Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District

7830 Meadowlark Way Suite C-1

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

(208)209-4348

Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan

With

FY 2024 Annual Work Plan

July 1, 2024- June 30, 2029

"Promoting voluntary, locally led conservation and wise stewardship of our natural resources"

Executive Summary

The **Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District (KSSWCD)** 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 the carrying out programs for conservation, use and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

Conservation Districts are the primary entities to help private landowners and land users in the wise stewardship 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; offer science-based technical assistance, provide incentive-based financial programs, and offer informational and educational programs at the local level.

Both by legislation and by agreement, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance to landowners and land users through Conservation Districts. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission's (ISWCC) and the Districts in Idaho have 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 Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District, but also to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. This document identifies the resource conservation needs in the KSSWCD and presents an action plan for meeting these needs, it will be reviewed and updated annually.

Through our efforts we hope to ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION:

The Board of elected Supervisors of the Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District this 8th day of March 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, 2029, during which time it will be reviewed and/or updated annually.

_____ Laurin Scarcello, Chairman

_____ Linda Ely, Vice-Chairman

_____ Wes Evans, Secretary/Treasurer

_____John Minichino Jr., Supervisor

_____ Joel Noland, Supervisor

_____ Kevin Hicks, Supervisor

_____Thomas Shafer, Supervisor

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners:

_____ Natural Resources Conservation Service

_____ Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

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Annual Plan/ Resource Conservation Business Plan

Section I Conservation District Structure and Governing Policies

Enabling legislation, legal structure

Chapter 27, title 22, section 22-2728, Idaho Code states that (a) The legislature recognizes and finds (1) That it is essential to the general welfare of all citizens of this state and it is in the public interest that multiple use conservation improvements should be implemented on a broader scale on both public and private lands in the state; (2) That due to numerous economic and practical problems, relating to the improvement of individual tracts of land both public and private, insufficient attention has been given to resource conservation and improvement; (3) That rangeland and other agricultural land improvement projects of the nature contemplated by this act would enhance the economic productivity and environmental quality of the state; and (4) That it appears to be sound public policy for the state of Idaho to provide for a revolving account to provide loans, grants, and cost-share funding to the end that rangelands and other agricultural lands within the state can be made to provide the greatest benefits to all state, private, or other moneys, can be obtained and utilized for the accelerated development of water quality programs, multiple use rangeland, and other agricultural land conservation improvements in the state and to provide that these improvements, projects, and programs be locally planned, coordinated, and implemented through the administrative direction and supervision of the commission in cooperation with the department of agriculture and appropriate federal and state agencies and the owners and operators of privately-owned lands.

The Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho (See the District's Location map). Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. The legal structure of the Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District is that of 1 Chairman, 1 Vice-Chairman, 1 Secretary/Treasurer, and 4 Supervisors. This means there are 6 voting members not including the Chairman. There is an indefinite number of Associates and they do not have authority to vote, nor sign checks.

Powers and authorities

Chapter 27, Title 22, section 22-2722 Idaho Code. Powers of districts and supervisors. A soil conservation district organized under the Provisions of this act shall constitute a governmental subdivision of this state, and a public body corporate and politic, exercising public powers and such district, and the supervisors thereof, shall have the following powers, in addition to others granted in other sections of this act:
1) To conduct surveys, investigations, and research relating to the character of soil erosion, floodwater and sediment damages, for the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water and the prevention and control measures, and works of improvement needed, to publish results of such surveys, investigations, or research, and to disseminate information concerning such preventative and control measures and work of improvement; provided, however, that in order to avoid duplication of research activities, no district shall initiate any research program except in cooperation with the government of this state or any of its agencies or with the United States or any of its agencies;

2) To conduct demonstrational projects within the district on lands owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof, and on any other lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the owner of such lands or the necessary rights of interests in such lands, in order to demonstrate by example the means, methods, and measures by which soil and soil resources may be conserved, and soil erosion in the form of soil-blowing and soil-washing may be prevented and controlled; works of improvement for flood prevention and the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water may be carried out;
3) To carry out preventive and control measures and works of improvement for flood prevention or the conservation development, utilization, and disposal of water within the districts including, but not limited, to engineering operations, methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation, changes in use of land, and the measures listed in subsection C of 22-2716, on lands owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof, and on any other lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the owner of such lands or the necessary rights of interests in such lands;
4) To cooperate, or enter into agreements with, and within the limits of appropriations duly made available to it by law, to furnish financial or other aid, to any agency, governmental or otherwise, or any owner of lands within the district, in carrying on erosion-control and prevention operations and works of improvement for flood prevention and the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water within the district, subject to such conditions as the supervisors may deem necessary to advance the purpose of this act.
5) To obtain options upon and to acquire, by purchase, exchange, lease, gift, grant bequest, devise, or otherwise, any property, real or personal, or rights or interests therein and all such property shall be exempt from taxation for state, county and municipal purposes; to maintain, administer, and improve any properties acquired, to receive income from such properties and to expend such income in carrying out the purposes and provisions of this act; to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of any of its property or interests therein in furtherance of the purposes and provisions of this act;
6) To make available, on such terms as it shall prescribe, to landowners within the district, agricultural and engineering machinery or equipment, as will assist such landowners to carry on operations upon their lands for the conservation of soil resources and for the prevention and control of soil erosion and for flood prevention or the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water.
7) To construct, improve, operate and maintain such structures as may be necessary or convenient for the performance of any of the operations authorized in this act.
8) To develop comprehensive plans for the conservation of soil resources and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and for flood prevention or the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water within the district, which plans shall specify in such detail as may be possible, the acts, procedures, performances, and avoidances, which are necessary or desirable for the effectuation of such plans, including the specifications of engineering practices, and changes in use of land, and to publish such plans and information and bring them to the attention of occupiers of lands within the district;
9) To take over, by purchase, lease, or otherwise, and to administer, any soil conservation, flood-prevention, erosion-control, or erosion-prevention project, or combination thereof, located within its boundaries undertaken by the United States or any of its agencies, or by this state or any of its agencies; to manage, as agent of the United Sates or any of its agencies, or of this state or any of

its agencies, any soil-conservation, flood-prevention, erosion-control, or erosion-prevention project, or Combination thereof, within its boundaries, to act as an agent for the United States, or any of its agencies, or for this state or any of its agencies, in connection with the acquisition, construction operation, or administration of any soil-conservation, flood- prevention, erosion-control, or erosion-prevention project, or combination thereof, within its boundaries; to accept donations, gifts, and contribution in money, services, materials, or otherwise, from the United States or any of its agencies, or from this state or any of its agencies, and use or expend such moneys, services, material, or other contributions in carrying on its operation;
10) To sue and to be sued in the name of the district; to have a seal, which seal shall be judicially noticed; to have perpetual succession unless terminated as hereinafter provided; to make and execute contracts and other instruments, necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers; to make, and from [time] to time amend and repeal, rules and regulations not inconsistent with this act, to carry into effects its purposes and powers;
11) As a condition to the extending of any benefits under this act to, or the performance of work upon, any lands not owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, the supervisors may require contributions in moneys, services, materials, or otherwise to any operations conferring such benefits, and may require landowners to enter into and perform such agreements or covenants as to permanent use of such lands as will tend to prevent or control erosion and prevent floodwater and sediment damages thereon;
12) No provisions with respect to the acquisition, operation, or disposition of property by other public bodies shall be applicable to a district organized hereunder unless the legislature shall specifically so state.

History of the KSSWCD

In the late 1930's Kootenai County farmers saw the terraces and grass cover crops developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps to reduce erosion near Worley. Farmers knew that by forming a Soil Conservation District (SCD) they could get help applying conservation practices and improving their land. Many attended the four public hearings held in 1941 to discuss organizing the Kootenai SCD. According to the hearing records, farmers attending the meetings asked for help clearing land to farm, digging reservoirs, building dams, developing wells and springs, and learning how to plant trees. Interest in organizing a district was so strong that at each hearing there was considerable discussion about whether people elsewhere in the county would support a District and if not, whether it would be possible to organize an SCD for just one area.

The Kootenai SCD was organized to include the entire county, except incorporated towns, on March 31, 1941. The charter members of the Board of Supervisors were, L.M. Leininger; Chairman, William Sanders; Vice Chairman, Earl Fly; Supervisor, Ralph Prenninger; Supervisor, J. M. Barnum; Supervisor, and Albert Mylroie; Secretary. The original board held 5 meetings during the first year of its inception. In 1972 part of Shoshone County north of the divide between the St. Joe and Coeur d' Alene rivers entered the District. The next year the District added "Shoshone to its name. With the later inclusion of several towns, the SCD finally encompassed all of Kootenai and a portion of Shoshone County including the Coeur d'Alene River Basin.

Significant Accomplishments

The District provides information, encouragement, and available assistance in the planning and application of conservation practices, the development of wildlife habitat, environmental improvement, recreation enterprises, and Resource Conservation and Development project measures.

The Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District has initiated and been involved in numerous projects throughout recent years. Such projects include:

-Stream bank Stabilization Projects throughout both Counties
-Riverbank Stabilization Projects on the Coeur d'Alene River
-Sediment Reduction Ponds constructed
-Urban Agriculture - Gathering Garden Expansion with Kootenai Environmental Alliance
-Executed TMDL Implementation plans
-Gully plug installation
-Conducted Stream Erosion Surveys throughout North Idaho
-District Tree Seedling Program
-Watercraft Inspection Stations in Northern Idaho

As a sponsoring member of the Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council, the KSSWCD has supported the following projects that have impacted both Kootenai and Shoshone Counties:

-Inland Empire Coordinated Weed Management Area
-Fuels for Schools (Feasibility study done for Kellogg School)
-Seed bank/Seedling Program
-Hawkweed Biocontrol Consortium
-Eurasian Milfoil Task Force
-Forest Taxation/Estate Planning Conference
-Rathdrum Mountain Public Planning Process
-Farm & Ranchland Protection Program
-Q'emiln Park Trails project
-City Green Urban Planning Demonstration
-Community Forestry Assistant
-Black Bay Erosion Control Project
-Fire Education Corps-Student Conservation Association
-Iron Honey Forest Stewardship Project

Information and Education has been an especially important part of the District Program. Below are some of the accomplishments and items we have done over the years:

-Sponsor Youth to the Natural Resource Youth Camp
-Sponsor and participate in the Idaho Forestry Contest
-Provide informational displays at the County Fair and Legislative Days in Boise, ID
-Grade school yearly poster contests
-Provide a district newsletter
-Participate in the Farm to Table with NRCS
-Participate with schools in outdoor classrooms
-Co-sponsor irrigation workshops with WWP, County Extension Service, and NRCS

-Participated in and had input into the Natural Resource issues at the Urban/Rural Interface Conference and Local Work Group Meetings
-Participate with local Boy Scout troops and 4-H clubs
-Participate with local groups during Earth week
-Work with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Basin Commission on Educational PowerPoint
-Participate in workshop at the Gathering Garden with KEA
- Sponsor a high school team to participate in the Envirothon
- Sponsor Pan Handle Farm Corridor
-Sponsor Lazy JM Ranch on Regenerative Farming Education
-Provide assistance with customers needing aerial photos/topography maps

Some of the field trials that have been sponsored and conducted as:
-Farragut State Park Knapweed Field Trial
-Hecla Mine Tailings Field Trial
-Moon Gulch Tailings piles Re-vegetation Field Trial
-Gully plug demonstration projects in Lake Creek watershed

Water quality projects in the district:
- Mica Creek Implementation Plan
-319 Non-Point Source Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Projects
-Latour Creek Implementation Plan (sediment reduction projects)
-Lake Creek Implementation Project
-Water Quality Program for Agriculture
-Intermountain Province Coeur d'Alene sub-basin assistance
-Basin Commission- Clean Water Act projects
-Stream/Riverbank stabilization projects (nutrient/contaminant reduction)
-Lower Coeur d'Alene River stream bank classification and prioritization study
-Medimont riverbank stabilization project with Idaho Dept of Fish and Game
-Western Competitive Grant
-Wolf Lodge Creek streambank restoration

Current Conservation District Supervisors

The current supervisors FY (2023) for the KSSWCD are:

Laurin Scarcello	Chairman
Linda Ely	Vice-Chairman
Wes Evans	Treasurer/ Supervisor
John Minichino, Jr.	Supervisor
Joel Noland	Supervisor
Kevin Hicks	Supervisor
Thomas Shafer	Supervisor

District Administration and Operation

a) Who manages the Conservation District program?

-The District Administrator with assistance from the Board of Supervisors.

b) How are Conservation District Supervisors elected? What are their duties?

-Conservation District Supervisors are elected pursuant to the provisions of section 22-2721, chapter 27, title 22, Idaho Code and the uniform district election law, chapter 14, title 34, Idaho Code. The duties of Conservation District Supervisors are to:

• Schedule and hold regular monthly meetings with a definite planned agenda. Districts should set the day and time of each monthly District board meeting in January of each year. The dates and times of regular meetings are to be held in accordance with Idaho Open Meeting Law, Idaho Code 67-2343.
• Develop, implement, and monitor Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan to meet the resource needs of the District.
• Provide guidance to assisting agencies on District priorities.
• Establish policies necessary for the conduct of work – public outreach, technical assistance, fiscal management of public funds and public records.
• Set up committees to carry out projects and activities; assign areas of responsibility to each supervisor and arrange for co-sponsors of Conservation District activities, as appropriate.
• Develop and implement a realistic budget.
• Arrange for the conduct of a financial review to be submitted to the Idaho State Soil Conservation Commission and other interested entities.
• Conduct supervisor elections as outlined in the State of Idaho Election Consolidation Manual.
• Support programs of the State and National Associations and Auxiliaries.
• Hire and supervise staff to support Conservation District operations.
• Plan and carry out a comprehensive public information program.
• Support activities designed to increase the awareness of conservation practices and Best Management Practices (BMP's).
• Assure all Supervisors are protected with surety bonds, liability insurance, insurance for officers and employees.
• Establish and maintain cooperative agreements with neighboring Conservation Districts and other local and state entities of government.
• Collaborate with appropriate local, state and federal agencies, groups and individuals on required programs.

c) How long do elected supervisors serve?

-Section 22-2721, chapter 27, title 22, Idaho Code states that term of office of each elected or re-elected Supervisor shall be four (4) years commencing on the first day of January following the November election.

d) When and where does the Conservation District meet?

The KSSWCD meet the second Wednesday of every month at the USDA Service Center: 7830 Meadowlark Way, Suite C-1 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815.

e) What is the Conservation Districts' planning process?

The KSSWCD Board and staff should be aware of resource needs and issues, plan activities, identify funds, provide technical assistance, be knowledgeable of local, state, and federal laws, provide service to cooperators, and work on Five-year programs and work plans.

f) How is the Conservation District funded?

The KSSWCD is funded by Kootenai and Shoshone Counties (section 22-2726, chapter 27, title 22, Idaho Code), the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (section 22-2727, chapter 27, title 22, Idaho Code), profit from the Tree Seedling Program, the Invasive Species Program, and through the administration of grants.

Public Involvement

The KSSWCD assists private landowners in conservation planning and implementation. The District also provides information and technical assistance to small and large acreage landowners and urban residents regarding water quality, wildlife, plant materials, and water conservation. The public can either contact the District or NRCS for assistance.

District Policies

Services

The KSSWCD Board and staff should be aware of resource needs and issues, plan activities, identify funds, provide technical assistance, be knowledgeable of local, state, and federal laws, provide service to cooperators, and work on five-year programs and work plans.

Personnel

The KSSWCD shall employ a District Administrator in order to carry out daily business. This work includes financial accountability, manage facilities and equipment, meet regularly with the Board, record minutes, enter into agreements for assistance, implement District policy, public outreach and education, attends training sessions, maintain District records, and understand the function of the District.

Fiscal management policies and procedures

The District Administrator shall compile information and reports regularly to the board and keep them informed of all business transactions. The Board will help the District Administrator monitor the budget, raise funds, and establish fee structures for services. The KSSWCD hires an independent accountant to conduct financial reviews or audits.

Facilities

The KSSWCD staff occupies a space at the USDA Service Center- 7830 Meadowlark Way, Suite C-1, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815. The Service Center is shared among Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Rural Development, and KSSWCD staff.

Equipment

The KSSWCD owns the following equipment:
Dell Laptop
Toshiba laptop computer
HP Officejet 8710 (printer/scanner/copier)
Dymo Label Writer 450
PLUS Vision Corps U5-112 projector/ extension cords
Garmin- GPS II Plus
Bushnell Yardage Pro (Sport)
White metal detector

Public Participation

The public is welcome to sign-up for any programs that the NRCS, ISWCC, or KSSWCD offers to landowners. The District also works with the public in outreach efforts educating students and community members on different practices to promote stewardship of the environment.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The KSSWCD is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of each project, as per individual contract and/or program. For example: Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) with the ISWCC requires that monitoring and evaluation of projects continue throughout the life (10 years) of any contract. After the 10 years, it is the responsibility of the individual landowner to maintain and monitor the project.

Cooperating Conservation partners.

The KSSWCD works out of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC). All of these agencies cooperate with the District on a daily

basis. The NRCS provides technical support when writing conservation plans, designing sediment retention ponds, locating gully plug placement, designing grass waterways, and any other components within conservation planning. The ISWCC provides similar support to the District as well as assisting with agricultural identification for planning and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation plan writing and implementation on state and private agricultural land.

Agencies and Organizations

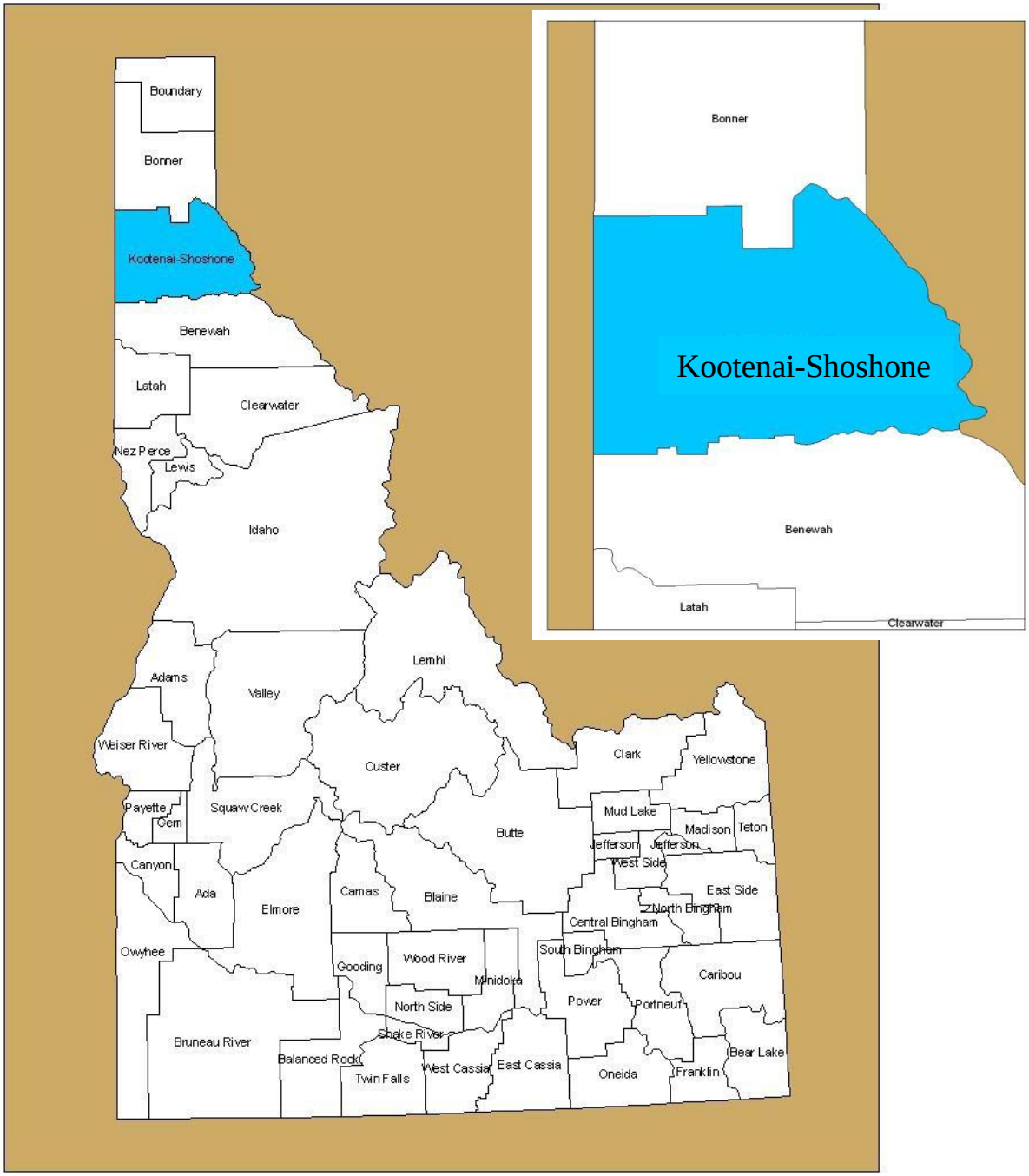
Governmental agencies and private groups the Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District work with to accomplish its conservation program.

-Avista
-Kootenai County Commissioners
-Kootenai Environmental Alliance
-Shoshone County Commissioners
-Shoshone County Road Department
-City Councils
-Ducks Unlimited
-Fernan Lake Recreation and Conservation Association
-Idaho State Senators within the District
-Idaho State Representatives within the District
-Idaho Department of Agriculture
-Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
-Idaho Department of Fish & Game
-Idaho Department of Lands
-Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation
-Idaho Department of Transportation
-Idaho Department of Water Resources
-Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
-Coeur d'Alene Lake Management
-Coeur d'Alene Tribe
-Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission
-Panhandle Seedling Program
-Panhandle Farm Corridor
-University of Idaho
-University of Idaho Extension Service
-USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
-U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
-U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
-U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
-U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
-USDA Farm Service Agency
-USDA Forest Service
-Neighboring Conservation Districts in North Idaho and Washington
-Natural Resources Conservation Services
-North Idaho Fly Casters
-Worley Highway District
-East Side Highway District

-Various Irrigation Districts
-Radio Stations/ TV stations/ Newspapers
-Public Schools

Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District

Map of District's Location



Section II Resource Conditions, Trends, and Conservation Needs

District Boundaries (See the District's Location map)

How large is the Conservation District?

-The KSSWCD covers approximately 70 miles from East to West covering Kootenai and northern Shoshone Counties and approximately 50 miles from North to South. The District covers 796,928 acres in Kootenai county and 1,685,760 acres in Shoshone County.

Who owns the land in the Conservation District? (See the Land Status Map and Ownership, Towns, and Road Network map)

-Land ownership in both counties is by private, federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal entities. Most of the land is US Forest Service and privately owned lands.

District Resources

a) Main land cover and uses. (See the Land Cover map)

-Most of the lands are mountainous forest and shrub/range.

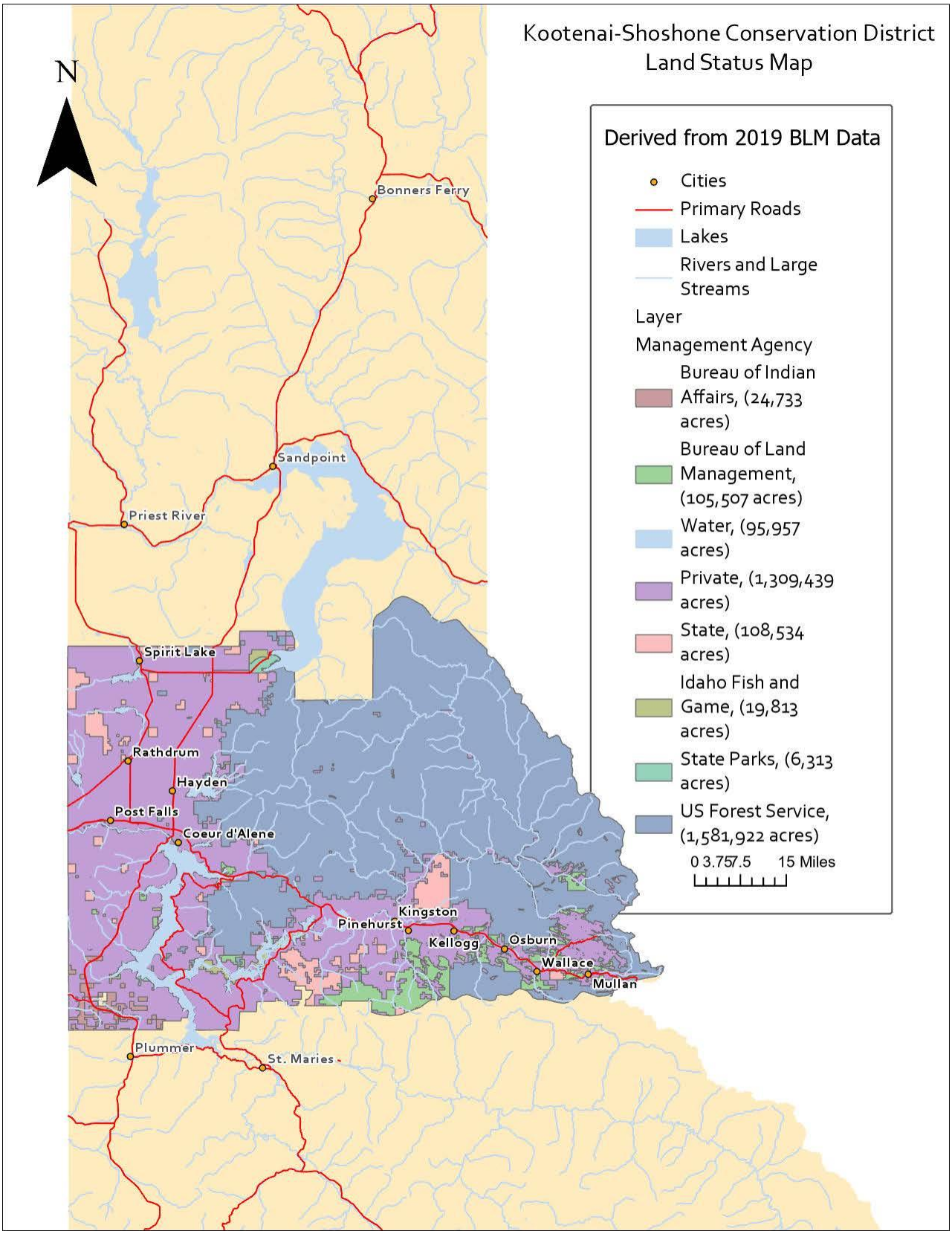
b) Soil resources.

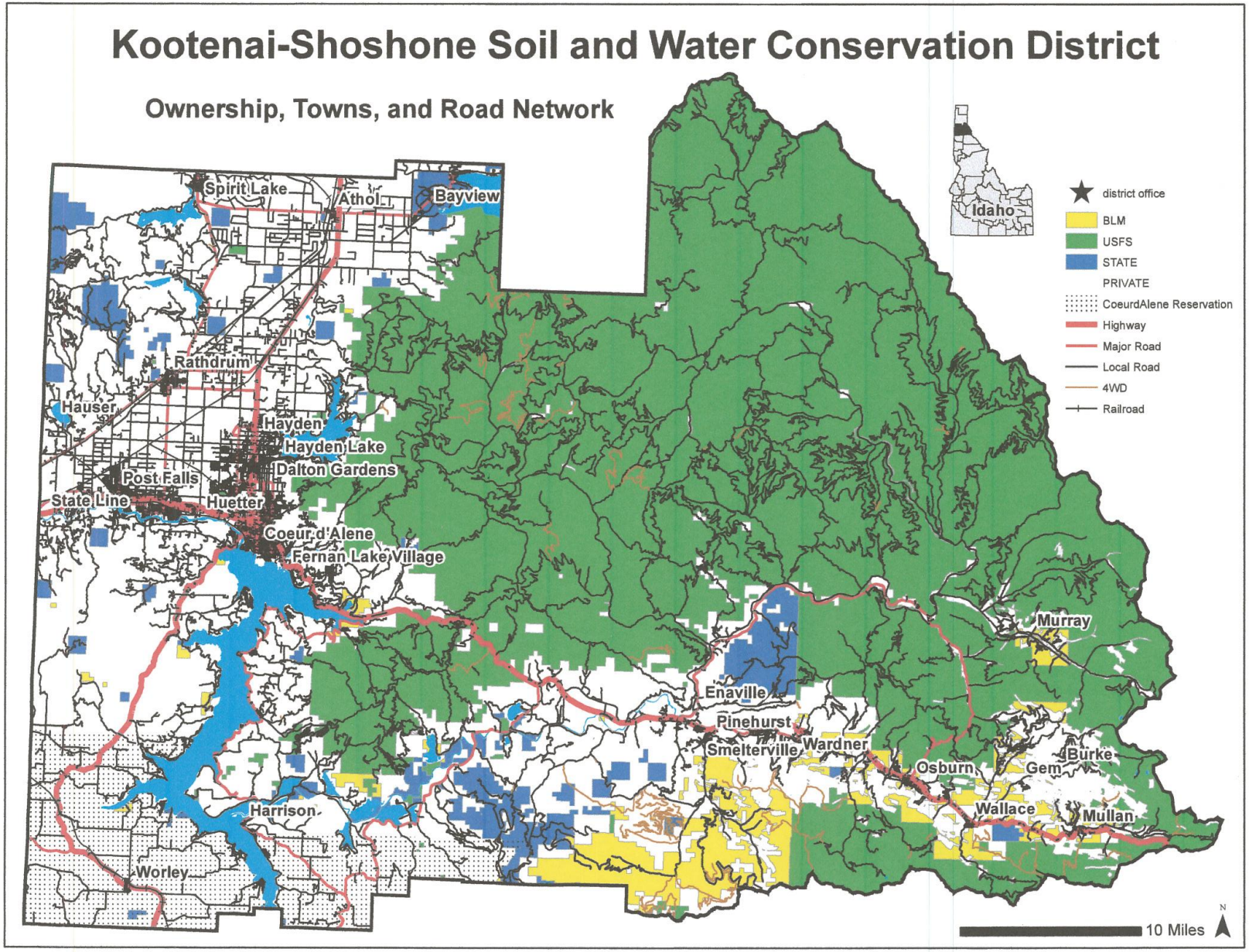
-The Kootenai Shoshone Soil Conservation District encompasses all of Kootenai County and the northern section of Shoshone County which corresponds to the Coeur d' Alene River watershed.

-Topography in the District is varied. The land surface is generally rough, consisting mostly of forested mountainous or hilly terrain that has comparatively narrow valleys opening to the west. The mountainous areas are mostly meta-sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.

-Exceptions to the mountainous terrain are the Rathdrum Prairie in the northern part of Kootenai County. The Rathdrum Prairie is a glacial outwash plain where soils were deposited by the waters from melting glaciers. It has level or gently sloping terraces with moderately steep or steep slopes on the terrace breaks and is at an elevation of 2,200 feet.

-Part of the rolling and hilly loess covered prairie region called the Palouse area is in the southwestern part of Kootenai County and has an average elevation of about 2,700 feet. The Lower Coeur D'Alene River flows through a broad flood plain from east to west across the southeastern part of the area and into Coeur d' Alene Lake. The lake's outlet is the Spokane River, which flows west from the central part of Kootenai County into Spokane County, Washington. The lowest point in elevation in the District is approximately 2040 feet on the Spokane River at the southwestern part of Kootenai County and the highest points are in the southern portions of Shoshone County where some mountain peaks exceed 6,000 feet.


Kootenai-Shoshone Conservation District
Land Status Map
N
Derived from 2019 BLM Data
Cities
Primary Roads
Lakes
Rivers and Large Streams
Layer
Management Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs, (24,733 acres)
Bureau of Land Management, (105,507 acres)
Water, (95,957 acres)
Private, (1,309,439 acres)
State, (108,534 acres)
Idaho Fish and Game, (19,813 acres)
State Parks, (6,313 acres)
US Forest Service, (1,581,922 acres)
0 3.757.5 15 Miles
Bonners Ferry
Sandpoint
Priest River
Spirit Lake
Rathdrum
Hayden
Post Falls
Coeur d'Alene
Kingston
Pinehurst
Kellogg
Osburn
Wallace
Mullan
Plummer
St. Maries


Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District
Ownership, Towns, and Road Network
Idaho
district office
BLM
USFS
STATE
PRIVATE
CoeurdAlene Reservation
Highway
Major Road
Local Road
4WD
Railroad
Spirit Lake
Athol
Bayview
Rathdrum
Hauser
Hayden
Hayden Lake
Dalton Gardens
Post Falls
State Line
Huetter
Coeur d'Alene
Fernan Lake Village
Harrison
Worley
Murray
Enaville
Pinehurst
Smelterville
Wardner
Osburn
Burke
Gem
Wallace
Mullan
10 Miles
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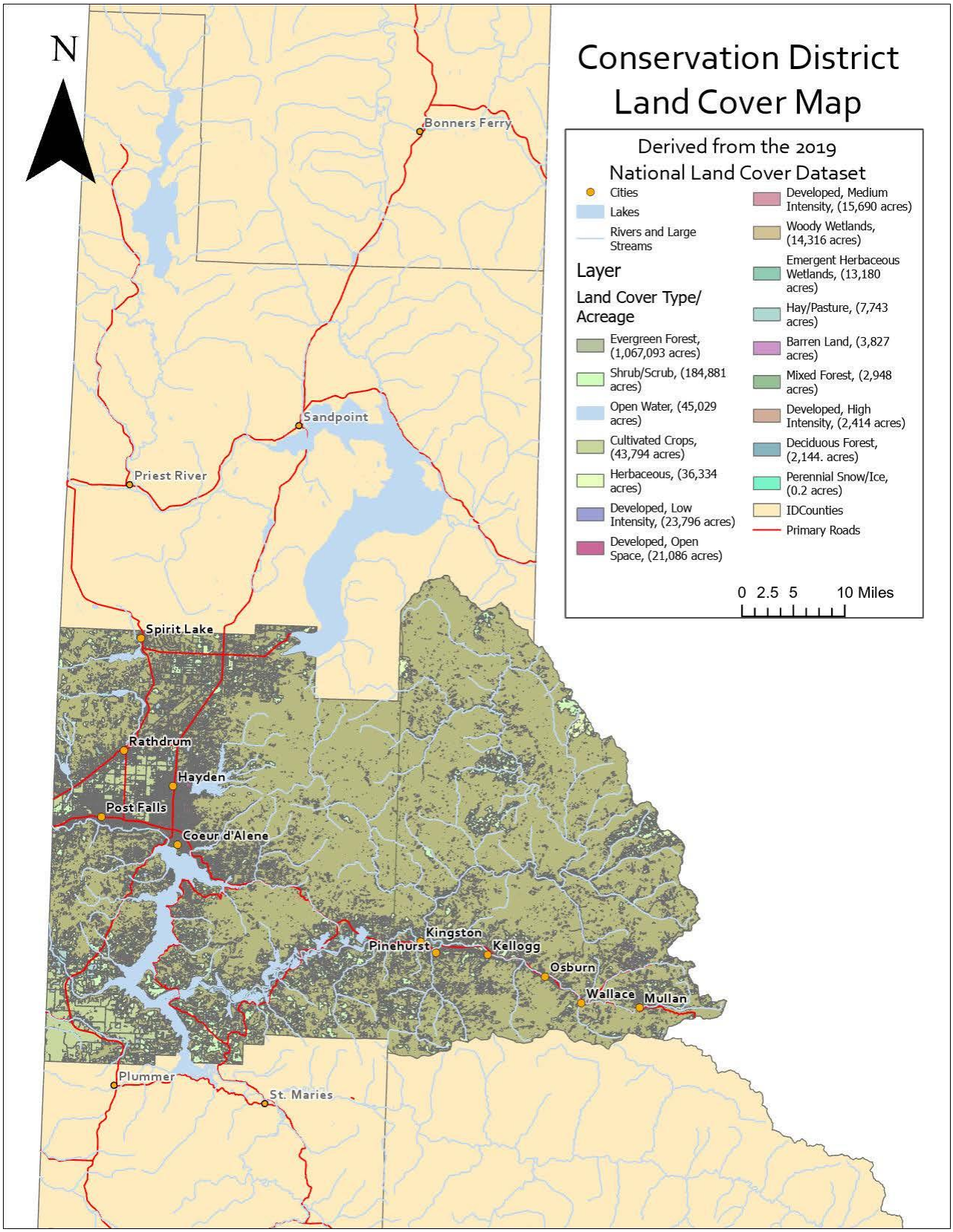


-The Silver Valley itself is filled with thick deposits of sands, gravels, and clays. Volcanic ash and wind-blown silts have mantled the area and vary in thickness at different locations.

-The vegetation is mainly coniferous forest, which varies with soil type, aspect, and elevation. Western hemlock and western red cedar dominate on the north and east aspects, while Grand fir and Douglas fir dominate on the south and west aspects with ponderosa pine on the driest sites. In the Kellogg/Smelterville area the vegetation has been severely modified over the last 100 years by a combination of mining activity, logging, forest fires, and smelter emission.

-For more information on soils see WebSoilSurvey for Kootenai and Shoshone (shared with St. Joe and parts of Benewah) Counties from your local USDA Service Center which are available to the public.

c) Climatic.

-Summers are warm or hot in most valleys and much cooler in the mountains. Winters are cold in the mountains. Valleys are colder than the lower slopes of adjacent mountains because of the cold air drainage. Precipitation occurs in the mountains throughout the year, and a deep snowpack accumulates during the winter. Snowmelt usually supplies much more water than can be used for agriculture in the county. In valleys, precipitation in summer generally falls as showers, but some thunderstorms occur. In winter, snow covers the ground most of the time, though warm dry Chinook winds often melt and evaporate the snow.

-In the winter, the average temperature is 30.6 degrees F, and the average daily minimum is 23.4 degrees. The absolute lowest temperature during the entire climatic record was negative 36 degrees F, observed at Kellogg on December 30, 1968. In summer, the average temperature is 74.0 degrees F, and the average daily maximum is 81.5 degrees. The absolute highest temperature was 111 degrees F, recorded on August 5, 1961.

-Growing degree-days are equivalent to heat units. Starting in spring, they accumulate by the amount that the average temperature exceeds the base temperature each day. The normal monthly accumulation is used to schedule single or successive plantings of a crop within the seasonal limits of the last freeze in spring and the first freeze in fall.

-The total annual precipitation is about 23.0inches. Of this total, 8.3 inches, or 36 percent, generally falls from April through September, which includes the growing season for most crops.

-The average seasonal snowfall is 32.8 inches. The greatest snow depth on the ground at any one time was 35 inches. On the average 42 days have at least 1 inch of snow on the ground, but the number of days varies greatly from year to year.

-The average relative humidity is 79.4 percent.

Population (Kootenai and Shoshone Counties)

How many people live in the Conservation District?

- 179,789 people reside in Kootenai County and 13,612 people live in Shoshone County. (2021 United States Census Bureau estimated values)

What are the urban and commercial centers?

-Shoshone County cities: Kellogg, Mullan, Osburn, Pinehurst, Smelterville, Wallace, and Wardner. The county seat is in Wallace and the largest city is Kellogg.

-Kootenai County cities: Athol, Coeur d'Alene, Dalton Gardens, Fernan Lake Village, Harrison, Hauser, Hayden, Hayden Lake, Huetter, Post Falls, Rathdrum, Spirit Lake, State Line, and Worley. The county seat and largest city is Coeur d'Alene.

What are the main employers and industries?

-Shoshone County (Data USA): Top 5 industries from greatest to least: retail, trade, health care, mining and construction. Major employers include Dave Smith Motors, Galena Mine, Lookout Pass Ski Area, Shoshone Medical Center, and Silver Mountain Resort.

-Kootenai County (Data USA): Top 5 industries from greatest to least: Retail Trade, Health Care, Accommodation & Food Services, Construction and Manufacturing. Major employers include Kootenai Medical Center, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene Casino, Qualfon (call centers), Silverwood Park, North Idaho College, Easterline Advanced Input Systems (manufacturer) US Bank, the school districts and government offices.

What are the employment levels?

-Shoshone County (Data USA) Wage & Salary employment for 5,071 people, 37 Farm Proprietors, and 1,312 Non-Farm Proprietors. As of July 2020, the unemployment rate was 7.5% and had increased due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

-Kootenai County (Data USA) Wage & Salary employment for 66,141 people, 593 Farm Proprietors, and 14,478 Non-Farm Proprietors. As of July 2020, the unemployment rate was 6.0%. and had increased due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

What are the trends and outlook for population?

-Shoshone County population change was at an decrease of .016 % from the 2017 year.

-As in the past, silver, lead and zinc prices will be the major factor determining economic activity in Shoshone County. If silver prices continue to rise as industry analysts expect mining activity in the county should pick up. The Silver Mountain Gondola, the expansion of the Lookout Pass ski lodge, and the addition of the 18-hole golf course and indoor water park, and the increased promotion of local tourist attractions should continue to lead to growth in employment in lodging, restaurants, and retail stores.

-Kootenai County population in 2021 was at an increase of 22.6% from the 2010 year.

-Shoshone County population in 2021 was at an increase of 1.8% from the 2010 year.

-Continued expansion is expected to increase due to tourist activity. It is expected to see an increase in the following job markets: lodging, restaurants, entertainment services, and retail. The national housing market will determine the demand for Idaho lumber, and the federal government will make decisions affecting the supply of logs for the industry. Employment in lumber and wood products is declining in importance as the manufacturing base becomes more diversified. Despite its' decline in relative importance, lumber still plays an incredibly significant role in the local economy. Employment in other manufacturing industries has increased considerably during the last few years and as firms relocate here from other parts of the country and as existing firms expand, rising income levels and increased tourism will translate into larger retail and service operations. With businesses opening and expanding and with people still moving into the county in droves, the construction sector has been given a significant stimulus. Barring a major national recession, the Kootenai County economy should continue to expand.

-In 2003 the Federal Government termed the Rathdrum Prairie as a metropolitan area due to the increase in population.

*See Idaho Departments of Commerce and Labor websites for current or more information.

Agricultural Economy

-In 2017, the total employment on farms in Kootenai County, including operators and unpaid family members was estimated to be 824.

-In 2017, the total employment on farms in Shoshone County, including operators and unpaid family members was estimated to average less than 36.

-The number of people employed in agriculture understates the importance of agriculture to both of these counties, especially to some rural communities. Agriculture also has a direct impact on employment in agricultural services, grain elevators, grass seed processing, and transportation, and an indirect impact on retail trade and services employment.

-Forest Products is one of the major industries of the Coeur d' Alene Area. Several major companies process eleven species of softwood timber into over 650,000,000 board feet of lumber, particleboard, and wafer wood annually. The timber industry provides 1,884 production and logging jobs in Kootenai County and generates over $180,000,000 in annual sales. The area is known as the largest producer of Idaho White Pine in the World.

-Agricultural production in Kootenai County was highlighted by the production of Kentucky bluegrass seed on the Rathdrum Prairie. The rapid increase in housing developments/industry encroaching upon the Rathdrum Prairie, coupled with increasing environmental restrictions made farming of Kentucky bluegrass exceedingly difficult. The grass seed production has significantly shifted to the farms in southwest Kootenai County and western Benewah County and largely within the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation.

-Also of importance are the diversified crops of hay and grain in livestock enterprises and on foothills cut over land in which some farmers are involved. These enterprises together with farm forestry in Kootenai County provide a functioning agricultural industry.

-The mining industry is also of importance within the District. The Coeur d'Alene Mining District is one of the richest silver producers in the world. 7-15 million ounces of silver are mined annually in the district. Since 1884, an historic value of $5 billion worth of silver, lead, and zinc originated from the district's 100 mines.

District Operations

Administration

-The Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District is administered by a District Board, which is comprised of seven elected officials. A part-time District Administrator accomplishes day-to-day administration. The District Administrator is responsible for maintaining the QuickBooks accounting files, assisting landowners, administering grants and pursuing alternative funding sources for the District.

Financial

-The record of finances is kept by the District Administrator and reviewed monthly by the Board of Elected Supervisors. The Treasurer assists the District Administrator when necessary and makes him/herself available before monthly board meetings. According to section 67-450B, chapter 4, title 67, Idaho Code, the District shall have a biennial Financial Review when the annual budget (from all sources) does not exceed $100,000, biennial Financial Audit when the annual budget is less than $100,000, but does not exceed $250,000, and a full and complete annual Financial Audit when the annual budget is in excess of $250,000. A qualified accountant will conduct all the above Financial Reviews and Audits. Funds through the District are used to carry out the objectives of the District as determined by the Board of Supervisors. The Annual Work Plan helps the supervisors develop their plan for utilizing District funds.

-The District receives funding from Kootenai and Shoshone Counties and matching funds from the State. 49% of the District's budget goes to pay for District operations, including payroll liabilities and office expenses, and about an equal amount goes to paying for project implementation. About 2% is used for information & education, including expenses for conferences and seminars.

-Conservation needs are to be more sources of funding to add to the financial base of the District. with Kootenai and Shoshone Counties being so diversified, the District is unable to operate

effectively on such limited monies. Alternative sources of funding, such as the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 319 Non-Point Source grant program, contracts with Idaho Department of Lands and the Western Competitive Grant are for a short duration. Therefore, the KSSWCD continues to seek more implementation and other grants to continue the present programs.

-The District has an on-going tree seedling sale and is part of the Panhandle Seedling Program in Northern Idaho, we also have a Division 1 forestry committee, which adds additional funds into the budget. This program has been ongoing for over two decades. Sales vary from year-to-year and are dependent upon demand, weather conditions and popularity. These tree seedling sales promote reforestation, planting for Conservation Reserve Program recipients, and other individual property owners.

- In 2017 the District began subcontracting with ISDA and added the management of four (4) watercraft inspections stations in Northern Idaho. These stations operate from March through October and has a fulltime manager that handles the daily operations as well as oversees the inspectors and other employees.

Public Outreach

- The District provides information at regular Watershed Advisory Group (WAG), Basin Advisory Group (BAG), and Local Working Group (LWG) meetings.

- Conservation needs include sending supervisors, youths, adults, and teachers to training camps and workshops increasing public awareness of conservation issues through more public Watershed Advisory Group, Citizen Councils, and steering committee meetings. The District Administrator should be aware of the different groups meeting and get input from the Board of Supervisors.

Technical Assistance

-The District has a Memorandum of Understanding within a Cooperative Working Agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service stating that the NRCS agrees to provide (when available) the District with technical assistance in carrying out the District programs

-The District also receives technical assistance from the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) from their state engineer and water quality resource conservationist.

-Conservation needs include employing a Resource Conservationist or someone for technical assistance when funds are available. The expertise and experience this person gains is extremely beneficial to the District when putting conservation practices on the ground. The workload that the KSSWCD has gained makes it difficult for only one District employee to carry out duties in a proficient manner. It would be in the best interest for the KSSWCD to seek funding to employ this position.

Assessment

This section describes the present conditions, trends, and needs within the KSSWCD.

Soil Resources

In Kootenai County, the areas of intense agricultural use consist of undulating to steep, deep and very deep, well-drained and moderately well drained soils on loess covered hills. Examples of soils include Larken—Southwick, Taney and Santa. Potential for soil erosion and nutrient leaching are concerns with agricultural use of these soils.

The Rathdrum Prairie consists of soils such as Avonville—Garrison—McGuire and Kootenai—Bonner that are nearly level to moderately steep, very deep, well drained and excessively drained soils on outwash plains, terraces and terrace slopes. Potential for ground water pollution from agricultural and urban uses are of concern on these soils.

The areas along Lake Coeur d'Alene and tributary canyons are made up of soils on very steep, shallow and moderately deep, well drained basalt terrace escarpments. Slope and depth to rock limit the land uses in these areas. Erosion potential is high Limitations are severe for many uses.

Examples of soils in mountainous areas are Huckleberry—McCrosket—Ardenvoir. These soils formed in volcanic ash and loess over metasedimentary rock. The main uses are woodland, pasture and wildlife. Erosion potential is high, forest and pasture management can reduce the risk of erosion.

Soil erosion in the District varies by land use, types of soil, management practices and other factors. Generally, soil erosion on the steeper dry cropland fields can exceed 12 tons/acre/year of no conservation practices are used. If Best Management Practices are implemented, erosion can be reduced to less than 3 tons/acre/year. The naturally recharged sole source aquifer, the Rathdrum Prairie does not erode at excessive rates due to the nature of the soils and flat slopes.

In 2003, the District classified Slickens in the Kootenai-Shoshone area as a unique soil type of mine waste tailings sediments.

Woodland areas generally erode at less than acceptable levels if not disturbed. Disturbed acres from logging, road construction, and the development of homes increase the potential of soil to erode at rapid rates and large amounts. In the entire District, considering all land uses, over 70,000 acres have the potential to erode at greater rates.

The trend in soil conservation has been positive over the past several years. Dry cropland farmer implements Best Management Practices such as crop residue use and No-Till. Implementation of NRCS and State Water Quality projects such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) have had positive affect on reducing soil erosion. It is important however to continue working with landowners and the NRCS on providing positive incentives for programs that are offered.

Water Resources

Water quality of the District's lakes and streams is affected by non-point source activities including logging, mining, farming, construction, urban runoff, storm water runoff, wastewater disposal and recreational activities. Beneficial uses affected by these activities include domestic water supply, agricultural water supply, cold-water biota, warm water biota, salmonid spawning, primary contact recreation, and secondary contact recreation.

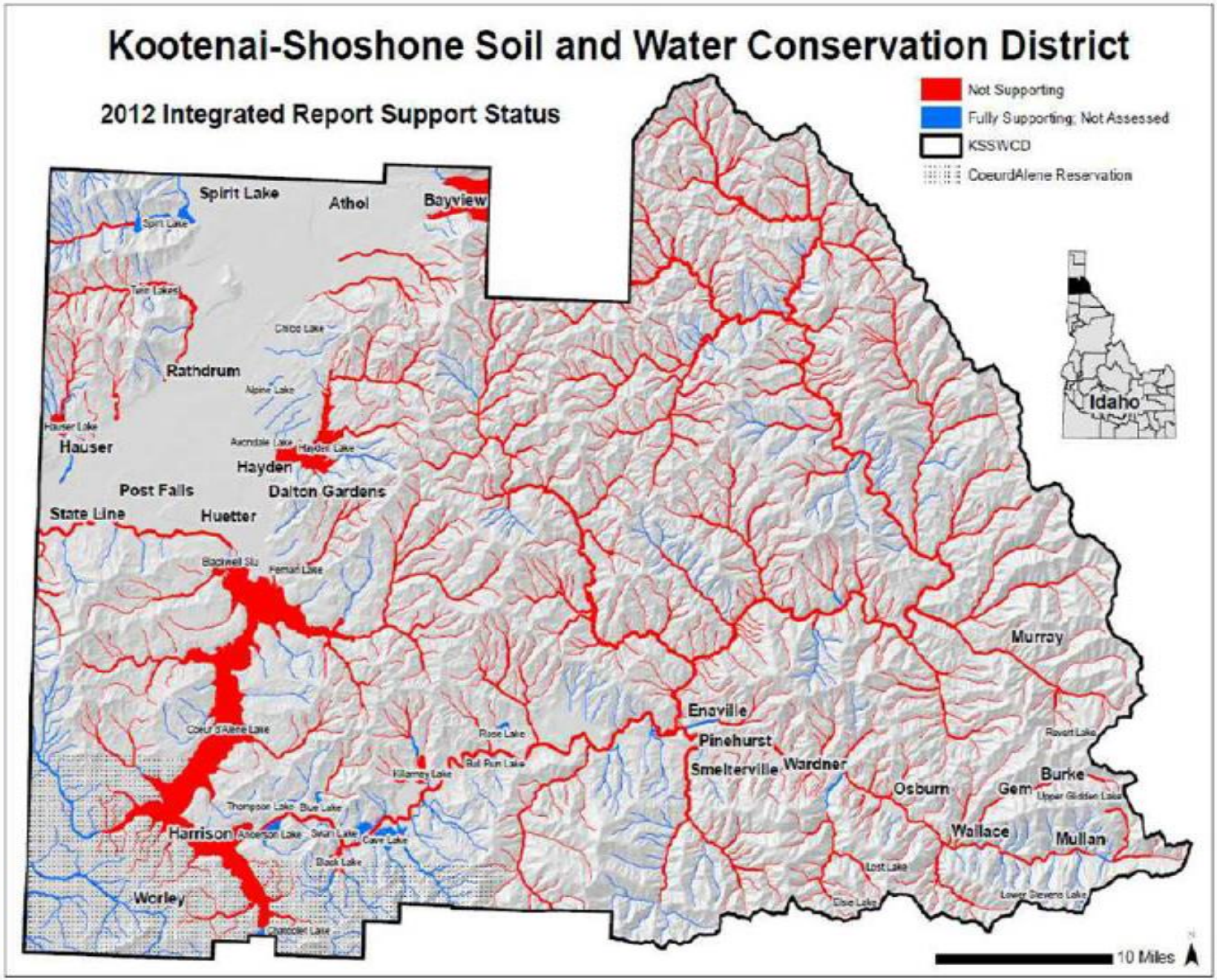
Non-point sources affect approximately 72 percent of the total number of stream segments in the Panhandle hydrologic basin while approximately 2 percent of the total segments are affected by point sources such as municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants.

Water quality of rivers and streams in the basin is primarily affected by sediment, nutrients, and bacteria with heavy metal toxicity observed in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. Beneficial use impairment ranges from none, on some stream segments, to cold water and salmonid spawning only on other stream segments, and impairment of all beneficial uses on other segments in the basin.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality produces TMDL's (Total Maximum Daily Load) analysis of 303(d) listed streams and groundwater issues are addressed within these reports. Once the TMDL's are approved, IDEQ issues TMDL Implementation Plans then the District can apply for 319 funds and address the pertinent issues for groundwater and surface water. Anti-degradation policies implemented by various agencies and landowners with time should work toward improving support of beneficial uses, although it will take time and cooperation of all involved.

With respect to lake water quality, nutrient enrichment is of greatest concern, although sediment, bacteria and heavy metals are also concerning. Many of the lakes within the basin fully support beneficial uses, although there is a perception that water quality is being degraded. Baseline studies of some lakes do indicate that water quality standards are not being met.

In 2002, the Environmental Protection Agency granted the CDA Basin Clean Water Act funds to assess the basin for Nutrient Management. Several different agencies (including the KSSWCD) are involved with a Technical Leadership Group to advise the Basin Commission on water quality concerns within the entire basin. The 2009 CDA Lake Management Plan addresses Nutrient management as well as heavy metal toxicity to the basin's watershed.


Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District
2012 Integrated Report Support Status
Not Supporting
Fully Supporting; Not Assessed
KSSWCD
CoeurdAlene Reservation
Idaho
Spirit Lake
Athol
Bayview
Rathdrum
Hauser
Hayden
Post Falls
Dalton Gardens
State Line
Huetter
Coeur d'Alene Lake
Harrison
Worley
Enaville
Pinehurst
Smelterville
Wardner
Osburn
Murray
Gem
Burke
Wallace
Mullan
10 Miles

Surface Water Quality (See the 2012 Integrated Report Support Status map)

The impaired waters, from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2012 Integrated Report, within the District boundaries are shown in the Support Status map. As can be seen from the map, many of the streams and lakes within the District are impaired. For the detailed lists and information about the specific impaired waters one should see the most current Integrated Report.

Surface waters are inundated with sediment flow during the spring runoff and usually clear up by midsummer unless isolated thunderstorms on unprotected land contribute sediment to the streams. Non-point source sediment/nutrient yield should be reduced as Conservation Compliance plans are implemented.

Recreational use of surface waters has remained constant. Boaters, fishermen, and swimmers are frequently observed in the District taking advantage of various streams, rivers and lakes.

Mining, road construction and maintenance, timber harvesting, recreation, and development impact the Coeur d'Alene River drainage. Heavy metals and water temperature are pollutants of concern. Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Upper Spokane River are also impaired by the heavy metals. The Upper Spokane River has a Total Phosphorus impairment with the tributaries of Coeur d'Alene Lake suspected of nutrient impairment. Several of these tributaries are impaired due to sedimentation/siltation and water temperature. Mica Creek and Hauser Creek are impaired due to Escherichia coli.

Ground Water Quality

The Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer provides groundwater in the Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District. The primary use of ground water is for human and domestic consumption as well as irrigation. Rural residents for a portable water supply use numerous shallow spring development. Animal wastes, fertilizers and pesticides may contaminate some of these springs. Others have low flows during dry years. A better quality and more consistent quantity of water are found in the ground, and it is expected that more wells will be drilled. Over the last several years there has been a rapid growth of housing developments on the Rathdrum Prairie. Several farmers have sold their land to these developers due to difficulties associated with the Crop Residue Burning program. Building on top of the Sole Source Aquifer is a major concern of the District and research needs to be done in order to find out what avenues need to be taken to protect the aquifer.

Most groundwater programs to date have concentrated on point sources, however programs for non-point sources of groundwater contaminants are being implemented at a gradual rate. Extremely limited monitoring has been done for agricultural chemicals in groundwater within Idaho. Data from other states show that field applied chemicals can reach groundwater in significant quantities under certain combinations of factors such as soil permeability, chemical mobility, and water application practices. Studies in Idaho have documented that fertilizer materials leach below the root zone in localized areas throughout the state. The extremely limited groundwater

sampling done for pesticides to date has not revealed levels which pose a public health threat, although these chemicals are being found in groundwater in trace quantities. Clearly, monitoring efforts need to be expanded before this important issue can be adequately addressed.

Impacts on groundwater from infiltration or injection of urban runoff water are poorly investigated in Idaho. However, in the Spokane Valley in Washington, 30% of the total dissolved solids delivered to the aquifer and 60% of the toxic metal loading to the aquifer are estimated to be derived from urban runoff. Improved storm drainage practices are particularly important where population centers are situated over vulnerable aquifers such as the Rathdrum Prairie.

Programs are either under development or being implemented to address many of the problems identified above. Included are programs for underground tanks, septic systems, and land application of wastewater.

Land Uses

Animal Waste Management

At present, within the District there are a total of 5 confined livestock operations, a hog operation and a few small dairy operations. These operations are not located near water sources and are not at this time felt to be a critical resource problem.

Other livestock operations, although not confined, can potentially degrade water quality. There is a public perception that many of these livestock operations, if near water sources, are degrading water quality.

The number of confined operations, as well as the number of livestock in general, has decreased over the past few years. Whether this trend will continue, or reverse itself, is unpredictable. There is a need to be aware of new confined operations and to be sensitive to environmental impacts.

There is a need to evaluate the affect livestock is having on water quality on a case-by-case basis. Efforts to resolve conflicts need to be made, so that productive results will be achieved. Cost-effective BMP's need to be implemented when resource problems are quantified and substantiated.

Cropland

From the 2017 census of agriculture there are about 127,000 acres of farmland with slightly over 65,000 acres of cropland in Kootenai and Shoshone Counties. In Kootenai about 13,800 are irrigated. Dry cropland accounts for 78% of the total acreage or approximately 51,000 acres. Only a small amount of cropland exists in Shoshone County, usually in rotation with pastures or hay land.

Dry Cropland

Dry cropland is found primarily in three areas, Lake Creek Watershed, the Worley area, which is southwest of Lake Coeur d'Alene and the Harrison area, to the southeast of the lake. Soils in these areas consist largely of cut over forest soils and some prairie soils. Winter wheat is the leading cash crop. Barley, peas and grass seed are other major crops. Lentils, oats and hay are also grown. Liberal applications of commercial fertilizers, together with improved varieties and management, have substantially increased average overall yields.

The potential for erosion on these soils is high. Best Management Practices that are effective in reducing erosion include tillage practices such as no-till and reduced tillage. Although not widely used, strip crops and terraces are effective practices also. Reduction or elimination of gully erosion is being accomplished in many areas with use of grassed waterways and installation of gully plugs.

At present, approximately 51,000 acres of dry cropland is an erosion source or has the potential for erosion above recommended or allowable levels. These soils have a potential to erode at over 15 tons per acre per year.

Use of Best Management Practices is becoming more common within the county. No till acres usually exceed 5,000 acres per year. The estimated use of reduced tillage systems are exceeding 30,000 acres per year.

Irrigated Cropland

In 2017 a total of 13,659 acres in Kootenai County were irrigated. In 2017 Shoshone County there were an estimated 264 acres. The irrigated area in Kootenai County is found on the Rathdrum Prairie, north of the city of Post Falls. Wheat, beans, barley, and hay are the leading cash crops. About two-thirds of this cropland is under irrigation.

The soils are from glacial outwash materials. The droughty soil conditions result in very low crop yields unless irrigation is applied.

Because of the flat terrain and porous soils, erosion is not a problem. There is a potential for ground water quality problems. The Rathdrum Prairie lies over the Rathdrum aquifer, which supplies water to Coeur d'Alene and Spokane.

Pressure from urban development coupled with high power cost making farming economically unfeasible has led to farmland being converted to other uses. Several gravel pits have been operating over the prairie as well.

There is a need in the dry cropland areas to continue working with private landowners to increase application of Best Management Practices with an emphasis on structural practices.

There needs to be stricter zoning of productive agricultural land on the Rathdrum Prairie, to control conversion of agricultural land to urban land.

Pasture and Hay Land

The total amount of land in the Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District, which is grazeable, totals approximately 267,700 acres. Land used for grazing or hay production is in the form of pasture, hay land (45,000 ac.) and grazeable woodland (222,700 ac.) There is no rangeland by definition in the District.

Potential production for non-irrigated, well-managed hay land ranges from 1 ton per acre up to 4 tons per acre depending on the type of soil. The number of AUM's for pastureland ranges from 1.0 AUM to 10 AUM's. Under favorable conditions, woodland under story can produce 3,500 lbs. of production of dry weight. Less productive soils may only produce 250 lbs. Of the 267,700 acres, only approximately 100,000 acres has reached its potential production and can be considered adequately treated.

Most of these acres are not eroding above acceptable levels. Only areas disturbed or overgrazed and devoid of vegetation have potential to erode. Present erosion rates on established fields are less than 2 tons/ac./yr.

Problems occurring are lack of management including low fertilization, overgrazing, and seeding species, which are not the most, adapted to the site. These keep production from reaching their potential. Weed infestation is a continuing problem. Tansy has been a continuing problem, especially in the Coeur d'Alene River watershed. Tansy and other weeds seeds are yearly washed down the river system. Hawkweed, Knapweed, and other invasive non-native species are threatening and can take over the pasture/hay land. Urban development has exerted pressure on the grazing lands. The open grazing law has led to conflicts between homeowners and the cattle industry.

Pasture, hay land and grazeable woodland are used for livestock production. Any type of permanent cover such as grass vegetation has a benefit of erosion control. If the resource is effectively managed, it will result in improved water quality.

There is a cattle population in 2017 of approximately 5,821 head, 5,561 in Kootenai, and 260 in Shoshone. This is a decrease over past years. There were approximately 9,342 head of cattle 20 years ago.

Improved management, including use of fertilizer program is needed. Approximately 120,000 acres need improved management. More information is needed from private landowners as to what species, type of fertilization used, and overall management. Information on alternative fertilizers is available through the U of I Extension service as well as the Idaho Dept. of Agriculture.

There is a continuing need to address weed problems. Cooperation and input w/weed Supervisor and County Weed Board is needed. Shoshone County needs an effective weed control program. This is especially important with the intermixed Federal and private land.

Woodland

Within the Soil and Water Conservation District borders, there are significant acres of forestland. Total private timber in the District is approximately 500,000 acres. Of this approximately 150,000 acres is industrial. Federal land totals 880,000 acres. The majority of which is timber.

Types of species present and percentages are:

Grand Fir	20%
Douglas Fir	16%
Hemlock	15%
Ponderosa Pine	14%
Cedar	12%
White Pine	10%
Western Larch	5%
Lodge pole Pine	3%
High Elevation (Sub Alpine Fir, Mountain Hemlock, Engleman Spruce)	5%

In general, erosion rates remain less than 2/tons/ac/year on forested land if undisturbed. Logging roads and skid trails are the primary source of erosion. Approximately 150,000 acres of private woodland is being adequately treated.

Problems include lack of proper woodland management, improper road layout, insect and disease infestation, lack of pulpwood outlets, absentee landowners, and private industrial timber liquidating their woodland and poor harvesting practices.

Poor woodland management affects productivity of the resource. Erosion has an adverse impact on water quality. Heavy logging can affect water supply and delivery.

Woodland is a valuable resource in North Idaho. The forestry industry supplies jobs and building materials. Woodland provides wildlife habitat and indirectly provides recreation.

The knowledge level of the private forestland owner needs to be increased through an Information and Education Program. An assessment of private wood landowners' needs is warranted.

Fish and Wildlife

Wildlife and Fish are a valuable resource in the District. Kootenai and Shoshone Counties support a variety of game and non-game fish and wildlife populations.

Big game consists of elk, white—tailed deer, mule deer, black bear and moose. Elk is the dominant big game species in Shoshone County. A variety of upland game bird species are present, including three species of forest grouse (Ruffed, Blue and Spruce). Furbearers such as otter, mink, beaver and muskrat live in and around creeks and streams.

Significant numbers of waterfowl move through Kootenai County during spring and fall migration. The Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area attracts thousands of birds as do adjacent lands along the entire lower Coeur d'Alene River valley. Many species of waterfowl are found, but especially, Canada goose, mallard and wood duck. Non-game birds are found a long

the Spokane River, Coeur d'Alene River, all lakes and wetlands. These include osprey and Great Blue Heron.

A significant number of bald eagles' winter along the shores of Coeur d'Alene Lake. Turkeys have been released in the following drainages: Wolf Lodge Creek, Blue Creek, Fernan Creek, Latour Creek, Hardy Gulch. Flocks have existed along the Coeur d'Alene River and Lake to East Point, also on the west side of the lake from Loffs Bay to Mica Bay.

Loss of habitat is the most significant problem faced in protecting and managing the wildlife resource.

There are 359 miles of streams in Kootenai County and 978 miles in Shoshone County. There are 16 lowland lakes and numerous high elevation lakes. Native game fish in the District include west slope cutthroat trout, bull trout and mountain whitefish. The Coeur d' Alene River contains populations of resident and lake run cutthroat trout. Historically the Coeur d'Alene River is regarded as among the finest trout streams in the inland Northwest.

Introduced game species include rainbow trout, kokanee salmon, brook trout, brown trout, Chinook salmon, largemouth bass, sunfish, perch, crappie, bullhead, channel catfish, tiger muskie and northern pike.

Northern pike have become well established throughout the Coeur d'Alene Lake system including the lower chain lakes. Densities appear to be exceptionally low and growth is excellent. Fishing pressure is contributing to low population densities, at least in the lateral lakes.

Kokanee salmon have become the dominant species in Coeur d'Alene Lake and the single most sought-after game fish in the region. Prior to 1982, kokanee numbers exceeded the carrying capacity and the size of the fish became unacceptable. Fall Chinook salmon were introduced in 1982 to control kokanee salmon and have created an extremely popular sport fishery.

Mining, logging, forest development, highway construction, urban development and other land use impacts have taken a major toll on the fisheries. Heavy metal pollution, stream channelization, sedimentation and migration blocks have had an especially severe impact on cutthroat trout.

Fishing and hunting contribute greatly to the economy of Kootenai and Shoshone Counties. Sale of license and associated spending generates a great deal of money to the local economy. The variety of fish and game found add greatly to the recreational opportunities and aesthetics of the area and is an indicator of the relative health of the environment.

There will continue to be increased pressure on hunting on private land. Landowners should be made aware of the need to develop conservation plans that include wildlife needs. There is a need for more information and education on wildlife management options for the private landowner.

There are in some locations at times an over-supply of one type of wildlife leading to problems such as depredation on the part of elk and deer to flooding problems caused by too many beavers. Animal numbers need to be managed.

The heavy metal pollution in the Coeur d'Alene River System has led to waterfowl deaths. Solutions to this problem are needed.

Water quality needs to be improved in some streams and lakes. Land use impacts need to be reduced.

Recreation

Kootenai and Shoshone Counties have an abundance of available and potential recreation areas. Over 16 low elevation lakes, numerous high elevation lakes and over 1,300 miles of rivers and streams provide ample opportunities for fishing and water sports. Over 750,000 acres of public land, namely Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management provide access to hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and other popular outdoor activities, including winter sports such as snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

There are two state parks within the District, Farragut, and Old Mission. The Centennial Trail, stretching from the Washington state line to the north end of Lake Coeur d'Alene has been completed and is used by a variety of outdoor enthusiasts including the IRONMAN triathletes. The EPA, CDA Tribe, and Idaho Parks and Recreation have collaborated efforts and converted portions of the Union Pacific Railroad rail-line into recreation trails along sections of the CDA River.

There is a demand for recreation and use of recreational facilities in Kootenai and Shoshone Counties. Over 1/2 million people live within a 45-minute drive of Kootenai County. An indication of heavy use of recreation facilities is the fact that in 1989, day use of the two state parks was 340,460 visitors, and an additional 55,466 camped. A lack of access to Lake Coeur d'Alene is due to limited public land or poor access to the public land. Several boat launch facilities lack adequate parking.

There is a need for carefully planned and developed recreation facilities that do not negatively impact the environment. Boating sanitation has been and continues to be a recreation problem that affects water quality. Legislation or County ordinances need to be enforced to address this issue as well as education to the public.

Boating activity (boat wakes) has added to the erosion problem in some areas such as the lower Coeur d'Alene River. There are numerous stabilization projects installed, however regulation of boat activity needs to be addressed.

Riparian / Wetlands

Wetlands and riparian areas are generally recognized as especially important natural resources, which serve several valuable functions. Wetlands help with flood control by providing storage for excess water. Water quality benefits can be achieved through filtering of sediment.
Wetlands serve as wildlife habitat. Wetlands also provide water storage and release and aquifer recharge. Riparian areas serve the same functions as well as controlling stream bank erosion and providing forage.

Kootenai and Shoshone Counties have several thousand acres of wetlands and riparian areas associated with its lakes and watercourses. There has not been a thorough quantification of the total acres, or evaluation of conditions of wetlands and riparian areas.

The Fish and Wildlife Service completed a National Wetlands Inventory in 1987 with coverage of most of Kootenai and Shoshone Counties. The Soil Conservation Service used that inventory as well as other methods to make wetland determinations on individual farms as required by the Food Security Act.

Wetlands are generally located near larger water sources. One such area is along the lower Coeur d' Alene River. Over 6,000 acres of primarily wetlands is party of the Idaho Fish and Game Wildlife Management Area. Wetlands can also occur in areas removed from larger water bodies and in fact are found in scattered locations throughout the District. An estimate of total acres of wetland and riparian areas would be between 15,000 and 20,000 acres.

The conditions of wetlands and riparian areas are generally good except in some specific locations that have been altered or overused. An example is the south fork of the Coeur d' Alene River, which due to mining activity does not have a desirable riparian area.

Riparian areas can remain in good condition and provide livestock forage if managed properly. Conflicts have developed when grazing of riparian areas has led to water quality problems.

There are several laws and regulations governing the use of wetlands. These regulations have caused conflicts with landowners concerning what they can do on private land.

There is a need to quantify the number of wetlands and riparian areas and evaluate conditions. There is a need for public information and education concerning function of wetlands and riparian areas and regulations governing their use.

Specific areas are perceived to have critical problems such as over grazing of riparian areas, need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if there is in fact a resource problem.

Shoreline

Kootenai County is known for its beautiful lakes. Lake Coeur d'Alene, Hayden Lake and Lake Pend Oreille, the smaller lakes of the county are major attractions to residents and visitors. Over 1300 miles of rivers and streams add to the over 100 miles of lake shoreline within the KSSWCD.

There is tremendous pressure for development and recreational use of shorelines. Because of their proximity to lakes and streams, land uses of shorelines can have a major impact on lake/stream water quality. Problems associated with shoreline construction include replacing natural vegetation with a fertilized lawn extending to the lake, dumping sand and gravel for swimming beaches along the shoreline, burning of leaves and campfires directly adjacent to lakes, and destruction of

wetlands. These common practices contribute sediment and phosphorous to lakes in addition to destroying fish and wildlife habitat.

The amount of recreation and development pressure along shorelines has a major impact on lake/stream water quality.

There is a need for erosion control during and after lake front construction and road construction. There is a need for a shoreline buffer zone.

Planning and zoning enforcement of regulations is needed in order to determine where development can be allowed without impacting the environment.

Assistance to lakeshore homeowners needs to be provided to assess management options around the home to reduce impacts to ground and surface water.

Urban

Kootenai County is experiencing rapid urban growth. The county population is in excess of 165,000 people. The largest cities are Coeur d'Alene, Hayden and Post Falls, Coeur d'Alene's population is approximately 51,303. The county estimates for population increase projects a tremendous growth for the county.

Shoshone County is not experiencing the same urban development or population growth. The biggest cause of this is the depressed economy over the past 20 years centered on mining and logging. As Shoshone County develops tourism, the population should begin to grow again.

Urban development in Kootenai County is mainly in three areas of the county, other than within city limits. The first area is between Spokane, Washington and Post Falls. This area is the southern edge of the Rathdrum Prairie.

A second area of development is on the Rathdrum Prairie itself. This area is primarily agriculture land at present. Much of the agricultural land is prime farmland if irrigated. The land is flat and has few limitations for building site development. There are primarily two concerns related to building on the Rathdrum Prairie. The first is what affect development may have on water quality of the Rathdrum aquifer. The other concern is loss of agricultural land and the livelihood of farmers.

A third area of the county experiencing urban type growth is around the numerous lakes. The recreation opportunities make these lakes attractive for seasonal and year-round homes. Many of the lakes have had homes built around them years ago. Some of these do not have adequate septic systems. Other areas are currently experiencing rapid development such as Hayden Lake.

Concerns include water quality impacts to the lakes from erosion and other man induced causes. Also, of concern is exceeding the carrying capacity of the lakes with over development. There is an obvious, critical need for wise urban development. Strict controls are needed regarding use of septic systems, especially over the aquifer and near water bodies.

Section III Identification and Prioritization of District's Resource Goals and Objectives

The District resource objectives given are those that have been identified and used in the recent annual work plans.

Agriculture and Cropland

-Maintain a viable and sustainable agricultural economy within the District.
-Promote BMP and conservation uses on farm and pasture (grazing) lands within the District.

Woodland, Forestry, and Silviculture

-Ensure healthy, productive woodlands within Kootenai and Shoshone Counties.
-Maintain and enhance a viable and sustainable forest economy and ecology.
-Assist producers with woodland planning and implementation of forest land BMPs.

Water Resources

-Protect and prevent further water quality degradation and improve current conditions

Water Quality – TMDL -- Surface Water

-Improve stream, river and lake quality in 303(d)-listed streams and others.
-Continue progress on restoring beneficial uses per 1972 Clean Water Act.
-Maintain and enhance water quality conditions.

Water Quality -- Groundwater

-Protect the Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley Aquifer
-Protect and prevent further water quality degradation and improve current conditions.

District Operations

-Effectively implement conservation practices on the ground with cost-share incentives.
-Promote better communication about the district and increase operational efficiency in the implementation in order to provide conservation resources to future generations.

Information, Education and Outreach

-Provide education and information to the general public, students, and partnership organizations, to promote the conservation and wise use of natural resources in the District.
-Promote efforts to enhance the local communities understanding of ecological systems, the social systems directly dependent upon these natural systems, and the political and organizational systems developed for the management of natural resources within the District.
- Provide and promote education and information with the ever-growing population, sprawl and suburbanization of both Kootenai and Shoshone county.

Priority of Objectives

The priority of objectives is reviewed and presented in the annual work plans. The objectives are discussed as local resource concerns and high priority areas for assistance at the Local Work Group meetings that Idaho NRCS uses for the EQIP program.

Section IV Conservation Projects and Activities and Prioritization

Agriculture and Cropland

-Maintain a viable and sustainable agricultural economy within the District

Offer program and technical assistance to producers within the District.
Promote EQIP and WQPA programs, as appropriate.
Promote irrigation management and practices for more efficient water usage to reduce quantities used and water quality impacts, and to reduce energy use and costs.
Promote soil pH adjustment to protect and enhance productivity.
Work with partners to provide a plan and secure funding to address soil PH.
Continue to work with NRCS Soils to assess soil condition on the Rathdrum Prairie.

-Promote BMP and conservation uses on farm and pasture (grazing) lands within the District

Promote and work with willing landowners to improve grazing practices and to implement BMPs to improve stream and watershed conditions.
Investigate additional opportunities for ranchers to partner with BLM, USFS, and individual landowners to improve and/or develop grazing opportunities.
Conduct reviews and surveys of the conservation plans and conditions on CRP lands and past project areas and provide reports of what has worked and if needed additional recommend treatments.
Spend more time looking at farms, fields and pasture lands to identify problem areas.
Coordinate and work with County Noxious Weed Departments and Inland Empire Cooperative Weed Management Area (IECWMA) for District-wide planning, implementation, and funding.

Woodland, Forestry, and Silviculture

-Ensure healthy, productive woodlands within Kootenai and Shoshone Counties

Work with agencies and community groups in identifying and addressing silvicultural and forest health issues and concerns.
Work with and assist landowners, community groups and agencies on promoting responsible recreation and recreational vehicle activities to protect stream and watershed conditions.
Investigate additional opportunities for ranchers to partner with BLM, USFS, and individual landowners to improve and/or develop grazing opportunities.
Work with partners to thin forests within the I-90 corridor.
Work with partners to find an economical use for forest biomass, specifically an energy-producing use.
Participate in meetings and discussions with the Shoshone County Forest Collaborative and Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation.

-Maintain and enhance a viable and sustainable forest economy and ecology.

-Promote and assist landowners to improve stream bank and stream conditions by assisting in development and implementation of conservation and watershed projects.

-Assist producers with woodland planning and implementation of forest land BMPs

- Continue annual tree seedling sales program efforts with The Pan Handle Seedling Program. Participate with PSP/Division 1 forestry committee,

-Work with agency partners to develop forest conservation plans and EQIP contracts with willing landowners.

-Work with and assist Idaho Department of Lands in developing and implementing the State Forest Resource Strategy to identify approaches for management, conservation, protection and enhancement of forest resources.

Water Resources

-Protect and prevent further water quality degradation and improve current conditions

-Work with agency partners and landowners to identify water quality issues and assist voluntary landowners seeking funding and technical assistance to address erosion, sedimentation, nutrient, and other water quality issues.

-Implement Best Management Practices whenever possible using WQPA and other incentive programs.

Water Quality – TMDL – Surface Water

-Improve stream, river and lake quality in 303(d)-listed streams and others
-Continue progress on restoring beneficial uses per 1972 Clean Water Act

Work with voluntary landowners seeking funding and technical assistance to address erosion, sedimentation, nutrient, and other water quality issues.

Implement Best Management Practices whenever possible using WQPA and other incentive programs.

Continue to seek, plan and implement conservation and BMP projects including the ongoing Mica, Beaver, Wolf Lodge, and Fish Creeks, and Coeur d'Alene River projects.

Work with local landowners and groups to seek, plan and implement projects for conservation and flood protection. Focus on watersheds with projects planned or in progress.

Coordinate and participate with IDEQ for developing and implementing TMDLs for watersheds within the District. Also, assist Washington State TMDLs that might affect watersheds within the District.

Actively participate in local basin and watershed advisory groups organized through the

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ).

Coordinate efforts with Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC) and their Technical Leadership Group and Project Focus Teams.

Coordinate with IDEQ and the Tribe in implementing the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan.

Coordinate and cooperate with agency partners on Lower Basin Monitoring.

Monitor riverbank stabilization on Idaho Dept of Fish and Game (IDFG) property at Medimont.

-Protect and prevent further water quality degradation and improve current conditions

Coordinate and work with IDEQ on the Upper Spokane River (lakes and streams located on or draining to the Rathdrum Prairie) Sub basin Assessment and TMDL efforts.

Work with Panhandle Health District to support the Storm Water Erosion Education Program (SEEP).

Water Quality – Groundwater

-Protect the Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley Aquifer

Cooperate with Aquifer Protection Board and other partners to install fuel/oil/chemical traps on farms.

Coordinate and work with Rathdrum Prairie CAMP Advisory Committee on their recommended Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to assist in implementation of protection measures.

Coordinate and work with IDEQ on the Upper Spokane River (lakes and streams located on or draining to the Rathdrum Prairie) Sub-basin Assessment and TMDL efforts

Promote irrigation management and practices for more efficient water usage to reduce quantities used and water quality impacts, and to reduce energy use and costs.

-Protect and prevent further water quality degradation and improve current conditions.

Work with agency partners and landowners to identify water quality issues and assist voluntary landowners seeking funding and technical assistance to address erosion, sedimentation, nutrient, and other water quality issues.

District Operations

-Effectively implement conservation practices on the ground with cost-share incentives

Work with existing partners, e.g., NRCS, ISWCC as much as possible within the limitations of administering district business.

Participate in local, regional, state, tribal and federal intergovernmental processes that address issues relevant to the District's mission, goals and objectives.

Contact and work with potential and known funding sources and cultivate new funding sources whenever possible for conservation projects and district operations.

-Promote better communication about the district and increase operational efficiency in the implementation in order to provide conservation resources to future generations

Hold monthly District Board meetings on the second Wednesday that are easily accessible to the public.

Training of new district supervisors to learn the responsibilities, procedures, and resources of the District. Participate in Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission's (ISWCC) district capacity training for district supervisors.

Update the District's 5 Year and Annual Plans with workgroup and scoping sessions with our partners and public meetings to better identify the needs and priorities within the district.

Complete required daily administrative duties, e.g., minutes, budgets, reports, status reviews, ISWCC responses in a timely fashion.

Maintain a professional accounting system to effectively manage District funds.

Maintain computer system, software and hardware necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of District programs.

Maintain a central District filing system. This filing system will include historical and current information.

Create a summer internship position for a local student to assist with district operations (when funding allows)

Manage and facilitate the daily operations of the four (4) boat inspection stations in Northern Idaho to control the contamination of invasive species from our pristine freshwater lakes.

Information, Education and Outreach

-Provide education and information to the general public, students, and partnership organizations, to promote the conservation and wise use of natural resources in the District.

-Provide education and information with the ever-growing population, sprawl and suburbanization of both Kootenai and Shoshone county.

Develop and expand the community outreach to promote the District with improved website and informational materials (pamphlets, newsletters, newspaper articles, etc.)

Provide information and technical assistance to small and large acreage landowners and urban residents regarding water quality, wildlife, plant materials, water conservation, etc

Host field trips on local forest owner properties, with the assistance of other agencies, focused on hands-on learning of water quality, forest stewardship, soil conservation, etc.

-Promote efforts to enhance the local communities understanding of ecological systems, the social systems directly dependent upon these natural systems, and the political and organizational systems developed for the management of natural resources within the District.

Upon invitation, participate in community forums to discuss natural resource management programs within the District.

Organize community service projects (examples: stream clean-up, riparian and forest plantings, wetland restoration, construct an educational nature trail, etc.)

Participate in the Idaho State Foresters Competition annually

Sponsor students for the Natural Resources Camp.

Sponsor the annual speech and poster contest with area schools in coordination with IASCD.

Sponsor teams consisting of local high school students in the national Envirothon.

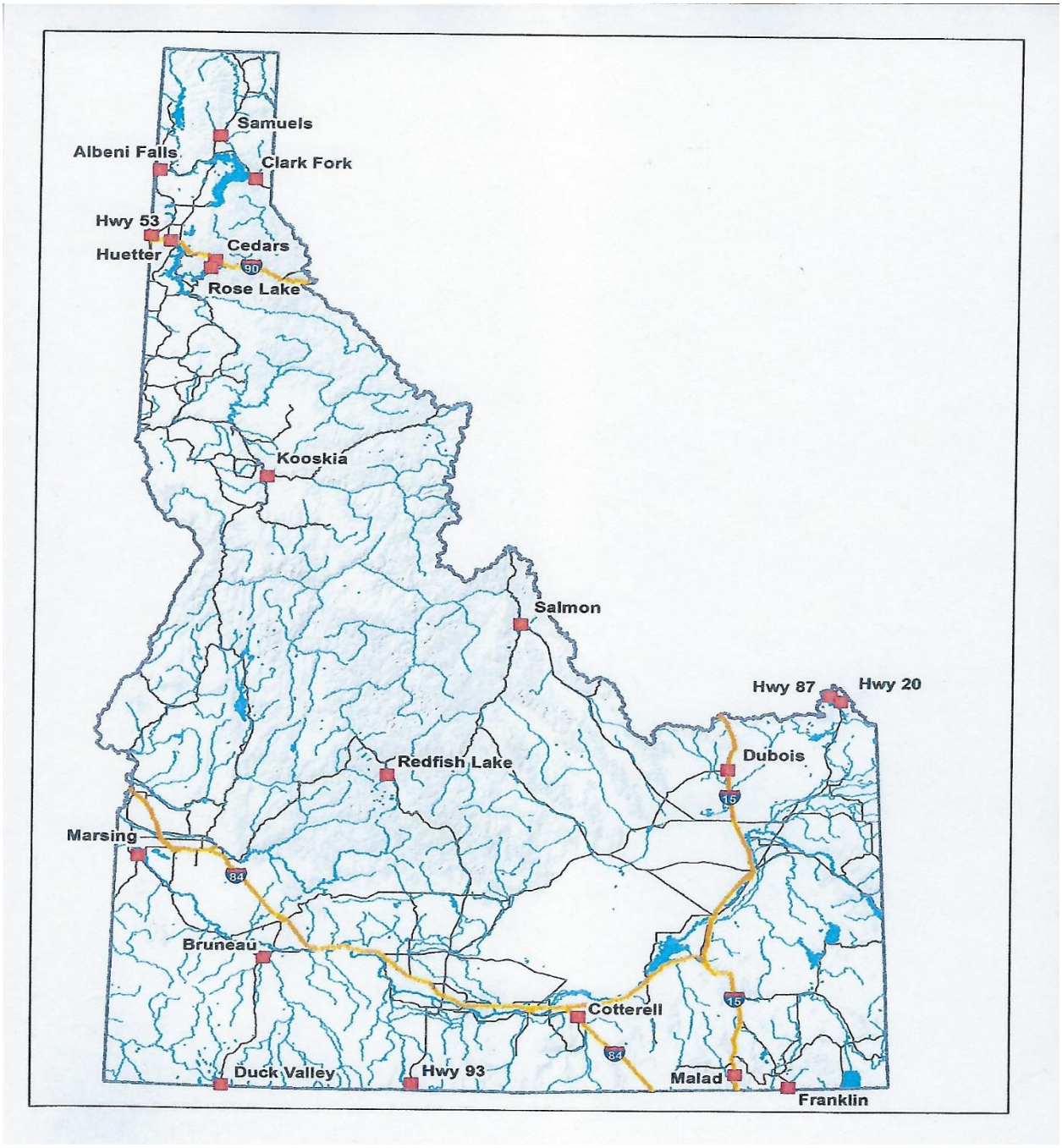
Priority of Activities

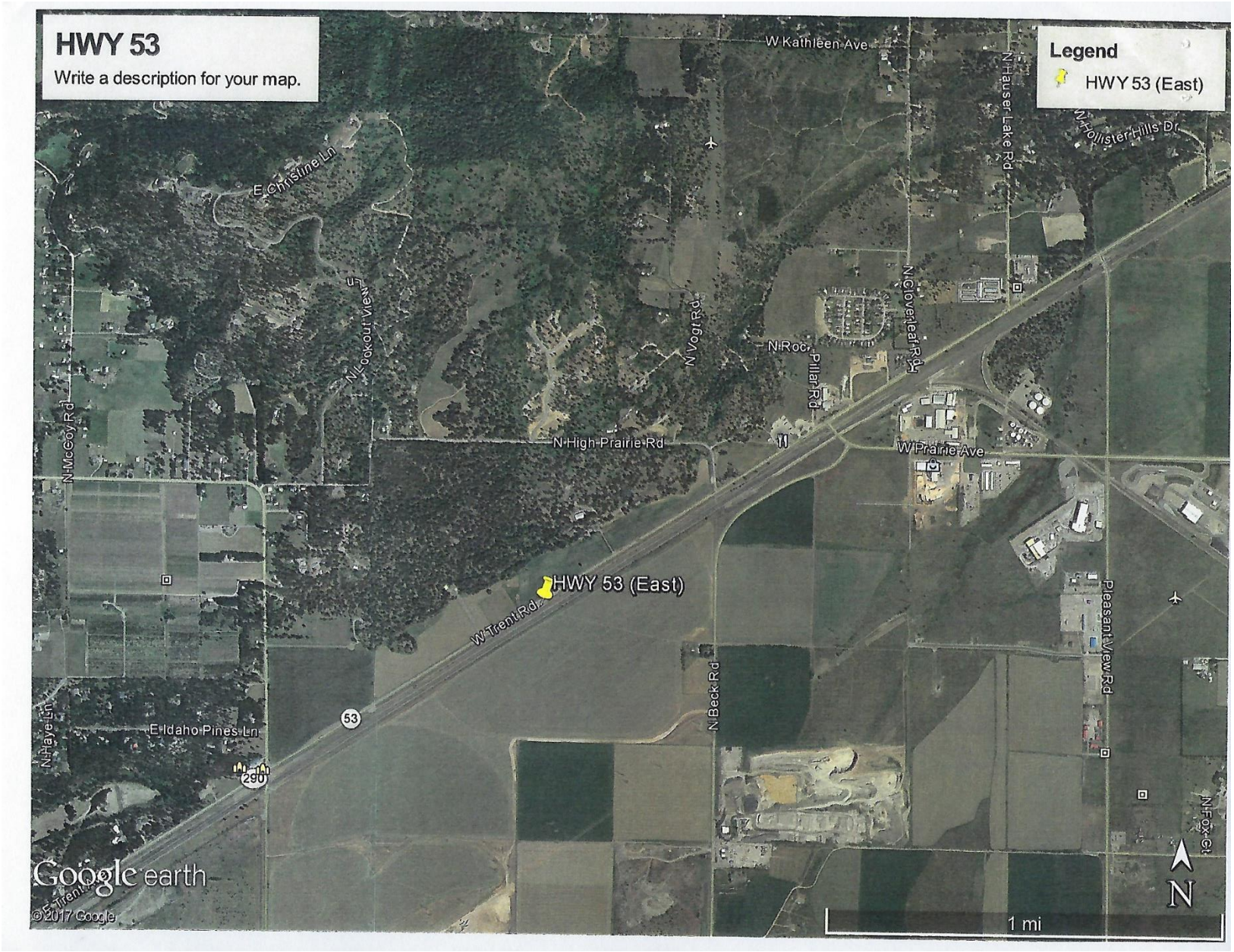
The priority of objectives and activities will be reviewed and presented in the annual work plans. The District uses the Local Work Group meetings that Idaho NRCS uses for the EQIP program as a forum to discuss the local resource concerns and high priority areas for assistance.

Section V. Watercraft Inspection Stations

Kootenai Shoshone District is responsible for four (4) boat inspection stations within northern Idaho. They are: Highway 53 inspection station at Highway 53, the Huetter inspection station located on Interstate 90, the Cedars inspection station, located on Interstate 90, and the Rose Lake inspection station located on state highway.

The district will inspect all watercraft and conveyances that enter the State of Idaho for the presence of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), especially quagga and zebra mussels.

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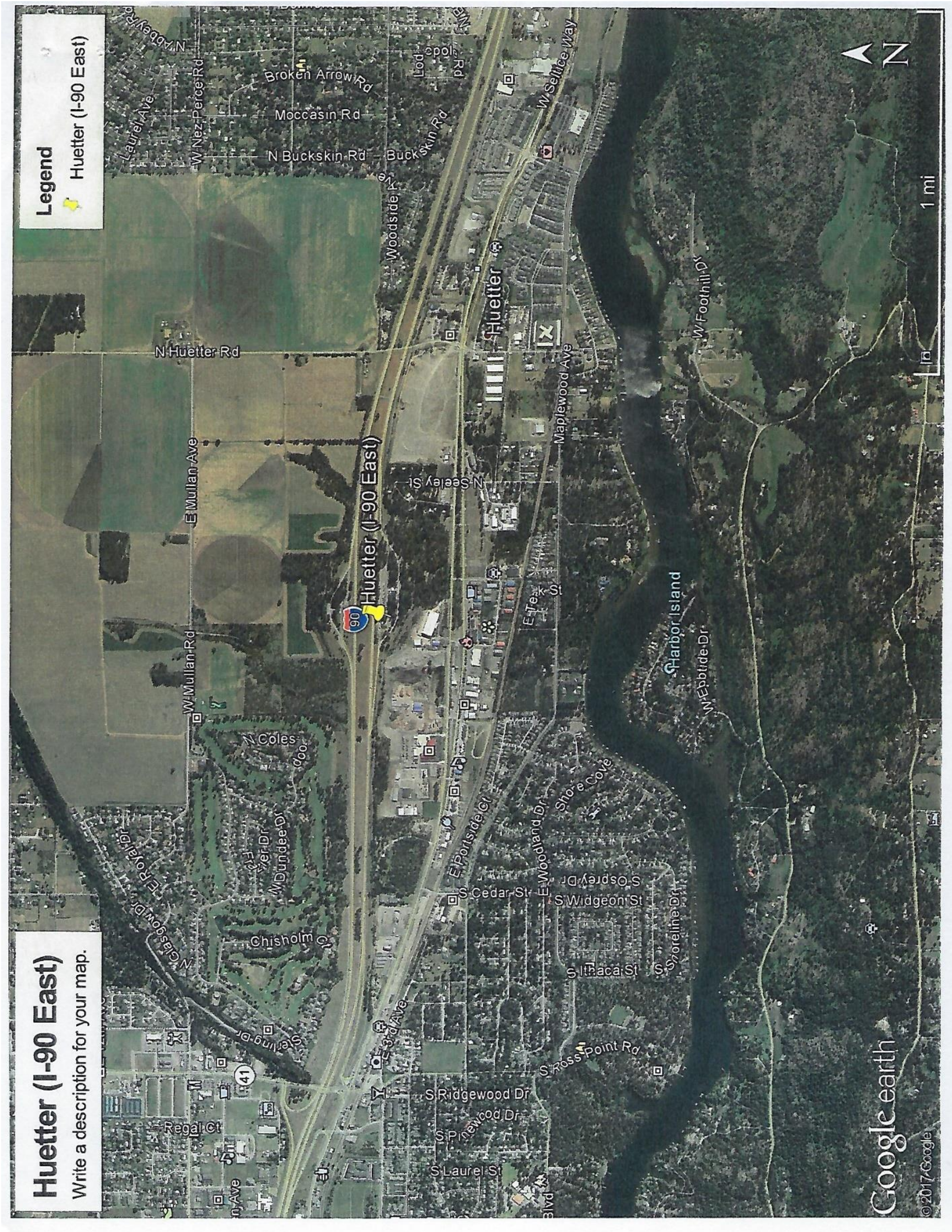

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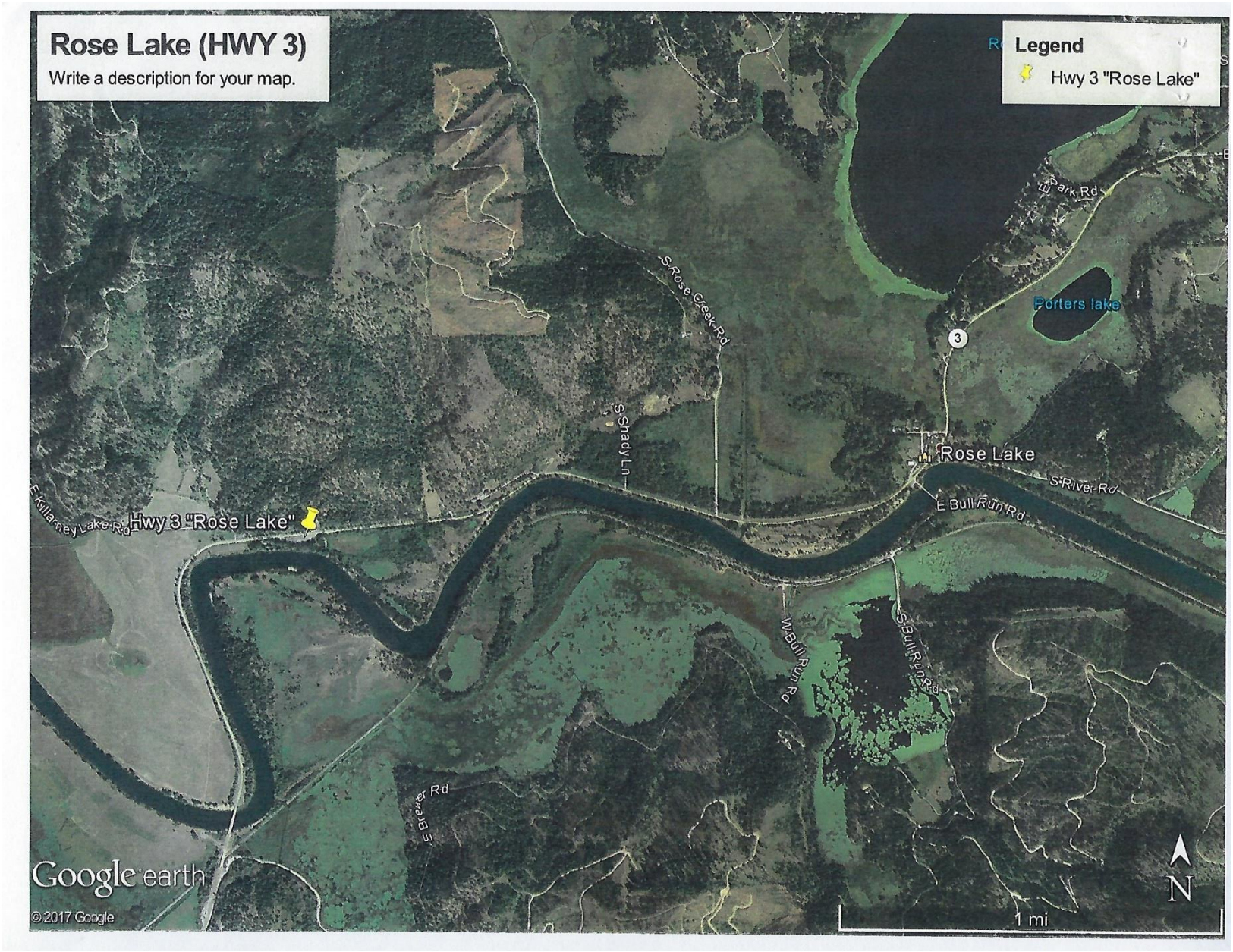
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Impoundment and Decontamination.

If the District detects quagga or zebra mussels during an inspection, the District will contact local law enforcement and ISDA simultaneously to request impoundment under the terms of the Invasive Species Inspection Protocol.

Reporting.

The District will be responsible for ensuring that all records of the inspection(s) performed are properly and accurately entered the hand-held digital data collection device, which ISDA will provide.

When a suspect fouled watercraft is intercepted by The District at an inspection station, station staff will complete both digital and hard copy inspection forms. The District will provide one (1) paper copy of the Inspection Certificate to the watercraft or conveyance owner or operator, one (1) paper copy to ISDA for its records and will provide one (1) paper copy to law enforcement if the watercraft or conveyance is impounded.

The District will transmit the Inspection Log to ISDA via digital data collection device at the end of each workday.

Hours of Operation.

The Inspection Stations will have hours of operation of March 6, 2023, and will remain open through October 31, 2023. TheInspection Stations will each operate according to the following schedule:

Cedars Station – March 6, 2023, to October 31, 2023, from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 midnight

Rose Lake Station – March 6, 2023, to September 30, 2023, all daylight hours

Huetter Station – May 8, 2023, to September 30, 2023, all daylight hours

Highway 53 Station – May 8, 2023, to September 30, 2023, all daylight hours

All stations will operate seven (7) days per week and have two (2) paid training days per station prior to the first day of operation.

Idaho watercraft inspection protocols

Standard Watercraft Inspection Protocol

- Direct boats to inspection site and initiate contact – The importance of education cannot be overemphasized. Not every highway, reservoir or lake in Idaho will be able to put inspections in place, so it is essential to show boaters how to inspect their own boats and explain why we are doing this. We need to impress on the boater how mussels damage boats, gear, fisheries, and water infrastructure. Provide brochures or other information. We need to share the primary education message, CLEAN/DRAIN/DRY, and explain why it is important to always show up with their watercraft and gear clean, drained, and dry. Emphasize to boaters that they will need to empty all their water (bilge, ballast, live well and bait well) from their boat between waters.

-Ensure personal and public safety – Inspection points should be designed to handle a lot of traffic and should have clear signs and unambiguous lane designations.

- Determine risk factors- Inspection stations will need to look at a lot of boats quickly and determine if there is a high risk. You will be able to move low risk watercraft through an inspection quickly. Situations that pose higher risk include watercrafts that have been in impacted states recently (usually within the last 30 days), watercraft coming in from another state, watercraft that show a lot of dirt, grime or slime below the clear water line or watercraft that have standing water on board.

- Rapid exterior inspection – Look the boat over and feel the hull. You should be able to feel ridges, seams, and recessed bolts of the watercraft. The young mussels may feel like bumps or sandpaper. Check the rear of the boat, including intakes, upper and lower motor areas, and the propeller. Trailers can pose a high risk as well, so be sure the trailer is checked around trailer lights, rails, electrical wire and the license plate.

-Ensure the watercraft is drained – You will need to remove the bilge plug to show that the watercraft is drained. The bait and live wells are checked as well. Determine the risk of any standing water still present and determine if a high-risk inspection is necessary or if the boat has been drained sufficiently and presents low risk.

- Close out -After inspection of the boat, stamp the watercraft inspection passport and return it to the boat owner.

High Risk Inspection Protocol

Any boat identified as a high risk during the standard inspection should go through the high-risk inspection.

- Risk factors are
    - The watercraft has been in a contaminated state in the last 30 days.
    - The watercraft is dirty, crusty, slimy, and has weeds on it below the water line.
    - The watercraft is large and complex with many attachments or tanks and from out of state
    - The watercraft has standing water present.

- High risk inspection – A high risk inspection is incredibly involved and an intense inspection of the exterior and the interior parts, the trailer, and any equipment or gear such as ropes or anchors. The time it will take to complete a high-risk inspection may vary greatly, depending on the type, size and complexity of the watercraft and could range from 10 minutes to 30 minutes or more. Once completed the inspector will complete the high-risk inspection form and provide documentation for a hot wash or impound procedure. If sandpapery bumps, plant material or gelatinous masses are found then a hot wash is then required. Should mussels be found on the watercraft then the watercraft must be impounded.

Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District

For More information Contact: District Administrator
208-209-4348

Mission of the Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District (District): To restore the Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District as a leading partner with other government agencies, private landowners and users, and the public in promoting voluntary, non-regulatory, locally led conservation and wise stewardship of the natural resources with which our area has been so richly blessed.

Vision of the Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District: A Board and staff of dedicated stewards of natural resources committed to leading the way by example, promoting and participating in the conservation programs sponsored by this District and its partners.

Marketing Strategy: The District will be an active voice in the conservation of natural resources. We will promote the image of the District as a responsible, conservation resource.

FY2023 (7/01/2023 – 6/30/2024) Annual Plan of Work
Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Number 1: Cropland

Goal(s): Promote BMP and conservation uses on crop and grazing lands

Objective: Maintain and enhance a viable and sustainable agricultural economy.

Actions	Target Date	lndividual(s) Responsible
Work with partners to provide a plan and secure funding to address soil pH	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff
Promote partner programs, as appropriate in working with EQIP, WQPA, 319 Grant just to name a few	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff
Offer program and technical assistance to producers	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff Partner Staff
Conduct reviews and surveys of the conservation plans and conditions on CRP lands and past project areas; provide reports of what has worked and if additional treatments are needed	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff
Work with partners to provide technical assistance in an urban environment for the use of sustainable practices of farm to table.	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff
Develop a no-till drill program to include the purchase of drill	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff
Promote and educate on open space, and the aquifer.	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff Partner Staff

FY2023 (7/01/2023 – 6/30/2024) Annual Plan of Work
Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Number 2: Woodland, Forestry, and Silviculture

Goal(s): Ensure healthy, productive woodlands within Kootenai and Shoshone Counties

Objective: Maintain and enhance a viable and sustainable forest economy and ecology.

Actions	Target Date	lndividual (s)
Continue annual tree seedling sales program efforts with Panhandle Seedling Program (PSP).	Annual& Bimonthly	Supervisors and Staff
Work with partners to thin forests within the I-90 corridor with WUI programs	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff
Work with partners to find an economical use for forest biomass, specifically an energy-producing use	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Work with agencies and community groups to identify and address silvicultural and forest health issues and concerns	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Promote and assist landowners to improve stream bank and stream conditions by assisting in development and implementation of conservation and watershed projects	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Promote and work with willing landowners to improve grazing practices and to implement BMPs to improve stream and watershed conditions	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Investigate additional opportunities for ranchers to partner with BLM, USFS, and individual landowners to improve and/or develop grazing opportunities	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners

FY2023 (7/01/2023 – 6/30/2024) Annual Plan of Work
Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Number 3: Surface Water Quality/TMDL

Goal(s): Improve water quality, especially in 303(d)-listed streams

Objective: Maintain and enhance water quality conditions.

Actions	Target Date	lndividual(s) Responsible
Provide assistance and support to Kingston-Cataldo Sewer District to the greatest extent possible, in whatever capacity KCSD needs in order to effect successful implementation of their improvements to wastewater treatment, toward the goal of eliminating a significant discharge to the Coeur d'Alene River and Lake Coeur d'Alene.	2022-2024	Supervisors and Staff, Conservation Partners
Continue to seek, plan and implement conservation and BMP projects. Focus on watersheds with projects planned or in progress	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Work with voluntary landowners seeking funding and technical assistance to address erosion, sedimentation, nutrient and other water quality issues	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Implement Best Management Practices (BMP)whenever possible using incentive programs	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Actively participate in local basin and watershed advisory groups organized through the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ)	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff
Coordinate and participate with IDEQ for developing and implementing TMDLs for watersheds within the District. Also assist Washington State TMDLs that might affect watersheds within the District	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Coordinate efforts with Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC) and their Technical Leadership Group and Project Focus Teams	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff
Coordinate with IDEQ in implementing the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Coordinate and cooperate with agency partners on Lower Basin Monitoring	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff

Conservation District Priority Number 4: Ground Water Quality

Goal(s): Protect the Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley Aquifer

Objective: Protect and prevent further water quality degradation and improve current conditions.

Actions	Target Date	lndividual(s) Responsible
Coordinate and work with Rathdrum Prairie CAMP Advisory Committee on their recommended Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan to assist in implementation. of protection measures.	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Promote irrigation management and practices for more efficient water usage to reduce quantities used and water quality impacts, and to reduce energy use and costs.	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Coordinate and work with IDEQ on the Upper Spokane River (lakes and streams located on or draining to the Rathdrum Prairie) Sub-basin Assessment and TMDL efforts	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners

Conservation District Priority Number 5: Watercraft Inspection Stations

Goal(s): Prevention, Early Detection Monitoring, Education for watercraft owners and Outreach.

Objective: To inspect all watercraft entering Northern Idaho for invasive species as to not contaminate our freshwater lakes with mussels or any other contaminates.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Manage four (4) boat stations throughout Northern Idaho and conduct inspections on all watercraft coming into the state.	March – October	Supervisors, Staff and Inspectors
The District will employ a boat station manager to directly oversee daily operations at each boat station	Continuous	Supervisors,District Administrator
The boat station manager will manage daily operations of each boat station, hiring and training of new employees.	March - October	Boat Station Manager
The boat station manager will attend monthly meetings as requested, held by the District for new updates, policies or procedures as well as a final report at the end of the season to highlight boat station accomplishments.	Ongoing	Supervisors, Staff, Boat Manager
The District and the boat station Manager will work together to implement the safest procedures for employees and watercraft owners.	Continuous	Supervisors, Boat Station Manager, Staff
The District, boat station manager, inspectors and employees will work to educate the public and watercraft owner on the invasive species threats to our pristine freshwater lakes.	Continuous	Supervisors, Staff, Boat Station Manager, Inspectors and boat station employees

Conservation District Priority Number 6: District Operations

Goal(s): Implement conservation practices with cost-share incentives

Objective: Promote better communication about the district and increase efficiency in implementation to provide conservation resources to future generations.

Actions	Target Date	lndividual(s) Responsible
Hold regular monthly board meetings on the second Wednesday of the month	Monthly	Supervisors and Staff
Contact and work with potential and known funding sources and cultivate new funding.	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff
Participate in local, regional, state, tribal and federal intergovernmental processes that address issues relevant to the District's mission, goals and objectives	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff
Work with existing partners, e.g., NRCS and ISWCC as much as possible within the limitations of administering district business	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Update the District's Annual Plan with workgroup and scoping sessions with our partners and public meetings to better identify the needs and priorities within the district	March 2023	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners

Conservation District Priority Number 7: Information, Education and Outreach

Goal(s): Provide education and information to the general public, students, and partnership organizations, to promote the conservation and wise use of natural resources in the District.

Objective: Promote efforts to enhance the local communities understanding of ecological systems, the social systems directly dependent upon these natural systems, and the political and organizational systems developed for the management of natural resources within the District.

Actions	Target Date	lndividual(s) Responsible
Provide information and technical assistance to small and large acreage landowners and urban residents regarding water quality, wildlife plant materials, water conservation, etc.	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff
Upon invitation, participate in community forums to discuss natural resource management programs within the District	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff
Host a district field trip for the benefit of partner agencies, elected officials, and the general public	Ongoing	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Participate in the Idaho State Forestry Competition	Annually	Supervisors and Staff
Provide information and technical assistance to an urban environment regarding irrigation, planting, seed harvesting and maintenance.	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners
Work with ADP and other agencies on sprawl and open space issues	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff Conservation Partners

“Promoting voluntary, locally-led conservation and wise stewardship of our natural resources”