VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

209 North Idaho Street
Cascade, ID 83611

FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN

7/1/2025 Thru 6/30/2030

FY26 ANNUAL PLAN

7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026

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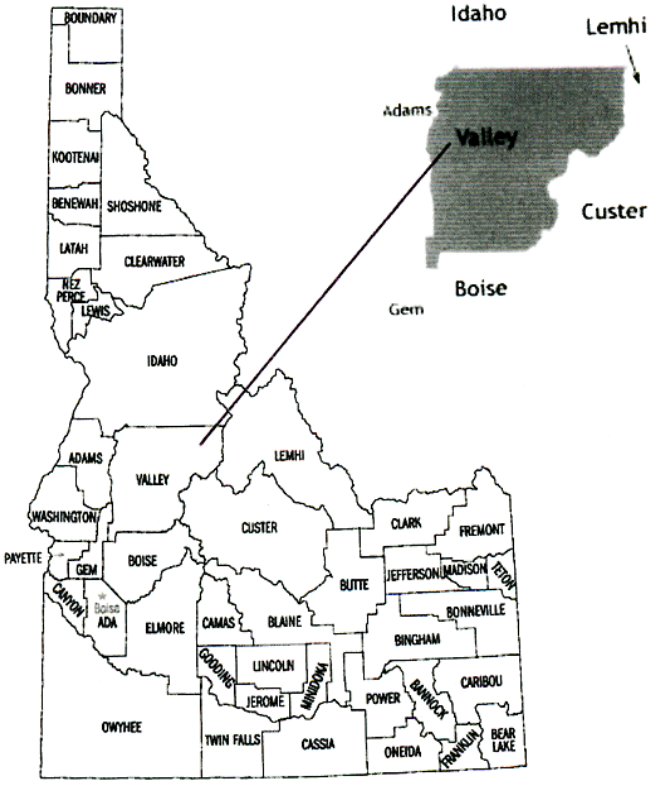
INTRODUCTION

The Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), one of 50 soil and water conservation districts in the State of Idaho, was organized February 11, 1957 following a public referendum. Conservation districts are one of the primary non-regulatory entities with a mission to promote responsible management and conservation of Idaho's soil, water, and other natural resources. Districts are separate legal entities and political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Districts are led by a locally elected board of Supervisors who serve four-year terms on a volunteer basis. Valley SWCD encourages cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations and elected officials to protect and develop multiple and beneficial uses of our natural resources. We believe that knowledge, peer involvement, cooperation and incentives are the best methods to improve and conserve our soil and water resources. Conservation Districts 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 (NRCS) provides technical assistance to landowners and land users through Conservation Districts. Each District in Idaho has a signed Mutual Agreement with the USDA Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan and Annual Plan has been developed to guide Valley Soil & Water Conservation District throughout the year, and as a tool to help coordinate local joint partnerships, increase productivity of agriculture, and to protect and ensure a sustainable natural resource base in Valley County for present and future generations. This document identifies Valley Soil &Water Conservation District resource needs and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting those needs.

SECTION 1 - PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS: Location, Land Ownership and Uses



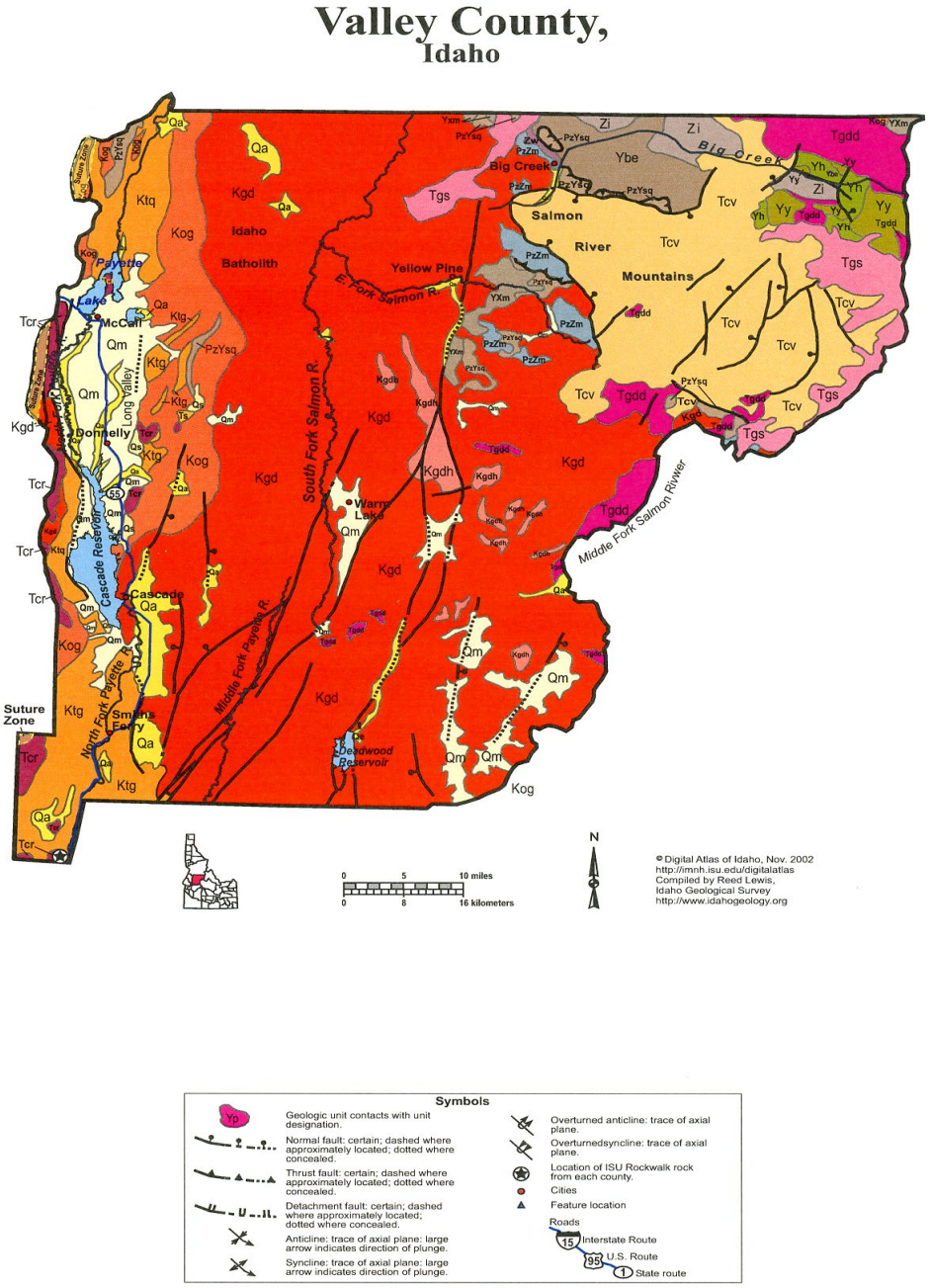
Valley SWCD, located in west central Idaho, includes nearly all of Valley County, and is bordered by Adams, Gem, Boise, Lemhi, Custer and Idaho Counties. Valley County, established in 1917, is named after the Long Valley of the North Fork of the Payette River, which extends over 30 miles from Payette Lake at McCall south to Cascade and then Round Valley. Valley County serves as summer pasture for livestock from the Boise Treasure Valley and surrounding area.

Since completion of the Cascade Dam in 1948, Cascade Reservoir, renamed Lake Cascade now covers much of the western central valley floor. The total land and water area of the Valley SWCD is nearly 3,680 square miles, over 2.3 million acres. Most is federally owned (88%), predominately forestland and overseen by the USDA National Forest Service. Approximately two-thirds of the private and state-owned lands are woodlands. These woodlands provide multiple uses – timber harvest, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat and recreation. About one-tenth of Valley Soil & Water Conservation District is rangeland and is utilized by livestock and wildlife.

Geology

The Idaho Batholith occupies in nearly all the mountainous areas surrounding Long Valley and Round Valley. A few intrusions of Columbia River basalt occupy the valley floor in the upper Long Valley area. The northern end of the West Mountain range near McCall is made up of Columbia River basalt. The valley floor is the result of glaciations and sediment deposition by water.

The valleys are the result of a combination of glaciations and faulting. A survey in 1957 indicated a thickness of 7,000 feet of sediments in the Long Valley area between West Mountain and Donnelly (Geological Survey Bulletin 1331-A, 1970). The soils are developed in thin layers of sandy till and residuum weathered from bedrock in the Idaho Batholith and Columbia River basalt areas. In the McCall area, Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake areas are the result of glaciations.



Geologic Units:

Qa	Quaternary alluvial deposits
Qm	Quaternary moraine (unsorted boulders, cobbles and sand) and glaciofluvial outwash (bedded stream deposits formed from streams draining active glacial ice).
Qs	Quaternary surficial cover, including colluvium, fluvial, alluvial fan, lake, and windblown deposits. Included fluveolian cover on Snake River Plain, (Snake River Group).
Tcr	Miocene basalt (Columbia River Basalt Group); flood basalt, extensively exposed in western Idaho; fed by fissures, many of which are near the Idaho-Oregon border. Flowed eastward up valleys cut into the Idaho mountains.
Tcv	Eocene Challis Volcanic Group, volcanics and volcaniclastics; Older andesitic lavas, intermediate age dacite lava and tuff and younger rhyolite flows and tuffs; 51 to 44 Ma. (Includes Potato Hill and Kamiah volcanics of northern Idaho).
Tgs	Eocene granite, pink granite, syenite, rhyolite dikes, and rhyolitic shallow intrusive; last phase of the Challis magmatic event (46 to 44 Ma). Forms craggy scenic mountain landscape in central and northern Idaho.
Tgdd	Eocene granodiorite and dacite porphyry intrusive, also includes diorite and, in northern Idaho, minor granitic rock; intermediate phase of Challis magmatic event (50 to 46 Ma). Summit Creek stock.
Kog	Cretaceous orthogneiss, and foliated granodiorite and granite (includes mylonitic plutonic rocks in western Idaho suture zone); deformed early phases of the Idaho batholith.
Kgdh	Cretaceous granitic rocks of the hornblene-biotite suite; granite, granodiorite and megacrystic granodiorite. Potassium (K) rich. Age about 80 to 90 Ma.
Ktg	Cretaceous tonalite and quartz diorite; hornblende and biotite bearing early phases of the Idaho batholith. Intruded about 90 to 95 Ma.
Kgd	Cretaceous granitic rocks of the 2 mica suite. Idaho batholith and related plutons; granite and granodiorite that contains both muscovite and biotite. Sodium (Na) rich. Intruded between 80 and 65 Ma.
PzZm	Paleozoic/Neoproterozoic metasedimentary rocks, mainly quartzose sandstone (includes formation of Leaton Gulch).
PzYsq	Paleozoic/Mesoproterozoic schist and quartzite; age uncertain.
Zi	Neoproterozoic dioritic and syenitic intrusive rocks along Big Creek, west of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River; about 600 to 700 Ma.
Zw	Windermere Supergroup (metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks in Big Creek area and northern Idaho).
Ybe	Belt Supergroup undivided; contains siltite, argillite, sandstone (quartzite) and minor conglomerate in Lemhi Range and near Salmon; includes Meadow Creek metamorphic sequence east of Elk City in the Clearwater River drainage.
Yh	Hoodoo Quartzite (Ravalli Group); light-colored feldspathic sandstone, cross bedded.
Yy	Yellowjacket Formation in the type area near Yellowjacket Mine, Bighorn Crags, and west to town of Big Creek. Contains siltite, calc-silicate rocks, and fine sandstone.
YXm	High-grade metamorphic rocks (schist, gneiss, quartzite, calc-silicate rocks); includes Elk City metamorphic sequence and related rocks, Syringa metamorphic sequence, and Priest River metamorphic complex.

Valley County Geology

Valley County covers a huge area in central Idaho, from Long Valley and McCall east to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The South Fork of the Salmon divides the county in two, flowing north toward the Main Salmon river, which is north across the border in Idaho county. The Payette River drains southward in the western part of the county. On the extreme northwest are accreted terrane rocks west of the Idaho suture zone.

East of the suture are Cretaceous tonalites and orthogneiss of the Idaho batholith, which pass eastward to granodiorite that underlies the bulk of the county. A few inliers of Proterozoic and Paleozoic sedimentary rocks remain, as roof pendants to the batholith. The northeast is a downdropped block, the Thunder Mountain caldera, filled with Eocene Challis volcanic group rocks. North of this block of volcanic rocks is a northwest trending belt along Big Creek that exposes Mesoproterozoic Belt Supergroup strata and unique Neoproterozoic intrusive rocks.

Miocene and younger north-striking faults, part of the Basin and Range system, cut the batholith of the central part of the county, and form the Long Valley graben near Cascade Reservoir and Payette Lake.

Geology Near McCall

Three major rock groups are exposed near McCall, Idaho. These include: the Cretaceous Idaho batholith, the Triassic-Jurassic metamorphosed island-arc sedimentary and volcanic rocks of the Seven Devils Group and the Miocene flood-basalt flows of the Columbia River Basalt Group. Several structural features are prevalent in the area and most likely control along with the past glaciation the geomorphology in the region.

Structurally, McCall is situated at the end of Long Valley, a major tectonic and structural feature of west central Idaho. The West Mountain escarpment is the high ridge formed along the west side of the Long Valley fault. West Mountain and Long Valley are part of a group of linear north-south ranges and valleys formed by block faulting during the late Tertiary and Quaternary. As West Mountain rose and Long Valley subsided, as much as 7,000 feet of alluvium accumulated in the valley (Idaho Geological Survey website.)

Glacial deposits are divided into two categories on the basis of origin. "Till" is unsorted, rounded glacial sediments which commonly form moraines. Moraines can be one of four types. "Lateral" moraines are formed from the large accumulations of unsorted debris at the glacier-valley wall interface. "Medial" moraines form when two glaciers merge, and their lateral moraines are incorporated into the center - or medial portion - of the glacier, much like when two streams come together. A "Terminal" moraine is one that marks the furthest advance of the glacier; each farther-reaching advance wipes out the previous terminal moraine. "Recessional" moraines mark periods when the glacier is retreating - that is, the end of the glacier (the snout) where moraine is being deposited is short of the terminal glacier. It is important to remember, however, that even when a glacier is retreating the ice and sediment movement is always forward. In terms of glacial sediment transport, a glacier is not unlike a conveyor belt that can lengthen and shorten as conditions mandate.

The second category of glacial deposit is not formed by flowing ice, but flowing water and is referred to as outwash. "Outwash" is deposited by meltwater discharging at the base of glaciers. Outwash from glaciers commonly forms expansive braided stream networks down valley from glaciers and differ from moraines in that outwash sediments are well-sorted. For further information on glaciers and glacial geomorphology, please visit the USGS website.

Glacial features can be found around the area as most of the broad, high elevation region north of McCall was buried by an ice cap during the Pleistocene. Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake were formed as a result of glaciation in the region as valley glaciers carved the basin and deposited the moraines which impound the lakes. Other glacial geomorphic features, such as cirques - the alpine headwalls where glaciers begin - and medial moraines, around the area are visible in the landscape. An example would be Timber Ridge which formed originally as a large prominent medial moraine. Meltwater streams from these glaciers coursed across the valley depositing thick deposits of sand and gravel that can be seen as high terraces above the Payette River. These terraces are relict valley floors that have been incised as the post-glacial climate has changed and discharges in the Payette drainages have diminished.

See Winston et al. article in Guidebook to the Geology of Eastern Idaho.

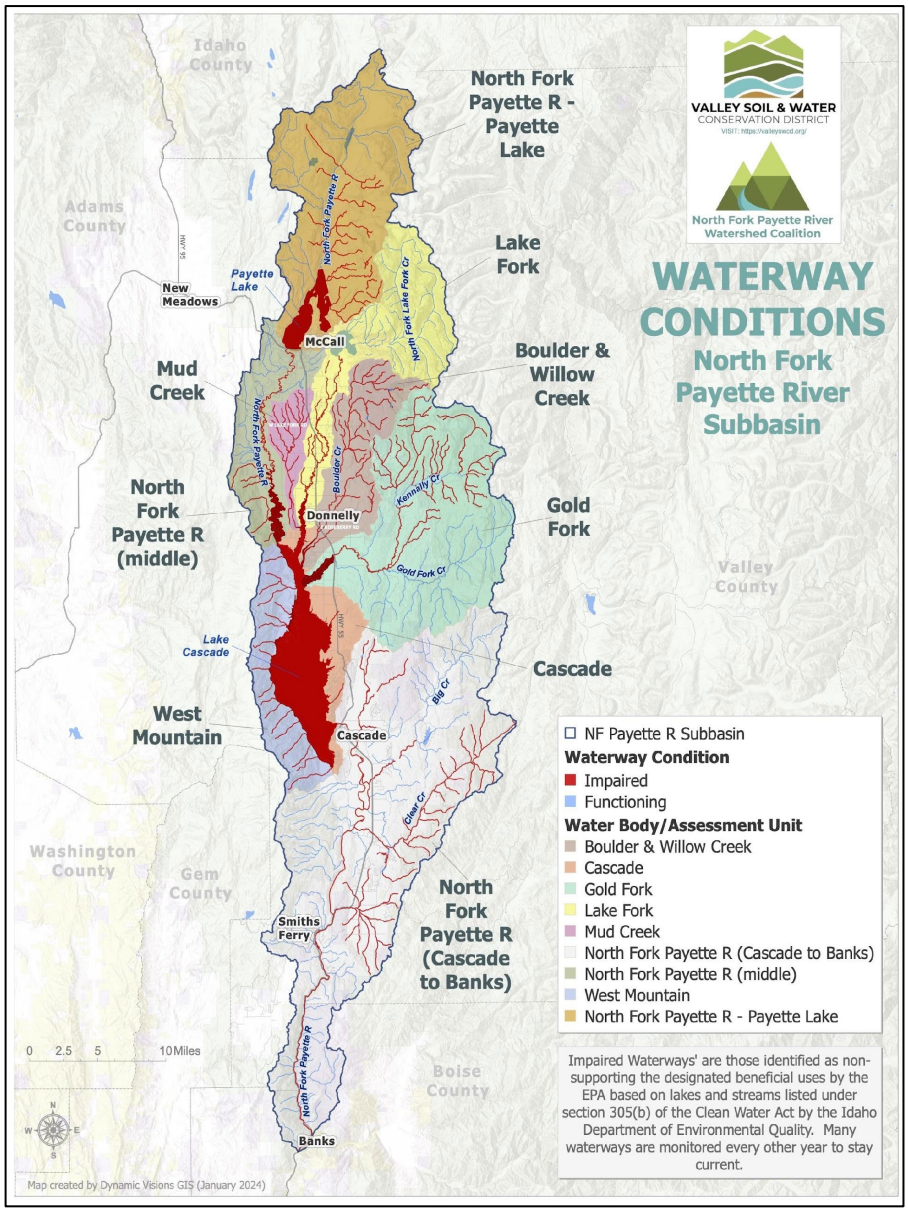
Tamra Schiappa and P.K. Link, 10/02

SECTION 2 ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK

The 2022 Census of Agriculture for Valley County lists 45,321 acres as farmland, an 11% decrease from 2017 census with an average farm size of 319 acres, a 18% increase from 2017. Cattle continue to be trucked in for the summer grazing on the majority of primarily irrigated pastureland, which is 34% of the farmland in Valley County. Livestock share of sales at 86%, compared to crops at 14% (2022), reflects the major source of the Agriculture Market Value of Products sold in Valley County. Note: the 2022 Census of Agriculture, Valley County Profile, on the following pages, further highlight significant changes to Valley County's demographics and land use. The next available Census of Agriculture, completed every five years, will be published in 2027 and will more accurately reflect the dramatic changes in Valley County land use.

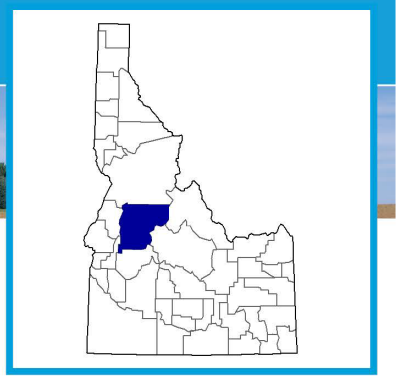
Recreation and tourism are of major importance to the Valley County economy. Fishing, boating, hunting and camping attract many visitors. Wildlife is abundant in the District. Big game animals, particularly deer and elk, utilize the woodlands and rangelands. Waterfowl and raptors live on and around the many lakes, reservoirs and streams. Small animals and birds abound throughout the county. Many species of fish inhabit the water bodies. However, only a small number of acres have been set aside as wildlife acres. Other land uses include mining, lands incorporated in towns, platted subdivisions and some industrial uses.

The District pursued funding from a US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. Awarded May of 2023, VSWCD formed the North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition of diverse stakeholders to address water quality challenges in the District. The Waterways conditions map, (right), developed through the coalition illustrates the critical current conditions of the NFPR Watershed and the need for unified action and policies.



The North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition, comprised of a diverse group of community stakeholders, has identified and prioritized areas of concern based on the watershed impaired waterways on the above map. The NFPR Watershed Restoration Plan is to be completed for publication by October 2025.

2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE *County Profile*



Valley County
Idaho

Total and Per Farm Overview, 2022 and change since 2017

	2022	% change since 2017
Number of farms	142	-24
Land in farms (acres)	45,321	-11
Average size of farm (acres)	319	+18
Total	($)	
Market value of products sold	12,423,000	+18
Government payments	(D)	(D)
Farm-related income	813,000	+5
Total farm production expenses	10,032,000	+20
Net cash farm income	3,360,000	+12
Per farm average	($)	
Market value of products sold	87,487	+56
Government payments [a]	(D)	(D)
Farm-related income [a]	12,513	+28
Total farm production expenses	70,647	+58
Net cash farm income	23,659	+48

(Z) Percent of state agriculture sales

Share of Sales by Type (%)

Crops	14
Livestock, poultry, and products	86

Land in Farms by Use (acres)

Cropland	6,428
Pastureland	27,211
Woodland	10,777
Other	905

Acres irrigated: 15,245
34% of land in farms

Land Use Practices (% of farms)

No till	8
Reduced till	4
Intensive till	8
Cover crop	4

Farms by Value of Sales

	Number	Percent of Total [b]
Less than $2,500	61	43
$2,500 to $4,999	20	14
$5,000 to $9,999	8	6
$10,000 to $24,999	3	2
$25,000 to $49,999	16	11
$50,000 to $99,999	15	11
$100,000 or more	19	13

Farms by Size

	Number	Percent of Total [b]
1 to 9 acres	23	16
10 to 49 acres	61	43
50 to 179 acres	26	18
180 to 499 acres	14	10
500 to 999 acres	6	4
1,000+ acres	12	8

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE *County Profile*

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

	Sales ($1,000)	Rank in State [c]	Counties Producing Item	Rank in U.S. [c]	Counties Producing Item
Total	**12,423**	**41**	**44**	**2,651**	**3,078**
Crops	**1,685**	**43**	**44**	**2,782**	**3,074**
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, dry peas	(D)	39	42	(D)	2,917
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	267
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	647
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes	(D)	28	41	(D)	2,831
Fruits, tree nuts, berries	-	-	36	-	2,711
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod	(D)	22	42	(D)	2,660
Cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops	-	-	8	-	1,274
Other crops and hay	(D)	42	44	(D)	3,035
Livestock, poultry, and products	**10,738**	**29**	**44**	**2,126**	**3,076**
Poultry and eggs	(D)	(D)	44	(D)	3,027
Cattle and calves	10,261	29	44	1,252	3,047
Milk from cows	-	-	30	-	1,770
Hogs and pigs	(D)	(D)	40	(D)	2,814
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, milk	4	40	44	2,399	2,967
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, donkeys	24	33	44	2,073	2,907
Aquaculture	(D)	13	21	(D)	1,190
Other animals and animal products	9	32	43	1,739	2,909

Producers [d]	**263**
Sex	
Male	147
Female	116
Age	
<35	16
35 – 64	165
65 and older	82
Race	
American Indian/Alaska Native	-
Asian	5
Black or African American	-
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	-
White	255
More than one race	3
Other characteristics	
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin	5
With military service	33
New and beginning farmers	87

Percent of farms that:

Have internet access	**81**
Farm organically	**1**
Sell directly to consumers	**11**
Hire farm labor	**21**
Are family farms	**97**

Top Crops in Acres [e]

Forage (hay/haylage), all	3,467
Oats for grain	1,238
Vegetables harvested, all	(D)
Carrots	(D)
Cultivated Christmas trees	(D)

Livestock Inventory (Dec 31, 2022)

Broilers and other meat-type chickens	319
Cattle and calves	8,486
Goats	88
Hogs and pigs	-
Horses and ponies	203
Layers	430
Pullets	(D)
Sheep and lambs	73
Turkeys	-

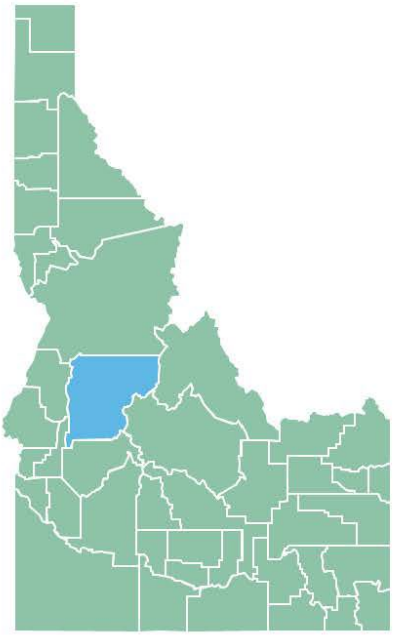
[a] Average per farm receiving. [b] May not add to 100% due to rounding. [c] Among counties whose rank can be displayed. [d] Data collected for a maximum of four producers per farm. [e] Crop commodity names may be shortened; see full names at www.nass.usda.gov/go/cropnames.pdf. [f] Position below the 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.

Valley County Labor Force And Economic Profile

Last Updated: January 2025

Valley County Economic Overview

Civilian Labor Force (Dec 2024)	6,803
Unemployment Rate (Dec 2024)	4.2%
Population (2023)	12,644
Median Household Income (2023)	$76,125
Per Capita Personal Income (2023)	$66,382
Poverty Rate (2023)	14.2%



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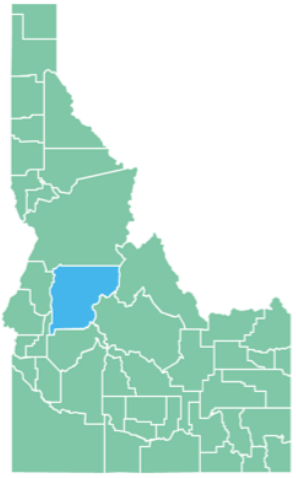
Valley County Economic Overview

Civilian Labor Force (Dec 2023)	5,849
Unemployment Rate (Dec 2023)	4.4%
Population (2022)	12,464
Median Household Income (2021)	$67,528
Per Capita Personal Income (2022)	$64,666
Poverty Rate (2021)	10.6%



5. Industry Employment and Wages, 2012, 2021, and 2022

Supersector	2012		2021		2022	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,769	$33,966	4,991	$42,954	4,914	$47,834
Natural Resources and Mining	148	$33,358	82	$70,496	72	$74,428
Construction	248	$36,602	439	$42,937	426	$51,401
Manufacturing	36	$29,257	39	$49,461	43	$41,936
Trade,Transportation, and Utilities	668	$29,875	906	$40,648	872	$46,091
Information	166	$70,085	32	$63,638	36	$68,493
Financial Activities	190	$33,819	275	$45,053	272	$45,258
Professional and Business Services	83	$37,391	220	$61,466	237	$75,754
Education and Health Services	602	$44,248	749	$56,742	769	$60,194
Leisure and Hospitality	912	$18,126	1,475	$27,739	1,429	$30,558
Other Services	103	$24,187	162	$29,926	146	$34,272
Public Administration	611	$42,747	604	$57,593	612	$62,260

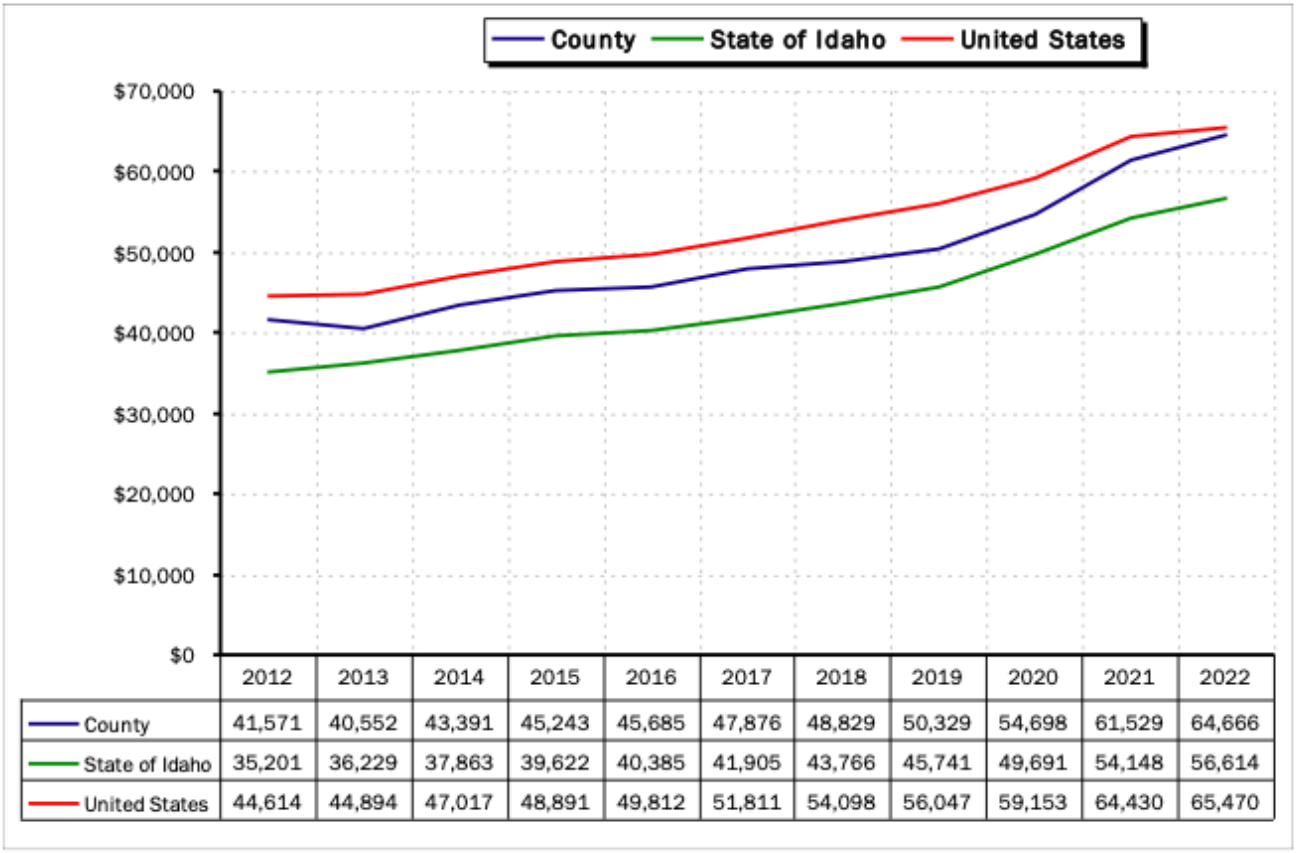
Source: Idaho Department of Labor- Quarterly Census of Employment Wages (QCEW)

Top Employers, 2022

Employer	Ownership	Employment Range
Shore Lodge	Private	250 - 499
U.s. Forest Service	Federal Government	100 - 249
Mccall-donnelly School District	Local Government	100 - 249
Tamarack Food And Beverage	Private	100 - 249
Valley County	Local Government	100 - 249
Brundage Mountain Resort	Private	100 - 249
Albertsons	Private	050 - 099
City Of Mccall	Local Government	050 - 099
Cascade Medical Center Foundation	Local Government	050 - 099
Cascade School District	Local Government	050 - 099

NOTE: Only employers that have given the Department permission to release employment range data are listed.
Source: Idaho Department of Labor- Quarterly Census of Employment Wages (QCEW)

Real Per Capita Income, 2012 to 2022



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
County	41,571	40,552	43,391	45,243	45,685	47,876	48,829	50,329	54,698	61,529	64,666
State of Idaho	35,201	36,229	37,863	39,622	40,385	41,905	43,766	45,741	49,691	54,148	56,614
United States	44,614	44,894	47,017	48,891	49,812	51,811	54,098	56,047	59,153	64,430	65,470

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Climate

Valley SWCD extreme temperatures show a high of 104 degrees in August and a low of -50 degrees in January. The latest killing frost is usually mid-June and earliest is normally in early September, however, frosts may occur during any summer month. Most precipitation comes in the winter in the form of snow. Of the total annual precipitation, 32% normally occurs in April through September, which includes the growing season for most crops. The average relative humidity during the mid-afternoon is about 40%. Humidity is higher at night, and the average at dawn is about 65% in the summer months. The usual daytime summer temperatures range from 70 to 90 degrees.

SECTION 3 - ASSESSMENT

- ## Soil Resources

  General Soil Map and Legend: Soil Survey Valley Area, Idaho information can be found on the web soil survey at http://soils.usda.gov.survey

Highly Erodible Land (HEL): A map of highly erodible land has not been prepared. Most HEL is forested and administered by the USDA Forest Service. Except for limited grazing by livestock, these lands are not used for agriculture.

Wetlands: Copies of quadrangle sheets of the National Wetlands Inventory prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service are located in the District Office. Most wetlands are located along the banks of rivers and creeks and larger waterbodies. High mountain meadows in forested areas make up a small part of the wetlands.

Water Resources and Water Quality

Valley SWCD is in the upper watershed of the Payette River Drainage. Also included are large portions of the South and Middle Forks of the Salmon River Drainages. Major water users include irrigation, power generation, recreation and spawning waters for anadromous fish (salmon and steelhead). Several irrigation districts supply water to farms and ranches in one quarter of the District.

Surface and Groundwater: Valley SWCD has a complex surface water system with an abundance of streams, lakes and reservoirs. Irrigation canals and laterals are abundant and transport water throughout the valley. Major rivers include the South and Middle Forks of the Salmon River, which drain into the Main Salmon River. Numerous creeks feed these rivers. The largest lakes within the District are Payette Lakes located near McCall. Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs are major storage sources for irrigation and power generation to Gem, Payette, Washington and Canyon Counties. Several small reservoirs store water for local irrigation needs. Most of these are in the Cascade Reservoir Watershed.

Ground water supplies are adequate to meet present needs. Most of the District is part of the Idaho Batholith, a huge granitic intrusion covering most of central Idaho. This area has no extensive deep aquifers. Wells obtain water from fractures in the rock. The intermountain valley floor sediments have been estimated to have a thickness up to 7,000 feet. Domestic water supplies have used an existing shallow water table aquifer. Possible decline in water table levels could occur as more farmland is sprinkler irrigated and irrigation canals and laterals eliminated. Development of deeper aquifer has been limited because of adequate shallow water of good quality. Due to the great sediment thickness under the valley floor an extensive aquifer system could exist and provide a good source of water for future development. Many springs supply domestic and livestock water. Some springs are induced due to irrigation water drainage and would stop producing if irrigation water usage decreases. Several hot springs are located in the District as well as geothermal wells that produce warm water. The Cascade School building is heated by one of these geothermal wells.

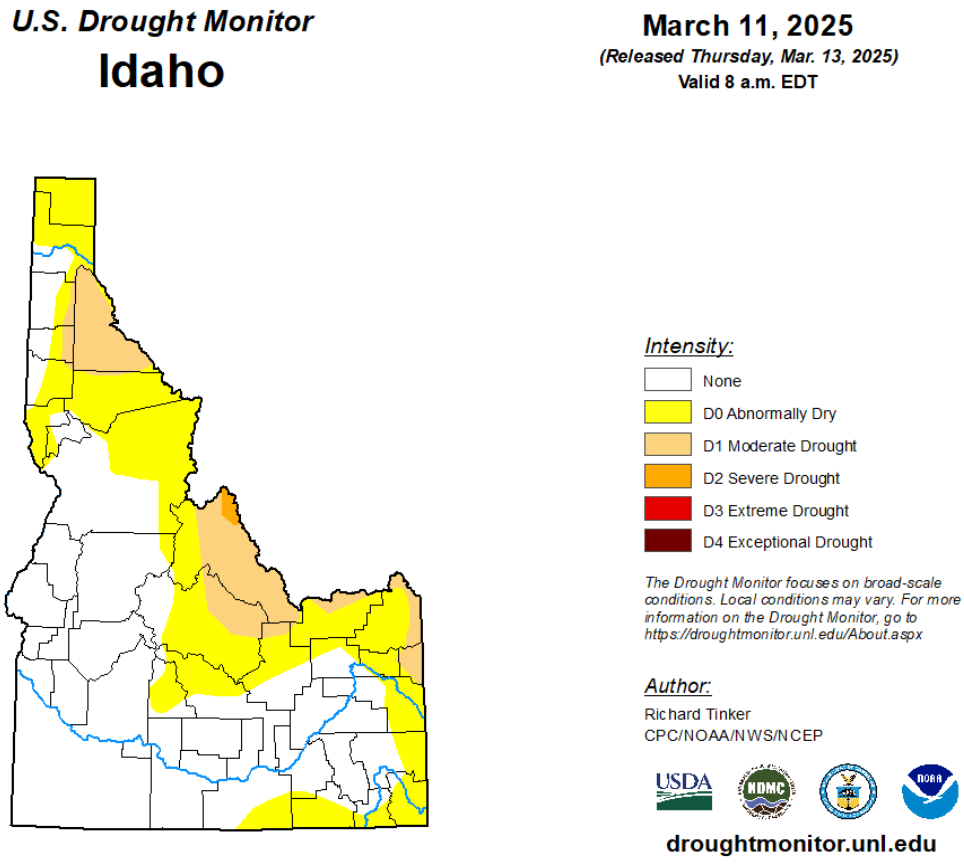
Many farmers and ranchers depend on stream flow from creeks to irrigate agricultural lands. These streams have little or no storage resulting in potential water supplies being short in the summer. Despite the seemingly abundant amount of water, conflicts arise over water rights. Local water uses are concerned over federal regulations that may preempt state water laws. Increasing demands for waterpower generation, recreation, stream flows and wildlife are major concerns to irrigators and others alike.

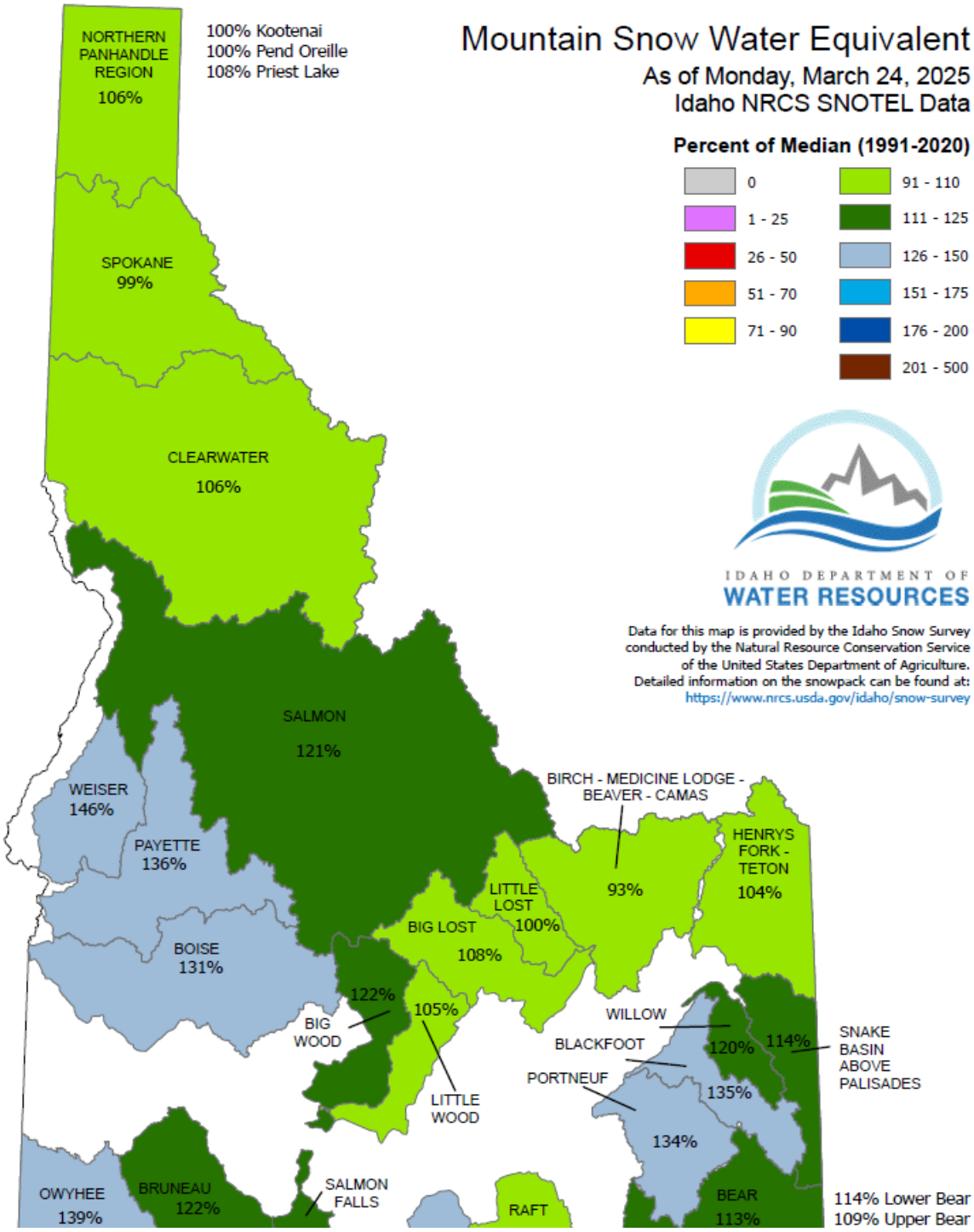
Flooding and Drainage: There is periodic flooding that causes property damage and threatens the health and safety of Valley County residents. (e.g., flooding that occurred winter 1996/97, April 2002, Spring 2017). Minor flooding occurs along some creeks during spring runoff with damage mainly to creek banks where vegetation is depleted. Poorly drained soils are common in Long and Round Valleys and in mountain meadows. Erosion of creek channels and some straightening of channels have lowered the shallow water table in some places. Over irrigation has created wet spots, particularly in poorly managed irrigated pastures.%

Drought Conditions

Valley County moves from moderate drought in 2023 to no drought conditions as of March 11, 2025 (see U.S. Drought Monitor for Idaho below). The Mountain Snow Water Equivalent Map on page 14 shows most all regions well over 100% with Payette (Valley County) at 136%. Even so, changing weather patterns, and significant increased development and recreation continue to increase pressures on water quantity and water quality in the North Fork Payette River watershed.

U.S Drought Monitor




Mountain Snow Water Equivalent
As of Monday, March 24, 2025
Idaho NRCS SNOTEL Data
Percent of Median (1991-2020)
0
1 - 25
26 - 50
51 - 70
71 - 90
91 - 110
111 - 125
126 - 150
151 - 175
176 - 200
201 - 500
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
Data for this map is provided by the Idaho Snow Survey conducted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.
Detailed information on the snowpack can be found at:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/idaho/snow-survey
NORTHERN PANHANDLE REGION
106%
100% Kootenai
100% Pend Oreille
108% Priest Lake
SPOKANE
99%
CLEARWATER
106%
SALMON
121%
WEISER
146%
PAYETTE
136%
BOISE
131%
BIRCH - MEDICINE LODGE - BEAVER - CAMAS
93%
HENRYS FORK - TETON
104%
LITTLE LOST
100%
BIG LOST
108%
122%
105%
BIG WOOD
LITTLE WOOD
WILLOW
BLACKFOOT
120%
114%
SNAKE BASIN ABOVE PALISADES
PORTNEUF
135%
134%
OWYHEE
139%
BRUNEAU
122%
SALMON FALLS
RAFT
BEAR
113%
114% Lower Bear
109% Upper Bear

SECTION 4 – CONSERVATION DISTRICT OBJECTIVES

Organization of the Valley Soil & Water 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 1957 to provide voluntary land and water conservation through technical and financial assistance to landowners within the Valley SWCD boundary.

Who We Serve & Why

- The people and natural resources in the Valley SWCD, to conserve the natural resources for beneficial and sustainable use by all.

Mission of the Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

- We encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials to improve our natural resources thereby ensuring an adequate natural resource base for present and future generations. We believe that knowledge, peer involvement, cooperation and incentives are the best methods to improve soil and water resources.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

The following are the Valley SWCD's top six priorities and goals applicable to our natural resources' issues:

- Water Quality and Quantity
- Riparian
- Traditional Agriculture: Pasture & Hayland Management and Irrigated & Non-Irrigated Cropland
- Woodland and Wildfire Mitigation
- Fish and Wildlife*
- District Operations

**Meets Antidegradation Plan for Agriculture criteria*

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

- Land use changes
- Absentee landowners
- Drought conditions/Climate change
- Need for fire mitigation
- Economics, fuel prices and maintenance costs
- Growth in wetland, agricultural and forested areas
- Increased small acreage landowners, five acres or less
- Limited availability of State funds for conservation
- Focus on water quality compared to other conservation and natural resource issues
- Farm Bill financial assistance programs, such as EQIP, are being used to implement soil and water conservation projects in the district.

District Staffing Need

- Full-time, benefited Conservation District Manager and administrative assistant.
- Technical assistance for District BMP conservation project design, implementation, and educational outreach.
- Grant administrative support from Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
- Part-time administrative assistant to manage social media, website and general District office administration

Cooperating Agencies and Organizations

Valley SWCD has established effective working partnerships with many federal state and local agencies and organization to promote the wise use of our natural resources. Most contacts are through informal, cooperative arrangements although the District does have several Memorandums of Understanding. The District has partnered with agencies, organization and groups to provide assistance in resource planning and to implement the District's Resource Conservation Business Plan.

Key Decision Makers

- **Idaho Governor:** Brad Little
- **District 8 State Legislators representing Valley SWCD:** Senator; Representative Faye Thompson
- **U.S. Senators and Representatives:** Senator Jim Risch, Senator Mike Crapo, Congressman Russ Fulcher and Congressman Mike Simpson
- **Citizens and landowners within Valley SWCD**
- **Valley County Commissioners:** Sherry Maupin, Chair; Neal Thompson, Katlin Caldwell
- **Valley County Clerk:** Doug Miller
- **Valley County Planning & Zoning Commissioners**: Ken Roberts, Chair; Carrie Potter Vice Chair; Heidi Schneider, Brad Mabe, Ben Oyarzo
- **Valley County P & Z Contacts:** Cynda Herrick, P & Z Administer and Floodplain Coordinator; Lori Hunter, P & Z Technician
- **Valley County Weed Department:** Steve Anderson
- **Valley County Road Department:** Jeff McFadden
- **UI Extension Office, Valley County:** Melissa Hamilton, Extension Educator, Alysson Statz, 4-H Coordinator
- **City of Cascade Mayor:** Judy Nissula
- **City of Donnelly Mayor:** Susan Dorris
- **City of McCall Mayor:** Bob Giles
- **Valley Soil and Water Conservation District Elected Supervisors:** Art Troutner, Chair; John Lillehaug, Treasurer; Bill Leaf, Supervisor; Colt Brown, Supervisor and Judy Anderson, Supervisor. District Appointed Associates include Lenard Long and Pam Pace.

5-Year Plan References:

2022 Census of Agriculture – County Profile Valley County, Idaho United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

Guidebook to the Geology of Eastern Idaho – Tamra Schiappa and P. K. Link, October 2002

U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics – U. S. Department of Labor

Valley County – Work Force Trends January 2025 Jan Roeser | Labor Economist
Communications & Research, Idaho Department of Labor, lmi.idaho.gov

Soil Survey Valley Area, Idaho – Web Soil Survey at http://soils.usda.gov.survey

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) 2017 Integrated Report – Valley County 303d listing
http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/1117323/integrated-report-2012-final-entire.pdf Appendix J

IDEQ Monitoring Results for Big Payette Lake, 2016 and 2017, Kati Carberry, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Boise Regional Office Kati.Carberry@deq.id.gov

IDEQ Cascade 5 Year Review, 2023 Dani Terhaar, Watershed Coordinator, Boise Regional Office Dani.Terhaar@deq.id.gov

SECTION 5 - WATER QUALITY COMPONENT

Water quality improvements have been a focal point of the District's activities for over twenty years. Lake Cascade, fka Cascade Reservoir, one of Idaho's prime recreation resources, attracts thousands of visitors each year. Since 1994, there has been substantial progress made in implementing the Cascade Reservoir TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) to reduce phosphorus loading. This reduction progress is from the sum of both point source improvements (McCall Wastewater Treatment Plant and Idaho Department of Fish and Game fish hatchery) and nonpoint source improvements (Forestry, Agriculture and Urban/Suburban).

Progress made toward the TMDL goal has resulted in improved water quality at a cost of over $20 million of both private and public funds. This represents a tremendous amount of work on the part of numerous private landowners, local governments, and state and federal entities. A critical part of the success has been the commitment of local agricultural landowners who have participated in improvements in grazing and irrigation practices, streambank stabilization and riparian revegetation. However, with budget and grant funding cutbacks it is increasingly difficult to provide cost share assistance to keep efforts moving forward to implement TMDL goals.

Lake Cascade was closed in the fall of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2024 due to Central District Health warnings for the cyanobacteria harmful algal bloom (HAB), also known as blue-green algae. Algal blooms are a public health concern as well as an ecological problem. One of the major contributions to the growth of algal bloom is excessive nutrient pollution, principally phosphorus and nitrogen to both the reservoir and its many tributaries. Though phosphorus and nitrogen are natural parts of the aquatic system, additional loading comes from soil erosion, agricultural fertilizer, manure, urban runoff, unsewered development, sewage, industrial effluent and increased human activities on the water bodies, wetlands and tributaries.

In response to growing challenges the within the watershed, Valley SWCD organized the North Fork Payette River Confluence Watershed Summit in 2021. Due to COVID-19 the original in-person format was modified and held online via Zoom. Designed to bring together resource agencies, local and state government and the general public, the four bi-weekly sessions of panelists provided an invaluable look into the watershed. The event concluded with various workgroups to explore solutions: lake operations; wastewater management; land management; and waves, erosion and sedimentation. These activities led to the currently active 2023 USBR WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant for the formation of a North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition and Restoration Plan. The NFPR Watershed Restoration Plan is currently in progress

Idaho's 303(d) List and Water Quality Law: The 303(d) list is dynamic and will change as listed water bodies are added for additional monitoring or removed as TMDL's are developed and/or achieved. **The following is the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 2017 Integrated Report – Valley County 303(d) listing:**

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/1117323/integrated-report-2017-final-entire.pdf
In the Table of Contents/ List of Appendices: click on Appendix J
Appendix J: Category 5(§303(d) list): **Impaired Waters Needing TMDL**

- 17050123 North Fork Payette - Starts on pg. 50 of 72
    - ID17050123SW006_02 Beaver Creek - 1st and 2nd order -- Combined Biota/Habitat Bioassessments

- ID17050123SW008_05 Gold Fork - upper 5th order, above Gold Fork Ditch -- Sediment / Siltation
- ID17050123SW011_03 Boulder Creek - 3rd order (Louie Creek to mouth) --Water Temperature
- ID17050123SW012_02 Lake Fork below Little Payette Lake - 1st and 2nd order -- Combined Biota/Habitat Bioassessments
- ID17050123SW015_02 Mud Creek - 1st and 2nd order –E-coli
- ID17050123SW015_03 Mud Creek - 3rd order (Norwood to Reservoir) -- E-coli
- ID17050123SW017L_0L Payette Lake -- Mercury

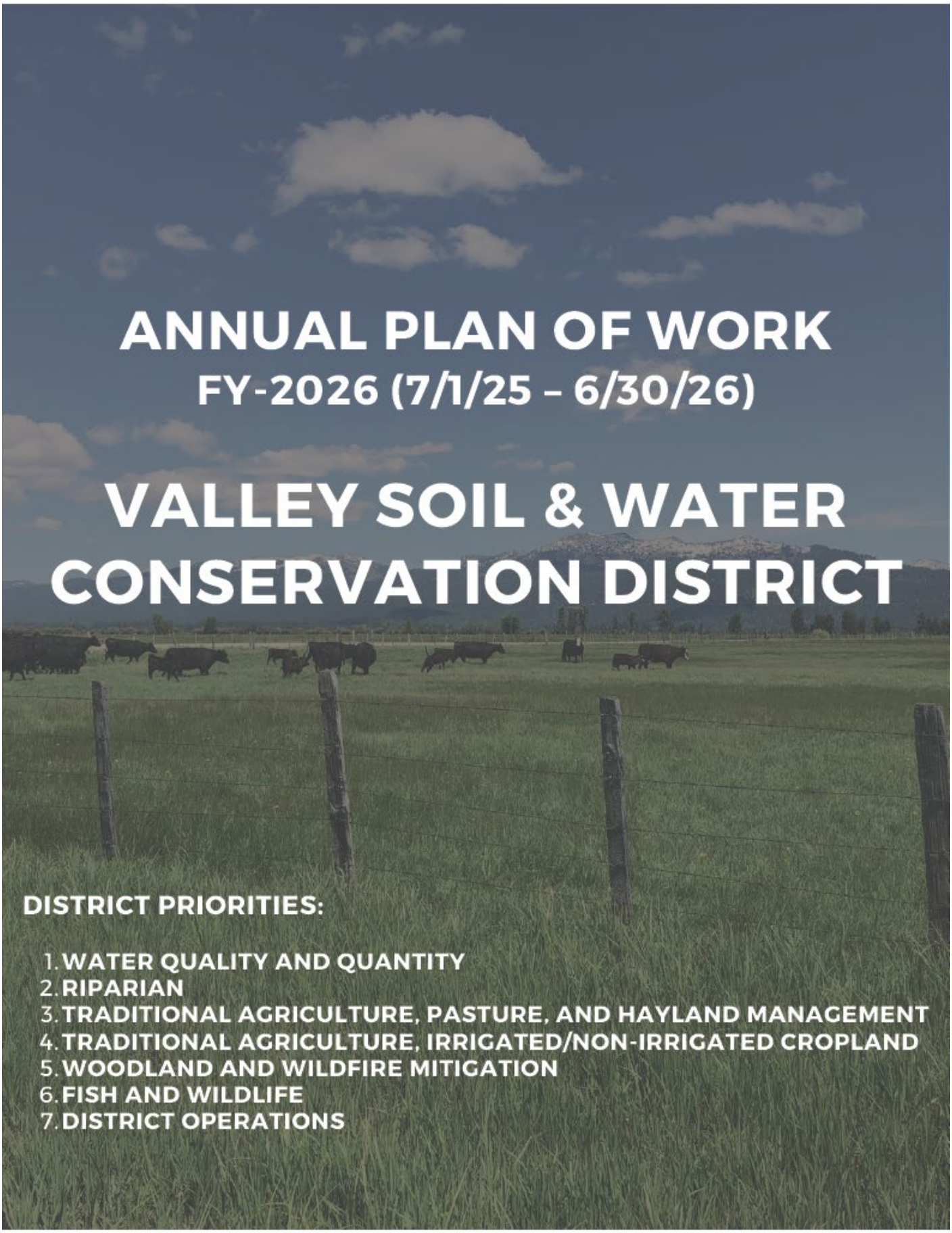
IDEQ Monitoring Results for Big Payette Lake, 2016 and 2017, Kati Carberry, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Boise Regional Office (March 22, 2018 meeting)

2023 Cascade Reservoir Watershed TMDL 5-Year Review, Dani Terhaar, Watershed Coordinator, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Boise Regional Office

SECTION 6 – VALLEY SWCD CONSERVATION PROJECT PRIORITIES

Valley SWCD has a very active conservation project calendar. Not only from our current IDEQ 319 Water Quality Subgrants, IDEQ State Ag BMP Grant funded fencing projects on Lake Cascade, educational outreach, USBR Planning Grant and EQIP projects. Listed below are projected projects and/or currently underway or in the engineering design phase for the District. With technical assistance from the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission, IDFG and/or NRCS, along with volunteer crews, these listed projects result in significant water quality improvement efforts, utilizing best management practices:

1. **USBR WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I supported formation of North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition to mobilize a diverse group of stakeholders, identify watershed priorities relating to water quality and water quantity, create a NFPR Watershed Restoration Plan to qualify for future implementation funding. Watershed Restoration Plan in progress with final USBR reporting and plan distribution due by 10/28/25.**
2. **Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap, an EPA Initiative for no-cost technical assistance for South Lake Recreational Water & Sewer District and City of Cascade to address unsewered development and need for increased municipal sewer capacity, currently active and meeting monthly.**
3. **Philanthropy Northwest Type II Planning Grant for Water Availability/Water Budget Assessment**
4. **2025 WQPA Application for Agricultural BMP project, VSWCD has funded only one WQPA project in the last 10 years.**
5. **Apply for IDEQ State Agricultural BMP Grant to again fund ICC labor to continue Lake Cascade Watershed Management Areas Riparian Fencing, The project may require two additional grants over two years with Northwest Youth Conservation Corps. The projects are cooperative partnerships between VSWC District, NYC, ICC, IDFG and USBR.**
6. **USBR Cascade reservoir modeling study conclusions due in May. Community outreach to disseminate information and operations conclusions. Educate public on USBR Reservoir Operations study results. Address model findings for any available areas of operation to benefit Cascade reservoir water quality.**
7. **NFPR Cascade Strand Stabilization 319 Project, permitting, fencing and focused ramp access completed with dryland species planting with visiting Boston Students.**
8. **North Fork Payette River Surface Erosion Control- Gold Fork, Willow Creek, Boulder Creek**
9. **West Mountain Subwatershed Surface Erosion Control projects with Valley County Road Department included on IDEQ S696, Gibson Creek improvements have been completed with final report in progress. Next identified project for AOP culvert improvement is Deer Creek**
10. **IDEQ 319 Water Quality grant- with vault installed at Brush creek and bank restoration**
11. **Forestry Activities – Southern Idaho Forestry Tour June 28th Idaho City Tour program partners include IDL, NRCS, Squaw and Adams Districts, Seedling Program. Partner with Valley County Wildfire Mitigation Program, Mara Hlawatschek, Director**
12. **Renew outreach for High School student speech contest and Envirothon Competition**
13. **IDEQ 319 Water Quality S696 final report and invoice due 4/30/25 Alzar School June 2024 student education and NFPR planting days, YWAM "the Depot"; Heinrich/BLM Rec area NFPR Bank stabilization. Partners include Valley Co., Idaho Fish and Game, TU, BLM and ISWCC.**


ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK
FY-2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26)
VALLEY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DISTRICT PRIORITIES:
1. WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY
2. RIPARIAN
3. TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE, PASTURE, AND HAYLAND MANAGEMENT
4. TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATED/NON-IRRIGATED CROPLAND
5. WOODLAND AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION
6. FISH AND WILDLIFE
7. DISTRICT OPERATIONS

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY 1:
WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

GOAL:

Protect water resources through proper use and Best Management Practices. Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) encourages cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials to improve and protect our natural resources. Promote and develop multiple beneficial uses.

OBJECTIVES:

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: ART TROUTNER, JOHN LILLEHAUG, BILL LEAF, COLT BROWN, JUDY ANDERSON, DURENA FARR

1. Valley SWCD's priority is to implement the Ag Source and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans.
2. Promote beneficial, sustainable uses of Big Payette Lake, Lake Cascade, (Cascade Reservoir) and the North Fork Payette River System.
3. Promote water conservation and efficiency by improved best management practices. Seek funding to implement BMP projects.

ACTIONS FOR FY2026 WITH COMPLETION TARGET 6/30/26:

1. Actively participate in workgroups and advisory committees evolving from NFPR Watershed Summit, Water Operations Workgroup and Cooperative Watershed Management Program, North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition. Continue with TMDL watershed implementation project support from 2023 Cascade Reservoir 5-year review and Payette Lake water quality monitoring results.
2. Protect Idaho's 303(d) listed streams by providing input into resource plans and EIS that concern the North Fork Payette River Watershed. Support USBR and Idaho Fish & Game (IFG) agreement to maintain a minimum pool in Lake Cascade to protect water quality and sustain recreational use.
3. Support IDEQ, Big Payette Lake Water Advisory Group, Friends of Lake Cascade monitoring of reservoir & tributaries, assist with landowner access for monitoring. Support DEQ Ground Water and Surface Water Rules and TMDL's for Lake Cascade and its sub-watersheds or assessment units.
4. Co-sponsor with other partners such as Trout Unlimited, Payette Children's Forest, Idaho Fish & Game, BOR, ISWCC, Farm Bureau hands-on educational projects for local schools such as Donnelly Elementary monitoring Boulder Creek, Mud Creek and NFPR at Riverfront Park. Seek funding sources for interactive educational displays, tools and/or demonstration projects.
5. Assist Valley County with implementation of Valley Co. Waterways Management Plan. Encourage efforts of South Lake Recreational Water and Sewer district to address inputs to Lake Cascade.
6. Promote and assist landowners with conservation planning development; assist cooperators to improve on-farm systems, water management and efficiency of irrigation water delivery and one Irrigation District or Company. Explore ISWCC WQPA, DEQ State AG BMP; BOR WaterSMART funding opportunities.
7. Continue partnerships with Valley Co. Commissioners, Valley Co. P & Z, BPLWAG, ISWCC, NRCS, Idaho Fish & Game, Trout Unlimited, UI Extension, UI MOSS, Cities of McCall, Donnelly and Cascade. Expand school/project partnerships to include Alzar School, Barbara Morgan Elementary, Mountain Community School, Payette Lakes Middle School, Cascade, Heartland, and McCall-Donnelly High Schools student project volunteers and FFA program support.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY 2:
RIPARIAN

GOAL:

Protect and improve the condition in designated critical areas of Lake Cascade Watershed and North Fork Payette River Watershed for water quality, forage and fish/wildlife habitat. Assist and/or complement other watershed efforts to restore beneficial uses for the 303(d) listed stream segments.

OBJECTIVES:

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: ART TROUTNER, JOHN LILLEHAUG, BILL LEAF, COLT BROWN, JUDY ANDERSON, DURENA FARR

1. Improve riparian condition in designated critical areas of Lake Cascade Watershed and North Fork Payette River Watershed for water quality, forage, and fish/wildlife habitat.
2. Reduce nutrient and sediment inputs to the North Fork Payette River system.
3. Improve riparian conditions throughout the District with focused efforts on Lake Cascade.

ACTIONS FOR FY2026 WITH TARGET COMPLETION 6/30/26:

1. Contract with one landowner to implement BMPs on Priority Tier 1 acres through WQPA, IDEQ 319 and/or State Ag funds, BOR WaterSMART grant, and/or USDA Farm Bill (NRCS EQIP) cost share programs.
2. Work with other agencies and groups to implement programs to improve riparian conditions. (e.g. USBR, USACE, Idaho Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited, UI McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS), UI Extension and local schools.
3. Seek funding opportunities to implement Tier 1 acres in other sub-watersheds through USDA Farm Bill and other state and federal cost share programs.
4. Educate landowners and public of multiple values and benefits of healthy riparian habitat through NFPR Watershed Coalition, District newsletter, website, social media and NFPR Watershed Coalition Workgroups. Support Donnelly Elementary School with Boulder Creek ongoing outdoor education program including riparian and fish habitat projects. Support Cascade High School students in ongoing North Fork Payette River outdoor education projects. Initiate McCall-Donnelly School District educational programs including riparian, fish habitat and pollinator habitat projects.
5. Continue assistance to USBR on completion of riparian fencing along Hot Springs Wildlife Management Area along east side of reservoir. Continue pursuing soil erosion and culvert improvement projects on West Mtn Road (west side of reservoir). Apply for State Ag Grant to continue riparian fencing on east side of reservoir, Hot Springs Wildlife Management Area, Spring/Fall 25-26 project. Partners NWYC, ICC, Private contractor and USBR.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY 3:
TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE, PASTURE AND HAYLAND MANAGEMENT

GOAL:

Resource protection and improvement through proper treatment of critical acres in the watershed. Maintain and improve resource for long-term sustainability of the resource and livestock industry.

OBJECTIVES:

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: ART TROUTNER, JOHN LILLEHAUG, BILL LEAF, COLT BROWN, JUDY ANDERSON, DURENA FARR

1. Improve irrigation and grazing management on 85% of pastures and hayfields.

ACTIONS FOR FY2026 WITH TARGET COMPLETION 6/30/26:

1. Promote USDA NRCS Farm Bill EQIP, 319 and/or to prepare conservation plans and implement ag BMP projects.
2. Assist with Agriculture Protection Area (APA) program implementation and community education. Continue exploring Farmland and Open Space Preservation Tools and farm and ranch trust programs, NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs. Work together with Payette Land Trust and Valley County to identify prime farm ground and development strategies to preserve contiguous farm ground. Continue to develop Cascade Bridge to Bridge concept with West Central Economic Development Council, National Park Service, Valley County Weed Department, Cascade Horizons, and private landowners.
3. Agriculture Outreach – National Ag Day with Farm Bureau. Cascade High School, Heartland High School, McCall-Donnelly High School, speech and poster contests.
4. Support 'Buy Local' Farmer's markets for local production, support local Agriculture sustainability. Partner with Farm Bureau on Farm Tour and Educational outreach for National Ag Day.
5. Encourage pollinator plantings, with NRCS encourage idle land for pollinators and expanded public/residential education for pollinator support. Provide technical and financial support for School Community Gardens and pollinator activities.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY 4:
TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATED/NON-IRRIGATED CROPLAND

GOAL:

Protect Cropland base through proper use and treatment (this includes irrigated and non-irrigated cropland)

OBJECTIVES:

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: ART TROUTNER, JOHN LILLEHAUG, BILL LEAF, COLT BROWN, JUDY ANDERSON, DURENA FARR

1. Reduce soil erosion.
2. Provide economic stability by promoting improved technology for resource management.
3. Encourage soil health through nutrient management plans to maintain soil fertility and favorable pH as requested.

ACTIONS FOR FY2026 WITH TARGET COMPLETION 6/30/26:

1. Promote the implementation of state and federal BMP programs for reducing soil erosion.
2. Encourage nutrient management plans to maintain soil fertility and favorable pH as requested, based on soil testing. Promote use of UI Fertilizer Guide and web soil survey.
3. Encourage technology transfer of integrated pest management. Support Valley County Weed Department Integrated Weed Management Plan incorporating bio-control treatment efforts and noxious weed herbicide application, education and cost share program.
4. Co-sponsor local farm/ranch tour or workshop to educate and promote agricultural sustainability management methods, highlighting completed or in-progress 319 cost share projects.
5. Promote landowner use of District's No-Till Drill and Land Plane. Update contract to reflect fees to cover maintenance and delivery costs.
6. Promote landowner noxious weed education and control. Explore adding District weed spraying equipment available for landowners.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY 5:
WOODLAND AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION

GOAL:
Promote forest health and reduce wildfire risk on private woodlands.

OBJECTIVES:

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: ART TROUTNER, JOHN LILLEHAUG, BILL LEAF, COLT BROWN, JUDY ANDERSON, DURENA FARR

1. Work with landowners to maintain health of private woodlands, while promoting sound Firewise Forestry Planning and Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs).

ACTIONS FOR FY2026 WITH TARGET COMPLETION 6/30/26:

1. Educate landowners on proper forest management practices to promote the annual Southern Idaho Forestry Tour with annual rotating hosts Valley, Adams, Gem, and Squaw Creek Districts. Distribute Forestry Mailer with outreach to 400 landowners and provide landowner on-site visits.
2. Educate and promote private forest landowner participation in USDA Farm Bill EQIP and forestry BMP implementation through thinning, slash treatment, planting, and fire protection, partnering with Idaho Department of Lands, Valley Co. Fire Mitigation Program, USDA-NRCS, UI Forestry Extension and VSWCD.
3. Co-sponsor with McCall Tree Committee the Arbor Day Celebrations for Cascade, Donnelly, and McCall. Continue District Seedling Distribution Program.
4. Educate landowners on forest fuel reduction treatments through Valley Co. Wildfire Mitigation Programs and NRCS EQIP cost-share practices.
5. Partner with Valley County Wildfire Mitigation Program Director, Mara Hlawatschek, on woodland and wildfire mitigation project identification and implementation.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY 6:
FISH AND WILDLIFE

GOAL:

Maintain fish and wildlife populations at sustainable levels in balance with other multiple use values.

OBJECTIVES:

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: ART TROUTNER, JOHN LILLEHAUG, BILL LEAF, COLT BROWN, JUDY ANDERSON, DURENA FARR

1. Maintain or improve fish and wildlife habitat.

ACTIONS FOR FY2026 WITH TARGET COMPLETION 6/30/26:

1. Review management plans of state and federal agencies. Promote multiple use of natural resources. Evaluate impact on agriculture of special management plans for TES species.
2. Assist and promote the construction of fish screens and fish passage structures on diversion systems (e.g. West Mountain Road, Center Irrigation District and Gold Fork Irrigation Company system).
3. Support Donnelly Elementary School Trout grow and release classroom program. Encourage similar program for Barbara Morgan Elementary, Payette Lakes Middle School and/or McCall-Donnelly High School and Cascade School District in connection with active 319 projects, improving fish habitat and populations.
4. Include a fish habitat component whenever appropriate to 319 Bank Stabilization project design (Riverfront Park, Cascade Strand 319 projects.) especially West Mountain Watershed improvements. Partner with IDFG, Trout Unlimited, Valley County, and USBR when appropriate.
5. Assist Idaho Fish & Game with depredation tags to manage elk and deer populations where needed.
6. Seek grant funding for AOP culvert replacements and erosion control on West Mountain.
7. Encourage wildlife habitat planting to create wind breaks along fence lines and between fields to improve wildlife habitat.
8. Fund District bank restoration projects to improve water quality, decrease erosion, lower water temperatures, and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
9. Continue work on livestock exclusion fencing projects around Lake Cascade to benefit water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Allow for seasonal drop-down fencing for established wildlife corridors.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIORITY 7:
DISTRICT OPERATIONS

GOAL:
Maintain active, viable Conservation District

OBJECTIVES:
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: ART TROUTNER, JOHN LILLEHAUG, BILL LEAF, COLT BROWN, JUDY ANDERSON, DURENA FARR

1. Maintain a dynamic, active Board of Supervisors and Specialized Associates.
2. Implement elements of the Annual Work Plan and the Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan.
3. Enrich District Support Staff through training.
4. Increase adequate financial operating base.
5. Cultivate active cooperators.
6. Provide multi-faceted technical assistance to landowners with partner agencies.

ACTIONS FOR FY2026 WITH TARGET COMPLETION 6/30/26:

1. Maintain qualified Supervisors, recruit and retain active associates. Schedule and hold dynamic, consistent, educational monthly board meetings. Participate in Even-Year Ballot Elections with Valley County for new and renewing Supervisor terms.
2. Participate in annual Board/Supervisor Training at one monthly District meeting or attend workshop such as Commission (ISWCC) District Capacity Training or attend State Conference.
3. Present District 5-Year Conservation Plan and Annual Work Plan to Valley Co. Commissioners. Distribute VSWCD 5-Year and Annual Plans to District Legislators, Cities of Cascade, Donnelly, and McCall, NFPR Watershed Coalition, and UI Extension.
4. Seek assistance and funding through traditional and non-traditional sources for TMDL/Technical assistance and cost share assistance for landowner BMP implementation. Active participation and project development through NFPR Watershed Coalition, SWID RC&D, ISWCC and IASCD.
5. Review and update Valley SWCD Annual Plan including receiving public comment at Valley SWCD board meetings. Submit Valley SWCD 5-Year Resource Business Plan and FY26 Annual Plan to Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) by March 31, 2025. Advise Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission staff of District Technical Assistance needs.
6. Continue North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition review, working towards NFPR Watershed Restoration Plan.
7. Facilitate EPA initiative, Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap (CAWAG) no-cost technical assistance with City of Cascade and South Lake Recreational Water and Sewer District.
8. Utilize Philanthropy Northwest Grant to gather data for the integration of water quality and water quantity into land use planning.
9. Launch Stormwater & Erosion Education Program (SEEP) two-day class in May 22-23, 2025 with partners UI Extension, Idaho Water Resources Research Insititute (IWRRI), VSWCD and NFPR Watershed Coalition.
10. Ensure VSWCD Supervisor representation at IASCD Legislative social and Division III Spring and Fall Meetings.

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

DISTRICT: Valley

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

Art L. Troutner

Printed Name

03/06/2025

Date

(208) 382-3317

District Telephone

Durena.Farr@id.nacdnet.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: _____