

Caribou Soil Conservation District

390 East Hooper Ave.
Soda Springs, ID 83276



FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN

July 1, 2024- June 30, 2029

and

ANNUAL PLAN

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

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(Note: the official signature page is housed in the files at the Caribou Soil Conservation District's office)

Executive Summary

The Caribou Soil Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Conservation Districts are subdivisions of state government and charged with carrying out a program for the conservation of soil, water, and other natural resources.

Conservation Districts are the primary entities to aid 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.

It is the goal of the Caribou Soil Conservation District's elected officials to promote the wise use of our natural resources. This Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan/Annual Plan was developed not only as a guide, but an action plan for meeting those needs. The Conservation District encourages 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 Caribou Soil Conservation District.

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

Section 1: Physical Characteristics of the Caribou Soil Conservation District (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.01)



Mission Statement

The Caribou Soil Conservation District is dedicated to promoting wise land use, providing information and education, and giving assistance to anyone looking for ways of conserving our natural resources.

Organization of the District

The Caribou Soil Conservation District is a political subdivision of the State of Idaho, authorities, powers, and structure contained in Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code.

In accordance with District Law, landowners voted overwhelmingly on June 9, 1951 to organize the Soil Conservation District.

Function of the Caribou SCD

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 managers in conserving soil, water, and related natural resources.

Who We Serve and Why?

The District serves the people of Caribou County and is committed to customer service, quality leadership, and the preservation and conservation of our natural resources for present and future generations.

Climatic Conditions:

Caribou County's climate is dominated by cool, dry weather, with prevailing winds and weather patterns. The average annual precipitation is 19 inches. In the winter months, total snowfall averages almost 110 inches, and snow cover typically remains on the ground from November through March. Snow accumulation is greatest along the east-facing slopes as compared to the west-facing slopes, primarily as a result of prevailing winds which cause drifting.

Summer temperatures are mild, normally ranging from 42 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit, while winter temperatures normally range from 0 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Stream flow in area streams, including Pebble Creek and the Blackfoot River are controlled by snow melt, precipitation, and groundwater discharge. Peak flows generally occur in April through June, during spring runoff, and decline to low-flow conditions by mid-to late summer.

CARIBOU



Critical Geographic Area

Historic and scenic Caribou County was founded in 1864 and is located in southeast Idaho, bordering Wyoming to the east and Utah to the south. The boundaries are the same as the Caribou Soil Conservation Districts.

Elevation in the County varies greatly from 5,000 to 9,500 feet. A large part of the County is occupied by old lava flows. Large patches of rock outcrop are common.

The Bear River has cut a box canyon through the lava beds, and the canyon becomes several hundred feet deep and three quarters of a mile wide about four miles southwest of Grace. The lowest point in elevation is where the Bear River crosses the boundary to Franklin County.

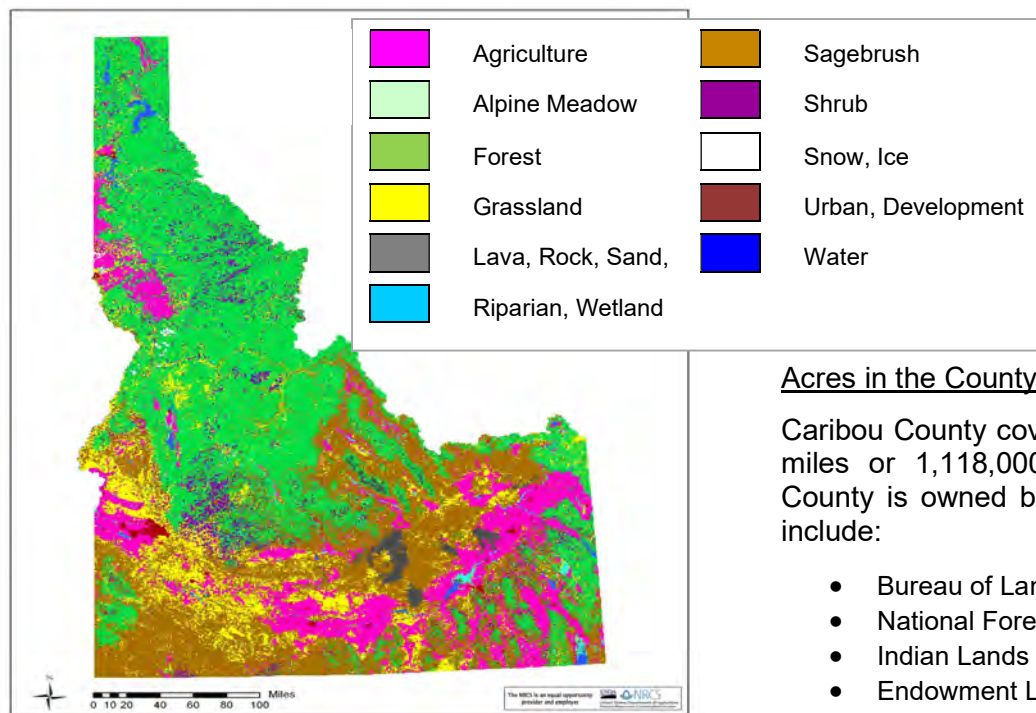
The southern and southeastern parts of the County drain into the Bear River which is a part of the Great Basin. The northeastern and northwestern parts drain into the Blackfoot and Portneuf Rivers, thus belonging to the Snake River Drainage System.



Bear River

The divide between the Bear River and Blackfoot River sub-basins is in many places not very distinct. It extends across open valleys that appear to the eye to be nearly level.

Idaho Land Use - Land Coverage



Acres in the County

Caribou County covers an area of 1,799 square miles or 1,118,000 acres. The land in the County is owned by a variety of owners which include:

• Bureau of Land Management	56,363 ac.
• National Forest Service	362,034 ac.
• Indian Lands	27,382 ac.
• Endowment Lands	100,488 ac.
• Fish and Game	1,780 ac.
• Parks and Recreation	166 ac.
• Private Land	567,127 ac.
• County Land	<u>2,700 ac.</u>
Total Land	1,118,000

Section 2: Economic Conditions and Outlook (IDAPA.60.05.02.025.02)

Population and Employment

Caribou County's population fluctuated over the decade before ending at 7,060. The County is at the hub of the Pioneer Historic Byway and the Caribou Scenic Byway, which bring in tourists. Soda Springs, named for its natural carbonated springs, has a geyser which erupts every hour on the hour. The County is also home to phosphate mining and processing, which helps the population enjoy a higher average wage than most other counties in Idaho. Caribou County has a remarkably diverse and highly skilled work force. Nearly half the jobs in the County are in the production of fertilizer, phosphorus and weed killer. While mining and construction accounted for 10 percent of employment, manufacturing accounted for 22 percent. Government also provides an equal number of jobs.

Efforts to attract more tourism have helped diversify the economy through the addition of several service and trade businesses. The County heavily depends on natural resource-based industries, agriculture, and mining. The major employers include: Itafos, Bayer, Degerstrom, J.R. Simplot Mark III, Kiewit, Smith Construction, Broulim's, and Lallatin's.

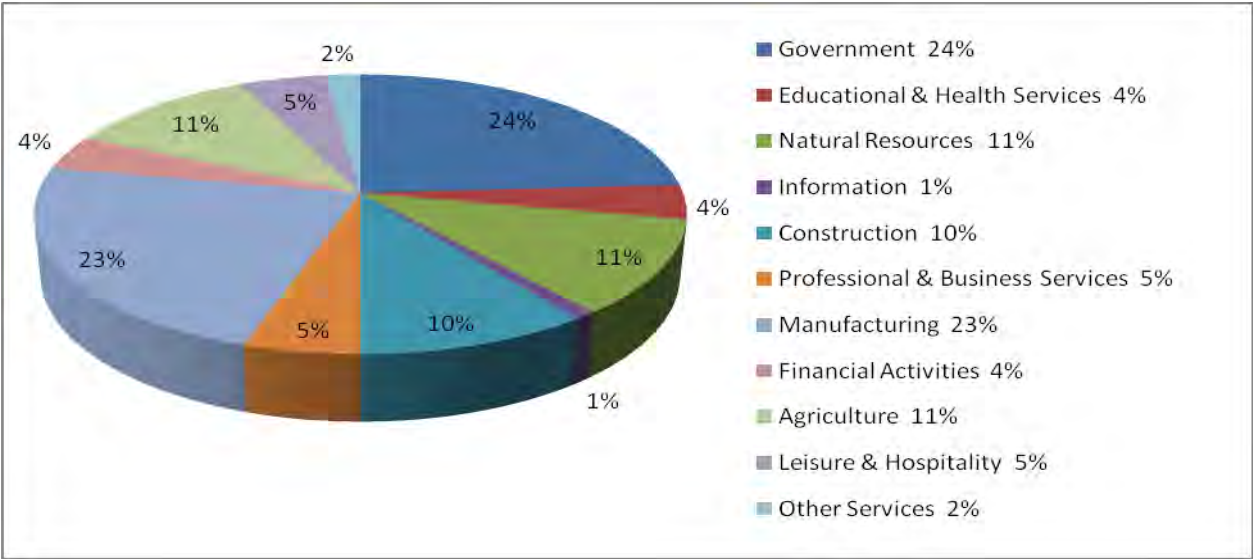
Caribou County is unique economically. It has a strong agricultural base, tourism, recreation, and mining.



Agricultural Economy and Outlook

With much of the economy derived from agriculture and related activities, maintaining viable tracts of agricultural and rangeland is a County goal. The Caribou SCD works with land managers on managing farms and ranches, and dairy and beef producers in protecting their herds and operating more efficiently. They encourage agricultural producers who need financial and technical assistance to contact the USDA NRCS or other agencies that can provide the technical expertise. A common goal is to help producers improve marketing skills and understand risk management skills essential for financial survival.

Employment Percentages in Caribou County

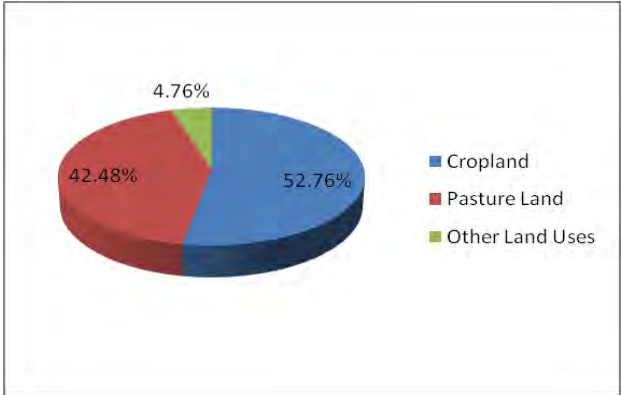


2017 Census for Agriculture Compared to 2022 Census in Caribou County

(Referenced: agcensus.usda)	2017	2022
Number of Farms	411	399
Total Land in Farms	366,499	416,460
Average Size of Farms	892	267
Average Market Value of Production	\$265,067.00	\$286,246



Land in Farms by Type of Land



Section 3: Assessment of Resource Conditions, Trends, and Conservation Needs of the District (IDAPA.60.05.02.025.03)

Soil Erosion

Soil erosion has been greatly reduced in the County with the use of minimum tillage and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP has been highly active, at the present time the maximum of 28% of the agricultural cropland is in CRP, with 78,000 critical erodible acres placed in the program. The trend is to continue improving erosion problems with better conservation practices. With the best conservation practices the erosion rate would be around 1 ton per acre and extending on the steeper slopes and poor conservation practices to 20 tons per acres. On irrigated cropland that is in grain, alfalfa, pasture, or potatoes, with a 5% or greater slope the erosion rate would be 8 tons per acres. On a 12% or greater slope it would be 12 tons per acres. On non-irrigated cropland in small grains, but not in CRP with a 0-4% slope the erosion rate would be 3 tons per acre. On a 4-8% slope it would be 7 tons per acre and on an 8% or greater slope it would be 15 tons per acre.

Percentage of Land Uses Adequately Treated

The District is working with the landowners and NRCS to adequately treat farmland in Caribou County. The District promotes USDA programs such as: ACEP, CRP, CCRP, CStP, EQIP, GRP, RCPP, windbreaks, IDEQ SRF and 319 Water Quality Grant Program. They also promote partnership with non-government entities such as: ECC and TU.

The District estimates that approximately 75% percent of the cropland is eroding at less than T levels. The remaining 25% percent is eroding at greater than T levels.

Water Resources

Water resources in the County include the Bear River, Blackfoot River, and Portneuf River, and their tributaries. Water is a critical commodity in the County and a large portion of the cropland relies heavily on irrigation.

There are two drainage systems in the County, the Snake River Drainage, and the Great Salt Lake Drainage. The Blackfoot and Portneuf Rivers flow into the Snake River drainage, and the Bear River flows into the Great Salt Lake.

There are three reservoirs in the Caribou County, the Alexander, Blackfoot, and Chesterfield reservoirs. The Blackfoot and Chesterfield reservoirs are used for irrigation. The levels on both reservoirs fluctuate from a high in the spring to a low in the fall. The Alexander reservoir is mainly used for power generation and flood control.



The City of Soda Springs has an outlet from its sewer-setting pond that runs into the river above the Alexander reservoir. The Bear River is also used to generate power and it fluctuates in elevation.

Surface Water Quality

The riparian areas in the County are in a variety of conditions. Some areas have been abused while other areas are in good to excellent condition. The Caribou SCD is looking at identifying riparian areas that have areas of concern and develop conservation practices that will repair those areas. They have worked with public and private land managers to ensure proper conservation practices are being carried out.

Water Quality Conditions and Trends in Caribou County

The District is working on improving conditions of the Bear, Blackfoot, and Portneuf Rivers. They have completed one planning project and three implementation projects on the Portneuf River and one on the Twenty-four Mile Creek, a tributary of the Portneuf River.

The District is currently administering two 319 grants bringing approximately \$757,254.82 dollars into the County. One of the 319 grants is on the Blackfoot River and will target sediment and nutrients. Its specific goal is to reduce agricultural pollutants and restore beneficial uses.

The other 319 project is on the Bear River. This project will reduce impacts of approximately 300 head of cattle on the stream and reduce sediment & nutrients going into the stream.

The District also helped a landowner receive an Environmental Coordination Committee, (ECC) grant worth approximately \$30,000.00 dollars. The ECC grant is on Trout Creek, and it will eliminate an old dairy that lies directly on the creek. There have also been several other ECC grants within the District.

The Caribou SCD is also interested in improving the Chesterfield Reservoir. In years when snowmelt is insufficient to fill the reservoir, it's down past the "death pool" stage during the irrigation season. A death pool is that level of water which is insufficient to support existing aquatic life. When the reservoir is drawn that low, the results upstream consist of a meandering, incised channel, which erodes and contributes sediment to the river.

Flooding

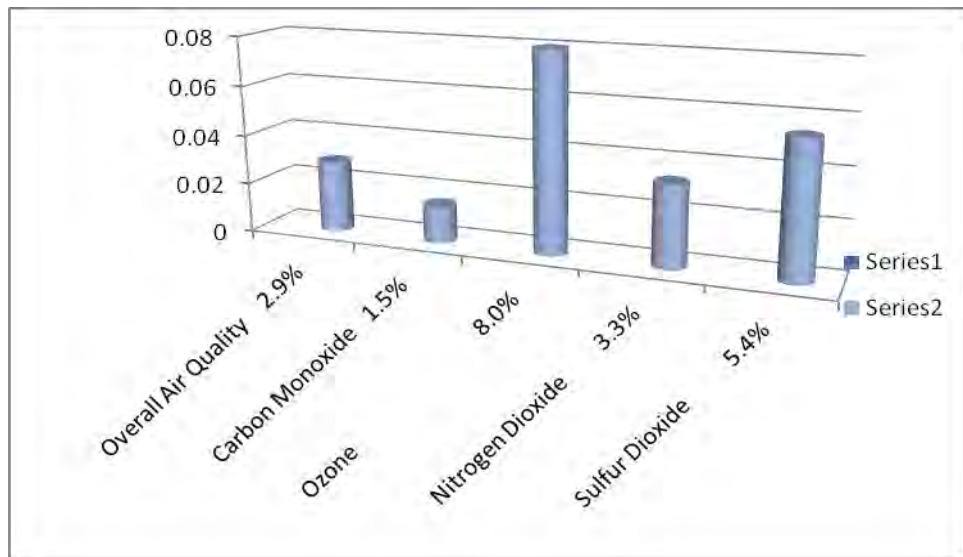
Major flooding occurred in the City of Bancroft in December of 1962 and January of 1963, this was a result of a warm spell melting snow and rain over frozen ground. At that time, the City of Bancroft installed several canals and drainage ditches. Flooding has not been a problem since that time but could occur again if conditions are right. Recently the City of Bancroft completed a major reconstruction project, which removed them from the flood plain zone listing.



Air Quality

The Clean Air Act is the law that defines EPA's responsibilities for protecting and improving the nation's air quality and the stratospheric ozone layer.

Caribou Counties Air Quality (Referenced: homefacts.com/airquality/Idaho/Caribou-County)



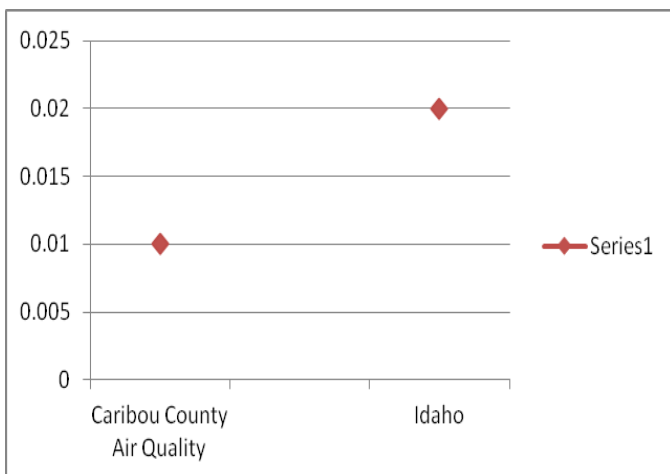
What Do These Numbers Mean?

Higher is better. Homefacts looks at the measuring stations across the country and compares the amounts of each specific pollutant. A higher number means it has fewer amounts of that pollutant. For example: If your County has a 9.0 for Ozone, it means that 90% of the stations around the country are measuring higher amounts than your local station. Homefacts tracks the most recent local air monitoring and pollution testing results to create an overall Air Pollution Grade.

Average Sulfur dioxide (ppm)

Sulfur dioxide at the highest annual mean concentration is 0.03 parts per million. Current scientific evidence links short-term exposures to SO₂, ranging from 5 minutes to 24 hours, with an array of adverse respiratory affects including bronchoconstriction and increased asthma symptoms.

The chart below is Caribou County's average Sulfur dioxide level compared to the State of Idaho's.



Threatened and Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 directs all federal agencies, or any project that has a federal nexus, to implement measures to protect all federally listed species found in the project area. These species greatly affect the farming and ranching communities. While often they bring federal funds to the District for project administration, they also bring the federal “nexus” for ESA consultation of these projects.

The Greater Sage-Grouse is the most recent topic for our area. But in 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that the Greater Sage-Grouse was not warranted for listing.

NRCS developed the Sage-Grouse Initiative to help private landowners voluntarily conserve Sage-Grouse populations and habitat on their working lands. Technical and financial assistance is available through EQIP and WHIP for implementing specific practices. The ultimate goal of the Initiative is to help ensure sustainable use of good sagebrush habitat.

Threatened and Endangered Species in Caribou County

- Greater Sage-Grouse (proposed for listing)
- Canada Lynx
- Gray Wolf
- Wolverine



The decline in populations of a plant species is due to issues such as urban expansion, small acreage habitat degradation, and indirect or direct destruction. Destruction occurs through introduction of invasive species, over harvesting, and conversion of habitat to other uses. Restoration of threatened and endangered species is often hindered by a limited knowledge of their propagation.

Trends Impacting Conservation in Caribou County

- Poorly planned growth in agricultural areas.
- Increasing small acreage farms, five acres or less.
- Limited availability of State funds for Conservation Districts.
- Focus more on water quality compared to other conservation and environmental issues.
- Conservation concerns over expiration of CRP contracts.

Values of the Caribou Soil Conservation District

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Support for agriculture activity that uses sustainable, economic feasible practices
- Value and respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership
- Conservation education for adults and youth

Strategies to Address Trends

- More public outreach and educational programs.
- Determine 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.
- Supervisors become more informed on current issues impacting farmlands from the current Farm Bill programs and become involved with County Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources.

- Work with the Highland CWMA in mapping noxious and invasive weeds to target more effectively weed control efforts.
- Maintain a data base to track resource improvements.
- Take a proactive approach to funding water delivery systems on irrigated cropland.
- Identify the information methods to communicate with small landowners.
- Sponsor project proposals with other Districts.

Annual Budget Needs

Listed below is an estimated annual budget for the Caribou Soil Conservation District, to carry out District programs.

Income:

• State Allocations	\$ 35,714.00
• County Allocations	\$ 12,500.00
• LGIP Savings (interest)	\$ 300.00
• Reimbursements	\$ 100.00
• 319 Grants	<u>\$ 403,756.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 452,370.00

Expense:

• BMP's	\$350,680.00
• Contracted Services	\$ 61,301.00
• Dues and subscriptions	\$ 3,044.00
• Education Programs & Donations	\$ 3,187.00
• Insurance	\$ 896.00
• Meetings & Conventions	\$ 2,027.00
• Office Supplies and Postage	\$ 859.00
• Payroll, Taxes, Retirement	\$ 25,781.00
• Professional Services	\$ 1,850.00
• Public Outreach	\$ 1,122.00
• Supervisor Expense (Registration, Travel, etc...)	<u>\$ 1,398.00</u>
Total Expense	\$452,145.00

Staffing Needs

- Conservation District Manager with benefits
- Full-time Conservation District Administrative Assistant with benefits
- Part-time I&E and Grants Writing Employee with benefits
- Conservation District Technician with benefits

Key Decision Makers

- Citizens in the Caribou Soil Conservation District
- County Commissioners: Mark Mathews, Bryce Somsen, Marty McCullough
- Planning & Zoning Board: Blair Rindlisbaker, Adam Hulse, Becky Jorgenson, Sadie Somsen, Noel Cole, Dow Barker
- Bancroft Mayor: Lucas Spencer
- Bancroft Council Members: Rick Hatch, Joseph Perry, Eric Christensen, Nate Eiman
- Grace Mayor: Jackie Barthlome
- Grace Council Members: Kathy Tilloston, Larry Allen, Colleen Fluckiger, Curtis Toone
- Soda Springs Mayor: Austin Robinson
- Soda Springs Council Members: Scott Gambles, Ryan Carpenter, Mitch Hart, Rod Worthington
- Senator: Mark Harris
- Representative's: Kevin Andrus and Chad Christensen
- Legislator's: Senators-Mike Crapo and Jim Risch Representative- Mike Simpson
- Caribou Soil Conservation District Supervisors and Associate Members:
 - John LauChairman
 - Wilder HatchVice Chairman
 - Brett TorgesenSecretary Treasurer
 - Sherman TooneMember
 - Robert Comish.....Member
 - Logan Lloyd.....Member
 - Pauline Bassett.....Associate Member
 - Pat LozierAssociate Member
 - Erin Appleby.....Administrative Assistant
 - Chris BanksProject Manager
- FSA County Committee and County Executive Director
 - Jenny McConnelCED
 - Tiffany Labrousche Committee Member
 - Cameron WilliamsCommittee Member
 - Rod SorensenCommittee Member
- Other Government Entities and Groups: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, US Forest Service, US Army Corp. of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Idaho Association of Conservation Districts, Idaho District's Employees Association, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Friends of the Portneuf, and Trout Unlimited.

Section 4: Identify and Prioritize Objectives

(IDAPA.60.05.02.025.04)

District Priorities

Listed below are the District's priorities in order of their importance. These are the items they plan to pursue and implement as they address resource concerns and conservation needs in the County.

1) Water Quality & Quantity

- Animal Waste Management
- Fish & Wildlife
- Invasive Species
- Riparian

4) Public Outreach

- Crop to Pasture
- Hayland Management
- Invasive Species
- Tourism

2) Rangeland and Pasture Management

- Invasive Species

5) District Operations

- Education Programs
- Financial Budget
- Tours

3) Plant and Soil Health

- Dry Cropland
- Irrigated Cropland
- Invasive Species

Priority Actions - 12 Months

- The following is a summary of the priority actions needed to start the Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan for the Caribou Soil Conservation District.

ACTION	BEGIN DATE	END DATE
▪ Seek public comments on Five-Year Resource Conservation Business/Annual Plan.	02/01	03/01
▪ Board of Supervisor review the Five-Year Resource Conservation Business/Annual Plan priorities, actions, and public comment.	02/01	03/31
▪ Complete written update of Five-Year Resource Conservation Business/Annual Plan.	01/01	03/21
▪ Identify budget and staffing needs.	01/01	03/01
▪ Develop, adopt, and submit annual budget.	01/01	03/01
▪ Adopt and submit the Five-Year Resource Conservation Business/Annual Plan.	04/01	05/01

Section 5: 303(d) Listed Stream Segments of Concern in Caribou County

Listed below are the water bodies in Caribou County on the 303(d) listed stream segments of concern and their Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) number:

Lower & Upper Blackfoot Watershed (HUC # 17040207)

- Angus Creek
- Bear Creek
- Blackfoot River
- Bilious Creek
- Cabin Creek
- Chicken Creek
- Chippy Creek
- Collett Creek
- Corral Creek
- Diamond Creek
- Dry Valley Creek
- Goodheart Creek
- Grave Creek
- Indian Creek
- Little Blackfoot River
- Terrance Canyon Creek
- Thompson Creek
- Warbonnet Creek
- Wood Creek
- Yellowjacket Creek

Portneuf River Watershed (HUC # 17040208)

- Pebble Creek
- Portneuf River

Middle Bear (HUC # 16010202)

- Alder Creek

Salt Watershed (HUC # 17040105)

- Boulder Creek
- Cow Creek
- Crow Creek
- Grouse Creek
- Haderlie Creek
- Pole Canyon Creek
- Rock Creek
- Sage Creek
- South Fork Sage Creek
- Smoky Creek
- Stump Creek
- Tincup Creek
- Tygee Creek

Willow Watershed (HUC # 17040205)

- Sheep Creek
- Bridge Creek
- Harrison Creek

Bear Lake Watershed (HUC # 16010201)

- Bear River
- Largilliere Creek
- Ledger Creek
- Whiskey Creek

Caribou Soil Conservation District's Top Priority Stream Banks & Their Tributaries

1) Blackfoot River (HUC # 17040207)

- Chicken Creek
- Corral Creek
- Diamond Creek
- Lanes Creek
- Meadow Creek
- Slug Creek

2) Portneuf River (HUC # 17040208)

- 18 Mile Creek
- 24 Mile Creek

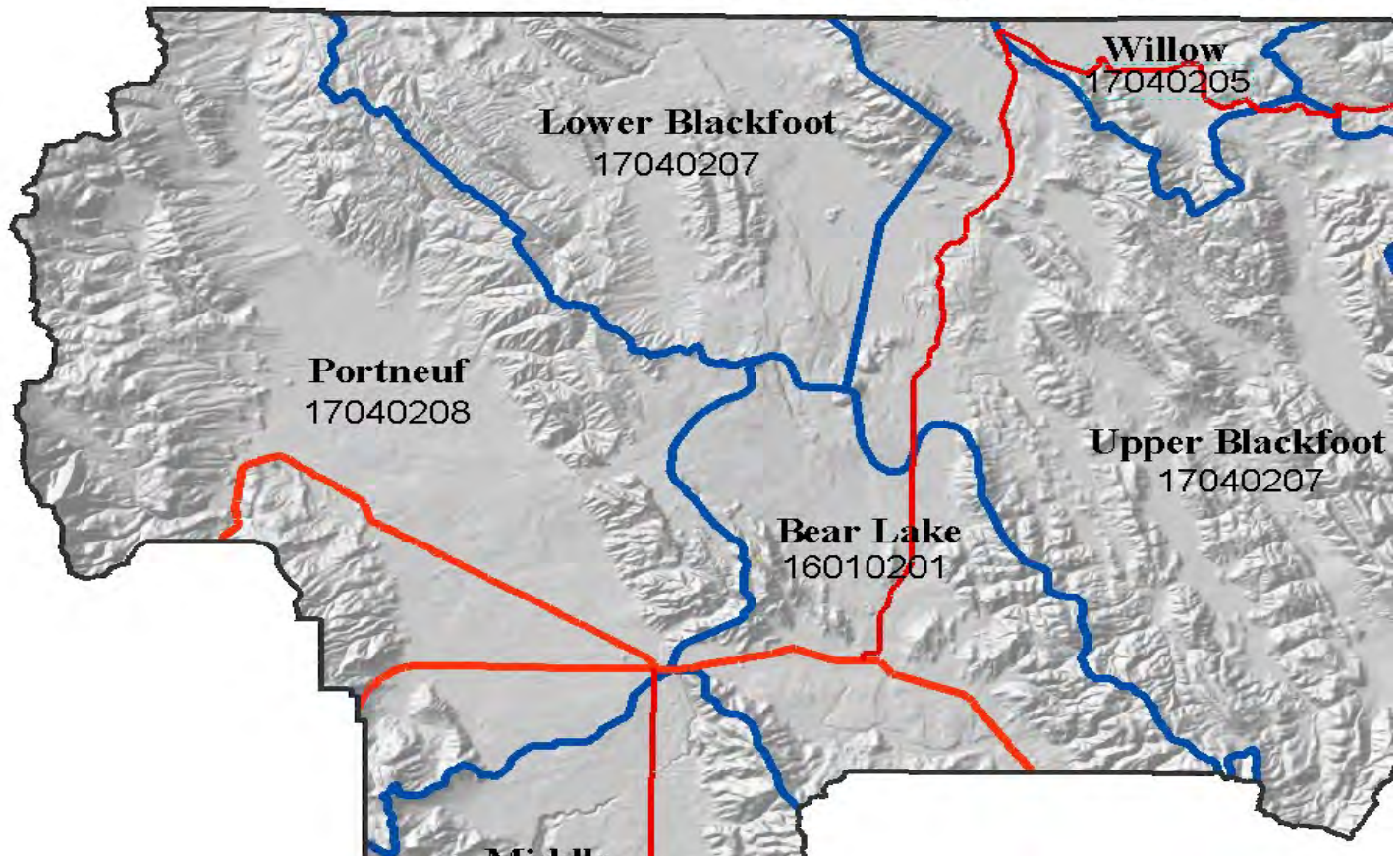
3) Bear River (HUC # 16010201)

- Trout Creek
- Whiskey Creek

4) Salt River (HUC # 17040105)

- Tincup

Caribou County Watersheds



Section 6: Identify and Prioritize Projects (IDAPA.60.05.02.025.06)

Priorities and Goals of the District are as follows:

- Continue to support projects on the Bear, Blackfoot, and Portneuf River.
- Participate in the Blackfoot and Portneuf River Watershed Advisory Groups (WAG's) and help to re-establish the Bear River BAG.
- Encourage the participation in various USDA programs.
- Continue to co-sponsor tours with area grazing associations.
- Assist ranchers/operators with area management plans on private and leased land through farm bill programs.
- Emphasize the benefits and assist ranchers in establishing proper grazing practices on rangeland with newspaper articles, public meetings/workshops and one on one contacts.
- Emphasize to local landowners and operators the benefits of a range conservation plan.
- Encourage landowners to install conservation and farmstead windbreaks.
- Annually conduct youth environmental education programs and increase participation in: the IASCD poster contest, IASCD speech contest, Natural Resources Workshop, State Soil Evaluation Event, and seek out and sponsor an Envirothon Team.



Poster Contest Winners



Envirothon

- Annually donate a scholarship to a graduating senior.
- Continue to support the Idaho Envirothon.
- Annually sponsor a Caribou County fair booth that is both educational and informative.
- Continue to work with our conservation partners and seek support from our local cooperators and businesses.
- Continue to donate trees to the Arbor Day celebration in Soda Spring, and try to involve the cities of Bancroft and Grace.
- Continue to utilize the local radio station, newspaper, and any other methods of public information to inform and educate the public on conservation happenings and new developments.
- Report annually to the Caribou County Commissioners and Soda Springs City Council about District programs, activities, and finances.
- Conduct financial reviews of our District budget and activities per State Laws governing Soil Conservation Districts.
- Send one supervisor to the NACD and IASCD annual conferences and two supervisors to the fall and spring Division V meetings.
- Review employee job description annually and perform annual performance reviews for all employees.
- Support annually the Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) in their noxious weed program, (bag-of-woad and workdays), and support our County Weed Supervisor.
- Emphasize the benefits and encourage the control of noxious weeds and poisonous plants by chemical or mechanical methods to landowners in Caribou County.
- Develop work plans with cooperators in the Bear River watershed that will lead to a reduction in noxious weed species.
- Search out grants and different kinds of research and experiments being done with natural weed predators.
- In cooperation with other Conservation Districts in the State, develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 90% State matching funds for all Districts.
- Conduct Conservation District elections in November of 2024, 2026, and 2028.
- Work as a liaison between: NRCS and the landowners and keep current on all legislation and new developments that can affect and help the landowner.

Section 7: Implementation

(IDAPA.60.05.02.025.07)

The District will continue seeking out new water quality projects.



We are working on several state Ag BMP projects, two 319 projects and one finished one WQPA project.

319 Projects

The South Caribou Project will finish up in March of 2024, and the Caribou Streambank Restoration and Livestock Watering Project is just getting started this year.



State Ag BMP

The North Caribou Project is wrapping up and there are three new projects for 2023-2024. The Mathews Irrigation and Stockwater project is well underway. The Ledges Irrigation and Livestock Watering project and Jorgensen, Laghter, Reeder Irrigation and Livestock Watering project are underway as well.

<i>Acronym</i>	<i>Description</i>
BAG	Basin Advisory Group
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CCRP	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
CStP	Conservation Stewardship Program
CWMA	Cooperative Weed Management Area
ECC	Environmental Coordination Committee
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentive Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FSA	Farm Service Agency
GRP	Grassland Reserve Program
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
IASCD	Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
IDEA	Idaho District's Employee Association
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
ISWC	Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
I&E	Information and Education
NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PPM	Parts Per Million
RCPP	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
SCD	Soil Conservation District
TU	Trout Unlimited
UBC	Upper Blackfoot Collation
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service

Caribou Soil Conservation District



Annual Work Plan

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



Caribou Soil Conservation District

Annual Plan of Work

FY 2025 (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)



Conservation District Priority Number 1: Water Quality & Quantity

Objective: Manage irrigation water more efficiently and reduce soil erosion from winter snow melt and summer rains and winds. Also, assist local landowners in improving water quality and erosion control on their land, and to meet rules, regulations, and requirements of the Idaho Water Quality Law 39-3601 and the Federal Clean Water Act.

Goal(s): Maintain clean water in streams and reservoirs within Caribou County.

Actions		Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
1	Continue to apply for new water quality grants on the Bear, Blackfoot, and Portneuf River watersheds.	August	John Lau & Supervisors
2	Continue to support projects on the Bear, Blackfoot, and Portneuf Rivers.	Yearlong	John Lau & Supervisors
3	Participate in the Snake River and Bear River BAG's (Basin Advisory Groups).	Yearlong	Wilder Hatch & Supervisors
4	Continue to use the GPS camera and Drone for collecting visual and GPS data points on District projects.	Yearlong	Pat Lozier & Supervisors
5	Encourage the participation in various USDA programs that provide protection of our fisheries and streambanks along the Bear, Blackfoot, and Portneuf Rivers.	Yearlong	Robert Comish & Supervisors
6	With the assistance of our conservation partners provide and/or determine nutrient management technical assistance needed for animal feeding operations.	September	Sherman Toone & Supervisors
7	Emphasize the benefits and encourage control of noxious weeds and poisonous plants by chemical or mechanical methods.	Yearlong	Brett Torgesen & Supervisors
8	Support the Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) in their noxious weed program.	July	Logan Lloyd & Supervisors

Caribou Soil Conservation District is dedicated to conserving our natural resources for future generations.



Caribou Soil Conservation District

Annual Plan of Work

FY 2025 (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)



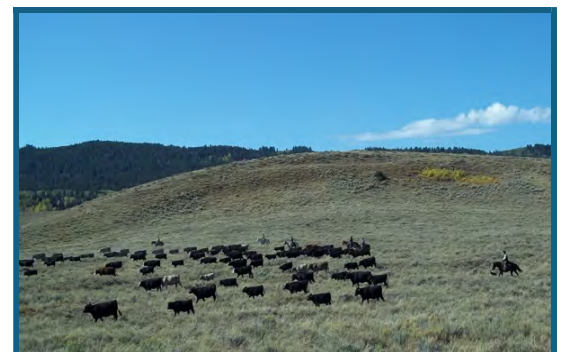
Conservation District Priority Number 1: Water Quality & Quantity

Objective: Manage irrigation water more efficiently and reduce soil erosion from winter snow melt and summer rains and winds. Also, assist local landowners in improving water quality and erosion control on their land, and to meet rules, regulations, and requirements of the Idaho Water Quality Law 39-3601 and the Federal Clean Water Act.

Goal(s): Maintain clean water in streams and reservoirs within Caribou County.

Actions		Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
9	Apply for new Bureau of Reclamation grants, that converts canal water to pipe, for the Niter Canal Company, North Extension Canal Company, Topons Canal Company, and Last Chance Canal Company.	October	John Lau & Supervisors
10	Continue to apply for new water quality grants on the Bear, Blackfoot, and Portneuf River watersheds.	August	Robert Comish & Supervisors
11	Encourage ditch to pipe projects.	Yearlong	Sherman Toone & Supervisors
12	District's website has links to: IASCD, Idaho SWCC, and NACD. Expand links to include: any other website that may help landowners with ideas of conserving and improving water quality and quantity.	Yearlong	Brett Torgesen & Supervisors

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Conservation District Priority Number 2: Range and Pasture Management

Objective: Rangeland conservation has a vital part in the economy of the District. Therefore, it must be managed to provide the most efficient use of permanent production.

Goal(s): Encourage the development of grazing plans, emphasizing protection of riparian areas and water quality.

Actions		Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
1	Work with local grazing associations, Caribou County Farm Bureau Federation, and Caribou County Weed Department to sponsor grazing land tours and management workshop.	September	Wilder Hatch & Supervisors
2	Assist ranchers/operators with area management plans on private and leased land through 319, BOR, ECC, SRF, EQIP, CCRP, CStP, RCPP, UBC, and any other farm bill programs.	October	John Lau & Supervisors
3	Emphasize the benefits and assist ranchers in establishing proper grazing practices on rangeland with two newspaper articles, one public meeting/workshop and one-on-one contacts.	Yearlong	Wilder Hatch & Supervisors
4	Emphasize to landowners and operators, the benefits of a range conservation plan.	Yearlong	Pat Lozier & Supervisors
5	Emphasize the benefits and encourage control of noxious weeds and poisonous plants by chemical or mechanical methods.	Yearlong	Brett Torgesen & Supervisors
6	Provide technical assistance and possible financial assistance to landowners/operators looking for ways of controlling soil erosion.	October	Sherman Toone & Supervisors
7	Support the Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) in their noxious weed program.	July	Logan Lloyd & Supervisors

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Conservation District Priority Number 3: Plant and Soil Health

Objective: Building soil health can be accomplished by applying these five principles:

1. Armor the soil
2. Minimize soil disturbance
3. Increase plant diversity
4. Keep living roots in the ground all year
5. Integrate livestock grazing

Goal(s): Encourage the use of a no-till drill, and emphasize the importance of keeping living roots in the ground year round.

Actions		Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
1	Encourage the use of seed cover crops or continuous crops to reduce erosion and build the soil.	Yearlong	Brett Torgesen & Supervisors
2	Encourage landowner/operators to utilize proper tillage methods to conserve and return crop residue to the soil.	Yearlong	Brett Torgesen & Supervisors
3	Encourage proper fertilization, and the use of cropping systems that will protect and improve the soil.	Yearlong	Pat Lozier & Supervisors
4	Sponsor tours and seminars showing the benefits of soil health.	Yearlong	John Lau & Supervisors

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Caribou Soil Conservation District

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Conservation District Priority Number 4: Public Outreach

Objective: To educate and involve the public and cooperators of programs and opportunities to improve natural resources.

Goal(s): Inform and educate.

Actions		Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
1	Continue to participate in the Arbor Day Program in Soda Springs and donating trees for the celebration.	June	Jeanie Lloyd & Supervisors
2	Donate annually to the high school scholarship fund.	May	Robert Comish & Supervisors
3	Continue to sponsor the IASCD poster contest, speech contest, outdoor classrooms, natural resources workshop, soil judging, Envirothon, stream bank assessments & monitoring, and any other program that promotes the teaching of conservation education.	November	Wilder Hatch & Supervisors
4	Continue to utilize the local radio station, newspaper, and any other method of public information to inform and educate the public on conservation happenings and new developments.	Yearlong	Jeanie Lloyd & Supervisors
5	Annually sponsor a Caribou County fair booth that is both educational and informative.	August	Sherman Toone & Supervisors
6	District's website has links to: IASCD, Idaho SWCC, and NACD. Expand links to include: any other website that may help landowners with ideas of conserving and improving water quality and quantity.	Yearlong	John Lau & Supervisors

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Caribou Soil Conservation District

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Conservation District Priority Number 5: District Operations

Objective: Encourage group interest and participation in conservation and development on a resource area basis.

Goal(s): To maintain a productive and active board, that helps the public become aware of conservation issues in the community.

Actions		Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
1	Conduct financial reviews of our District budget and activities according to State Laws governing Soil Conservation Districts	June	Brett Torgesen & Supervisors
2	Send at least one Supervisor to the NACD and IASCD annual conferences and two supervisors to the fall and spring Division V meetings.	February	Sherman Toone & Supervisors
3	Report annually to the Caribou County Commissioners and City Councils about District programs, activities, and finances.	March	Wilder Hatch & Supervisors
4	Review employee job description annually and perform annual performance reviews for all employees.	December	Wilder Hatch & Supervisors
5	Conduct quarterly civil rights discussions at District board meetings,	December	Brett Torgesen & Supervisors
6	Keep current on all legislation and new developments that can affect and help the landowners, and work as a liaison between NRCS and the landowner.	Yearlong	Brett Torgesen & Supervisors
7	Emphasize the benefits and encourage control of noxious weeds and poisonous plants by chemical or mechanical methods.	June	Pat Lozier & Supervisors
8	District's website has links to: IASCD, Idaho SWCC, and NACD. Expand links to include: any other website that may help landowners with ideas of conserving and improving water quality and quantity.	Yearlong	John Lau & Supervisors

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**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Five-Year (5) Plan and
Annual Plan of Work**

DISTRICT:

Caribou Soil Conservation District

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2025

DUE :

March 31, 2024

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Five-Year Resource Conservation Business 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 and Annual Work Plan shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.



Board Supervisor Signature

Wilder Hatch

Printed Name

March 8, 2025

Date

(208) 547-4396

District Telephone

CaribouSCD@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: