

**Camas Conservation District**

**P.O. Box 156**

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**Fairfield, ID 83327**

**208-789-0653**

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**Five-Year resource conservation business plan**

**Fiscal Year 2023**

**July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2028**

## Foreword

The Camas Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation Districts are charged with carrying out a program for the conservation, use and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

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

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

This annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan was developed not only to guide the Conservation District, but also to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned and ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the Conservation District.

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

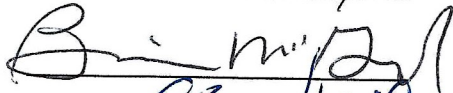
## Certificate of Adoption

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

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



Chairman, Forrest Ballard



Vice Chair, Bonnie McGough



Treasurer, Steve Miller

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners;

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts



# Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan

## Business Plan (2023 to 2028)

### Camas Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Megan Tews, 208-789-0653, [camasscd@yahoo.com](mailto:camasscd@yahoo.com)

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#### Organization for the Camas Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Idaho – authorities, power and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code

- Organized in 1957 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses within the Camas CD boundary.

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#### Function of the Camas Conservation District

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

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#### Who We Serve & Why

- The people and natural resources in the Camas CD, to conserve the natural resources for the beneficial and sustainable use by all.

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#### Mission of the Camas Conservation District

- To set high standards for conservation of the natural resources in the District. To encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and selected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure an adequate natural resource base for present and future generations in the Camas CD. Camas CD is dedicated to multiple land use and promotion of human and species preservation for sustainable populations for present and future generations.

## **Vision of the Camas Conservation District**

- The vision of the Camas CD includes implementing our standards and goals with a progressive outlook on our ever-changing community. We hope to continually educate our peers and children about conservation practices and provide the means for public incitement in all aspects of conservation practices. We strive to establish a strong, proactive Conservation District, providing resource leadership and assistance to land owners/users within the District with independent fund sources capable of sustaining staff and programs on a continual basis
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## **Values of the Camas Conservation District**

- Sustainable use of natural resources
  - Support for agriculture activity that uses sustainable and feasible practices
  - Value and request for the Idaho Conservation Partnership
  - Conservation education for adults and youth
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## **Natural Resource Priorities and Goals**

### **1. Water Quality and Quantity**

To improve ground and surface water quality and quantity in Camas County by conservation planning, funding, and promote implementation of Best Management Practices to control erosion and improve nutrient management.

### **2. Information and Education**

- Conservation District cooperator addresses and files will be updated.
- Annually conduct youth environmental education programs and increase participation in, (including but not limited to) Little City of Rocks 5th grade outdoor workshop, “Bug Crew”, seek and sponsor a local high school Envirothon team, Ag in the Classroom, Land and Soil Evaluation Event, Fifth grade poster contest, Idaho State Forestry Contest.
- Annually provide an information booth at the State legislature and county fair and conduct an Arbor Day Open House.
- Target landowner and operators in priority conservation areas and encourage participation in EQIP and other Farm Bill programs to use conservation measures to solve resource issues.
- Continue to support SCIPE (South Central Idaho’s Precipitation Enhancement Program)

### **3. Soil Erosion**

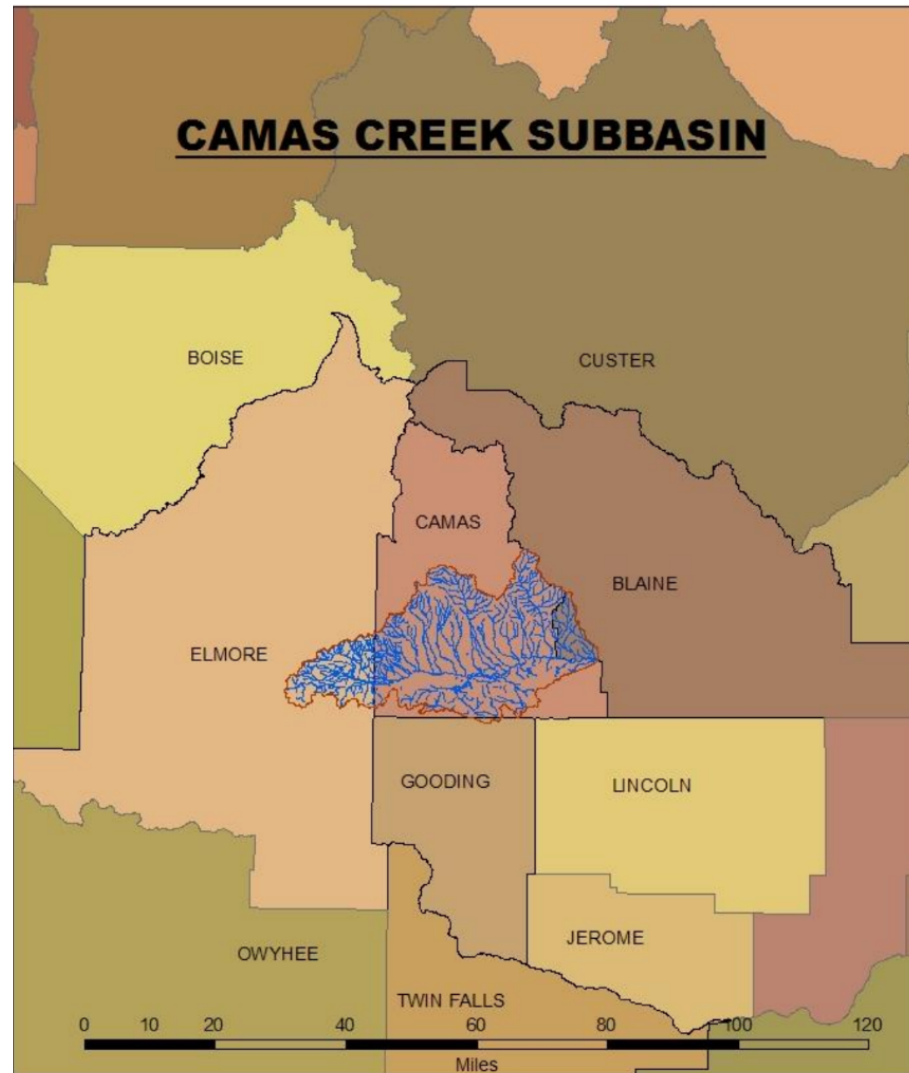
- Conservation Partners provide and/or determine need for windbreak projects and continue to assist with District priorities.
- Provide assistance to landowners and land users to plan, develop, and implement soil conservation plans.
- Target landowners and operators in priority sheet and rill or wind erosion areas and encourage participation in EQIP and other Farm Bill programs to use conservation measures to reduce sheet and rill of wind erosion.

### **4. Rangeland**

- To improve range land trends and condition within the District.
- Promote biological noxious weed control utilizing the Southern Idaho Biological Control (SIBC) program and work with the Camas Weed Superintendent.
- Seek NRCS technical assistance for private landowners in order to develop grazing plans.
- Promote rangeland health and condition to provide essential habitat for wildlife and ESA candidate species where applicable.
- Continue development of rangeland health and specifically address the Greater Sage Grouse habitat and provide a base for coordination with federal agencies on land management plans.
- Promote development of Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)

### **5. District Operations**

- Make available 5 Year Plans, Annual Reports and budget as needed for federal and state agency assistance.
- Provide information to landowners on current environmental issues.
- Provide the opportunity for supervisors to complete supervisor training.
- Complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, personnel management, training and development, annual planning and reporting.
- Be in cooperation with Conservation Districts to develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 100% State matching funds for all Districts with economic increase in base funding.
- Conduct Conservation District elections 2nd Tuesday in November (even years).



## **Trends Impacting Conservation in the Camas Conservation District**

- ❖ Urban impact on agriculture production
- ❖ Growth in agricultural areas
- ❖ Increasing small acreage farms, five acres or less
- ❖ Limited availability of funds for conservation
- ❖ Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and environmental issues
- ❖ Trend to regulate agriculture and ranching
- ❖ Loss of technical assistance from ISWCC and NRCS
- ❖ Lowering of ground water table

## **Strategies to Address Trends**

- ❖ Increase educational efforts targeted to outreach
- ❖ Identify opportunities to coordinate outreach activities with traditional and non-traditional partners.
- ❖ Raising awareness of conservation values with state legislature and elected officials – help decision makers be better informed
- ❖ Strengthen locally led efforts
- ❖ Supervisors to become more informed on current issues impacting working lands, Farm Bill programs, information from agencies instead of Partnership for leadership
- ❖ Expand assistance to County Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources.
- ❖ Encourage CCWMA, map noxious and invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts
- ❖ Establish a database to track resource conditions
- ❖ Host an open house to make public aware of goals
- ❖ Solicit input to improve Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan
- ❖ Take a provocative approach to funding water delivery systems on irrigated cropland
- ❖ Identify information methods to communicate with small land owners
- ❖ Sponsor project proposals with other districts
- ❖ Conservation training for District Supervisors and staff

## **Staffing Needs**

- ❖ Conservation District Administrative Assistant
- ❖ Conservation District Technician



## Annual Budget Needs

- ❖ Enter a summary of the annual budget needed to carry out the plan of the Camas Conservation District based on the above information.

## Key Decision Makers

- ❖ **Citizens in Conservation District**
- ❖ **Conservation District Supervisors:** Forrest Ballard- Chairman, Bonnie McGough- Vice Chair, Steve Miller- Treasurer, Administrative Assistant- Megan Tews
- ❖ **County Planning and Zoning:** Ben Russel, Tom Wassing, Jeff Kreyssig, Ali Golden, Chuck Baldwin
- ❖ **County Commissioners:** Marshall Ralph, Travis Kramer, Galen Colter, Brianna Walter- Clerk
- ❖ **City of Fairfield Elected Officials:** Terry Lee- Mayor, Tyler Ballard- Council President, John Pine, Josh Bovey, Mickey Dalin- City Clerk/Treasurer
- ❖ **State Legislators Representing Conservation District:** Steve Miller, Chenele Dixon, Glenneda Zuiderveld
- ❖ **U.S. Senators, Representatives and Staff**
- ❖ **Chamber of Commerce**
- ❖ **Technical Expertise:** NRCS Field and Soil Office, County Weed Management- Terry Lee, County Extension Office- Extension Educator- Cindy Kinder, Secretary/4-H Program manager- Carrol Regan, Southern Idaho Biological Control, Disaster Service Coordinator- David Sanders

## Priority Actions – 6 Months

Action	Begin Date	End Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Supervisor review of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan priorities, actions, and public comment</li> </ul>	07/2023	06/2028
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete written update of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan</li> </ul>	07/2023	06/2028
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify budget and staff needs</li> </ul>	07/2023	06/2028
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop, adopt and submit annual budget</li> </ul>	07/2023	06/2028
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt and submit Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan</li> </ul>	07/2023	06/2028