LEWIS SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

521 Oak Street, Room 8
Nezperce, ID 83543
208-937-3042

FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2028

&

ANNUAL PLAN

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

(Revised March 2023)

Certificate of Adoption

The board of elected supervisors of the Lewis Soil Conservation District on March 7, 2023, does hereby approve the following document known as the Five – Year Plan. It will be in effect for a five year period ending June 30, 2028, during which time it is updated annually and or amended, as necessary. As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do hereby affix our signatures to this document.

Jonathan Rosenau, Chairman

Greg Branson, Vice Chairman

Tyler Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer

Drew Leitch, Member

Conner McLeod, Member

Contents

Forward

The Lewis Soil Conservation District (LSCD) is one of 50 conservation districts in the State of Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation districts are charged with carrying out programs for the conservation, use and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

Conservation districts are the primary entities to assist private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement, and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. They are catalysts for coordinating and implementing conservation programs, channeling expertise from all levels of government into action at the local level. Programs are nonregulatory; science-based technical assistance, incentive–based financial programs and informational and educational programs at the local level.

Both by legislation and by agreement, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance to landowners and land users through conservation districts. Each conservation district in Idaho has a signed Mutual Agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This Five-Year Plan was developed to guide the LSCD, and encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the LSCD.

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

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

The following agencies work with the Lewis Soil Conservation District carrying out the Five-Year Plan. They participate in tours, workshops, and information and education meetings. They also provide technical assistance when the district needs information and are welcome to attend and contribute to the monthly LSCD meetings.

National Association of Conservation Districts
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho District Employees Association
Nez Perce Tribe
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Idaho Department of Agriculture
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Lewis County Commissioners
U. S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Basin Advisory Groups
Watershed Advisory Groups
Winchester State Parks and Recreation
Clearwater RC& D
Farm Service Agency
Lewis County Weed Board
University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service
Cities of: Craigmont, Nezperce, Reubens, Winchester, and Kamiah
Public School Districts of: Highland, Nezperce, and Kamiah
News Media: Lewis County Herald, Lewiston Morning Tribune, Clearwater Progress, Cottonwood Chronicle, and Idaho County Free Press

Key Decision Makers

- **District elected board members:** Jonathan Rosenau – Chairman, Greg Branson – Vice Chairman, Tyler Nelson – Secretary/Treasurer, Drew Leitch – Member, Conner McLeod – Member
- **Lewis County Commissioners:** Chairman Greg Johnson, Eric Hasselstrom, Justin McLeod
- **City of Nezperce elected official:** Mayor – Steve Bateman
- **City of Craigmont elected official:** Mayor – Roger Riggers
- **State Legislators representing District 6** – Senator Dan Foreman, Representative Lori McCann, Representative Brandon Mitchell
- **The producers and citizens in Lewis County**
- **Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission**
- **Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation**

Lewis Soil Conservation District Staff

- **Administrative Assistant:** Janette Mendenhall

Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan

July 1, 2023- June 30, 2028

Lewis Soil Conservation District

For More Information Contact:
Jonathan Rosenau, District Board Chairman 208-937-3042
Website: www.lewissoilconservationdistrict.weebly.com
Email: Lewisscd@outlook.com

Organization of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The Lewis Soil Conservation District (LSCD) is a political subdivision of the State of Idaho charged under the authorities, powers and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code with the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources on Idaho's private land.

The LSCD was officially organized on June 17, 1941, and is governed by a board of locally elected officials. These five supervisors are unpaid and serve a minimum four-year term. The LSCD encompasses Lewis County in North Central Idaho.

Function of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The function of the LSCD is to coordinate and deliver technical, financial, and educational assistance to landowners for responsible natural resources management that conserves and improves soil, water, air quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. Funding is provided primarily through county and state allocations with additional funds through grants. All District funds, regardless of source, are public funds and are accountable to the taxpaying citizens of Idaho.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) are principal sources of technical assistance provided to the District.

Who We Serve & Why

We serve the citizens of our community (county, state, country) to ensure the long-term use of natural resources in an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable manner using non-regulatory, voluntary approaches.

The LSCD provides technical assistance to landowners and operators in Lewis County in areas such as non-irrigated cropland, non-industrial private forestland, and rangeland management. We strive to provide local leadership in the conservation development and productive use of soil, water, and related resources to improve soil quality, soil health, water quality and long-term sustainability of the land.

In addition to providing technical assistance to landowners in the district the other primary service is to inform and educate the public. We provide numerous educational programs to the schools within the District.

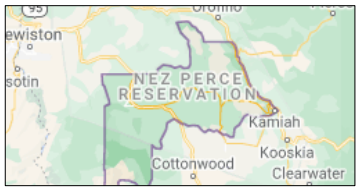
Mission of the Lewis Soil Conservation District
The LSCD is dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.

Vision of the Lewis Soil Conservation District
The LSCD works towards conserving and enhancing resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) for the economic and environmental benefit of the present and future generations of Lewis County. The LSCD is recognized by all private landowners as a source of financial, technical, and educational assistance in Lewis County, and by local, state, and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities.

Values of the Lewis Soil Conservation District
The LSCD values the resources of Lewis County. We are dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound best management practices (BMPs). We promote clean water and productive soil. The District strives to ensure that local people make decisions on conservation problems at the local level. The District supports and encourages the use of BMPs and Resource Management Systems (RMS) on agricultural lands within the District to control soil erosion and improve water quality. We value and have respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership. We act as a catalyst to bring people andprograms together, to bring about a quality way of life, a quality resource base, and a quality environment.

It is important to protect our resources for our benefit and the benefit of future generations.

Section 1 - Physical Characteristics of the District



The cities located within the county are Nezperce, Craigmont, Kamiah, Winchester and Reubens. Neighboring counties are Nez Perce to the west, Clearwater to the north and Idaho to the south. Lewis County consists of 480 square miles made up of private, federal, state, and tribal lands. Most of Lewis Soil Conservation District is located within the Nez Perce Indian Reservation. There are sixteen streams within Lewis County. All streams are tributaries of the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers.

Critical Geographic Areas

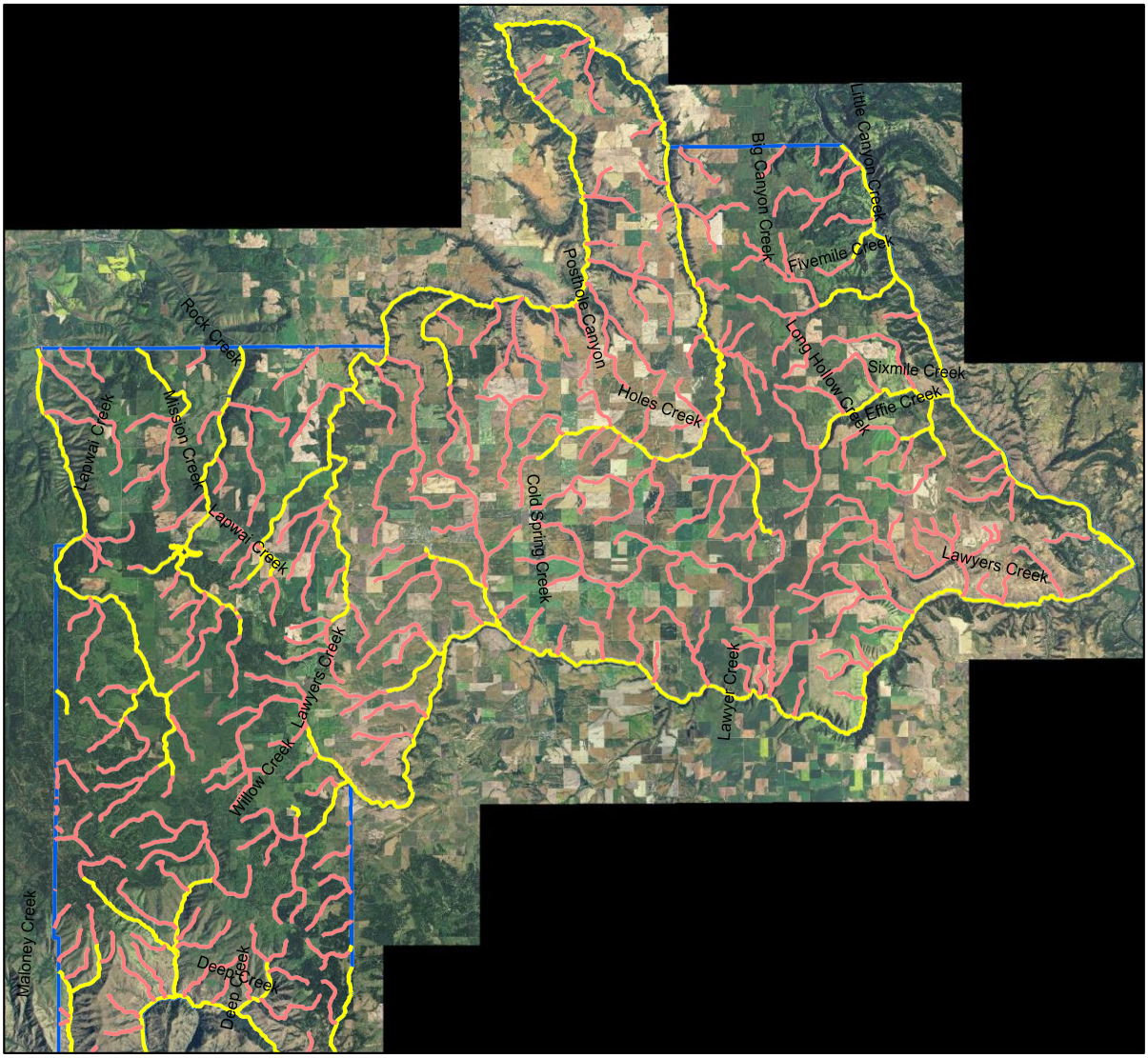
Lewis County is located on a high plateau sloping towards the east and south. Deep canyon bottoms form the north, east and south boundaries of the district, making the area a distinct physiographic unit. The district is characterized by a moderately undulating to strongly rolling plateau that has been cut into blocks by deeply entrenched streams. Lewis County has approximately 93,000 acres of highly erodible cropland. Elevations vary from about 1,000 Mean Sea Level (MSL) along the Clearwater River to approximately 4,600 MSL at Mason Butte. Most of the plateau is approximately 3,000 to 3,500 feet elevation. Slopes on the agriculture land rarely exceed 30 percent with the majority ranging from 5 to 15 percent.

Lewis Geology

According to the USGS geology maps approximately 85% of Lewis County geology is basalt flows from the Middle Miocene flood-basalt flows forming from the Columbia River Plateau. These flows are characterized by fine crystalline rocks, often exposed on upper slopes. The Blue Mountain Complex flows, characterized by Quartz diorites and granodiorites, make up another 10% of the geology in Lewis County.

Field Office: Nezperce
Agency: NRCS

District: Lewis Soil Conservation District



Legend

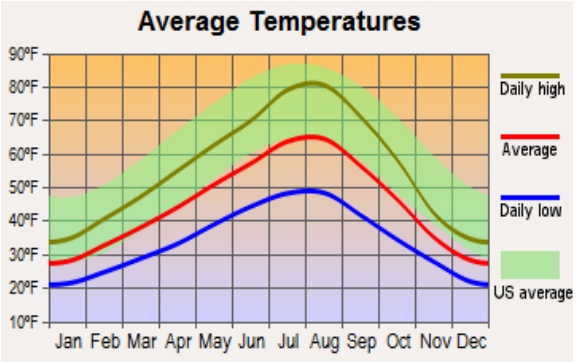
- intrivstream_l_id061
- perennialriversandstreams
- (061)LEWIS COUNTY

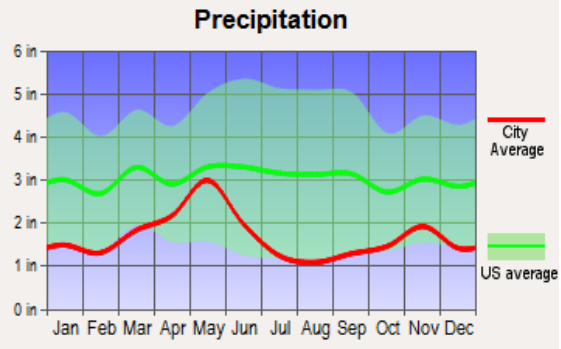
14,000 0 14,000 28,000 42,000 56,000
Feet

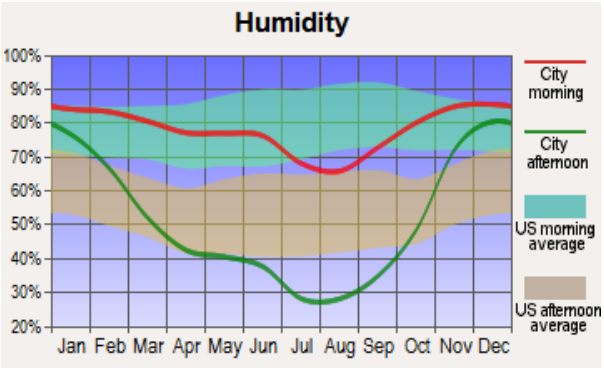
Average Climate in Nezperce, Idaho

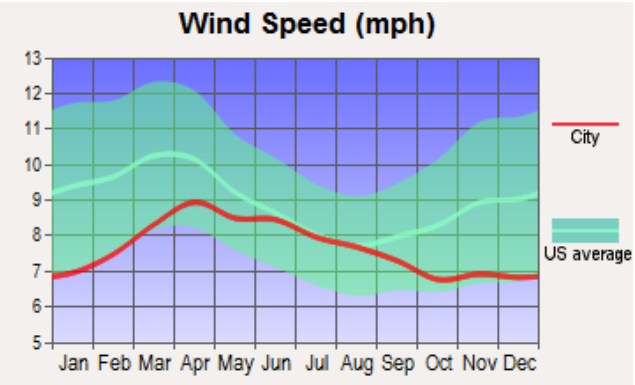
Lewis County precipitation averages 18-28 inches per year. The average ground snow depths for January range from 8-10 inches. Snow is usually melted from the area by early April. On average, there are 169 sunny days per year in Lewis County, ID.

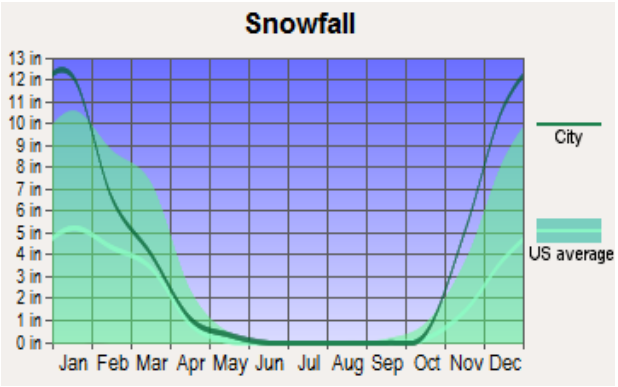
Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations

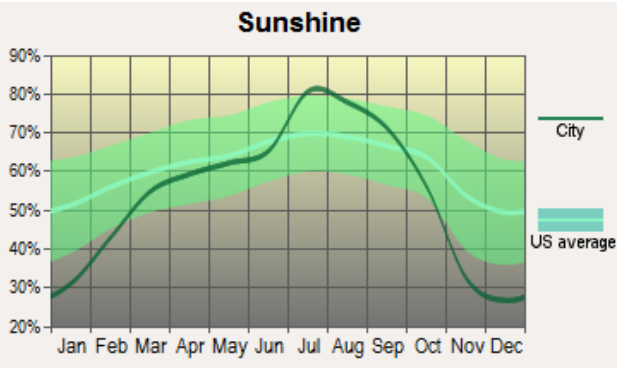












Sources

- http://www.city-data.com/city/Nezperce-Idaho.html#ixzz1n986XSwp
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_County,_Idaho
- http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Idaho/Publications/County_Estimates/index.asp

Section 2 - Economic Condition and Outlook of Lewis Soil Conservation District

The population in Lewis County estimated in 2021 is 3,715 (all rural)
Land Area – 480 square miles.
Homeownership Rate – 74.7%
Median Household Income 2017-2021 - $44,028
Lewis County is the 4th least populated county in the state.

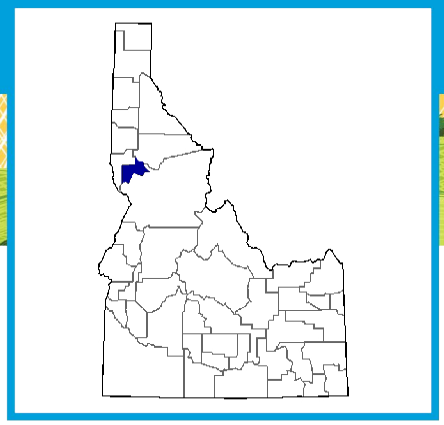
Most common industries of Lewis County

- Healthcare and social assistance
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining (42.6%)
- Educational services (4%)
- Public administration (10.3%)
- Manufacturing

Agriculture in Lewis County

Number of farms: 197
Average size of farms: 1,017 acres
Average value of agricultural products sold per farm: $191,788
Average value of crops sold per acre for harvested cropland: $186.51
The value of livestock, poultry, and their products as a percentage of the total market value of agricultural products sold: 5.91%
Average total farm production expenses per farm: $171,732
Harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 75%
Average market value of all machinery and equipment per farm: $163,864
The percentage of farms operated by a family or individual: 89%
Average age of principal farm operators: 56 years
Average number of cattle and calves per 100 acres of all land in farms: 1.99
The primary economic base is dryland farming and livestock production. Lewis County relies on precipitation to irrigate the crops and surface water sources or groundwater wells for livestock productions. Lewis County is heavily dependent on natural resources, especially agriculture and forest products.
Ranching and farming remain one of the major industries of the area. Farm income remains a major factor in the spending power of the county residents. The county ranks 23rd in the State for agricultural products sold.

2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE *County Profile*



Lewis County
Idaho

Total and Per Farm Overview, 2017 and change since 2012

	2017	% change since 2012
Number of farms	197	-9
Land in farms (acres)	200,435	-9
Average size of farm (acres)	1,017	-1
Total	($)	
Market value of products sold	37,782,000	-40
Government payments	2,929,000	-22
Farm-related income	4,121,000	+71
Total farm production expenses	33,831,000	-20
Net cash farm income	11,000,000	-58
Per farm average	($)	
Market value of products sold	191,788	-34
Government payments (average per farm receiving)	21,222	-2
Farm-related income	31,456	+67
Total farm production expenses	171,732	-12
Net cash farm income	55,839	-54

(Z) Percent of state agriculture sales

Share of Sales by Type (%)

Crops	90
Livestock, poultry, and products	10

Land in Farms by Use (%) [a]

Cropland	75
Pastureland	14
Woodland	6
Other	5

Acres irrigated: (D)

(D)% of land in farms

Land Use Practices (% of farms)

No till	27
Reduced till	15
Intensive till	17
Cover crop	4

Farms by Value of Sales

	Number	Percent of Total [a]
Less than $2,500	77	39
$2,500 to $4,999	4	2
$5,000 to $9,999	13	7
$10,000 to $24,999	15	8
$25,000 to $49,999	7	4
$50,000 to $99,999	10	5
$100,000 or more	71	36

Farms by Size

	Number	Percent of Total [a]
1 to 9 acres	10	5
10 to 49 acres	43	22
50 to 179 acres	42	21
180 to 499 acres	21	11
500 to 999 acres	26	13
1,000 + acres	55	28

2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE *County Profile*

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

	Sales ($1,000)	Rank in State [b]	Counties Producing Item	Rank in U.S. [b]	Counties Producing Item
Total	**37,782**	**28**	**44**	**1,993**	**3,077**
Crops	**34,096**	**23**	**44**	**1,342**	**3,073**
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, dry peas	24,974	18	42	1,055	2,916
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	323
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	647
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes	-	-	41	-	2,821
Fruits, tree nuts, berries	(D)	34	37	(D)	2,748
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod	(D)	25	43	(D)	2,601
Cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops	-	-	14	-	1,384
Other crops and hay	(D)	27	44	294	3,040
Livestock, poultry, and products	**3,686**	**41**	**44**	**2,566**	**3,073**
Poultry and eggs	(D)	6	43	(D)	3,007
Cattle and calves	(D)	35	44	(D)	3,055
Milk from cows	-	-	35	-	1,892
Hogs and pigs	-	-	40	-	2,856
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, milk	(D)	(D)	43	(D)	2,984
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, donkeys	(D)	38	44	(D)	2,970
Aquaculture	-	-	22	-	1,251
Other animals and animal products	-	-	42	-	2,878

Total Producers [c] 316

Sex
Male	200
Female	116

Age
<35	18
35 – 64	217
65 and older	81

Race
American Indian/Alaska Native	-
Asian	-
Black or African American	-
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	-
White	313
More than one race	3

Other characteristics
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin	2
With military service	18
New and beginning farmers	77

Percent of farms that:

Have internet access	86
Farm organically	-
Sell directly to consumers	2
Hire farm labor	35
Are family farms	89

Top Crops in Acres [d]

Wheat for grain, all	54,350
Chickpeas	14,995
Field/grass seed crops, all	14,342
Forage (hay/haylage), all	7,447
Lentils	5,429

Livestock Inventory (Dec 31, 2017)

Broilers and other meat-type chickens	(D)
Cattle and calves	4,641
Goats	(D)
Hogs and pigs	-
Horses and ponies	168
Layers	65
Pullets	-
Sheep and lambs	(D)
Turkeys	(D)

See 2017 Census of Agriculture, U.S. Summary and State Data, for complete footnotes, explanations, definitions, commodity descriptions, and methodology.
[a] May not add to 100% due to rounding. [b] Among counties whose rank can be displayed. [c] Data collected for a maximum of four producers per farm. [d] Crop commodity names may be shortened; see full names at www.nass.usda.gov/go/cropnames.pdf. [e] Position below the line does not indicate rank.
(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (NA) Not available. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. (-) Represents zero.

Lewis/Clearwater County 2020 Reported Acres						
Category	Crop	Type	Acres		Sub-Total	Total
			Lewis	Clearwater		
Small Grains	Wheat	Soft White Winter	63,780.9	3,895.4		
		Soft White Spring	19,505.8	727.4		
		Hard Red Winter	988.6	314.9		
		Hard Red Spring	470.7	732.1	90,415.8	
	Barley	Spring	7,138.3	86.6		
		Hulless	0.0	0.0	7,225.0	
	Oats		1,008.6	0.0	1,008.6	
	Buckwheat		287.1	0.0	287.1	
Total Small Grains			93,180.0	5,756.4		98,936.4
Oilseeds	Canola	Winter	4,125.0	0.0		
		Spring	10,178.7	763.1	15,066.8	
	Flax	COM	319.7	0.0	319.7	
	Mustard	Yellow	0.0	0.0	p.0	
Total Oilseeds			14,623.5	763.1		15,386.5
Legumes	Lentils		3,069.6	0.0	3,069.6	
	Dry Peas	Austrian Winter	1,048.0	0.0		
		Green	3,573.2	212.7	4,833.8	
	Beans	Adzuki	0.0	0.0	0.0	
		Garbanzo (GAS)	199.2	0.0		
		Garbanzo (GAR)	6,023.5	0.0	6,222.7	
Total Legumes			13,913.4	212.7		14,126.1
Forage	Hay	Alfalfa	3,262.4	27.6		
		Alfalfa Mix	1,722.3	394.4		
		Grass Mix w/ Alfalfa	1,885.9	188.0		
		Interseeded Grasses	2,419.9	2,281.3		
		Native Grass	572.5	69.4		
		Timothy	616.7	539.9		
		Brome	103.1	136.1		
		Fescue	110.1	0.0		
		Orchard Grass	213.5	20.0		
		Oat / Barley/ Mixed Grain Hay	1,341.4	294.9		
		Other	706.3	0.0	16,905.6	
	Grazing	Cropland	4,852.9	1,249.0		
		Non-Cropland	41,098.5	13,802.1	61,002.4	
Total Forage			58,905.4	19,002.7		77,908.0
Seed Crops	Grass	Bluegrass, Kentucky	17,776.2	646.2		
		Brome	76.3	34.7		
		Crested Wheatgrass	278.3	0.0		
		Intermediate Wheatgrass	98.9	0.0		
		Fescue	533.8	89.9		
		Idaho Fescue	281.8	0.0		
		Orchard Grass	96.2	0.0		
		Blue Bunch Wheatgrass	52.8	0.0		
		Siberian Wheatgrass	16.1	0.0		
		Perennial Rye	76.5	0.0		
		Inter-seeded Grass Mix	75.4	0.0		
		Small Burnett	7.4	0.0	18,422.4	
	Clover	White	38.3	0.0	38.3	
	Flowers		0.0	0.0	0.0	
	Nursery		190.5	0.0	190.5	
Total Seed Crops			19,598.2	770.8		20,369.0
Other	CRP		5,662.5	1,173.5	6,836.0	
	Wetland Reserve		0.0	96.0	96.0	
	Left Standing		1,101.7	289.9	1,391.6	
	Prev Planting		236.4	0.0	236.4	
	Trees		32.3	9.6	41.9	
	Wildlife Food Plot		26.6	7.0	33.6	
	Falow		8,723.6	1,213.1	9,936.8	
Total Other			15,783.1	2,789.1		18,572.2
Total reported by County			216,003.5	29,294.7		245 298.2

Section 3 - Assessment

Soil Resources

Soil Erosion

- Erosion occurs mainly because of winter runoff from snow melt and rainfall on frozen saturated soils. Gully erosion occurs in cropland areas.
- Approximately 47,954 acres are non-highly erodible cropland, and 93,015 acres are highly erodible cropland.
- Water quality projects have reduced soil erosion in cropland areas.
- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural practices reduce the amount of stream bank erosion.
- Erosion occurring on range and forest lands is often the result of improper grazing and improper road development and maintenance.
- The LSCD seeks funding sources for cost sharing the installation of BMPs.
- The LSCD encourages producers to properly manage riparian areas.
- Soil health is encouraged.
- Host soil health workshop.

Soil Quality

- Eighty percent of Lewis County acres have been adopted to no-till/direct seed.
- The LSCD promotes tillage and residue management practices that leave stubble standing during winter months, which is the critical erosion period.
- The LSCD encourages crop rotation which includes cereal, legumes, mustards, cover crops and perennial crops.
- The LSCD hosts cover crop demonstrations to enhance the soil microbiology, nutrient availability, and soil health.
- The LSCD uses the soil survey which is useful in the conservation, development and productive use of soil, water, and other resources.

  Three broad groups of soil occur within the District:
    - Medium and moderately course textured soil on terraces and valley floors (1% of District)
    - Silty soils on Plateaus (60% of the district)
    - Fine to moderately course textured soils containing rich fragments, and canyon slopes (39% of the district)

Water Resources

The water resources within Lewis County vary widely in quality and quantity from year to year. Surface at times can be very poor. Spring and winter runoff and thunderstorms contribute a significant amount of sediment to creeks in the area.

- The majority of the LSCD jurisdiction is in the Camas Prairie High Nitrate Priority Area.
- Applying split fertilizer helps the water quality and crop production.
- Precision agriculture is used to decrease nutrient and chemical application in areas where they are not needed.

- Nutrient management practices are adopted to help reduce nitrates leaching into the ground water and surface water.
- Most rural residents rely on septic systems and drain fields to treat their wastewater. The LSCD offers cost share to repair failing septic systems.
- Livestock watering systems and pipelines are primary uses of surface water in the agricultural sector.
- BMPs are offered through cost share programs to enhance the surface water quality.

Air Quality

Air quality is worse during the fall when producers burn bluegrass and other crop residue.

- The LSCD encourages grass producers to follow the NPGP smoke management recommendations.
- The LSCD encourages producers to maintain and manage crop residue by adopting no-till and reduced tillage systems rather than burning grain stubble.

Forest lands, grasslands, pasture, hay land and rangeland

- Forestland erosion occurs mostly on skid trails, landings, and roads.
- Forestlands and interface areas provide important habitat for many species of birds and mammals.
- The LSCD coordinates with producers to develop grazing plans that leave appropriate amounts of vegetation.
- Hay is used as part of a rotation in many areas.
- The LSCD encourages control of noxious and invasive weeds.
- Fire prevention and restoration strategies increase forest health, reduce erosion, and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.
- The LSCD endorses forestry practices that minimize erosion and retain shading for streams.
- The LSCD promotes fuels reduction to minimize the risk of catastrophic fires.

Livestock production

The LSCD encourages producers to install Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) and pasture management systems including exclusion fencing, offsite watering, waste management facility and riparian treatment.

Fish and Wildlife

According to old timers, fish numbers have decreased over the years. Lewis County is home to a diverse array of fish and wildlife species. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 directs all federal agencies, to implement measures to protect all federally listed species found in the project area. The LSCD has many listed or threatened species within the district boundaries. The presence of these species greatly affects farming and ranching communities. While they often bring federal funds to the district for project administration, they also bring the federal "nexus" for ESA consultation for these projects.

- Decrease threats to threatened and endangered species (T&E)
- The LSCD addresses salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.
- Conceivably all land in the county could be used for wildlife but it is not currently economically feasible.
- Preserve wildlife.

Improving stream habitat

- Reducing the amount of sediment, pathogens and nutrients entering streams, and increasing shade improves fish habitat.
- Lewis County streams provide habitat for salmon and steelhead, including populations that are listed as threatened and endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

District Operations

- Budget cuts are a big concern of the district.
- Generate operational funds through limited funds from the county and state.
- Entered into an agreement with the ACES program through NRCS sharing staff time.
- Actively looking for grants to provide financial help to landowners installing conservation practices on their land.
- Cooperate with units of local, state, federal and tribal government.
- Maintain staff to have a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them to provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs.
- Have a good working relationship with partner staff personnel.
- Maintain district records.
- Retain the Technical Assistance provided to us from ISWCC.
- Dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound management practices.
- Publish three newsletters throughout the year reaching over 200 households.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District

- Continued reduction in funding which further reduces the district's efforts to be effective in conservation.
- Limited technical support available from the ISWCC.
- Limited funding through grants which impact getting conservation on the ground.
- No-till/direct seed to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion.
- Soil pH is affecting crop yields.
- Pest management to reduce pesticides leaching into the groundwater quality.
- Animal feeding operations to improve surface water and ground water quality.
- Wildfires.
- Forest health to improve forest health, fire restoration, reduce disease and erosion.
- Invasive species and weeds need to be addressed and controlled.
- Soil erosion

Strategies to Address Trends

- Actively looking for new and innovative ways for funding, i.e., grants, project, highway districts, so we can reach more producers in Lewis County.
- Raise awareness of conservation values with the state legislature and elected officials. Help our decision makers be better informed.
- Hold informational meetings to inform producers of programs available for cost share.
- ISWCC helps to monitor grant projects after funding becomes available.

- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural measures are used to reduce the amount of stream bankerosion.
- Use management practices to reduce the chance of fire and lessen the effects of fire.
- Increase awareness of forestland management. Work with the Idaho Department of Lands.
- Lead voluntary implementation of conservation efforts.
- Supervisors to become more informed of current issues impacting working land, Farm Bill programs.
- Implementation of water quality and water quantity projects to improve fish passage and habitat within the district to help address ESA issues.
- Actively seeking additional funding through grants, 319, IDL, NRCS, ISWCC, Idaho Fish and Game.
- Educate landowners of ways to reducing fire risks.
- Inform interested landowners regarding cover crops, crop rotation, residue management, sustainable forest practices, invasive weed treatment.
- Encourage landowners to participate in EQIP and RCPP programs to use conservation measures to reduce sheet and rill erosion and address soil health.

Section 4 – Identify and Prioritize Objectives

District funding

State of Idaho Funding

- Provides $8,500.00 for their base of operations.
- 2:1 Match $10,716.40
- Special allocation $4,500.00

Funding supported from Lewis County

- $8,000.00

Promote forestry practices

Strategic planning to address critical issues

- Improve plant health
- Manage organic debris
- Reduce the area of forested land having a high departure from natural fire regime.
- Tree and shrub establishment reduces sediment load
- Encourage producers to properly manage fire zones, and create fire-resistant landscapes
- Collaborate with public land management agencies
- Prevent or stop the spread of exotic insects and disease

Promote soil health and nutrient management practices

Assist landowners with implementing BMPs

- Encourage livestock producers to develop pasture, grazing and nutrient management plans
- Implement animal feeding management operations and pasture BMPs
- Reduce nutrient, bacteria, and sediment delivery to Lawyer Creek
- Implement residue and nutrient management and cover crops BMPs
- Implement riparian restoration, fencing, planting & weed control BMPs
- Improve nutrient use efficiency through proper timing, placement, rate, and application of crop nutrients
- Organized soil health meetings

Improve surface and groundwater quality

Work with landowners to reduce nutrient and sediment loading and improve habitat conditions for fish

- Follow U of I fertilizer guide to avoid over application of fertilizer
- Work with producers to help reduce nitrates in the groundwater
- Implement residue and nutrient management BMP's on ≈ 6,990 acres
- Work toward decreasing sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in Lawyer and 5Mile/6Mile Creeks by assisting landowners with implementing BMP's

Environmental Information and Education

The District encourages a strong effective public outreach program. Annually the District works with the youth in different activities to educate them. We also work with adults to assist them with conservation practices and needs.

- Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District (IASCD) poster contest for students in 4-6 grades in Nezperce and Highland schools
- Work with students, schools, and cities in planting trees for Arbor Day
- ISWCC, NRCS, Department of Land, Nez Perce Tribe, Western Forest Systems, Idaho Fish and Game provide educational workstations during the 6th Grade Field Day at Winchester State Park with about 110 youth participating.
- Worm Races teaching K-2 about earth worms and soils
- Annual fair booth display
- Coordinate with the U of I Cooperative Extension to sponsor an annual Crop and Conservation Tour
- Held educational meetings informing people the importance of soil health
- Assist U of I and FFAwith soil judging contest

Section 5 - Water Quality Component

Much of the current workload being completed by the Lewis Soil Conservation District has been to assist private landowners, predominately the agricultural base, addressing the requirements of the CleanWater Act.

The Federal Clean Water Act requires that states and tribes restore and maintain the chemical, physical,and biological integrity of the nation's waters. States and tribes must adopt water quality standards necessary to protect fish, shellfish, and wildlife while providing for recreation in and on the waters whenever possible.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act establishes requirements for states and tribes to identify and prioritize water bodies that are water quality limited (i.e., water bodies that do not meet water quality standards). States and tribes must periodically publish a priority list of impaired waters, currently every two years. For waters identified on this list, states and tribes must develop water quality improvement plans known as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) that establish allowable pollutant loads set at levelsto achieve water quality standards.

The critical areas of projects focus on cropland acres, animal feeding areas, pastures, and riparian areas.Sediment and bacteria loading were the two largest pollutants. The practices that will be implemented will be practices that have a past record of decreasing these pollutants. As resource concerns are identified, the established BMPs to target the pollution source are designed and installed.

LSCD is working with producers towards water quality goals. Groundwater pollution is a major publicconcern. In the past, we had 319 grants to assist with repairing failing septic systems and capping abandoned wells.

Pollutants in LSCD waters:

- sediment
- nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen)
- temperature
- bacteria

Problems for Ground Water:

- nitrogen, both organic (waste) and inorganic (fertilizer)

Waters with TMDLs:

- Winchester Lake
- Lapwai Creek
- Lawyer Creek

The District is or will be implementing BMPs:

- For creeks where TMDLs will be developed (Integrated Report Category 5),
- for creeks with a TMDL (Category 4), and
- Ground Water Nitrate Priority Areas (Camas Prairie Nitrate Priority Area)

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/470848-camas_prairie_nitrate_gw_plan.pdf://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/451023-winchester_lake_entire.pdf

Lewis County Projects in Need of Funding:

Priority	Watershed	Project	BMPs	Status
1	Little Canyon (Powerline Rd)	Powerline Road Culvert upgrade	upgrade culvert on Powerline	IWRB 2023? 70K
2	Lewis County	Lewis County Soil Health - Phase 2	nutrient management and pest management technology practices	250k min. WQPA, State Ag
3	Lewis County	Forest Health	ingress/egress, slope stabilization, fire hazard reduction	250k min. 319?
4	Big Canyon/Little Canyon	Ag producer Implementations in Big Canyon/Little Canyon	Trees, livestock projects, Gully Plugs	continue project - 319? 250k
5	Big Canyon/Little Canyon	Fisher Fire Culvert Replacements	23 culvert - replacements, upgrades, realignments - working with local road department	Base engineering done; local road department will install as match. Need roughly $10K/culvert.
6	Lawyer creek/Clearwater River	Lewis County - Clearwater Complex Fire Landscape Restoration	Tree planting, critical area seeding, fence	need to identify landowners
7	Big Canyon/ Lawyer Creek/ Clearwater River	Fire Access	Access roads, fuel breaks to provide access into areas with heavy timber.	need to identify landowners
8	Lapwai Creek	Upper Lapwai Creek Erosion Control	sed basins, gully plugs, tree plantings,	5 landowners (2020); 200k
9	Lewis County	Cover Crop Fencing	need fence/water around crop fields for cover crops	need to identify landowners
10	Lewis County	Concentrated Flow BMP Implementations	sed basins, gully plugs, grass waterways, …	need to identify landowners

Current Grants:

Watershed	Project	BMPs	Status
Big Canyon / Little Canyon	Big Canyon Slope Stabilization and Erosion control	Plantings, slope stabilization, gully plugs, grassed waterways	319 Grant received. Started October 2021.
Lewis County/Idaho County	RCPP Soil Health	Cover crop, NM, gully plugs	Funded
Lawyer/Big Canyon	Lewis Co AFO (WQPA)	focus on water quality issues from cattle	Funded - WQPA
Lewis County	Lewis County Soil Health	Improve nutrient uptake, microbial activity in soils for soil health.	Funded - State Ag and WQPA

Immediately past projects:

Clearwater River	Clearwater Face Drainages (Fivemile-Sixmile Erosion Control)	sed basins, gully plugs, tree plantings,	Completed project June 2020.
Sixmile	Alpine Road IWRB	culvert replacement	Completed 2021.
Lawyer Creek	AFO - winter feeding	fence, water, heavy use, manure mgt	State Ag Funds received July 2020 through June 2021. Phase 2 Sept 2021 to June 2022
Upper Lapwai	Western Fire Managers Fuels Reduction	Reduce fuels to decrease risk of fire	Completed Phase 1 December 2020. Phase 2 completed fall 2022. Phase 3 proposal submitted March 2023.
Upper Lapwai	Teide Road IWRB	culvert replacement	Completed Fall 2022

Section 6 - Identify and Prioritize Projects

The LSCD designs Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address non-point source pollutants. Some of the BMPs include: nutrient management, pest management, water developments, pipelines, fencing, pasture plantings, forestry practices, cover crop plantings, stream crossing, erosion control, windbreaks, direct seed/no till, septic repair, cap abandoned wells, roof runoff, gully plugs and many more.

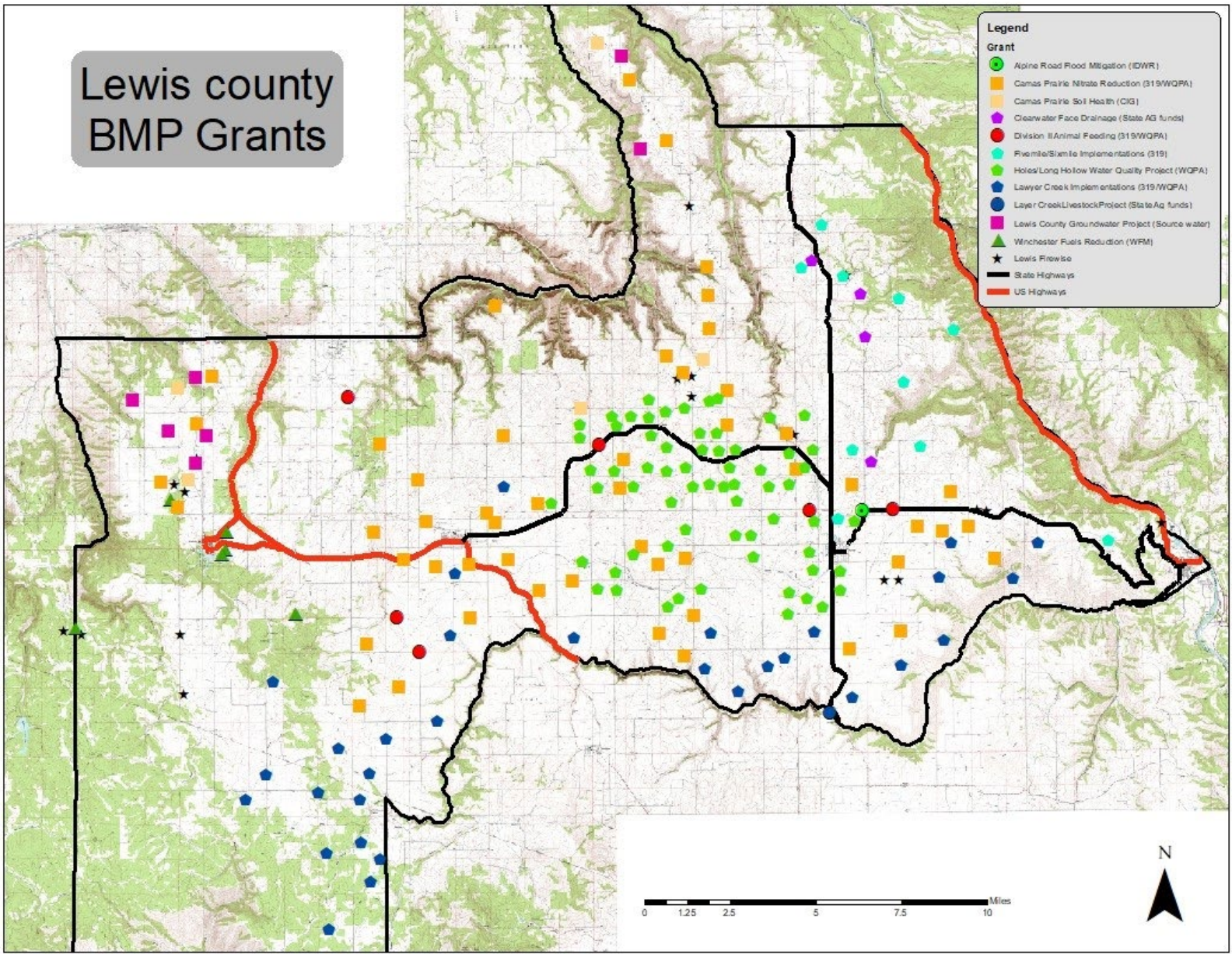
We will maintain a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them and provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs with technical support from Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission staff. We support locally lead conservation and will provide planning, project development, and administer funds where feasible and based on willing landowner cooperation and participation. We will promote conservation practices to sustain production on dry cropland with NRCS through local working groups, informational meetings, newsletters, tours and cost share programs and grants.

- BMPs will address stream bank stabilization and riparian habitat, such as stream bank treatments, invasive weed treatments, and upland habitat treatments.
- Will continue to search for cost-share funding to control non-point source pollution and soil erosion.
- Endorse programs or activities to educate landowners about harmful insects and diseases in forest lands.
- Continue support of proven conservation programs.

The LSCD has a strong education program, which hosts various activities aimed at the youth of Lewis County. The goal is to enhance their appreciation of our natural resources by offering hands-on events and contests.

- In May 2023 we will sponsor the 50th Annual 6th Grade Field Day reaching approximately 120 students in the area. Instructors will be from ISWCC, Department of Lands, NRCS, Fish and Game, Western Forest System, Nez Perce Tribe and Winchester Quick Response Unit.
- The LSCD will sponsor “Hatchery in the Classroom” with local students raising fish and releasing them into Lawyer Creek.
- In the spring of the year, we go to the local schools to present the rules and the theme of IASCD and University of Idaho Extension Office poster contests. We have the county commissioners judge the posters and send them on to the division and state levels.
- In October we coordinate with U of I and FFA for the soil judging contest.
- We also coordinate with University of Idaho Extension to inform producers of different varieties of crops to produce for this area.
- Coordinate with the University of Idaho Extension Office to organize an Annual Crop Tour for producers to attend.

Lewis County Projects Since 2000



District Operations Priorities

Lewis Soil Conservation District:

- Promotes sustainable resource management and encourages collaboration between individuals, organizations, and government agencies.
- Explores all avenues of available grants.
- Explores alternative funding sources to meet conservation needs with highway districts, Idaho Department of Land, RC&D.
- Presents annual budget to the county commissioners.
- Retains the technical assistance provided to us from ISWCC to assist with the planning, design, and implementation of project funds within the district.
- Retains a good relationship with local schools and communities, teaching about soil, water, and other natural resources.
- Prepares monthly financial reports.
- Maintains the accounting system on Quick Books.
- Schedules audit of the year's financial activity providing accountability for funds administered through the district.
- Provides administrative partnership to NRCS and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
- Continues to build partnerships with agencies and organizations that share the same goals and objectives.
- Expands and strengthens relationship in the conservation partnership, whenever possible will assist other agencies to reach our common goal.
- Holds regular monthly meetings to address conservation in Lewis County.
- Retains a relationship with our legislators.
- Strengthens relationship with political decision makers to obtain support for the District.
- Keeps the board members directly involved in planning and proceedings.
- Provides landowners and operators with natural resource technical, financial, and educational assistance.
- Publishes educational material on topics such as funding available and ways to improve resources.
- Coordinates with the U of I Extension for the Lewis and Idaho County Annual Crop Tour

Section 7 - Implementation

Action	Begin Date	End Date
▪ Identify budget and staff needs, continue to pursue funding through grants	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Work with landowners to implement "Fire Wise" practices promote forest stand improvements	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Educate landowners for proper forest management	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Have applied for forestry grants	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Continue to encourage landowners to protect cropland from erosion through the implementation of BMP's.	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Work with producers to promote sustainable agriculture systems, improve cropland productivity	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Strengthen relationships with political decision makers and partner agencies	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Continue educating the public and youth about conservation coordinating with area schools	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Continue a one-on-one contact with producers about conservation practices.	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Sponsor several youth activities teaching conservation.	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Upon request, provide natural resource conservation assistance to individual landowners seeking assistance	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Coordinate the development of grazing plans that maintain appropriate levels of groundcover	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Continue to address invasive species and weed control improvements	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Monitor projects and improvements to better tell conservation story	7-2023	6-2028
▪ Continue to encourage fire prevention practices and fire restoration projects	7-2023	6-2028

FY2024 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) Annual Plan of Work

Lewis Soil Conservation District

For Information Contact: Jonathan Rosenau, Chairman
Telephone Number: 1-208-937-2291 EXT 3
Email: Lewisscd@outlook.com
Counties Served: LEWIS Legislative District: District 6

Jonathan Rosenau - Chairman
Greg Branson – Vice Chairman
Tyler Nelson – Sec/Treas.
Drew Leitch - Member
Conner McLeod - Member

Mission of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The Lewis Soil Conservation District is dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.

Trends & Issues Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District

- ***Soil pH*** **is affecting crop yields- offering cost share for lime applications for pH showing 5.5 or less**
- ***Cover Crops*** **to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion**
- ***Animal Feeding Operations*** **to improve surface water and ground water quality**
- ***Forest Health*** **to reduce fire danger, recover from the summer of 2015 fires**
- ***Nutrient and Pest Management*** **to reduce nitrates and pesticides from leaching into the ground water and surface water**
- ***Limited Funds*** **available from the State**

Projects Planned, Coordinated and Managed by the Lewis Soil Conservation District

DEQ State AG Grant – Lewis County Soil Health BMPs; DEQ 319 – Big Canyon Implementations; IDL WFM project – Western Lewis County Fuel Reduction Project, Phase 2; IWRB – Flood Management Tiede Road Flood Mitigation Project, ISWCC WQPA Lewis Livestock Operation Project, & Lewis Soil Health Project

Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects Coordinated		
Lewis County	*$ 8,000.00*	*(County Contribution - District Operations)*
State of Idaho	*$ 4,500.00*	*(Base funding - District Operations)*
State of Idaho (2:1 match)	*$ 10,716.40*	*(2 to 1 Match- District Operations)*
Contributions & Donations	*$ 775.00*	
Grant Funding	*$ 106,811.00*	
Total	*$ 140,802.40*	

FY2024 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Number 1: Soil Health

Objective: ***Address conditions water and soil quality within the Districts Watersheds***

Goal(s): ***Maintain and improve resources, reduce leaching of nutrients out of the root zone through proper use and treatment. Coordinate local efforts to protect and improve soil and water quality of local watersheds.***

ACTIONS	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Hold a Soil Health Workshop to provide information to landowners on ways to improve the soil and water quality	*January*	*Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, NRCS, District staff*
Identify key areas of erosion, work with landowners to implement BMP's for concentrated flow reduction. Monitor erosion and water quality	*Continuous*	*Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, NRCS, landowners*
Continue to seek funding and assistance to implement project that control soil erosion and improve water quality	*Continuous*	*Board of Supervisors District staff, ISWCC*
The District has active grants from DEQ for Best Management Practices to protect our topsoil, reduce nitrate leaching, address invasive weeds, and prevent soil erosion.	*Continuous*	*Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC*
Coordinate with ISWCC for technical assistance to expand the District's ability to address priority water quality issues. The District has two WQPA grants for Soil Health and Livestock Operations.	*Continuous*	*Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice

Conservation District Priority Area 2: Nutrient Management Objective ***Promote nutrient management and regenerative agriculture to reduce inputs.***

Goal(s): ***Reduce leaching of nutrient out of the root zone***

ACTIONS	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Facilitate soil health workshop with up to as many as 100 attending	*January*	*District staff, ISWCC, NRCS, Board of Supervisors*
Promote cover crops to improve crop production and soil health to minimize erosion	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, District staff, NRCS*
Promote management and tillage practices that decrease the amount of soil disturbed. Residue management practices are encouraged.	*Year long*	*District staff, Cooperators, ISWCC, Board of Supervisors, NRCS*
Educate landowners the importance of lime in the soil which improves pH levels for more productive crops	*Year long*	*NRCS, ISWCC, and District, Board of Supervisors*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice

FY2024 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Number 3: Forestry - fire restoration and prevention and forest health.

Objective: ***Maintain and enhance a viable and sustainable forest economy***

Goal(s): ***Ensure a healthy, productive woodland within Lewis County***

ACTIONS	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Increase reforestation on cut-over timber land that has been removed from agricultural production.	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, and DistrictStaff*
Educating landowners to be Fire-wise on their property	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, landowners*
Identify areas needing weed control and do follow up on procedures for control/management	*Year long*	*ISWCC, Producers, Board of Supervisors, District staff*
Determine and promote measures to reduce wildfire hazards to home and forestland. Decrease the effects of erosion after wildfires	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, District staff*
We have been approved for funding for an IDL grant – Fuels Reduction Western Lewis County, Phase 2	*2021 -2023*	*District staff, ISWCC*
We have applied for funding for an IDL Fuels Reduction - Western Lewis County Phase 3 Grant.	*2024-2026*	*District staff, ISWCC*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice

FY2024 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority 4: Environmental Improvement through Information and Education
Objective: ***To conduct cooperator and youth education activities and programs that encourage the wise use of natural resources***

Goal(s): ***To increase the effectiveness of the LSCD through a strong public outreach program. Implementation of I & E programs to public school systems and local landowners promoting the Idaho partnership of conservation programs.***

ACTIONS	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Sponsor the annual IASCD Poster Contest and Weed Awareness poster contest with local school	*School year*	*District staff, local schools, and students*
Publish newsletters with information about upcoming and past events also project funds available. Write newspaper articles for the local paper about events	*4 per year*	*District staff*
Assist with Soil Judging Contest	*October*	*District staff, ISWCC, teachers,and students*
Display the Soil Tunnel at the Farm and Forest Fair- students go through the tunnel seeing soil from a "wormseye view"	*April*	*District staff, ISWCC, students,teachers*
Sponsor the annual 6th Grade Field Day with approximately 120 students from fivearea schools attending. Students rotate through eight different learning stations learning a variety of conservation skills	*May*	*District Staff, Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, NRCS, Dept of Land, Fish and Game,*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice

FY2024 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority 5: Water Quality
Objective: ***Improve Surface and Ground Water Quality***

Goal(s): ***To reduce leaching of nutrients out of the root zone. To eliminate or reduce nutrient and sediment loading in receiving water within the District by use of BMPs.***

ACTIONS	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Sponsor the annual Soil Health Workshop with a focus on reducing synthetic inputs.	*January*	*District staff, IWSCD, CSCD*
Provide nutrient management assistance to producers on cropland through DEQ State Ag Grant for Lewis County Soil Health BMPs	*2021-2023*	*Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC*
Work with producers to implement BMPs to reduce nitrate leaching through a DEQ 319 Big Canyon Implementations Grant	*2022-2023*	*Board of Supervisors and District staff, ISWCC*
Educate livestock producers about Animal Feeding Operations to protect water quality, including the development of offsite stock water systems, fencing	*Year long*	*Board of Supervisors and District Staff, ISWCC*
Work with producers to implement Nutrient Management Practices with funding awarded through ISWCC for a Lewis County Soil Health BMPs WQPA Project	*2022-2023*	*Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC*
Work with producers to implement Livestock Feeding Operations with funding awarded through ISWCC for a Lewis County Livestock Operations WQPA project	*2022-2023*	*Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice.

FY 2022 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Number 6: District Funding/ Operations

Objective: ***Maintain District Operations, manage the ongoing business and activities on the district***

Goal(s): ***Increase and strengthen the board's effectiveness and secure funding for the District***

ACTIONS	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Coordinate directly with Lewis County Commissioners to discuss resource needs of the District. They also help judge the annual IASCD poster contest. Retain a relationship with our legislators. *Conduct Conservation District elections according to State of Idaho guidelines*	*Annually*	*Board of Supervisors and District staff*
Explore alternative funding sources to meet identified conservation needs	*Year Long*	*Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC*
Solicit the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission to explore grants for additional funding to meet Idaho State Law requiring a two to one match.	*Year Long*	*District staff, ISWCC*
Work with our conservation partners to find more ways to address the same goals and objectives. Assist with NRCS Farm Bill programs. Encourage the participation of various USDA programs.	*Year Long*	*NRCS, ISWCC, District Staff and Board of Supervisors*
Ensure District Accountability by having yearly audit. Maintain financial records using QuickBooks accounting program	*July*	*District staff, Board of Supervisors, ISWCC*

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice.

Lewis Soil Conservation District is in Lewis County within Division II