

CENTRAL BINGHAM SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
725 Jensen Grove Dr.
Blackfoot, ID 83221

FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION

ANNUAL PLAN

BUSINESS PLAN

JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2028

Summary

The Central Bingham Soil 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, 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 Agriculture and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business 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 Central Bingham Soil Conservation District.

This document identifies the resource needs in the Conservation District and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting these needs.

The Board of elected supervisors of the Central Bingham Soil Conservation District this 12th day of January 2023, do hereby approve the following document known as the Resource Conservation Business Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2028, during which time it will be updated annually and/or amended, as necessary.

As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do hereby affix our signatures to this document.

Todd Cook	Chairman
Kendall Keller	Member
Brennon Jones	Member
Shandon Carter	Member
Wendy Pratt	Member

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners (As applicable)

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Idaho Soil Commission
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
DEQ



Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan Business Plan (2023 to 2028) Central Bingham Soil Conservation District

For More Information, Contact: {Brennon Jones}, {208-690-3525}

History of the Central Bingham Soil Conservation District

Six educational meetings were held before the April 29, 1954 public hearing to organize the Central Bingham Soil Conservation District. According to the hearing record, drainage, irrigation system installation, land leveling, and water application were problems with which people hoped the new SCD could help. County Commission C.J. Wright noted that weed control was also of concern to the county.

A public referendum was held June 28, 1954, in Pingree and Blackfoot. Fifty-four people voted for the new SCD; 19 voted against it. The SCD was formally organized February 18, 1955, to include western and central Bingham County. C.V. Murdock, Blackfoot, chaired the original SCD board. Serving with Murdock were Rulon J. Callister, Claude Johnson, and Marvin Wray, Blackfoot, and L.B. Sasser, Pingree. The board approved its first plan of operations August 25, 1955. Several natural resource agencies helped the SCD develop its annual programs. An office in Blackfoot, rented by the Soil Conservation Service, opened February 20, 1956. County Commissioners were strong SCD supporters, providing financial assistance to help the SCD employ a secretary.

One reason the SCD was organized was to determine if anything could be done to solve a drainage problem northeast of Blackfoot. The SCD studied the problem, but concluded that the cost of installing and maintaining drains would be prohibitive. Landowners were subsequently shifted to livestock and were able to raise adequate forage.

Farmers also looked to the early SCD for assistance in land leveling. When the SCD obtained surplus government equipment for land leveling, many landowners requested this service. Much of the SCD's initial work involved reorganizing irrigation systems to save water and labor. Several large headgates were installed along the Snake River to divert water into canals. The original SCD was also very active in trial plantings in cooperation with the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center.

One of the SCD's early goals was to end the practice of burning stubble when wheat or barley was grown on newly developed land. This problem was particularly acute on new sprinkler-irrigated land west of Moreland and Rockford. The SCD held a tillage demonstration to show equipment that could handle the stubble.

Irrigated pastures received considerable attention on the older irrigated land in the district. The SCD encouraged farmers to use rotation grazing and proper fertilization; these measures greatly increased production.

Potatoes, wheat, alfalfa, barley, and pasture are the main agricultural products in the Central Bingham SCD. Seventy-five percent of the people working in the district are employed in agriculture.

Nearly all the potatoes grown in the district today are under sprinkler irrigation. Uniform water application made possible by conversion from surface to sprinkler irrigation has greatly improved the quality of potatoes grown in the area. The SCD is now promoting use of low-pressure sprinklers to save soil, energy, and water.

Conservation practices such as crop rotations, proper tillage, and returning crop residue to the soil, along with proper management of irrigated pastures, are commonly found today throughout the Central SCD. Conservation tillage is a top priority in the SCD's current program. Supervisors believe minimum tillage offers great benefits for soil conservation and in elimination soil compaction.

Using land to its proper potential has been a long-standing goal of the Central Bingham SCD. With SCD encouragement and assistance, sub-irrigated areas have been converted to pasture and rocky, shallow soils along the Snake River have been planted to perennial crops such as pasture and hay. The SCD continues promoting the use of improved plant varieties.

The SCD has traditionally carried out a vigorous information program using local newspapers, radio newsletters, demonstrations, tours, and presentations to local civic groups. The SCD's annual youth Conservation poster contest entered its 30th year in 1984.

Land uses

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of SCD</u>
Irrigated Cropland	181,525	14%
Dry Cropland	1,600	0%
Rangeland	460,000	74%
Pasture	31,500	3%
CRP Acres	5,000	1%
Urban and Rural	19,200	2%
INL	84,175	5%
Water	3,000	0%

Economic Outlook

Bingham County 's economy depends heavily on agriculture but has a diverse employer base that demands a diverse workforce. High technology metal fabricator Premier Technology and First American Title both have their headquarters in Bingham County. Idaho State Hospital South and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' gambling operation are other large nonfarm employers. The county's location between two major trade centers, Pocatello to the south and Idaho Falls to the north provides additional workforce and employment opportunities. Bingham County's civilian labor force grew steadily through the decade while its unemployment rate gradually declined until the recession took hold. The unemployment rate jumped significantly in 2008 and continued climbing while the labor force fell in 2009 before rebounding the following year. Efforts to attract new business to the county by Bingham Economic Development Corp. hold promise for the county's economic future.



Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan Business Plan (2023 to 2028) Central Bingham Soil Conservation District

For More Information, Contact: {Todd Cook}, {208-690-3525}

Organization of the Central Bingham Soil 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 February 1955 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses within the Central Bingham SCD boundary.
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Function of the Central Bingham Soil Conservation District

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

Who We Serve & Why

- The people and natural resources in the Central Bingham SWCD, to conserve the natural resources for the beneficial and sustainable use by all.
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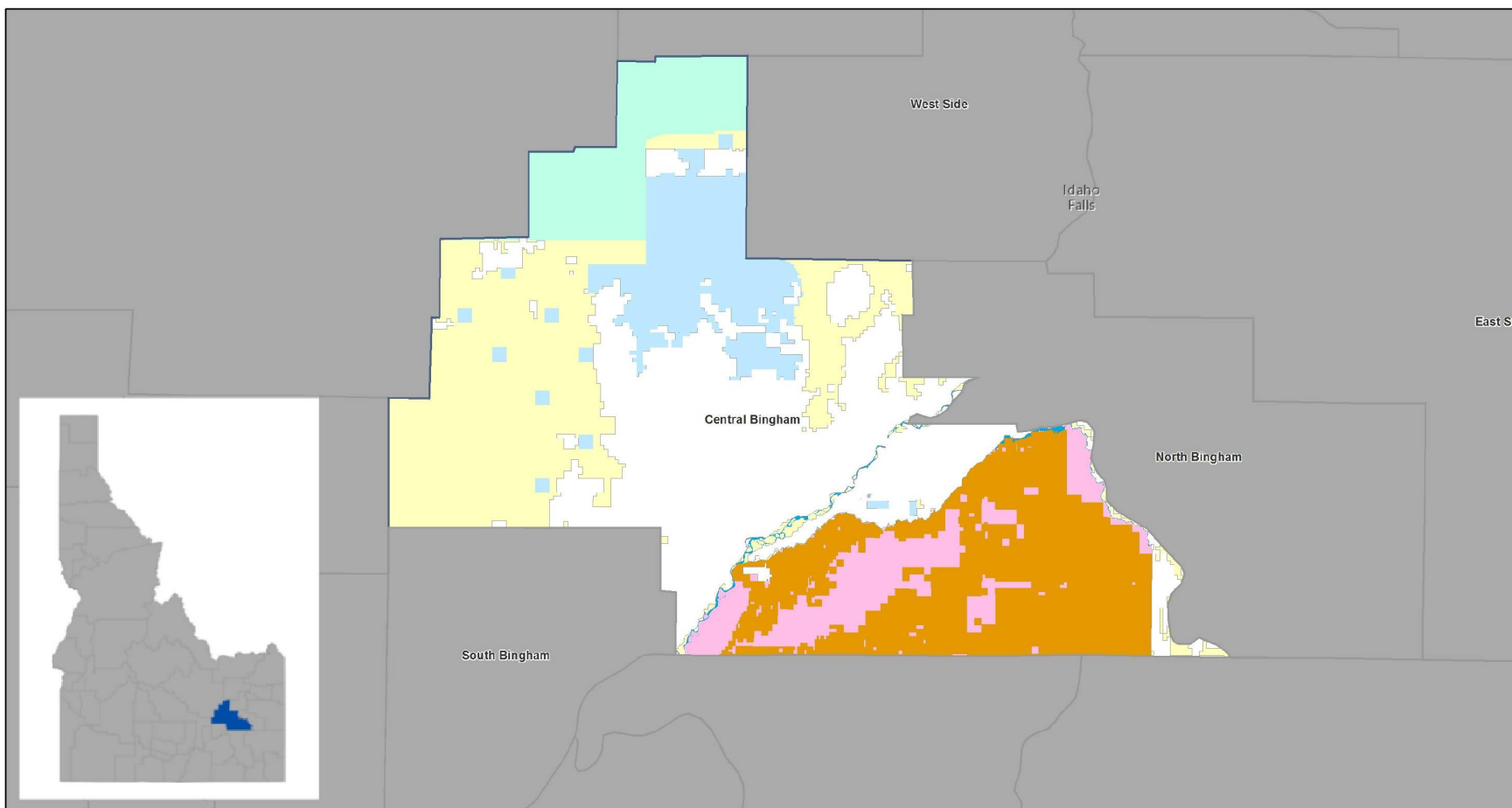
Mission of the Central Bingham Soil Conservation District

- *To promote programs, implement plans, and educate the public on conservation issues in the North Bingham Soil Conservation District.*
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Values of the Central Bingham Soil 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

Central Bingham SWCD - Location & Land Management

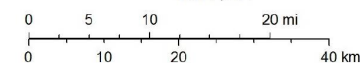


March 29, 2016

Surface Management Opaque

BLM	Reservations	Other	USFS
Reclamation	Interior	Private	
Engineers	USDA	State	
Energy	Military	State F+G	
Water	Park Service	State Other	
	Wildlife Refuge	State Parks	

1:577,791



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Data compiled by Idaho BLM

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Central Bingham Soil Conservation District

- Urban impact on agriculture production
 - Poorly planned growth in agricultural areas
 - Increasing small acreage farms, five acres or less
 - Limited availability of Local, State, and Federal funds for conservation
 - 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
 - Continued drought conditions
 - Water availability due to threat of call of water regarding water rights
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Staffing Needs

- Part-time Conservation District Administrative Assistant
 - Conservation District Technician (when needed)
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Key Decision Makers

- Conservation District Supervisors
- Citizens in Bingham County Conservation District
- Bingham County Commissioners
- Bingham County Elected City Officials and Planning and Zoning Board Members
- State legislators representing Conservation District area
- U.S. Senators, Representatives and Staffers
- City of Blackfoot
- Snake River and Blackfoot School Districts
- Bingham County Cooperative Extension
- Other Local, State, and Federal partners

AGENCIES AND GROUPS COOPERATING WITH THE CENTRAL BINGHAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DISTRICT LANDOWNERS/COOPERATORS

Central Bingham Conservation District
North Bingham Soil Conservation District
Bureau of Land Management
Pheasants Forever
Blackfoot School District
Bingham County Commissioners
Bingham County Farm Bureau
Eastern Idaho Grazing Association
Eastern Idaho State Fair
Idaho Power
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho Department of Agriculture
Idaho Fish and Game
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Idaho District Employees Association
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Auxiliary
Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Association of Conservation Districts
Snake River School District
Bingham Chronicle
State of Idaho
University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service
U.S. Farm Service Agency
USDA Plant Material Center, Aberdeen
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
US Rural Development



FY 2024 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) Annual Plan of Work Central Bingham Soil Conservation District

For Information Contact: Chairman: Todd Cook

Telephone Number: 208-690-3525

Email: cbswcd@ida.net

Mission of the Central Bingham Soil Conservation District

To promote programs, implement plans, and educate the public on conservation issues in the Central Bingham Soil Conservation District.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Central Bingham Soil Conservation District

- Urban impact on agriculture production
- Poorly planned growth in agricultural areas
- Increasing small acreage farms, five acres or less
- Limited availability of Local, State, and Federal funds for conservation
- 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
- PCN quarantine area limits BMPs implementation
- Continued drought conditions
- Water availability due to threat of call of water regarding water rights
- Soil Degradation increased by wind and water erosion

Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed

- Cooperation with landowners/operators
- Natural resource outreach and educational programs
 - Pest management and Equipment Rental program
 - School outreach and education program
 - Cover crop/soil health Education
 - Work with Canal Companies & Producers to improve Water Quantity
 - Russian Olive Control and removal

District Operations and Funding Sources

- Bingham County
 - State of Idaho
 - Potential grant opportunities
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FY 2024 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) Annual Plan of Work Central Bingham Soil Conservation District

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Conservation District Priority 1: Water Quality

Objective: Improve water quality within the District

Goal(s): Reduce pollutants on waters within the District (especially 303d listed waters and ground water priority areas)

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued awareness of water quality issues in the area	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with advisory groups, Agencies, and other groups	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Determine potential water quality impacts and seek funding.Determine applicability of Farm Bill Programs.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with DEQ and ISWCC to remove water bodies from Idaho's 303 d List and implement the TMDL Implementation Plans.Blackfoot NPA Source Water Protection Plan	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS



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Conservation District Priority Number 2: Water Resources (Quantity)

Objective: Increase water resources within the District

Goal(s): Improve water resources to maintain a viable agricultural community.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Encourage and promote BMPs to improve water usage. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum tillage / no-till• Mulching• Field wind breaks• Soil health• Water systems• Cover Crops	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
Work with Canal Companies and Producers to Seek funding and partnerships to improve irrigation efficiencies	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS

Conservation District Priority Number 3: Soil Erosion & Soil Health

Objective: Reduce soil erosion and improve soil health.

Goal(s): Reduce the impacts of soil erosion to air and water resources and improve soil health to insure a sustainable agricultural industry

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with NRCS, and other partners to ensure producers stay within HEL compliance.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek funding to reduce erosion and implement soil health BMPs.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide workshop/tour to promote cover crops and provide outreach and education opportunities to reduce erosion and promote soil health.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued awareness and education about erosion issues and soil health within the District.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS



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Conservation District Priority Number 4: Pest Management

Objective: Manage pests within the District

Goal(s): Seek funding, partnerships, and opportunities to implement pest management within the District

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Provide leadership and participate in demonstration eradication strategies. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with USDA and growers.• Work on Projects with local FFA & Schools	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff
Provide information to growers as appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshops• Seek opportunities to promote pest management	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, NRCS, ISWCC
Manage grant to growers for implementing pest management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide availability of Rodent Control options, including partnering with local equipment dealer to make a "Verminator" available for producers to rent	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff



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Conservation District Priority Number 5: District Operations

Objective: Maintain and improve a viable Conservation District

Goal(s): Promote the District and its' goals. Encourage and develop well-balanced positive district leadership

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Hold regular board meetings open to the public.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff
Develop and maintain administrative procedures for the Central Bingham Soil Conservation District. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation District Policy and Procedures Manual• Provide administrative assistance to Blackfoot NRCS Field Office	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff
Maintain a comprehensive financial management system; including financial reviews, audits, budgets, and other reports/plans as needed.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff,
Develop and maintain an effective Supervisor and staff development program including identification of Board and staff training opportunities, attendance at IASCD Division Meetings, IASCD Annual Conference, NACD Annual Conference, and other local, state, and regional meetings.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
Participate in annual legislative reception, display day, and other activities to promote the District, and their work.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff,
To develop a producer and youth conservation public outreach programs as needed.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
Produce handouts, displays, articles for publication/interviews, etc., to promote the District, and our activities.	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
Promote Coordination efforts in Bingham County	FY 2024	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS