

# The Pathfinder



NEZ PERCE  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Six Year Plan 2018-2024*

## District Chair's Message



Figure 1. Steve Becker, Chairman, NPSWCD

Since 1941, the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (District) has diligently fulfilled its charge as the primary entity to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of the District's natural resources.

With over 75 years of experience, our District has risen to numerous challenges and conducted ourselves in a pro-active manner. Our mission, values, and goals complement those in all levels of government.

To truly transform our District to one with a secured future, protecting natural resources and the economy, we need to have a strong commitment to getting conservation on the ground. We are people of action and are committed to natural resource conservation.

Cooperation with our county, state, federal and partners is essential. At times, it's been a tough fight to balance resource needs with resource shortages—but the District survives. We continue to put conservation on the ground in a voluntary manner. Over 55 people have donated time to serve as board members and promote a grass-roots local government approach to solving natural resource issues.

The strategic plan that follows—our Pathfinder—will guide us towards excellence in maintaining our conservation and natural resource heritage. We challenge you to take part in our initiatives and to leave a legacy that is more creative and stronger than those of the past.

*Cover Image: South Tom Beall Riparian Restoration Project. Picture shows newly planted riparian buffer in foreground. Picture taken March 2014. Photo Credit: Brenda Knoll, Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District.*



# Contents

DISTRICT CHAIR’S MESSAGE .....	1
CONTENTS .....	3
DISTRICT MISSION .....	4
DISTRICT VISION .....	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	4
INTRODUCTION .....	5
FUNCTION OF THE NEZ PERCE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT .....	5
PURPOSE AND NEED .....	5
TIMELINE .....	6
A LIVING DOCUMENT .....	6
TIES TO OTHER EFFORTS .....	6
<i>Lower Clearwater River Tributaries TMDL</i> .....	9
<i>Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area</i> .....	10
<i>Nez Perce County Transportation Master Plan</i> .....	11
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS .....	12
<i>Cropland</i> .....	13
<i>Grazing Lands</i> .....	13
<i>Forestland</i> .....	13
<i>Riparian Areas</i> .....	14
<i>Wetland Areas</i> .....	14
<i>Other Land Uses and Management Needs</i> .....	14
RESOURCE ASSESSMENT .....	16
OBJECTIVES .....	16
DELIVERABLES .....	17
TRENDS AFFECTING CONSERVATION NEEDS IN THE NEZ PERCE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT .....	29
STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS TRENDS .....	29
ECONOMIC TRENDS AND CONDITIONS .....	30
PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES .....	31
REFERENCES .....	38
APPENDIX A – FISCAL YEAR 2018 ANNUAL WORK PLAN .....	40
APPENDIX B – FISCAL YEAR 2019 ANNUAL WORK PLAN .....	41
APPENDIX C – FISCAL YEAR 2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN .....	42
APPENDIX D – FISCAL YEAR 2021 ANNUAL WORK PLAN .....	43
APPENDIX E – FISCAL YEAR 2022 ANNUAL WORK PLAN .....	44
APPENDIX F – FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL WORK PLAN .....	45
APPENDIX G – FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL WORK PLAN .....	46

## District Mission

To be the primary entity leading non-regulatory efforts in the conservation, sustainment, improvement, and enhancement of Nez Perce County's natural resources.

## District Vision

A county with a sustainable landscape.

## Executive Summary



The Pathfinder is the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District's (District) five year plan which is the foundation for the District's focus and direction over the next few years. The five year plan will be used to develop specific strategies in the District's annual work plan.

Priorities were developed from information gathered in focus groups, interviews, surveys, and from analysis of existing information. These issues form the foundation upon which The Pathfinder was developed. The five priorities are:

- Priority #1: Expand District Capacity
- Priority #2: Prevent and Mitigate Natural Resource Disasters
- Priority #3: Improve, Protect, and Enhance Riparian Corridors
- Priority #4: Community Education
- Priority #5: Maintain, Restore, and Enhance the Productive Capacity of Working Lands

# Introduction

The Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (District) is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. The District is a subdivision of Idaho State government and is governed by a Board of seven members who are elected and serve a four year term without pay. Board members are elected by public ballot in the Nez Perce County general election process.

The District receives funding by state and county allocations. However, the majority of funding is through grants and contracts for services.

Operating funds are provided primarily through appropriations from the State of Idaho and Nez Perce County. The District administers grants from the State of Idaho and federal government to accomplish soil and water objectives.

The District cooperates with numerous agencies and organizations to meet their goals. This cooperation includes sharing of personnel and equipment, local support and advisory roles, and the exchange of resource information.

The District develops and implements programs to protect and conserve soil, water, farmland, rangeland, forestland, wildlife, energy, and other renewable resources in lands located within the District boundary.

The District has over 75 years of experience in resource conservation, design and implementation of land improvements, and working with local landowners to install on-the-ground conservation practices. As a result of current and past efforts, the District has an excellent working relationship with local landowners and elected officials. The District implements voluntary conservation programs with private landowners and agricultural operators. Landowner agreements are based on approved conservation plans that are developed primarily by District staff.

## Function of the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District

The function of the District is to act as the “primary entity to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of the District’s natural resources” as outlined in Idaho State Law §22-2716.

## Purpose and Need

The Pathfinder meets the requirements of the Idaho State Administrative Code 60-05-02 which requires all conservation districts within the state to develop a five year plan. This document will also guide the District’s actions for the 2018-2024 time period.

## Timeline

The priorities outlined in this plan draw upon the cumulative body of work that has been completed in Nez Perce County. The time frame for implementing the aspects of this plan is the six year period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2024. The plan follows the state of Idaho's fiscal year period of July 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## A Living Document

This document is a result of a collaborative planning effort by multiple stakeholders spanning several years. The document is intended to provide a framework for prioritization and coordination of conservation efforts and will be updated as necessary to include additional data and improved scientific methods. These updates will be used to reprioritize activities as necessary, and allow successful implementation of the plan through adaptive management. Approval and adoption of this document and any revisions shall follow the administrative procedures for the District.

This document has been reviewed by the public, the District elected officials, and local resource management agencies. Comments that added value to the plan were incorporated.

The Plan was adopted on March 16, 2017. The plan was revised on March 14, 2023 to extend the plan for one year.

## Ties to Other Efforts

An extended network of management, protection, and restoration efforts exists for the District on the local, tribal, state and federal level. The District used information from these efforts in developing the planned activities in the "Pathfinder". These regional efforts are outlined below.

### NPCC 2009 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (FWP) is based on rebuilding healthy naturally-producing fish and wildlife populations by protecting, mitigating, and restoring habitats and the biological systems within them. The FWP focuses on performance, emphasizing scientific review and accountability of both new and on-going actions.

The FWP draws on subbasin management plans to provide subbasin-level objectives to accomplish Columbia River basin goals. The vision for the Clearwater River subbasin as outlined in the Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan is of "...a healthy ecosystem with abundant, productive, and diverse aquatic and terrestrial species, which will support sustainable resource-based activities (2009)".

*Specific Tie(s) to this strategy:*

Implementation of the 2017-2023 Pathfinder works toward accomplishing the vision and objectives of the Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan and, by extension, the FWP.

## Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan

The Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan was adopted in 2005 by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) into their Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Sub-basin plans were developed for each subbasin in the Columbia River Basin in order to identify project priorities to achieve restoration and recovery goals in each respective subbasin. The Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan presents problem statements, objectives and strategies for habitat treatments within the Clearwater Subbasin.

The subbasin plan identifies three management units within several of the District's watersheds. The subbasin plan identified priority restoration issues for each unit, with each issue prioritized by H=high, M=medium, L=low, or U=suspected but unknown need. Table 1, taken from the Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan, depicts the three major units identified within the District's boundaries (PMU-6, PMU-7, PMU-8), along with level of priority ascribed to each restoration issue.

Table 1. Restoration Issues and Priority

Restoration Issue	PMU-6	PMU-7	PMU-8
Surface Erosion	H	H	H
Water Temperature	H	H	H
Prairie Grasses	H	H	H
Grazing Impacts	M	L	L
In-stream Work	L	L	L
Ponderosa Pine	H-M	-	H-M

*Specific Tie(s) to this strategy:*

The Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan lists five high priority factors limiting aquatic and terrestrial species and habitats in the Clearwater River subbasin: instream temperatures, sedimentation, loss or disturbance of riparian habitats, changes in vegetative structure, and alteration of environmental processes. These issues are directly addressed through this plan.

## NOAA Fisheries Salmon Recovery Plans

The overall goal for the recovery plan is to achieve conditions for each Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) and Distinct Population Segment (DPS) so they no longer need protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) because either the danger of extinction or the likelihood of endangerment within the foreseeable future has been eliminated. A delisting decision will include consideration of the current extinction risk of the listed species and whether factors for the decline that lead to the listing have been



addressed so they no longer limit the viability. The Interior Columbia Technical Recovery Team (ICTRT 2005) recommended that all Major Population Groups (MPG) in an ESU or DPS be viable before being considered at low risk of extinction and a candidate for delisting.

The ICTRT made determinations for the Snake River steelhead DPS and their respective MPGs recognizing desired future status and the current status. The desired future status is a description of the recovery plan objective for the MPG that meets the minimum viability requirements based on the ICTRT (2005) viability criteria. The minimum viability requirements are the minimum combination of populations within the MPG that must be at viable status for the MPG to satisfy the ICTRT criteria. There are multiple combinations of populations within a MPG that could meet minimum viability requirements. The

populations included in each MPG recovery plan objective were selected based on unique sets of characteristics, such as run timing, importance as core production areas, management opportunities, and feasibility to monitor status. The recommended objectives or desired future status that NOAA presents in the draft recovery plans represent the shortest routes to MPG viability.

Populations within a MPG that have been identified as

necessary to achieve the desired future status for that MPG will be prioritized higher for habitat restoration than one that is not. The recovery plans caution that although not all population in an MPG need to be viable under the initial recovery planning objective, it would be highly risky to allow the status of any population to degrade.

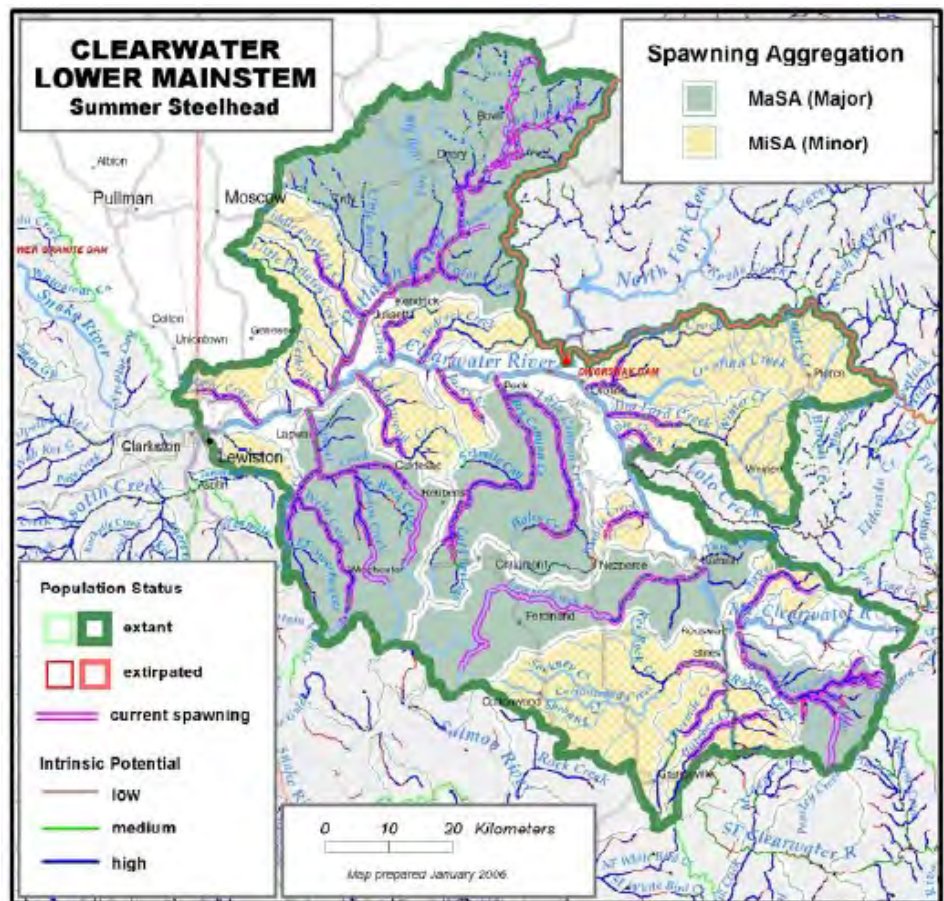


Figure 2. Major and Minor Spawning Areas within the Lower Mainstem Clearwater Basin



*Specific Tie(s) to this strategy:*

The 2007 draft Salmon Recovery Plan<sup>1</sup> names Big Canyon and Lapwai Creeks as two of the five Major Spawning Aggregation (MaSA) areas<sup>2</sup> for the Clearwater Lower Mainstem (CRLMA) population of the Snake River Basin Steelhead DPS' Clearwater River MPG (Figure 2). In addition Catholic, Hatwai, Lower Potlatch, Pine, Bedrock, Jacks and Cottonwood Creeks are listed as minor spawning areas (MiSA). The draft Recovery Plan also identifies six restoration objectives designed to improve habitat condition and bolster salmonid productivity:

- Address localized areas where riparian function is most limited, including those segments of stream where roadbeds have been constructed adjacent to or within the immediate floodplain.
- Restore riparian area composition, structure, and function in localized areas of the Lower Clearwater by improving riparian vegetation and hydrologic function through decommissioning or obliterating of roads within riparian areas and returning road surfaces, cuts and fills to productivity.
- Fine sediments in the Lower Clearwater mainstem are currently high due to the geologically unstable nature of the watershed and legacy effects from land management. Promote landscape management activities that minimize the threat of chronic sediment inputs.
- Improve water quality and geomorphic integrity by implementing watershed restoration and reducing accelerated sediment impacts in localized areas of the Lower Clearwater mainstem.
- Contribute to de-listing Lower Clearwater mainstem stream segments from the 303(d) list of water quality limited water bodies by applying appropriate and active watershed restoration to reduce sediment (identified as the pollutant of concern).

The treatments outlined in the 2018-2024 Pathfinder address these objectives in all aspects.

## Lower Clearwater River Tributaries TMDL

The Lower Clearwater River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocation is in draft as of the publication date of this report (2017). The TMDL effort is led by the Nez Perce Tribe in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The TMDL for the Lower Clearwater River is pending publication and includes all sub-basins on the reservation. Data collected provides information for additional resource management applications and can be used to identify source water protection zones, areas especially sensitive to development or specific land use, and to monitor trends and responses to climate change or population density changes. Figure 3 below illustrates water quality monitoring site locations. As TMDL plans are implemented, monitoring will

<sup>1</sup>Draft can be found at the following website: [http://www.idahosalmonrecovery.net/pdfs/PVA7\\_2\\_6\\_1ClearwaterLowerMainstem-stlhd.pdf](http://www.idahosalmonrecovery.net/pdfs/PVA7_2_6_1ClearwaterLowerMainstem-stlhd.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Adult weir data from USFWS (Howard Burge personal conversation) and Idaho Fish and Game (Bowersox, 2007) suggest that the number of MaSa areas within the Lower Clearwater basin may be revised to a total of either three or four.

be incorporated to assess effectiveness and determine trends in surface water quantity and quality on the reservation.

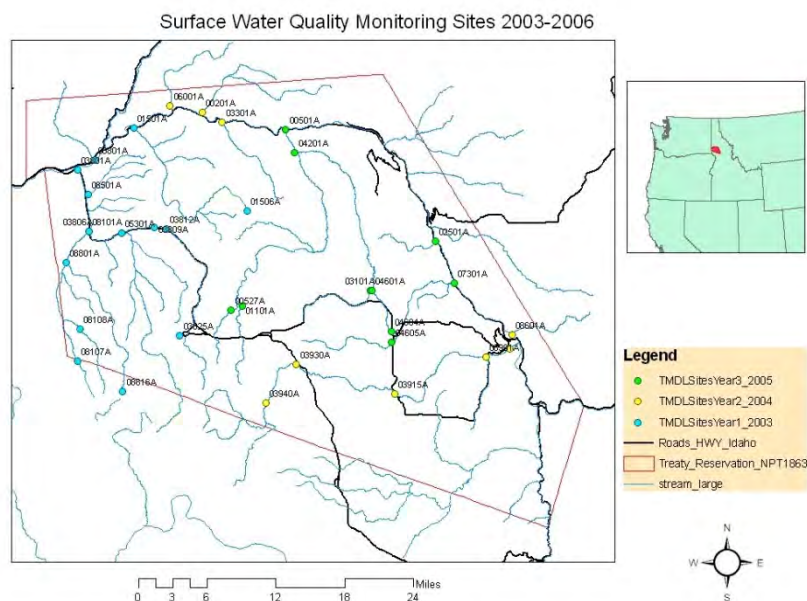


Figure 3. Lower Clearwater River TMDL Location and Water Quality Monitoring Sites 2003-2006

*Specific Tie(s) to this strategy:*

Water Quality data from the TMDL was used to identify water quality pollutants and impaired streams. These streams and pollutants are addressed by specific actions listed in this plan.

## Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area

A Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is a distinguishable hydrologic, vegetative, or geographic zone based upon geography, weed infestations, climatic or human-use patterns (ISDA, 2007).

The Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area (CBWMA) was formed in 1995. The cooperative was created to bring together those responsible for weed management within the Clearwater River Basin, to develop common management objectives, facilitate effective treatment, integrate weed programs and coordinate efforts along logical geographic boundaries with similar lands, use patterns and problem weeds.

The District is located within the mainstem Clearwater subbasin. A basin-wide Steering Committee coordinates sub-basin activities, maintains the CBWMA Long Range Strategy and consolidates information. The District is a member of the Steering Committee.

Cooperators in the CBWMA include private landowners, county government, tribal government, university, state and federal land management agencies, as well as interested individuals and organizations.

The major weeds of importance in the area include Dalmatian toadflax, diffuse knapweed, yellow toadflax, rush skeletonweed, spotted knapweed, orange hawkweed, meadow hawkweed, scotch thistle, and yellow starthistle. Major efforts are being made to control these weeds each year.

*Specific Tie(s) to this strategy:*

Weed treatments and strategies implemented through this plan are adopted directly from the CBWMA. In addition, weed inventory data collected through this plan is supplied to the CBWMA who houses weed infestation and treatment data for the Clearwater Basin. This plan will monitor weed control success and infestations levels by using the established CBWMA protocols and database.

## **Nez Perce County Transportation Master Plan**

The Nez Perce County Transportation Master Plan (Master Plan) identifies transportation deficiencies throughout Nez Perce County and identifies and prioritizes projects that improve transportation access and safety. The Master Plan includes a growth analysis and short, medium, and long range projects to be completed over a 20-year timeframe.

The major projects identified as short term within the District are the paving of gravel roads. Long range projects include the replacement of Bear Creek Bridge near Peck.

*Specific Tie(s) to this strategy:*

The Master Plan was used for economic and transportation data in this plan. In addition, the Master Plan project list was used to identify potential projects within the District. Implementation of strategies in this plan will assist Nez Perce County in meeting the objectives outlined in the Master Plan. The Master Plan will be used as a tool to implement identified county road projects which are impacting fisheries resources.



# Physical Characteristics

The District is located in North Central Idaho along the Washington/Idaho border (Figure 4). The District boundaries are within Nez Perce County, Idaho and consist of approximately 540,000 acres. A portion of the District is located within the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation boundary.

Ownership (Figure 5) within the District consists of mostly private (70%), federal (6%), tribal (7%), and state (17 %). Land use within the District includes cropland (44%), forestland (19%), wildlife lands (10%), rangeland (20%), pastureland (3%), developed (3%) and open water (1%).

Elevations within the District range from 720 feet near Lewiston to 5,000 feet near Mason Butte. Precipitation ranges from 10 to 25 inches per year.



Figure 4. Nez Perce SWCD Location Map

The District's Resource Inventory and Assessment (Rasmussen et al, 2013) provides additional details regarding the District's natural resource characteristics.

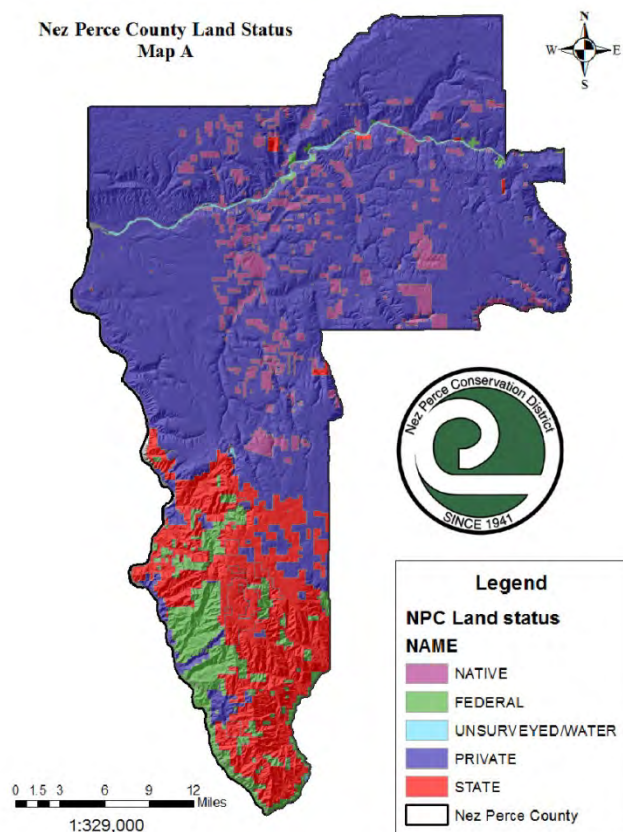


Figure 5. Nez Perce County Ownership Map

The major rivers within the District are the Salmon, Snake, and Clearwater. The District includes over 290 miles of streams with the majority listed on the EPA 303(d) water quality limited stream list. The 155 acres of lakes include Soldier's Meadow Reservoir, Mann's Lake, Waha Lake, and Blue Lake. Water quantity can be a resource issue. Runoff and flooding occur from February through May. 1996 and 1997 were years with 75 to 100 year flood events. Surface water flows tend to be the greatest in May then decrease to minimal levels over the course of the summer. Local communities obtain their water from ground and surface water systems. Lewiston obtains most of its domestic water from the Clearwater River. The City of Peck obtains its water from Big Canyon Creek. The remainder of the communities use groundwater sources. Rural residents use mainly groundwater sources.

The District is within the Clearwater Plateau groundwater system. This aquifer is recharged by area streams where permeable basalts are

exposed in stream channels (allowing for infiltration) and by precipitation percolating through fractured bedrock in the upland plateau

## **Land Use Management**

### **Cropland**

Many producers within the District are adopting direct seeding systems. The District plans to assist these producers by providing technical assistance. The implementation of direct seeding systems will reduce erosion by an estimated 25%. Additional benefits include improved soil quality/health, reduction in fossil fuel consumption, improved carbon sequestration, increased water infiltration and improved watershed hydrology. Over 700 acres of irrigated cropland is used primarily for the production of garden produce, commodity crops, and hays. Management challenges for irrigated producers include disease control, product marketing, erosion and loss of production, and limited water availability.

### **Grazing Lands**

Pasture acres are generally located in close proximity to perennial streams and intermittent drainages. Livestock grazing has a direct influence on the riparian areas. Riparian areas adjacent to pastures with excessive livestock grazing use are degraded from lack of protective woody and perennial grass cover. Lack of protective vegetation along stream channels increases channel erosion during runoff events.

The majority of rangeland acres occur on steep canyon walls adjacent to perennial streams and intermittent drainages. Slopes range from 40 to 90 percent. Livestock grazing occurs predominantly in the spring and summer months. Some rangeland units are grazed for a twelve-month period.

Noxious weed invasions on rangeland have drastically reduced forage production. Aggressive weeds of concern include yellow starthistle and cheatgrass brome.

The severe soil limitations and low production potential of rangeland cause range improvement practices to be very costly, resulting in a small return on investment. Erosion concerns on rangeland are primarily ephemeral gully and stream bank erosion. Stream bank erosion may be a problem where livestock have direct access to streams for drinking water and crossings.

### **Forestland**

The Craig Mountain area has moderate to severe erosion problems caused by the building of roads and their maintenance. Erosion rates vary from 1 ton to 40 tons per acre. The most serious concern is sediment delivered to streams. Poor logging practices, insect infestations, and root and stem diseases are impacting forest health. Eighty percent of the forestland acres need some type of conservation treatment.

The Idaho Forest Practices Act (IFPA) provides for the application and inspection of BMPs on forestland. Forest management practices must meet or exceed the intent of the IFPA best management practices to comply with the state water quality standards.

### **Riparian Areas**

Riparian areas are adjacent to water sources such as streams, springs, rivers, and ponds. A healthy riparian system provides sediment filtering, bank stabilization, water storage and release, and aquifer recharge.

The magnitude, duration and frequency of stream flow are the most important factors influencing riparian areas. Riparian systems are dynamic, and condition of vegetation on a site is only one attribute of riparian health. Riparian health should be evaluated in terms of physical and biological function in relation to the entire watershed (Gephardt, 1992).

It is unlikely that soil and water conditions at many riparian sites will remain stable. Erosion resistance is characterized by vegetation condition as it relates to soil and substrate stability and texture. Vulnerability of the area or susceptibility to change may be influenced by external activities. Riparian areas have been subject to extreme hydraulic events as well as intensive grazing and forest harvesting activities.

### **Wetland Areas**

Wetlands are typically associated with Aquolls, Riverwash and Aquents, Bridgewater-Joseph, Wilkins silt loam, and Westlake-Latahco complex soil types. These soils are hydric because of saturation, are naturally supportive of woody vegetation, and are seasonally ponded or flooded. A wetland inventory was completed utilizing climatic data, soil survey information, and hydric soil lists coupled with the use of a geographic information system (GIS). Soils were categorized by landscape such as floodplain, terraces and drainage ways. The inventory showed approximately 7,000 acres of wetlands within the District. Many of the wetlands were historically drained. NRCS and Corps of Engineers policies and procedures for the protection of wetlands will be followed.

### **Other Land Uses and Management Needs**

There are 602 miles of public roads in Nez Perce County<sup>1</sup>. Of these miles, 200 are paved and 402 are unpaved. Roads have a significant impact on conservation planning considerations and are often major contributors to erosion.

The main conservation problems in urban and suburban areas are surface runoff, which causes sedimentation and water quality problems. Erosion from residential development and road building are concerns.

---

<sup>1</sup> Nez Perce County Road and Bridge Department, 2000



Recreational activities include big game, upland bird and waterfowl hunting, fishing, rafting, boating, water-skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, camping, and cross-country skiing. All-terrain vehicles have become very popular in areas that are inaccessible by road. This presents an erosion problem that can be serious. If vehicles are in constant use in repeated areas, grasses and plants that are necessary to hold the soil base are stripped away, and sedimentation occurs in adjacent streams and watercourses.

Other visitors to the area are attracted to Hells Canyon National Recreational Area, located at the southern end of the county. In 1999, over 22,000 people toured Hells Canyon by commercial jet boat and over 350 people experienced the canyon via commercial rafting operations. In addition to this, twelve of these commercial outfitting businesses are located in Lewiston<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> Unpublished correspondence with Michelle Peters, Director Hells Canyon Visitor Assoc., August 2000

# Resource Assessment

The majority of the streams within the District do not meet the federal requirements identified in the Clean Water Act or the Endangered Species Act.

Section 303(b) of the Clean Water Act lists impaired streams within each state. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains lists of impaired waters and the identified pollutants. For each pollutant a total maximum daily load or TMDL is established which identifies the reductions needed to meet the water quality standards. For Nez Perce County, the majority of streams are listed as impaired on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Action Section 303(d) impaired water list. In addition, the majority of the streams within the District are listed as critical habitat for chinook and steelhead fish under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The major pollutants include high stream temperatures, sediment, nutrients, bacteria and poor aquatic habitat suitability.



Figure 6. Sheet, Rill and Ephemeral Gully Erosion near Genesee, Idaho

## Objectives

The District's Resource Inventory and Assessment (Rasmussen et al, 2013) identifies 3 objectives to meet the requirements of EPA and ESA:

### Objective 1 – Reduce stream temperatures

Reduce water temperatures to levels meeting applicable water quality standards for life stage specific needs of anadromous and native resident fish, with an established upward trend in the number of stream miles meeting standards. The benchmark for this objective is to reduce overall days exceeding daily average temperatures at less than 16 degrees Celsius for spawning and rearing for anadromous salmonids and less than 20 degrees Celsius under all circumstances (NPCC 1994). Additional benchmarks for specific project types are discussed under relevant deliverables. Desired outcomes include restoring hydrologic functions related to temperature--identifying and rehabilitating wetland and floodplain areas, restoring riparian functions related to temperature--continuing efforts aimed at increasing streamside shading where streamside shading has been reduced by anthropogenic activities. This objective is consistent with the Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan, pg 35 (NPCC, 2005).

## Objective 2 – Improve aquatic habitat diversity and complexity

Improve aquatic habitat diversity and complexity to levels consistent with objectives in the subbasin plan, with particular emphasis on recovery of anadromous stocks. Aquatic habitat condition (including diversity and/or complexity components) is limiting all focal species. Improvement in habitat productivity is considered critical to attainment of goals for both anadromous and resident species. Address priority problems with protection and restoration activities designed to promote development of more complex and diverse habitats through improved watershed condition and function. Desired outcomes include additions of large woody debris, stream channel reconstruction, increased side channels, increased pool quality/quantity, floodplain reconstruction, protecting and restoring wetland, and improved hydrologic functions. Benchmarks are noted in the deliverable descriptions for projects associated with this objective. Link to Clearwater Subbasin Plan, pg 37 (NPCC, 2005).

## Objective 3 – Reduce instream sedimentation

Reduce instream sedimentation to levels meeting applicable water quality standards, with an established upward trend in the number of stream miles meeting standards. Benchmarks for this activity include streambanks are >90% stable, < 20% cobble embeddedness, and turbidity is low (NOAA, 1996). Additional benchmarks for specific project types are discussed under relevant deliverables. Desired outcomes include restoring streambank condition, reducing sediment delivery to the stream from hydrologically connected roads and uplands, and reducing sediment inputs by implementing practices that address problems from logging, mining, agricultural and other historic and current sediment producing activities. This objective is consistent with the Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan, pg 35 (NPCC, 2005).

## Deliverables

The deliverables selected to meet the objectives include:

### 1 - Improve Riparian Condition

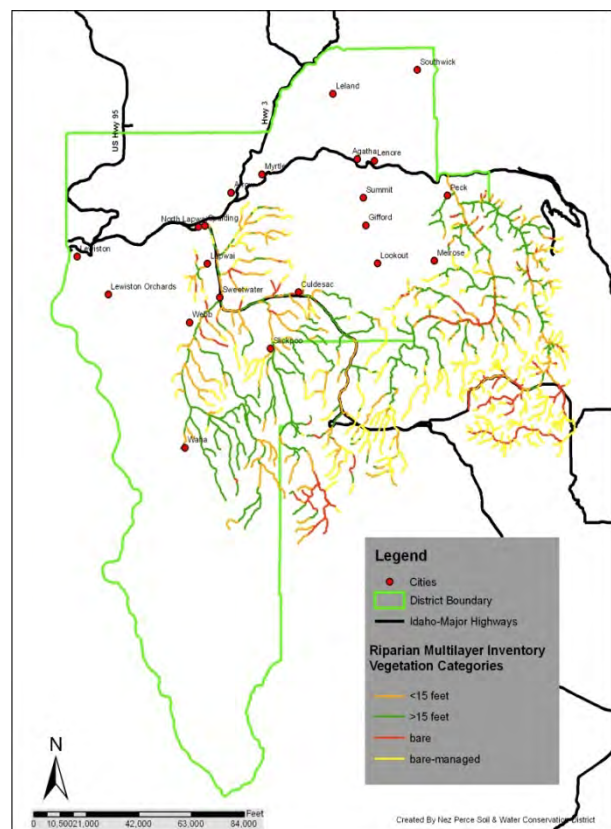


Figure 7. Lapwai and Big Canyon Creek Riparian Area Improvement Map



Priorities outlined in a project prioritization exercise along with information gathered in the Lapwai Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Richardson and Rasmussen, 2009) and the Big Canyon Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Rasmussen and Richardson, 2009), Lindsay Creek Stream Inventory and Assessment (Rasmussen & Brenda Knoll, 2015), and the Lower Canyon Tributaries Stream Inventory and Assessment (Dau & Rasmussen, 2014) will guide restoration efforts in targeting riparian treatments in areas designated as poor or fair condition. Orange, red, or yellow lines shown in Figures 7, 8, and 9 are the focus areas needing treatment.

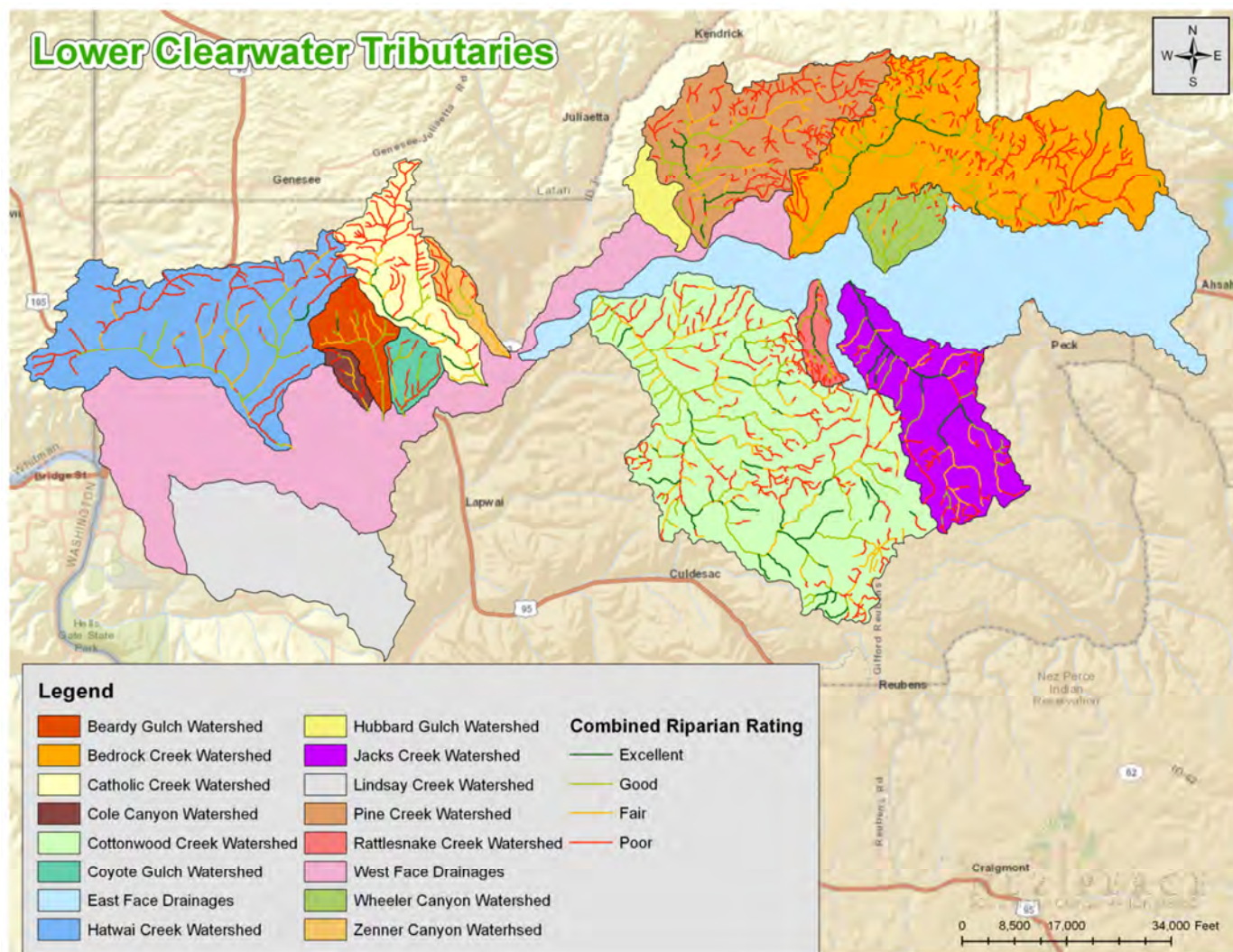


Figure 8. Lower Canyon tributaries Riparian Condition Ratings.

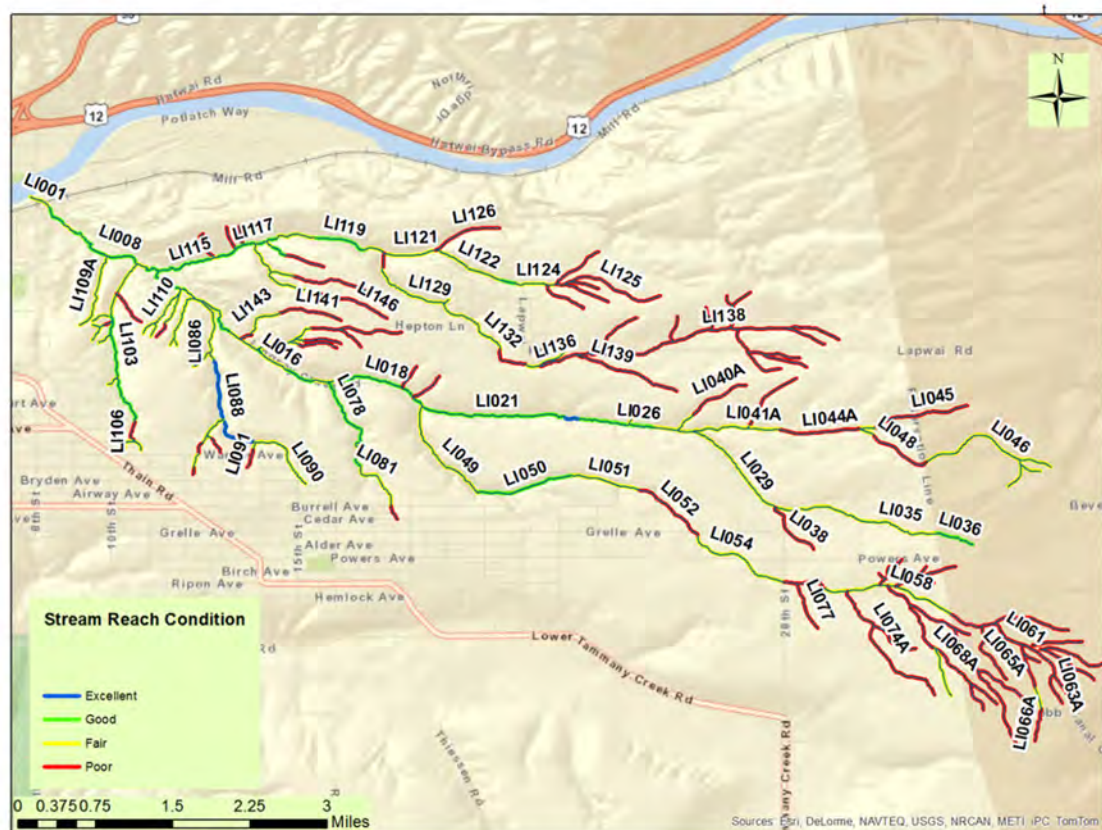


Figure 9. Lindsay Creek riparian area implementation map.

Management criteria are based on the NOAA Matrix of Pathways and Indicators (NOAA, 1996). These include water temperature of 16°C, adequate sources of woody debris recruitment, and bank erosion of <10%. This deliverable includes three components. Our goal is to complete 4 miles (components 1-3) of aquatic habitat suitability improvements through riparian restoration.

**COMPONENT (1)** Riparian Establishment – ongoing sites. Projects completed in the years 2014-2017 will have ongoing treatment in the 2018-2023 years in order to ensure successful establishment. (NPSWCD plans for treatment for 3 years)

***METHODS:*** Ongoing treatment includes pre-plant weed control, grass establishment, tree/shrub plantings to replace dead/lost plants, and site maintenance.

***SUCCESS FACTORS:*** Weather conditions, especially spring and summer precipitation, heavily impacts survival of vegetation.

**COMPONENT (2)** Reduce Livestock Impacts to the Stream. Install projects listed under Objective 3.4 (page 35 of this document) to reduce livestock impacts on the stream.

***METHODS:*** Treatment includes, but is not limited to, establishment of a vegetative buffer along the stream and limiting livestock access to the riparian



zone. This includes practices such as fencing, water developments, and vegetative planting.

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** Factors that may limit success include landowner financial limitations and soil conditions that are too wet or frozen which will delay construction timing. The landowners are sharing in the installation costs of these projects, if a situation occurs where costs exceed available funds, the District will seek supplemental funding, and if none is available, the amount of work will be scoped to fit within our available resources resulting in a longer implementation timeframe.

**COMPONENT (3)** Riparian establishment – new sites. Additional riparian improvement sites will be selected in the highest geographic priority areas within the Lapwai, Big Canyon Watersheds, Lindsay, and Lower Canyon tributary streams.

**METHODS:** Riparian treatments include invasive weed control, vegetative plantings and maintenance in areas lacking stream adjacent forest. Vegetation will be suited to site conditions and capable of supplying large wood within the riparian area, providing a buffer to filter nutrients and sediment, providing stream shade and stabilizing the streambanks. In areas impacted by livestock, treatments include development of a grazing management plan which identifies stocking capacity, forage amounts, and timing of grazing activities; fencing of sensitive areas including springs, wetlands and streams, and installation of alternative watering systems if livestock are utilizing streams, springs or wetland as their water source. Plans and designs shall follow USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and USDA-Forest Service protocols. Work will be completed by project staff, subcontractors and the Idaho Department of Corrections inmate work crew. Outreach efforts to illustrate project benefits and to solicit voluntary landowner cooperation for any identified restoration activities will follow strategies identified in the Lapwai Creek Marketing Plan (NPSWCD, 2012).

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** The success of this work is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas. Weather conditions, especially spring and summer precipitation, heavily impacts survival of vegetation.

## 2 Reduce Streambank Erosion

Priorities outlined in a project prioritization exercise along with information in the Lapwai Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Richardson and Rasmussen, 2009), the Big Canyon Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Rasmussen and Richardson, 2009) and the Catholic Creek Watershed Management Plan (Fales et al, 2012) will guide the restoration efforts in targeting channel segments that are actively eroding and delivering sediment to designated spawning and rearing habitats. Collectively, the planned sites to not meet management criteria. Management criteria are based on the NOAA Matrix of Pathways and Indicators (NOAA, 1996) for channel condition and dynamics. These indicators list streambank conditions as >90% stable, with on average, less than 10% of banks actively eroding.



This deliverable includes three components. Within the constraints of budget and staffing, completion of work for components 1 and 2 will result in the assessment/plan development of 1.1 miles of stream. While completion of work for component 3 will result in 800 LF of streambank protection.

**COMPONENT (1)** Lower Lapwai streambank plan development: Within the identified project areas, 3,715 linear feet of stream were experiencing excessive bank erosion during the 2009 stream inventory.

*METHODS:* The plan includes evaluating the previously identified eroding segments, selecting site specific treatments, developing designs, and cost estimates. Work will be completed by project staff, and a team of professionals from the Nez Perce Tribe, USDA-NRCS and NOAA. Plan completion is scheduled for 2014. Preliminary landowner permission for the planning component was obtained in 2013. After plan development outreach efforts to illustrate project benefits and to solicit voluntary landowner participation will include strategies identified in the Lapwai Creek Marketing Plan (NPSWCD, 2012).

*SUCCESS FACTORS:* The success of implementing this deliverable is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas and the availability and coordination of schedules for identified team members.

**COMPONENT (2)** Sweetwater Creek streambank plan development: Within the identified project area 2,270 linear feet of stream were identified as having excessive bank erosion during the 2009 stream inventory. The *METHODS and SUCCESS FACTORS* are the same as those listed in Component 1 above.

**COMPONENT (3)** Streambank Erosion Treatment: Projects identified through the efforts of the plans developed under 1 and 2 will be installed. From a preliminary scoping effort, we estimated that 800 LF of the eroding streambanks will need physical treatment. However, the actual applied amount will be based on the needs identified in the planning process under 1 and 2 above.

*METHODS:* Work for this component includes permitting and installation. Work will be completed by project staff and subcontractors. Methods include those outlined in the Practical Streambank Bioengineering Guide (NRCS, 1998) as well as those outlined by engineering designs. Bioengineering techniques that may be used include post plantings, brush mattress, fascines, and rootwads. To maximize efficiencies, work will be planned so that sites in close proximity will be completed in the same year. At this time, we are planning on 2 to 3 installation phases: Year 2015 – Sweetwater Creek sites; Year 2016 Middle Lapwai Sites; and Year 2017 Lower Lapwai sites.

*SUCCESS FACTORS:* Factors that may limit success are the availability of plant materials, weather conditions and budget constraints. A majority of the plant materials will be locally collected and ensuring that an adequate supply of materials meeting the size requirements may be a challenge. Installation will be in

the dormant season, so wet or frozen soil conditions may prohibit or delay construction. As actual costs are not prepared prior to the submittal of this proposal, actual costs may exceed allocated budgets. If this occurs, the NPSWCD will seek supplemental funding, and if none is available, the amount of work will be scoped to fit within our available resources resulting in a longer implementation timeframe.

### 3 Reduce Road Related Sediment Delivery

Priorities outlined in a project prioritization exercise along with information in the Lapwai Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Richardson and Rasmussen, 2009), the Tammany Creek Road Inventory and Assessment (Hall and Rasmussen, 2011), and the Lower Canyon Tributaries Inventory and Assessment (Rasmussen et al., 2014) will guide the restoration efforts in targeting road segments that are actively eroding and delivering sediment to designated spawning and rearing habitats.

This deliverable includes two components, (1) planning and (2) installation of treatment measures within the identified geographic priority areas. Specific sites include both Nez Perce County maintained roads as well as private field access roads.

These sites do not meet the management criteria of <20% cobble embeddedness.

Within the constraints of staffing and budget, we propose to treat 1.5 road miles and complete 3 plans and designs for an additional 5.0 miles in the five year period of 2017-2023.

**COMPONENT (1)** Planning: Planning consists of survey, problem identification and selection of treatment alternatives.

**METHODS:** Hydrology analysis components are performed using USDA-NRCS WinTR-55 Watershed Hydrology (NRCS, 2013) or EFH2 peak discharge determination methods (NRCS, 2013). Work will be completed by project staff and subcontractors. Outreach efforts to illustrate project benefits and to solicit voluntary landowner participation will include strategies identified in the Lapwai Creek Marketing Plan (NPSWCD, 2012).

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** The success of implementing this deliverable is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas

**COMPONENT (2)** Installation: Treatment measures include installation of cross drains, culvert replacement, reducing road gradient, increasing vegetation on cut slopes, improving road surface conditions, road relocation, and road obliteration.

**METHODS:** Road construction guidelines outlined in the USDA Forest Service Forest Road Construction and Management Manual (Forest Service, 2012) will be used in completing road work. Work will be completed by project staff, subcontractors, and Nez Perce County. Outreach efforts to illustrate project benefits and to solicit voluntary landowner participation will include strategies

identified in the Lapwai Creek Marketing Plan (NPSWCD, 2012). Coordination efforts will be needed between design engineering staff, landowners, and permitting entities. Project effectiveness and compliance monitoring will be completed pre and post-installation.

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** The success of implementing this deliverable is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas.

#### 4 Reduce Sediment Delivery from Uplands

Priorities outlined in a project prioritization exercise along with information in the Lapwai Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Richardson and Rasmussen, 2009), Big Canyon Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Rasmussen and Richardson, 2009), Catholic Creek Watershed Management Plan (Fales et al, 2012) and the Tammany Creek Water Quality assessment (Fales, 2011) will guide the restoration efforts in targeting upland areas that are actively eroding and delivering sediment to designated spawning and rearing habitats. Uplands identified as having high sediment delivery rates are those areas with a soil K factor exceeding 0.37 (Figure 10). Collectively, these projects do not meet management criteria. Benchmarks include soil erosion rates at 1.5 times the specific soils' tolerance rate as established by the Lewis and Nez Perce Soil Survey (NRCS, 2004), and stream cobble embeddedness <20%.

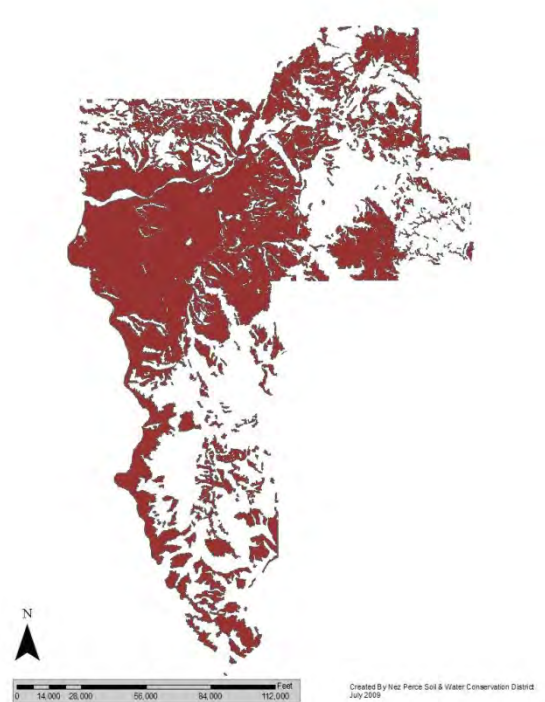


Figure 10. Upland Sediment Priority Treatment Areas

Within the constraints of staffing and budget, the NPSWCD plans to treat 120 acres of upland erosion.

**COMPONENT (1)** Erosion treatment: Treatments include the installation of erosion control measures including vegetative buffers, surface treatments, grade control structures, and water and sediment control structures.

**METHODS:** Project designs follow USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide (NRCS, 2013) protocols. Outreach efforts to illustrate project benefits and solicit landowner participation will follow strategies outlined in the Lapwai Creek Marketing Plan (NPSWCD, 2012).

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** The success of implementing this deliverable is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas.

## 5 Remove and/or Retrofit Barriers

Priorities outlined in a project prioritization exercise along with information gathered in the Lapwai Creek Ecological Restoration Plan (Richardson and Rasmussen, 2009), and the Big Canyon Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Rasmussen and Richardson, 2009) will guide the restoration efforts in targeting fish barriers.

This deliverable includes treatment for three high priority projects within the SC1 and LC1 geographic priority areas. Selected sites were identified through the Fish Passage Assessment (Taylor, 2004) and the Lapwai creek stream assessment completed in 2009. These barriers include culverts and field access stream crossings that are passage barriers during certain flows. These sites do not meet the management criteria of allowing upstream and downstream fish passage at all flows.

Within the constraints of staffing and budget we plan to treat 3 sites in the five year period from 2017-2023 with a goal of restoring 1.25 miles of access. Activities include: site survey, design, permitting, and construction. These will be implemented in phases over multiple years during this timeframe.

**COMPONENT (1)** Design Phase: The Design Phase includes site surveys, hydrologic analysis, engineering drawings, and cost estimates.

**METHODS:** Designs will follow the NOAA Criteria for Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Design (NOAA, 2008). Culvert barriers are replaced with either a fish passable structure; stream crossings are shaped and strengthened to match the existing channel profile. Work will be completed by project staff, subcontractors, and landowners. Outreach efforts to illustrate project benefits and to solicit voluntary landowner participation will follow strategies identified in the Lapwai Creek Marketing Plan (NPSWCD, 2012). Coordination efforts will include the Nez Perce Tribe, design engineering staff, and permitting entities. Project effectiveness and compliance monitoring will be completed pre and post-installation.

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** The success of implementing this deliverable is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas.

**COMPONENT (2)** Funding Requests

**COMPONENT (3)** Implementation: Under development.

## 6 Restore Floodplain Access and Reconnect Channels

Priorities outlined in a project prioritization exercise along with information in the Lapwai Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Richardson and Rasmussen, 2009) will



guide the restoration efforts in targeting areas where floodplain access is not meeting management criteria. Management criteria are based on the NOAA Matrix of Pathways and Indicators (NOAA, 1996) for channel condition and dynamics. These indicators include width to depth ratios <10, streambank conditions are >90% stable, with on average, less than 10% of banks actively eroding, and overbank flows occur on a 1.5 – 2 year event.

This deliverable includes three components. Our goal is to complete 7.6 miles of floodplain analysis (Components 1 and 2) and restore aquatic habitat suitability to 1, 200 feet of stream channel (Component 3).

**COMPONENT (1)** Rock Creek Floodplain Analysis: During the 1965 and 1996 flood events, 0.86 miles of stream was diked with gravel berms (both sides of the channel = 1.7 miles). These berms prohibit access to the floodplain and cause on-site as well as downstream impacts. Downstream impacts include streambank erosion, impacts on the Mission Creek Road Bridge, and additional bedload deposition. This project is upstream of project work completed in 2012.

**METHODS:** The site needs a topographic survey, hydrologic analysis and design prior to installation activities. The planning phase of this project is scheduled for completion during the 2014-2017 timeframe. Work will be completed by project staff and USDA engineers. Methods will follow USDA/ACOE protocols using HEC-GeoRAS modeling software. After plan development outreach efforts to illustrate project benefits and to solicit voluntary landowner cooperation for any identified restoration activities will follow strategies identified in the Lapwai Creek Marketing Plan (NPSWCD, 2012).

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** The success of implementing this deliverable is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas.

**COMPONENT (2)** Lapwai Creek Floodplain Analysis: As identified during the 2009 field surveys this 6.8 mile reach of stream starting at Culdesac and continuing to Sweetwater is confined within Highway 95, a railroad and numerous gravel berms. The NPSWCD partnered with USDA-NRCS to complete a floodplain analysis in order to identify potential areas to restore overbank flows and hydrologic connectivity to the stream. Preliminary field work was completed in 2011 and 2012.

**METHOD:** A HEC-GeoRAS model will be used to complete identified project work. A sample of the preliminary analysis is illustrated both in the results portion of this proposal as well as located at [www.nezperce.org/ISRP.aspx](http://www.nezperce.org/ISRP.aspx) (Document Name = Lapwai Creek HEC-GeoRAS analysis sample outputs 2012). The goal is to finish the analysis in 2014. Permission has been obtained by landowners and USDA resources are committed. After plan development outreach efforts to illustrate project benefits and to solicit voluntary landowner cooperation for any identified restoration activities will follow strategies identified in the Lapwai Creek Marketing Plan (NPSWCD, 2012).

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** The success of implementing this deliverable is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas.

**COMPONENT (3)** Tom Beall Channel Restoration: This site was identified during the Lapwai Creek stream inventory in 2005; however, it lacked landowner permission until the winter of 2012. Through outreach efforts and coordination with all stakeholders the NPSWCD was able to obtain the necessary land owner commitment to relocate this 1,200 foot segment of Tom Beall Creek to its original channel. The channel was moved in the late 1970s as part of a road improvement project, resulting in 1,200 feet of channelization. Survey work for this site was completed in contract 57048. Design work is slated for the 2013 contract year, permitting in 2014, and installation in 2015.

**METHODS:** Project work will include installation of 2 culverts, 1 stream crossing, and riparian plantings. When finished connectivity will be restored and aquatic habitat diversity improved on 1,200 feet of stream. Compliance monitoring will occur at this site with a minimum of pre-installation/post-installation channel cross-sections and photo point monitoring. Thermographs are already located up and down stream of this area. The majority of the construction labor will be performed by the Nez Perce County Road and Bridge Department.

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** Factors that may limit success are the availability and timing

of construction labor and budget constraints. As actual costs are not prepared prior to the submittal of this proposal, actual costs may exceed allocated budgets. If this occurs, the NPSWCD will seek supplemental funding, and if none is available, the amount of work will be scoped to fit within our available resources resulting in a longer implementation timeframe.

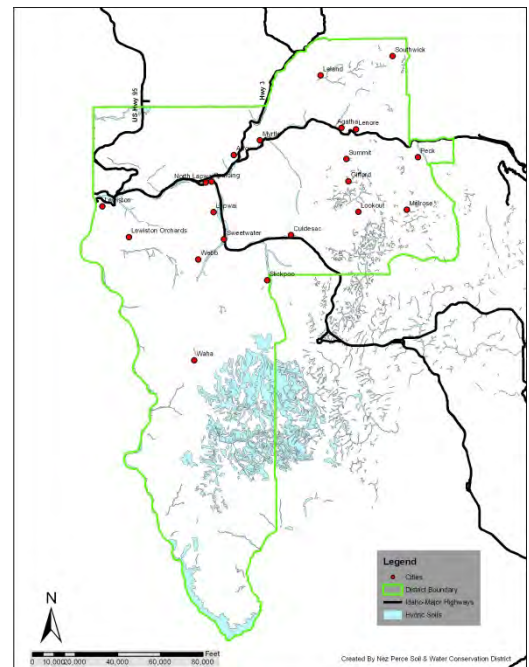


Figure 11. Wetland Restoration Priority Areas

## 7 Improve Watershed Hydrology

Priorities outlined in a project prioritization exercise along with information gathered in the 2009 Lapwai Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Richardson and Rasmussen, 2009), Big Canyon Creek Ecological Restoration Strategy (Rasmussen and Richardson, 2009) and the Catholic Creek Watershed Management Plan (Fales et al, 2012) will guide restoration efforts in targeting areas with impaired hydrologic function. Collectively the planned sites do not meet management criteria. Management criteria includes adequate flows for fish. This deliverable focuses on watershed hydrograph characteristics of peak flow and flow timing. Management criteria are based on the

NOAA Matrix of Pathways and Indicators (NOAA, 1996) for flow/hydrology. A properly functioning condition is identified as a watershed hydrograph that indicates peak flow, base flow and flow timing characteristics are comparable to an undisturbed condition.

Within the constraints of staffing and budget, our goal is to install 1.5 acres of wetland enhancements (Component 1) 40 acres of upland grass/forb planting (Component 2), and 60 acres of upland tree planting (Component 2).

Hydrologic conditions in the geographic priority areas are driven by upland conditions. Focus areas are restoring wetlands, restoring native vegetation, and reducing surface runoff from agricultural fields.

Treatments include actions that promote water retention and land surface roughness, such as: detention basins, road decommissioning, transportation planning, wetland enhancement and protection, restoration of drained lands, spring protection, vegetative plantings, and changing agricultural management practices.

**COMPONENT (1)** Wetland enhancements will occur in springs and areas with wetland soils that have been converted either by drainage or by removal of hydric vegetation. These areas are most prevalent in the priority areas shown in Figure 11. Work scheduled for 2014-2018 on these sites includes initial plan development, negotiation with landowners, design, permitting, and installation.

*METHODS:* Outreach efforts to illustrate project benefits and will include strategies identified in the Lapwai Creek Marketing Plan (NPSWCD, 2012). Monitoring efforts will include project compliance including photo point.

*SUCCESS FACTORS:* The success of implementing this deliverable is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas.

**COMPONENT (2)** Upland vegetation treatment: Upland vegetation projects will be selected in areas with a C or D soil hydrologic rating within the geographic priority areas. Treatment includes planting of grass/forbs and upland trees or other treatments that increase surface infiltration rates to a minimum of 0.6 inches/hour. Land use priorities for treatment are cropland, rangeland then forestlands.

*METHODS:* The NPSWCD has identified priority areas and will solicit landowners to convert land cover from crops to grass and/or trees. Work scheduled for 2014-2018 on these sites includes project solicitation, initial plan development, negotiation with landowners, design and installation. Grass/forb plantings will be installed with a drill and weeds maintained by the landowner using mechanical and chemical means. Upland tree plantings will be seeded to grass/forbs first to reduce weed competition and then planted to suitable forest species. Vegetation selection will follow USDA-Plant Material Center guidelines and Idaho Department of Lands recommendations (forest land conversion).

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** The success of this work is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas. Weather conditions, especially spring and summer precipitation, heavily impacts survival of vegetation.

## 8 Improve Groundwater Quality

Priority geographic areas were identified state-wide by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) (Figure 10). The District contains three of the 25 identified areas. Planned treatments within the Lapwai Creek Nitrate priority area (#15 on figure 10), Camas Prairie Nitrate Priority Area (#5 on figure 10), and Genesee/Cow Creek Nitrate Priority Area (#23 on figure 10) include reducing nitrate leaching. Collectively the planned sites do not meet management criteria.

Within the constraints of staffing and budget, our goal is to install 1.5 acres of wetland enhancements (Component 1) 40 acres of upland grass/forb planting (Component 2), and 60 acres of upland tree planting (Component 2).

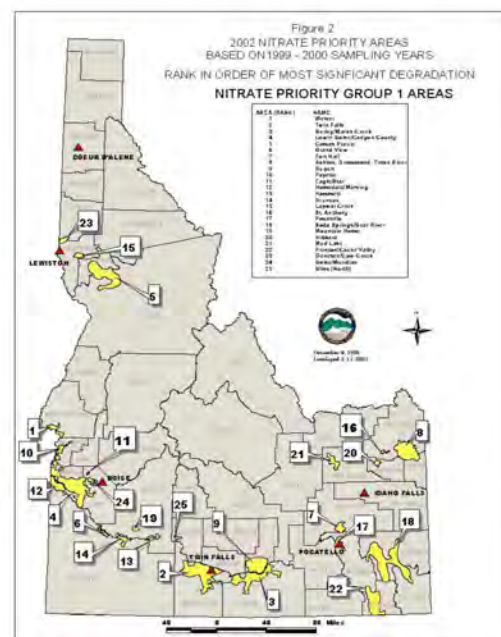


Figure 12. Idaho's Nitrate Priority Areas

Treatments include actions that promote water retention and land surface roughness, such as: detention basins, road decommissioning, transportation planning, wetland enhancement and protection, restoration of drained lands, spring protection, vegetative plantings, and changing agricultural management practices.

**COMPONENT (1)** Wetland enhancements will occur in springs and areas with wetland soils that have been converted either by drainage or by removal of hydric vegetation. These areas are most prevalent in priority areas LC2 and SC1. Work scheduled for 2014-2018 on these sites includes initial plan development, negotiation with landowners, design, permitting, and installation.

**METHODS:** Outreach efforts to illustrate project benefits and will include strategies identified in the Lapwai Creek Marketing Plan (NPSWCD, 2012). Monitoring efforts will include project compliance including photo point.

**SUCCESS FACTORS:** The success of implementing this deliverable is predicated on negotiating projects with the numerous landowners with interest in these areas.



# Trends Affecting Conservation Needs in the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District

- Low commodity crop prices result in reduced landowner financial resources
- Increase in fuel prices and fertilizer
- Urbanization
  - a. fragmentation of habitat
  - b. increase in natural disasters (flood, fire, landslides)
  - c. increase in recreation use
- Changes in land management and land use
- Decreased federal and state funding available for planning and implementing practices
- Climate changes

## Strategies to Address Trends

Strategies to address trends within the District include the maintenance and development of technical expertise within District staff, continued promotion of conservation tillage measures which reduce the need for fossil fuels, coordination with county zoning to promote conservation related zoning ordinances, and continued development of partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## Economic Trends and Conditions

According to the US Census Bureau, Nez Perce County's population in the year 2000 was 37,410. This includes several incorporated communities: Lewiston, Lapwai, Culdesac, and Peck. Lewiston is the county seat and the largest community with a population of 30,363. Unincorporated communities include Lenore, Cameron, Leland, Southwick, and Sweetwater. In 1996, 83% of the overall county population lived in urban areas with only 17% of the population classified as rural. The county is the eighth most populated in Idaho and the thirty-third largest in area (Idaho Department of Commerce County Profile, 1997).

Located along the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, Lewiston is the only city in Idaho with a seaport. This location contributes to Lewiston's role as a major employment center in the District. Both the population and labor force in the Lewiston area have grown significantly over the last five years with an annual average growth of 3% (Lewiston Job Service, 2000).

Agricultural production plays a major role in the District. With 383 farms in operation covering a total area of 339,476 acres, agricultural production represents approximately 63% of the land use in the District (1997 Department of Commerce/Agriculture Census Data). Yet based on 1996 Idaho Department of Commerce data it employs only about 2% of the work force. The top five employers in the Lewiston area are ATK Inc., City of Lewiston, Clearwater Paper, Inc., Lewis-Clark State College and the Lewiston Independent School District.

Nez Perce County labor market information indicates that unemployment rates have increased from 5.1 percent in 2000 to 7.2 percent in 2010.



Figure 13. Canola Crop in the Lapwai Creek Watershed

# Priorities and Strategies

Identification and prioritization of the District's objectives and activities for the five year period from 2018 through 2023 was completed in order to address the identified resource conservation needs.

Priorities were developed from information gathered in focus groups, interviews, surveys, and from analysis of existing information. These issues form the foundation upon which The Pathfinder was developed. The five priorities are:

- Priority #1: Maintain and Enhance a Sustainable Infrastructure
- Priority #2: Natural Resource Hazard Mitigation
- Priority #3: Improve, Protect, and Enhance Riparian Corridors
- Priority #4: Community Education
- Priority #5: Maintain, Restore, and Enhance Productive Capacity of Working Lands

The objectives and strategies for the period 2018 through 2024 are listed on the following pages.



Figure 14. Canola field

## 1

## Priority

## Maintain and Enhance a Sustainable District Infrastructure

Table 2. Priority 1 Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy #
1.1 Identify stable funding mechanisms in order to provide a base annual operating budget of \$100,000.	1.1.1 Implement District Operations Fund Raising Plan
	1.1.2 Complete Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission financial and match report as defined under Idaho Administrative Rule 60.05.04 section 011.02.
	1.1.3 Present annual budget request to state and local entities.
1.2 Expand District Capacity to meet it's vision, mission, and maintain a sustainable infrastructure.	1.2.1 Meet with Idaho Legislative representatives to identify potential funding sources
	1.2.2 Develop partnership agreements and memorandum of understanding with governmental entities to provide services.
	1.2.3 Seek continued opportunities for professional development for staff and Board members.
	1.2.4 Request technical and financial assistance from partners on an annual basis.
	1.2.5 Meet with regional partners to identify projects and shared resources opportunities
	1.2.6 Strengthen relationships with agricultural, conservation, community organizations and other mission stakeholders.
1.3 Improve transparency in District operations so that information is readily available and decision making processes are documented.	1.3.1 Hold public meetings to ensure transparency of District decision making process.
	1.3.2 Develop annual operating plan
	1.3.3 Complete obligations for all active grants in the fiscal period
	1.3.4 Complete annual performance report and submit to Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission as defined within Idaho Administrative Rule 60.05.04 section 011.03.
	1.3.5 Conduct District elections on County General Ballot
	1.3.6 Develop annual operating budget
	1.3.7 Complete District Financial Audit for the fiscal period
1.4 Streamline operations in order to keep administrative overhead to a minimum	1.4.1 Complete an energy audit on district facilities in order to identify energy saving measures.
	1.4.2 Invest in human resources and technology systems to strengthen and streamline financial management performance.
	1.4.3 Maintain facilities, equipment, and accounting systems
	1.4.4 Attend Idaho County Risk Management Program Certification Program Sessions



# 2 Priority

## Natural Resource Hazard Mitigation

Table 3. Priority 2 Objectives and Strategies.

Objective	Strategy #
2.1 Reduce the impacts from flooding.	2.1.1 Coordinate a Lower Pottlatch River corridor floodplain management plan.
	2.1.2 Incorporate floodplain management action items into the Rattlesnake and Bedrock Creek watershed plans.
	2.1.3 Identify Nez Perce County high flow hazard areas.
	2.1.4 Develop watershed based resource plans for improving and protecting natural resources.
	2.1.5 Complete the Lower Mission Creek / Rock Creek floodplain improvement plan.
	2.1.6 Pursue resources to install a stream flow gage on Big Canyon Creek.
	2.1.7 Prepare a plan for the Big Canyon Floodplain Roughness Project.
	2.1.8 Provide flood inventory and assessment information to Nez Perce County during and immediately after events.
	2.1.9 Maintain an active membership in the Nez Perce County Local Emergency Planning Committee.
	2.1.10 Reconnect 800 LF of South Tom Beall Creek to its historic channel. Project 12-1551
	2.1.11 Complete 500 feet of streambank protection at the Mission Creek Bridge Streambank enhancement Project 15-1586.
	2.1.12 Install floodplain enhancement project # 13-1689 along 2300 lf of Webb Creek.
	2.1.13 Utilize WebEOC to report identified hazards.
2.2 Reduce the impacts from drought.	2.2.1 Encourage the use of conservation tillage systems which retain soil moisture.
	2.2.2 Restore riparian areas in order to retain water in uplands during summer months.
	2.2.3 Identify Nez Perce County high flow hazard areas.
2.3 Reduce the occurrence of wildfire within the county.	2.3.1 Develop fire reduction plans.
	2.3.2 Implement actions in the Nez Perce County Rural Wildfire Plan
2.4 Manage growth in Nez Perce County through sustainable principles and practices to limit hazard areas.	2.4.1 Provide comments to the Nez Perce County planning and zoning on conditional use permits and new developments in order to limit development in hazard areas.
	2.4.2 Promote disaster resistant future development.
	2.4.3 Protect floodplains, wetlands and other important natural areas.
2.5 Explore funding options for priority mitigation activities.	2.5.1 Leverage grant monies by utilizing grant funds available to NPSWCD to implement mitigation activities.
	2.5.2 Explore funding opportunities from FEMA and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security for implementing mitigation actions.
2.6 Build and support local capacity and commitment to become less vulnerable to hazards.	2.6.1 Complete Phase 6 of the District physical resource inventory.
	2.6.2 Increase awareness and knowledge of hazard mitigation principles and practice among local officials. Provide educational information through newsletter, meetings and electronic media for watershed hydrology, road erosion, flooding.
	2.6.3 Utilize GIS mapping to illustrate potential hazardous areas. Disseminate existing mapping to Inside Idaho website and to County EOC.
	2.6.4 Assist Nez Perce and Lewis Counties with the development of their hazard mitigation plan and provide technical assistance to implement the plan.
2.7 Reduce the impacts from landslides.	2.7.1 Identify landslide prone landscapes within the District.

## 3

## Priority

## Improve, Protect, and Enhance Stream Corridors

Table 4. Priority 3 Objectives and Strategies.

Objective	Strategy #
3.1 Increase and improve fish productivity through habitat improvement.	3.1.1 Implement the Bonneville Power Administration project "Restore and Protect Anadromous Fish Habitat in the Lapwai Creek Watershed"
	3.1.2 Implement conservation measures identified in the Tom Beall restoration plan.
	3.1.3 Implement action in the Snake River Steelhead Recovery Plan.
	3.1.4 Collect stream temperature data within the District. Implement the Stream Temperature work plan
	3.1.5 Install project #13-1684 to install 600 LF of fence within the Jacks Creek watershed.
	3.1.6 Implement actions in the Snake River Basin Adjudication funded project #1103 "Cottonwood Creek Fish Habitat Restoration Project - Phase I".
	3.1.7 Decrease sediment and improve in-stream habitat through installation of fence along Sweetwater Creek. Install 800 LF of fence at project 12-153.
	3.1.8 Complete phase 5 of the South Tom Beall Riparian Restoration Project #12-160.
	3.1.9 Implement actions in the Snake River Basin Adjudication funded project #1209 "Lapwai Creek Fish Habitat Restoration Project - Phase I".
3.2 Reduce the number of artificially blocked streams.	3.2.1 In cooperation with Nez Perce County, plan and design the removal of two stream barriers.
	3.2.2 Complete barrier assessment for the Deer Creek watershed
	3.2.3 Install the Flat Iron Road Fish Habitat Barrier Removal Project #12-157 to restore 8 miles of habitat.
	3.2.4 Install 2 culverts through the installation of the Tom Beall Reconnect project.
	3.2.5 Implement actions in the Mission Creek Barrier Removal Project # SRBA 1506.
3.3 Restore, enhance and protect riparian and wetland resources within the District.	3.3.1 Complete a hydric soils analysis to identify the location of all potential wetland areas
	3.3.2 Meet with local wetland scientists to identify priority wetland treatment areas
	3.3.3 Improve wetland function and quality on 0.5 acres by controlling invasive species and installation of conservation practices
	3.3.4 Maintain the District plant nursery in order to produce wetland and riparian restoration plants for use in conservation projects
3.4 Reduce animal feeding operation impacts on water quality and fish habitat.	3.4.1 Pursue additional funds for animal feeding operation treatments
	3.4.2 Install livestock water development project 12-154 along Webb Creek.
	3.4.3 Install water development project 13-1684 within the Jacks Creek watershed.
	3.4.4 Install livestock water development project 16-1847 along Sweetwater Creek.
	3.4.5 Install livestock exclusion project along 1000 LF of Sweetwater Creek. Project 16-1847
	3.4.6 Install livestock water development project 11-128 along Sweetwater Creek.
3.5 Improve and enhance water quality to acceptable standards for ground and surface waters with the District.	3.5.1 Participate in local watershed advisory group meetings.
	3.5.2 Reduce streambank erosion along 500 feet of South Tom Beall Creek for project #11551
	3.5.3 Reduce sediment through the protection of 4,086 acres of cropland from excessive erosion.
3.6 Reduce transportation system impacts on water quality, fish habitat and hydrology.	3.6.1 Install road erosion reduction project #15-1683 along 1000 LF of road.
	3.6.2 Install road erosion reduction project #13-1688 along 2000 lf of road within the Mission Creek watershed.
	3.6.3 Install road erosion reduction project #13-1687 along 2200 lf of road in the Sweetwater Creek watershed.
	3.6.4 Install road erosion reduction project #16-1695 to protect 1000 feet of stream in Cottonwood Creek watershed.
	3.6.5 Install road erosion reduction project # 12-158 along 150 LF of private access road.

# 4 Priority

## Community Education

Table 5. Priority 5 Objectives and Strategies.

Objective		Strategy #	
4.1	Increase public awareness of conservation programs and activities	4.1.1	Publish Forever Soil and Water Newsletter—4 times per year
		4.1.2	Maintain District Web Site at <a href="http://www.nezperceswcd.org">www.nezperceswcd.org</a>
		4.1.3	Participate in the City of Lewiston's Earth Day event
		4.1.4	Complete one display focusing on water quality education.
		4.1.5	Disseminate performance report to conservation partners, clients, and the general public
		4.1.6	Participate in the Idaho Capital Legislative Display in Boise, Idaho
4.2	Provide natural resource education to area youth.	4.2.1	Coordinate annual Environmental Awareness Days program for area schools.
		4.2.2	Support Camp Wittman educational activities.
		4.2.3	Develop 2 resource internships with local colleges.
4.3	Transfer technology to District clients.	4.3.1	Support the Rangeland Grazing conference.
		4.3.2	Evaluate conservation field trials and disseminate results

## 5

## Priority

## Maintain, Restore, and Enhance Capacity of Working Lands

Table 6. Priority 5 Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy #
5.1 Maintain productive working farms and ranches.	5.1.1 Maintain membership in the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association.
	5.1.2 Provide SCCD reduced tillage/direct seed/no till loan program information to cooperators.
	5.1.3 Pursue resources to develop grazing plans and implement grazing land conservation treatments.
	5.1.4 Implement conservation practices on 50 acres of grazing lands.
5.2 Encourage the protection of existing and the development of additional ponderosa pine communities.	5.2.1 Plant 50 acres of ponderosa pine trees.
	5.2.2 Implement actions in the Snake River Basin Adjudication funded project #1308 " Lower Clearwater Forestry Enhancement Project - Phase 2".
5.3 Restore and/or protect native plant communities.	5.3.1 Inventory and map existing prairie remnants during conservation plan development within the Lapwai watersheds.
	5.3.2 Restore prairie habitats through noxious weed control, cultural practices and seeding.
5.4 Reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds.	5.4.1 Identify and prioritize areas for noxious weed treatment.
	5.4.2 Release biocontrol agents for yellow starthistle and spotted knapweed control at 20 sites within the District.
	5.4.3 Coordinate an interagency biocontrol agent collection day.
	5.4.4 Complete a bio-control workshop for noxious weed pests.
	5.4.5 Implement 250 acres of Pest management conservation plans.
	5.4.6 Participate as a steering committee member for the Clearwater Basin Weed Cooperative Management Area
	5.4.7 Administer the landowner herbicide cost-share project funded through the Clearwater Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area.
5.5 Prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of invasive species.	5.5.1 Prevent seed dispersal from equipment.
	5.5.2 Recommend and use noxious weed free seeds when implementing grass seeding projects.
	5.5.3 Participate in the Clearwater Basin Weed Group.
	5.5.4 Control 5 acres of Knotweed.
	5.5.5 Inventory and map orange hawkweed on 250 acres of land.
	5.5.6 Inventory and map rush skeleton weed along Coyote Grade road.
5.6 Ensure the long-term survival of native fish, wildlife and plants.	5.6.1 Develop 2 habitat conservation plans within the Cottonwood Creek Watershed and 4 habitat conservation plans in the Lapwai watershed.
	5.6.2 Provide information to landowners regarding the distribution, abundance and conservation of native fish, wildlife, and plants.
	5.6.3 Collaborate with IDFG and NPT to develop plans to recover threatened and endangered species and conserve native fish, wildlife and plants.
	5.6.4 Support the efforts of the Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC) to document the occurrence of rare species and work toward increased reporting of sightings. Provide CDC inventory forms on an annual basis.
5.7 Promote responsible urban developments so that soil and water resources will be conserved and meet the TMDL objectives	5.7.1 Participate in coordinated plans for the development of recreational areas, industrial sites, and other facilities as requested by the City of Lewiston and/or Nez Perce County.
	5.7.2 Preserve prime and unique farmland.
	5.7.3 Coordinate with the City of Lewiston to identify potential projects within the Lindsay and Tammany Creek watersheds.
	5.7.4 Implement the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality funded 319 project "Lindsay Creek Water Quality Improvement Project – Phase I".
5.8 Protect cultural and historical resources within the District.	5.8.1 Consult with State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Presentation Officer when installing earth disturbing practices.



# Implementation

Implementation of the five year plan will be accomplished by annual plans prepared by the District. The annual plan will address those items and projects that the District plans to accomplish upon consideration of available technical and financial assistance and public support for the proposed actions.

The annual plan shall cover the period July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Annual plans are posted on the District's web site at [www.nezperceswcd.org](http://www.nezperceswcd.org).



Figure 15. Rainbow near Winchester, Idaho

## References

Taylor, Jr., Emmit T. 2004. Fish Passage Assessment – Lapwai Creek Watershed. Lapwai, Idaho. Nez Perce Tribe. 55 pages.

NPPC. 2005. Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan. Northwest Power and Conservation Council. [www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/clearwater/plan/](http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/clearwater/plan/)

Kaufman, Joe; Lynn Rasmussen, Justin Peterson. 2007. Streambank Erosion Evaluation in the Lapwai Creek Watershed. Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District.

Richardson, Shannon and Lynn Rasmussen. 2009. Lapwai Creek Watershed Ecological Restoration Strategy. Nez Perce Tribe and Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District; Lapwai, Idaho.

USDA-NRCS. 2004. Soil Survey of Lewis and Nez Perce Counties, Idaho. United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service.  
[soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/.../0/Lewis-Nez%20Perce%20Text.pdf](http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/.../0/Lewis-Nez%20Perce%20Text.pdf)

ISCC. 2003. Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan. Idaho Soil Conservation Commission. <http://www.scc.idaho.gov/pdf/AgPlan.pdf>

IDEQ. 1999. Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. [www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/.../cwsrf\\_idaho\\_nonpoint\\_plan\\_1999.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/.../cwsrf_idaho_nonpoint_plan_1999.pdf)

NMFS. 2011. Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plans for the State of Idaho. National Marine Fisheries Service. <http://www.idahosalmonrecovery.net/>

Clearwater Subbasin Assessment. Ecovista, Nez Perce Tribe Wildlife Division and Washington State University Center for Environmental Education. 2003. Accessed 30 September, 2007. [www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/clearwater/plan](http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/clearwater/plan).

Idaho Conservation Data Center. Web site: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cdc>. Accessed 13 June 2007.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Water Quality Standards. IDEQ 58.01.02. Boise, Idaho. 2007.

USEPA, 2003. EPA Region 10 Guidance for Pacific Northwest State and Tribal Temperature Water Quality Standards. EPA 910-B-03-002. Region 10 Office of Water, Seattle, WA.

Many of the strategies and objectives were either adopted directly from or adapted from actions in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Strategic plan<sup>3</sup> or the US Department of Energy Strategic Plan<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/about/acc/strategy>

<sup>4</sup> <http://energy.gov/articles/departments-energy-releases-2011-strategic-plan>

## District Elected Officials

Steve Becker, Chair  
Tracy Hill, Vice-Chair  
Clint Zenner, Treasurer  
Steve Kaufman  
Dale Nichols  
Dave Troy  
Pete Wittman

## District Contact Information

Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District  
P.O. Box 131  
Culdesac, Idaho 83524

208-843-2931

Fax 208-843-2234

[npswcd@co.nezperce.id.us](mailto:npswcd@co.nezperce.id.us)

[www.nezperceswcd.org](http://www.nezperceswcd.org)

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/NezPerceSWCD>



Figure 16. Big Canyon Creek

## Appendix A – Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Work Plan

Appendix A contains the FY2018 work plan for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.



Figure 17. Indian Pipe found in Big Canyon Creek watershed. Photo Credit. L. Rasmussen, NPSWCD



## Appendix B – Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Work Plan

Appendix B contains the FY2019 work plan for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The work plan will be developed in January 2018 and added to the document once approved.



Figure 18. Canola in Lapwai Creek drainage. Photo credit: L. Rasmussen, NPSWCD

## Appendix C – Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Work Plan

Appendix C contains the FY2020 work plan for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The work plan will be developed in January 2019 and added to the document once approved



Figure 19. Lapwai Creek Steelhead. Photo credit: N. Lane, NPSWCD



## Appendix D – Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan

Appendix D contains the FY2021 work plan for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The work plan will be developed in January 2020 and added to the document once approved



Figure 20. Sweetwater Creek. Photo Credit: L. Rasmussen, NPSWCD

## Appendix E – Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Work Plan

Appendix E contains the FY2022 work plan for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The work plan will be developed in January 2021 and added to the document once approved



Figure 21. Winter at Rock Creek near Reubens, ID. Riparian Planting Project. Photo Credit: L. Rasmussen, NPSWCD.



## Appendix F – Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Work Plan

Appendix F contains the FY2023 work plan for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The work plan will be developed in January 2022 and added to the document once approved



Figure 22. Canola fields near Culdesac, Idaho. Photo: L. Rasmussen, NPSWCD.

## Appendix G – Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Work Plan

Appendix G contains the FY2024 work plan for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The work plan will be developed in January 2023 and added to the document once approved



NEZ PERCE  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# Annual Work Plan

*July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024*



## District Mission

To be the primary entity leading non-regulatory efforts in the conservation, sustainment, improvement, and enhancement of Nez Perce County's natural resources.

## District Vision

A county with a sustainable landscape.

## District Annual Workplan



The Annual Workplan is the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District's (District) plan which is the foundation for the focus and direction for the period July 1, 2023 to July 30, 2024.

Priorities and strategies are identified in the District's Six Year Plan. The five priorities are:

- Priority #1: Maintain and Enhance a Sustainable District Infrastructure
- Priority #2: Natural Resource Hazard Mitigation
- Priority #3: Improve, Protect, and Enhance Stream Corridors
- Priority #4: Community Education
- Priority #5: Maintain, Restore, and Enhance Productive Capacity of Working Lands

The Annual Workplan was adopted by the District Board on March 14, 2023.



# District Organization

The Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (District) is one of 50 conservation districts in Idaho. The District is a subdivision of Idaho State government and is governed by a Board of seven members who are elected and serve a four year term without pay. Board members are elected by public ballot in the Nez Perce County general election process.

## Function of the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District

The function of the District is to act as the “primary entity to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of the District’s natural resources” as outlined in Idaho State Law §22-2716.

## District Elected Officials

Steve Becker, Chair  
Tracy Hill, Vice-Chair  
Clint Zenner, Treasurer  
Steve Kaufman  
Dale Nichols  
Dave Troy  
Pete Wittman



Big Canyon Creek

# Priority 1 Maintain and Enhance a Sustainable Infrastructure

Priority 1	Maintain and Enhance a Sustainable Infrastructure			FY 2024		
Objective		Strategy #		Funding Source	Budget	Due Date
1.1	Identify stable funding mechanisms in order to provide a base annual operating budget of \$100,000.	1.1.1	Implement District Fund Raising Campaign. Goal is \$10,000 annually	GO	\$1,950	12/30/2023
		1.1.2	Complete financial and match report as defined under Idaho Administrative Rule 60.05.04 section 011.02. and submit to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission	GO	\$1,820	8/30/2023
		1.1.3	Present annual budget request to state and local entities.	GO	\$1,620	5/30/2023
1.2	Expand District Capacity to meet the District's vision mission and maintain a sustainable infrastructure.	1.2.1	Meet with elected representatives to identify potential funding sources.	GO	\$1,160	1/31/2024
		1.2.2	Develop partnership agreements and memorandum of understanding with governmental entities to provide services.	UNF	\$590	5/1/2024
		1.2.3	Seek continued opportunities for professional development for staff and Board members.	GO	\$2,200	6/30/2023
		1.2.4	Request technical and financial assistance from partners on an annual basis.	GO	\$400	12/30/2023
		1.2.5	Meet with regional partners to identify projects and shared resource opportunities	GO	\$1,030	3/1/2024
		1.2.6	Strengthen relationships with agricultural, conservation, community organizations and other mission stakeholders.	UNF	\$13,000	1/31/2024
1.3	Improve transparency in District operations so that information is readily available and decision making processes are documented.	1.3.1	Hold public meetings to ensure transparency of District decision making process.	GO	\$1,480	6/30/2024
		1.3.2	Develop annual operating plan for next fiscal period.	GO	\$1,620	1/31/2023
		1.3.3	Complete obligations for all active grants in the fiscal period.	GF	\$875	6/30/2024
		1.3.4	Complete annual performance report as defined within Idaho Administrative Rule 60.05.04 section 011.03. and submit to Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission	GO	\$797	12/30/2023
		1.3.5	Conduct District elections on Nez Perce County General Ballot.	GO	\$900	11/30/2023
		1.3.6	Develop annual operating budget for next fiscal period.	GO	\$210	1/30/2024
		1.3.7	Complete District Financial Audit for the fiscal period.	GO	\$8,000	3/30/2024
		1.3.8	Report to central registry as identified in HB560.	GO	\$100	6/30/2024
1.4	Streamline operations in order to keep administrative overhead to a minimum.	1.4.1	Complete an energy audit on district facilities in order to identify energy saving measures.	(1)	(1)	(1)
		1.4.2	Invest in human resources and technology systems to strengthen and streamline financial management performance.	(1)	(1)	(1)
		1.4.3	Maintain facilities, equipment, records, and accounting systems.	GO	\$6,000	6/30/2024
		1.4.4	Attend Idaho County Risk Management Program Certification Program Sessions	GO	\$797	6/30/2024

(1) No activities planned for this task in FY2024. Grey boxes represent no actions during the fiscal year.

# Priority 2 Natural Resource Hazard Mitigation

Priority 2	Natural Resource Hazard Mitigation				FY 2024	
Objective		Strategy #		Funding Source	Budget	Due Date
2.1	Reduce the impacts from flooding.	2.1.01	Coordinate a Lower Pottlatch River corridor floodplain management plan. This project is listed in the 2018 Nez Perce County All Hazard Mitigation Plan (page 67).	(1)	(1)	(1)
		2.1.02	Incorporate floodplain management action items into the Rattlesnake and Bedrock Creek watershed plans.	(1)	(1)	(1)
		2.1.03	Identify Nez Perce County high flow hazard areas and map Hazards. Project identified as All Hazards Mapping Project in the 2018 Nez Perce County All Hazard Mitigation Plan (page 79).	(1)	(1)	(1)
		2.1.04	Develop watershed based resource plans for improving and protecting natural resources.	(1)	(1)	(1)
		2.1.05	Complete the Lower Mission Creek / Rock Creek floodplain improvement plan. #01616	(1)	(1)	(1)
		2.1.06	Pursue resources to install a stream flow gage on Big Canyon Creek.	(1)	(1)	(1)
		2.1.07	Prepare a plan for the Big Canyon Floodplain Roughness Project.	(1)	(1)	(1)
		2.1.08	Provide flood inventory and assessment information to Nez Perce County during and immediately after events.	GO	\$4,000	6/30/2024
		2.1.09	Maintain an active membership in the Nez Perce County Local Emergency Planning Committee.	GO	\$1,000	6/30/2024
2.2	Reduce the impacts from drought.	2.2.1	Encourage the use of conservation tillage systems which retain soil moisture.	(1)	(1)	(1)
		2.2.2	Restore riparian areas in order to retain water in uplands during summer months.	(1)	(1)	(1)
2.3	Reduce the occurrence of wildfire within the county.	2.3.1	Develop fire fuel reduction plans.	(1)	(1)	(1)
		2.3.2	Implement actions in the Nez Perce County Rural Wildfire Plan	(1)	(1)	(1)
2.4	Manage growth in Nez Perce County through sustainable principles and practices to limit hazard areas.	2.4.1	Provide comments to the Nez Perce County Planning and Zoning Department on conditional use permits and new developments in order to limit development in hazard areas.	GO	\$1,300	6/30/2024
		2.4.2	Promote disaster resistant future development.	UNF	\$40,000	6/30/2024
2.5	Explore funding options for priority mitigation activities.	2.5.1	Leverage grant monies by utilizing grant funds available to NPSWCD to implement mitigation activities.	UNF	\$20,000	6/30/2024
		2.5.2	Explore funding opportunities from FEMA and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security for implementing mitigation actions.	(1)	(1)	(1)

(1) No activities planned for this task in FY2024. Grey boxes represent no actions during the fiscal year.

# Priority 3

## Improve, Protect, and Enhance Stream Corridors

Priority 3		Improve, Protect and Enhance Stream Corridors			FY 2024	
Objective		Strategy #		Funding Source	Budget	Due Date
3.1	Increase and improve fish productivity through habitat improvement.	3.1.1	Implement the Bonneville Power Administration project #2002-070-000 "Restore and Protect Anadromous Fish Habitat in the Lapwai Creek Watershed"	GF	\$120,000	6/30/2024
		3.1.2	Implement conservation measures identified in the Tom Beall restoration plan.	(1)	(1)	(1)
		3.1.3	Implement action in the Snake River Steelhead Recovery Plan.	UNF	\$200,000	6/30/2024
		3.1.4	Collect stream temperature data within the District. Implement the Stream Temperature work plan 2024-2029.	GF	\$8,100	4/30/2024
3.2	Reduce the number of artificially blocked streams.	3.2.1	In cooperation with Nez Perce County, plan and design the removal of two stream barriers.	(1)	(1)	(1)
		3.2.2	Complete barrier assessment for the Deer Creek watershed	(1)	(1)	(1)
		3.2.3	Install the Flat Iron Road Fish Habitat Barrier Removal Project #12-157 to restore 8 miles of habitat.	(1)	(1)	(1)
3.3	Restore, enhance and protect riparian and wetland resources within the District.	3.3.1	Complete a hydric soils analysis to identify the location of all potential wetland areas	(1)	(1)	(1)
		3.3.2	Meet with local wetland scientists to identify priority wetland treatment areas	(1)	(1)	(1)
		3.3.3	Improve wetland function and quality on 0.5 acres by controlling invasive species and installation of conservation practices	UNF	\$50,000	6/30/2024
		3.3.4	Maintain the District plant nursery in order to produce wetland and riparian restoration plants for use in conservation projects	GO	\$4,000	6/30/2024
3.4	Reduce animal feeding operation impacts on water quality and fish habitat.	3.4.1		UNF	\$1,100	6/30/2024
			Pursue additional funds for animal feeding operation treatments			
3.5	Improve and enhance water quality to acceptable standards for ground and surface waters with the District.	3.5.1	Participate in local watershed advisory group meetings.	UNF	\$800	6/30/2024
		3.5.2	Reduce streambank erosion along 500 feet of South Tom Beall Creek for project #12-1551	(1)	(1)	(1)
		3.5.3	Reduce sediment through the protection of 4,086 acres of cropland from excessive erosion.	(1)	(1)	(1)

(1) No activities planned for this task in FY2024. Grey boxes represent no actions during the fiscal year.



# Priority 4

## Community Education

Priority 4 Community Education				FY 2024		
Objective		Strategy #		Funding Source	Budget	Due Date
4.1	Increase public awareness of conservation programs and activities.	4.1.1	Publish Forever Soil and Water Newsletter—4 times per year	GF	\$3,200	6/30/2024
		4.1.2	Maintain District Web Site at <a href="http://www.nezperceswcd.org">www.nezperceswcd.org</a>	GF	\$1,000	6/30/2024
		4.1.3	Participate in the City of Lewiston's Earth Day event	GF	\$600	4/30/2024
		4.1.4	Disseminate performance report to conservation partners, clients, and the general public	GO	\$200	6/30/2024
		4.1.5	Participate in the Idaho Capital Legislative Display in Boise, Idaho	GO	\$400	6/3/2024
4.2	Provide natural resource education to area youth.	4.2.1	Coordinate annual Environmental Awareness Days program for area schools.	GF	\$5,000	5/30/2024
		4.2.2	Support Camp Wittman educational activities.	UNF	\$1,000	6/30/2024
		4.2.3	Develop 2 resource internships with local colleges.	UNF	\$1,000	6/30/2024

(1) No activities planned for this task in FY2024. Grey boxes represent no actions during the fiscal year.

Priority 5

Maintain, Restore, and Enhance the Productive Capacity of Working Lands

Priority 5 Maintain, Restore, and Enhance Capacity of Working Lands				FY 2024		
Objective		Strategy #		Funding Source	Budget	Due Date
5.1	Maintain productive working farms and ranches.	5.1.1	Maintain membership in the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association.	GO	\$200	6/30/2024
5.2	Encourage the protection of existing and the development of additional ponderosa pine communities.	5.2.1	Plant 30 acres of ponderosa pine at project in the Bedrock Fire Area	(1)	(1)	(1)

(1) No activities planned for this task in FY2024. Grey boxes represent no actions during the fiscal year.

## Budget Summary

Priorities 1 through 5 include a budget item by each task. Figures listed in white boxes are those which will be funded through the District's general operations budget. The items highlighted in blue are those which will be funded through an existing grant administered by the District. Those highlighted in red are items that are considered unmet needs. This means that the line item will not be completed unless there are additional resources available to complete the task. The District needs an additional \$327,490 in resources in order to complete those items identified as unmet needs.

Table 1 summarizes the budget information by priority and funding source.

	Funding Source			Total
	GO Funded	GF Funded	Unmet Need	
Priority 1	\$30,084	\$875	\$13,590	\$44,549
Priority 2	\$6,300	\$0	\$60,000	\$66,300
Priority 3	\$4,000	\$128,100	\$251,900	\$384,000
Priority 4	\$600	\$9,800	\$2,000	\$12,400
Priority 5	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,184</b>	<b>\$138,775</b>	<b>\$327,490</b>	<b>\$507,449</b>

## District Contact Information

Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District  
P.O. Box 131  
Culdesac, Idaho 83524

208-843-2931  
Fax 208-843-2234  
[npswcd@co.nezperce.id.us](mailto:npswcd@co.nezperce.id.us)  
[www.nezperceswcd.org](http://www.nezperceswcd.org)  
Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/NezPerceSWCD>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NezPerceSWCD>

## References

NPPC. 2005. Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan. Northwest Power and Conservation Council. [www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/clearwater/plan/](http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/clearwater/plan/)

ISCC. 2003. Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan. Idaho Soil Conservation Commission. <http://www.scc.idaho.gov/pdf/AgPlan.pdf>

IDEQ. 1999. Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. [www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/.../cwsrf\\_idaho\\_nonpoint\\_plan\\_1999.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/.../cwsrf_idaho_nonpoint_plan_1999.pdf)

NMFS. 2011. Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plans for the State of Idaho. National Marine Fisheries Service. <http://www.idahosalmonrecovery.net/>