

Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District

Fact Sheet

General Information: The Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1946, and boasts a large agriculture base, as well as a significant timber base. The District has introduced conservation practices such as contour and cross-slope farming, stubble mulching, strip cropping and range and pasture management.

Mission (or Function):

- Serve as a liaison bringing together state, federal and private sector’s resources to solve conservation and natural resource issues.
- Assist landowners in the planning and implementation of best management practices and provide technical information to help landowners and land users make the best use of land and water resources.

FY 2015 Accomplishments:

- Participated in DEQ Watershed Advisory Group for the St. Joe and St. Maries Rivers to assess TMDL water quality improvements.
- Welcomed three new Board Supervisors and a new District employee, resulting in a full Board of five members.
- Outreach to St. Joe and St. Maries River landowners regarding stream bank remediation assistance available through the district.
- Partnering with the Hangman Bi-State Advisory Group, the group submitted an RCPP funding request from USDA, which includes potential work on several of Benewah SWCDs waterways.
- Sold nearly 4,000 tree seedlings to local landowners for conservation plantings.
- Partnered with Avista Utilities, IDEQ and others to provide partial landowner cost share for potential conservation projects and began the preliminary steps for a 319 grant application.
- Participated in Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s “One Earth One Sky” food coalition group, providing

assistance for weekly Farmer’s Market and community garden projects.

- Assisted local NRCS with streambank erosion measurements for a future conservation project near Clarkia on the St. Maries River.



Streambank plantings

Future Plans and Projects:

- Provide information and assistance in obtaining cost-share funding to control non-point source pollution and soil erosion.
- Plan and apply visible conservation on designated priority watersheds.
- Provide information to landowners/operators on existing practices to reduce soil erosion through the District information outreach.

FY 2015 District Funding:

State	\$16,907
Local Government	\$4,500
District Fundraising	\$571
Panhandle Lakes RC&D	\$3,545
Total	\$25,523

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