LEWIS SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

521 Oak Street, Room 8 Nezperce, ID 83543 208-480-3042



FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030

&

ANNUAL PLAN

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

(Revised March 2025)

Certificate of Adoption

The board of elected supervisors of the Lewis Soil Conservation District on March 4, 2025, does hereby approve the following document known as the Five – Year Plan. It will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2029, during which time it is updated annually and or amended, as necessary. As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do hereby affix our signatures to this document.

Contents

Forward	4
Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners	5
Section 1 - Physical Characteristics of the District	8
Section 2 - Economic Condition and Outlook of Lewis Soil Conservation District	11
Agriculture in Lewis County	11
Section 3 - Assessment	15
Soil Resources	15
Water Resources	15
Air Quality	16
Forest lands, grasslands, pasture, hay land and rangeland	16
Livestock production	16
Fish and Wildlife	16
Improving stream habitat	17
District Operations	17
Trends Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District	17
Strategies to Address Trends	17
Section 4 – Identify and Prioritize Objectives.	19
Section 5 - Water Quality Component	21
Section 6 - Identify and Prioritize Projects	23
Lewis County Projects Since 2003	24
District Operations Priorities	25
Section 7 - Implementation	26
FY 2026 (7/1/25 - 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work	27
FY 2026 (7/1/25 - 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work, Task 1	28
FY 2026 (7/1/25 - 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work, Task 2	29
FY 2026 (7/1/25 - 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work, Task 3	30
FY 2026 (7/1/25 - 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work, Task 4	31
FY 2026 (7/1/25 - 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work, Task 5	32
EV 2026 (7/1/25 - 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work Task 6	33

Forward

The Lewis Soil Conservation District (LSCD) is one of 50 conservation districts in the State of Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation districts are charged with conducting programs for the conservation, use and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

Conservation districts are the primary entities to assist 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 nonregulatory; science-based technical assistance, incentive—based financial programs and informational and educational programs at the local level.

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

This Five-Year Plan was developed to guide the LSCD, and 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 LSCD.

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

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

The following agencies work with the Lewis Soil Conservation District to conduct the Five-Year Plan. They participate in tours, workshops, and information and education meetings. They also provide technical assistance when the district needs information and are welcome to attend and contribute to the monthly LSCD meetings.

Lewis County Commissioners

Bureau of Land Management

Watershed Advisory Groups

Lewis County Weed Board

Winchester State Parks and Recreation

U. S. Forest Service

Clearwater RC& D

Farm Service Agency

Basin Advisory Groups

National Association of Conservation Districts

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

Idaho District Employees Association

Nez Perce Tribe

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Idaho Department of Agriculture

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Idaho Department of Lands

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service

Cities of: Craigmont, Nezperce, Reubens, Winchester, and Kamiah

Public School Districts of: Highland, Nezperce, and Kamiah

News Media: Lewis County Herald, Lewiston Morning Tribune, Cottonwood Chronicle, and Idaho

County Free Press

Key Decision Makers

- District elected board members: Jonathan Rosenau Chairman, Greg Branson Vice Chairman, Tyler Nelson – Secretary/Treasurer, Drew Leitch – Member, Conner McLeod – Member
- Lewis County Commissioners: Chairman Justin McLeod, Eric Hasselstrom, Mike Tornatore
- City of Nezperce elected official: Mayor Tyler Nelson
- City of Craigmont elected official: Mayor Jared Arnzen
- State Legislators representing District 6 Senator Dan Foreman, Representative Lori McCann, Representative Brandon Mitchell
- The producers and citizens in Lewis County
- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

Lewis Soil Conservation District Staff

Administrative Assistant: Janette Mendenhall



Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan

July 1, 2025- June 30, 2030 Lewis Soil Conservation District

For More Information Contact:

Jonathan Rosenau, District Board Chairman, 208-480-3042

Website: www.lewissoilconservationdistrict.weebly.com

Email: Lewisscd@outlook.com

Organization of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The Lewis Soil Conservation District (LSCD) is a political subdivision of the State of Idaho charged under the authorities, powers and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code with the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources on Idaho's private land.

The LSCD was officially organized on June 17, 1941, and is governed by a board of locally elected officials. These five supervisors are unpaid and serve a minimum four-year term. The LSCD encompasses Lewis County in North Central Idaho.

Function of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The function of the LSCD is to coordinate and deliver technical, financial, and educational assistance to landowners for responsible natural resources management that conserves and improves soil, water, air quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. Funding is provided primarily through county and state allocations with additional funds through grants. All District funds, regardless of source, are public funds and are accountable to the taxpaying citizens of Idaho.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) are principal sources of technical assistance provided to the District.

Who We Serve & Why

We serve the citizens of our community (county, state, country) to ensure the long-term use of natural resources in an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable manner using non-regulatory, voluntary approaches.

The LSCD provides technical assistance to landowners and operators in Lewis County in areas such as non-irrigated cropland, non-industrial private forestland, and rangeland management. We strive to provide local leadership in the conservation development and productive use of soil, water, and related resources to improve soil quality, soil health, water quality and long-term sustainability of the land. In addition to providing technical assistance to landowners in the district the other primary service is to inform and educate the public. We provide numerous educational programs to the schools within the District.

Mission of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The LSCD is dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.

Vision of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The LSCD works towards conserving and enhancing resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) for the economic and environmental benefit of the present and future generations of Lewis County. The LSCD is recognized by all private landowners as a source of financial, technical, and educational assistance in Lewis County, and by local, state, and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities.

Values of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The LSCD values the resources of Lewis County. We are dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound best management practices (BMPs). We promote clean water and productive soil. The District strives to ensure that local people make decisions on conservation problems at the local level. The District supports and encourages the use of BMPs and Resource Management Systems (RMS) on agricultural lands within the District to control soil erosion and improve water quality. We value and have respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership. We function as a catalyst to bring people and programs together, to bring about a quality way of life, a quality resource base, and a quality environment.

It is important to protect our resources for our benefit and the benefit of future generations.



Section 1 - Physical Characteristics of the District







The cities located within the county are Nezperce, Craigmont, Kamiah, Winchester and Reubens. Neighboring counties are Nez Perce to the west, Clearwater to the north and Idaho to the south. Lewis County consists of 480 square miles made up of private, federal, state, and tribal lands. Most of Lewis Soil Conservation District is located within the Nez Perce Indian Reservation. There are sixteen streams within Lewis County. All streams are tributaries of the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers.

Critical Geographic Areas

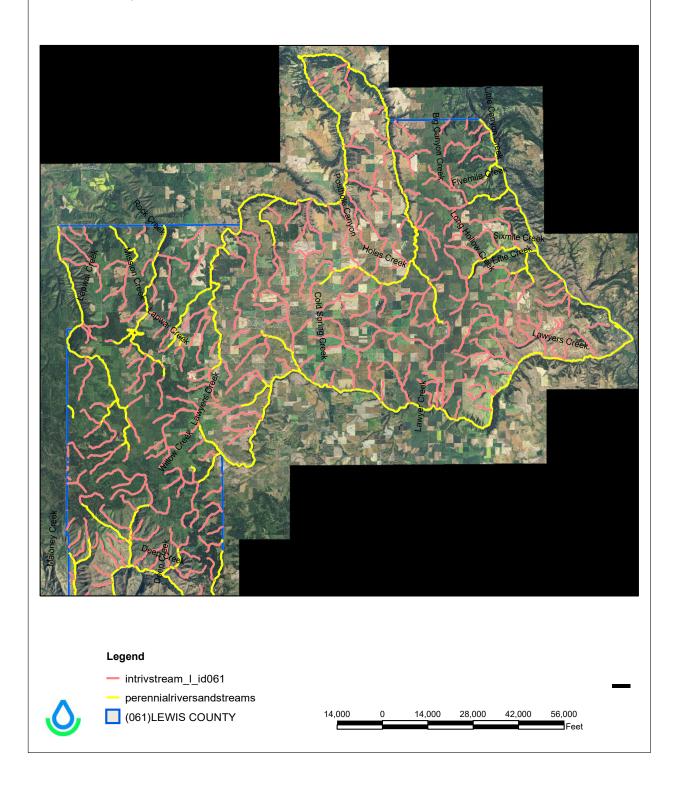
Lewis County is located on a high plateau sloping towards the east and south. Deep canyon bottoms form the north, east and south boundaries of the district, making the area a distinct physiographic unit. The district is characterized by a moderately undulating to strongly rolling plateau that has been cut into blocks by deeply entrenched streams. Lewis County has approximately 93,000 acres of highly erodible cropland. Elevations vary from about 1,000 Mean Sea Level (MSL) along the Clearwater River to approximately 4,600 MSL at Mason Butte. Most of the plateau is 3,000 to 3,500 feet elevation. Slopes on the agriculture land rarely exceed 30 percent with the majority ranging from 5 to 15 percent.

Lewis Geology

According to the USGS geology maps approximately 85% of Lewis County geology is basalt flows from the Middle Miocene flood-basalt flows forming from the Columbia River Plateau. These flows are characterized by fine crystalline rocks, often exposed on upper slopes. The Blue Mountain Complex flows, characterized by Quartz diorites and granodiorites, make up another 10% of the geology in Lewis County.

Field Office: Nezperce Agency: NRCS

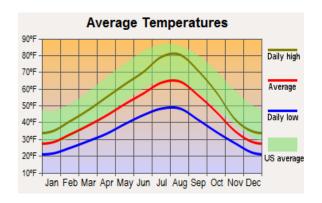
District: Lewis Soil Conservation District

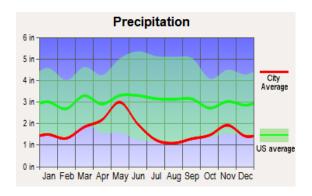


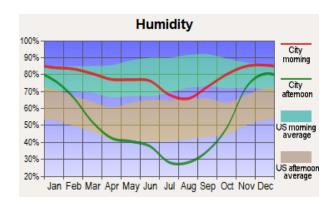
Average Climate in Nezperce, Idaho

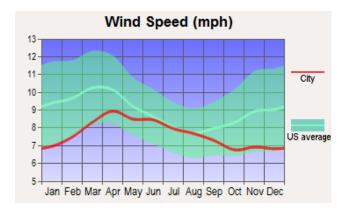
Lewis County precipitation averages 18-28 inches per year. The average ground snow depths for January range from 8-10 inches. Snow is usually melted from the area by early April. On average, there are 169 sunny days per year in Lewis County, ID.

Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations

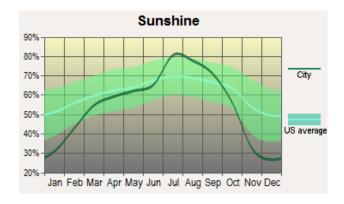












Sources

- http://www.city-data.com/city/Nezperce-Idaho.html#ixzz1n986XSwp
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis County, Idaho
- http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Idaho/Publications/County Estimates/index.asp

Section 2 - Economic Condition and Outlook of Lewis Soil Conservation District

The population in Lewis County according to the 2020 census is 3533 Land Area – 478.8 square miles. Homeownership Rate – 73.4% Median Household Income 2021-2022 - \$46,484 Lewis County is the 4th least populated county in the state.

Most common industries of Lewis County

- Educational, Healthcare, and social assistance (22.2%)
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining (13.4%)
- Construction (11.1%)
- Manufacturing (10.5%)
- Public administration (6.8%)

Agriculture in Lewis County

Number of farms: 219

Average size of farms: 468 acres

Average value of agricultural products sold per farm: \$302,476 Average value of crops sold per acre for harvested cropland: \$2866

The value of livestock, poultry, and their products as a percentage of the total market value of

agricultural products sold: 5.91%

Average total farm production expenses per farm: \$266,105 Harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 75%

Average market value of all machinery and equipment per farm: \$175,951

The percentage of farms operated by a family or individual: 89%

Average age of principal farm operators: 56 years

Average number of cattle and calves per 100 acres of all land in farms: 1.99

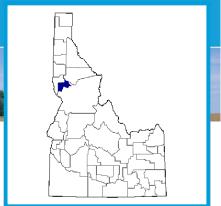
The primary economic base is dryland farming and livestock production. Lewis County relies on precipitation to irrigate the crops and surface water sources or groundwater wells for livestock production. Lewis County is heavily dependent on natural resources, especially agriculture and forest products.

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. The county ranks 23rd in the State for agricultural products sold.

SCENSUS OF County Profile



Lewis County Idaho



Total and Per Farm Overview, 2022 and change since 2017

	2022	% change since 2017
Number of farms	219	+11
Land in farms (acres)	249,015	+24
Average size of farm (acres)	1,137	+12
Total	(\$)	
Market value of products sold	76,489,000	+102
Government payments	9,427,000	+222
Farm-related income	15,071,000	+266
Total farm production expenses	70,617,000	+109
Net cash farm income	30,370,000	+176
Per farm average	(\$)	
Market value of products sold	349,264	+82
Government payments ^a	63,271	+198
Farm-related income ^a	117,745	+274
Total farm production expenses	322,453	+88
Net cash farm income	138,677	+148

Percent of state agriculture sales

Share of Sales I	by Type (%)	
Crops		(D)
Livestock, poultry,	and products	(D)
Land in Farms I	by Use (acres)	
Cropland		167,431
Pastureland		38,416
Woodland		38,451
Other		4,717
Acres irrigated: 3	79	
	(Z)% of land	in farms
Land Use Pract	ices (% of farms)
No till		28
Reduced till		21
Intensive till		15
Cover crop		5

Farms by Value of Sales			Farms by Size		
	Number	Percent of Total b		Number	Percent of Total b
Less than \$2,500	83	38	1 to 9 acres	6	3
\$2,500 to \$4,999	7	3	10 to 49 acres	29	13
\$5,000 to \$9,999	9	4	50 to 179 acres	54	25
\$10,000 to \$24,999	10	5	180 to 499 acres	31	14
\$25,000 to \$49,999	21	10	500 to 999 acres	34	16
\$50,000 to \$99,999	7	3	1,000+ acres	65	30
\$100,000 or more	82	37			

SCENSUS OF County Profile

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

		Rank	Counties	Rank	Counties
	Sales	in	Producing	in	Producing
T-4-1	(\$1,000)	State c	Item	U.S. ¢	Item
Total	76,489	22	44	1,627	3,078
Crops	(D)	19	44	1,056	3,074
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, dry peas	60,813	13	42	849	2,917
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	267
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	647
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes	-	-	41	-	2,831
Fruits, tree nuts, berries	(D)	31	36	(D)	2,711
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod	(D)	34	42	(D)	2,660
Cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation					
woody crops	-	-	8	-	1,274
Other crops and hay	(D)	25	44	273	3,035
Livestock, poultry, and products	(D)	41	44	(D)	3,076
Poultry and eggs	5	32	44	2,182	3,027
Cattle and calves	(D)	37	44	(D)	3,047
Milk from cows	-	-	30	-	1,770
Hogs and pigs	(D)	(D)	40	(D)	2,814
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, milk	(D)	(D)	44	(D)	2,967
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, donkeys	(D)	(D)	44	(D)	2,907
Aquaculture	-	-	21	-	1,190
Other animals and animal products	(D)	34	43	(D)	2,909

Producers d	388	Percent of farms	s that:	Top Crops in Acres •	
Sex Male Female	235 153	Have internet access	79	Wheat for grain, all Field and grass seed crops, all Canola Chickpeas, all	76,391 15,807 12,426 9,859
Age <35 35 – 64 65 and older	30 184 174	Farm organically	-	Forage (hay/haylage), all	7,797
Race American Indian/Alaska Native Asian Black or African American	4 -	Sell directly to consumers	1	Livestock Inventory (Dec 31, 2022) Broilers and other	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander White More than one race	384 -	Hire farm labor	34	meat-type chickens Cattle and calves Goats Hogs and pigs	(D) 4,502 (D) 33
Other characteristics Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin With military service New and beginning farmers	- 28 124	Are family farms	94	Horses and ponies Layers Pullets Sheep and lambs Turkeys	161 211 46 (D) (D)

^a Average per farm receiving. ^b May not add to 100% due to rounding. ^c Among counties whose rank can be displayed. ^d Data collected for a maximum of four producers per farm. ^e Crop commodity names may be shortened; see full names at www.nass.usda.gov/go/cropnames.pdf. ^f Position below the line does not indicate rank. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (NA) Not available. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. (-) Represents zero.

	Lew	is/Clearwater County 20	20 Reported	Acres		
Category	Crop	Туре	Acr	es Clearwater	Sub-Total	Total
			Lewis 63,780.9			
	Wheat	Soft White Winter	19,505.8	3,895.4 727.4		
		Soft White Spring Hard Red Winter	988.6	314.9		
Constl Cosins			470.7	732.1	00 415 9	
Small Grains		Hard Red Spring			90,415.8	
	Barley	Spring Hulless	7,138.3 0.0	86.6 0.0	7 225 0	
	Oats	Hulless	1,008.6	0.0	7,225.0 1,008.6	
	Buckwheat		287.1	0.0	287.1	
	Total Small G	roino			207.1	09.026
	1	Winter	93,180.0 4,125.0	5,756.4 0.0		98,936.4
Oilseeds	Canola		10,178.7	763.1	15 066 9	
	Flov	Spring COM	319.7	0.0	15,066.8 319.7	
	Flax					
	Mustard	Yellow	0.0	0.0	p.c	4# 206 4
	Total Oilsee	eds	14,623.5	763.1	2.060.6	15,386.5
	Lentils		3,069.6	0.0	3,069.6	
	Dry Peas	Austrian Winter	1,048.0	0.0	4.022.0	
Legumes	_	Green	3,573.2	212.7	4,833.8	
59460	Beans	Adzuki	0.0	0.0	0.0	
		Garbanzo (GAS)	199.2	0.0		
		Garbanzo (GAR)	6,023.5	0.0	6,222.7	
	Total Legur		13,913.4	212.7		14,126.1
	Hay	Alfalfa	3,262.4	27.6		
		Alfalfa Mix	1,722.3	394.4		
		Grass Mix w/ Alfalfa	1,885.9	188.0		
		Interseeded Grasses	2,419.9	2,281.3		
		Native Grass	572.5	69.4		
		Timothy	616.7	539.9		
Forage		Brome	103.1	136.1		
		Fescue	110.1	0.0		
		Orchard Grass	213.5	20.0		
		Oat / Barley/ Mixed Grain Hay	1,341.4	294.9		
		Other	706.3	0.0	16,905.6	
	Grazing	Cropland	4,852.9	1,249.0		
		Non-Cropland	41,098.5	13,802.1	61,002.4	
	Total Forag	ge	58,905.4	19,002.7		77,908.0
	Grass	Bluegrass, Kentucky	17,776.2	646.2		
		Brome	76.3	34.7		
		Crested Wheatgrass	278.3	0.0		
		Intermediate Wheatgrass	98.9	0.0		
		Fescue	533.8	89.9		
		Idaho Fescue	281.8	0.0		
		Orchard Grass	96.2	0.0		
Seed Crops		Blue Bunch Wheatgrass	52.8	0.0		
		Siberian Wheatgrass	16.1	0.0		
		Perennial Rye	76.5	0.0		
		Inter-seeded Grass Mix	75.4	0.0		
		Small Burnett	7.4	0.0	18,422.4	
	Clover	White	38.3	0.0	38.3	
	Flowers		0.0	0.0	0.0	
	Nursery		190.5	0.0	190.5	
	Total Seed C	rops	19,598.2	770.8		20,369.0
	CRP	Ī	5,662.5	1,173.5	6,836.0	
	Wetland Reserve		0.0	96.0	96.0	
	Left Standing		1,101.7	289.9	1,391.6	
Other	Prev Planting		236.4	0.0	236.4	
30101	Trees		32.3	9.6	41.9	
	Wildlife Food Plot		26.6	7.0	33.6	
	Falow		8,723.6	1,213.1	9,936.8	
	Total Othe	er	15,783.1	2,789.1	- ,	18,572.
	Total reported b		216,003.5	29,294.7		245,298.2
	Total Teported b	, county	£10,003.5	27,27 1 ./		Z TO ;Z90.2

Section 3 - Assessment

Soil Resources

Soil Erosion

- Erosion occurs mainly because of winter runoff from snow melting and rainfall on frozen saturated soils. Gully erosion occurs in cropland areas.
- Approximately 47,954 acres are non-highly erodible cropland, and 93,015 acres are highly erodible cropland.
- Water quality projects have reduced soil erosion in cropland areas.
- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural practices reduce the amount of stream bank erosion.
- Erosion occurring on range and forest lands is often the result of improper grazing and improper road development and maintenance.
- The LSCD seeks funding sources for cost sharing the installation of BMPs.
- The LSCD encourages producers to properly manage riparian areas.
- Soil health is encouraged.
- Host soil health workshop.

Soil Quality

- Eighty percent of Lewis County acres have been adopted to no-till/direct seed.
- The LSCD promotes tillage and residue management practices that leave stubble standing during winter months, which is the critical erosion period.
- The LSCD encourages crop rotation which includes cereal, legumes, mustards, cover crops and perennial crops.
- The LSCD hosts cover crop demonstrations to enhance the soil microbiology, nutrient availability, and soil health.
- The LSCD uses the soil survey which is useful in the conservation, development and productive use of soil, water, and other resources.

Three broad groups of soil occur within the District:

- Medium and moderately course textured soil on terraces and valley floors (1% of District)
- Silty soils on Plateaus (60% of the district)
- Fine to moderately course textured soils containing rich fragments, and canyon slopes (39% of the district)

Water Resources

The water resources within Lewis County vary widely in quality and quantity from year to year. Surface at times can be very poor. Spring and winter runoff and thunderstorms contribute a significant amount of sediment to creeks in the area.

- The majority of the LSCD jurisdiction is in the Camas Prairie High Nitrate Priority Area.
- Applying split fertilizer helps the water quality and crop production.
- Precision agriculture is used to decrease nutrient and chemical application in areas where they are not needed.

- Nutrient management practices are adopted to help reduce nitrates leaching into the ground water and surface water.
- Most rural residents rely on septic systems and drain fields to treat their wastewater. The LSCD offers cost share to repair failing septic systems.
- Livestock watering systems and pipelines are primary uses of surface water in the agricultural sector.
- BMPs are offered through cost share programs to enhance the surface water quality.

Air Quality

Air quality is worse during the fall when producers burn bluegrass and other crop residue.

- The LSCD encourages grass producers to follow the NPGP smoke management recommendations.
- The LSCD encourages producers to maintain and manage crop residue by adopting no-till and reduced tillage systems rather than burning grain stubble.

Forest lands, grasslands, pasture, hay land and rangeland

- Forestland erosion occurs mostly on skid trails, landings, and roads.
- Forestlands and interface areas provide important habitat for many species of birds and mammals.
- The LSCD coordinates with producers to develop grazing plans that leave appropriate amounts of vegetation.
- Hay is used as part of a crop rotation in many areas.
- The LSCD encourages control of noxious and invasive weeds.
- Fire prevention and restoration strategies increase forest health, reduce erosion, and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.
- The LSCD endorses forestry practices that minimize erosion and retain shading for streams.
- The LSCD promotes fuels reduction to minimize the risk of catastrophic fires.

Livestock production

The LSCD encourages producers to install Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) and pasture management systems including exclusion fencing, offsite watering, waste management facility and riparian treatment.

Fish and Wildlife

According to old-timers, fish numbers have decreased over the years. Lewis County is home to a diverse array of fish and wildlife species. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 directs all federal agencies to implement measures to protect all federally listed species found in the project area. The LSCD has many listed or threatened species within the district boundaries. The presence of these species greatly affects farming and ranching communities. While they often bring federal funds to the district for project administration, they also bring the federal "nexus" for ESA consultation for these projects.

- Decrease threats to threatened and endangered species (T&E)
- The LSCD addresses salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.
- Conceivably all land in the county could be used for wildlife, but it is not currently economically feasible.
- Preserve wildlife.

Improving stream habitat

- Reducing the amount of sediment, pathogens and nutrients entering streams, and increasing shade improves fish habitat.
- Lewis County streams provide habitat for salmon and steelhead, including populations that are listed as threatened and endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

District Operations

- Budget cuts are a big concern of the district.
- Generate operational funds through limited funds from the county and state.
- Actively looking for grants to provide financial help to landowners installing conservation practices on their land.
- Cooperate with units of local, state, federal and tribal government.
- Maintain staff to have a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them to provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs.
- Have a good working relationship with partner staff personnel.
- Maintain district records.
- Retain the technical assistance provided to us from ISWCC.
- Dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound management practices.
- Publish two newsletters throughout the year reaching over 200 households.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District

- Continued reduction in funding which further reduces the district's efforts to be effective in conservation.
- Limited technical support is available from the ISWCC.
- Limited funding through grants which impact getting conservation on the ground.
- No-till/direct seed to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion.
- Soil pH is affecting crop yields.
- Pest management to reduce pesticides leaching into the groundwater quality.
- Animal feeding operations to improve surface water and ground water quality.
- Wildfires.
- Forest health to improve forest health, fire restoration, reduce disease and erosion.
- Invasive species and weeds need to be addressed and controlled.
- Soil erosion

Strategies to Address Trends

- Actively looking for new and innovative ways for funding, i.e., grants, projects, highway districts, so we can reach more producers in Lewis County.
- Raise awareness of conservation values with the state legislature and elected officials. Help our decision makers be better informed.
- Hold informational meetings to inform producers of programs available for cost share.
- ISWCC helps to monitor grant projects after funding becomes available.

- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural measures are used to reduce the amount of stream bankerosion.
- Use management practices to reduce the chance of fire and lessen the effects of fire.
- Increase awareness of forestland management. Work with the Idaho Department of Lands.
- Lead voluntary implementation of conservation efforts.
- Supervisors to become more informed of current issues impacting working land, Farm Bill programs.
- Implementation of water quality and water quantity projects to improve fish passage and habitat within the district to help address ESA issues.
- Actively seeking additional funding through grants, 319, IDL, NRCS, ISWCC, Idaho Fish and Game.
- Educate landowners on ways to reduce fire risks.
- Inform interested landowners regarding cover crops, crop rotation, residue management, sustainable forest practices, and invasive weed treatment.
- Encourage landowners to participate in EQIP and RCPP programs to use conservation measures to reduce sheet and rill erosion and address soil health.



Section 4 – Identify and Prioritize Objectives

District funding

State of Idaho Funding

- Provides \$8,500.00 for their base of operations.
- 2:1 Match \$10,699.36
- Special allocation \$6,000.00
- Funding supported from Lewis County \$8,000.00

Promote forestry practices

Strategic planning to address critical issues

- Improve plant health
- Manage organic debris
- Reduce the area of forested land having a high departure from natural fire regime.
- Tree and shrub establishment reduces sediment load
- Encourage producers to effectively manage fire zones, and create fire-resistant landscapes
- Collaborate with public land management agencies
- Prevent or stop the spread of exotic insects and disease

Promote soil health and nutrient management practices

Assist landowners with implementing BMPs

- Encourage livestock producers to develop pasture, grazing and nutrient management plans
- Implement animal feeding management operations and pasture BMPs
- Reduce nutrient, bacteria, and sediment delivery to Lawyer Creek
- Implement residue and nutrient management and cover crops BMPs
- Implement riparian restoration, fencing, planting & weed control BMPs
- Improve nutrient use efficiency through proper timing, placement, rate, and application of crop nutrients
- Organized soil health meetings

Improve surface and groundwater quality

Work with landowners to reduce nutrient and sediment loading and improve habitat conditions for fish

- Follow U of I fertilizer guide to avoid over application of fertilizer
- Work with producers to help reduce nitrates in the groundwater
- Implement residue and nutrient management BMP's on $\approx 6,990$ acres
- Work toward decreasing sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in Lawyer and 5 Mile/6 Mile Creeks by assisting landowners with implementing BMP's

Environmental Information and Education

The District encourages a strong effective public outreach program. Annually the District works with the youth in different activities to educate them. We also work with adults to assist them with conservation practices and needs.

- Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District (IASCD) poster contest for students in 4-6 grades in Nezperce and Highland schools
- Work with students, schools, and cities in planting trees for Arbor Day
- ISWCC, NRCS, Department of Land, Nez Perce Tribe, Western Forest Systems, Idaho Fish and Game provide educational workstations during the 6th Grade Field Day at Winchester State Park with about 110 youth participating.
- Worm Races teaching K-2 about earth worms and soils
- Annual fair booth display
- Coordinate with the U of I Cooperative Extension to sponsor an annual Crop and Conservation Tour
- Held educational meetings informing people the importance of soil health
- Assist U of I and FFA with soil judging contest



Section 5 - Water Quality Component

Much of the current workload being completed by the Lewis Soil Conservation District has been to assist private landowners, predominantly the agricultural base, addressing the requirements of the CleanWater Act.

The Federal Clean Water Act requires that states and tribes restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. States and tribes must adopt water quality standards necessary to protect fish, shellfish, and wildlife, while providing recreation in and on the waters whenever possible.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act establishes requirements for states and tribes to identify and prioritize water bodies that are water quality limited (i.e., water bodies that do not meet water quality standards). States and tribes must periodically publish a priority list of impaired waters, currently every two years. For waters identified on this list, states and tribes must develop water quality improvement plans known as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) that establish allowable pollutant loads set at levelsto achieve water quality standards.

The critical areas of projects focus on cropland acres, animal feeding areas, pastures, and riparian areas. Sediment and bacteria loading were the two largest pollutants. The practices that will be implemented will be practices that have a past record of decreasing these pollutants. As resource concerns are identified, the established BMPs to target the pollution source are designed and installed.

LSCD is working with producers towards water quality goals. Groundwater pollution is a major public concern. In the past, we had §319 grants to assist with repairing failing septic systems and capping abandoned wells.

Pollutants in LSCD waters:

- sediment
- nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen)
- temperature
- bacteria

Problems for Ground Water:

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

Waters with TMDLs:

- Winchester Lake
- Lapwai Creek
- Lawyer Creek

The District is or will be implementing BMPs:

- For creeks where TMDLs will be developed (Integrated Report Category 5),
- For creeks with a TMDL (Category 4), and
- Ground Water Nitrate Priority Areas (Camas Prairie Nitrate Priority Area)

Lewis County - Projects in need of funding

Priority	Watershed	Project	BMPs	Status
1	Lewis County	Lewis County Soil Health - Phase 3	Nutrient management and pest management technology practices	250k min. WQPA, State Ag
2	Lewis County	Water Quality Improvements	AFO work, access roads, sed basins, plantings, fence	250k min. 319, state ag, WQPA (15 producers)
3	Lawyer Creek/Clearwater River	Kamiah Foothills and Clearwater Face	Fuels reduction, firewise	240K, 8 producers signed up
4	Big Canyon/Little Canyon	Fisher Fire Culvert Replacements	23 culvert - replacements, upgrades, realignments - working with local road department	Base engineering done, local road department will install as match. Need roughly \$10K/culvert.
5	Big Canyon/ Lawyer Creek/ Clearwater River	Fire Access	Access roads, fuel breaks to provide access into areas with heavy timber.	Need to identify landowners
6	Lewis County	Concentrated Flow BMP Implementations	Sediment basins, gully plugs, grass waterways,	Need to identify landowners

Current Grants:

Watershed	Project	BMPs	Status
Lewis County	Lewis County Regenerative Ag	Public Outreach, nutrient management	Funded \$24,000
Western Lewis County	IDL WSFM Winchester Phase 3	Fuels reduction	Funded \$230,000

Immediately past projects:

Big Canyon / Little Canyon	Big Canyon Slope Stabilization and Erosion control	Plantings, slope stabilization, gully plugs, grassed waterways	319 Grant received. Started October 2021.
Lewis County	Lewis County Soil Health, Phase 1, and 2	Improve nutrient uptake, microbial activity in soils for soil health.	Funded - State Ag and WQPA
Lawyer/Big Canyon	Lewis Co AFO (WQPA)	Focus on water quality issues from cattle	Funded - WQPA
Clearwater River	Clearwater Face Drainages (Fivemile-Sixmile Erosion Control)	sed basins, gully plugs, tree plantings,	Completed project June 2020.
Sixmile	Alpine Road IWRB	Culvert replacement	Completed 2021.
Lawyer Creek	AFO - winter feeding	Fence, water, heavy use, manure mgt	State Ag Funds received July 2020 through June 2021. Phase 2 Sept 2021 to June 2022
Upper Lapwai	Western Fire Managers Fuels Reduction	Reduce fuels to decrease risk of fire	Completed Phase 1 December 2020. Phase 2 completed Fall 2022. Phase 3 proposal submitted March 2023.
Upper Lapwai	Teide Road IWRB	Culvert replacement	Completed Fall 2022

Section 6 - Identify and Prioritize Projects

The LSCD designs Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address non-point source pollutants. Some of the BMPs include nutrient management, pest management, water developments, pipelines, fencing, pasture plantings, forestry practices, cover crop plantings, stream crossing, erosion control, windbreaks, direct seed/no till, septic repair, cap abandoned wells, roof runoff, gully plugs and many more.

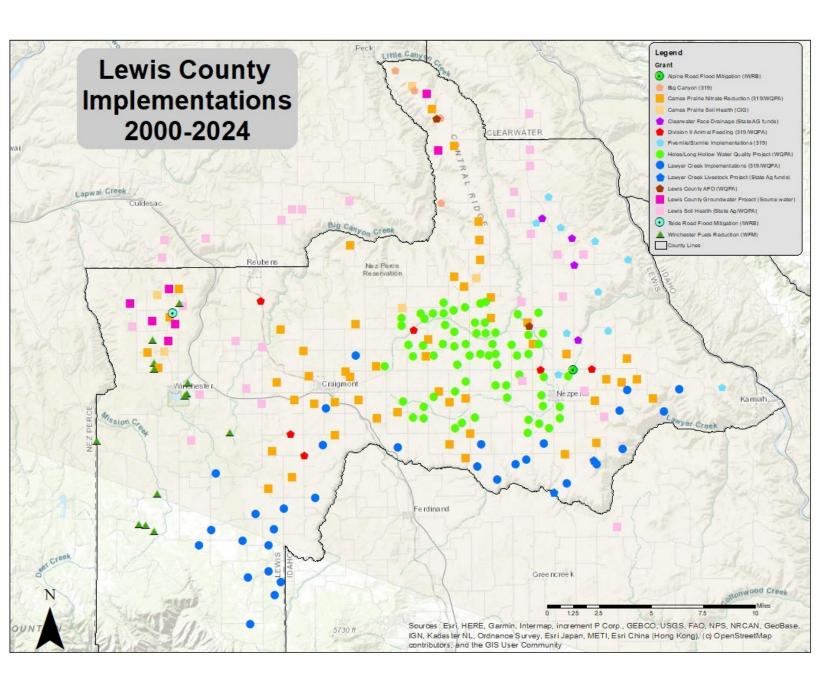
We will maintain a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them and provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs with technical support from Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission staff. We support locally lead conservation and will provide planning, project development, and administer funds where feasible and based on willing landowner cooperation and participation. We will promote conservation practices to sustain production on dry cropland with NRCS through local working groups, informational meetings, newsletters, tours and cost share programs and grants.

- BMPs will address stream bank stabilization and riparian habitat, such as stream banktreatments, invasive weed treatments, and upland habitat treatments.
- Will continue to search for cost-share funding to control non-point source pollution and soilerosion.
- Endorse programs or activities to educate landowners about harmful insects and diseases inforest lands.
- Continue support of proven conservation programs.

The LSCD has a strong education program, which hosts various activities aimed at the youth of Lewis County. The goal is to enhance their appreciation of our natural resources by offering hands-on events and contests.

- In May we sponsor the Annual 6th Grade Field Day, reaching approximately 100 students in the area. Instructors will be from ISWCC, Department of Lands, NRCS, Fish and Game, Nez Perce Tribe, and Winchester Quick Response Unit.
- The LSCD sponsors "Hatchery in the Classroom" with local students raising fish and releasing them into Lawyer Creek.
- In the spring of the year during Stewardship Week, we go to the local schools to present the rules and the theme of IASCD poster contest and University of Idaho Extension Office "Noxious Weeds in Lewis County" poster contest. The county commissioners judge the posters and send them on to the division and state levels.
- The district together with our ISWCC technical assistant participate at the "Farm and Forest Fair". We represent a "Soils and Geology" station. This event is attended by over 250 students. They rotate to 10 different stations.
- In October we coordinate with U of I and FFA for the soil judging contest.
- We coordinate with the University of Idaho Extension to inform producers of different varieties of crops to produce for this area.
- The LSCD cohosts with the University of Idaho Extension Office to organize an Annual Crop and Conservation Tour for producers to attend.

Lewis County Projects Since 2000



District Operations Priorities

Lewis Soil Conservation District:

- Promotes sustainable resource management and encourages collaboration between individuals, organizations, and government agencies.
- Explores all avenues of available grants.
- Explores alternative funding sources to meet conservation needs with highway districts, Idaho Department of Land, RC&D.
- Presents annual budget to the county commissioners.
- Retains the technical assistance provided to us from ISWCC to assist with the planning, design, and implementation of project funds within the district.
- Retains a good relationship with local schools and communities, teaching about soil, water, and other natural resources.
- Prepares monthly financial reports.
- Maintains the accounting system on QuickBooks.
- Schedules audit of the year's financial activity providing accountability for funds administered through the district.
- Provides administrative partnership to NRCS and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
- Continues to build partnerships with agencies and organizations that share the same goals and objectives.
- Expands and strengthens relationship in the conservation partnership, whenever possible the District will assist other agencies to reach our common goal.
- Holds regular monthly meetings to address conservation in Lewis County.
- Retains a relationship with our legislators.
- Strengthens relationship with political decision makers to obtain support for the District.
- Keeps the board members directly involved in planning and proceedings.
- Provides landowners and operators with natural resource technical, financial, and educational assistance.
- Publishes educational material on topics such as funding available and ways to improve resources.
- Coordinates with the U of I Extension for the Lewis and Idaho County Annual Crop Tour

Section 7 - Implementation

Action	Begin Date	End Date
 Identify budget and staff needs, continue to pursue funding through grants 	7-2025	6-2030
Work with landowners to implement "Fire Wise" practices promote forest stand improvements	7-2025	6-2030
 Educate landowners for proper forest management 	7-2025	6-2030
 Have applied for forestry grants 	7-2025	6-2030
 Continue to encourage landowners to protect cropland from erosion through the implementation of BMP's. 	7-2025	6-2030
 Work with producers to promote sustainable agriculture systems, improve cropland productivity 	7-2025	6-2030
 Strengthen relationships with political decision makers and partner agencies 	7-2025	6-2030
 Continue educating the public and youth about conservation coordinating with area schools 	7-2025	6-2030
Continue a one-on-one contact with producers about conservation practices.	7-2025	6-2030
 Sponsor several youth activities teaching conservation. 	7-2025	6-2030
 Upon request, provide natural resource conservation assistance to individual landowners seeking assistance 	7-2025	6-2030
 Coordinate the development of grazing plans that maintain appropriate levels of groundcover 	7-2025	6-2030
 Continue to address invasive species and weed control improvements 	7-2025	6-2030
 Monitor projects and improvements to better tell conservation story 	7-2025	6-2030
 Continue to encourage fire prevention practices and fire restoration projects 	7-2025	6-2030



For Information Contact: Jonathan Rosenau, Chairman

Telephone Number: 1-208-480-3042 Email: Lewisscd@outlook.com

Counties Served: LEWIS Legislative District: District 6

Jonathan Rosenau - Chairman Greg Branson - Vice Chairman Tyler Nelson - Sec/Treas. Drew Leitch - Member Conner McLeod - Member

Mission of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

The Lewis Soil Conservation District is dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.

Trends & Issues Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District

- Nutrient and Pest Management to reduce nitrates and pesticides from leaching into the ground water and surface water
- <u>Cover Crops</u> to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion
- Soil pH is affecting crop yields- offering cost share for lime applications for pH showing 5.5 or less
- Animal Feeding Operations to improve surface water and ground water quality
- Forest Health to reduce fire danger, recover from the summer of 2015 fires
- <u>Limited Funds</u> available from the State

Projects planned, coordinated, and managed by the Lewis Soil Conservation District

DEQ §319 – Lewis County Water Quality Implementations; IDL WFM project – Western Lewis County Fuel Reduction Project, Phase 3, DEQ Source Water Protection - Regenerative Ag

Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects Coordinated		
Lewis County	\$ 8,000.00	(County Contribution - District Operations)
State of Idaho	\$ 8,500.00	(Base funding - District Operations)
State of Idaho (2:1 match)	\$ 16,699.00	(2 to 1 Match- District Operations)
Contributions & Donations	\$ 3,050.00	
Grant Funding	\$ 506,075.00	
Total	\$ 542,324.00	





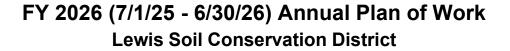
Conservation District Priority Number 1: Soil Health

Objective: Address conditions of soil and water quality within the District's Watersheds

Goal(s): Maintain and improve resources, reduce leaching of nutrients out of the root zone through proper use and treatment. Coordinate local efforts to protect and improve soil and water quality of local watersheds.

ACTIONS	Target	Individual(s)
	Date	Responsible
Hold a Soil Health Workshop to provide information to landowners on ways to improve the soil and water quality.	February	Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, NRCS, District staff
Identify key areas of erosion, work with landowners to implement BMP's for concentrated flow reduction. Monitor erosion and water quality.	Continuous	Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, NRCS, landowners
Continue to seek funding and assistance to implement projects that control soil erosion and improve water quality.	Continuous	Board of Supervisors District staff, ISWCC
The District has an active grant from DEQ for public outreach and nutrient management practices to inform producers of how to protect our topsoil, reduce nitrate leaching, address invasive weeds, and prevent soil erosion.	Continuous	Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC
Coordinate with ISWCC for technical assistance to expand the District's ability to address priority water quality issues.	Continuous	Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC







Conservation District Priority Area 2: Nutrient Management

Objective: Promote nutrient management and regenerative agriculture to reduce inputs.

Goal(s): Reduce leaching of nutrients out of the root zone

ACTIONS	Target	Individual(s)	
	Date	Responsible	
Facilitate soil health workshop with up to as many as 100 attending	February	District staff, ISWCC, NRCS, Board of Supervisors	
Promote cover crops, Biostimulants, Bio-emissions, precision agriculture, liming, and use of RO water to improve crop production, minimize erosion, and reduce synthetic inputs.	Year long	Board of Supervisors, District staff, NRCS	
Promote management and tillage practices that decrease the amount of soil disturbance. Residue management practices are encouraged.	Year long	District staff, Cooperators, ISWCC, Board of Supervisors, NRCS	
Educate landowners on the importance of lime in the soil which improves pH levels for more productive crops.	Year long	NRCS, ISWCC, and District, Board of Supervisors	





Conservation District Priority Number 3: Forestry - fire restoration, prevention and forest health.

Objective: Maintain and enhance a viable and sustainable forest economy

Goal(s): Ensure a healthy, productive woodland within Lewis County

ACTIONS	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Increase reforestation on cut-over timber land that has been removed from agricultural production.	Year long	Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, and DistrictStaff
Educate landowners to be Fire-wise on their property	Year long	Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, landowners
Identify areas needing weed control and do follow up on procedures forcontrol/management	Year long	ISWCC, Producers, Board of Supervisors, District staff
Determine and promote measures to reduce wildfire hazards to home and forestland. Decrease the effects of erosion after wildfires	Year long	Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, District staff
IDL Fuels Reduction Western Lewis County, Phase 3 grant – carry out fuel reduction projects with the landowners	2025 - 2026	District staff, ISWCC
Submit proposal for IDL Fuels Reduction – Kamiah Foothills Project.	2025 - 2026	District staff, ISWCC





Conservation District Priority 4: Environmental Improvement through Information and Education **Objective:** To conduct cooperator and youth education activities and programs that encourage the wise use of natural resources

Goal(s): To increase the effectiveness of the LSCD through a strong public outreach program. Implementation of I & E programs to public school systems and local landowners promoting the Idaho partnership of conservation programs.

ACTIONS	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Sponsor the annual IASCD Poster Contest and Weed Awareness poster contest withlocal school	School year	District staff, local schools, and students
Publish newsletters with information about upcoming and past events, also projectfunds available. Write newspaper articles for the local paper about events.	4 per year	District staff
Assist with Soil Judging Contest	October	District staff, ISWCC, teachers, and students
Display the Soil Tunnel at the Farm and Forest Fair- students go through the tunnel seeing soil from a "wormseye view"	April	District staff, ISWCC, students,teachers
Sponsor the annual 6 th Grade Field Day with approximately 120 students from five area schools. Students rotate through eight different learning stations learning a variety of conservation skills	May	District Staff, Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, NRCS, Dept of Land, Fish and Game





Conservation District Priority 5: Water Quality

Objective: To conduct cooperator and youth education activities and programs that encourage the wise use of natural resources

Goal(s): To reduce leaching of nutrients out of the root zone. To eliminate or reduce nutrient and sediment loading in receiving water within the District by use of BMPs.

ACTIONS		Individual(s)
	Date	Responsible
Sponsor the annual Soil Health Workshop with a focus on reducing synthetic inputs and nutrient management.	January	District staff, ISWCD, Clearwater SCD
Submit proposals to DEQ & ISWCC Water Quality Improvement Projects.	2025-2026	Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC
Work with producers to implement BMPs to reduce nutrients, bacteria, and sediment and to control erosion with DEQ 319 Lewis County Water Quality Implementations.	2025-2028	Board of Supervisors and District staff, ISWCC
Educate livestock producers about Animal Feeding Operations to protect water quality, including the development of offsite stock water systems, fencing.	Year long	Board of Supervisors and District Staff, ISWCC
Use the district website and Facebook page to promote information and share posts regarding water quality and soil health.	Year long	Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC



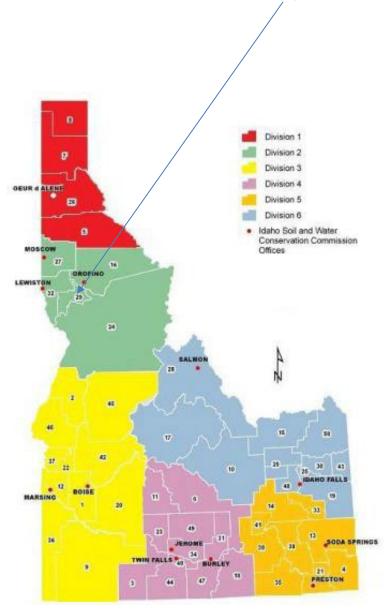
Conservation District Priority Number 6: District Funding/Operations

Objective: Maintain district operations, manage the ongoing business and activities of the district.

Goal(s): Increase and strengthen the board's effectiveness and secure funding for the District

ACTIONS	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Coordinate directly with Lewis County Commissioners to discuss resource needs of the District. They also help judge the annual IASCD poster contest. Retain a relationship with our legislators. Conduct Conservation District elections according to State of Idaho guidelines	Annually	Board of Supervisors and District staff
Explore alternative funding sources to meet identified conservation needs	Year Long	Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC
Solicit the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission to explore grants for additional funding to meet Idaho State Law requiring a two to one match.	Year Long	District staff, ISWCC
Work with our conservation partners to find more ways to address the same goals and objectives. Assist with NRCS Farm Bill programs. Encourage the participation of various USDA programs.	Year Long	NRCS, ISWCC, District Staff and Board of Supervisors
Ensure District Accountability by having yearly audit. Maintain financial recordsusing QuickBooks accounting program	July	District staff, Board of Supervisors, ISWCC

Lewis Soil Conservation District is in Lewis County within Division II



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

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Lewis

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2026

DUE:

March 31, 2025

CERTIFICATION

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

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

3-3-25

Board Supervisor Signature

raille

Jonathan Rosenau, Chairman

Printed Name

March 3, 2025

Date

208-480-3042

District Telephone

Lewisscd@outlook.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: