

Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District

2018 Fact Sheet

General Information

The Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1940. The district contains 741,120 acres, including 254,244 acres of privately owned farmland. The topsoil of Bannock County is very erosive and the District assists dryland farmers in the use of a variety of conservation practices to capture water in the soil and reduce soil runoff.

Mission

To coordinate technical, financial, and educational assistance for responsible natural resources management that conserves and improves air, soil, and water quality as well as fish and wildlife habitat.

Location

Bannock County, in eastern Idaho. The Portneuf River flows east to west through the center of the District. Interstate 15 runs north-south through the District.

Legislative Districts 28 & 29

FY 2018 Accomplishments

- Partnered with the City of Pocatello and the NRCS to acquire \$250,000 for projects on Marsh Creek. The Goal is to reduce sediment loading by stabilizing stream banks, create riparian buffers, and install off-stream watering systems.
- Continued to provide Barn Owl boxes to the public. Barn Owls predate on rodents, including an estimated 3,000 gophers per year per owl. The District has sold 42 boxes to date.
- Continued project to digitize the District's 78 years of photographs and documents.

FY 2018 Accomplishments (Continued)

- Partnered with volunteers, the USFWS, and the NRCS to install a Wind Break at the Connor Academy Charter School. The volunteers planted 150 conifers, shade, and fruit trees.
- Conducted the district's first Conservation STEM Activity Day. Students learned drone technologies and flew drones over a simulated project site.
- Supported the State and National Envirothons with financial and staff contributions.
- Provided education to 5,000 residents who visited the District booth at the 2018 Environmental Fair.
- Worked with multiple partners at Ag Days. Held at Swore Farms, 1,200 4th grade students learned about agricultural conservation.

Future Plans and Projects

- Start work on the Connor Academy Educational Wetland, plant 150 more trees, construct a community garden, and apply for an NRCS Seasonal High Tunnel.
- Offer drone services to landowners, with assistance from Idaho State University. Products include 3D mapping, imagery, and plant and animal health analyses.

FY 2018 Funds

State	\$ 55,898.02
County	\$ 15,000.00
Cities	\$ 6,700.00
Contracts	\$ 4,500.00
Programs	\$ 3,212.50
Interest	\$ 741.34
Total	\$ 86,051.86

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Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays

Prepared by the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission