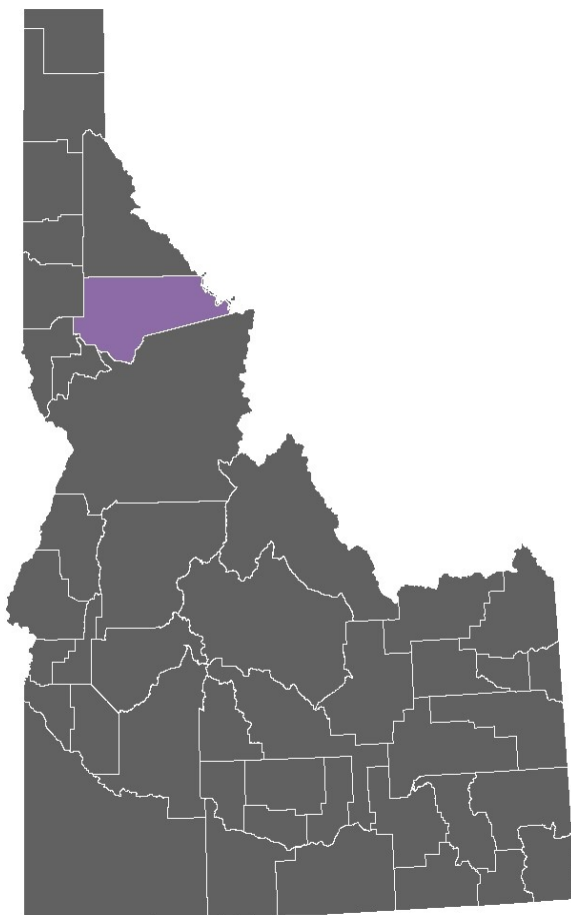




# Five Year Plan of Work



## Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District

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## Executive Summary

The Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) 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, providing 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 and the Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission provide 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 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.

**Our Vision:** To promote productive and sustainable natural resource management on farms, ranches, and timberland within Clearwater County.

**Our Mission:** To educate and assist the public with stewardship of soil, water, air, plant and animal resources, to promote strong conservation partnerships; to find practical, economical solutions to natural resource problems; and to coordinate implementation of these solutions.

This document identifies the resource needs within Clearwater County and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting these needs.

Our supporting staff members are:

Tim Roehr, Conservation District Business Manager  
Anne Connor, Conservation District Project Manager

Primary Technical assistance is from:

Eileen Rowan, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
Alex Arnold, NRCS Soil Conservationist



The Board of Elected Supervisors of the Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District do hereby approve the following document known as the Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan, revision-March 2025. This plan will be in effect for the five-year period July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030 and will be updated annually and/or amended as necessary.

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

Terry White Chairman, Terry White

Joyce Simonsen Vice Chair, Joyce Simonsen

Michael Hoffman Treasurer, Michael Hoffman

Linda Jackson Secretary, Linda Jackson

Craig Thomas Supervisor, Craig Thomas

## **Section 1- Physical Characteristics of the District:**

The boundary of the Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District is concurrent with the boundary of Clearwater County.



### **Clearwater County Land Ownership and Land Use**

The majority of Clearwater County is in public ownership with 54% being federal land (US Army Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management) and 16% being state land. In addition, the Nez Perce Tribe owns 11,076 acres. Of the remaining 30% which is in private ownership, 63% is industrial forest, 16% is forested small ownerships, and 20% is agricultural land.

<b>Clearwater County Land Ownership and Land Use</b>				
	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Land use</b>	<b>Type</b>	
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>479,959</b>			acres
<b>Agricultural</b>		108,077		acres
<b>Cultivated</b>			33,261	acres
<b>Highly Erodible Land</b>			28,210	acres
<b>Irrigated land</b>			17	acres
<b>Non-Irrigated Cropland</b>			21,331	acres
<b>CRP</b>			3,406	acres
<b>Hay land</b>			7,500	acres
<b>Pasture</b>			7,500	acres
<b>Rangeland</b>			6,852	acres
<b>Forest</b>		419,716		acres
<b>Nonindustrial</b>			82,236	acres
<b>Industrial</b>			337,480	acres
<b>Urban, suburban, builtup</b>		5,806		acres
<b>Tribal land (mostly forest)</b>	<b>11,076</b>			acres
<b>State Land (mostly forest)</b>	<b>252,078</b>			acres
<b>Federal Land (mostly forest)</b>	<b>864,088</b>			acres
<b>Water</b>		16,558		acres
<b>Clearwater County</b>	<b>1,607,201</b>			acres

## **GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The eastern part of the District is characterized by deeply dissected mountain ranges and somewhat narrow valleys with abundant streams. The Clearwater Mountains are mostly granitic rock. Higher elevation valleys tend to be u-shaped from glaciation. The highest elevation is 7930 ft. at Rhodes Peak.

The southwest section of the District is a dissected basalt plateau drained by the Clearwater River. Topography in this section consists of rolling, broad upland sections separated by deep, narrow, steep canyons cut into the plateau. Many basalt flows make up this plateau which is capped with windblown soil and volcanic ash deposits that contribute to its productivity. The lowest elevation is 1,000 ft. along the Clearwater River.

## **CLIMATE**

The sun shines about 75 percent of the time in summer and about 30 percent in winter when most of the precipitation falls. Cropland in the southwestern part of the county averages 26 inches of precipitation with an average of 120 growing degree days. Although Orofino may only have a few inches of snow at any one time, the cropland is typically covered for about 60 days each winter. The

forested part of the county has an average precipitation range from 40 to over 90 inches, increasing as you go north and eastward toward Montana. The annual snow depth on the mountain ridges over 6,000 ft. elevation is typically between 10 and 14 ft.

## **Soils Map**

### **Legend:**

#### **SOILS ON STREAM TERRACES, DRAINAGEWAYS, FLOODPLAINS AND IN BASINS:**

- 1 Teneb-Lewhand-Burntcreek-Hildebrand-Aquandic Endoaquepts: Very deep, poorly drained to well drained, nearly level to undulating soils formed in mixed alluvium
- 2 Narnett-Aquandic Cryaquepts-Jury: Very deep, very poorly to well drained, nearly level to hilly soils formed in mixed alluvium, loess and residuum from granite and orgneiss.

#### **SOILS ON CANYON SIDES AND BENCHES:**

- 3 Klickson-Agatha-Kettenbach: Shallow to very deep, well drained, undulating to very steep soils formed in loess and or colluvium and residuum from basalt.
- 4 Texas creek-Johnson-Whiskey creek-Jim Fords creek: Shallow to very deep, well to somewhat excessively drained, rolling to very steep soils formed in colluvium and residuum from granitic and metamorphic rocks with loess influence.

#### **SOILS ON BASALT PLATEAUS:**

- 5 Taney-Carlinton: Moderately deep to a fragipan, moderately well to well drained, undulating to steep soils formed in loess and residuum from basalt.
- 6 Grangemont-Kauder-Riswold: Moderately deep to a fragipan and very deep, moderately well and well drained, undulating to very steep soils formed in a mantle of volcanic ash over loess, lacustrine sediments or loess and residuum and colluvium from basalt.

#### **SOILS IN MOUNTAINS:**

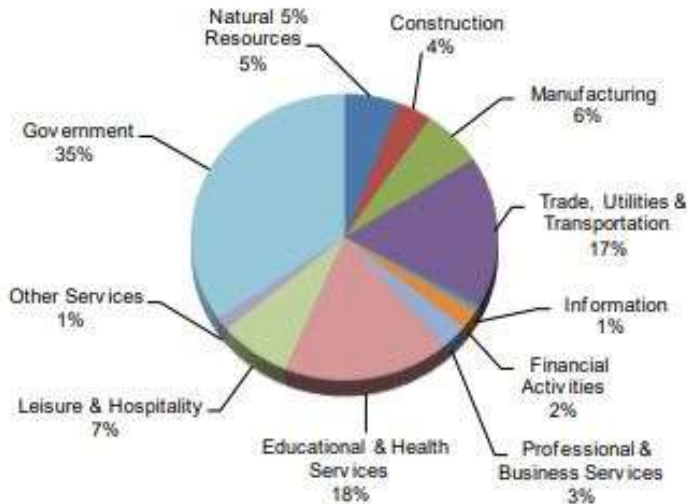
- 7 Kruse-Noil-Uvi: Deep and very deep, rolling to very steep soils formed in colluvium and residuum form granitic or metamorphic rocks.
- 8 Brodeer-Dullaxe-Mushel-Boulder creek: Deep and very deep, moderately well to well drained, undulating to very steep soils formed in a thin or thick mantle of volcanic ash over the following: loess, loess and residuum from granitic and metamorphic rocks or colluvium and residuum from granitic and metamorphic rocks.
- 9 Grandad-Rettig-Township: Deep and very deep, well drained, rolling to very steep soils formed in either a thin or thick mantle of volcanic ash over loess over material from metamorphic rocks high in mica, or a mantle of volcanic ash over material from metamorphic rocks high in mica.
- 10 Vaywood-Berthahill-Hucberit: Deep and very deep, well drained, undulating to very steep soils formed in a thick mantle of volcanic ash over colluvium and residuum from granitic or metamorphic rocks.
- 11 Water





## **Section 2 - Economic Conditions and Outlook:**

Clearwater County borders the state of Montana in Northern Idaho. It is the state's twenty-sixth most populated county and the tenth largest in area. Historically, forest and wood products employment have driven the economy. Today, employment is heavily dependent on government (35%); however construction and manufacturing are on the increase and the economy is becoming more diversified.



### **Population:**

During the early 1990s, Clearwater County's population grew, peaking at 9,232 in 1996. But hard economic times drove the population down 12 percent from 9,033 in 1999 to 8,546 in 2017, while U.S. population grew 12 percent. Idaho's population grew to 9151 in 2024. New registrations for driver's licenses and job registrations indicate that the few people who did move to Clearwater County came from other parts of the Pacific Northwest and California to enjoy the scenery, recreational opportunities and rural lifestyle. The county seat, Orofino, has a population of 3,038 Pierce, 485; Weippe, 431; and Elk River, 119.

### **Labor Force & Employment:**

Clearwater County's strong tie to natural resource industries contributes to higher seasonally adjusted unemployment rate calculations. According to the Idaho Department of Labor, December 2024 unemployment in Clearwater County was 6.4%. This is an improvement over Clearwater County's historic average unemployment rate of 13.8% (1978 – 2008). Although unemployment is a significant factor in economic reporting we also pay close attention to the Civilian labor force numbers. The Civilian Labor force of the county has been in decline, although recent data for 2023 – 2024 seem to indicate a stabilization to approximately 3450 in the County's labor force.

Civilian Labor Force - *Data Source US Census, American Community Survey and Region 2 ID Dept. of Labor Economist*

	2000	2022	2023	2024
Clearwater County Labor Force	3603	3100	3321	3476

The labor pool in Clearwater County is greying. Long term declines in the county population and the aging of the population reduces the number of people available to work. In 2018 20.6% of the Civilian Labor Force was ages 25-44 and only 13.5% of the population was 15 and younger. In 2014 Clearwater County began to see a positive net in-migration. This in-migration is a result of younger couples returning to their home communities to begin families and older folks looking for a place to retire with ready access to recreation and low crime rates.

Economically, Clearwater County has become more diverse since the closure of the Jaype Plywood Mill in 2000. Government remains a strong contributor. The federal government has a strong presence (US Army Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management), and the State of Idaho (Orofino Correctional Institution, State Hospital North, Fish & Game, Department of Labor, Department of Health & Welfare, Vocational Rehab and National Guard), the County, and School District are also significant public sector employers. In the private sector, Nightforce Optics has expanded to over 150 employees and supports a diverse machining & fabrication cluster. The Clearwater Valley Hospital & Clinic is the second largest private sector employer and a small cluster of health care related businesses are growing slowly, but steadily. The 2017 closure of the Tri-Pro Cedar Mill was a blow to the local community but the property has been sold and a redevelopment plan is underway which will include a manufacturing component of some kind.

Clearwater County has struggled with high unemployment since the mid-1990s. Because of that, the county is an eligible labor surplus area, giving local businesses priority for government contracts. Clearwater County Economic Development and local officials are making efforts to strengthen and diversify the economy.

### **Agriculture Statistics:**

Agriculture is a relatively minor land use in Clearwater County; occupying only approximately 7% of the land while timber occupies 90%. Thus, the majority of the Clearwater SWCD projects are focused on forest land and forest roads.

The most current data available from the National Agricultural Statistics Service is from 2017 on their website:

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Census\\_by\\_State/Idaho/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Census_by_State/Idaho/index.php).

The 2017 profile for Clearwater County (NASS, 2017) shows that there were 312 farms in Clearwater County at an average size of 181 acres. Approximately 44% of Clearwater County farmland was cropland, while another 29% was woodlands or small forest ownership. Less than 20% was in pasture. Most of the value of Clearwater County Farms was in either grains, oilseeds, dry beans and dry peas, or in cattle production. The top crop items were wheat, followed closely by forage land. Only 3% of farms use cover crops and 4% practices no till farming. Another 4% use reduced till.

Family farms make up 97% of the farms in Clearwater County

### **Agriculture Economy:**

Crop sales accounted for 47% of the market value of products sold from farms in Clearwater County in 2017; down from 75% in 2012. The other 53% of the market value of products sold come from livestock sales. Agriculture in the County is not generally a lucrative business: 62% of farms had less than \$2,500 in sales in 2017. Only 6% had a sales value of over \$50,000. Correspondingly, the average net cash income per farm in 2017 was \$ 4,455.

## **Section 3 – Assessment:**

### **Natural Resource Issues and Concerns:**

Natural Disaster Hazard Mitigation	Pasture and Hay-land Condition
Watershed Health	Rangeland Health
Riparian Area Condition and Function	Land Use Planning and Conversions
Fish and Wildlife	Rural/ Urban Interface
Invasive Species / Pest Management	Air Quality
Water Quality and Quantity	Animal Waste Management
Information and Education	Outdoor Recreation
Forest Health and Productivity	Renewable Energy
Cropland Soil Quality and Stability	Conservation District Operations

### **Natural Resource Assessment and Objectives:**

**Natural Disaster Hazard Mitigation** - Local residents have to be prepared for many natural hazards and disasters. Quite often there are land management practices that can reduce the impacts of disasters. The District needs to be active in advocating these with local leaders.

- a. Contact IDL, local fire districts and Clearwater RC&D to identify ways to promote “Fire Wise/Defensible Space” programs to reduce wildfire hazards.
- b. Work with County fire prevention agencies to provide information to rural residents on wildfire hazard reduction.
- d. Provide input to the County Emergency Management’s All- Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- e. Actively pursue flood hazard reduction projects on Orofino Creek and others.
- f. Provide assistance to the county for landslide hazard reduction associated with roads and other construction.

Identify and promote the replacement of stream crossing at risk of failure or the flood regularly.

**Watershed Health** - The most critical watershed problems are short peak spring runoff periods and the lack of sustained flows from streams in the late summer and early fall. A 150 year history of land use changes has contributed toward this. Low late summer stream flow results in higher stream temperatures than needed for survival of some fish species.



- a. Promote land management practices on uplands that maintain healthy plant communities and soil conditions.
- b. Promote tree establishment on logged areas and idle land.
- c. Promote wetland restoration and creation for improved groundwater levels.
- d. Promote riparian area vegetation, stable stream banks, grassed waterways and other buffers zones.
- e. Identify and promote the replacement of undersized or failing road/stream crossings which contribute, or have the risk of contributing, to watershed degradation.

**Riparian Area Condition and Function** - Land areas adjacent to streams and other water bodies are important buffer zones that require special management. Their ability to recover after disturbance is crucial in maintaining water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, cycling nutrients, providing natural floodplains, and other functions. Sometimes the competing land uses for roadways, logging, grazing, annual field crops, and even rural homes can compromise the ability of these buffer zones to function.

- a. Promote proper functioning riparian areas in all projects, programs and contracts the District enters into with landowners and managers.
- b. Promote riparian vegetation plantings where needed, with trees, shrubs and herbaceous materials.
- c. Sponsor workshops and information handouts on “Proper Function and Condition of Riparian Areas”.

**Fish and Wildlife** - Land management practices can easily impact fish and wildlife populations. The District promotes ways to improve habitat and reduce negative impacts on fish and wildlife. This is also addressed in the assessment of Riparian Condition. Improving aquatic habitat and passage for threatened and endangered fish species as well as sensitive species is a focus for the district where these species exist.

- a. Promote habitat enhancement in all conservation programs and land treatments.
- b. Utilize IDF&G personnel, programs and species guides as resources to assist landowners.
- c. Provide resource information and program support for local problems with deer overpopulation, lack of winter range for elk and deer, and predator control.
- d. Actively pursue projects that promote fish and wildlife habitat especially in aquatic and riparian areas.
- e. Encourage and promote the replacement of road/stream crossings that are barriers to fish and other aquatic organisms.

**Invasive Species / Pest Management** - Weeds, insects, disease, damage from rodents and

wildlife, including predator control, all impact forestry, agriculture, and the people of the county. Controlling 'pests', is often one of the most expensive and time-consuming land management practices. The District will promote up-to-date technical information for land managers for pest control that will have many beneficial impacts.

- a. Support the Clearwater Basin Co-op Weed Management Area so that Clearwater County invasive and noxious weeds will be listed by location and degree of problem.
- b. Develop a work plan with the Clearwater Basin Co-op Weed Management Area partners leading to a reduction in noxious weed species.
- c. Promote precision use and safe application of agricultural pesticides.
- d. Work with forestland managers to identify disease and insect areas that impact forest health and coordinate control efforts whenever possible.

**Water Quality and Quantity** - There is generally an abundance of water in this county with its high precipitation. Water quality is important and highly scrutinized because drinking water supplies are dependent on surface runoff. Clearwater County streams support populations of native fish populations, including bull trout and anadromous steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Other important and sensitive aquatic species include Chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey, westslope cutthroat trout, western pearlshell mussels, and Idaho giant salamanders. Summer water temperatures in small streams and excessive sediment are the most critical water quality issues.

- a. Annually meet with the Watershed Advisory Groups (WAG) to review work progress and future implementation tasks on streams with TMDLs.
- b. Look for future project needs through the locally led process.
- c. Provide information on snowpack, stream runoff predictions, and drought conditions as they apply to crop, forage and fiber production and management.
- d. Ensure water quality information gets out to county residents, including information on wellhead protection, septic system evaluations, nutrient and pesticide use, and other items, to protect surface runoff that enters drinking water systems.
- e. Support water quality monitoring efforts, especially on priority streams and reservoirs.
- f. Communicate regularly with DEQ and other agencies about water quality issues.
- g. Work with road management entities to replace road /stream crossings that impact water quality.

**Information and Education** - One of the most important things Conservation Districts can do is provide information on natural resources to local residents and governmental leaders. The Clearwater District needs to maintain these informational services for all age groups.

- a. Determine opportunities to coordinate outreach activities with all partners.
- b. Conduct environmental education programs and sponsor youth groups.
- c. Provide opportunities for schools to participate in the conservation poster contest,

outdoor classrooms and tours of our natural resources and their management.

- d. Annually display a fair booth to educate the public on District programs.

**Forest Health and Productivity** - There are large acreages of prime forestland which have been cut over at least once in the past century. Some early logging practices were to hi-grade valuable saw logs and leave less desirable species of grand fir which now dominate many landscapes. There are also areas with root disease, insect infestations, or tall brush that prevent healthy tree growth.

- a. Promote active management of private forestland, using a minimum standard of removing dead, dying and diseased trees for proper sanitation and protection of the remaining trees.
- b. Participate in forest management plan discussions with federal, state, tribal and industrial forest landowners.
- c. Promote tree planting, reforestation, and control of tall brush that prohibit tree establishment. Promote fuel load reduction efforts to decrease fire risk levels.
- d. Provide information on forest road Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the public.

**Cropland Soil Quality and Stability** – Most Cropland soils in Clearwater County are cut-over forest soils that are not as deep, have less structure, more clay in the subsoil, a restrictive layer underneath the subsoil, and a higher erosion risk than prairie soils in surrounding counties. If an inch of topsoil is lost here, it is much more critical than losing an inch from deep prairie soils. All cropland greater than 3% slope is determined Highly Erodible. Farming trends have been to reduce tillage operations, leaving more surface crop residue for runoff protection. This trend must continue in order to meet erosion control objectives and reduce transport of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides to the numerous drainages and streams in this high precipitation area.

- a. Participate in planning meetings with local landowners, the NRCS and Idaho State SWC to identify priorities and alternatives for implementation.
- b. Promote no-till and other conservation tillage practices.
- c. Promote the use of cover crops and other regenerative agriculture practices
- d. Provide soil quality educational information and testing through the university.
- e. Promote operations that maintain proper pH levels and organic matter for agricultural crops.
- f. Promote the use of soil tests and precision agriculture to apply nutrients specific for crops and production goals.
- g. Promote the practice of split nutrient application, or use of slow-release fertilizers for grain crops planted in the fall.

**Pasture and Hayland Condition** - Pastures are dominated by cool season grasses. Adequate levels of nutrients and grazing management are most common issues. Hay-land is normally a mixture of alfalfa or clover with grass that is cut once per year. Because of the wet spring weather

haying is usually delayed until July to get more tonnage, which is also past maturity of the grasses. Hay-land nutrient management and grazing on fall re-growth both need to be managed closely in order to sustain hay-land.

- a. Promote proper livestock stocking levels matched with plant growth and availability through grazing management plans.
- b. Promote vegetation improvement practices with management, seeding, nutrients, pest management and livestock control.
- c. Provide information on proper management through agency guides on pasture condition, livestock nutrition balancing and soil testing.

**Rangeland Health** - Rangelands in the District are predominantly on south slopes of the major canyons and drainages near the Clearwater River. They are ripe areas for invasive weeds. Soil compaction is a problem if grazed in wet conditions, as well as soil displacement from hoof action.

- a. Co-sponsor the Annual North Central Idaho Grazing Workshop each January with IASCD Div. II.
- b. Provide input on federal, state and private grazing lease programs to promote sustainable forage use while meeting other objectives of timber production, water quality, weed control, wildlife habitat, recreation and more.

**Land Use Planning and Land Use Conversions** – Many decisions made in local statutes for land use, can benefit from technical information the District and their conservation partner agencies provide. Improved communication with the Planning and Zoning Board and other local government services would be mutually beneficial to meet the District objectives.

- a. Reduce Impacts of Land Use Conversions to Rural Residences.
- b. Determine how to provide more input on County Planning and Zoning issues impacting natural resources.
- c. Provide the resource information that the County Planning and Zoning Board needs to make better informed decisions for land use planning and subdivisions of properties.
- d. Encourage road agencies to reduce sediment and erosion from roads.

**Rural-Urban Interface** - Many rural homes are being developed with small acreage ownerships. Many of these landowners have not lived away from cities and want information on the natural resources they now own. They also need information on what to expect from their neighbors who are involved with production agriculture or forestry, on natural hazards, such as wildfire, and on what statutes they should be aware of for water quality, air quality, weed control, and more.

- a. Identify information methods to promote resource stewardship on small acreage properties.
- b. Join efforts to provide information to small acreage landowners by coordinating programs with the local Cooperative Extension System, NRCS, and Idaho State



## SWC

**Air Quality** - Air quality is generally excellent. There is limited agricultural burning, usually on fields planted for grass seed production that are burned in August when warm temperatures carry smoke high into the atmosphere. More abundant are the burning activities on forestland to clean up logging slash and/or improve habitat for big game. The forest burns start with the first rainy period in early fall and continue until heavy snowfall.

- a. Promote adherence to local restrictions on agricultural burning and forest slash burning through Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association, federal and state land management agencies and wildlife agencies, the Nez Perce Tribe, the University of Idaho, EPA, Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality, Idaho Dept. of Agriculture, and the forest and agriculture producer groups.

**Outdoor Recreation** - Because of the large amount of public land in the county and the large amount of forested acreage, there are many diverse opportunities for outdoor activities. To reduce any negative impacts from user groups, there needs to be some organized areas for the various outdoor enthusiasts.

- a. Provide stewardship information to the public concerning their impacts on water quality, the spread of noxious weeds, off-road vehicle impacts, and other issues.
- b. Provide input and support to expand uses of abandoned railroads for recreation.
- c. Promote hiking, skiing and equestrian trails around Dworshak Reservoir.

**Conservation District Operations**-The Clearwater SWCD has many needs to carry out its planning objectives. This includes an active Board of Supervisors who volunteer their time, administrative staff, technical assistance and financial assistance. The District is actively trying to maintain opportunities to address the natural resource issues identified for the county.

- a. Training for District Supervisors and staff on operational responsibilities and authorities. New Supervisor Training will be completed within their first 2 years.
- b. Maintain District infrastructure and efficient operations with long-range plans and budgets, annual plans and budgets, and effective personnel management.
- c. In cooperation with other Conservation Districts, carry out an effective legislative outreach program to provide information on the state's natural resource conditions.
- d. Conduct Conservation District Board elections in even years (2020, 2022, 2024). Maintain full Board membership of 5-Supervisors.
- e. Strengthen local technical assistance by participating in federal and state program development, regional assessments and commitments through mutual agreements.
- f. Actively pursue grants and other funding sources to carry out identified issues in the District plans, including administration and technical assistance, to landowners adopting conservation treatments, and public outreach with demonstration projects, workshops, and other information and education.

## **Section 4 - Identify and Prioritize Objectives**

### **Conservation District Natural Resource Priorities:**

1. Natural Disaster Hazard Mitigation – includes primarily mitigation for fire especially at the Wildland-Urban Interface and for flooding and landslides that affect roads and other properties. There is often a safety aspect to these projects
2. Water Resource and Water Quality – includes improving watersheds and waters with impairments or those that do not meet beneficial uses as well as protecting higher quality waters. Most commonly, we are focused on decreasing sedimentation, lowering temperatures or minimizing nutrient inputs to Clearwater County waters
3. Fish and Wildlife – Our county supports many native species of fish and wildlife. Of particular concern are species that are listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
4. Cropland Soil Quality and Stability – We would like to work with others to encourage the use of regenerative agriculture practices that increase soil health and have other benefits. Agriculture has been on the decline in Clearwater County but since 2012, we are seeing an increase in farmers and a decrease in farm size. Over 34% are characterized as “new and beginning farmers” (NASS, 2017).
5. Community Outreach: We plan to continue to work with Clearwater County residents of all ages to provide information on Natural Resource Management. We will continue to seek out opportunities to use youth on our projects and to do outreach in schools and other venues.

## **Section 5 - Water Quality Component:**

Most of Clearwater County lies within the Clearwater River sub-basin, the North Fork Clearwater sub-basin (Upper and Lower) and the Lochsa River sub-basin, all of which flow into the Clearwater River. In addition, a small portion of Clearwater County in the furthest northwest corner of the county flows into the St Joe River (less than 10 square miles).

The federal Clean Water Act requires states to conduct a biennial comprehensive analysis of state waters to determine if water bodies meet state water quality standards and thus support beneficial uses, or if additional pollution controls are needed. Idaho's most recent approved version is its 2022 Integrated Report: [16619 \(idaho.gov\)](https://www.idaho.gov/16619) .

The 2022 Integrated Report was developed by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in accordance with § 305(b), § 314, and § 303(d) of the CWA, and incorporates data collected within the prior 5 years.

### **Categorization of Waters in the 2022 Integrated Report (Clearwater County)**

Idaho DEQ has identified waters that do not meet water quality standards for beneficial uses and the pollutant(s) that cause the impairment. For many of these waters, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations for pollutants have been completed by IDEQ and approved by EPA (Category 4a). Waters that do not meet water quality standards but do not yet have TMDLs allocated make up the 303(d) list (also known as Category 5). Some waters in Clearwater County are impaired by either Flow regime alteration and/or Physical habitat alteration (also known as “pollution” rather than “pollutants”). These streams, though impaired, do not require a TMDL (Category 4c). In some cases, there is insufficient data to determine whether beneficial uses are being met (Category 3). All other waters have been found to fully support beneficial uses (Category 2) or are assumed to fully support beneficial uses because they are wholly located within a designated wilderness or are wholly

within the 2008 Idaho Roadless Rule, Wild Land Recreation Theme (Category 1). The Idaho DEQ has developed an interactive map that shows all assessment units and their status in the 2022 Integrated Report: [Idaho DEQ FINAL 2022 Integrated Report](#) and the currently draft 2024 [Integrated report](#).

## **Fisheries Component**

Most Clearwater County streams support native fish populations. Much of the county is above Dworshak Dam on the North Fork of the Clearwater which is a complete barrier to anadromous fish (those that rear for at least part of their lives in the ocean and spawn in freshwater). Most tributaries to the North Fork support westslope cutthroat trout and the colder tributaries may support bull trout, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Whiskey Creek and the lower 4.5 miles of Orofino Creek support ESA listed steelhead as well as westslope cutthroat. The waterfall at mile 4.5 limits anadromous fish use in the upper Orofino Creek watershed. The upper portion of the East Fork of the Potlatch River, in the northwest corner the county, also supports steelhead and westslope cutthroat trout. Lolo Creek and many of its tributaries support spring/summer chinook, steelhead, and westslope cutthroat trout. The mainstream of the Clearwater River supports ESA listed fall chinook in addition to species listed above. Tributary streams to the Upper Lochsa River in Clearwater County (Crooked Fork, Boulder Creek) may support anadromous steelhead and spring/summer chinook salmon, as well as westslope cutthroat and bull trout. Other important and sensitive aquatic species present in Clearwater County waters include Pacific lamprey, western pearlshell mussels, and Idaho giant salamanders.

## **Section 6 - Identify and Prioritize Projects:**

### **Natural Disaster Hazard Mitigation**

#### **Ongoing Projects**

- Lolo Creek - Fuels Reduction Project.
  - Reduce fuels on private, nonindustrial forestland and wildland/urban interface in the Lolo Creek area, Clearwater County.
  - Treated 120 acres on six properties
  - Funded by: Western States Fire Management Grant from IDL / USFS 2020
  - Partners: IDL and private Land Owners
  - Phase 1 ends April 1, 2025 and we are currently working on the final invoice.
  - Applied for phase 2 in March 2024; will know this year if it is funded.
- Jim Fords Creek – Jim Ford Creek Culvert Replacement. Scheduled fall 2025
  - Will Replace a problematic bottomless arch culvert with a bridge. The site required regular maintenance and was a source of sediment to a water quality limited stream.
  - Funded by: IWRB Flood Grant 2024.
  - Partners: Clearwater Highway District and Idaho SWCC
- Casey Creek – Casey Creek Culvert Replacement. Implementation late fall 2024 – spring 2025
  - Replaced an undersized and failing 36" with a 108" pipe arch culvert designed for fish

- passage.
  - Remaining work includes final surfacing, road shaping, and site clean up
  - Funded by: IWRB Flood Grant 2024.
  - Partners: PotlatchDeltic and Idaho SWCC
- Orofino Creek hazard mitigation and flood control (Continue interface with the County Hazard Management Office to assist where possible)
  - Continue the District Fire Wise Program to help publicize NRCS-Fuel Load Reduction programs and partner with the U of I Extension office for workshops.

### **Water Resource and Water Quality:**

#### **Ongoing Projects**

- Lower North Fork Clearwater - Alder Creek Culvert Replacements.
  - Replace 3 culverts on the Silver Creek Road, two in Alder Creek and one in a tributary, Casey Creek. All three are drastically undersized, sediment generating, passage barriers, flood issues, and in fish-bearing streams.
  - EPA 319 grant funded spring 2023
  - One culvert on Alder Creek has been replaced; the others will be replaced in 2025
  - Partners: PotlatchDeltic, IDL
- Lolo Creek Watershed – Musselshell Road Improvement.
  - Upgrade drainage and pave the remaining 5.6 miles of the Musselshell Road from Weippe to Peterson's Corner.
  - Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Proposal submitted to WFLHD, Jan 2022 but not funded
  - Musselshell Road Inventory and prelim design completed (Funded by RAC, Forest Service 2020)
  - Musselshell Road FLAP support grant ongoing (Funded by RAC, Forest Service 2020) to support a Fall 2025 FLA application including cultural Resources (complete) and ROW clean-up (ongoing) and application process.
  - Partners: Clearwater County Transportation Group; Clearwater Highway District, Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands

#### **Recently Completed Projects**

- Orofino Creek – Rhodes Headwater Drainage Improvements
  - Replaced headwater stream crossings that are undersized, sediment generating, and deteriorating and resurface road. Funded by Water Quality for Agriculture Project (WQPA) through Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)
  - Construction completed Fall 2023; invoicing complete spring 2024.
  - Partners: PotlatchDeltic, ISWCC
- Lower North Fork Clearwater - East Fork Beaver Creek Culvert Replacements.

- Replaced 9 culverts that are undersized, sediment generating, passage barriers, flood issues, mostly in fish-bearing streams.
- Construction began in 2023 and was finished fall 2024
- EPA 319 grant proposal presented fall 2021
- Partners: PotlatchDeltic, IDEQ

### **Potential Projects**

- Lower North Fork Clearwater - Reeds Creek/ Calhoun Road Culvert Replacements.
  - Mitigate the chance of flooding at stream crossing sites in the Reeds Creek watershed of the lower North Fork Clearwater/ Dworshak Reservoir.
  - Partner: PotlatchDeltic
- Jim Ford Creek – Weippe Prairie Culvert Replacements. Potential future projects.
  - Replace culverts that are undersized, sediment generating, passage barriers, flood issues. Route runoff to wetland and potential wetland areas. Includes replacing culverts in Jim Ford Creek and Heywood creek as well as others.
  - Partners: Clearwater Highway District, National Park Service, NRCS (partner project to Jim Ford RCPP)

### **Fish and Wildlife:**

### **Ongoing Projects**

- Potlatch River – Bob's PALS II (Beaver Dam Analogs / Post Assisted Log Structures)
  - Improve habitat for steelhead and other aquatic organisms by constructing BDAs and PALS in the East Fork near Bob's Creek and in Bob's Creek.
  - Funded through PCSRF, December 2024
  - Environmental work and permitting in 2025; Full implementation in 2026
  - Partners: IDL (landowner), and PCEI (labor force and source of volunteers)
- Potlatch River – East Fork Potlatch Bridge above Mallory Creek
  - Improve habitat and passage for steelhead and other aquatic organisms by replacing the last undersized culvert in the mainstem East Fork Potlatch.
  - Funded through PCSRF, fall 2023
  - Environmental work and permitting in 2024 - 2025; Full implementation in August 2025
  - Partners: PotlatchDeltic (landowner, road owner, and lead on design and construction)

### **Recently Completed Projects**

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March 2025

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- Potlatch River – Bob’s PALS I (Beaver Dam Analogs / Post Assisted Log Structures)
  - Improve habitat for steelhead and other aquatic organisms by constructing BDAs and PALS in the East Fork near Bob’s Creek.
  - Funded through PCSRF, fall 2022
  - Environmental work and permitting in 2023; Full implementation in 2024
  - Partners: IDL (landowner), and PCEI (labor force and source of volunteers)

### **Potential Projects**

- Elk Creek – Partridge Creek Stream Crossing
  - Replace a stream crossing on Partridge Creek to allow fish passage to Forest Service land. Current culverts on the Elk City Loop Road are undersized and are flood hazards. The site is a sediment producer.
  - Partridge Creek Culvert Replacement Survey and Design was completed in 2022 and included a cultural resources survey ; Funded by RAC, Forest Service 2020
  - Partridge Creek three sided concrete box culvert funded in 2023 for replacement. Funding pulled back in 2024/2025 by Forest Service
  - Partners: Clearwater Highway District, Forest Service
- Potlatch River – Future Large Wood additions,
  - Improve habitat for steelhead and other aquatic organisms by adding wood (trees with and without rootwads) to the East Fork in yet to be determined locations.
  - Propose to IOSC for PCSRF, fall 2025 or beyond
  - Partners: TBD
- Potlatch River – Future Culvert Replacements,
  - Improve passage and habitat conditions for steelhead and other aquatic organisms by replacing undersized or problematic stream crossings in the East Fork tributaries in yet to be determined locations.
  - Propose to IOSC for PCSRF, fall 2024 or beyond
  - Partners: TBD (PotlatchDeltic or IDL)
- Lower North Fork Clearwater – Beaver Creek Road 247 Fish Passage Culverts
  - Replace up to 10 culverts for maintenance and fish passage along an arterial Forest Service/ PotlatchDeltic Road, including Bingo Creek
  - Partners: PotlatchDeltic and Forest Service

### **Cropland Soil Quality and Stability:**

- Cover Crops / Manure Management Idaho CIG
  - Work with a Clearwater County producer to do field trials for cover crops and manure (composted and not) to increase / improve soil health.
  - Results from 2023 – 2024 show improved soil conditions but poor cover crop yield
  - Current agreement ends April 1, 2025; Seeking additional funding for continued work.
  - Idaho Conservation Innovation Grant, funded 2021 (NRCS)
  - Partners: Producer, Nez Perce Tribe, University of Idaho Extension, ISWC, NRCS



- Regenerative Agriculture – Ongoing / Potential Future Project
  - Work with Clearwater County producers to do field trials for cover crops and other regenerative agriculture techniques to increase / improve soil health. Encourage producers to adopt these methods once we determine specific mixes, amendments and techniques that work locally.
  - Improving the ecological services of Nez Perce Lands through soil health management systems. NIFA grant to Nez Perce Tribe, funded 2020
  - Partners: Nez Perce Tribe (grantee); University of Idaho Extension; ISWC

### **Community Outreach:**

- Work with the Forest Service and others to complete construction of and manage a “watershed trailer” for educational purposes.
  - A hands-on educational tool consisting of a trailer (tow behind a pickup) with a large “sandbox”, a water tank, and pumps. Participants can build channels, cities, farms, stream crossings etc. from miniatures, then turn on the pumps and see the results of erosion and flooding.
  - Funded through FS RAC and a CEDA grant
  - Working to find a handyman to do final plumbing and electrical
  - This educational tool will be managed by CSWCD but available to entities in our five county area for soil and water educational events
  - Partners: Forest Service, Orofino High School, Clearwater Economic Development Association, local businesses, and others
- Complete “Youth Environmental Education Projects” annually, search for funding to reduce costs and encourage participation for K-12.
  - IASCD Poster and Speech Contests. (Yearly)
  - Earth Day activity with Clearwater County Schools (April, but inactive since COVID)
  - Support for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Forestry Tour (every July)
  - Work with local YCC groups on projects and education
- Conduct community outreach in conservation and land management annually
  - Weed Management and Soil Health Training Programs at small landowner workshops series in-conjunction with the Other Division II Districts and U of I Extension office. (Yearly) *Conservation Commission District Capacity Building funds*
  - Arbor Day Activity and Community Cleanup in Orofino City Park (every April)

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### **Potential Projects**

March 2025

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- Native Plantings
  - Work with the Forestry class and others to plant native shrubs and trees
  - Possible Pollinator Garden at our office
  - Opportunities to discuss natural resource career paths with students
  - One Tree Planted mini-grant OR US FWS pollinator grant
  - Partners: Many including Forestry teacher

## **Section 7 – Implementation: Annual Work Plan 2024/25**

### **Priority Number 1: Natural Disaster Hazard Mitigation**

#### **Project 1: Lolo Fuels Reduction, Funded by WSFM Grant through IDL and FS**

**Goal:** Reduce fire frequency and severity in the Weippe to Greer area

**Objective:** Reduce fuels on private, nonindustrial forestland and wildland/urban interface in the Lolo Creek area, Clearwater County.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete invoicing and final report on initial grant</li> <li>• Prepare for potential phase 2 grant through WSFM / IDL/ USFSFS</li> </ul>	April 1, 2025  Fall 2025	CSWCD/ assisted by ISWCC

#### **Project 2: Jim Ford Creek Stream Crossing Replacement, funded by IDWR flood grant**

**Goal:** Safe drivable road with limited impacts on soil and water quality

**Objective:** Reduce chronic flooding and soil erosion at Jim Ford Creek on Larson Road; restore meadow hydrology

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace a failing crossing with a bridge.</li> <li>• Add / replace cross drain culverts to direct runoff to National Park Service lands and meadows</li> </ul>	9/30/2025	CSWCD/ Clw Hwy District (CHD)

#### **Project 3: Casey Creek Stream Crossing Replacement, funded by IDWR flood grant**



**Goal:** Safe drivable road to be used as a detour for the Alder Creek Culvert Replacement Project and beyond while limiting impacts on soil and water quality

**Objective:** Reduce chronic flooding and soil erosion at this site and pass fish and other aquatic species

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replaced a failing 36" culvert with a 108" squash pipe</li> <li>Surface and reshape road and clean up site in 2025 after snow melt and site dry</li> </ul>	Spring 2025	CSWCD/ Clw Hwy District (CHD)

### **Priority Number 2: Water Resource and Water Quality:**

#### **Project 4: Complete Alder Creek culvert replacements on the Silver Creek Road, Funded by EPA 319 Grant through IDEQ**

**Goal:** Reduce sediment and temperature and improve fish passage in Alder Creek and Casey Creek; Safe drivable road with limited impacts on soil and water quality

**Objective:** Replace undersized culverts that are barriers to fish passage at 3 stream crossings in class one streams, 2 in Alder Creek and one in Casey.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
Replace 2 remaining undersized culverts in the Alder Creek watershed with updated structures that will pass all flows and fish. Resurface three miles of road. One culvert in Alder Creek was replaced in 2024.	Sept. 30, 2025	CSWCD/ PotlatchDeltic

#### **Project 5: Musselshell Road Upgrade; Support funded through FS RAC**

**Goal:** Increased stability and trafficability of the Musselshell Road and decreased sedimentation and other impacts to adjacent streams

**Objective:** Obtain a FLAP grant from FHWA to reconstruct and pave Musselshell Road into a safe drivable road with limited impacts on soil and water quality

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with IDL on easement for ROW</li> <li>• FLAP application prepared for next Call for Projects</li> </ul>	Fall 2025/26	CSWCD/ CHD /FS
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### **Priority Number 3: Fish and Wildlife:**

#### **Project 6: East Fork Potlatch Bob's PALS II, Funded by PCSRF**

**Goal:** to restore and enhance instream habitat for steelhead and other aquatic species by adding hand built wood structures to the East Fork of the Potlatch River near Bob's Creek and in lower Bob's Creek.

**Objective:** To build Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS) and Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) in Bob's Creek and in the East Fork Potlatch River and between the bridge at the County line and the bridge above Bob's Creek to increase habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity on 0.6 miles of stream in a 2-mile reach.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete required environmental work and permitting</li> <li>• Identify worksites and begin work</li> <li>• Full implementation</li> </ul>	2025  S25 Summer 24	CSWCD/ PCEI/ IDL

#### **Project 7: East Fork Potlatch Bridge above Mallory**

**Goal:** Allow free passage of steelhead and other aquatic organisms in the East Fork of the Potlatch River. Improve habitat conditions for steelhead. Reduce sedimentation and temperatures. Provide safe access.

**Objective:** Replace the last undersized culvert on the mainstem of the East Fork in order to improve habitat for steelhead and to open up future opportunities for habitat projects upstream

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Environmental work and permitting</li> <li>• Bridge Construction</li> </ul>	May 25 August 25	CSWCD/ PotlatchDeltic

## **Priority Number 4: Cropland Soil Quality and Stability**

### **Project 8: Cover Crops / Manure Management Idaho CIG**

**Goal:** Continue to work with producers to expand the use of regenerative agriculture techniques including cover cropping and manure management and composting in Clearwater County

**Objective:** Evaluate field trials for several mixes of cover crops and the use of manure, composted and fresh, on hay crop.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
Complete final reporting and invoicing	April 2025	CSWCD
Publish results	2026?	U of Idaho

## **Priority Number 5: Community Outreach**

### **Project 9: Watershed Trailer**

**Goal:** Sponsor and manage a “watershed trailer”, built by OHS seniors as a senior project, for use at natural resource educational events in a five county area.

**Objective:** Use the trailer and provide it for use by others as a hands-on educational tool to teach about erosion and flooding

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete construction finding someone to finish welding (aluminum), some plumbing and electrical work</li> <li>• Become familiar with training materials, seek out opportunities for trailer use, and USE IT!</li> <li>• Reach out to other Conservation Districts and educational entities maximize use of this tool.</li> <li>• Train others in the use of the trailer.</li> </ul>	May 2025	CSWCD/ Forest Service/ local businesses/ others

### **Project 10: Youth Environmental Education Program**

**Goal(s):** Create a viable Youth Environmental Education program,

**Objective:** Complete “Youth Environmental Education Projects” annually, search for funding to reduce participation costs and encourage participation.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
Sponsor and participate in the Sixth Grade Forestry and Natural Resource Tour	July	CSWCD/Extension Office/Forest Service/School District
Sponsor and participate in the Sixth grade Poster Contest	April	CSWCD
Identify projects for youth and sponsor YCC or other groups to implement / combine with watershed education	summer	YCC / CEDA / FS
Identify opportunities such as “Dream it Do it” and Idaho Forestry Contest to sponsor and work with youth in natural resources	School year	YCC / CEDA / School District

### **Project 11: Adult Outreach**

**Goal(s):** Coordinate with Landowners and U of I Extension Office to develop workshops.

**Objective:** Develop engaging user-friendly interactive workshops with landowners to identify and resolve problem areas.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual(s) Responsible</b>
Develop various workshop that focuses on landowner concerns with weeds, soil health and cover crops, seeds	On-going	Landowner/ISWCC Technical Staff/NRCS/CSWCD

## **District Calendar of Events**

*Regular monthly Board meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month*

### **JULY**

- Prepare financial records for annual audit (If expenditures are over \$150,000)
- Invoice Commission for next 12 months for Eileen's office space
- Expect new Fair Contract
- Office rent due Aug 1st - contact Valley Rentals for invoice
- 6th Grade Forestry Tour
- Begin preparation of Financial and Match Report
- Receive Base funding from Commission
- District Survey due to Commission July 3151 (optional?)

### **AUGUST**

- Submit Financial and Match reports - Aug 16th
- Prepare Audit materials for Auditors
- File Candidacy Requirements for Supervisor Elections -Sept 1 - even numbered years
- Begin planning District's county fair exhibit

### **SEPTEMBER**

- Set up exhibit at Clearwater County Fair
- Review election materials and petitions (even numbered years)
- Declaration of Candidacy Sept 1st of even yrs, Sept 8-Last day to Certify Nominee
- IASCD and IDEA Award nominations due if any

### **OCTOBER**

- IASCD Division II Fall meeting
- Discuss IASCD resolutions (if any) and appoint a voting delegate for the annual conference (*attending supervisor*)
- Notices of election published in legal section of newspaper (done by County)

### **NOVEMBER**

- Conduct District Elections (even years) notify County Clerk how many supervisors to be elected in following years' election.
- IASCD Annual Conference
- Work on Commission Performance reports due in December
- Sam Renewal Deadline - Oct? Nov? Dec? allow 30 days to activate
- Receive Match Funds from Commission?
- Work on Registry Report for Dec?

## DECEMBER

- Provide input for USDA's Locally Led Working Group on conservation priorities (NRCS)
- Central Registry Update Due in Dec? New budget and copy of Audit
- Employee Performance Evaluations Due by District Supervisors
- District Performance Report due to Commission-Dec 20th?
- Elect new officers for Board of Supervisors

## JANUARY

- Elect new Officers for Board of Supervisors
- New Supervisor Training/Orientation
- North Central Idaho Grazing Conference, Lewiston
- NRCS Rent- Form SF270 to request rent for past 12 months.
- Small Acreage Land Stewardship Course Planning
- Dept of Labor Accident and Injury Report (they send us form to fill out and send back)
- Tax forms mailed out

## FEBRUARY

- Election Cycle-Sups file C-1 form and Campaign Finance Report online - Due 2/10
- Review and Update 5-Year plan -Due March 31st
- Request County and Potlatch funding
- Area wide Soil Health Conference in Orofino, Lewiston and Nez Perce

## MARCH

- Expect Commission letter to exercise next 12 mos. office space for Eileen
- 5 Year Plan and Annual Plan due to Commission - March 31st
- Technical Assistance (TA) Request due to Commission - March 31st
- Verification of Surety Bond due to Comm 3/31 (ICRMT covers this automatically)
- Letter to County requesting RELEASE of donation requested in January
- Local Support Donations must be received by June 30 to get Match Funds

## APRIL

- 4th Grade Earth Day Activities
- Jr/Sr High school Forestry Project (Arbor Day Project)
- Clearwater County Community Cleanup Day/Arbor day
- Budget Hearing Request Due April 30

## MAY

- Visit schools and hold the 6th Grade Conservation Poster Contest
- Soil Stewardship Week

## JUNE

- Local Support Donations must be received by June 30th to get Match Funds
- Annual Conservation District Surveys for Commission (due by 31 July)

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## **Conservation District Organization and Policies:**

### **District Organization:**

The Clearwater SWCD is a governmental subdivision of the State of Idaho, a public body corporate and politic, and authorized to exercise public powers. The governing body of the district is a board of five supervisors who are publicly elected and who serve without pay. The District is dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound management practices. We promote clean water and productive soils. The district strives to ensure that local landowners make decisions on conservation problems at the local level.

The Clearwater SWCD willingly supports, accepts and promotes the responsibilities inherent to the Conservation Districts anti-degradation policy to preserve a locally administered voluntary approach addressing agriculture non-point source pollution.

The District will provide technical assistance to all landowners and operators in Clearwater County and provide information and guidance for local, state, federal and tribal programs.

The District will continue to provide effective local leadership for conservation programs and conduct well publicized supervisor elections.

The District will cooperate with units of local, state, federal and tribal government. The District reviews all programs and determines what progress has been made with improvements and determines any changes the District should make in implementing conservation programs.

The District will keep a personnel handbook and supervisors' handbook up-to-date and available to personnel and supervisors.

### **Guiding Principles:**

Value and respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership to make available technical, financial and educational resources to better manage the soil, water and related natural resources.

The planned management of natural resources, for the beneficial and sustainable use by all. To conserve natural resources and use practical, economical management practices. We encourage a strong public outreach program reaching students and adults.

### **Administration and Finance:**

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission anti-degradation rules for agriculture – IDAPA 02.05.025 require each district to complete a five year plan and update it annually in order to receive matching funds from the state.

The mission of the District is largely, but not wholly carried out and its purpose and objectives are achieved in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding: with the NRCS, provides for the assignment of technical and other personnel to assist the District in carrying out its program. As additional "Agreement of Gratuitous Use of Benefits Available from Non-Federal Sources" sets forth the conditions under which the District may furnish personnel to further discharge of the duties and functions of the service.

Coordinated but separate lines of communication and channels of responsibility are united in the accomplishment of the missions of both District and the Service.

Board Members' tenure rotates with two vacancies being filled one year and three vacancies filled two years later. Elections are held on the first Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of November in even numbered years in conjunction with county elections. Supervisors elected

serve four-year terms, without pay, which commence on the second Monday of January next following the election.

Financing is received from Clearwater County, State of Idaho and the administration of grants. All District funds regardless of source are public funds and are accountable to the taxpaying citizens of Idaho.

## **Policies:**

### **Local Governance:**

To lead and support local conservation planning efforts by building strong conservation partnerships with landowners, operators, and managers to identify natural resource concerns, alternative solutions and funding sources to resolve priority issues.

### **Coordinated Implementation:**

To lead voluntary implementation efforts with projects, grants, demonstrations and programs by coordinating the technical resources and incentives to meet long term economic, ecologic and social objectives.

### **Outreach:**

The District encourages a strong, effective public outreach program reaching students and adults. The District conducts various forms of public outreach on an annual basis. The Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District assists teachers with the development of outdoor classroom sites, provides educational materials and makes special presentations on soil and water conservation and natural resource management. The Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors contest and award programs such as poster, essay and speech contests for local students. We have implemented a new “Fire Wise” Program that we foresee helping residents of Clearwater and neighboring counties becoming more informed and as a result decreasing the fuel load on their property that could feed a forest fire.



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## **Conservation Partners:**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Idaho District Employee Association  
Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Clearwater Basin Advisory Group and Local Watershed Advisory Groups  
Clearwater County, Planning & Zoning, Road Dep., Weed Dept., Econ development  
Clearwater Highway District  
Univ. of Idaho Cooperative Extension System  
Idaho Dept. of Agriculture  
Idaho Dept. of Lands  
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game  
Idaho Office of Species Conservation  
Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association  
Clearwater Economic Development Association  
Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area Steering Committee  
Clearwater Basin Collaborative  
Trout Unlimited  
Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources  
US Forest Service  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Park Service  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries  
Nez Perce Tribe Department of Natural Resources  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
PotlatchDeltic  
Private Land Owners  
Agricultural Producers  
NOAA Fisheries  
Cities of Orofino, Pierce, Weippe, Elk River  
Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis and Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute

## **Other Partner Organizations:**

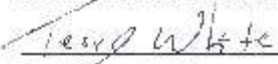
Idaho Farm Bureau  
Idaho Forest Owners Association  
Christmas Tree Association  
Idaho Nursery Association  
Pacific NW Direct Seed Association  
Idaho Cattlemen  
Wool Producers  
Grain Producers  
Idaho Conservation League  
Federal, State and Tribal Fish Hatcheries  
Joint School District #171  
Idaho Dept. of Transportation  
Land Trusts  
Friends of the Clearwater  
The Nature Conservancy

## **Services Provided to Landowners:**

Education on local natural resources  
Providing Information on natural resource management

## **Services Provided to General Public:**

School classroom talks  
Poster & speech contests  
Outdoor classrooms, tours, natural resource camps  
Other youth activities  
Library resources and activities  
On-line resources  
Newspaper articles  
Radio announcements

<b>IDAHO SOIL &amp; WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION</b>  <b><u>FIVE-YEAR (5) PLAN and ANNUAL WORK PLAN CERTIFICATION</u></b>	DISTRICT: Clearwater  FOR FISCAL YEAR: 2026  DUE :                   2025 March 31,
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>          Board Supervisor Signature</p> <p><b>Terry White</b>          Printed Name</p> <p><b>3/18/2025</b>          Date</p> <p><b>208 476-5700</b>          District Telephone</p> <p><b>clearwater.swcd@gmail.com</b>          District Email Address</p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; min-height: 100px;"> <p><b>FOR SWC USE ONLY:</b></p>           <p><b>DATE OF CONFIRMATION:</b> _____</p> </div>	