

Owyhee Conservation District

250 N. Bruneau Hwy.

Marsing, Idaho 83639

Five Year Plan

July 1, 2024- June 30, 2028



Table of Contents

1. Five Year Plan of Work-Executive Summary	3
2. Certification of Adoption.....	4
3. Vision of the Owyhee Conservation District.....	5
Mission of the Owyhee Conservation District	5
Who We Serve & Why.....	5
Population and Size.....	5
4. Community Outreach	6
Coordinated Implementation.....	6
Trends Impacting Conservation.....	6
Strategies to Address Trends.....	6
5. Natural Resource Priorities.....	7
1. Water quality	
2. District Operations	
3. Information and Education-Public Awareness/Endangered Species	
4. Soils: Rangeland, Riparian, Crop	
5. Fish and Wildlife	
6. Noxious Weed	
7. Water quantities	
8. Urban/Rural /Recreation	
6. Priorities, Goals and Objectives.....	7
7. Key Decision Makers.....	8
8. Priority Actions.....	8

Owyhee Conservation District

Five Year Plan of Work 2024-2028

Executive Summary

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

The Owyhee Conservation District prime objective is to provide farmers, landowners, and users assistance in improving, sustaining, and conserving Idaho's natural resources. The Conservation District programs are voluntary based on scientific information. The district encourages landowners to take part in cost share incentive programs which financially and technically improve current practices.

Both by legislation and by agreement, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission provide technical assistance to landowners and land users through the conservation district. The Owyhee Conservation District has signed a mutual agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework of cooperation.

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

This document identifies the resource needs in the Owyhee Conservation District and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting these needs along with an operating plan.

Certification of Adoption

The elected board of supervisors for the Owyhee Conservation District this **30th** day of March do hereby approve the following document known as the Resource Conservation Five Year 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.

Andrea McRae, Chairman

Joe Mansisor, Vice Chairman

Tim Volk, Treasurer/Secretary

John Cossel, Supervisor

Doug Hipwell, Supervisor

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

Idaho Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD)

Vision of the Owyhee Conservation District

To cultivate a prosperous agricultural lifestyle for producers of the Owyhee Conservation District, by supporting their choices and encouraging sustainable viable production of commodities and livestock in a free market society.

Mission of the Owyhee Conservation District

OCD Mission is to preserve a locally administered voluntary approach for control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution, protect our soil and water resources on working lands, educate the public, and protect our food source.

Who We Serve & Why

- Producers, landowners, and the public of Owyhee CD
- To assist the constituents to conserve, maintain, and improve the valuable natural resources for sustainable use by all.

Population and Size

- Owyhee County covers 7,697 sq. miles
- Owyhee County encompasses 2,072 square miles
- County Population size 15,775 persons (2020)
- Homedale population 3,077 (2020)
- Marsing population 1,333 (2020)
- Owyhee County -Median Income \$41,901 (2020)

Community Outreach

The OCD uses a number of ways to reach the community from Information and Education to community events: Owyhee County Fair- information booth, Jr. Livestock 4H sale, poster and speech contest, Senior Projects, Ag College Scholarship, community letters, Social Media community outreach, Conservationist of the Year-Annual Banquet, Summer Tour, monthly OCD board meetings, hosting pesticide certification class, biannual Division meetings, IASCD Conference, and legislature contact.

Coordinated Implementation through healthy Partnerships

Owyhee Conservation District Partners with a number of local, state and federal agencies to accomplish a wide range of projects and programs to support the producers, landowners and the agencies such as: Natural Resource Conservation Service, Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, GEM Irrigation District and South Board of Control, Cities of Homedale and Marsing, Idaho South West Resource Conservation District, Idaho Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Lands, and Owyhee Planning and Zoning.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Owyhee Conservation District

- a) Awareness to the diverse complexity's agriculture faces
- b) Building housing developments on quality agriculture land
- c) Increase numbers of small acreage farms: five acres or less plots
- d) Limited quantities of surface and ground water
- e) Invasive species and noxious weeds from other counties invading Owyhee agricultural lands
- f) Limited or decrease in State funds for conservation
- g) Lack of communications with county, state or federal agencies
- h) Changing regulations for water demand uses: fish, Ag, golf courses, water parks, river activities
- i) Increased documentation for non essential projects by other agencies
- j) Fire recovery and prevention

Strategies to Address Trends Impacting Conservation in Owyhee CD

- a) Educational outings for state and county officials: summer tour
- b) Coordinate outreach activities with compatible partners: County Fair, Garden Club, FFA, etc.
- c) Educational activities and sponsorship for Ag minded students: contests, senior projects
- d) Keep state legislatures and other elected officials abreast of agriculture issues and concerns
- e) Keep supervisors current on issues impacting working lands: Farm Bill programs, State grants, etc.
- f) Record and distribute information with county officials for natural resource concern
- g) Request regular contact or notification from county boards for critical agriculture changes
- h) Seek direct notification from county planning and zoning for changes affecting agriculture lands
- i) Host a district public awareness event -Farmers Appreciation Day
- j) Solicit farmers input to improve Annual Plan through local venues
- k) Offer producers information on projects from NRCS, SWRCD, ISDA and loans through ISWCC
- l) Make available district accomplishments to county landowners
- m) Conservation District Supervisors and staff receive updated training

Natural Resource Priorities

1. Water Quality
2. District Operations
3. Information and Education-Public Awareness/Endangered Species
4. Soils: Rangeland, Riparian, Crop
5. Fish and Wildlife
6. Noxious Weed
7. Water Quantities
8. Urban/Rural /Recreation

Priorities, Goals, and Objectives

1. Water Quality

- To reduce irrigation induced soil erosion on 9,000 acres to tolerable limits by 2027
- To educate proper chemical use to improve water quality by 2027
- To improve water efficiency through Idaho Conservation Partners technical and financial assistance programs to help county producers by 2027

2. District Operations

- To maintain and enhance the administrative capabilities of the District by 2028
- To maintain an ongoing working relationship with state legislatures
- To meet the requirements contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code
- To increase district operations by improving computer skills: excel, word, power point, QuickBooks, etc. through ongoing education & training yearly
- In cooperation with other Conservation Districts, develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 90% state matching funds for all districts by 2027

3. Information and Education-Public Awareness/Endangered Species

- To increase public awareness of conservation resource problems and opportunities by 2027
- To annually conduct youth education programs and increase participation in various programs
- To annually sponsor a fair booth and support Jr livestock sales
- To maintain quarterly communications with other state and federal governmental agencies
- To provide current information to producers through local paper and social media
- By 2028 all 3, 4, 5th, grade students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation day at their elementary school.
- Middle schoolers able to participate in Natural Resource Camp

4. Soils: Rangeland, Riparian, Crop

- To restore and improve identified rangeland needs for the best application of resource conservation practices by 2028
- To protect stream channels and riparian areas by 2028
- To promote BMP's on crop land by 2028

5. Fish and Wildlife

- To annually maintain awareness of endangered species in Owyhee Conservation District
- To reduce the threatened nature of the endangered species listings by 2028

6. Noxious Weeds:

- To decrease the spread of noxious weeds through public awareness and education
- To reduce noxious weeds while increasing native plants and forage to sustainable levels

Priorities, Goals, and Objectives, continued

7. Water Quantities:

- To make available to constituents, accurate, current water year conditions and predictions
- To provide up to date information for irrigation water

8. Urban/Rural

- To identify rural development needs within district boundaries by 2028.
- To address rural needs as identified with support of Southwest Idaho RC&D annually

District Operations Key Decision Makers

Key Decision Makers and Contributors for Owyhee Conservation District

- a) Owyhee Conservation District Supervisors: Andrea McRae, Chairman; Tim Volk, Sect./Trea., Supervisors: John Cossel, Ray Mansisidor, and Doug Hipwell.
- b) Producers, landowners and public supporters
- c) Owyhee County Commissioners: Joe Merrick, Jerry Hoagland, Kelly Aberasturi
- d) Planning and Zoning: Mary Huff, Administrator mhuff@co.owyhee.id.us;
- e) Planning & Zoning Commissioners: Scott Jensen, Chair, Chad Nettleton, Vice Chair, Rich Curtis, Bob Thomas, Dean Young, Tiffany Tuttle, Planner
- f) Idaho District 23 Senator Christy Zito, Representatives Blanksma and Bundy
- g) U.S. Senators, Mike Crapo, and US Senator Jim Risch,
- h) Representatives Russ Fulcher 1st District and Representative Mike Simpson 2nd District
- i) Homedale City Mayor Christoffersen and Marsing City Mayor Sevy
- j) Homedale City Council Members Aaron Tines, Steve Atkins, Tim Downing & Mike Aeischer
- k) Marsing City Council Chris Even, Marie Herman, Jolyn Green, Tony Malmberg & Rachel Percifield

Owyhee Conservation Districts Current 6 Months

Priority Actions

- a) Develop a projected budget for FY2024 by May 1, 2023 to accurately reflect the district's needs; based on the Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code
- b) To build a comprehensive Annual & 5 Year plan by March 31, 2023
- c) Hold monthly district board meeting – open to the public -2nd Tuesday of the month, subject to change
- d) Meet with Owyhee County Commissioners for FY24 budget request and supply them with written materials of the district's accomplishments, before May 1, 2023
- e) Contact State and U.S. Legislators of producers needs and issues

- f) Share information with school age children in the future of agricultural projects:
Envirothon, Natural Resource camp, High School Agricultural Scholarships, poster
contest & senior project sponsorships
- g) Organize educational Summer District Tour for June/July 2023