

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**102 South Hall St.
Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-1046 ext. 3**

**FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION
BUSINESS PLAN
JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2030
Annual Plan
July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026**

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Executive Summary

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. The Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District consists of 5 locally elected supervisors. Conservation Districts are charged with carrying out programs relative to conservation 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; and include science-based technical assistance, incentive-based financial programs and informational-educational programs at the local level.

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

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

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

Certificate of Adoption

The Board of elected supervisors of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District this 8th day of March, 2024 does hereby approve the following document known as the Resource Conservation Business Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2029 during which time it will be updated annually and/or amended, as necessary.

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

_____ Chairman, Tom Gehring

_____ Vice Chairman, Lee Spencer

_____ Treasurer, Ron Funke

_____ Secretary, Jinny Cash

_____ Member, Lucas Arnzen

(note the official signature page is housed in the Idaho SWCD office with the official plan)



Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

The following agencies are associated with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District to enhance carrying out the five year plan. They have in the past participated in tours, workshops, and information and education meetings. If needed, they also provide the District with technical assistance.

Army Corp of Engineers	Idaho & Lewis County Cattle Association
Basin Advisory Groups	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Land Management	Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
Camas Prairie Grass Growers Association	Idaho Transportation Department
Clearwater RC&D	Idaho Wheat Producers
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts	Idaho Wool Growers Association
Idaho Cattle Association	Little Salmon WAG
Idaho County Commissioners	Lower Salmon-Hells Canyon WAG
Idaho County Public School Districts	National Association of Counties
Idaho County Towns & Cities	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Idaho County Invasive Plant Management	NezPerce/Clearwater National Forest
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	NezPerce Tribe
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association
Idaho Department of Lands	Payette National Forest
Idaho Department of Water Resources	South Fork Clearwater WAG
Idaho Grain Growers	U of I Cooperative Extension Office

Key Decision Makers

- **Idaho SWCD Supervisors** – Jinny Cash, Ron Funke, Tom Gehring, Lee Spencer, Lucas Arnzen
- **Citizens within the Conservation District**
- **Idaho County Commissioners** - Skip Brandt, Bryan Higgins, Ted Lindsley
- **State legislators representing District 7** – Cindy Carlson – Senate, Mike Kingsley – House, Charlie Shepherd – House
- **Associate Supervisors** –Mike Duclos, Pete Lane, Bob Rylaarsdam, Ed Stuiivenga, Scott Wasem, Adam Sonnen, Elaine Sonnen



Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan (2026 to 2030)

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

For More Information Contact:
Stefanie Hays
(208)507-2858
stefanie.hays@idahoswcd.org

Organization of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

The Idaho SWCD was officially organized in 1954 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses within the Idaho SWCD boundary. The Board of the SWCD consists of five elected/appointed volunteers, who live and work in Idaho County.

Function of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources for responsible natural resource management that conserves and improves soil, water and air quality and wildlife habitat, while taking a proactive approach to production agriculture.

Who We Serve & Why

The Idaho SWCD provides technical and professional assistance to landowners and ag producers of Idaho County. We attempt to provide local leadership in the conservation development and productive use of soil, water and other natural resources.

Mission of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

To focus available technical, financial and educational resources and coordinate them so they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources.

Values of the Idaho Soil & Water 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

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

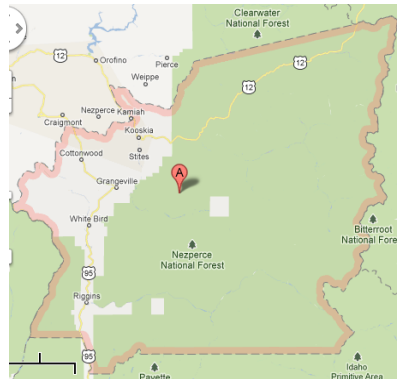
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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Animal Waste Management*▪ District Operations▪ Fish and Wildlife *▪ Information and Education*▪ Noxious Weed Control▪ Pasture/Hayland▪ Rangeland*▪ Recreation▪ Riparian Areas▪ Water Quality* | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Water Resources (quantity)▪ Private Woodlands▪ Wildfire Mitigation & Recovery▪ Dry-Land Farming▪ Precision Agriculture▪ Agricultural Irrigation Practices▪ Other – District Determined |
|--|--|

* Meets Anti-degradation Plan for Agriculture criteria



Idaho Conservation Districts assisting land owners and operators with their conservation choices.

Section 1: Physical Characteristics of the District



Cities located within the County are:

Cottonwood, Ferdinand, Grangeville, Kooskia, Riggins, Stites, and White Bird and the southern portion of Kamiah

Un-Incorporated Communities located throughout the county are:

Burgdorf, Clearwater, Dixie, Elk City, Fenn, Golden, Greencreek, Harpster, Keuterville, Lowell, Lucile, Mackay Bar, Orogrande, Pollock, Powell Junction, Red River Hot Springs, Syringa, Warren and Woodland; Mt Idaho & Florence are classified as ghost towns.

Neighboring Counties are: Clearwater County, Missoula County, MT, Ravalli County, MT, Lemhi County, Valley County, Adams County, Wallow County, OR, NezPerce County, and Lewis County
Idaho County covers 5,474,396 acres.

Land Area: 8485 square miles or 99.8%

- Idaho County is the largest county in Idaho. Land in Idaho County is made up of private, federal, state and NezPerce tribal lands. There are 4,431,720 acres of National Forest Land within the county. Farmland covers 590,927 acres of Idaho County, with 218,804 acres in cropland.

Water area: 17.6 square miles or .3%

- There are nine watersheds within the District's boundaries.
- The perennial and intermittent streams in Idaho County are tributaries of the following: Snake River, Salmon River and the Clearwater River.

National Forest Lands

There are 4,431,720 acres of National Forest land within the county, more than in any county outside of Alaska. National forests and their acreage within the District are:

- Nez Perce/Clearwater National Forest – 2,224,091
- Payette National Forest – 804,853
- Bitterroot National Forest – 464,108

- Salmon National Forest – 66,074
- Wallowa National Forest – 1,787

The Nez Perce National Forest is located entirely within the county's borders and is the largest National forest lying in a single county. The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests are managed by the same Supervisor Office, located in Kamiah, Idaho.

There are 12 national protected areas located in Idaho County

- Bitterroot National Forest
- Clearwater National Forest
- Hells Canyon National Recreation Area
- Nez Perce National Forest
- Nez Perce National Historical Park
- Payette National Forest
- Salmon-Challis National Forest
- Wallowa Whitman National Forest
- Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness
- Gospel Hump Wilderness
- Hells Canyon Wilderness
- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

Idaho County precipitation averages 14-80 inches per year from the Southwest to the Northeast. The average ground snow depths for January range of 8-10 inches. Snow is usually melted from most areas by April and from the higher elevations by June or July.

Ranching and farming is one of the major industries of the area. Average size of farms is 963 acres. Idaho County is non-irrigated cropland, with the following being the major crops as reported by Farm Services Agency (2024):

- Alfalfa/Grass Hay-6,725.30 acres
- Barley-5,617.31 acres
- Beans-2,212.34 acres
- Canola-13,344.28 acres
- Oats- 2,414.08 acres
- Peas-1,438.74 acres
- Wheat-73,011.17 acres

Some other crops in Idaho County as reported by Farm Service Agency:

- Mixed Forage – 43,193.55 acres
- Summer Fallow-11,638.45 acres
- CRP-4,875.76 acres
- Yellow Mustard – 83.15 acres
- Cover Crop-999.23acres
- Millet-233.52 acres
- Bluegrass-4,446.66 acres
- Lentils-792.58 acres
- Trees/Timber-775.57 acres
- Honey (Hives) 426
- Cattle 27,000 in 2021

- Beef Cows – 15,500 in 2021
- Milk Cows – 400 in 2021
- Other (Sheep, Goats) 11,100 in 2021

Geology and Topography:

The Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District encompasses a large variety of geologic formations and topography. The north western portion of the County is a broad, loess-covered plateau at about 3,500' elevation. The soils are generally deep, loamy and gently to moderately sloping. Most of this area is farmed to mostly wheat, barley, alfalfa and oats. Soils which developed from the loessial parent material include Boles, Chicane, Fenn, Kooskia, NezPerce, Shebang and Uhlorn.

The Columbia River Basalt is one of the more widespread formations within the County. This basalt was the parent material for many of the rangeland and woodland soils. Soils which were formed from this parent material include the; Bluespring, Klickson, Lawyer, Riggins, Tannahill and Wapsilla. Rangeland is mostly on the south facing areas of the canyons and at lower elevations, on the north facing areas. The slopes are very steep in these areas.

The eastern part of the County is productive timberland and includes several large river systems. The South Fork of the Clearwater River divides soil survey areas. The eastern side of the river consists of farmland, which was at one time forested. This farmland is mixed with timber. The western side of the river consists of the Camas Prairie. Grangeville the county seat, borders the prairie on the south, the South Fork of the Clearwater on the east, Cottonwood Butte and the Salmon River on the west and Lawyers Canyon on the north. The cropland soils on the prairie are very productive. Slopes vary between 0-20 %.

Important physical features within the County include the Seven Devils Mountain Range, Cottonwood Butte, Lolo Pass, and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness areas. There are eight important river systems within Idaho County; they are the Salmon, Little Salmon, Rapid River, Snake, Lochsa, Selway, American, Crooked, Red and the Middle, South & Main forks of the Clearwater River.

Climate:

The climate for the District is extremely variable. The difference in elevations is the main cause for the variation in climate. A lot of the area is mountainous. Three large river canyons cross the District, the Snake, Salmon and Clearwater Rivers. The mouth of the Salmon River is at 916' and is the lowest elevation. The He Devil Peak located within the Seven Devils Mountain range is the highest elevation at 9,400' , making Hells Canyon the deepest gorge/canyon in North America.

Precipitation varies from about 14 inches in the Salmon and Snake River areas to 80 inches in the mountains. It is common for snow to be 10' deep in the mountains with 30 percent moisture, while most winters, the Clearwater, Salmon and Snake River canyons get little to no snow. Average precipitation at Grangeville is 24.43 inches, Kooskia 24.7 inches, Fenn Ranger Stations 36.9 inches, and Riggins 16.7 inches.

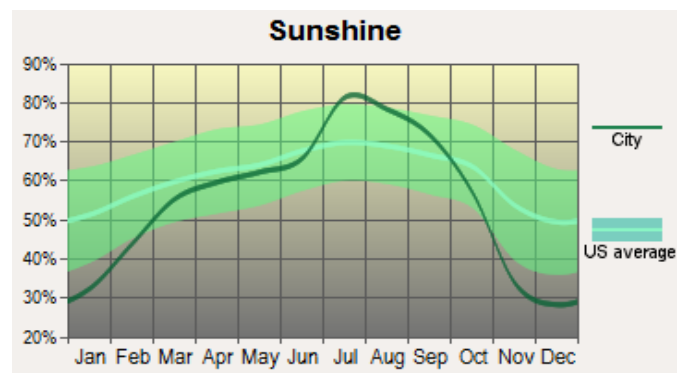
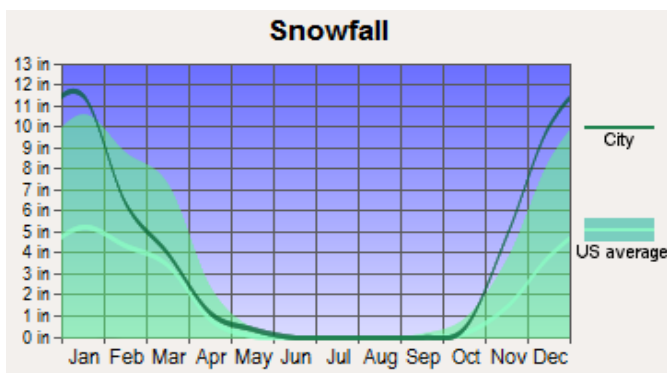
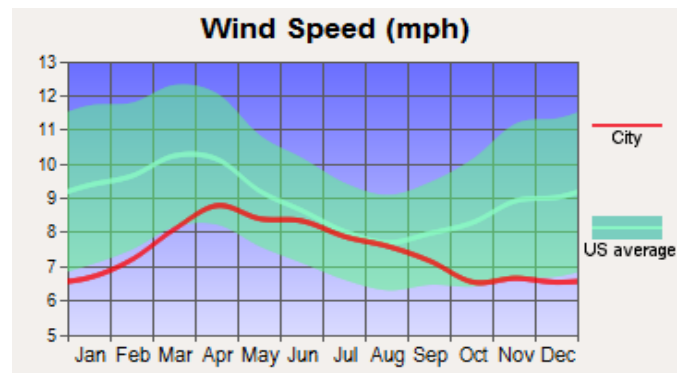
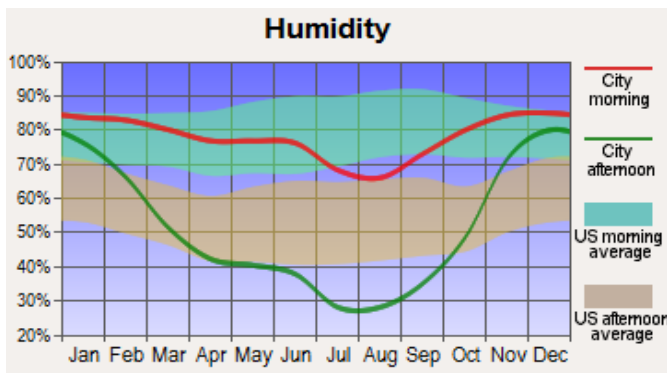
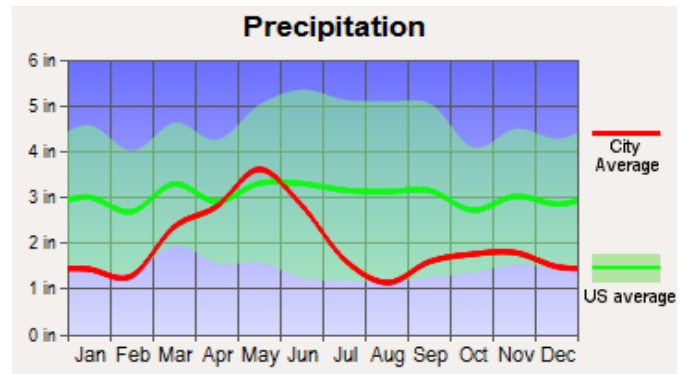
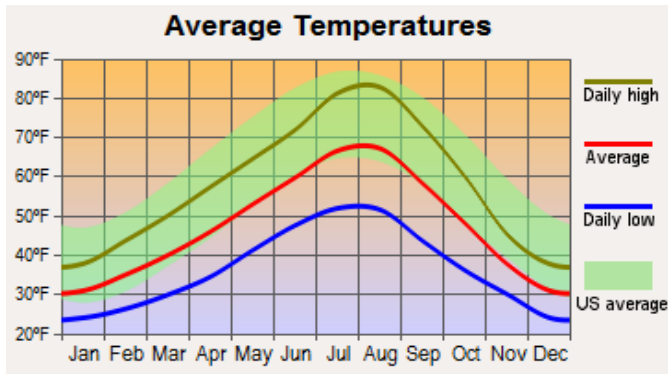
Occasional flooding occurs along the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers during Spring snow melt. High water usually occurs between April & June. Unpredictable flooding has occurred where there is a large storm event and can occur at any time throughout the year.

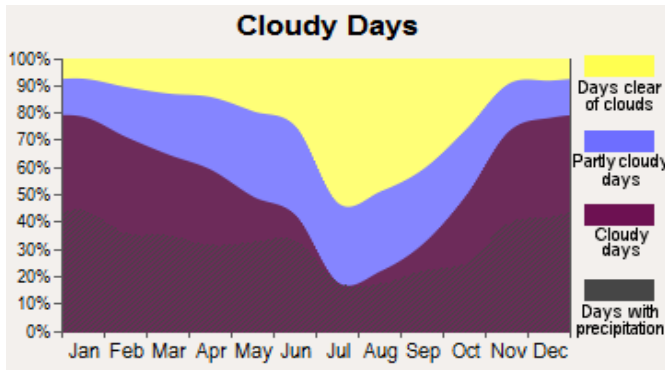
The most important economic area of the District is the farmed area of the Camas Prairie, north of Grangeville and east of Cottonwood. It is about 3,388 feet in elevation with an average precipitation of about 17 inches to the north near Lawyers Creek to 23 inches in the south near Grangeville. The majority of

the precipitation occurs from March-June with the warmest period being in July and August. This is the dry period, but in some years there are significant amounts of rain.

Average climate in Grangeville, Idaho

Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations





Sources:

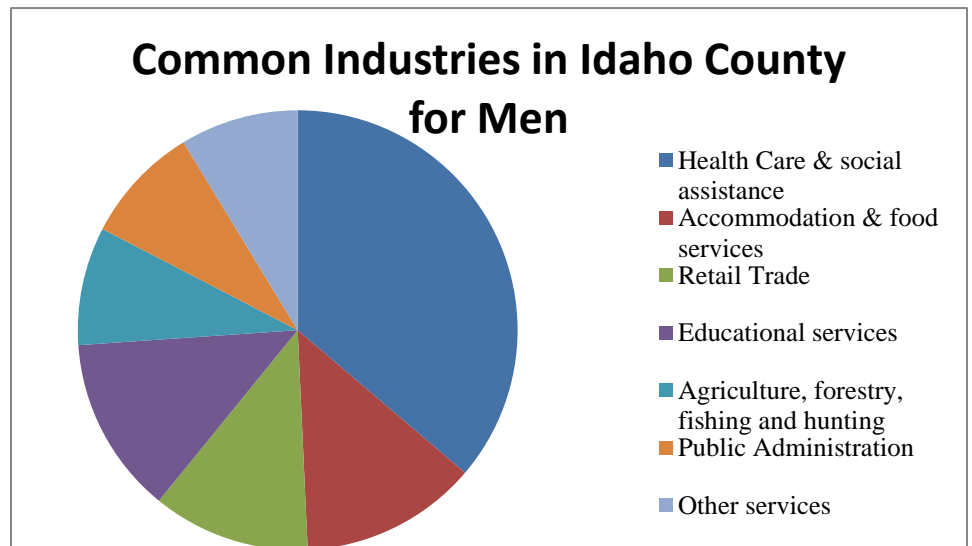
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_County,_Idaho
- http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Idaho/Publications/County_Estimates/index.asp
- <http://www.city-data.com/city/Grangeville-Idaho.html#ixzz1oGMDeVrz>

Section 2: Economic Condition and Outlook

The population of Idaho County is 18,673 (19% urban, 81% rural), estimated 2024 population.

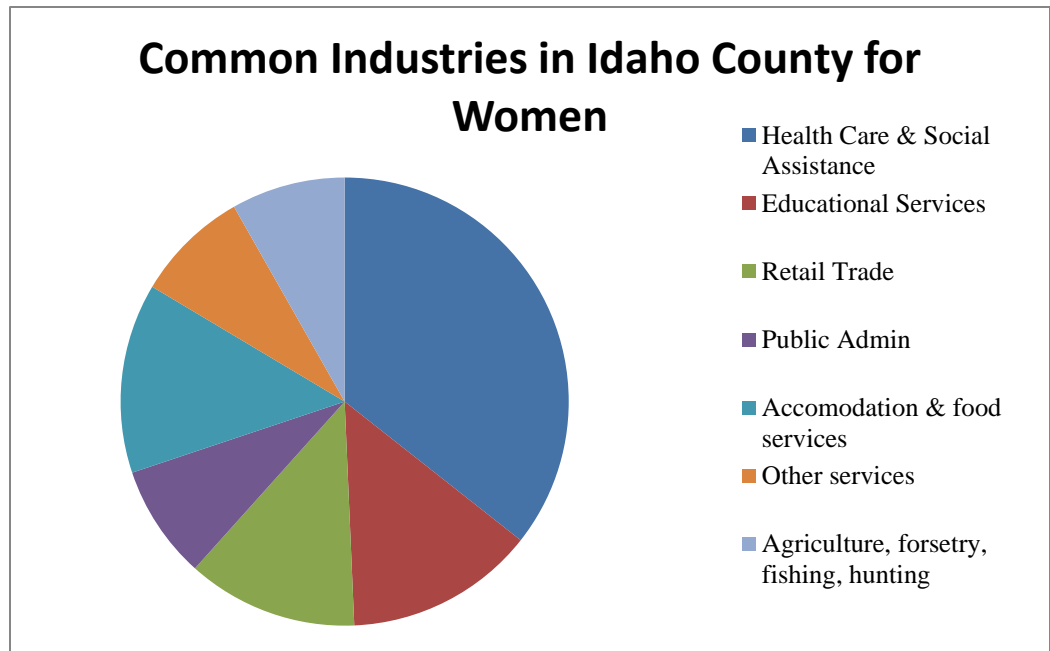
The most common industries in Idaho County for men are:

- Health care and social assistance (25%)
- Educational services (9%)
- Accommodation and food services (9%)
- Retail trade (8%)
- Public administration (6%)
- Other services, except public administration (6%)
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (6%)



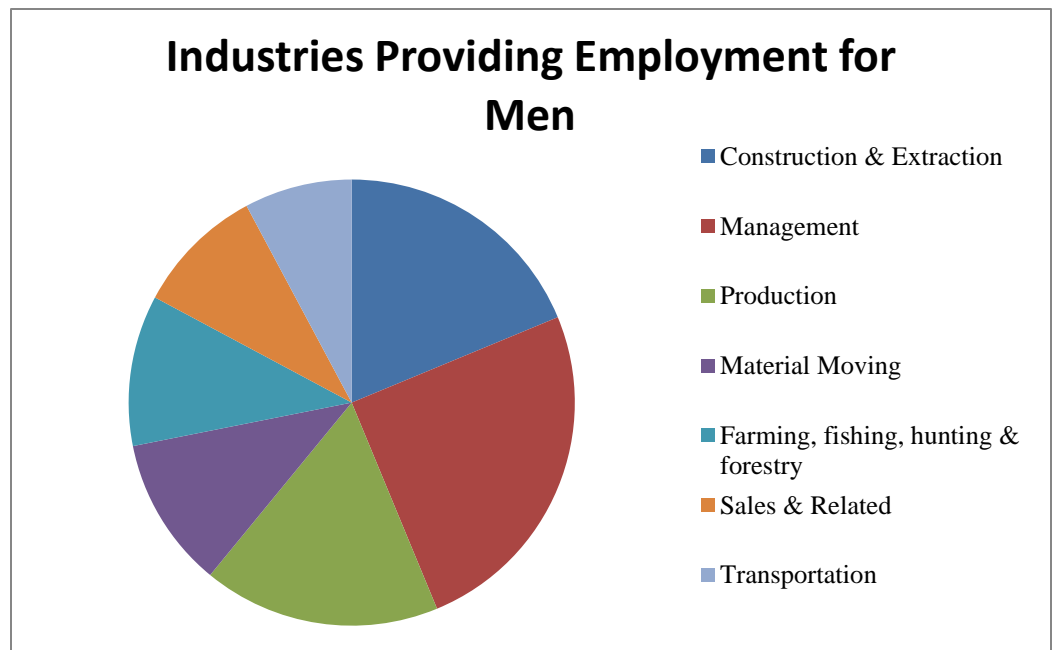
The most common industries in Idaho County for women are:

- Health care and social assistance (26%)
- Educational services (10%)
- Accommodation and food services (10%)
- Retail trade (9%)
- Public administration (6%)
- Other services, except public administration (6%)
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (6%)



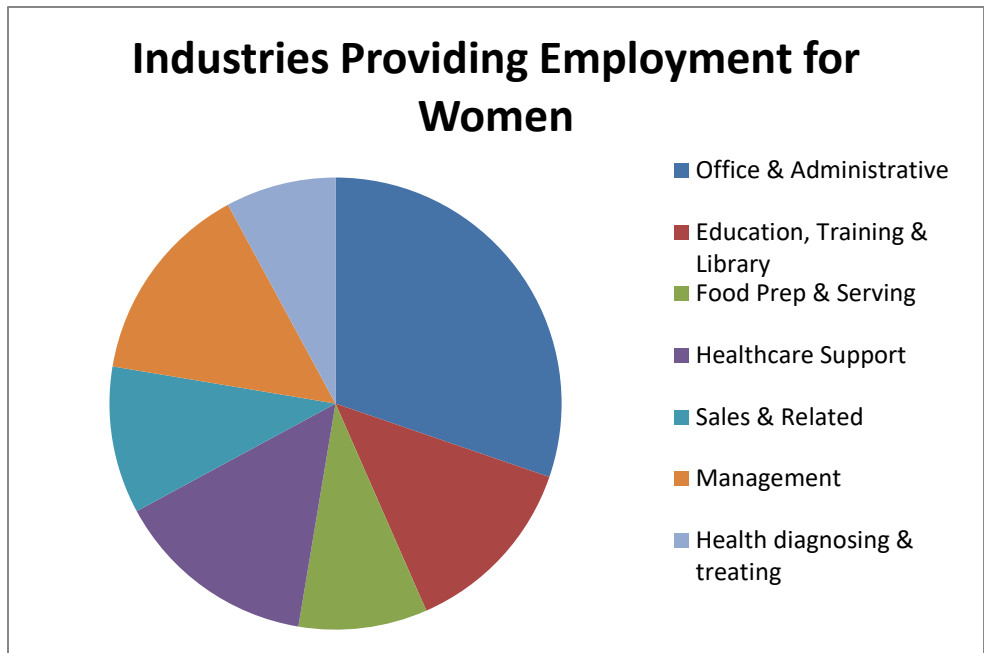
Industries providing employment for men:

- Construction & Extraction (16%)
- Management (11%)
- Production (14%)
- Material Moving (5%)
- Farming, Fishing, Hunting & Forestry (5%)
- Sales & Related (7%)
- Transportation (6%)



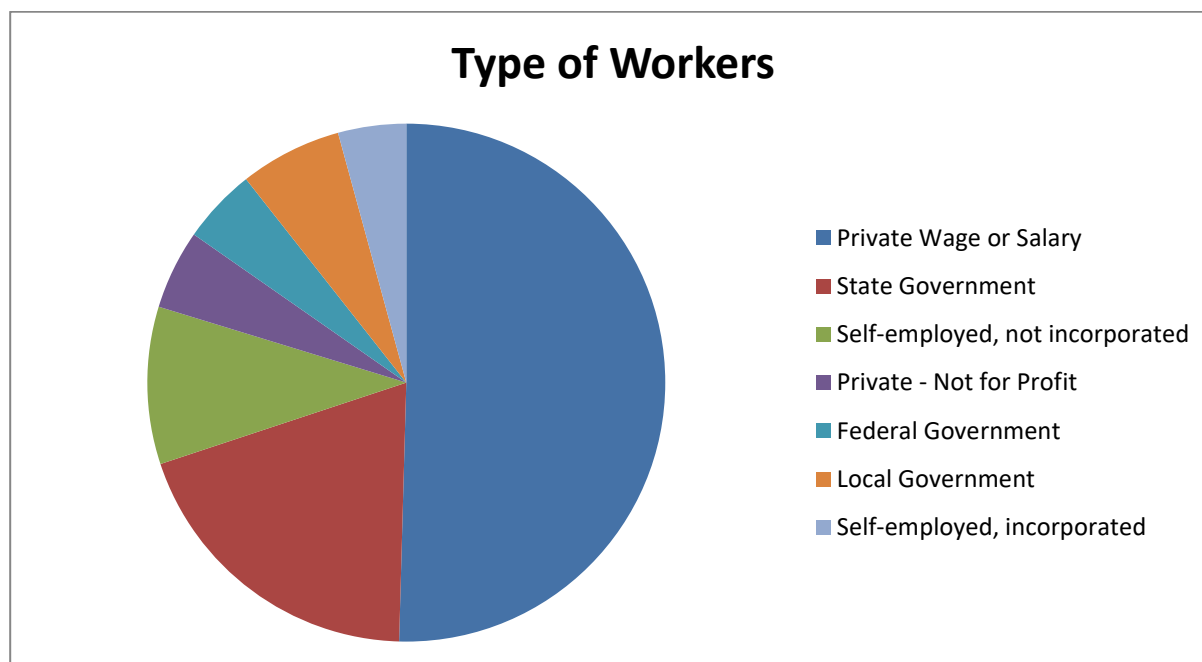
Industries providing employment for women:

- Office and administrative support occupations (23%)
- Management occupations (11%)
- Healthcare support occupations (11%)
- Educational instruction, and library occupations (10%)
- Sales and related occupations (8%)
- Food preparation and serving related occupations (7%)
- Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and other technical occupations (4%)



Type of workers:

- Private wage or salary
- Federal Government
- Self-employed, not incorporated
- Unpaid family work
- State government
- Local Government
- Self-employed, incorporated



Agriculture in Idaho County

Average size of farms: 963 acres

Average value of agricultural products sold per farm: \$53,163

Average value of crops sold per farm for harvested cropland: \$153.28

Average value of livestock poultry and their products sold per farm: 33.42%

Average value of nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod sold: 0.43%

Average total farm production expenses per farm: \$46,777

Harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 23.97%

Irrigated harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 0.41%

Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment per farm: \$81,943

The percentage of farms operated by a family or individual: 88.84%

Average age of principal farm operators: 57 years

Average number of cattle and calves per 100 acres of all land in farms: 5.31

Milk cows as a percentage of all cattle and calves: 1.02%

All wheat for grain: 70,936 harvested acres

Vegetables: 8 harvested acres

Land in orchards: 18 acres

The primary economic base is dry land farming and livestock production. Idaho County relies on precipitation to irrigate the crops and surface water sources or groundwater wells for livestock productions. Idaho County is heavily dependent on natural resource, especially agriculture and forest products. Ranching and farming remain one of the major industries of the area. Farm income remains a major factor in the spending power of the county residents.

Sources:

- http://www.city-data.com/county/Idaho_County-ID.html#ixzz1mObYU91f
- [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Idaho County, Idaho](#)
- Farm Services Agency – History of Reported Acreage – Idaho County, Idaho –Email File
- [Population of Counties in Idaho 2024 \(worldpopulationreview.com\)](#)

Section 3: Assessment

Soil Resources:

Soil Erosion

- Erosion occurs mainly during summer cloudbursts or as a result of winter runoff. Gully erosion occurs in cropland areas.
- Approximately 97,686 acres are highly erodible cropland and 94,399 acres are non-highly erodible.
- Past and present grants focus on cost share for conservation practices such as direct seeding, with the focus on reducing sediment delivery to the streams.
- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural measures reduce the amount of stream bank erosion.

Soil Quality

- 45 % of Idaho County acres have been adopted to no till/direct seed.
- We promote tillage and residue management practices that leave standing stubble during winter periods.
- Nutrient management practices are adopted to help reduce nitrates leaching into the ground water and surface water.
- Rotation of crops includes cover crops, legumes or green manure.

Water Resources:

Surface & Ground Water Supply & Demand

- Surface water is the pre-dominate water resource in the county.
- Idaho County ranks second in the state for miles of streams as well as second in the state for acres of water erosion.
- Approximately 2,457 miles of stream in the county with 149,700 acres of water erosion and there are 67 acres of lakes.
- Major uses of the surface water are for municipal, livestock, recreational and wildlife.

Flooding

- Flooding occurs on an unpredictable basis and is related to large storm events.
- Can occur in summer or winter.
- Flooding damage has become more of a problem in recent years, because of the increase in development along the creeks and rivers.

Surface Water Quality

- See section 5

Ground Water Quality

- Three ground water zones located in the District.
- Clearwater Plateau, Joseph Plains and the Elk City/Red River ground water zones.
 - Clearwater Zone considered generally suitable for domestic use, although levels of nitrate have been identified as elevated in specific areas.
 - Generally reported as suitable for domestic use although levels of nitrate have been identified as elevated in specific areas. These nitrate areas have been designated as a priority area and specific BMP's will be emphasized to prevent leaching of nitrates into the ground water. Agriculture, septic systems and waste management facilities are targeted for these BMP's.

- Dissolved lead and cadmium occasionally exceed primary drinking water standards and concentrations of dissolved manganese sometimes exceed the recommended secondary level.
- This zone usually yields only low quantities of water to wells and depths of groundwater vary considerable.
- Recharge is from downward percolation of precipitation and snowmelt, and from streams and lakes that intersect permeable zones within the basalt.
- There are some isolated high potential sources of groundwater.
- An estimated 15,000 people rely on this groundwater for their domestic water supply.
- Joseph Plains Zone lies to the south and west of the Salmon River Canyon
 - Yields to wells are probably low and depths to groundwater vary considerably.
 - Recharge is probably from downward percolation of precipitation and snowmelt.
 - Quality of groundwater is unknown but similar to that within adjacent basalt systems.
 - Estimated 250 people currently rely on the system for domestic water supply.
- Elk City and Red River groundwater systems are located in unconsolidated valley fill material.
 - Recharge is probably percolation of precipitation and snowmelt as well as runoff from surrounding upland and leakage from overlying streams.
 - Quality is suitable for domestic use.
 - Estimated 350 people utilize the system for domestic water supply.

Air Quality:

Air quality is worse during the fall when producers in Idaho County and neighboring counties burn bluegrass and other crop aftermath. Air quality is also affected by prescribed forest or wildfire burning by the USFS, BLM, IDL and private landowners.

- The District discourages crop residue burning, which can be seen within the no burning component of the program contracts.
- The District discourages chemical Drift while encouraging proper pest management in accordance with IPM regulations, while watching weather and wind to time the application of chemicals.
- The District encourages grass producers to follow the NPGP smoke management recommendations.

Forest Lands, grasslands, pasture, hayland and rangeland:

Forest lands

- There are approximately 237,400 acres of private forestland located throughout Idaho County.
 - Most has been logged at least once.
- Cutback on harvesting federal lands has created an impact on private lands with an increase in logging.
- An audit conducted by IDL in 1996 found that non-industrial private forests have far more departures from BMP's.
 - Inadequate stream protection zones, inadequately sized culverts, culverts that don't work, lack of road grading for drainage and poor skid trail drainage.

Conservation Needs

- Replanting of trees would help improve water quality, wildlife habitat and improve future growing conditions for renewable harvest.
- All BMP's for forest stand improvement; ie: pre-commercial thinning.

Pasture and Haylands

- Approximately 46,000 private acres of pasture and hayland.
- Hayland is located mostly on poorer, wetter soils which are renovated only when vigor and production decline.
- Most are managed properly with fertilizing and weed management.
- Pasture and hayland are not irrigated and there is generally only one cutting per season.
 - Approximately 76,394.82 acres are in alfalfa/grass hay.
- Erosion is generally not a problem.

Conservation Needs

- Coordinate with producers to develop grazing plans that preserve appropriate levels of groundcover.
- Incorporate BMP's, which encourage the use of no-till when renovating pastures, education programs, and encourage noxious weed control.

Rangelands

- Largest land use in Idaho County.
- Approximately 298,300 acres of private rangeland in the District.
- Most of the rangeland is located in the Salmon and Snake River canyons.
- Lower rangeland is grazed in the spring and fall, and livestock is moved to the higher elevations during the summer months.
- Government grazing allotments are available and used by some livestock operators during the summer months.
- Rangeland is steep and is low production per acre.
- Native grasses include blue bunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue, Prairie Three-Awn and Sand Drop seed.
 - Due to past overgrazing and noxious weed invasion, many of the desirable perennial grasses have been replaced with cheatgrass, yellow star thistle, medusa head, ventenata and other annuals.
 - Reseeding is very difficult, due to the steepness of the terrain.

Noxious Weeds

- Noxious weeds have been a threat to wildlife habitat in most of the county.
 - Weed Management Areas (WMA's) have been established in the Salmon River, Clearwater River and Joseph Plains areas.
 - Goals are to eradicate new invaders and prevent the spread of established weed species, such as yellow star thistle, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, rush skeletonweed, and ventenata.
- Participate in the EDRR program. (Early Detection Rapid Response Program) relative to new invaders.
- An ongoing active successful program is in place. Efforts have been successful at "Holding the Line" on new invaders such as: Black Henbane, Scotch Broom, Leafy Spurge, Russian Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed, Yellow Rocket, Vipers Bugloss, Johnson Grass, Round-leaf Cancer Wort.

Conservation Needs

- Implementation of BMP's, such as grazing and conservation plans, weed control, riparian protection, water developments, fencing and aerial reseeding are used on the majority of these lands.

Livestock production:

- Coordinate with producers to install Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's) and pasture management such as exclusion fencing, offsite watering, waste management facilities and riparian treatments and management of the proven predation and disruption of livestock by wolves and other predators.

Fish and Wildlife:

- Idaho County has been known for its large elk herd, which attracts hunters from around the U.S. Beginning in the 1990's, the elk herd drastically declined, due to declining habitat, loss of forage, and the reintroduction of wolves.
 - Other big game species: white tail deer, mule deer, moose, big horn sheep, mountain goats, black bear, mountain lion and wolves.
- Salmon, steelhead and bull trout have traditionally been an integral part of the county.
 - All of these species have been placed on the endangered species list or identified as species of concern.
 - With more acres being planted with either direct seed or minimum tillage, there has been and will continue to be a substantial reduction in the sediment load into the streams and rivers.
- Upland game birds include:
 - Blue grouse, ruffed grouse, mourning dove, and chukar which are holding their populations well.
 - Ringneck pheasant, Hungarian partridges, California Quail & Mountain Quail populations are low.
 - Goose and duck hunting in the county is poor.
 - Turkeys were introduced in the 60's and have continued to increase to the point they are found in almost all agricultural areas.

Threatened & Endangered Species

- Idaho County ranks number one in the state for the number of Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species.
 - Currently there are 9 species located within the County.
 - 28 species are listed as candidates for the Federal Candidate Species, Species of Concern and Watch Species.

Conservation Needs

- Education of farmers and ranchers of conservation practices that can benefit wildlife as well as their own operations.
- Continue the control of Noxious Weeds and support initiatives.
- Education programs and other common goal programs which will help improve wildlife.
- Decrease threats to threatened and endangered species.
- Improving stream habitat.
- Reducing sediment from getting into streams.

District Operations:

- The Idaho SWCD currently receives approximately \$10,000 annually from Idaho County and approximately \$30,531.80 (FY23) from the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission. The funds from the Commission include the \$8,500 base allocation, which is a base for all 50 Idaho Districts.
 - Funds received provide the District Administrator's salary, and also covers the costs of newsletters, tree catalogs, office supplies and reimbursements for Supervisor mileage.

- The Idaho SWCD employs one full time District Administrator that is covered with the allocated amounts.
 - The District Administrator is responsible for all District activities, annual tree program, newsletters, 6th Grade Field Day, Arbor Day, grant administration, keeping financial records and District files.
 - Technical support has primarily been provided by the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission Field Staff and secondary support supplied by District staff and by NRCS staff.
- Needs*
- Idaho SWCD is actively looking for various funding opportunities, so that we can reach more producers throughout Idaho County
 - The Idaho SWCD is actively looking for funding opportunities so we have enough work to employ a full time Conservation Planner, would also need funding for said Conservation Planner.
 - The Idaho SWCD would like to be able to provide health insurance and retirement for the District Administrator and other staff as needed, but have so far been unsuccessful due to lack of funding.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

- Poorly planned urban growth in agricultural areas.
- Limited availability of State and Federal funds for conservation.
- Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and environmental issues.
- Increased paper bureaucracy/red tape to getting the job done.
- Environmental trends to regulate agriculture.
- Cutbacks in state areas that affect contract employees.

Strategies to Address Trends

- Encourage the implementation of best management practices that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.
- Promote better outreach education-limit the amount of mailings and increase e-mail usage.
- 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.
- Strengthen locally led efforts.
- Supervisors become more informed on current issues impacting working lands, Farm Bill programs, and information from other agencies instead of relying solely on the NRCS Staff for information.
- Map noxious and invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts-partnership with Idaho County Invasive Weed Management.
- Establish a data base to track resource conditions.
- Host an open house to make and keep the public aware of the District's goals.
- Publish monthly PSA's in local papers on various topics.
- Solicit input to improve the Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan.
- Identify the information methods for communication with small land owners.
- Co-sponsor project proposals with other districts.
- Division II strategic planning.
- Training for Conservation District Supervisors and staff.
- Conduct public meetings for the watersheds with active TMDL implementation and assessment. (Cottonwood Creek, South Fork of Clearwater River, Lower-Salmon Hells Canyon, Lawyer Creek)

- Public service announcements.
- Conduct school conservation events and activities, such as Arbor Day, 6th Grade Field Day, IASCD poster and speech contests.
- Meet with U of I extension agent and participate in the Farm and Forest Fair, donating 300 tree seedlings for students in attendance.
- Promote the planting of trees and shrubs for conservation practices, by producing and distributing the annual tree catalog and selling trees ordered.
- Develop professional relations and partnerships with other agencies and the general public.
- Chair / plan/participate in annual Division II Grazing Conference.
- Idaho SWCD is actively looking for various funding opportunities, so that we can reach more producers throughout Idaho County.

Section 4: Identify and Prioritize Objectives

1. Water Quality – Improve water quality in the watersheds that are within the District’s boundaries.
 - Provide administrative support to the Watershed Advisory Groups that are active in the Idaho SWCD.
 - Improve water quality by decreasing the number of 303(d) streams within the District boundaries.
2. Non Irrigated Cropland – Reduce soil loss on cropland.
 - By promoting the use of conservation practices and the responsible use of chemicals on cropland.
 - Promote conservation plans which incorporate direct seed, increased crop residue percentage and other relative BMP’s.
 - Participate in and assist with a crop tour to demonstrate the benefits of direct seed and minimum till.
3. Animal Waste Management – To improve water quality.
 - Provide technical expertise to improve waste management operations.
 - Publish newsletter articles to inform and educate landowners about animal waste operations.
 - Encourage conservation plans that incorporate good waste management principles that enhance all environmental concerns and also the overall health of the livestock involved.
4. Rangeland – Improve rangeland for domestic livestock and wildlife, indirectly improving streams for fish habitat.
 - Decrease the number of acres of noxious weeds.
 - Encourage BMP’s on range lands.
5. Fish and Wildlife – Promote conservation practices that improve fish and wildlife habitat.
 - Annually conduct youth environmental education programs and increase participation in – speech contest, poster contest.
 - Sponsor a booth at the Idaho County Fair in August, postponing for 2018, will attend various other events/meetings and display our information there, we feel that we will reach more producers/landowners by attending these meetings.
 - On a bi-annual basis issue a newsletter with current and new information for the producers on the website and e-mail list.

Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map) Critical areas in the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District include but are not limited to the following watersheds.

6. TMDL’s
 - Lawyer Creek
 - South Fork of the Clearwater River
 - Cottonwood Creek
 - Three Mile/Butcher Creek
 - Lower-Salmon Hells Canyon
 - Rock Creek
 - Race Creek

Section 5: Water Quality Component

According to the NRCS Idaho Workload Analysis, approximately 66% or 591,244 acres of the non-federal acres in the county are located in 303(d) listed watersheds. The 303(d) watersheds are those watersheds that have 303(d) streams that have been identified through a DEQ process, to be impacted due to sediments and various pollutants. Idaho County has the largest number of impacted acres in the state.

Existing poor water quality conditions are primarily due to sediment and associated pollutants. Erosion and runoff carry soil particles, chemical fertilizers and pesticides and surface organic material out of fields and into road ditches and streams. These substances cause increased turbidity, biological oxygen demand (BOD) and nitrogen levels, which along with other biochemical imbalances have a negative effect on fish and aquatic populations. Other wildlife species may be adversely affected when a polluted stream is a key part of their habitat.

TMDL's reports have been done on South Fork Clearwater River, Lawyers Creek, Threemile/Butcher Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and the Lower Salmon Hells Canyon. Streams of concern located throughout the District are Deer Creek, Deep Creek, Rice Creek, Rock Creek, Graves Creek, Race Creek and Skookumchuck Creek in the western and southern portion of the county; Cottonwood Creek, Red Rock Creek, South Fork Cottonwood Creek, Threemile Creek, Butcher Creek, South Fork Clearwater River, Long Haul Creek, Shebang Creek, Stockney Creek on the Camas Prairie portion of the county and Lawyer Creek and Sevenmile Creek in the northern portion of the county. The waters that have a TMDL are listed below.

Wetlands have become an important issue for agriculture, with the passage of the 1985 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill states that if a farmer is receiving government payments, no wetlands will be destroyed to farm a piece of land. Wetland determinations have been made on a case-by-case basis. According to the NRCS Work Load Analysis, there are 12,900 acres of wetlands in the county.

Sections of land which are adjacent to or influenced by a body of water are designated as riparian zones. These are important for wildlife, recreation, and watershed management. Riparian buffers are encouraged by the District to help reduce flooding, stabilize streambanks, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

Pollutants in Idaho SWCD District waters:

- sediment
- nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen)
- temperature
- bacteria
- flow alteration
- habitat alteration

(Although flow and habitat are not TMDL pollutants, they are still pollution that can cause water to be listed as impaired)

Problems for Ground Water:

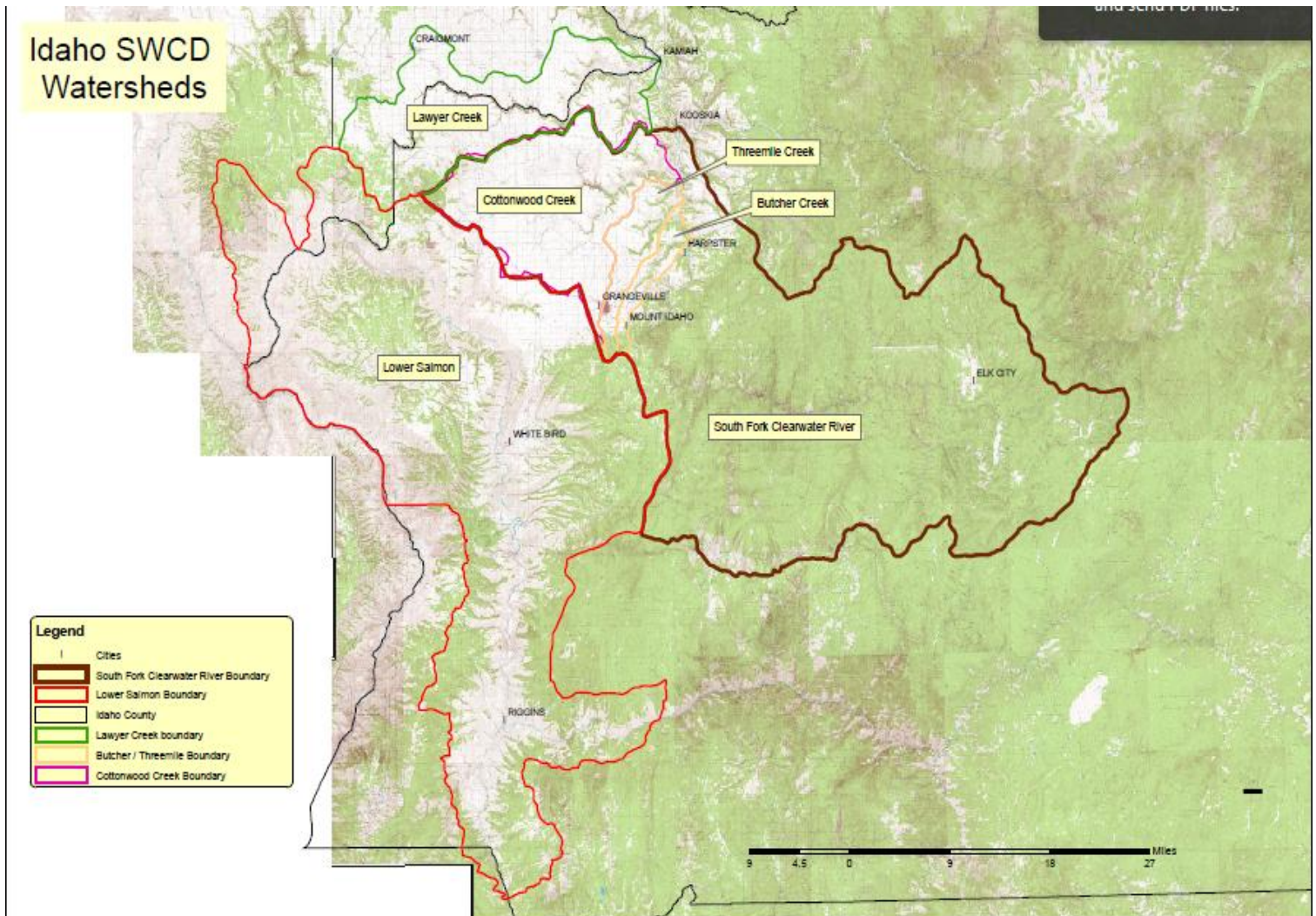
- nitrogen, both organic (waste) and inorganic (fertilizer)

Waters with TMDLs:

South Fork Clearwater River, Threemile Creek, Butcher Creek, Little Elk Creek, Big Elk Creek, Billy Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Allison Creek, Rice Creek, Rock Creek, Graves Creek, John's Creek, Deep Creek, Deer Creek, Wolf Creek and Divide Creek

The District is or will complete the following:

- identify waters with a TMDL
- identify waters that need a TMDL
- identify these waters on private lands



Section 6: Identify, Prioritize & Implement Projects

The Idaho SWCD will take action to address the goals set forth. We will maintain a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them and provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs.

- Idaho SWCD currently administers the following grants:
 - DEQ: Lower Salmon – BMP's for water quality and AFO projects
 - DEQ: Lawyer Creek - BMP's for water quality and AFO projects
 - DEQ: Lawyer Creek State Funding – BMP's for AFO projects
 - DEQ- Cottonwood Creek – BMP's for AFO projects
 - IDWR – Big Cedar Culvert Replacement – Replacing main culvert
- The Idaho SWCD participates and assists with Animal Feeding Operation projects.
- Idaho SWCD will continue to seek cost-share funding to control non-point source pollution and soil erosion.
- Continuously looking for funding in watersheds located throughout Idaho County.
- Continuously looking for funding to make available to AFO producers. The District has a wide range for these projects, that encompasses many watersheds, so it is difficult to focus the funding to any one specific watershed.
- The attached list of projects shows ones that we are currently aware of, but do not have funding for at this time. The Idaho SWCD is actively searching for funding for these projects.

Idaho County

Priority	Watershed	Project	BMPs	Status
	Mainstem Clearwater	Animal Feeding Improvements	water development, heavy use, fence,....	producer interested
	Lawyer Creek	Livestock BMP Improvements	water development, heavy use, fence,....	more producers interested
	SF Clearwater	Livestock BMP Improvements	heavy use, water development, access road...	several producers interested within watershed
	Lower Salmon	Livestock BMP Improvements	heavy use, water development, access road...	4 producers with interest
	Cottonwood	Herbicide Reduction BMP's	use tech to reduce herbice applications	
	Lawyer Creek	Ferdinand Hwy - Holmes Bridge replacement	replace bridge.	Enginerring done by JUB engineer. Also working with Central Hwy (Dale Lunders). Looking for funding.
	Rock Creek culvert Replacements	culvert replacement with Grangeville HWY in Rock Creek watershed	replace 15 culverts on rock creek (map has locations)	PCSRF Round 21 application denied
LOW	SF Clearwater River - Threemile Creek	Threemile Creek Water Quality Improvement	Bank and road stabilization for sediment reduction	USFWS assessment summer 2018. Low interest from landowners.
LOW	SF Clearwater	SFClearwater Stream Stabilization	CVHS - relocate pump house, barbs, plantings; Edwards - vegetative stabilization of bank that is eroding with possible rock and in-stream structures	Project has been planned. Need funding. Permitting, final designs. ~ \$400K. School has determined to go another direction from the plan with the district.
LOW	Middle Fork Clearwater	Clear Creek Shoulder Work	vegetated riprap, plantings, knotweed control	Road dept has minimal interest. Many other agencies have interest.
	Cottonwood / Lawyer	Cottonwood Butte WFM	fuels reduction	

The Idaho SWCD works with local schools to educate the youth about soil, water and other natural resources.

- September 2025 will bring the 36th Annual 6th Grade Field Day to the Grangeville Elementary School students and Sts. Peter and Paul students. Approximately 75 students from these schools participate in the campout that is held over three days. In-class presentations are given to the students the week before the campout by NRCS employees and other presentors at the campout, they include BLM, USFS (both current and retired). The campout is held at the Fish Creek dispersed site and the students get to enjoy camping out for two nights and learning about their surroundings and various classes which include: Plant ID, Challenge (Tree Climb), Compass, Archeaology, Water, Wildlife, Forestry, and Team Building (Spider Web).
- In the fall, the students in 4th-6th grade are given the opportunity to participate in the Annual IASCD poster contest.
- Fall also brings about the IASCD Annual Speech contest for high school students.
- Arbor Day, since 2023 Idaho SWCD has been donating 300+ trees to the farm and forest fair. These trees are handed out to students that participate in the fair, coming from Nezperce, Craigmont, Cottonwood, Kooskia, Kamiah, and Grangeville
- Scholarships and bussing local FFA students to the Grazing Conference, if there is participation from the FFA groups.

The Idaho SWCD also sponsors and organizes the following educational programs for farmers, ranchers, and anyone interested.

- 20th Annual North Central Idaho Grazing Conference will be held in January 2026 in Lewiston, Idaho. Participants come from all areas to enjoy the discussions, vendor show and provided lunch.
- Annual Tree program has been active since 1989. This program offers producers and landowners the option to purchase select trees from the District, either for conservation programs or landscape purposes. In the past couple of years, NRCS and FSA have used this program to acquire trees for producers that need to fulfill CRP and CSP requirements.
- Bi-Annual newsletters will be sent out via mail & e-mail. The Idaho SWCD hopes to also send out to those on the e-mail list.

Section 7: Implementation

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

- All 4th -6th grade students in the surrounding area schools will have had the opportunity by October 31st, to participate in the poster contest for Division II. Although available, the Idaho SWCD has not had success in getting local schools to participate in this contest for the past few years.
- All eligible high school students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation speech contest by October 31st. Although available, the Idaho SWCD has not had success in getting local schools to participate in this contest for the past few years.
- Each year in September, all sixth grade students in the Grangeville School District will have an opportunity to participate in the annual 6th Grade Field Day, dependent on weather and air conditions.
- In April, the Idaho SWCD donates seedlings to the Farm and Forest Fair to be handed out to students that are participating. These trees are donated in honor of Arbor Day.
- Each year the Idaho SWCD's mailing list will be updated to keep the information current and up to date.

District Operations Priorities, Goals:

- Retain Technical Assistance provided by ISWCC to assist with the planning, design and implementation of project funds through the District.
- Conduct public meetings as needed for the watersheds with active TMDL implementation and assessment. (Cottonwood Creek Watershed, South Fork Clearwater River Watershed, Little Salmon River Watershed, Lawyer Creek Watershed, Rock Creek Watershed, and the Race Creek Watershed)
- Promote the planting of trees and shrubs for conservation practices.
- Professionally administer grants for implementation of conservation best management practices.
- Dependent upon funding attend IASCD Division meetings and IASCD Annual Conference.
- Develop professional relations with other agencies and the general public.
- Improve Division wide project implementation.
- Encourage the implementation of best management practices that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.
- Conduct Conservation District elections during even numbered years.
- Present annual budget to the County Commissioners each spring.
- Schedule audit of the Fiscal Year activities in July, to provide financial accountability for funds administered through the District.
- Maintain an accurate accounting system with Quickbooks Pro.
- Explore alternative funding sources to meet conservation needs.
- Prepare monthly financial reports for the monthly Board meetings.
- Provide technical, educational and financial assistance to landowners and operators.
- Participate in Division II strategic planning.
 - Division wide forest land management.
 - Division wide fire recovery and prevention efforts.
 - Urban sprawl /agricultural interface.
 - Participate in the Division II Legislative Tour, when applicable.

Staffing Needs

- Full-time Conservation District Administrator with equitable professional salary and benefits.
- Conservation Planner/Technical support person, currently this position is empty, due to lack of funding and work availability.

Action	Begin Date	End Date

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify budget and staff needs and continue to pursue and research funding through different grant sources. 	7-2026	6-2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen relationships with legislators and partner agencies. 	7-2026	6-2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write articles for local newspapers and our website about different resource concerns and ways of addressing them. 	7-2026	6-2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue educating the public and youth about conservation and natural resources. Continue sponsoring the North Central Idaho Grazing Conference, Arbor Day, 6th Grade Field Day and Annual Tree Sale. 	7-2026	6-2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue District participation in annual meetings and training sessions about various programs etc., to keep the employees and producers up to date on current events. 	7-2026	6-2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish annual tree catalog each year and post on website a bi-annual newsletter. 	7-2025	6-2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect cropland from erosion through the implementation of BMP's. 	7-2026	6-2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to offer cost-share funding for Animal Feeding Operations and always encourage the development of nutrient management plans. 	7-2026	6-2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As needed, coordinate with NRCS to develop grazing plans that preserve/protect the appropriate levels of ground cover. 	7-2026	6-2030



FY2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

For Information Contact: Elaine Sonnen, Chairman

Telephone Number: 208-983-1046 x3

Website: idahocountyswcd.com

Counties Served: Idaho

Legislative Districts: 7



Board Members: Tom Gehring-Chairman, Lee Spencer- Vice Chairman, Ron Funke-Treasurer, Jinny Cash-Secretary, Lucas Arnzen-Member

District Administrator: Stefanie Hays

Mission of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

To focus available technical, financial and educational resources and coordinate them so they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources.

Trends & Issues Impacting Conservation in the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

Direct Seed Practices; Precision Farming; Population Growth/Urban Sprawl; Encroachment on flood plains resulting in property damage, wetland losses, and habitat losses; Surface Water Quality Degradation; Noxious Weeds; Pollution; Drought; Water Conservation; Endangered Species Act; Wetland Development; Wildfire; Fish & Wildlife; Animal Feeding Practices; Forest Improvement

Current Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed by the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District

319 Grants: Cottonwood Creek, Lower Salmon BMP, Lawyer Creek, Lawyer Creek Phase II

IIJA: Big Cedar Culvert Replacement Project

Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects Coordinated

Idaho County	District Operations-Base Budget	\$	10,000.00
State of Idaho	Base Funding-District Operations	\$	8,500.00
State of Idaho (2:1 match)	2:1 Match-District Operations	\$	20,000.00
319: DEQ	TMDL Implementation/admin	\$	580,000.00
IIJA	TMDL Implementation/admin	\$	247,000.00
<u>Total Possible Income</u>		\$	865,500.00



FY2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Work Plan Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

Priority Area Number 1: District Operations

Objective: Encourage the implementation/communication of best management practices that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

Goal: Information and education

Actions for FY2026	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Publish a bi-annual district newsletter.	Bi-annually	District Staff
1. Conduct public meetings for the watersheds with active TMDL implementation and assessment. (Cottonwood Creek Watershed , South Fork Clearwater River Watershed, Little Salmon River Watershed, Lower Salmon Hells Canyon Watersheds). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Participate with the South Fork Clearwater River WAG/Lower Salmon Hells Canyon WAG. b. Participate at public meetings/classes sponsored by the UI Extension Offices and grower meetings sponsored by the Ag Companies, Idaho County Invasive Plant Management. 	As Needed As scheduled	Stefanie Hays, Board Supervisors Board Supervisors District Staff, NRCS,SCC
1. Public service announcements: newspaper, radio.	As needed	District Staff, Supervisors
2. Conduct school conservation events and activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 6th Grade classrooms presentations and field day presentations. Approximately 75 students from two schools and 20-25 adults. Goal to expand to other school districts in Idaho County. b. Sponsor Annual IASCD Poster Contest. 	September Fall	District Staff, NRCS District Staff

<p>a) Distribute to eight schools (200+ students) educational materials.</p>	April	District Staff
<p>Goal: Promote the planting of trees and shrubs for conservation practices.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish the district conservation tree catalog (September) and receive orders from October to April. Catalogs available on website or by request. <p>Conservation tree program annual sales estimate \$5000.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Public service announcements promoting the conservation tree program. 3. Coordinate Arbor Day Activities. 4. Public service announcements promoting Arbor Day celebrations. 		
<p>Objective: Professionally administer the grants for implementation of conservation best management practices.</p>		
<p>Goal: Meet grant requirements for annual reports</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On time submission of payment requests to DEQ for the 319 Project. 	Monthly	District Staff
<p>Objective: Coordinate with various agencies.</p>		
<p>Goal: Improve Division wide project implementation.</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend IASCD Division meetings and IASCD Annual Conference. 	Spring/Fall	District Staff & Supervisors
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Promote I & E on conservation/agricultural easements. 	All year	Board Supervisors & Staff
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Review NRCS and SCC policies dealing with District Operations. 	All year	District Staff & Supervisors
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Coordinate with the county, state and federal agencies involved with conservation efforts. 	All year	Board Supervisors District Staff

Goal: Develop professional relations with other agencies and the general public.		
1. Conduct District Supervisor public elections on the county ballots.	Even numbered years	District Staff
2. Submit AWP/5YP/FY Budget by deadline.	March	Board Supervisors, Stefanie Hays
3. Schedule in July the financial audit and submit in September for SCC review.	July-August	Board Supervisors, Stefanie Hays
4. District staff performance evaluations.	October	Board Supervisors
5. District Staff will be encouraged to attend all pertinent training workshops that are deemed beneficial for professional administration of the district operations. Training can be through IDEA, NRCS, SCC, or LCSC, etc. classes and workshops.	All year	District Staff

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices.



FY2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Work Plan Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

Priority Area Number 2: Water Quality/Pre Fire Mitigation/Post Fire Recovery-Restoration

Objective: Improve water quality within the District Watersheds.

Goal: Provide support to all watershed TMDL's

Actions for FY2026	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtain landowner agreements to install BMP's in the sub-watersheds Lawyers Creek and the South Fork Clearwater River Watershed. Twelve annually. 2. Conduct public meetings for sign ups and implementation progress. Two sign up meetings/spring and one/fall tour. 3. Attend Clearwater BAG and WAG meetings as scheduled to provide progress reports of the TMDL Implementation for each drainage). South Fork Clearwater WAG - Stefanie Hays, (no scheduled meetings in 2024) Lower Salmon Hells Canyon WAG – (no scheduled meetings 2024) 	<p>All year</p> <p>As Needed</p> <p>Fall</p>	<p>Eileen Rowan, District Staff</p> <p>Board Supervisors, District Staff</p> <p>Board Supervisors, District Staff</p>
<p>Goal: Provide administrative support to the Watershed Advisory Groups that are active in the ISWCD.</p> <p>Provide administrative support as requested and budgeted for in the respective WAG/319 grants.</p>	<p>All year</p>	<p>District Staff</p>
<p>Objective: Improve water quality by decreasing the number of 303(d) streams in the district.</p> <p>Goal: Improve water quality on 303(d) listed stream</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BMP contracts continuing with practices through CY 2023 On-going 2. Encourage riparian buffers and grassed waterways with non-contracting landowners 3. Encourage road districts to plan and implement projects that reduce sediment runoff. 	<p>On-going</p> <p>All year</p> <p>All year</p>	<p>Board Supervisors, Private Participants, E. Rowan</p> <p>Board Supervisors, E. Rowan</p> <p>Board Supervisors, E Rowan</p>



FY2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Work Plan Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

Priority Area Number 3: Non Irrigated Cropland

Objective: To reduce soil and nutrient loss on cropland

Goal: Document soil and nutrient stability

Actions for FY2026	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. District newsletter will promote the use of conservation practices and the responsible and economical use of chemicals on cropland.	Bi-Annually	Board Supervisors, District Staff
2. Promote conservation plans which incorporate direct seed, increased crop residue percentage and other relative BMP's.	All year	Board Supervisors, NRCS, Co-operators, IASCD, ISCC
3. Participate in and assist with a crop tour to demonstrate the benefits of direct seed and minimum till.	TBD	Board Supervisors, NRCS, UI Ext. Service, Certified Crop Advisors, IASCD, ISCC, PNSDA

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices.



FY2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Work Plan Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

Priority Area Number 4: Animal Waste Management

Objectives: To improve water quality and enhance livestock and wildlife health

Goal: Work with landowners who have expressed an interest in developing and or improving an animal feeding operation.

Actions for FY2026	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Provide technical expertise to modify waste management operations. The supervisors listed have experience with feeding operations and they will give feedback to the technical representatives and assist with explanations to the landowners. The ISWCD will closely review each AFO/CAFO for design and cost effectiveness.	All year	Board Supervisors, NRCS, SCC, Idaho Dept. of Ag. Engineers, District Staff
2. Publish newsletter articles to inform and educate landowners about animal waste operations. Encourage conservation plans that incorporate good waste management BMP's.	Bi-Annually	District Staff

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices.



FY2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Work Plan Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

Priority Area Number 5: Rangeland

Objective: Improve rangeland for domestic livestock and wildlife, indirectly improving streams for fish habitat.

Goal: Decrease the number of acres of noxious weeds.

Actions for FY2026	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing support to the Weed Initiative and Idaho County Invasive Plant Management by providing technical assistance. Board members attend noxious weed training. (Employment with other agencies that have tasks involving weed management). Publish newsletter articles to educate the public on noxious weeds. Work in coordination with IDL, USFS, BLM and Clearwater RCDC on fire protection. Idaho County Disaster Management has developed a draft fire plan. 	<p>All year</p> <p>Publish weed management articles annually</p> <p>TBA</p>	<p>Board Supervisors District Staff</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>Board Supervisors District Staff</p>
<p>Goal: Encourage BMP's on range management.</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage rangeland BMP's. (Re-seeding, grazing plans, spring and or water developments) Publish newsletter articles to promote healthy grazing principals and utilization standards. Encourage riparian protection Division II Grazing Conference 	<p>All year</p> <p>Bi-annually</p> <p>All year</p> <p>Annual</p>	<p>Board Supervisors, NRCS SCC, IASCD, UI, Idaho County Weed Control</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>Div. II AFO, SCC NRCS, U of I, District Staff, Leon Slichter, Tom Gehring</p>
<p>Additional Priority Areas: Fish and Wildlife</p> <p>Objective: Promote conservation practices that improve fish and wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Goal: Public outreach and education.</p>		

Actions for FY2026	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and coordinate with other agencies in promoting the Weed Initiative and all wildlife Initiatives. 2. Coordinate with the IF&G on HIP projects. 3. Publish newsletter articles promoting the Clean Air Act (CAA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) which directly impacts the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and implementation of conservation practices to improve the quality of air and water. 	<p>All year</p> <p>Spring</p> <p>Bi-annually</p>	<p>Board Supervisors</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>District Staff</p>
<p>Goal: Consider new projects in the Little Salmon/Lower Salmon Hells Canyon River Basin.</p> <p>Sponsorship obligations and tasks to include indirect administration, provide feedback to the project sponsor, attend field tours to the project areas as scheduled and attend TAC meetings as scheduled.</p>	<p>All year</p>	<p>Board Supervisors</p>
<p>Additional Priority Areas: Woodlands</p> <p>Objective: Promote conservation practices that improve forested acres.</p> <p>Goal: Reduce soil loss and improve water quality.</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage forestry conservation and fire mitigation practices with private land owners. 2. We encourage pre-commercial thinning as a beneficial BMP. 3. Promote the planting of trees and shrubs through the district conservation tree sale program. 4. Sponsor public service announcements on the radio in the local papers, newsletter and on the website. 5. Coordinate Arbor Day Celebrations in the district. Most ISWCD communities already have a Tree USA committee, so the ISWCD generally coordinates with the City of Grangeville, including all Idaho County Schools. 6. Distribute USFS excess trees to landowners when available. There is no profit from this program, but acres are being reforested. 7. Continued monitoring of Carbon Sequestration issues. 	<p>All year</p> <p>All year</p> <p>All year</p> <p>Fall /Spring</p> <p>Feb-April</p> <p>May-June</p> <p>Yearly</p>	<p>Board Supervisors</p> <p>Board Supervisors and staff</p> <p>Stefanie Hays/Volunteers</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>District Staff, Local Schools, Board Supervisors</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>Idaho SWCD</p>

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

DISTRICT: Idaho SWCD

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2026

DUE :

2025

March 31,

CERTIFICATION

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

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



Board Supervisor Signature

Tom Gehring

Printed Name

2/14/2025

Date

208-507-2858

District Telephone

stefanie.hays@idahoswcd.org

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: