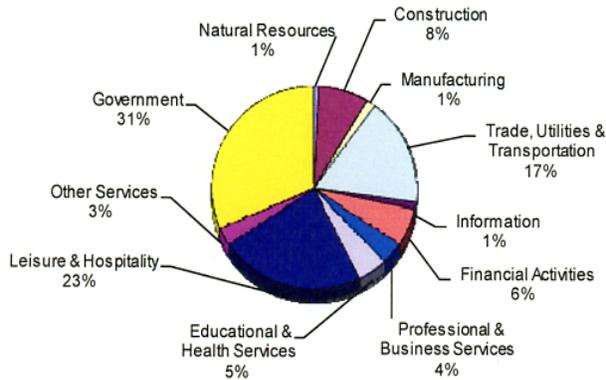
Covered employment has also shown marginal gains with an increase of almost 70 jobs in 2011. The majority of these gains were in the education and health care sector followed by the leisure and hospitality. Each added over 100 to their payrolls in 2011. These solid increases were mitigated by a 14 percent decline in government employment the same year.



Labor Force	Oct 12	Oct 13
Civilian Labor Force	4,616	4,494
Total Employment	4,001	3,978
Unemployed	615	516
% of Labor Force Unemployed	13.3	11.5
State of Idaho % Unemployed	6.6	6.7
U.S. % Unemployed	7.9	7.3

Labor Force	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Civilian Labor Force	4,001	3,996	4,183	4,624	4,917	5,006	4,786	4,634	4,625	4,555	4,597
Unemployment	326	313	269	205	183	194	400	590	730	664	526
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.1	7.8	6.4	4.4	3.7	3.9	8.4	12.7	15.8	14.6	11.4
Employment	3,675	3,683	3,914	4,419	4,734	4,812	4,386	4,044	3,895	3,892	4,071

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2012



Per Capita Income & Employment

Valley County's per capita income is once again above the state average after an increase of over \$1,800. The county, which had ranked third in per capita income for years, slipped to sixth in 2008 and then 12th in 2009. 2010 and 2011 both saw the county ranked ninth.

Valley County continues to be a premiere tourist destination. This leads to a strong leisure and hospitality sector, which makes up almost 25 percent of the total covered employment in the area, only slightly behind government at 26 percent.

Major Employers

Ridley's
Cascade School District
City of McCall
Tamarack Resort
McCall-Donnelly School District
McCall Memorial Hospital
Franklin Building Supply Co
Cascade Hospital
US Department of Agriculture - Forest Service
Valley County

Occupational Wages*

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Maintenance Worker	\$9.96
Cashier	\$8.14
Mechanic, Automotive	\$10.41
Retail Salesperson	\$8.14
Construction Laborer	\$10.46
Cook, Restaurant	\$8.27
Grounds Maintenance	\$9.08
Truck Driver	\$13.09
Equipment Operator	\$14.55
Maid/Housecleaner	\$8.06
Receptionist/Front Desk Attendant	\$8.80
Waiter/Waitress	\$7.83

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2002, 2011 & 2012	2002		2011		2012	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,446	\$21,866	3,614	\$29,368	3,682	\$29,316
Agriculture	104	\$17,168	47	\$35,199	85	\$22,297
Mining	4	\$20,913	18	\$42,152	17	\$42,994
Construction	298	\$20,723	261	\$30,825	247	\$31,298
Manufacturing	134	\$38,442	44	\$26,363	42	\$27,760
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	615	\$17,580	624	\$26,165	648	\$26,747
Information	59	\$35,747	45	\$46,271	40	\$51,395
Financial Activities	129	\$24,662	202	\$28,186	180	\$29,140
Professional and Business Services	157	\$27,774	120	\$29,679	108	\$32,028
Educational and Health Services	129	\$21,920	203	\$39,760	327	\$41,758
Leisure and Hospitality	708	\$10,868	805	\$16,167	907	\$16,501
Other Services	75	\$14,417	121	\$17,995	114	\$19,882
Government	1,035	\$29,092	1,124	\$38,796	967	\$38,711

Per Capita Income	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Valley County	\$29,543	\$29,801	\$32,030	\$34,085	\$35,395	\$36,014	\$35,940	\$32,247	\$34,095	\$35,942
State of Idaho	\$26,042	\$26,452	\$28,412	\$29,544	\$31,493	\$32,607	\$33,110	\$30,809	\$31,556	\$32,881
United States	\$31,481	\$32,295	\$33,909	\$35,452	\$37,725	\$39,506	\$40,947	\$38,637	\$39,791	\$41,560

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis



Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan Business Plan FY16 (7/1/15 to 6/30/20) Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Art Troutner, Chairman
Valley SWCD Office (208) 382-3317
District Email: kay.coski@id.nacdnet.net



Organization of the Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Idaho – authorities, powers and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code

- Organized in 1957 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses within the Valley SWCD boundary.

Who We Serve & Why

- The people and natural resources in the Valley SWCD, to conserve the natural resources for the beneficial and sustainable use by all.

Mission of the Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

- We encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations and elected officials to improve our natural resources thereby ensuring an adequate natural resource base for present and future generations. We believe that knowledge, peer involvement, cooperation and incentives are the best methods to improve soil and water resources.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

The following are the Valley SWCD's top six priorities and goals applicable to our natural resources issues:

- Water Quality*
- Riparian
- Traditional Agriculture: Pasture & Hayland Management and Irrigated & Non Irrigated Cropland
- Woodland
- Fish and Wildlife*
- District Operations

**Meets Antidegradation Plan for Agriculture criteria*

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

- Land use changes
- Absentee landowners
- Economics and high fuel prices
- Poorly planned growth in agricultural and forested areas
- Increasing small acreage farms, five acres or less
- Limited availability of State funds for conservation
- Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and nature resources issues
- NRCS Farm Bill previously received annual county allocation but the current USDA Farm Bill EQIP applications are ranked against similar land uses in other counties. Valley County through NRCS Farm Bill Programs only received funding on four agricultural and forestry contracts in FY14. Cost share funding assistance through USDA programs continues to decline as source of assistance for landowners to implement BMPs.

Staffing Needs

- Full-time Conservation District Manager/Administrative Assistant with benefits
 - Technical assistance for District BMP conservation implementation projects in a timely matter.
-

Key Decision Makers

- **Idaho Governor:** Butch Otter
 - **District 8 State Legislators representing Valley SWCD:** Steven Thayn, Senator; Terry Gestrin, Representative and Merrill Beyeler, Representative
 - **U.S. Senators and Representatives:** Senator Jim Risch, Senator Mike Crapo, Congressman Raul Labrador and Congressman Mike Simpson
 - **Citizens within the Valley SWCD**
 - **Valley County Commissioners:** Gordon Cruickshank, Elt Hasbrouck and Bill Willey
 - **Valley County Clerk:** Doug Miller
 - **Valley County Planning & Zoning Commissioners:** Ed Allen, Rob Garrison, Tom Olson, Jr., Kathy Deinhardt Hill, Ronda Sandmeyer
 - **Valley County P & Z Contacts:** Cynda Herrick, P & Z Administer and Lori Hunter, P & Z Assistant
 - **Valley County Extension Office (University of Idaho):** Melissa Hamilton
 - **City of Cascade Mayor:** Rob Terry
 - **City of Donnelly Mayor:** Brad Backus
 - **City of McCall Mayor:** Jackie Aymon
 - **Valley Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors:** Justin Florence, Paul Kleint, John Lillehaug, Catrinca Them and Art Troutner
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References

2007 Census of Agriculture – County Profile Valley County, Idaho United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Guidebook to the Geology of Eastern Idaho – Tamra Schiappa and P. K. Link, October 2002

U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics – U. S. Department of Labor

Valley County – Work Force Trends November 2013 Idaho Department of Labor and Andrew Townsend, Regional Economist, Idaho Department of Labor

FY-2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority 1: *Water Quality*

Goal: Protect water resources through proper use and treatment. Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) encourages cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials to improve and protect our natural resources.

Promote and develop multiple and beneficial uses.

- Objectives:**
- (1) Valley SWCD's priority is to implement the Ag Source and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans.
 - (2) Promote multiple uses of Lake Cascade (Cascade Reservoir) and the North Fork Payette River System.
 - (3) Promote water conservation and efficiency by improved management practices.

Actions for FY2016	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Actively participate in North Fork Payette River Watershed Advisory Group and TMDL watershed implementation.	6/30/16	Paul/Tech Staff/Staff
2. Protect Idaho's 303(d) listed streams by providing input into resource plans and EIS that concern the North Fork Payette River Watershed. Support USBR and Idaho Fish & Game (IF&G) agreement to maintain a minimum pool in Lake Cascade to protect water quality and sustain recreational use.	Ongoing	Art/Tech Staff
3. Support continued DEQ monitoring of Lake Cascade & tributaries at 2-3 sites. Co-sponsor with other partners such as Trout Unlimited & Idaho Fish & Game, local school hands on educational projects where students monitor Boulder Creek water quality. e.g. Donnelly Elementary Teacher Deirdre Bingaman's 5 th grade class monitoring Boulder Creek. Seek funding sources to purchase interactive educational hands on displays and tools.	Ongoing	Art/Tech Staff
4. Encourage use of Idaho One Plan. Educate and sponsor through University of Idaho – MOSS 4 day Outdoor Classroom Workshop to 100+ 5th grade students.	5/31/16	Catrinca/Tech Staff/Kay
5. Develop 1* landowner contract to implement North Fork Payette River TMDL through 319 grant and/or conservation cost share funds. Implement 319 landowner agreements.	6/30/16	Paul/Tech Staff
6. Leverage federal, state and local cost share programs to develop 2 landowner contracts.	5/31/16	Justin/Tech Staff
7. Promote development and assist 2 landowners with conservation planning; assist 2 cooperators to improve on-farm systems, water management and efficiency of irrigation water delivery and 1 Irrigation District or Company.	6/30/16	Justin/Tech Staff



FY-2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority 2: *Riparian*

Goal: Protect and improve the condition in designated critical areas of Lake Cascade Watershed and North Fork Payette River Watershed for water quality, forage and fish/wildlife habitat. Assist and/or compliment other watershed efforts to restore beneficial uses for the 303(d) listed stream segments.

- Objective:**
- (1) Improve riparian condition in designated critical areas of Lake Cascade Watershed and North Fork Payette River Watershed for water quality, forage, and fish/wildlife habitat.
 - (2) To reduce the amount of sediment entering the North Fork Payette River system.
 - (3) Improve riparian condition throughout the District.

Actions for FY2016	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Contract with 1 landowner to implement BMPs on Priority Tier 1 acres through 319 funds and/or through USDA Farm Bill cost share programs.	5/31/16	Paul/Staff and Tech Staff
2. Work with other agencies and groups to implement programs to improve riparian conditions. (e.g. US Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited, U of I – McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS) and local schools	6/30/16	John/Tech Staff
3. Seek funding opportunities to implement Tier I acres in other sub-watersheds through USDA Farm Bill and other state and federal cost share programs.	5/31/15	Art/ Tech Staff
4. Educate landowners and public of multiple values and benefits of healthy riparian habitat through District newsletter. Support Donnelly Elementary School with Boulder Creek ongoing outdoor education program including riparian and fish habitat projects. Support Cascade High School Advanced Biology Students in ongoing North Fork Payette River and Fishcer Pond outdoor education projects. Support McCall Donnelly School with their on-going educational programs including riparian and fish habitat projects.	5/15/15	Catrinca/Tech Staff/Kay

FY-2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 3: Traditional Agriculture, *Pasture and Hayland Management*

Goal: Resource protection and improvement through proper treatment of critical acres in the watershed. Maintain and improve resource for long-term sustainability of the resource and livestock industry.

Objective: Improve irrigation and grazing management on 85% of pastures and hayfields.

Actions for FY2016	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
USDA Farm Bill EQIP, 319 and/or similar cost share programs to prepare conservation plans and implement BMPs on Tier I and Tier II on 200* acres annually.	6/30/16	Justin/Tech Staff

Conservation District Priority Number 3: Traditional Agriculture, *Irrigated/Non Irrigated Cropland*

Goal: Protect Cropland base through proper use and treatment (this includes irrigated and non-irrigated cropland).

Objectives:

- (1) Reduce soil erosion
- (2) Provide economic stability by promoting improved technology for resource management
- (3) Encourage nutrient management plans to maintain soil fertility and favorable pH as requested

Actions for FY2016	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Promote the implementation of state and federal programs for reducing soil erosion	Ongoing	Paul/Tech Staff
2. Encourage nutrient management plans to maintain soil fertility and favorable pH as requested.	6/30/16	Art/Tech Staff
3. Encourage technology transfer of integrated pest management. Support through a continued demo comparison with the McCall-Donnelly Barbara Morgan Elementary fourth grade students in the use of weevils as a bio control treatment of spotted knapweed.	12/31/15	Catrinca/Tech Staff/Kay
4. Co-sponsor local farm/ranch tour with Farm Bureau to educate and promote agricultural sustainability management methods.	6/30/16	Justin/Tech Staff



FY-2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Area 4: *Woodland*

Goal: Promote sustainable timber levels in balance with other multiple use values.

Objective: Work with landowners to increase productivity of private woodlands, while promoting sound forestry planning and practices.

Actions for FY2016	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Educate landowners on proper forest management practices. Promote U of I and Idaho Department of Lands Forestry Field Day Tour. Co-sponsor with McCall Tree Committee distribution of tree seedling to 100+ 5 th grade students in recognition of Arbor Day.	6/30/16	John/Tech Staff/Staff
2. Educate and promote private forest landowner participation in USDA Farm Bill EQIP (Forestry) for conservation planning and forestry BMP implementation (e.g. Thinning, seeding, fire protection).	6/30/16	John/Tech Staff/Staff



FY-2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Area 5: *Fish and Wildlife*

Goal: Maintain fish and wildlife populations at sustainable levels in balance with other multiple use values.

Objective: Maintain or improve fish and wildlife habitat

Actions for FY2016	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Review management plans of state and federal agencies. Promote multiple use of natural resources. Evaluate impact on agriculture of special management plans for TES species.	6/30/16	Art/Tech Staff/Staff
2. Assist and promote the construction of fish screens and fish passage structures on diversion systems (e.g. Center Irrigation District and Gold Fork Irrigation Company system).	6/30/16	Art/Tech Staff/Staff

Valley SWCD has had to reduce landowner assistance and treated acres due to funding cuts and availability of federal and state cost share grant incentives. The District will continue efforts through partnerships and non-traditional funding sources to meet conservation goals and TMDL load reductions while integrating watershed stewardship and education by incorporating a diverse group of participants and volunteers.

Valley SWCD continues to partner with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, West Central Highlands Rural Community and Development (RC&D), Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Idaho Department of Lands, Trout Unlimited, Idaho Fish and Game and other agencies and groups in seeking funding sources to efficiently implement local conservation programs.



FY-2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority 6: *District Operations*

Goal: Maintain active viable Conservation District

- Objectives:
- (1) Maintain a dynamic Board of Supervisors
 - (2) Implement elements of the Annual Work Plan and the Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan.
 - (3) Maintain District Support Staff
 - (4) Maintain an adequate financial base
 - (5) Maintain active cooperators
 - (6) Provide multi-faceted technical assistance base

Actions for FY2016	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Maintain qualified Supervisors and recruit and retain active associates. Schedule and hold monthly board meetings. Complete Annual Employee Performance Review.	Ongoing	Art, Paul, Catrinca, Justin and John
2. Participate in annual Board/Supervisor Training at one Monthly District Meeting or attend Workshop such as SCC Partnership District Capacity Training.	12/15/15	Art, Paul, Catrinca, Justin and John
3. Distribute Conservation Plan needs, goals and project information to: Legislature, County Commissioners, WAG and U of I Cooperative Extension. Seek assistance and funding through traditional and non traditional sources for TMDL/Technical assistance and cost share assistance for landowner BMP implementation.	Ongoing	Art, Paul, Catrinca, Justin John and Kay
4. Review and update Conservation District Annual Plan including receiving public comment at Valley SWCD March, June, September and December meetings. Submit Conservation District 5 Year Resource Business Plan and Annual Plan to Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (IWSCC) by March 31.	6/30/16	Art, Paul, Catrinca, Justin John and Kay
5. Promote Legislative appropriations of ISWCC/SCD matching funds. Maintain District financial management system using QuickBooks.	Ongoing	Art, Paul, Justin, John, Catrinca (Treasurer) and Kay

Valley Soil and Water Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices.

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

DISTRICT: Valley Soil and
Water Conservation Dist.

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

FY2016

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.

Paul B. Kleint

Board Supervisor Signature

Paul B. Kleint

Printed Name

3/25/15

Date

(208) 382-3317

Telephone

kay.coski@id.nacdn.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: