Five-Year Plan 2025-2030

Revised : 2025

North Side Soil & Water Conservation District
1441 Fillmore Street, Ste A, Twin Falls Idaho 83301

Mile Post 31

Foreword

North Side Soil and Water Conservation District

Conservation Districts are the subdivisions of state government charged with the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources on Idaho's private land. The North Side Soil & Water Conservation District is one of 50 conservation districts in Idaho.

It is the goal of the North Side Soil & Water Conservation District elected Supervisors to set high standards for conservation of natural resources within the District. This document identifies resource needs in the North Side Soil & Water Conservation District and presents a five-year plan for meeting these needs.

The North Side Soil and Water Conservation District is the primary entity that provides assistance to all landowners and users in Jerome County. District supervisors coordinate non-regulatory conservation programs, provide science-based technical assistance, and implement incentive-based financial programs, and offer informational and education programs at the local level.

Through both legislation and agreement, the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service provides technical assistance to landowners and land users through conservation districts.

This plan was developed to guide the district and to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through education and cooperation, North Side Soil and Water Conservation District encourages conservation of land, water, wildlife, and all related resources in the District for the benefit for present and future generations

WHERE WE BEGAN

Soil Conservation demonstrations were taking place in Jerome County for at least two years before the North Side Soil Conservation District was organized June 24, 1946. A supervisor on the first SCD, Felix Boguslawski, Jerome, installed the first border irrigation system in the county with help from Soil Conservation Service technicians.

Other original SCD board members were F.F. Phillips, Hazelton; John Roice, Eden; and O.H. Albee and Fred Nelson, Jerome. In the SCD's first work plan, these supervisors cited wind and water erosion, loss of soil fertility, weeds, plant diseases, soil-depleting crop rotations, uneven land, and deteriorating rangeland as the district's main resource areas.

Soil surveys showed that more than one-third of the 113,000 acres of irrigated cropland had lost from 25 to 75 percent of its topsoil. At the SCD's request, the SCC conducted irrigation demonstrations to show various methods to reduce erosion on irrigated land.

The North Side SCD opened a second office in Hazelton in 1947. The building was donated to Jerome County in 1978.

The SCD, in cooperation with local equipment dealers, county merchants and civic groups, sponsored a very popular "Farm-in-a-Day" program in 1952. On one day, more than 1,000 volunteers turned 128 acres of undeveloped land into a conservation farm. A home was built and 103 acres were leveled, planed, chiseled, plowed, harrowed, seeded, fertilized and corrugated. Three-and-a-half miles of fence, 3,000-feet of underground pipe and 21,000-feet of irrigation ditches were installed. A woodlot and windbreak were also planted. The 11,320 people attending the event saw how conservation could be integrated into a new farm.

The SCD carried out conservation practices at a record rate in the late 1950s and 1960s as farmers sought to make more efficient use of their land. About 60,000 feet of irrigation pipeline were installed; 886 irrigation structures were built, and 1,637 feet of concrete ditch lining were placed. Leveling took place on 1,900 acres, bringing the amount of land leveled since the SCD was organized to 30,000 acres.

Also during that time, cooperators seeded 583 acres of dryland range to crested wheatgrass, increasing yields by as much as 500 percent. Deferred grazing was

established on 1,500 acres. Altogether, the SCD's technical staff assisted in the conservation management of 3,730 acres of pastureland. More than 7 miles of windbreaks were planted, including 18 acres for wildlife habitat improvement.

New possibilities for thousands of acres of sandy soil in southwestern Jerome County were opened up in the 1960s when two Jerome residents rented a giant disc plow from the SCD and began turning over loose sand to bring approximately 300 acres into production. With deep plowing and sprinkler irrigation, the land could become very productive.

After nearly four years of planning, the SCD brought the Hazelton Butte project into full operation in 1981. Erosion on steep slopes in this area averages 23 tons per acre. Winter storms and surface irrigation runoff caused the erosion; 90 percent of the eroded soil makes its way to the Snake River. The cost-share project was funded through the Small Watershed Program (Public Law 566). By the end of 1983, more than 1,400 acre had been chiseled for better water penetration and new irrigation systems had been installed.

The Vinyard Creek Water Quality Project and the Scott's Pond Water Quality Project were completed in the early 2000s.

Table of Contents

MISSION OF THE NORTH SIDE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

It is the mission of the North Side Soil & Water Conservation District to educate the public and assist landowners in the implementation of sound land management practices, and work towards improvement and preservation of our natural resources.

TRENDS IMPACTING THE DISTRICT

Jerome County is changing, and cooperators have moved from flood irrigation to sprinkler, small farms are consolidating into larger farms, dairy and dairy related cooperators are increasing. Water quality and quantity have become major concerns and political issues. The County continues to move from its rural base to an urban setting with development and potential developments planned.

FUNCTION OF THE NORTH SIDE SOIL AND WATER 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 user for conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

WHO WE SERVE

The people and natural resources of Jerome County Idaho — 2021 data:

Idaho Population 1,901,000

Jerome County Population 24,662

Land Area 597.84 sq. miles

68.9 % homeownership

$61,280 Median Household income

$28,266 Per capita income

18.3 % Persons below poverty level

Fourth largest Ag Economy in Idaho

City of Jerome population 12,555

City of Eden population 397

City of Hazelton population 813

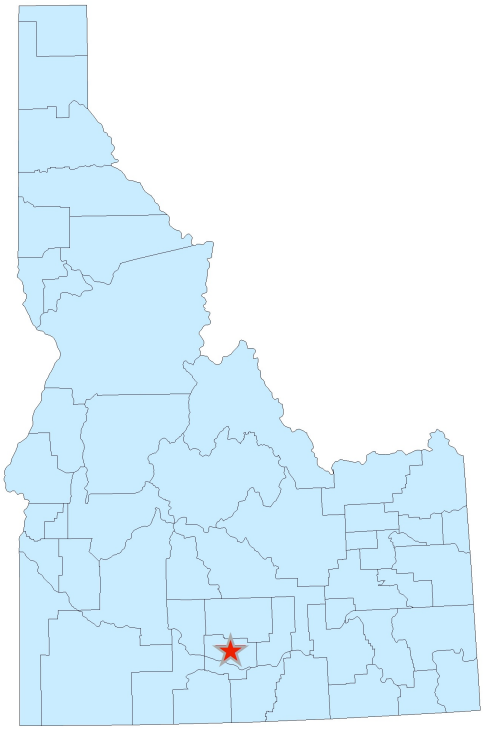
DISTRICT NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITIES:

*Soil Health

*Water Quality and Quantity

*Information & Education

*District Operations



GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Jerome County, Idaho (Elv. 3796')

(42.74◦ N 114.50◦W) 597.84 Sq. Mi.

Geology and Topography:

Jerome County lies entirely within the Snake River Plain. This moderately level plain, sloping from east to west, consists of relatively recent basalt flows of considerable depts. This lava flows form the basis for the variation in slope and soil depth. The relief of the area varies from level to steep. The variation of slope and the porous lava subsoil create good drainage in most areas. The north and west sections of the district have a comparatively thin soil mantle over beds of lava. The southeast area of the county has fairly smooth deep soil mantle. Occasionally the low relief of the Snake River Plain is broken by the occurrence of volcanic buttes. The lava flow also makes possible the enormous Snake River aquifer, which flows beneath the surface of the entire county.

CLIMATE:

The Climate of the District is semi-arid with cold winters and moderately dry summers. Annual precipitation is 9 inches, which occurs mostly in the form of snow. Temperatures range from a mean low of 27 degrees (F) to a mean high of 91 degrees (F), with an average annual air temperature of 49.5 degrees. The frost-free growing season is approximately 135 days. Strong winds are common, especially in spring and early summer. The prevailing winds are from the west by northwest.

Land Use:

Land Status Map page 5
Land Cover Map page 6

AGRICULTURE ECONOMY DATA

According to the 2022 Ag Census, Jerome County had 448 farms with 180,152 acres of farmland. The average farm size was 402 acres while the median size was 43 acres. Farmland was valued at $9,012 per acre.

By number, the greatest number of farms are between 1 and 9 acres (119) compared to just 48 farms with more than 1,000 acres.

Irrigated farmland represents nearly all cropland within Jerome County with 384 farms irrigating 139,509 acres.

Fifty farms received government payments totaling $1.186 million dollars. Total cash farm income averaged $367,604.

Beef cattle were raised on 145 farms compared to 27 dairy farms although the beef cattle inventory was just 11,176 head compared to 103,043 for dairy. About 60 percent of livestock producers are utilizing rotational or intensively-managed grazing (63 farms in 2022 compared to 57 in 2017).

Jerome County had 11 organic farms in 2022 compared to 10 in 2017.

Silage corn is the leading crop in Jerome County to feed dairy cows.

Crop	# farms	Acres
Grain corn	18	4,715
Silage corn	88	25,138
All Wheat	54	8,373
Barley	74	21,926
Dry Beans	27	4,431
Sugarbeets	42	17,530
Potatoes	7	9,756

Conservation Practices

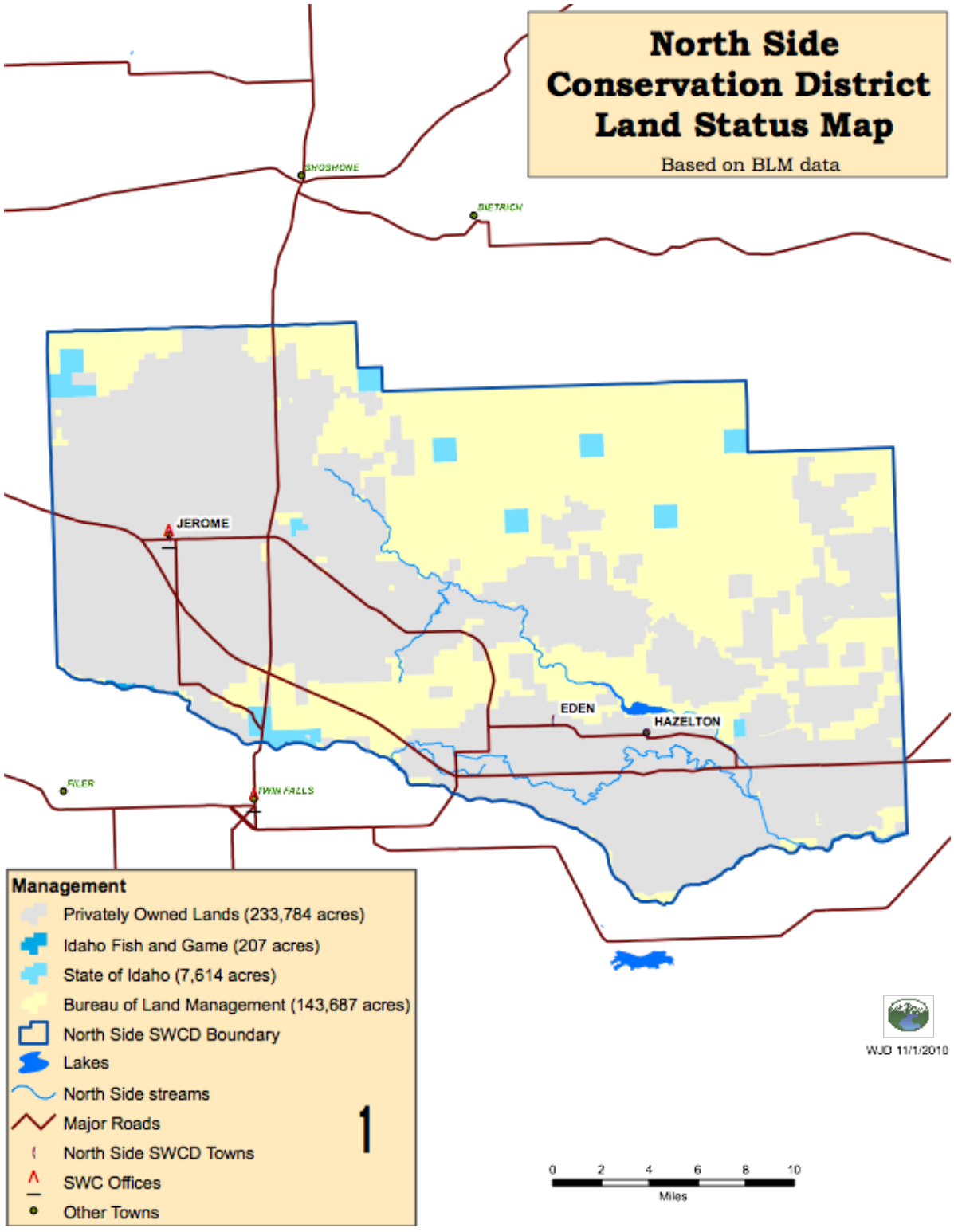
Conservation tillage was used on 48 farms in 2022, down from 67 farms in 2017 but average acres per farm were up from 277 acres in 2017 to 590 in 2022.

No-Till was up from 16 farms and an average of 37 acres in 2017 to 22 farms and an average of 146 acres in 2022.

Cover crops (excluding CRP) plantings are fairly stable with 39 farms using cover crops on an average of 151 acres compared to 41 farms and an average of 120 acres in 2017.

North Side Conservation District Land Status Map

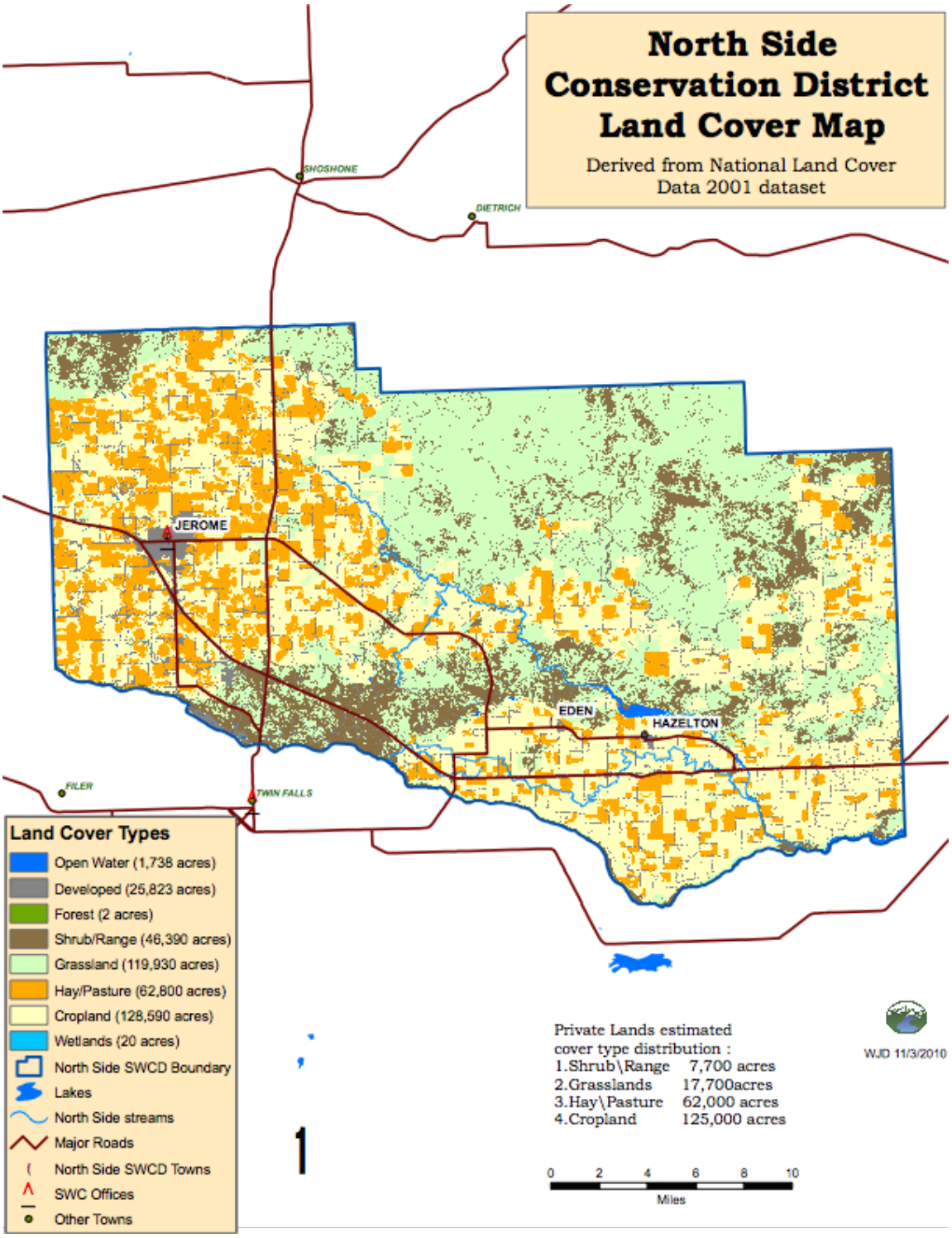
Based on BLM data



WJD 11/1/2010

North Side Conservation District Land Cover Map

Derived from National Land Cover Data 2001 dataset



SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EVALUATION

Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Conservation District maintain an office to provide technical assistance to landowners in Jerome County. The office is located at 1441 Fillmore St. Suite A, Twin Falls, Idaho.
The District has a 5-member locally elected Board of Supervisors and an Administrative Assistant.
District Board of Supervisors: Steven Huettig, Andy Prescott, Roy Prescott, Del Kohtz, Frank DeHoney and Alan Hansten (associate supervisor). Shaalee Jardine is the Administrative Assistant.

- Annual Budget Attached
- Annual Work Plan Attached
- List of District Partners Attached

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

North Side SWCD recently relocated to Twin Falls, Idaho, and shares office space with Balanced Rock SCD, Snake River SWCD and Twin Falls SWCD.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service maintains a District Conservationist in the Twin Falls Office. NRCS maintains an office and computer system.

SWCC- Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)

The District is served by various ISWCC staff including the State Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Coordinator.

SOIL RESOURCES

There are 6 soil types in the District:

Portneuf-Sluka, Power-McCain-Paulville, Keeko-Taunton-Harsan, Rock outcrop Banbury-Paulville, Chuska-Colthrop, and Rock Ourtcrop-Xerorthents . Descriptions & detailed maps can be found in the Soil Survey at the Twin Falls USDA Service Center.

Highly Erodible Land:

The NRCS has estimated that 80% of the land in Jerome County is highly erodible land. The Food Security Act of 1985 requires that producers that participate in USDA farm programs such as price and income support, crop insurance, FHA loans, and etc. must follow a conservation plan approved by the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District and the NRCS. Most plans will include practices such as conservation tillage,

no-till, agro tillage, and or delayed tillage to reduce wind erosion to acceptable levels. The district has also encouraged cover crop plantings immediately after harvest to assist with wind erosion and promote soil health.

Wetlands: Because of the arid climate and permeable sub soils, there are very few natural wetlands in Jerome County. The majorities of natural wetlands within the county are spring fed and below the Snake River rim. There are also some areas of seasonally flooded wetlands in the northeast portion of the county. Most of these areas are classified as artificial wetlands resulting from irrigation systems developed early in this century. As part of the 1985 Food Security Act, the NRCS identifies wetland types within the county.

Soil Survey Status: A soil survey of Jerome and Twin Falls Counties was completed in 1991. Information is available for use by the public at the Twin Falls USDA Service Center. Soil surveys can provide useful information for many different land users. The soil survey describes the properties of soils in the District and shows the location of each kind of soil on detailed maps. The information available in the soil surveys can be useful for management and conservation of farm and rangelands, evaluating the suitability of land for the intended use before buying, determining soil properties that could affect construction, and land use planning. The Web Soil Survey can be found at http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov.

Soil Erosion: is a major limitation to crop production in the District. The greatest rates of soil erosion occur on the surface irrigated soils where low residue producing crops such as beans, sugar beets or potatoes are grown. Common rotations include 50 percent of these crops. Wind erosion rates as high as 35 tons per acre have been estimated in years when low residue crops are grown (WEPS "Wind Erosion Prediction System" Estimate.) Rotation average irrigation induced erosion rates are approximately 18 tons per acre per year on surface irrigation and minimal soil loss on sprinkler-irrigated soils. These rates can be reduced significantly when full resource management systems are applied. The major cause of soil loss in the District is surface runoff from surface irrigation, followed by sheet and rill erosion caused by winter/spring runoff and wind

erosion. All sources of erosion can be reduced substantially with the implementation of conservation practices.

WATER RESOURCES

Surface Waters

The Surface water resources consist of the Snake River and its tributary springs, the North Side Canal, Milner Gooding Canal, and the A & B Irrigation systems. The source of the canal system begins at the Milner Dam of the Snake River which is in the east end of the county. There are two perennial streams within the District, Vinyard Creek, and the Snake River.

Much of the surface water in the District is affected from non-point source pollution mainly caused by irrigated and seasonal runoff from the cropland. When the soil erodes, sediment nutrients and pesticides attached can be transported and deposited when flow is slowed or stopped. This accumulation over repetitious events eventually finds its way to a receiving ditch or stream, following natural or man-made channels finding its way to the Snake River. Many water regulating and sediment retention ponds have been constructed in efforts to trap most of the sediment and nutrients before the water returns to the river. Most of the cropland erosion occurs on surface irrigated land during the rotation period when low residue crops are grown. Other sources of sediment can be from winter/spring runoff and wind deposited soil. Thousands of dollars are spent by irrigation districts and individuals for sediment retention and removal of sediment from canals and laterals. The district believes that efforts that minimize or control the erosion at the source is far less expensive and better for productivity.

Water Quality Concerns

Surface Water

The District has determined that the following stream segments are high priority and will direct their resources towards improving water quality, Vinyard Creek, Ellision Creek (Scott's Pond), the Snake River, and tributary agricultural drains.

Water quality in the stream segments within Jerome County can be impaired fromland use activites such as irrigated crop productions, live stock grazing and confined animal feeding opérations. The primary polluants affecting surface water are nutrients, sediments, fecal coliforme and pesticides.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Non-point Source Assessment Report listed the following segments as not fully supporting beneficial uses: Vinyard Creek, Milner Reservoir, Milner Dam to Murtaugh, Murtaugh to Twin Falls Reservoir, and Shoshone Falls Reservoir.

Pollutants such as nutrients, sediments, E-Coli and pesticides from irrigated cropland, livestock grazing, and concentrated animal feeding operations have impaired beneficial uses such as agricultural water supplies, cold-water biota (trout, and other aquatic organisms), Salmonid spawning, primary (swimming), and secondary contact recreation.

1999 Streams and Pollutants for which TMDLs were developed:

(From Idaho's DEQ Subbasin Assessment and TMDL, Upper Snake-Rock Subbasin)

- Alpheus Creek Sediment (total suspended solids), phosphorus
- Crystal Springs Sediment (total suspended solids), phosphorus
- Ellison Creek Sediment (total suspended solids), phosphorus
- Vinyard Creek Sediment (total suspended solids), phosphorus
- Middle Snake River Sediment (total suspended solids), pathogens, phosphorus

Vinyard Creek Water Quality Project and the Scott's Pond Water Quality Project were completed over 20 years ago. These projects helped to provide funding and assist the farmers to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce irrigation induced erosion. This then helped reduce sediment and nutrients from being delivered to the river striving towards achieving the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals of each of the tributaries. The original plans included reviewing the effectiveness of the project activity to see if additional work needs to be done. This « BMP Effectiveneess » process, as outlined from SWCC, provides a frame work of closing the feedback loop to verify and inform the district and public the effectiveness of applying the bmps.

Additional practices have been installed over the years thanks to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) by NRCS.

Flooding and Drainage

Flooding and drainage is generally not a concern within the District; however, there are specific storm events that cause localized flooding for short periods of time. The variation of slope and the porous lava subsoil create good drainage in most areas.

Groundwater

The Snake River Plain Aquifer provides the District groundwater resources. The depth of the groundwater varies from 150 ft. to 500 ft. Many wells produce up to 1,000 gallons per minute and are used both for domestic and irrigation purposes. This aquifer is the most prolific water bearing sequence of rocks in Idaho with an estimated total annual recharge of 6.5 to 7.5 million acre-feet of water. Below Milner Dam, the Snake River flows through a deep canyon below the elevation of the aquifer. In this area, significant discharges from the aquifer occur in the form of springs emitting out of the north wall of the canyon. In Jerome County the estimated out-flow of the aquifer is 340 cfs from eight springs. The largest flow, Blue Lakes Springs, has an estimated flow of 230 cfs.

According to the 1988 Idaho Water Quality Status Report and Non-point Source Assessment, the Snake Basin aquifer has the second highest potential for groundwater contamination in the state. Dairies and feedlots are also identified as one of the state's highest priorities as a potential source of groundwater contamination. The combined vulnerability of the resource and the intensity of agriculture in the southwest portion of Jerome County make protection of ground water a critical objective of the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District.

Maps identifying the ground water aquifers are available in the Twin Falls USDA Service Center. Groundwater quality within the District has been deteriorating during the last two decades with the increase in agricultural production and high concentrations of the number of dairies and feedlots particularly in the southwest portion of the District. Test results conducted by the Jerome County Health Department have shown nitrate levels in domestic wells as high as 5 ppm. Domestic water use is limited to deep wells and water tables perched water tables. Impacts on the quality of ground water from pesticides, fertilizers and animal waste need to be evaluated. Southwest Jerome County was ranked 10th on the 2020 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Nitrate Priority Area list and identified as an increasing trend. Thirty sites were tested and had an average nitrate concentration of 7.4 mg/L.

ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Animal Waste Management is another high priority concern of the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District. The number of dairies has increased rapidly in the last 20 years. There are a large number of dairies within the boundaries of the District with continued growth expected.

Because of the increase in the number of dairies, there is great concern about potential contamination of the surface water and the groundwater. Waste water and runoff from dairies and feedlots can find their way into the canals and drainage systems that eventually flow back to the Snake River. Many canals and drainages often flow through a pasture or corral and used for drinking water for livestock.

Test results of domestic wells in the area showed that many high in nitrates. Dairies, feedlots and subdivisions can also be potential sources of because of the high concentration of land use in the area. Solid wastes from dairies and feedlots are spread over the surface of the ground and then worked in before the next crop is grown. Liquid waste is sometimes applied through sprinkler system. Some dairies in the County are using new technologies such as anerobic digesters to process the waste into either natural gas which is sold for domestic use or used to produce electricity. Waste is also being composted for commercial and domestic fertilizer applications. The District continues to support these approaches and realized there is value in the waste products when used wisely.

Urban sprawl within the same area has also created a very complex challenge. Residents concerned about surface water and groundwater quality, are also concerned with other nuisances such as odor coming from dairies and other livestock operations. The District has worked closely with the Jerome County Commissioners in the development of a new animal waste policy. The District has also made comment with ongoing discussions on changes to State animal waste policy

Fish hatcheries in Jerome County can contribute to the water quality problems in the Snake River. Fish hatcheries are considered a point source pollution source and are regulated by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA).

CROPLAND

Irrigated

Cooperators have installed many sprinkler systems with the financial assistance of state and federal programs in Vinyard Creek , Scott's Pond State Water Quality Projects, and the Hazelton Butte federal PL-556 Project. Sprinkler systems are effective in helping reduce erosion rates, improve water use efficiencies, and also help to minimize groundwater contamination. The North Side SWCD has encouraged and promoted implementing irrigation water management and nutrient management Best Management Practices. Current available funding sources such as the NRCS-EQIP Conservation programs and Idaho State Soil and Water Conservation Commission RCRDP loans are promoted by the District. These programs help the producer to implement many supportive bmps to strive towards contributing to achieving water quality goals for the Snake River and its tributaries.

There are 188,075 acres of cropland within the county. A typical rotation includes hay, beans, and grain. Other principal crops include potatoes, sugar beets, peas, and corn. High residue crops, such as corn, grain, and hay are being grown more in the District to accommodate the needs of the dairies.

Wind erosion is another major problem and is being addressed through the Food Security Act of 1985. Since 80% of Jerome County cropland is designated Highly Erodible Land, (HEL). BMPs such as conservation tillage, no-till, agro-tillage, and delayed tillage are common strategies for meeting this challenge.

Water Quantity Improvement

Groundwater volumes have been on a downward trend for the past 60 years. Orignially, cropland was watered by surface and flood irrigation. This provided additional incental recharge of the aquifer. As more pressurized systems were installed improved water efficiencies were realized, but the incidental recharge became less. Combined with the

increased demands for higher water using crops for the dairy and industry as well as increased urban development, more of the water is being pulled from the aquifer than the amount that is entering. Multiple water calls have been made over the years, and proactive attempts and strategies have been installed to minimize the negative effects. This also impacts the discharges coming out of Thousand Springs.

North Side SWCD sponsored a State Water Quality Project for Agriculture (WQPA) in 2023 with the North Side Pump Co. to save annual approximately 6,286 acre-feet annually of water by piping open laterals. This will keep the unused water in storage in the Snake River system. The 14.5 miles of irrigation laterals provide service to approximately 4,790 acres of agricultural lands owned by 30 individual landowners. The $150,000 WQPA grant was part of a $4.38 million project but was a key component for making the project feasible.

Past efforts :
Soft Water Conversions :

- By 2005, 17 joint funded contracts through SWCC and NRCS were used to install soft conversions on 1,900 acres in Jerome County, and 2,840 acres in neighboring Gooding County. This helped to provide owners a way of using surface water instead of groundwater when available. The owner still kept the option of using the groundwater system when the surface water wasn't available. This helped in not only saving groundwater, but also a mandatory curtailment to groundwater that year avoiding major economic losses to the agricultural uses in the Magic Valley.
- By 2011, the $2.2 million dollar Hazelton Butte Conversion Project was installed. This provided EQIP funds to over six operators to install over16 miles of pipeline to deliver surface water to over 5,000 acres saving groundwater usage.

CREP – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

CREP a federal-state cooperative Conservation program that addresses targeted agricultural-related environmental concerns. CREP participants voluntarily enroll in 15-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts with USDA's Commodity Credit

Corporation (CCC). Participants receive financial incentives, cost-share assistance and annual rental payments in exchange for not using the groundwater. Converting enrolled land to vegetative cover of native grasses, legumes and shrubs during that period improves soil retention, water, air and wildlife habitat . It also helps to reduce the amount of agricultural chemicals, nutrients and sediment that may potentially enter the streams.

Fish habitat is also benefitted with the program by helping to increase stream flow.

Jerome County Farm Services Agency currently administers 7 CREP contracts, retiring 534 acres, for 1,068 acre feet of water savings per year. In addition to CREP, Jerome County is home to several recharge sites: The first one called Milepost 31 refers to the mileage from the diversion at Milner Dam to the location where water is diverted from the Milner-Gooding Canal to a remote site and used for recharge efforts. Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) has studied and implemented over the years the recharge site. Each year, more is diverted as IDWR is taking recharge from a pilot scale to full scale. In 2018-2019, another recharge site was prepared and installed near the first site, but on the south side of the canal. As of 2020, there are two recharge sites active around Mile Post 31.

Mile Post 29 and 31-Recharge Sites

IDWR Managed Recharge information

(Wesley Hipke, IDWR Recharge Program Manager)

MP 31 was constructed in 2015 by the Idaho Water Resource Board and American Falls Reservoir District 2 and began recharged at 28,205 ac-ft (af)

MP 29 was constructed in 2019-2020 also by Idaho Water Resource Board and American Falls Reservoir District #2.

In 2020, both MP29 and MP 31 sites provided recharge fro 162,917 af.

Wilson Canyon Managed Recharge Site finished construction in 2019 by Idaho Water Resource Board and North Side Canal Company. The recharge site is about a mile below the flow control and power structure at Wilson Lake. A deep, rock canal also provides incedental recharge before getting to the newly constructed headgate. IDWR shows that there was 178,582af of recharge at this site.

MP 31 Managed Recharge Site

Developed By: Idaho Water Resource Board and American Falls Reservoir District #2

Development History:

• Constructed in 2013 with a headgate structure on the Milner-Gooding Canal for 250 cfs.

• Second headgate construction was completed in the Spring of 2017 increasing the delivery capacity to 650 cfs.

Recharge History for the site (includes recharge in delivery canal):

2014/2015	28,205 af
2015/2016	45,782 af (+5,566 non-IWRB)
2016/2017	94,901 af

Recharge History for the site (includes recharge in delivery canal): (cont.)

2017/2018	226,554 af
2018/2019	153,833 af
2019/2020*	162,917 af

*A total recharge for MP31 and MP29 Managed Recharge Sites↓

MP31 recharge site, March 2020 (Noah Stewart-Maddox, IWRB Recharge Program ↓

MP 29 Managed Recharge Site

Developed By: Idaho Water Resource Board and American Falls Reservoir District #2
Development History:

- Constructed in 2019-20 with a headgate structure on the Milner-Gooding Canal for 650 cfs.

Recharge History for site (includes recharge in delivery canal) :
2019/2020* 162,917 af

*A total recharge for the MP31 and MP29 Managed Recharged Sites.

MP 29 recharge site, March 2020 (Wesley Hipke, IWRB Recharge Programs)

Wilson Canyon Managed Recharged Site
Developed By: Idaho Water Resource Board and North Side Canal Company
Development History:

A headgate structure constructed on the North Side Main Canal in 2019 to deliver over 500 cfs to the site.

Recharge History for the site (includes recharge in delivery canal and Wilson Lake): 2019/2020* 178,582 af. ↓

Wilson Canyon recharge site December 2019 (Paul Thomas, IDWR Recharge Program)

Wilson Canyon recharge site January 2020 (Wesley Hinke, IDWR Recharge Program)

Mile Post 31

Mile Post 31

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Game bird populations and habitat have declined in recent years partly due to changes in agriculture related practices such as 1) conversion from surface irrigation to pressurized systems. 2) removal of old field borders and merging of individual fields

to accommodate modern machinery and increase efficiency of rotations and field work.

The Idaho Fish and Game sponsors programs which are designated to improve habitat for game birds. “Pheasants Forever, Habitat Improvement Programs” have provided assistance in many of the CREP seed mixes. The Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) provides incentives for a farmer to grow and leave portions of their unharvested for wildlife.

Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Idaho Department of Fish and Game also cost-share, wildlife friendly shelter-belts and windbreaks.

The Snake River is a valuable fishery. The North Side Soil and Water Conservation District recognizes the need to protect fish habitat in the Snake River and its tributaries and continues to encourage installation and use of water quality and water quantity bmps on cropland and all uses.

Vinyard Creek is a spawning bed for a hybrid rainbow-cutthroat trout, and that has been a primary concern of DEQ and the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District and has implemented the Vinyard Creek SAWQP, and additional NRCS programs to improve water quality in that area.

PASTURE AND HAYLAND

The increasing number of dairies entering the county has increased the production of higher water demanding hay and corn grown. Hay that was once swathed, left a week to dry, then bale and haul, is now swathed, and in a few days, chopped, hauled off and immediately re-watered for the next cutting. Corn is either harvested or green chopped. Both of these crops have increased the demand for water compared to the needs of just a decade ago that used to have more acres rotated in small grains. A common practice in the past has been to have canals, laterals or ditches running through pastures. A major

concern of the District is that these waters collect animal waste and then it can be transported through drainage ditches to the Snake River. Efforts will continue to focus on finding ways to provide offsite watering facilities and install shaded units to encourage livestock from the need of entering into the water. In areas where more attention is needed then a fence may be considered for complete exclusion to improve water quality in the drainages.

RANGELAND

There are approximately 150,000 acres of land belonging to BLM in the State in Jerome County. This amount is expected to remain fairly stable for the future. Private range totals approximately 20,940 acres.

According to BLM, grazing is in a stable or upward trend. Conservation needs to cover wind erosion, unstable soils (sandy), and high fire frequency with rehabilitation following fires. These areas are subject to erosion problems.

The district emphasizes the need to install additional stock water development, improve and wildlife management on rangeland within the North Side District. Farmers who farm land adjoining BLM ground are always concerned about noxious weeds and insects moving from the rangeland to the farmland.

A relative new practice or dover crops planted immediately after crop harvest is being implemented with the intent of grazing those fields on the growth into the winter months. The number of cows grazing on cropland areas reduces pressures of feeding area in harder to get rangeland areas and this can help improve some of the higher managed Rangeland areas.

RECREATION

Bird hunting is a popular form of recreation in the District. Pheasants are the most popular game bird, but the numbers have been decreasing over the last 20 years. Other game birds include ducks, geese, quail, partridge, and doves.

Fishing is popular on the Snake River, Wilson Lake and Vinyard Creek.

Horseback riding, biking, and hiking are popular forms of recreation on public rangeland.

RIPARIAN

The amount of riparian habitat is limited in the District. Most of Vinyard Creek, Blue Lakes, and the Snake River riparian areas are all under the jurisdiction of BLM.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

At present, the District employs an Administrative Assistant, who administers the daily functions of the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District. The Administrative Assistant attends the District board meetings and transcribes the minutes of the meetings.

The District now holds normal meetings as needed, or at least one meeting every three months. Under the direction of the District chairman, an agenda is prepared and followed during the meetings. Financial statements are prepared for the Board for each meeting. The financial records of the district are reviewed/audited in accordance with State Law.

Cooperation is maintained with the NRCS and ISWCC through a Memorandum of Understanding. The District is an active member of Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), and partners with the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission. (ISWCC), Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA) and the Mid Snake RC&D.

The North Side SWCD reviews resource needs, updates priorities, and updates its annual plan of work at least once per year. The District updates the plan if updates occur within the normal time frame and responds to the updates as needed.

The District receives funding from Jerome County and the State of Idaho. Each year the District Supervisors meet with the Jerome County Commissioners to make a presentation and request District funding.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

North Side Soil and Water Conservation District has an extensive information and education program. The board believes that conservation education is the key to the district's programs and funding. Education of school children provides for future

environmentally conscious citizens, which is especially important in a rural farming area such as Jerome County.

Adult education reaches throughout the district and into the entire Magic Valley through articles in the local and regional newspapers.

Education of the district's youth takes many forms. Programs include:

- Natural Resource Camp: The District has provided and continues to provide scholarships for middle school students to attend the camp.
- Envirothon: The District sponsors at least one Jerome High School Team and has sponsored the National Envirothon Competition in Pocatello.
- Soils Judging: The District and NRCS coordinates and sponsors the Jerome Soils Event for High School students.
- The District continues to support the Jerome High School Ag Department.

DISTRICT PRIORITIES 2024-2029

#1 Water Quality and Quantity

#2 Soil Health

#3 Information & Education

Jerome Conservation Partnerships

NORTH SIDE SWCD-2025 Board of Supervisors

Position	Name	Address	Phone #	E-Mail
Chairman	Steven Huettig	1908 E. 1300 S Hazelton, 83335	208-308-3718	idahowindstar@protonmail.com
Vice Chair	Andy Prescott		208-280-2165	110 North 800 East Jerome 83338
Sec/Treas	Delbert Kohtz	1135 Valley Road Eden, Idaho 83325	208-312-1135	del@idahowatercompany.com
Member	Roy Prescott Frank DeHoney	110 North 800 East Jerome 83338	208-280-2163	royprescott@hotmail.com
Associate Member	Alan Hansten	921 North Lincoln Jerome, Idaho 83338	208-329-9485	awh@northsidecanal.com

United States-Natural Resources Conservation Service-Jerome Office

➢ Mike Cothern D C	1441 Fillmore Street, Ste A Twin Falls, Idaho 83301	208-944-3759

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

➢ Daniyln Roseman ➢ Natural Resource Con.	310 W Nez Perce Jerome, ID 83338	208-208=810-0764

Farm Service Agency

➢ Farm Service Agency	310 West Nez Perce Jerome, Idaho 83338	208-944-3629

Jerome Conservation Partnerships

- County of Jerome
- City of Jerome
- Jerome County Local Working Group
- City of Eden
- City of Hazelton
- Farm Bureau Agency
- Jerome School District
- Valley School District
- Valley Recreation District
- Jerome Waterways Board
- Jerome Recreation District
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- North Side Canal Company
- North Side Pumping Company
- Mid-Snake Resource Conservation & Development
- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
- Idaho District Employees Association
- Idaho Department of Agriculture
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Department of Lands
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Bureau of Land Management
- University of Idaho-Natural Resource Camp
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- University of Idaho Extension Service
- USDA-Farm Service Agency
- Balanced Rock Soil Conservation District
- Snake River Soil and Water Conservation District
- Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District
- Wood River Soil and Water Conservation District
- Gooding Soil and Water Conservation District
- East Cassia and West Cassia SWCD
- Minidoka SWC

North Side 2025 Annual Work Plan

March 13, 2025

Resource Concerns

Soil Health
Water — Quality and Quantity
Information and Education
District Operations

Proposed/planned Projects:	Leader:	Time:
1) Develop a soil moisture sensor project	North Side SWCD board	Jan. to Dec.
2) Support the Magic Valley Soil Health Forum	North Side SWCD board	Jan. to Dec.
3) Participate in the Division IV soil testing program.	North Side SWCD board	Jan. to Dec.
4) Administer NS Pump SWAQP project	North Side SWCD board ISWCC	Jan. to June.
5) Develop a water conservation project for City of Eden.	North Side board	Jan. to Dec.
6) Provide a tree seedling to every 3rd grader in Jerome Co.	North Side board	Jan. to April
7) Host annual poster and speech contests.	Public outreach specialist	February to Oct.
8) Provide college scholarships to Jerome and Valley seniors	North Side SWCD board	Feb to May
9) Participate in the Jerome County Fair	Public Outreach Specialist	Feb to Sept.
10) Support Innovative Ag Marketing Program	North Side SWCD	Jan. to Dec.

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

DISTRICT: North Side SWCD

FOR FISCAL YEAR: 25-26

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.

Steven Huettig

Board Supervisor Signature

Steven Huettig

Printed Name

3-13-25

Date

208-944-3836

District Telephone

2jconservation@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: _____