

BEAR LAKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Jennifer Jenson—Chairman

Devin Boehme---Vice-chairman

Todd Lloyd---Sec/Treasurer

Mark Parker---Supervisor

James Hardcastle---Supervisor

Brandee Wells---Dist. Mgr. of Operations

5 Year Plan -----July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2030

Annual Work Plan-----July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026

2026



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Forward

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are subdivisions of the state government and are charged with the conservation of the natural resources on the private lands of Idaho. The Bear Lake Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 50 Districts in Idaho.

The long-range goal of the Bear Lake SWCD is to set high standards for the wise use of the natural resources in the district. This document serves to identify the resource needs in the District and presents a long-term approach for meeting these needs. This plan was developed to help guide the District, local landowners, and cooperating agencies in the wise use of our natural resources and ensure an adequate resource base for future generations in the Bear Lake SWCD.

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History

The Bear Lake Soil and Water Conservation District was the first District to be organized under the authority of the Idaho Soil Conservation District Law of March 1, 1939. The District was organized on May 1, 1940. William J. Hunter and Silas Wright were appointed by the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission to serve as District Supervisors. Earnest W. Allred, Walter E. Clark, and Ivan K. Rigby were elected by the landowners in the District to complete the five-member board of supervisors.

The major soil and water resource related problems that existed in the District at the time of its organization were:

1. Poor irrigation application due to irregular field surfaces.
2. Lack of adequate control structures in most of the existing irrigation facilities.
3. Low forage production on the poorly drained bottomlands.
4. Lack of adequate equipment and funding to implement plans for attacking the problems.
5. Shortage of irrigation water after mid-summer.

During the 80 years since the organization of the District, there have been significant accomplishments in correcting the problems in each of the respective areas. The District applied for and was granted war surplus heavy equipment, enabling it to assist the District cooperators in land leveling, rebuilding irrigation systems, drainage of semi-wet cropland, and applying other soil and water conserving practices.

The improvement in both quantity and quality of hay and pasture forage, is vital to the successful farmer and rancher, this has been of particular significance to the District. New and improved varieties of grasses and legumes, have been made available to District cooperators through working arrangements with the cooperating state and federal agencies, this has enabled area farmers and ranchers to greatly increase forage production within the district. As landowners have recognized the benefits, of improved management on hay and pastureland has increased yields have resulted.

The District has co-sponsored several major projects over the years, which have enabled local irrigation companies to provide season-long irrigation water to their respective stockholders. Small Watershed Projects were constructed with District assistance during 1965-75. The Montpelier Irrigation Company constructed the Montpelier Creek Dam in Montpelier Canyon and improved the distribution system with adequate canal capacity and control structures to furnish water to 3,000 acres of cropland served by the Company. Total cost of this project was \$1,500,000 with the Irrigation Company and the Soil Conservation Service sharing the cost. This project was planned with a combination of flood control and irrigation water storage benefits. The City of Montpelier has suffered no damage from flooding since the installation of the project.

In 1975 the Georgetown Irrigation Company completed the installation of a gravity pressured sprinkler system covering 3,175 acres of cropland at the mouth of Georgetown Canyon. This

project has had a significant positive effect upon the production of hay, grain, and pasture on cropland served by the system.

The Skinner Irrigation Company, in Nounan Valley, installed a gravity sprinkler system involving 6 farms and 600 acres. This project was installed with cost-sharing and technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service under authority of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program. In addition to these major projects, hundreds of District cooperators have developed conservation plans with the District and installed countless soil, water, and related resource conservation practices on their cropland, hay and pasturelands, and private rangelands over the years.

Physical Characteristics of the District

A. Land

The Bear Lake Soil and Water Conservation District covers all of Bear Lake County. The District is located in the extreme southeast corner of Idaho with Utah bordering on the south and Wyoming bordering on the east. The total surface area of the District is 668,160 acres.

Major land uses in the District are as follows:

Irrigated Cropland	35,661 acres
Irrigated Meadow Hayland	3,149 acres
Non-Irrigated Cropland	45,369 acres
Forest & Range	474,956 acres
Bear Lake Wildlife Refuge	17,600 acres
Municipalities, Farmsteads	12,696 acres
Water Surface	33,246 acres

Approximately 45,000 acres of wetland are included in the above figures.

Percentage of Major Land Uses in the Bear Lake SWCD

7.3%	Irrigated cropland
13.0%	Irrigated Meadow hay
14.0%	Non-Irrigated Cropland
53.5%	Forest and Rangeland
3.4%	Urban and Farmsteads
8.8%	Water Surface

Ownership of the 668,160 surface acres is broken down as

43.5%	Federal	303,931 ac
46.0%	Private	305,259 ac
2.7%	State	18,595 ac
5.0%	Water Surface	33,246 ac
3.0%	Unidentified	19,715 ac

B. Geology and Topography

The general geology of the county can be divided into 9 broad classes of rocks and landforms with minor inclusions. These broad classes of rocks are (1) mixed alluvium on alluvial fans, streams terraces, pediments and glacial till (2) mixed alluvium on stream bottoms and alluvial fans (3) mixed alluvium on alluvial fans, pediments and loess- covered limestone hills (4) mixed sedimentary rocks in hills and mountains (5) Lacustrine sediments on lake bottoms, (6) loess-covered alluvial fans, lava plains and mixed alluvium on alluvial fans, (7) loess- covered lake terraces, (8) loess-covered alluvial fans and (9) loess-covered limestone hills, basalt hills and alluvial fans. The entire county lies within the Basin and Range Province.

The normal high-water surface elevation of Bear Lake is 5,923 feet above sea level. The lowest point in the District, where the Bear River leaves the county is 5,853 feet above sea level. Meade Peak located on the District's northern boundary is the highest point, with an elevation of 9957 feet. The Cultivated lands of the District are situated mainly between the 5,900 and 7,000-foot elevations.

C. Climate:

The District is located in the semi-arid belt of the United States and has the cool, invigorating climate typical of the Northern Rocky Mountain Plateau Region. The District includes parts of three Major Land Resource Areas as follows:

- MLRA 13B Eastern Idaho Plateaus
- MLRA 47 Wasatch and Uinta Mountains
- MLRA 43B Central Rocky Mountains

Climatic data for selected locations in the District is tabulated as follows:

Rainfall 37-year record

Montpelier	14.37"
Paris	14.1"
Geneva	15"
Lifton	11"
Border	16.7"

Temperature 37-year record

Montpelier
 (Yearly average) 41.15 degrees F
 High month average (July) 79 degrees F
 Low month average (January) 7.9 degrees F

Lifton
 (Yearly average) 42.0 degrees F
 High month average (July) 67.4 degrees F
 Low month average (January) 17.8 degrees F

Frost free period

Montpelier 25 years record 6/9 to 9/9	70 days
Lifton 25 years record 5/18 to 9/22	110 days

D. Soils:

The Bear Lake Soil survey was completed in 2011. All information is available on the web or a copy is in the USDA Service Center, 785 No. 4th St., Suite B, Montpelier, Idaho 83254.

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

Economic Condition and Outlook

Bear Lake was discovered in the mid-1990s by the recreation communities and has been labeled as the “Caribbean of the Rockies” for its blue water. Areas around the lake have experienced the most growth with seasonal residents but this has not been able to offset the overall decline in population since 2002. This decline in population has had an effect throughout the county from road maintenance, school programs offered, local businesses closing.

Employment has been stable in the county with an unemployment rate about 1.7% in 2021. With Bear Lakes economy tied to recreation the recession has had very large impact on the economy with people coming to the area. Wages in this tourism-based economy are lower paying under \$15.00 per hour which has kept the average wage well below the national and state average. With this low average wage, the county has been limited on how much it can support the local Conservation District.

2020 census population in Bear Lake County was 6,372 which is a 6.4% increase from the 2010 census.

Assessment

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Bear Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

- Urban impact on agriculture production
- Tourism
- Poorly planned growth in agricultural areas – ‘Planning & Zoning’
- Alternative Power Generation
- Limited availability of State funds for conservation
- Fuel Costs
- Mining

Strategies to Address Trends

- Step up our education, and outreach programs
- Raising awareness of conservation values with state legislature and elected officials - help decision makers be better informed
- Strengthen Locally Led efforts
- Supervisors become more informed on current issues impacting working lands, Farm Bill programs, and information from agencies instead of relying on NRCS District Conservationist
- Determine how to become involved with County Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources
- Continue to be involved with Highlands CWMA to assist with mapping information and eradication of noxious weeds
- Host the Cooperator of the Year Tour and annual fair booth to make public aware of goals
- Solicit input to improve Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan
- Take a proactive approach to funding water delivery systems on irrigated cropland
- Sponsor project proposals with other districts
- Training for Conservation District Supervisors and staff
- Continue annual tree sales program

Staffing Considerations

- Part-time Conservation District Manager of Operations is currently employed
- Conservation District Technician
- Part time engineer shared with other districts

Identify and Prioritize Objectives

1. Water Quality/Water Quantity
 - Work to implement the Ag TMDL implementation plan. This will reduce sediment and nutrients in the stream segments of concern.
 - Apply for water quality grants through state, federal, and private sources.
 - Assist landowners with incentive-based programs to increase irrigation efficiency and water savings.
2. Soil Health
 - Educate soil health to public for maximum growing potential in extreme cold growing conditions.
 - Promote the High Tunnel Systems to maximize growing in extreme cold growing conditions.
3. Urban Interface
 - Identify and pursue conservation opportunities for urban development.
 - Cooperation with local agencies to direct growth within the county.
 - Encourage local landowners to apply for the High Tunnel Systems.
 - Conservation Easements

4. Rangeland/Pasture

- Encourage landowners and operators to participate in conservation programs to install offsite water facilities, cross fencing, rotational grazing, range planting and pest management.
- Non-irrigated cropland
 - Encourage landowners to install BMPs to reduce sheet and rill erosion.
- Pasture and Hay land
 - Promote the development of pasture and hay land.
 - Educate landowners about pest management and promote high tunnel systems.

5. District Operations/Public Outreach and Education

- Recognize a Cooperator of the year at a banquet.
- Promote an annual poster contest in the 6th grade science class.
- Sponsor a Fair booth at the county fair.
- Conduct a tree sales program to promote windbreaks, shelterbelts, and explore carbon sequestration.
- Using tree sales income to make available scholarships to graduating seniors from Bear Lake High School.
- Promote innovative BMPs for cold climate conditions.
- 2nd grade tree planting field day with partners.
- Conduct a weed tour each summer co-sponsored with the Highlands CWMA and the Bear Lake County Weed Department.
- Host a Soil Health workshop for the public.
- Conduct an annual project tour.
- Bag of Woad

6. Fish and Wildlife

- Stay up to date on the issues and concerns within the District with fish and wildlife.
- Work with wildlife partners to identify and address negative impacts to wildlife.
- Keep abreast of the endangered species list.

7. Woodland

- Woodland areas are becoming more of a concern for the district as the potential for wildfire increases.

Water Quality Component

1. List of stream segment of concern:

- Bear River
- St Charles Creek
- Ovid Creek

- Thomas Fork
 - Stauffer Creek
 - Paris Creek
 - Montpelier Creek
2. Description of water quality: Streams within the Bear Lake SWCD boundaries are impacted by sediment, nutrients, and temperature. The Bear Lake SWCD identified stream bank modifications, over utilized pastures, sheet and rill erosion, classic and ephemeral gully erosion, and stream bank erosion as problems in the watershed. They also identified critical erosion periods as winter/spring rains and runoff and summer thunderstorms.

Under section 303(d) of the 1972 Clean Water Act, states, territories, and authorized tribes are required to develop lists of impaired waters. These impaired waters do not meet water quality standards that states, territories, and authorized tribes have set for them, even after point sources of pollution have installed the minimum required levels of pollution control technology. The law requires that these jurisdictions establish priority rankings for waters on the lists and develop TMDLs for these waters.

In addition to the SWCD's list we would like to list the 2018 impacted waters in the District <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/monitoring-and-assessment/> (Reference to DEQ's 2018/2020 Integrated Report)

Bear Lake 16010201

Bear River
 St Charles Creek
 North Creek
 Ovid Creek
 Pearl Creek
 Bailey Creek
 Bennington Canyon and tributaries
 Wood Canyon
 Dunn's Creek
 Stauffer Creek
 Spring Creek
 Co-Op Creek
 Emigration Creek
 Middle Mill Creek
 Sleight Canyon
 Upper Paris Creek
 Eightmile Creek
 Indian Creek
 Montpelier Creek
 Little Beaver Creek
 Whiskey Creek

Home Canyon
 Snowslide Creek
 Georgetown Creek
 Ledger Creek
 Ninemile Creek
 Trail Creek
 Skinner Creek
 Liberty Creek
 Two Springs Creek

Central Bear 16010102

Thomas Fork
 Preuss Creek
 Dry Creek
 Pegram Creek
 Bear River
 Beaver Creek
 Sheep Creek-all tributaries
 Giraffe Creek
 Fish Creek
 Dip Creek

Identify and Prioritize Projects

The district has assisted many producers with RCRDP loans, Conservation Improvement grants, Environmental Coordination Committee (ECC) grants, Water Smart grants through Bureau of Reclamation, and 319 grants to increase irrigation water efficiency, providing containment for animal feeding operations, installing practices on dryland ag to reduce soil erosion, and improving rangeland conditions. The district has also recommended NRCS program assistance: EQIP, CSP, CRP etc.

Past projects:

- Mast stream bank restoration 319
- Dingle CAFO 319
- Skinner Creek CAFO ECC
- Conservation Improvement Grants 10 different landowners
- 2 Irrigation Structures with Fish Passage Paris Creek
- Bio Engineering Workshop I 2009
- Bio Engineering Workshop II 2011
- Bureau of Reclamation Ditch to Pipe Conversion
- Jarvis Springs Fuel Reduction Grant
- Camp Bartlett Fuels Reduction Grant

- Highlands CWMA Phragmites Grant
- Georgetown SRF 319 Grant
- PBJ 319 Grant
- Stauffer Creek 319 Grant
- Paris Hollows Fuels Reduction Grant
- ECC Georgetown Grant
- Thomas Fork AFO 319
- French/Dutch Fuels Reduction Project
- Bear Lake SWCD Diversions and Bank Stabilization 319 Project
- Williamson Fuels Reduction Project
- Bear River Nutrient Reduction 319 Project
- Bear Lake Water Improvement Project
- Bear Lake West Irrigation Enhancement & Stockwater BMP Project
- Geneva Irrigation & Soil Health BMP Project
- Georgetown Irrigation Improvement & Livestock BMP Project
- Dingle Irrigation Ditch to Pipe WQPA Project
- Administer Paris Canyon Pipeline
- Administer Bloomington Grazing Association

Current projects:

- Administer Highlands CWMA
 - Regular ISDA Grant
- Dairy Island Project
- St. Charles Irrigation Canal System and Water Improvement
- Pegram/Geneva Stockwater and Irrigation Enhancement Project
- Bern Liberty Grazing Management and Streambank Restoration Project
- Bern Liberty Streambank and Offsite Watering WQPA
- Arnell, Stucki, and Keetch BMP Project
- Bear Lake 2024 Projects

Future projects:

- 319 Grants
- ECC Grants
- BMP Grants
- WQPA Grants

Implementation

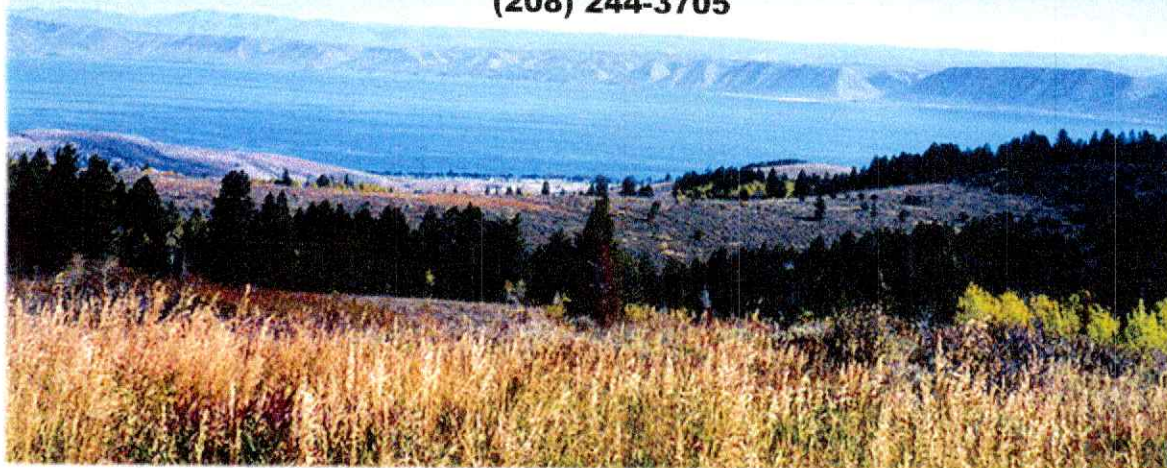
Implementation will follow our Annual Plan of Work.

FY 2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work Bear Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

Bear Lake County, Idaho

For Information Contact: Jennifer Jenson, Chairman

(208) 244-3705



Mission of the Bear Lake Soil & Water Conservation District: To coordinate technical, financial, and educational assistance for responsible natural resources management that conserves and improves air, soil, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Trends & Issues Impacting Conservation in the Bear Lake Soil & Water Conservation District:

- Urban Sprawl
- Tourism
- Alternative Power Generation
- Mining
- Sharp-tail Grouse
- Planning & Zoning
- Bonneville Cutthroat Trout
- Sage Grouse
- Fire Prevention

Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed by the Bear Lake Soil & Water Conservation District:

- Dairy Island Project
- St. Charles Irrigation Canal System and Water Improvement
- Pegram/Geneva Stockwater and Irrigation Enhancement Project
- Bern Liberty Grazing Management and Streambank Restoration Project
- Bern Liberty Streambank and Offsite Watering WQPA
- Arnell, Stucki, and Keetch BMP Project
- Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area
- 6th Grade Outreach Program
- ECC Grants
- Scholarships
- Tree Sales
- Elementary School Tree Planting
- Fuels Reduction Grants
- Soil Health Workshops
- Bag of Woad

Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects Coordinated:

- Bear Lake County
 - BL Co. Weed Control
 - BL Co. Fire Department
- State of Idaho
 - Idaho Department of Lands
 - Idaho Department of Agriculture
 - Idaho Fish and Game
 - Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Grants
 - PacifiCorp
 - IDEQ
 - Fire Control—Western Fire Managers
 - Forest Service
- Cities
- Highlands CWMA
 - ISDA
 - Upper Blackfoot River Consortium (UBC)
 - Trout Unlimited

- Annual Tree Sales
- NRCS Farm Bill Assistance
- NRCS Brush Management
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

Conservation District Priority Number 1: Water Quality/Quantity

Objective: Meet the objective of the Idaho Clean Water Act 393601, the Federal Clean Water Act, and the Anti-Degradation Plan for Idaho on private land and assist landowners in water management and efficient water usage.

Goal(s): Seek conservation programs & implementation practices on 303(d) listed streams. Implement Agriculture Pollution Abatement Plan for private and State Agricultural lands and seek conservation programs by encouraging landowners be mindful of the importance of water efficiency.

FY 26 Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible	Completed in FY 25?
Secure funding through 319, ECC grants; NRCS program funds.	On going	Brandee Wells, Chris Banks, Madison Vargovich, Shad Mills, Cooper Jensen, Supervisors	Yes
Participate in Bear River BAG Meetings.	Semi-Annual	Chris Banks, Madison Vargovich, Brandee Wells	Yes
Pursue funding through NRCS programs and assist landowners in improving irrigations systems, implementing natural resource plans in livestock grazing, riparian management, and water quality.	Year round	Shad Mills, Cooper Jensen, Supervisors	Yes

Work with landowners to apply ditch to pipe, irrigation water management, and convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Possible funding through the Bureau of Reclamation Grant process	October-May	Shad Mills, Supervisors, Cooper Jensen	Yes
Attend the Water Quality Task Force meeting when possible.	Quarterly	Supervisors, Brandee Wells, Madison Vargovich	No

Conservation District Priority 2: Soil Health

Objective: Assist landowners with cropland and rangeland education to create a healthy soil environment.

Goal(s): Educate the importance of healthy soils that are full of life.

FY 26 Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible	Completed in FY 25?
Support the Highlands weed days	Spring-May	Jennifer Jenson, Brandee Wells	Yes
Educate middle school students about the importance of taking care of our soil.	On-going	Supervisors, Shad Mills, Cooper Jenson, Brandee Wells	Yes
Host a Soil Workshop and field tour	Year round	Supervisors, Brandee Wells, Shad Mills, Cooper Jenson,	Yes
Host a Cover Crop Workshop with Test Crops to show options that there are.	August-November	Supervisors, Brandee Wells, Shad Mills, Cooper Jenson	No

Conservation District Priority Area 3: Urban Interface

Objective: Identify and pursue conservation opportunities for urban development.

Goal(s): To assist Planning and Zoning to protect and improve natural resources.

FY 26 Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible	Completed in 25?
Acquire urban conservation measures to share with the local community and partners.	On-going	Supervisors, Madison Vargovich, Brandee Wells, Staff Engineer	No
Educate citizens about storm water management and non-point watershed protection issues.	On-going	Supervisors, Madison Vargovich, Brandee Wells, partners	No
Work with Forest Service to work with homeowners to provide buffers.	On-going	Mark Parker	Yes
Promote the tree sale program for disturbed areas.	May – June	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes
Provide guidelines to the county planning and zoning committee.	On-going	Supervisors, Madison Vargovich, Brandee Wells	Yes

As requested, provide wetlands, soils, and flood plain data.	On-going	Supervisors, Madison Vargovich, Chris Banks, Brandee Wells, partners	Yes
Promote the high-tunnel program through NRCS.	On-going	Jennifer Jenson, Brandee Wells, Copper Jensen, and Shad Mills	Yes

Conservation District Priority 4: Rangeland/Pasture

Objective: Assist landowners with cropland and livestock management on private land concerning erosion, sediment loading and noxious weeds.

Goal(s): To achieve conservation range management on 2,000 acres of privately owned rangeland and install BMP's to minimize soil erosion and noxious weeds.

FY 26 Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible	Completed in FY 25?
Co-operate with the Highlands CWMA with a recertification class for members of the public	May	Mark Parker, Jennifer Jenson, Shad Mills, Brandee Wells	Yes
Encourage landowners to work with NRCS and their various programs.	On-going	Supervisors, Shad Mills, Cooper Jensen	Yes
Highlight installed range projects in an annual tour/pasture.	August or September	Jennifer Jenson, James Hardcastle, Shad Mills, Brandee Wells	Yes
Work with NRCS to help landowners with Brush Reduction.	On-going	Brandee Wells, Madison Vargovich, Shad Mills, Cooper Jensen	No
Educate Landowners on how BMP's will benefit their operations.	November-April	Shad Mills, Cooper Jensen, Supervisors	Yes

Provide information on weeds at the District office for public use.	January – December	Brandee Wells, Supervisors, Shad Mills, Highlands CWMA	Yes
Work closely with the Bear Lake County Weed Control to insure effective use of resources that are available to landowners.	March – September	James Hardcastle, Brandee Wells	Yes
Work closely with the Highlands CWMA to insure effective use of I&E, volunteers, workdays in CWMA.	January – December	Brandee Wells, Jennifer Jenson	Yes
Work with Planning & Zoning to encourage weed control for landowners.	On-going	Brandee Wells, Madison Vargovich, Devin Boehme	Yes
Continue administering the Highlands CWMA to help support control of noxious weeds.	On-going	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes
Work with neighboring state agencies, Bear Lake Regional commission and private landowners on controlling noxious weeds around Bear Lake and the Bear River	On-going	Supervisors, Brandee Wells, Highlands CWMA	Yes
Apply for available grant funds to help eradicate the Phragmites growing around Bear Lake and on the Bear River.	On-going	Supervisors, Brandee Wells, Highlands CWMA	Yes
Participate in a Dyer's Woad Program	May-June	Supervisors, Brandee Wells, Highlands CWMA	Yes

Conservation District Priority Number 5:
District Operations/Public Outreach and Education

Objective: Improve effectiveness and knowledge of SWCD board member's responsibilities as well as educate the local landowner about the importance of conservation.

FY 26 Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible	Completed in FY 25?
Encourage supervisors to attend all monthly meeting and other district activities including Fall and Spring IASCD Division meetings.	January – December	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes
Have at least 2 supervisors attend IASCD annual conference and report back to board.	November	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	No
Attend the Regional SW Pacific NACD meetings when funds are available.	Yearly	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	No
Attend locally led group and County Commissioners.	January	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes

Conduct a Conservation tour annually. The tour will be based on District priorities.	August	Supervisors, Brandee Wells, Shad Mills, Cooper Jensen	Yes
Submit at least 4 news releases to local radio and newspaper	Year round	Brandee Wells	Yes
Host annual Conservation Awards dinner and honor a Cooperator of the Year.	December	Supervisors, Brandee Wells, Shad Mills, Cooper Jensen	Yes
Conduct annual audit of SWCD financial resources.	September	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes
Comply with Idaho Open Meeting Law requirements.	On-going	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes
Establish job description for all employees.	January	Supervisors	Yes
Evaluate each employee's work performance at least twice a year.	June, December	Supervisors	Yes
Evaluate employee's salary based on work performance and available funds.	January	Supervisors	Yes
Provide poster contest and outreach project for all sixth graders.	January-March	Brandee Wells, Shad Mills, Madison Vargovich, Cooper Jensen	Yes
Sponsor 3-5 students and one teacher to attend the Natural Resource Workshop in Ketchum	June	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	No
Participate in Legislative Outreach Program and participate in Legislative Display at Capitol Building in Boise.	January	Adjoining Districts, Brandee Wells, Supervisors	No

Use the tree sales program to provide scholarships for college bound graduating seniors.	May	Jennifer Jenson, Todd Lloyd, Brandee Wells	Yes
Provide Soil Stewardship materials to schools, churches, and other interested groups. Donate a tree to each school in the district for Stewardship Week and hold a tree planting ceremony at each school.	April – May	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes
Sponsor a speech contest in conjunction with the national contest.	Yearly	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	No
Sponsor an Envirothon Team to attend the state contest and send a board member or staff to volunteer to help.	Yearly	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes
Sponsor fair booth and invite other agencies to participate.	August	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes
Education and encourage women and minorities to serve as board members, associate members and/ or volunteers.	Yearly	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes

Conservation District Priority Area 6: Fish and Wildlife

Objective: Identify threatened and endangered species in our jurisdiction and stay up to date on issues and concerns within the district.

Goal: To help secure a healthy and viable habitat, to maintain and build species sizes.

FY 26 Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible	Completed in FY 25?
Attend local, division and state meetings concerning area impacts on wildlife.	On-going	Supervisors, Madison Vargovich, Brandee Wells	Yes
Educate landowners on species of concern and their fragile habitats.	On-going	Supervisors, Madison Vargovich, Brandee Wells, partners	Yes
Promote and educate the public on the importance of wildlife and fish.	May – June	Supervisors, Brandee Wells	Yes

Conservation District Priority Number 7:

Woodlands

Objective: To help reduce the damage to woodlands and private structures in the event of a wildfire.

Goal: To work with landowners in areas of high priority to help reduce ladder fuels and improve forest health.

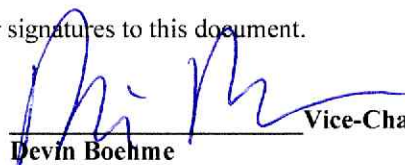
FY 26 Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible	Completed in FY 25?
Locate high priority areas within the district for wildfire risk.	January – December	Mark Parker, Brandee Wells	Yes
Educate landowners about defensible space around their structures	Year round	Mark Parker, Brandee Wells	Yes
Work with local, state and national agencies to promote a healthy forest and fire safety.	On going	Mark Parker, Brandee Wells	Yes
Secure funding to create firebreaks around high-risk areas.	On-going	Mark Parker, Brandee Wells	Yes

Certificate of Adoption

The Board of elected supervisors of the Bear Lake Soil & Water Conservation District on 6th day of March do hereby approve the following document known as the 5 Year Plan and Annual Work Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2025, 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
Jennifer Jensen

 Vice-Chairman
Devin Boehme

 Secretary/Treasurer
Todd Lloyd

 Supervisor
Mark Parker

 Supervisor
James Hardcastle

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**FIVE-YEAR (5) PLAN and
ANNUAL WORK PLAN
CERTIFICATION**

DISTRICT: Bear Lake SWCD

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2026

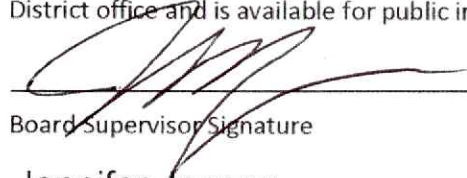
DUE :

March 31, 2025

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan is true and accurate, and further submit said Plan for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.



Board Supervisor Signature

Jennifer Jenson

Printed Name

March 3, 2025

Date

208-244-3705

District Telephone

bl.swcd@gmail.com

District Email Address

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DATE OF CONFIRMATION: