

**NORTH BINGHAM SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
725 Jensen Grove Dr.
Blackfoot, ID 83221**

**FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION
ANNUAL PLAN
BUSINESS PLAN**

JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2030

Summary

The North Bingham Soil Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation Districts are charged with carrying out a program for the conservation, use and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

Conservation Districts are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. They are catalysts for coordinating and implementing conservation programs, channeling expertise from all levels of government into action at the local level. Programs are non-regulatory, 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 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 North Bingham Soil Conservation District.

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

The Board of elected supervisors of the North Bingham Soil Conservation District this 11th day of March 2025, do 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, 2030, 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.

Devin Fielding	Chairman
Ryan Searle	Vice Chairman
Matt Thompson	Member
Jake Peterson	Member
Lorin Clinger	Member

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners (As applicable)

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Idaho Soil Commission
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality



Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan Business Plan (2025 to 2030) North Bingham Soil Conservation District

For More Information, Contact: {Devin Fielding}, {208-690-3525}

History of the North Bingham Soil Conservation District

The North Bingham Soil Conservation District was the first conservation district organized in eastern Idaho's Bingham County and the 14th district formed in Idaho. The SCD provides conservation leadership on almost 340,000 acres in the eastern part of the county.

Arvil Millar, Shelley, saw the need for a district in Bingham County, so he asked Extension county agent Claude Johnson for help. Some farmers, fearing government interference, opposed forming a conservation district. But when a public referendum was held December 4, 1945, all 69 people who voted favored the district. The North Bingham SCD was official organized April 4, 1945.

Clarence F. Johnson, Shelley, chaired the first SCD board. Serving with Johnson were G. Wayne Esplin, Ferron Blake, and Arvil Millar, Shelley; and Marion C. Esplin, Firth.

There was a great demand for land leveling services from the new SCD. A Caterpillar, a carryall and tractor trailer, and an Eversman leveler were made available to the SCD, which hired Sid Balmforth as its equipment operator. Balmforth and Soil Conservation Service technician Ira Clark scheduled the very busy land leveling work load. As the original equipment wore out and became too small for efficient use, supervisors signed personal notes to obtain equipment for SCD cooperators. The early supervisors were very frugal and made the SCD self-supporting. The North Bingham SCD is still reaping the benefits of early supervisor's work.

Arvel Fielding accepted the responsibility of maintaining and transporting the equipment and worked long hours to keep it in repair. The SCD's machinery required a tremendous amount of time to maintain, operate, schedule, and transport. Collecting money from people who used the equipment turned out to be a big problem.

Technical help was critical to meeting the many requests for services which the new SCD received. Unable to find housing for service personnel, the early board feared it might lose these people. But in 1948 the SCD was able to buy a building in Grace and moved it to Shelley.

The early SCD boards were active in promoting erosion and weed control and windbreak plantings. By 1952 3,008 acres had been leveled for better water management. Farmers adopted many other conservation practices including crop residue management on 6,028 acres, improved water application on 2,722 acres, and crop rotations on 4,830 acres. More than 200 acres were irrigated for the first time and 2,987 acres were prepared for irrigation. More than 10,000 acres of rangeland were improved during the SCD's first five years. Soil surveys of the district were completed in 1951 and 200 conservation plans were finished.

The first SCD supervisors agreed their primary concern was conservation and orderly development of land and water resources through local self-government. They also agreed to attempt to provide greater local control over all government agricultural and natural resource programs in the district. Some of the early supervisors who contributed much time and energy to forward the District were Arvel Fielding, A.W. Clinger, Roy W. Hansen, Ivan Christensen, Thomas Christensen, and Gerald Stolworthy.

Sprinkler irrigation increased dramatically in 1965 and the SD assisted in mainline development and installation. Most of the canal system farms in the SCD today are sprinkler

irrigated. The SCD considers the conversion from surface to sprinkler irrigation as the major conservation accomplishment in the district. Today the SCD has turned its attention to controlling erosion in the foothills and improving rangeland management.

Erosion in the Blackfoot River drainage, along the eastern edge of the district is also an important concern of the SCD today. The district has filmed the erosion problems there, measured erosion levels, and hired additional technical staff to help identify specific trouble spots and conservation needs in the area.

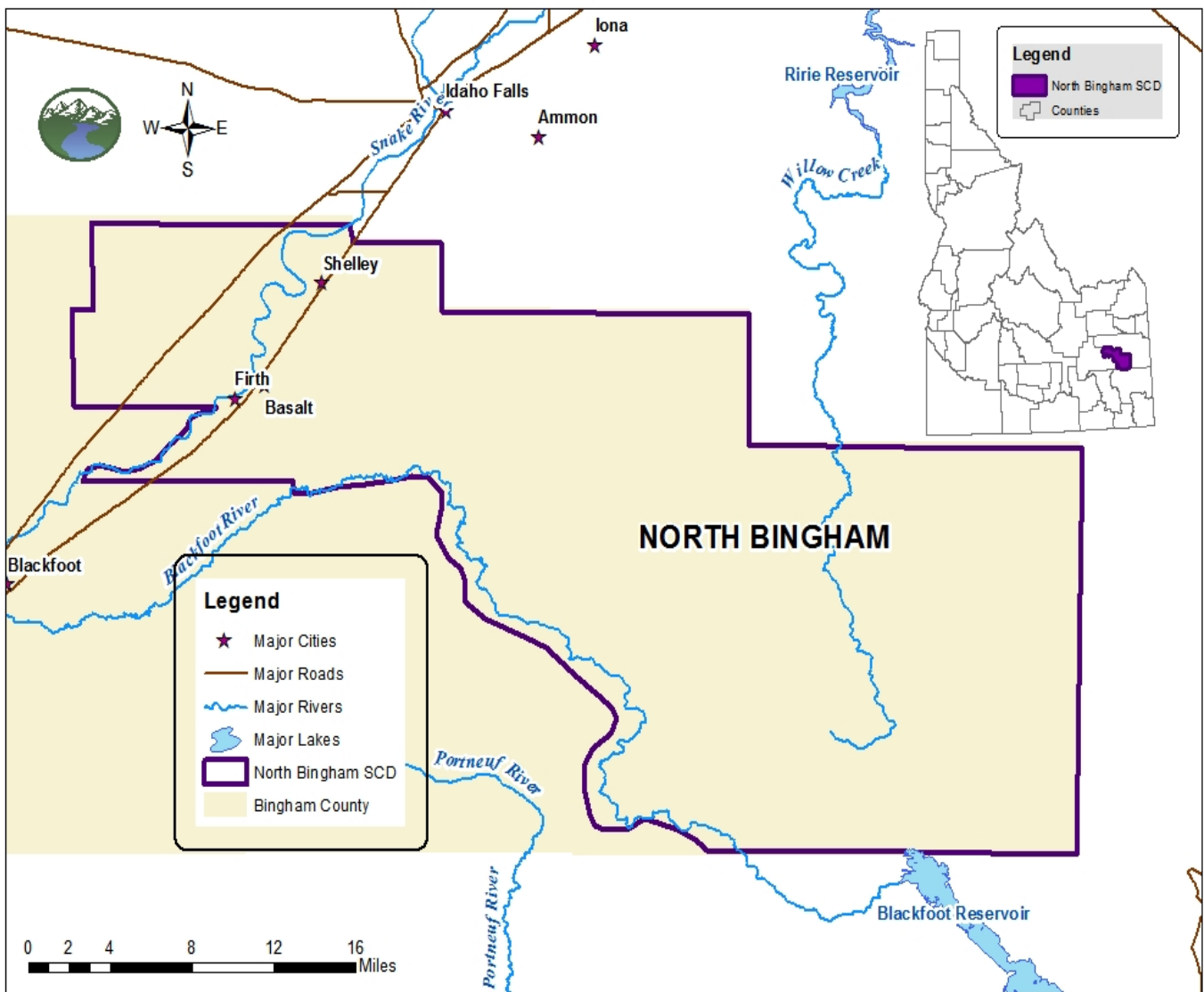
Existing Land and Resource Uses

Irrigated Cropland	60,485 acres
Non-Irrigated Cropland	22,040 acres
Rangeland-private	151,540 acres
Rangeland-State Owned	71,240 acres
Rangeland BLM	23,240 acres
Woodlands-Private	19,040 acres
Woodlands-State	5,800 acres
Woodlands-BLM	2,200 acres

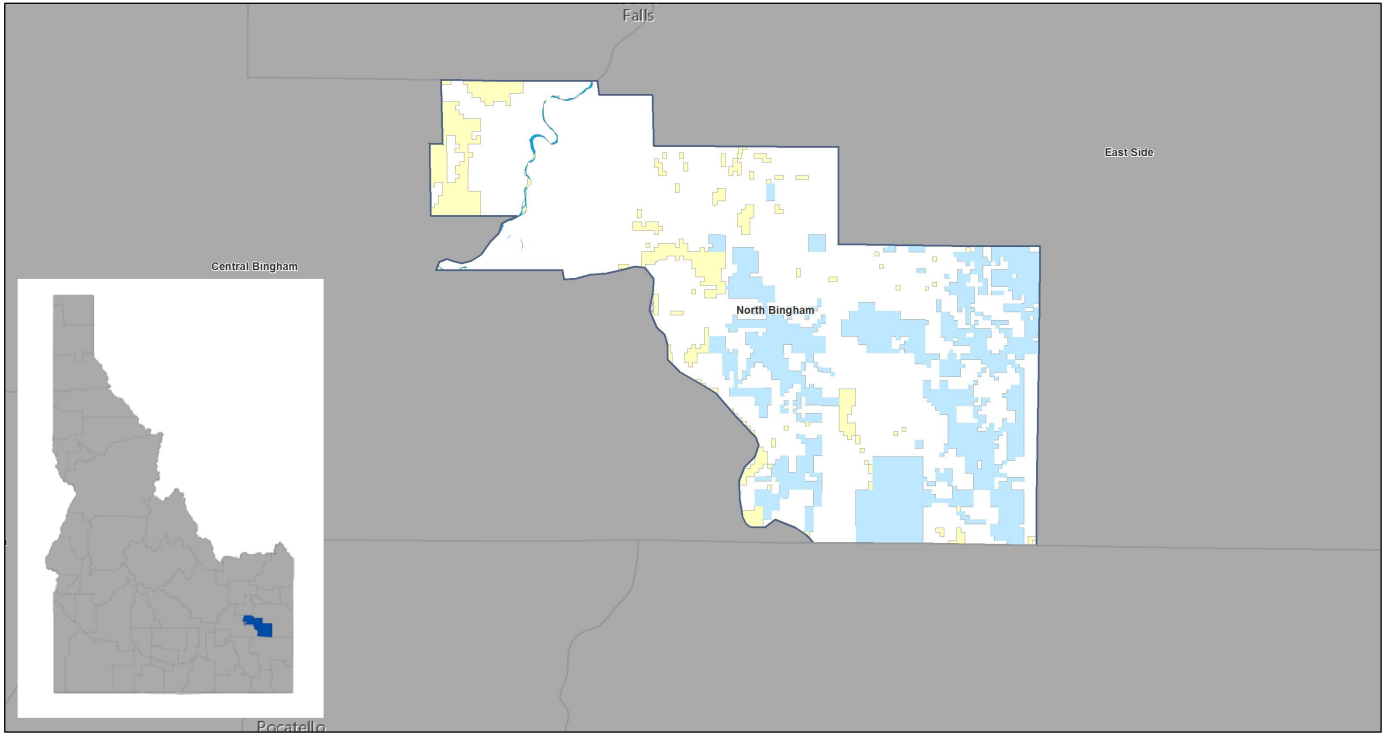
Economic Outlook

Bingham County 's economy depends heavily on agriculture but has a diverse employer base that demands a diverse workforce. High technology metal fabricator Premier Technology, Spudnik. and First American Title both have their headquarters in Bingham County. Idaho State Hospital South and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' gambling operation are other large nonfarm employers. The county's location between two major trade centers, Pocatello to the south and Idaho Falls to the north provides additional workforce and employment opportunities. Bingham County's civilian labor force grew steadily through the decade while its unemployment rate gradually declined until the recession took hold. A document published by the Idaho Department of Labor "Estimated Agricultural Employment" lists Bingham County with an average of 2078 agricultural employees. The unemployment rate jumped significantly in 2008 and continued climbing while the labor force fell in 2009 before rebounding the following year. Efforts to attract new business to the county by Bingham Economic Development Corp. hold promise for the county's economic future.

North Bingham Soil Conservation District Boundary

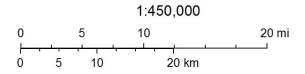


North Bingham SWCD - Location & Land Management



March 29, 2016

Surface Management Opaque	Reservations	Other	USFS
BLM	Interior	Private	
Reclamation	USDA	State	
Engineers	Military	State F+G	
Energy	Park Service	State Other	
Water	Wildlife Refuge	State Parks	



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Data compiled by Idaho BLM



Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan Business Plan (2025 to 2030) North Bingham Soil Conservation District

For More Information, Contact: {Devin Fielding}, {208-690-3525}

Organization of the North Bingham Soil Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Idaho – authorities, powers and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code

- Organized in March, 1945 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses within the North Bingham SCD boundary.
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Function of the North Bingham Soil Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

Who We Serve & Why

- The people and natural resources in the North Bingham SWCD, to conserve the natural resources for the beneficial and sustainable use by all.
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Mission of the North Bingham Soil Conservation District

- *To promote programs, implement plans, and educate the public on conservation issues in the North Bingham Soil Conservation District.*
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Values of the North Bingham Soil Conservation District

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

Trends Impacting Conservation in the North Bingham Soil Conservation District

- Urban impact on agriculture production
- Poorly planned growth in agricultural areas
- Increasing small acreage farms, five acres or less
- Limited availability of Local, State, and Federal funds for conservation
- Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and environmental issues
- Increased paper work to getting the job done
- Trend to regulate agriculture and ranching
- PCN quarantine area limits BMPs implementation
- Continued drought conditions
- Water availability due to threat of call of water regarding water rights

Staffing Needs

- Part-time Conservation District Administrative Assistant
- Conservation District Technician (as needed)

Key Decision Makers

- Conservation District Supervisors
- Citizens in Bingham County Conservation District
- Bingham County Commissioners
- Bingham County Elected City Officials and Planning and Zoning Board Members
- State legislators representing Conservation District area
- U.S. Senators, Representatives and Staffers
- City of Shelley
- City of Firth
- Shelley and Firth School Districts
- Bingham County Cooperative Extension
- Other Local, State, and Federal partners

**AGENCIES AND GROUPS COOPERATING WITH THE NORTH BINGHAM
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

DISTRICT LANDOWNERS/COOPERATORS

Central Bingham Conservation District
South Bingham Soil Conservation District
Bureau of Land Management
Pheasants Forever
Firth School district
Bingham County Commissioners
Bingham County Farm Bureau
Eastern Idaho Grazing Association
Eastern Idaho State Fair
High Country Resource Conservation and Development
Rocky Mt. Power
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho Department of Agriculture
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Idaho Fish and Game
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Idaho District Employees Association
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Auxiliary
Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Association of Conservation Districts
Shelley School District
State of Idaho
University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service
U.S. Farm Service Agency
USDA Plant Material Center, Aberdeen
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
US Rural Development



FY 2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work North Bingham Soil Conservation District

For Information Contact: Chairman: Devin Fielding

Telephone Number: 208-690-3525

Email: cbswcd@ida.net

Mission of the North Bingham Soil Conservation District

To promote programs, implement plans, and educate the public on conservation issues in the North Bingham Soil Conservation District.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the North Bingham Soil Conservation District

- Urban impact on agriculture production
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 - Water availability due to threat of call of water regarding water rights
-

Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed

- Cooperation with landowners/operators
 - Natural resource outreach and educational programs
 - Nitrate Reduction Project and Outreach
 - School outreach and education program
 - Cover crop/soil health Grant Project
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District Operations and Funding Sources

- Bingham County
 - State of Idaho
 - Potential grant opportunities
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FY 2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work North Bingham Soil Conservation District

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Conservation District Priority Number 1: Soil Erosion & Soil Health

Objective: Reduce soil erosion and improve soil health.

Goal(s): Reduce the impacts of soil erosion to air and water resources and improve soil health to insure a sustainable agricultural industry

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with NRCS, and other partners to ensure producers stay within HEL compliance. 	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement soil health BMPs put to use the No till drill that was purchased with a DEQ BMP Grant. Encourage Landowners to use new methods of farming. 	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued awareness and education about erosion issues and soil health within the District. 	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
Cover Crop Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide education for Growers and Producers to implement the use of Cover Crops in their rotation to help control weeds 	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff



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Conservation District Priority 2: Water Quality

Objective: Improve water quality within the District

Goal(s): Reduce pollutants on waters within the District (especially 303d listed waters and ground water priority areas)

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued awareness of water quality issues in the areaParticipate in Weed control Projects coordinated with CWMA	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with advisory groups, Agencies, and other groups	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Determine potential water quality impacts and seek funding. The current project is the Blackfoot NPA Source Water Protection Plan	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with DEQ and ISWCC to remove water bodies from Idaho's 303 d List and implement the TMDL Implementation Plans.	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS



FY 2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work North Bingham Soil Conservation District

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Conservation District Priority Number 3: Water Resources (Quantity)

Objective: Increase water resources within the District

Goal(s): Improve water resources to maintain a viable agricultural community.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Encourage and promote BMPs to improve water usage. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum tillage / no-till• Mulching• Field wind breaks• Soil health• Water systems	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
Seek funding and partnerships to improve irrigation efficiencies Provide No-till Drill for rent to landowners who want to improve soil health and water management on their land.	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS



FY 2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work North Bingham Soil Conservation District

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Conservation District Priority Number 4: Pest Management

Objective: Manage pests within the District

Goal(s): Seek funding, partnerships, and opportunities to implement pest management within the District

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Provide information on Weed Control and work together with landowners to eliminate noxious and other problem weeds and grasses. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide optional funding to landowners	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff
Provide information to growers as appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshops• Seek opportunities to promote pest management	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, NRCS, ISWCC
Cover Crop Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide education for Growers and Producers to implement the use of Cover Crops in their rotation to help control weeds	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff



FY 2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26) Annual Plan of Work North Bingham Soil Conservation District

For Information Contact: Chairman: Devin Fielding

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Conservation District Priority Number 5: District Operations

Objective: Maintain and improve a viable Conservation District

Goal(s): Promote the District and its' goals. Encourage and develop well-balanced positive district leadership

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Hold regular board meetings open to the public.	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff
Develop and maintain administrative procedures for the North Bingham Soil Conservation District. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation District Policy and Procedures Manual • Provide administrative assistance to Blackfoot NRCS Field Office 	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff
Maintain a comprehensive financial management system; including financial reviews, audits, budgets, and other reports/plans as needed.	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff,
Develop and maintain an effective Supervisor and staff development program including identification of Board and staff training opportunities, attendance at IASCD Division Meetings, IASCD Annual Conference, NACD Annual Conference, and other local, state, and regional meetings.	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
Participate in annual legislative display and other activities to promote the District and their work.	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff,
To develop a producer and youth conservation public outreach programs as needed.	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
Produce handouts, displays, articles for publication/interviews, etc., to promote the District and our activities.	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS
Promote Coordination efforts in Bingham County to implement Conservation Practices.	FY 2026	Supervisors, Staff, ISWCC, NRCS

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

DISTRICT: North Bingham

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2026

DUE :

March 31, 2025

CERTIFICATION

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

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



Board Supervisor Signature

Devin Fielding

Printed Name

3-12-25

Date

208-690-3525

District Telephone

cbswcd@ida.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:
