



**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
Wednesday January 18, 2017

Idaho Water Center, 322 E. Front Street, Arrowrock Room # 549, Boise

OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION, 10-11:30 am MST
REGULAR MEETING, CLOSED SESSION, 12:00-1:30 pm MST
REGULAR MEETING, OPEN SESSION, 1:30-5:00 pm MST

TELECONFERENCE # 1-877-820-7831 Passcode: 922837

The Commission will occasionally convene in Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1).
 Executive Session is closed to the public.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE

The meeting will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission at (208) 332-1790 or Info@swc.idaho.gov so advance arrangements can be made.

Members of the public may address any item on the Agenda during consideration of that item. Those wishing to comment on any agenda item are requested to indicate so on the sign-in sheet in advance. Copies of agenda items, staff reports and/or written documentation relating to items of business on the agenda are on file in the office of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission in Boise. Upon request, copies can be emailed and will also be available for review at the meeting.

REGULAR MEETING		
10:00 – 11:30 am	OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION	Chairman Wright
1 12:00 - 1:30 pm	<p>REGULAR MEETING, EXECUTIVE SESSION</p> <p><i>Executive Session is closed to the public. Under the relevant Idaho Code Sections noted below, all Board action will be taken publicly in open session directly following Executive Session.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Move to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(d), for the purpose of reviewing Loan Applications, pursuant to Idaho Code section 74-206(1)(f) for the purpose of discussing pending litigation with legal counsel, and pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(b) for the purpose of considering the evaluation of a public employee. Roll Call Vote.</p>	
a	<p>RESOURCE CONSERVATION & RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</p> <p>Pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(d), the Commission will convene in Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing Loan Applications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loan # A547 2. Loan # A710 <p>ACTION: For consideration and possible action outside of Executive Session</p>	Commissioners, Staff

(*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 Reg. Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: January 11, 2017

	b	PENDING AND ANTICIPATED LITIGATION 1. Owyhee County Case No. CV-2016-991 2. Anticipated litigation ACTION: For consideration and possible action outside of Executive Session	Chapple Knowlton
	c	HUMAN RESOURCES: EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW ACTION: For information only	Commissioners
1:30 – 5:00 pm		RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS, AND ROLL CALL	
2		AGENDA & PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES REVIEW <i>Agenda may be amended after the start of the meeting upon a motion that states the reason for the amendment and the good faith reason the item was not included in the original agenda.</i>	Chairman Wright
*#	a	Consideration of November 17, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes ACTION: Approve	Chairman Wright
3		PARTNER REPORTS <i>Typically include NRCS, IASCD, IDEA, Attorney General, DFM, OSC, etc.</i>	Partners
	a	Welcome to Water Center	Director Spackman, Idaho Dept. of Water Resources
	b	Other Reports	Partners
4		ADMINISTRATION	
*#	a	Administrator's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities • Proposed travel out of state: NACD in Denver & Washington DC Fly-In • Legislative presentations • Legislation on Future Commission Audits ACTION: Approve out of state travel by Administrator to annual NACD Conference in Denver; and out of state travel by Administrator and Board Chair to Washington DC Fly-In with partners.	Murrison
*#	b	Financial Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review financial reports for November 30, 2016, and December 31, 2016 (<i>to be presented at meeting</i>) • New hires and vacancies • Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Update • Review Commissioner Honorariums ACTION: Approve financial reports for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. November 30, 2016 2. December 31, 2016 	Yadon
5		PROGRAMS	
	a	DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATE Mid-Year Update on FY 2017 Technical Assistance Hours Utilized/Deliverables Accomplished	Trefz

(*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 Reg. Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: January 11, 2017

#	b	FY 2016 District Capacity Building Funds Report ACTION: For information only	
#	c	CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM 2016 ANNUAL REPORT ACTION: For information only	Pentzer
	d	Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program Report ACTION: For information only	Hoebelheinrich
6		OTHER BUSINESS	
	a	Reports ACTION: For information only	Commissioners, Staff
#	b	JOINT BOARD MEETING WITH IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss feedback received at November 17, 2016 Listening Session re: District Reference Manual • Washington DC Fly-In February 5-8, 2017 • Schedule Summer Joint Board Meeting • Spring Division Meetings Schedule 	Chairman Wright, President Tillotson
7		ADJOURN. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2017.	Chairman Wright

(*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 Reg. Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: January 11, 2017



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 W. State St., Room 145 • Boise Idaho 83702
Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING & TELECONFERENCE

Date and Time:

Thursday, November 17, 2016
7:00 am – 10:30 am MST

Location:

Red Lion Hotel
Jefferson Room
Pocatello, Idaho

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Norman Wright (Chair)	Gerald Trebesch (Vice-Chair)
Leon Slichter (Secretary)	Dave Radford

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

1 Teri Murrison	Terry Hoebelheinrich
2 Delwyne Trefz	Katie Butcher
3 Rhonda Yadon	
4	

PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

5	Shantel Chapple Knowlton, Office of the Attorney General (teleconference)
6	J. Kent Foster, Ada County – IASCD Div III
7	Andrea McRae, Owyhee SCD
8	Chris Simons, BRSCD, TFSWCCD, North Side SWCD
9	Dana Ross, Elmore NRCS
10	Marsha Martin, North Side
11	Art Beal, Squaw Creek SCD
12	Tom Daniel, Boundary
13	Jessica Harrold, Ada SWCD
14	Dale Nichols, Nez Perce District
15	Carl Pendleton, Wood River
16	Lynn Bagley, IASCD
17	Jessica Vance, Clearwater SWCD
18	Kathy Weaver, East Side SWCD
19	Roy Prescott, Northside SWCD
20	Charles Kiester, OCD
21	Matt Woodard, East Side
22	Brenda Moyer, Camas
23	Billie Brown, IASCD
24	

25 Rod Robison, Madison SWCD
26 Brian Reed, ISWCC
27 Kit Tillotson, IASCD
28 Kevin Koester, Portneuf SWCD
29 Connie Tharp, NRCS
30 Curtis Elke, NRCS
31 Paul Calverley, Ada SWCD
32 Astor Boozer, NRCS
33 Brent Van Dyke, NACD

34

35 **ITEM #1: WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

36 Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 7:03 a.m.

37 Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Leon Slichter and Gerald Trebesch were
38 present.

39

40 Commissioner Radford arrived at 7:05 a.m.

41

42 **ITEM #2: AGENDA REVIEW**

43 Action: None taken

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45 **ITEM #3: Listening Session**

46 Action: None taken

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48 **ITEM #3a: District Reference Manual**

49 Action: None taken

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51 **ITEM #3b: District Input on Commission programs, activities, other**

52 Action: None taken

53

54 Meeting recessed at 8:25 a.m.

55 Meeting resumed at 8:30 a.m.

56

57 **ITEM #4a: MINUTES**

58 Action: Commissioner Radford made a motion to approve the August 25, 2016 and September
59 15, 2016 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Slichter seconded the motion. Motion carried by
60 unanimous vote.

61

62 **ITEM #4b: FINANCIAL REPORTS**

63 Action: Commissioner Slichter made a motion to approve the August 31, 2016 financial report
64 as submitted. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous
65 vote.

66 Action: Commissioner Radford made a motion to approve the September 30, 2016 financial
67 report as submitted. Commissioner Slichter seconded the motion. Motion carried by
68 unanimous vote.

69
70 Action: Commissioner Trebesch made a motion to approve the October 31, 2016 financial
71 report as submitted. Commissioner Radford seconded the motion. Motion carried by
72 unanimous vote.

73

74 **ITEM #4c: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

75 Action: None taken

76

77 **ITEM #5a: DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES**

78 Action: None taken

79

80 **ITEM #5b: RESOURCE CONSERVATION & RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

81 Action: None taken

82

83 **ITEM #6a: REPORTS**

84 Action: None taken

85

86 **ITEM #7: ADJOURN**

87 The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next regular Commission Meeting will be held in
88 Boise, in January, the week of the 16th, 2017.

89

90 Respectfully submitted,

91

92

93

94 Leon Slichter, Secretary

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**SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

H. Norman Wright
Chairman

Gerald Trebesch
Vice Chairman

Leon Slichter
Secretary

Dave Radford
Commissioner

Glen Gier
Commissioner

Teri Murrison
Administrator

MEMO

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS TREBESCH,
SLICHTER, GIER, AND RADFORD**
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: JANUARY 4, 2017
RE: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

ACTIVITIES Since the November 17, 2016, regular meeting:

- Attended Legislative Services Office briefing on new JFAC presentation process
- Held monthly ATeam staff meeting
- Met with Deputy Attorney General on several pending matters which will be discussed under another agenda item
- Final walk through, moved office from Len B. Jordan Building to Water Center on Front Street
- Attended annual Idaho Farm Bureau Federation Banquet in Boise
- Attended Curtis Elke's partnership breakfast with state and federal agency leaders
- Participated in Ag Summit Planning conference call
- Attended annual Food Producers pre-session organizational meeting
- Met with DFM analyst on FY 2018 budget request
- Participated in monthly National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) teleconference
- Participated in University of Idaho, The Nature Conservancy, and Wood River Land Trust's Rock Creek Advisory Committee meeting in Boise

Proposed travel out of state to NACD Conference in Denver, Washington DC Fly-In

with partners In the next few weeks, staff proposes to travel out of state to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual conference in Denver (to take part in the Envirothon Foundation Board meeting, a NASCA Board meeting, and support Idaho's Association of Soil Conservation Districts with other state and federal partners). The following week, NRCS State Conservationist Curtis Elke has requested 2 members of IASCD and Chairman Wright and me to accompany him to Washington DC to meet with officials in the US Dept. of Agriculture, the Idaho Congressional delegation, and others. The benefit of so doing is to make national leaders aware of and increase support for Idaho's conservation partnership. This agenda item recommends approval of the proposed out of state travel.

Legislative Presentations The Commission's annual presentation before the Joint Financial Appropriations Committee (JFAC) will take place on January 19 at 8 am, the day following your meeting. Commissioners are encouraged to attend on their way out of town. Germane committee presentation scheduling will be coordinated with IASCD and set in February and March.

Legislation on Future Commission Audits As you know, currently in statute the Commission is required to have an annual independent financial audit conducted and the Legislature assigned the task to the LSO Audit office. When the agreement was made, the cost was anticipated to be \$2,500 the first year from the general fund, and it was planned that amount would be incorporated into the base each year after that.

The LSO Audit office audited Commission records for FY 2011 and 12, delivered them to your Board in August 2016. Unfortunately, the work it took to conduct the audits was billed in addition to \$5,000 (not \$2,500 as was reported at your last meeting) for the first year only, but an additional \$11,000. That leaves FYs 2013, 14, 15, and 16 still to be done to catch up. The LSO Audit office's internal workload is such that not only will it be difficult to do that, but the cost was estimated at about \$5,500 per year.

At a meeting with LSO Legislative Auditor April Renfro, and Legislative Budget staff Kathy Holland-Smith and Ray Houston, it was determined that for the purposes of complying with statute and legislative intent, the Commission should be treated like all other state agencies and instead of a full audit, undergo periodic management reviews by Legislative Services. The Auditor stated she would conduct a single management review to cover FYs 2013, 14, 15, and 16 to get caught up, and then put the Commission into a periodic (2-3 year) rotating schedule with other state agencies. The cost for a management review is estimated at \$3,000.

Attached is the proposed legislation to accomplish this change. The Legislation is proposed to be carried by JFAC.

REQUESTED ACTION: Approve out of state travel by Administrator to annual NACD Conference in Denver; and out of state travel by Administrator and Board Chair to Washington DC Fly-In with partners.

Attachments:

Draft JFAC Legislation RWH018

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RWH018

This legislation changes the financial audit requirements of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Currently, the commission is required to undergo an annual independent financial audit. The legislative auditor just completed the FY 2011 and FY 2012 financial audit. At the conclusion, the legislative auditor recommended that, retroactive to FY 2013, the commission be treated like other state agencies, and undergo a periodic management review instead.

FISCAL NOTE

There is a positive fiscal impact to the commission and a net zero impact overall. The legislative auditor billed the commission \$16,000 for the FY 2011 and FY 2012 financial audits. The legislative auditor recommends a management review for FY 2013, FY 2014, FY 2015 and FY 2016. The review of the General Fund portion of the commission's budget is covered by the General Fund appropriation to the Legislative Services Office for the legislative auditor. The legislative auditor will account for time spent on the dedicated portion of the commission's management review and bill the commission in the annual billing cycle, estimated at \$3,000 per year. This billing process is reviewed on a three-year cycle and adjusted as needed based on actual audit hours incurred. The cost to the commission will be significantly less because a management review will take fewer audit hours and the commission will only be responsible for about 25% of the cost rather than the full cost. The net impact to the General Fund is zero.

Contact:

Ray Houston
Budget and Policy Analysis
(208) 334-4741

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LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-fourth Legislature First Regular Session - 2017

IN THE _____

BILL NO. _____

BY _____

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION; AMENDING SECTION
2 22-2718, IDAHO CODE TO REQUIRE AUDITS BY THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR;
3 AMENDING SECTION 67-450D, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE THE SOIL AND WATER CON-
4 SERVATION COMMISSION FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL
5 AUDIT; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 SECTION 1. That Section 22-2718, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
9 amended to read as follows:

10 22-2718. IDAHO STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION. (1)
11 There is hereby established and created in the department of agriculture of
12 the state of Idaho the Idaho state soil and water conservation commission
13 which shall perform all functions conferred upon it by this chapter and shall
14 be a nonregulatory agency. The commission shall consist of five (5) members
15 appointed by the governor. In appointing commission members, the governor
16 shall give consideration to geographic representation. Commission members
17 shall be chosen with due regard to their demonstrated expertise including,
18 but not limited to, knowledge of and interest in water quality and other
19 natural resource issues, production agriculture, banking or other similar
20 financial experience or experience as a county commissioner. The soil and
21 water conservation districts may submit to the governor a list of up to three
22 (3) names for each vacancy on the commission and the governor may, in his
23 discretion, consider any such submission in the appointment of commission
24 members. The term of office of each commission member shall be five (5)
25 years; except that upon July 1, 2010, the governor shall appoint one (1)
26 member for a term of one (1) year, one (1) member for a term of two (2) years,
27 one (1) member for a term of three (3) years, one (1) member for a term of four
28 (4) years and one (1) member for a term of five (5) years. From and after the
29 initial appointment the governor shall appoint a member of the commission to
30 serve in office for a term of five (5) years commencing upon July 1 of that
31 year. A vacancy which occurs in an unexpired term shall be filled for its re-
32 mainder by the governor's appointment. Each vacancy on the commission shall
33 be filled by appointment by the governor. Such appointments shall be con-
34 firmed by the senate. Commission members shall serve at the pleasure of the
35 governor. The commission may invite the state conservationist of the United
36 States department of agriculture natural resources conservation service, a
37 representative from a district or districts and the dean of the college of
38 agriculture of the university of Idaho or his designated representative,
39 or any other person or entity as the commission deems appropriate, to serve
40 as nonvoting advisory members of the commission. The commission shall keep
41 a record of its official actions, shall adopt a seal, which seal shall be
42 judicially noticed, and may perform such acts, hold such public hearings and

1 promulgate such rules as may be necessary for the execution of its functions
2 under this chapter.

3 (2) The state soil and water conservation commission shall appoint
4 the administrator of the state soil and water conservation commission. The
5 state soil and water conservation commission may employ such technical ex-
6 perts and such other agents and employees, permanent and temporary, as it
7 may require, and shall determine their qualifications, duties and compen-
8 sation. The commission may call upon the attorney general of the state for
9 such legal services as it may require. It shall have authority to delegate to
10 its chairman, to one (1) or more of its members, or to one (1) or more agents
11 or employees, such powers and duties as it may deem proper. The commission
12 may establish offices, incur expenses, enter into contracts and acquire
13 services and personal property as may be reasonable for the proper adminis-
14 tration and enforcement of this chapter. Upon request of the commission, for
15 the purpose of carrying out any of its functions, the supervising officer of
16 any state agency, or of any state institution of learning, shall insofar as
17 may be possible under available appropriation, and having due regard to the
18 needs of the agency to which the request is directed, assign or detail to the
19 commission members of the staff or personnel of such agency or institution of
20 learning, and make such special reports, surveys or studies as the commis-
21 sion may request.

22 (3) The commission shall designate its chairman, and may from time to
23 time, change such designation. A majority of the commission shall consti-
24 tute a quorum and the concurrency of a majority in any matter within their
25 duties shall be required for its determination. The chairman and members of
26 the commission shall be compensated as provided by section 59-509(h), Idaho
27 Code. The commission shall provide for the execution of surety bonds for all
28 employees and officers who shall be entrusted with funds or property; shall
29 provide for the keeping of a full and accurate record of all proceedings and
30 of all resolutions, and orders issued or adopted; and shall provide for an
31 annual audit management review of the accounts of receipts and disbursements
32 as determined by the legislative auditor pursuant to section 67-702, Idaho
33 Code.

34 (4) In addition to the duties and powers hereinafter conferred upon the
35 state soil and water conservation commission, it shall have the following
36 responsibilities:

37 (a) To offer such assistance as may be appropriate to the supervisors of
38 soil conservation districts in the carrying out of any of their powers
39 and programs.

40 (b) To keep the supervisors of each of the several soil conservation
41 districts informed of the activities and experience of all other soil
42 conservation districts and to facilitate an interchange of advice and
43 experience between such districts and cooperation between them.

44 (c) To coordinate the progress of the several soil conservation dis-
45 tricts so far as this may be done by advice and consultation.

46 (d) To secure the cooperation and assistance of the United States and
47 any of its agencies, and of agencies of this state, in the work of such
48 districts.

1 (e) To disseminate information throughout the state concerning the ac-
2 tivities and programs of the soil conservation districts in areas where
3 their organization is desirable.

4 (f) To provide for the establishment and encouragement of the "Idaho
5 OnePlan" as a primary computer-based conservation planning process for
6 all natural resource concerns. Establishment and encouragement will
7 be accomplished through an executive group and steering committee both
8 containing private, state and federal representation. The information
9 provided by those using the "Idaho OnePlan" shall be deemed to be trade
10 secrets, production records or other proprietary information and shall
11 be kept confidential and shall be exempt from disclosure pursuant to
12 section 74-107, Idaho Code.

13 (5) In addition to other powers, functions and duties of soil conserva-
14 tion districts and the state soil and water conservation commission provided
15 in this chapter, the commission shall have the following additional powers,
16 functions and duties:

17 (a) The commission shall conduct, in cooperation with appropriate fed-
18 eral and state agencies and the owners and operators of privately owned
19 forest lands, rangelands and agricultural lands in this state, conser-
20 vation improvements on or in respect to these lands for the purposes of
21 implementing conservation systems to conserve and improve natural re-
22 source conditions;

23 (b) The commission shall assist and advise soil conservation districts
24 and other entities in implementing the conservation improvements,
25 projects and the water quality program for agriculture. To the extent
26 that there are available general funds, the commission shall provide
27 for grants and cost-share opportunities and, as legislatively desig-
28 nated, utilize the resource conservation and rangeland development
29 fund for loans for conservation improvements. Provided however, that
30 the commission shall determine whether general or resource conserva-
31 tion and rangeland development funds are available before approving any
32 conservation improvements, projects and cost-share opportunities and,
33 after having made such determination, shall enter into the necessary
34 contracts for implementation;

35 (c) The commission shall be the agency responsible for the administra-
36 tion of funds accruing to the resource conservation and rangeland de-
37 velopment fund and for all general funds appropriated as a separate and
38 distinct action of the legislature to implement the powers, functions
39 and duties of soil conservation districts and the commission;

40 (d) On or before March 1 of each year, the commission shall report to the
41 senate agricultural affairs committee and the house agricultural af-
42 fairs committee; and

43 (e) The commission shall promulgate such rules as are necessary to
44 carry out the purposes of this chapter.

45 SECTION 2. That Section 67-450D, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
46 amended to read as follows:

47 67-450D. INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDITS -- DESIGNATED ENTI-
48 TIES. (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Idaho Code relating

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1 to audit requirements regarding the entities hereinafter designated,
2 beginning on July 1, 2010, the requirements set forth in this section shall
3 constitute the minimum audit requirements for the following entities:

- 4 Alfalfa and clover seed commission;
- 5 Idaho apple commission;
- 6 Idaho barley commission;
- 7 Idaho bean commission;
- 8 Idaho beef council;
- 9 Idaho cherry commission;
- 10 Idaho dairy products commission;
- 11 Idaho food quality assurance institute;
- 12 Idaho forest products commission;
- 13 Idaho grape growers and wine producers commission;
- 14 Idaho honey commission;
- 15 Idaho hop grower's commission;
- 16 Idaho mint commission;
- 17 Idaho oilseed commission;
- 18 Idaho pea and lentil commission;
- 19 Idaho potato commission;
- 20 Idaho rangeland resources commission;
- 21 ~~Soil and water conservation commission;~~
- 22 Idaho wheat commission.

23 (2) The minimum requirements for any audit performed under the provi-
24 sions of this section are:

25 (a) Any entity whose annual expenditures (from all sources) exceed two
26 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall cause a full and com-
27 plete audit of its financial statements to be made each fiscal year.

28 (b) Any entity whose annual expenditures (from all sources) exceed
29 one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), but do not exceed two hundred
30 fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), in the current year shall have an
31 annual audit or may elect to have its financial statements audited on
32 a biennial basis. The first year that expenditures exceed one hundred
33 thousand dollars (\$100,000) is the first year of the biennial audit
34 period. The designated entity may continue the biennial audit cycle in
35 subsequent years as long as the entity's annual expenditures during the
36 first year of the biennial audit period do not exceed two hundred fifty
37 thousand dollars (\$250,000). In the event that annual expenditures ex-
38 ceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in the current year
39 following a year in which a biennial audit was completed, the designated
40 entity shall complete an annual audit. In the event that annual expen-
41 ditures in the current year do not exceed one hundred thousand dollars
42 (\$100,000) following a year in which an annual or biennial audit was
43 completed, the designated entity has no minimum audit requirement.

44 (c) Any entity whose annual expenditures (from all sources) do not ex-
45 ceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) has no minimum audit re-
46 quirements under the provisions of this section.

47 (d) Federal audit requirements applicable because of expenditure of
48 federal assistance supersede the minimum audit requirements provided
49 in this section.

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1 (3) All moneys received or expended by the entities identified in sub-
2 section (1) of this section shall be audited as specified in subsection (2)
3 of this section by a certified public accountant designated by the entity,
4 who shall furnish a copy of such audit to the director of the legislative ser-
5 vices office and to the senate agricultural affairs committee and the house
6 agricultural affairs committee. The audit shall be completed within ninety
7 (90) days following the close of the commission's fiscal year.

8 (4) Any entity identified in subsection (1) of this section that is not
9 audited pursuant to the provisions of this section shall submit an unaudited
10 annual statement of revenues, expenditures and fund balances to the director
11 of the legislative services office, to the senate agricultural affairs com-
12 mittee and the house agricultural affairs committee, to the state controller
13 and to the division of financial management.

14 (5) The right is reserved to the state of Idaho to audit the funds of the
15 entities identified in this section at any time.

16 SECTION 3. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
17 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its
18 passage and approval, and retroactively to July 1, 2012.

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55 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 100
Meridian ID 83642
208-888-0988
208-888-4586 (fax)
www.idahoagsummit.org

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NOV 30 2016

IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 2016

TO: Leaders in Idaho Agriculture

FR: Rick Waitley, Executive Director

The 2017 Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit is scheduled for **February 20-21 at the Red Lion Downtowner in Boise**. The theme of this year's Summit is ***"Separating Sense from Nonsense – Telling the Idaho Agriculture Story."***

The planning committee has selected some very timely subjects and speakers. The goal of the Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit is to bring together the leaders in Idaho agriculture, education, and agencies to discuss and interact about specific subjects important to the Gem State. In an attempt to hold down all Summit costs, the planning committee is looking for investments from organizations, companies, and individuals to help underwrite some of the expenses. **Enclosed is a sponsorship form for the 2017 Summit**. Also enclosed is a list of past Summit sponsors and the years that various groups have provided financial support. ***Many thanks to those who have made the Ag Summit such a success.***

Our keynote presenter for the Summit is Michele Payn. Michele connects people, stories, and science around farm and food and challenges people to meet at the intersection of farm and food, head and heart. She brings clarity and common sense to nutrition, health, and agriculture. Her energy permeates a room and her experience ignites ideas. Michele Payn is one of North America's leading experts in bringing people together around the plate provoking thought and movement of people into action.

Highlights of the 2017 Summit will be the annual **Legislative Strolling Supper** on Monday night, February 20, followed by the **Governor's Awards Luncheon** on Tuesday, February 21. Both events are important to Idaho agriculture as we interact with Idaho lawmakers and recognize outstanding Idaho leaders for their *Excellence in Agriculture*.

We look forward to adding your name as a grassroots supporter of the 2017 Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit. Some of you receiving this letter have been involved in the Summit for a number of years and know the value of this opportunity. Others might be new and we would welcome your participation, investment and support in making the Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit a success in 2017.

If you have specific questions, or if you need us to invoice you for a certain sponsorship, please feel free to contact me by calling 208-888-0988 or by email at rick@amgidaho.com.

encl: Sponsorship Form
Sponsorship Report
Michele Payn Flier

THE 23RD ANNUAL
**2017 LARRY BRANEN
IDAHO AG SUMMIT**

FEBRUARY 20-21, 2017

| RED LION DOWNTOWNER

| BOISE

Michele Payn / IDAHO AG SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Michele Payn personifies passion. Known as one of North America's leading experts in connecting farm and food, she serves as a resource for people around the plate. Michele encourages everyone to find people's hot buttons and speak their language - whether it's growing the conversation between farm gate and food plate, developing strategy, or building an advocacy plan. Widely known as a "change agent," Michele delivers training programs and motivational keynotes to **empower organizations to build connected communities.**

Utilizing her diverse professional experience in the agricultural, sales and not-for-profit sectors, **Michele founded Cause Matters Corp.** in 2001, a company designed to **build connections around the food plate.** Cause Matters Corp. focuses on addressing food myths, developing science communication, and connecting farm to food. In each of these core areas, Michele helps organizations **clearly identify issues, understand their audience and grow solutions.** Michele's goal is to help you communicate "why your cause matters" - whether you're a scientist, dietitian or in agribusiness.

Payn holds degrees in Agricultural Communications and Animal Science from Michigan State University. Career highlights include a Regional Directorship for the National FFA Foundation, where she sold over \$5 million in corporate sponsorships and led campaigns to develop community support for various Foundation expansions. She has also marketed and sold dairy genetics to more than 25 countries, managed e-business accounts and presented training programs in developing countries. **Michele still holds her firsthand farm experience as the best contributor to her work.**



Payn continues to hone her skills after helping thousands of people around the world. Michele is a member of the National Speakers Association and has also earned her Certified Speaking Professional, a designation awarded to less than 10% of professional speakers globally.

Michele measures success in conversations around the food plate by people who are willing to reach out to help make their cause matter.

FULL BIO + MORE INFO: www.causematters.com

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**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Item # 4b

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, GIER, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH
FROM: RHONDA YADON, FISCAL & HR MANAGER
DATE: JANUARY 3, 2017
RE: FINANCIAL REPORTS, FISCAL MATTERS

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Attached for your review is the Financial Detail Report as of November 30, 2016. The reports for the month ending December 31, 2016, including the financial projections for the remainder of the year, will be available for your review at your meeting. As of November, in Operating Expenditures for the general fund, we have spent 62.1% of our budget (due to several large annual and semi-annual billings in the first quarter of the fiscal year), and we are only 42% through the year. This is a variance of 20% and is decreasing each month. In October the variance was 26% and in September it was 28%. We should end the year very close to budget as the projected expenditures for December through June is only approximately 38% of budget. Overall, I believe that we are in good financial standing. I will review these reports on all the funds at your meeting beginning with the Detail Reports and will answer any questions you have.

NEW HIRES AND VACANCIES

Bill Lillibridge, Carolyn Firth, and Chuck Pentzer are working together on hiring the field staff replacement for our Coeur d’Alene office. Interviews are planned to begin January 12th and they hope to be able to make an offer by the end of that week. We hope to have the name of our new employee by your Board Meeting.

CHANGE IN FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT (FLSA) EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2016

The change in the federal FLSA that was set to raise the threshold of wages eligible for time and a half overtime rates, thereby reducing the vacation accrual rates on certain employees effective December 1, 2016, has been put on hold. I will keep you informed as we receive more information. Here is a quote in an email from DFM and DHR:

“The court in [Nevada v. United States Department of Labor](#), Civil Action No. 4:16-CV-00731, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 162048, has issued a nationwide preliminary injunction on implementation of the U.S. Department of Labor’s new overtime rule.”

COMMISSIONER HONORARIUMS

Below is a schedule of the honorarium balances as of November 30, 2016. Included in the schedule is the days and amounts budgeted for each Commissioner for FY17. We have spent 32.1% of the Honorarium Budget. We are also in good standing with the Operating Travel Budget for Commissioners as we have only spent 19.3% of the allocation.

Commissioner	Days Budgeted/ Traveled/ to Date	Benefit Costs included in Honorariums	Honorariums Budgeted	Expended to Date	Projected Balance/ (Overage)
Wright	26 / 14	\$104	\$1,404	\$756	\$649
Gier	20 / 6	\$80	\$1,080	\$323	\$757
Trebesch	20 / 4	\$80	\$1,080	\$215	\$865
Radford	22 / 6	\$88	\$1,188	\$323	\$865
Slichter	24 / 6	\$96	\$1,296	\$323	\$973
Totals		\$450	\$6,050	\$1,940	\$4,110

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the Financial Report for the month ended November 30, 2016
 Approve the December 31, 2016 Financial Reports

Attachments: SWC Financial Reports as of November 30, 2016

SWC DETAIL FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF November 30, 2016

GENERAL FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			TRUSTEE & BENEFITS			CASH			
FY17	ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			PLUS TOTAL			ACTUAL CASH BALANCE
	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BEG CASH AT 7/1/16	REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	End of Current
INDEX																
7101 MANAGEMENT ADMIN	360,800	111,692	249,108	48,430	26,607	21,823	7,600		7,600				416,830		138,299	278,531
7111 MANAGEMENT BOARD	6,000	1,165	4,835	11,965	3,271	8,694							17,965		4,436	13,529
7201 FIELD STAFF	442,400	212,261	230,139	60,645	43,224	17,421	23,600	22,506	1,094				526,645		277,991	248,654
7301 PROGRAMS	257,800	87,478	170,322	32,434	19,587	12,847							290,234		107,065	183,170
7310 DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS										1,103,200	1,103,200	0	1,103,200		1,103,200	0
7320 DISTRICT CAPACITY BLDG										150,000	150,000	0	150,000		150,000	0
7350 CREP	134,000	58,486	75,514	24,026	17,545	6,481	23,600	22,669	931				181,626		98,700	82,926
TOTAL GENERAL FUND 0001	1,201,000	471,082	729,918	177,500	110,234	67,266	54,800	45,175	9,625	1,253,200	1,253,200	0	2,686,500	0	1,879,691	806,809
FY16 ENCUMBRANCES				2,110	1,920	190	27,850	27,850	0						29,770	
		39.22%			62.10%						100.00%				69.97%	
7313 DISTRICT ECON RECOVERY										100,000	100,000	0	100,000		100,000	0
TOTAL FUND 0150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	100,000	0
															100.00%	
7325 SWC PROFESSIONAL SERV				30,000	67	29,933							30,149	101	67	30,183
TOTAL FUND 0450	0	0	0	30,000	67	29,933	0	0	0	0	0	0	30,149	101	67	30,183
FY16 ENCUMBRANCES				14,689		14,689										
															0.22%	
DEDICATED FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			CASH				BALANCE SHEET		
FY17	ACTUAL EXPENSE thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of			PLUS TOTAL			ACTUAL CASH BALANCE	LOANS PAID OUT, NOTES RECEIVABLE		
	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BEG CASH AT 7/1/16	REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	End of Current	NOTES RECEIVABLE 7/1/16	COLLECTIONS /ADJUSTMENTS TO DATE	NOTES RECEIVABLE End of Cur period
7351 RCRDP LOAN ADMIN	166,500	64,835	101,665	145,500	37,544	107,956				6,902,717	357,992	350,774	6,909,935	2,960,215	248,395	2,914,825
TOTAL RCRDP ADMIN 0522-01	166,500	64,835	101,665	145,500	37,544	107,956	0	0	0	6,902,717	357,992	350,774	6,909,935		(293,785)	
		38.94%			25.80%							5.08%				

SWC DETAIL FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF December 31, 2016

GENERAL FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			TRUSTEE & BENEFITS			CASH			
FY17	ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			PLUS TOTAL			ACTUAL CASH BALANCE
	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BEG CASH AT 7/1/16	REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	End of Current
INDEX																
7101 MANAGEMENT ADMIN	360,800	152,316	208,484	45,430	28,418	17,012	11,881		11,881				418,111		180,734	237,377
7111 MANAGEMENT BOARD	6,000	1,746	4,254	11,965	3,657	8,308							17,965		5,403	12,562
7201 FIELD STAFF	442,400	255,341	187,059	60,288	44,345	15,943	23,600	22,506	1,094				526,288		322,192	204,096
7301 PROGRAMS	257,800	110,955	146,845	31,930	20,185	11,745							289,730		131,140	158,591
7310 DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS										1,103,200	1,103,200	0	1,103,200		1,103,200	0
7320 DISTRICT CAPACITY BLDG										150,000	150,000	0	150,000		150,000	0
7350 CREP	134,000	72,881	61,119	23,606	18,068	5,538	23,600	22,669	931				181,206		113,618	67,588
TOTAL GENERAL FUND 0001	1,201,000	593,239	607,761	173,219	114,673	58,546	59,081	45,175	13,906	1,253,200	1,253,200	0	2,686,500	0	2,006,287	680,213
FY16 ENCUMBRANCES				2,110	1,920	190	27,850	27,850	0						29,770	
		49.40%			66.20%						100.00%				74.68%	
7313 DISTRICT ECON RECOVERY										100,000	100,000	0	100,000		100,000	0
TOTAL FUND 0150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0	100,000	0
															100.00%	
7325 SWC PROFESSIONAL SERV				30,000	359	29,641							30,149	122	359	29,912
TOTAL FUND 0450	0	0	0	30,000	359	29,641	0	0	0	0	0	0	30,149	122	359	29,912
FY16 ENCUMBRANCES				14,689	0	14,689										
															1.19%	
DEDICATED FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			CASH				BALANCE SHEET		
FY17	ACTUAL EXPENSE thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of			PLUS TOTAL			ACTUAL CASH BALANCE	LOANS PAID OUT, NOTES RECEIVABLE		
	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BEG CASH AT 7/1/16	REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	End of Current	NOTES RECEIVABLE 7/1/16	COLLECTIONS /ADJUSTMENTS TO DATE	NOTES RECEIVABLE End of Cur period
7351 RCRDP LOAN ADMIN	166,500	81,684	84,816	145,500	41,390	104,110				6,902,717	551,604	388,782	7,065,539	2,960,215	248,395	2,742,347
TOTAL RCRDP ADMIN 0522-01	166,500	81,684	84,816	145,500	41,390	104,110	0	0	0	6,902,717	551,604	388,782	7,065,539		(466,263)	
		49.06%			28.45%							5.63%				
7361 REVOLVING LOAN - DEQ				30,000	1,886	28,114				37,346	12,730	1,886	48,190	494,587	0	474,185
TOTAL DEQ LOAN 0529-16	0	0	0	30,000	1,886	28,114	0	0	0	37,346	12,730	1,886	48,190		(20,402)	
					6.29%							5.05%		ADV FROM PAYMENTS/ADJ TO DATE	ADV FROM TO DATE	END OF CUR PERIOD
														438,418	(17,270)	421,148

Soil and Water Conservation
FY2017 YTD Financial Summary Through December 31, 2016

(Does not include FY2016 encumbrances)

Updated: 1/9/2017

Fund Summaries

Appropriation

Fund Source	General Fund				Professional Services				RCRDP Loan Administration				Revolving Loan			
Personnel Funds	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining					Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining				
	\$ 1,201,000	\$ 593,239	\$ 586,814	\$ 20,947					\$ 166,500	\$ 81,684	\$ 78,552	\$ 6,264				
Operating Funds	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining
	* \$ 173,219	\$ 114,673	\$ 56,708	\$ 1,838	\$ 30,000	\$ 359	\$ 3,294	\$ 26,347	\$ 145,500	\$ 41,390	\$ 58,397	\$ 45,713	\$ 30,000	\$ 1,886	\$ 5,774	\$ 22,340
Capital Funds	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining												
	* \$ 59,081	\$ 45,175	\$ 11,881	\$ 2,025												
Trustee and Benefit	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining												
	\$ 1,253,200	\$ 1,253,200	\$ -	\$ -												

* Requested \$4,281 to Roll Down to Pay for New Cubicles

Cash Balance at 12/31/16

Fund Source	General Fund				Professional Services				RCRDP Loan Administration				Revolving Loan			
	Beg Cash at 7/1/16	Plus Total Receipts	Less Total Expenses	Actual Cash balance	Beg Cash at 7/1/16	Plus Total Receipts	Less Total Expenses	Actual Cash balance	Beg Cash at 7/1/16	Plus Total Receipts	Less Total Expenses	Actual Cash balance	Beg Cash at 7/1/16	Plus Total Receipts	Less Total Expenses	Actual Cash balance
	\$ 2,686,500	\$ -	\$ 2,006,287	\$ 680,213	\$ 30,149	\$ 122	\$ 359	\$ 29,912	\$6,902,717	\$ 551,604	\$ 388,782	\$ 7,065,539	\$ 37,346	\$ 12,730	\$ 1,886	\$ 48,190



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Administrator

MEMO

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS TREBESCH,
SLICHTER, GIER, AND RADFORD**
FROM: DELWYNE TREFZ, DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES SPECIALIST
DATE: JANUARY 4, 2017
RE: DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATE

Mid-Year Update on FY 2017 Technical Assistance Hours Utilized and Deliverables Accomplished

- a. A spreadsheet will be provided during the January 18th SWCC meeting which will show the status at mid-year (December 31st) of district technical assistance hours and deliverables Commission staff are committed to providing in FY 2017.

FY 2016 District Capacity Building Funds Report

- b. The attached FY 2016 Capacity Building Funds Report shows how districts used these funds to support their priority programs and activities.

Capacity building funds in amounts ranging from \$1,800 - \$2,300 were awarded to 8 districts to help support regional events. The other 42 districts each received \$800 which they used to help accomplish an impressive array of different project and activities, as depicted in the handout.

REQUESTED ACTION: For information only

Attachments: FY 2016 District Capacity Building Funds Report

FY 2016 DISTRICT CAPACITY BUILDING FUNDS REPORT

DISTRICT	DISTRICT PROJECT OR ACTIVITY ACCOMPLISHED WITH CAP BLDG FUNDS	CAP BLDG ALLOCATION
Ada SWCD	5th Grade Conservation Field Day	\$800.00
Adams SWCD	Rangeland Skillathon	\$2,300.00
Balanced Rock SCD	Purchase New Laptop	\$800.00
Bear Lake SWCD	Envirothon	\$2,300.00
Benewah SWCD	Administration of Benewah Co 319 Proj.	\$800.00
Blaine SCD	Rangeland Drill Purchase	\$800.00
Bonner SWCD	Forestry Contest	\$2,300.00
Boundary SCD	Revamp SCD Signs At County Lines	\$800.00
Bruneau River SCD	Update Office Computer Software	\$800.00
Butte SWCD	Scholarships To Nat Res Camp & Envirothon	\$800.00
Camas CD	Sent 2 Supervisors To IASCD Conference	\$800.00
Canyon SCD	Education & Outreach Activities	\$800.00
Caribou SCD	Purchase GPS Camera For Project Monitoring	\$800.00
Central Bingham CD	Support Of County Weed Association	\$800.00
Clark SCD	Public Outreach Program	\$800.00
Clearwater SWCD	Fire Recovery & Prevention Workshops	\$800.00
Custer SWCD	Outreach & Education	\$800.00
East Cassia SWCD	FFA & 4-H Land & Soil Evaluation Event	\$800.00
East Side SWCD	Soil Health Workshop & Seed Facility Tour	\$800.00
Elmore SWCD	Newsletter Production & Educational Events	\$800.00
Franklin SWCD	Outreach & Education	\$800.00
Gem SWCD	Soil Health Workshop, Educational Activities	\$800.00
Gooding SCD	Envirothon	\$800.00
Idaho SWCD	Grazing Conference	\$1,800.00
Jefferson SWCD	Public & Classroom Education Activities	\$800.00
Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD	Outreach & Education	\$800.00
Latah SWCD	Outreach & Education	\$800.00
Lemhi SWCD	Expanding Youth Education Programs	\$800.00
Lewis SCD	Soil Health Workshop	\$1,800.00
Madison SWCD	Public Outreach Program	\$800.00
Minidoka SWCD	Land & Soil Evaluation Event	\$800.00
Nez Perce SWCD	Outreach & Education	\$800.00
North Bingham SCD	Support Of County Weed Association	\$800.00
North Side SWCD	Purchased A District Laptop & Color Printer	\$800.00
Oneida SWCD	Sent 2 Supervisors To IASCD Conference	\$800.00
Owyhee CD	Education & Outreach Events	\$800.00
Payette SWCD	Ag Soil Health Symposium	\$2,300.00
Portneuf SWCD	Ag Days Event	\$1,800.00
Power SCD	Public Education, Inflatible Soil Tunnel	\$800.00
Snake River SWCD	UI Twilight Tour Urban Outreach Program	\$800.00
South Bingham SCD	Outreach & Education	\$800.00
Squaw Creek SCD	Published Outreach & Education Materials	\$800.00

DISTRICT	DISTRICT PROJECT OR ACTIVITY ACCOMPLISHED WITH CAP BLDG FUNDS	CAP BLDG ALLOCATION
Teton SCD	Outreach & Education	\$800.00
Twin Falls SWCD	Purchased Laptop	\$800.00
Valley SWCD	Provided Portable Toilets At Trailhead	\$800.00
Weiser River SCD	6th Grade Field Day	\$800.00
West Cassia SWCD	FFA & 4-H Land & Soil Evaluation Event	\$1,800.00
West Side SWCD	Soil Health Workshop	\$800.00
Wood River SWCD	"Trees Against the Wind" Project	\$800.00
Yellowstone SCD	"Birth of a River" School Student Field Trips	\$800.00
TOTAL		\$50,000.00

Return to Agenda



**SOIL & WATER
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Commissioner

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Administrator

MEMO

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS TREBESCH,
SLICHTER, GIER, AND RADFORD**
FROM: CHUCK PENTZER, CREP MANAGER
DATE: JANUARY 4, 2017
RE: ANNUAL CREP REPORT

Staff will present the attached 2016 Annual Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Report at your meeting.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, (CREP), is a component of the CRP program administered by the USDA, Farm Services Agency (FSA) with payments made by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The original CREP agreement was finalized by then USDA Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, and Governor James Risch in May of 2006. The main objective of this program is to voluntarily curtail water rights on groundwater-sourced irrigated cropland in exchange for annual rental payments for 15 years as part of the overall strategy of reducing groundwater usage, specifically within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA).

The SWCC serves as the lead technical agency that implements conservation planning with individual producers and works closely with FSA and the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) for eligibility and water right verification. Idaho Department of Fish & Game provides additional considerations for wildlife enhancements and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), serves as the technical lead for recommended species and planting rates.

An annual status report is required for activities that occur during the federal fiscal year (October thru September 30th). SWCC gathers information on the state's financial contributions (match) from other state agencies and other partners such as Idaho Groundwater Users, and submits an Annual Report to FSA by mid-December of each year.

In addition to the report this year, SWCC staff, on behalf of the CREP working group, has prepared information showing trends with data gathered from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This information was compiled and submitted to FSA with a recommendation of increasing the rental payment rates to reflect more with recent rental rates. An update on this effort will also be given at your meeting.

REQUESTED ACTION: For information only

Attachment: 2016 CREP Annual Report

Idaho's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer



FY 2016 CREP Annual Performance Report (CEP-68R)



**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

established
1939

Conservation the Idaho Way:
Sowing Seeds of Stewardship

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SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



*The CREP contracts displayed on this map are only approximate locations of contracts and are not intended to be used to identify specific locations of CREP enrolled fields.

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this Annual Performance Report (CEP-68R) is to fulfill the State of Idaho's commitment under the terms and conditions of its agreement dated May 2006 with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) concerning the implementation of the Idaho Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This report covers the Federal FY 2016, defined as October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. All tables and charts reflect the status of the program within this range.

Background

The Idaho Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreement between the State of Idaho, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) was signed in May 2006 for the improvement of water quantity and quality in Idaho. Other conservation issues addressed include the enhancement of wildlife habitat through establishment of vegetative cover while reducing irrigation water consumptive use and reducing potential agricultural chemical and sediment runoff to the waters of the state. CREP is a part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) operated by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Other state agencies involved with this program include Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC), Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), federal agency Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), and non-government entities such as Pheasants Forever, and the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators (IGWA).

The CREP is designed to address issues related to water shortages in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). Increased use of ground water, drought, and changing irrigation practices have resulted in decreased spring flows of tributaries to the Snake River. The CREP has been established with the original goal of retiring up to 100,000 acres of ground water irrigated land. This reduction of use is to provide the water savings of up to 200,000 acre-feet annually.

Pursuant to the terms of this agreement, ISWCC and IDWR are to provide an annual report to FSA summarizing the status of enrollments under CREP and progress on fulfilling other commitments of the program. The following report contains the program updates for FY 2016.

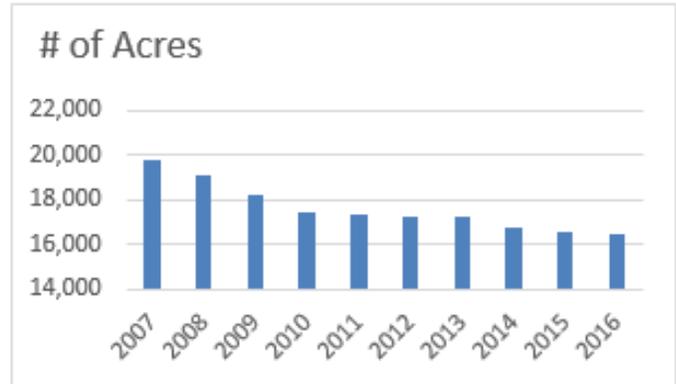
Positive Benefits of the CREP

- The main objective for CREP is to retire irrigated cropland and reduce the ground water consumptive use and compliment other water saving efforts for the overall strategy to stabilize and replenish the ground water levels in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. (ESPA)
- The program provides a consistent annual payment over the contract term removing production risks, and protection from complete loss of income, and safe guarding the water right, if a mandatory curtailment were issued.
- Active CREP acre water savings are easily verifiable and measurable. Some other water saving efforts may not always provide as consistent of a reduction of water use that CREP can provide.
- In addition to the annual demand reductions realized from CREP, NRCS (AWEP) programs implementing surface water conversions have provided more than 35,000 ac-ft. of additional demand reductions on the ESPA. These programs compliment the water savings goals, but actual water savings realized with AWEP-type projects are dependent upon having enough surface water available. CREP is a more consistent water savings option.
- Cover provided by native grass-stands and even non-established stands are providing good habitat and nesting for birds and upland game.
- A decision from the Surface Coalition water call includes a 3 year floating average 240,000 ac-ft. reduction in water usage needed to meet the conditions of the settlement. CREP is valued as one of the water savings options for the landowner to help offset economic hardships to mandatory reductions.
- The curtailment order on expansion water rights specific within the Raft River aquifer area this fall once again brings interest in the program. Another benefit of the CREP allows the participant the flexibility to enroll complete fields, corners, or even end gun removals on land as a means of meeting the reduction amounts needed.

CREP Program Status for FY 2016

The number of CREP contracts and enrolled acreage has remained fairly constant since 2014. A small reduction of enrolled contracts and acres has been occurring, but most of the remaining contracts are expected to stay active as the cost of liquidated damages for contract terminations increases each year. Efforts to promote the CREP program included both formal and informal outreach to producers and coordination efforts with partner agencies. The CREP Coordinator and support staff attended board meetings of local soil conservation districts and FSA county committee meetings within the CREP area. The tables and charts display the overall status of number of signed contracts and active acres for each of the federal fiscal years since the program was initiated.

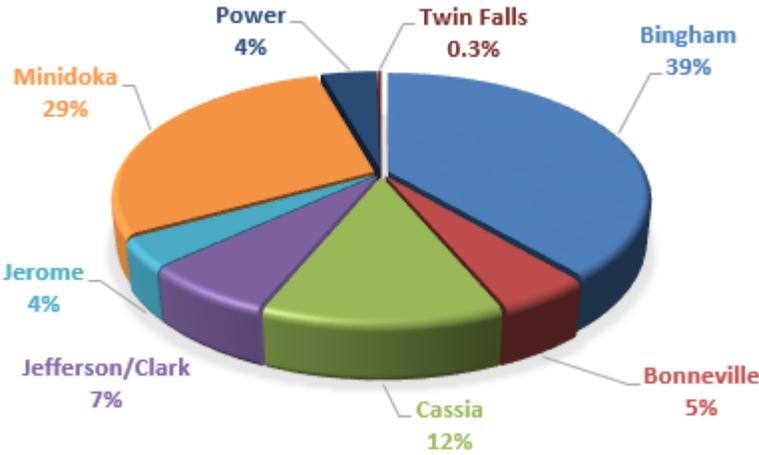
Fiscal Year (FY)	Number of Contracts	Number of Acres
2007	148	19,818
2008	164	19,110
2009	159	18,189
2010	158	17,422
2011	157	17,333
2012	158	17,237
2013	159	17,227
2014	155	16,729
2015	155	16,533
2016	154	16,504



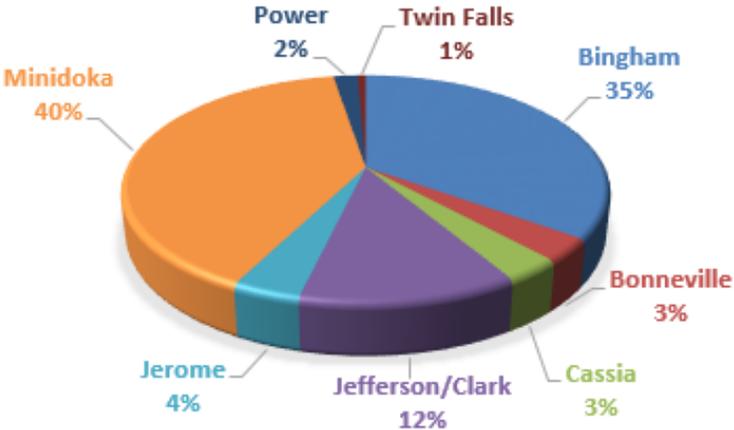
Active Contracts by Administering County (as of 9/30/2016)

Administering County	No. of Contracts	No. of Acres
Bingham	54	6,407
Bonneville	5	798
Cassia	5	2,075
Jefferson/Clark	19	1,138
Jerome	6	618
Minidoka	61	4,749
Power	3	676
Twin Falls	1	43
TOTAL	154	16,504

PERCENTAGE OF ACRES



PERCENTAGE OF ACTIVE CONTRACTS



The FY 2016 concluded with a net of 154 active contracts on 16,504 acres. Considerations to the changing numbers reported include:

- Acreage adjustments and revisions. This affects the total number of acres enrolled.
- Requests of contract transfers to other county offices have changed the number of contracts and acreages from one county to another.
- Contract changes in ownership, splits, sometimes even resulting in new contracts for already enrolled acreages.
- Revisions take almost as much time as preparation of new contracts. FSA has to prepare the updated shape files, and acreage adjustments for program activities are updated to the conservation plan. Each revision then has an updated agreement not to divert (ANTD) document prepared to reflect the updated curtailed acres in the program.

Stand Establishment Status

ISWCC field staff physically visit each non-established field at least twice and most of the established fields during the year to make management recommendations to each participant. Certifications for established fields began in 2009. Contracts with all fields that have met minimum stand density criteria are listed below: Approximately 2,000 additional acres have established stands of grasses, but contain fields within the contract that do not meet the minimum criteria to allow for complete certification. Those contracts and acres are not included in the following table.

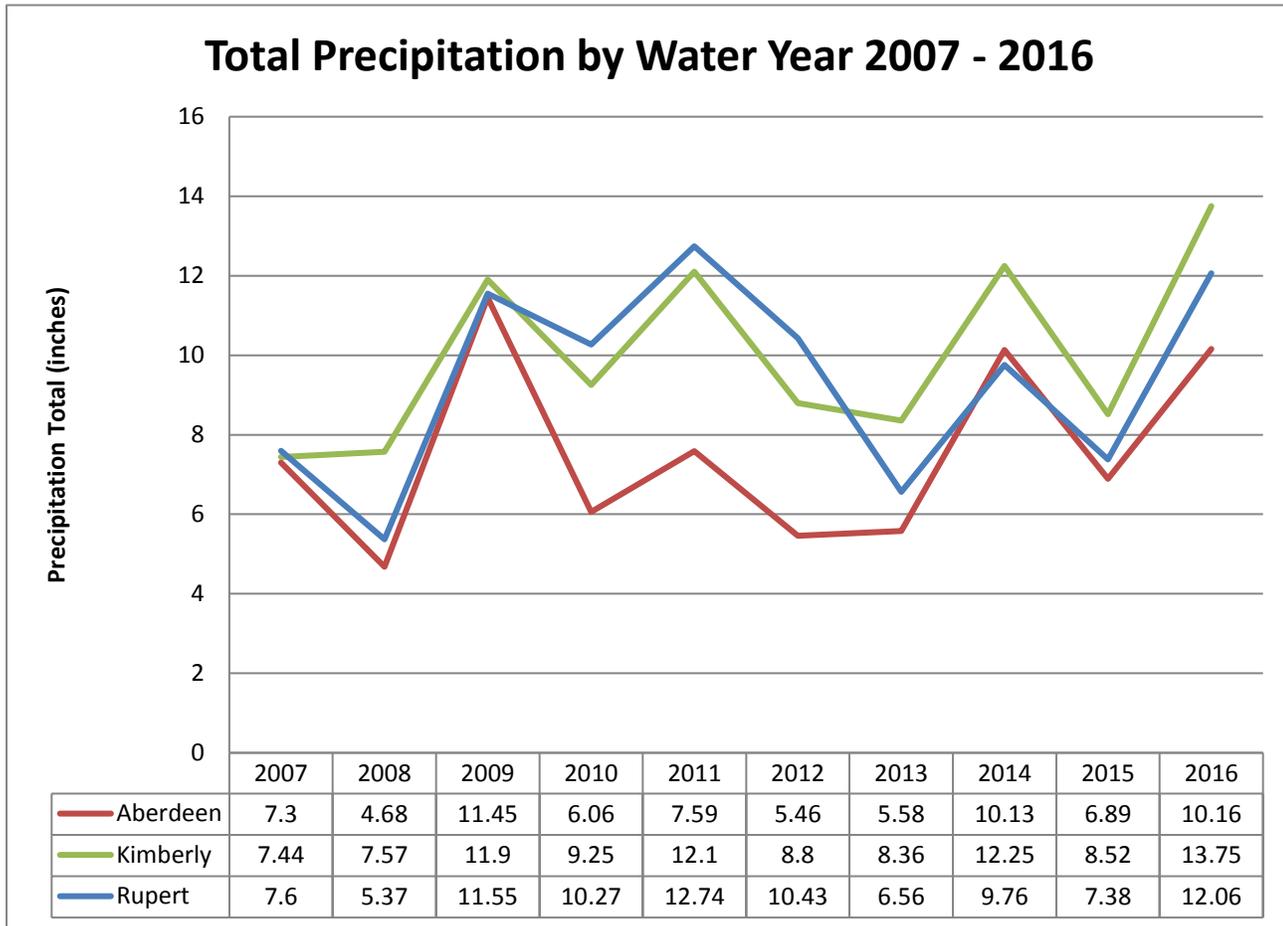
Federal FY	Established Contracts	Established Acres
2009	7	685
2010	28	4,873
2011	13	446
2012	0	0
2013	27	2,481
2014	6	312
2015	5	784
2016	3	23
TOTAL CERTIFIED CONTRACTS (established stands)	89 *	9,604 *

- The total amount reflects a “net” after acreage adjustments and contracts that have since been revised or terminated.
- Of the total active contracts, approximately 90% of eligible practices are classified CP2 – Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses and 10% are classified as CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat Non Easement.
- Other available options for practices can include the following listed below, but without water, they are not as feasible or practical to implement for this specific program:
 - CP22 – Riparian Buffer (Cropland Only)
 - CP25 – Rare and Declining Habitat
 - CP12 – Wildlife Food Plot

Challenges to Stand Establishment

Concerns from producers have been the excessive economic risk of re-seeding high priced native grasses with marginal results. With several back to back years of hot, dry conditions, rodent activity, weed pressures, and sometimes even program required mid-management practices, some of the previously established stands have been on a downward trend and re-seeding efforts have had limited success.

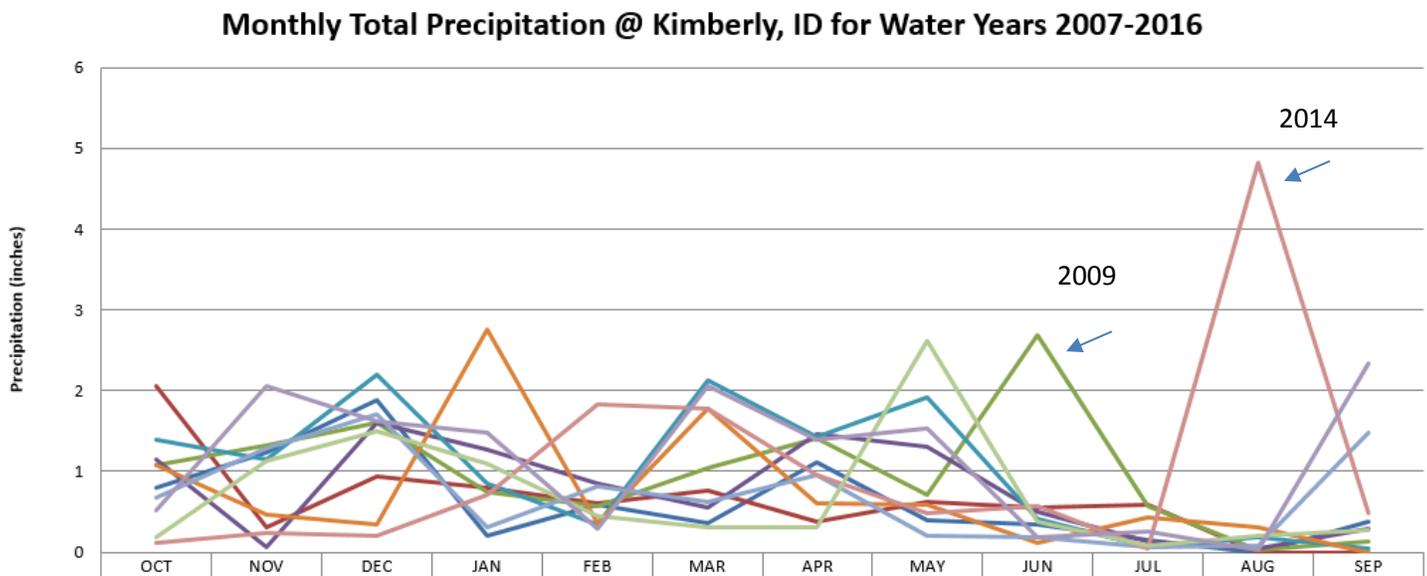
The charts below indicate the nature of the dry years that contract participants have had while trying to establish the native grasses since CREP began. Most of the CREP contracts are located in areas best represented by the Aberdeen graph (red). The last several years have been very challenging to re-seeding efforts and weed control.



Average annual precipitation for the last 10 years:

Aberdeen: 7.5"
 Kimberly: 10.0"
 Rupert: 9.4"

The graph below represents the timing of the precipitation



- As indicated from the graphs of precipitation above, the very dry conditions experienced from 2012 to 2013 with less than 6" annual rainfall (Aberdeen station) increased to almost double in 2014 with a return to a more normal average of 7" of rainfall received. Although the higher precipitation is welcomed, the timing and amount of precipitation has not always been beneficial for the grass stands.
- The first round of seeding attempts had a limitation of no more than 1/3-acre ft. of water to apply for getting stands established. Combined with a burn ban of crop residue at that time, farmers had limited options for preparing the seedbed and getting the weed control they wanted. The hot, dry, windy conditions quickly erased the value of the applied water for the new plantings. Farmers who overwatered, or watered and packed the ground had the higher success rate for initial establishment. There have even been excellent stands of grasses that have failed due to infestations from grasshoppers, rodents and excessive drought which demonstrates the difficulty of how harsh the environment of a desert can be-- especially with native plantings into fields that have raised decades of non-native, irrigated crops.
- For many of the reseed situations, ground preparation, availability of moisture, and timing of rainfall in early spring continues to be critical components of limiting factors for successful grass establishment. Moisture may be available in February, but the ground temperature is usually too cold as the vegetation remains dormant. During many spring months, when the soil temperature has warmed enough for germination, wind and evaporation deplete the surface moisture, leaving a new seedling in a vulnerable situation unless adequate rainfall arrives in a timely manner. Meanwhile, deeper rooted weeds with access to moisture can break dormancy earlier and present early pressures to the native stands. Early applied chemical applications can suppress many of the broadleaf weeds, but if done too soon in the spring, risk plant injury from late frosts. Multiple spring herbicide applications have been used effectively killing the weeds before robbing the precious moisture needed by the new plants. When there is cheatgrass, fall chemical applications seem to suppress any new growth in the spring to allow grasses to establish. On most of the original contracts irrigation is either no longer available or is not a cost effective option.
- Some producers went to extra efforts and applied herbicides when weeds first emerged. Late summer rains have brought additional broadleaf weeds and cheatgrass. Cheatgrass can aggressively and quickly blanket the

ground, competing for water and resources with desired species. Although not a desired plant, the cheatgrass does provide some protection of the soil and stability from wind erosion.

- Surprisingly, original stands of alfalfa are still present in many of the fields after ten years without irrigation. The deeper, well established roots are able to take advantage of the moisture that has migrated thru the soil profile during the winter. Full stands of alfalfa have been able to restrain any weed encroachment and at the same time provide positive results as pollinators. Alfalfa also has the ability to “mine” available nitrogen, if present, out of the deeper soil profile, when available, which improves ground water quality.
- The vegetative ecosystem is slowly returning towards the historic environmental conditions as a desert community. Some adjacent areas that have shrub communities such as sage brush have been naturally migrating into the fields from seed sources in the neighboring rangelands.
- Vole and mice activity was significant during the 2014 and 2015 growing seasons. Rodent activity seemed to have been reduced this year, partly from the natural cycle of succession and increased populations of resident predators such as coyotes, owls, and hawks that feed on them. Large numbers of adult owls continue to be observed throughout the CREP fields. An observed increase in coyote and fox was noticed in the northern magic valley during the summer and fall of 2016.

Practices for Stand Improvement

- Burning is a good alternative for cleaning off weed residue, and stimulating grasses and provide a clean, firm seedbed for inter-seeding light areas. However, a lot of the fields also border rangeland, and many producers do not want the risk and responsibility for a possible wild fire.
- Conventional tillage to clean up a field and bury weed seeds can be a good option. However, without the availability of additional watering, it is difficult to get the ground firm enough for a decent seedbed preparation for the next seeding, and the field could then become vulnerable to wind erosion.
- No-till and range drills are being used for re-plantings providing good seed placement and seed to soil contact at consistent, proper depths. This minimal disturbance saves what moisture is available as compared to conventional tillage type practices.
- Using approved introduced species with native species has shown some positive results in providing adequate establishment. The combination of grasses is better able to compete with weeds and is less expensive as compared to only native plantings.
- Mechanical operations such as low clipping, harrowing, or burning are some examples for non-tillage options for mid-management and seedbed preparations. General herbicide treatment can further reduce the weed pressure and provide a cleaner seedbed.
- The implementation of cover crops such as radishes, and other leafy plants like canola or other varieties of the Brassicaceae family of plants shows some promise against the fight for weeds which can help to establish grass stands. With this strategy, as the leafy growth subsides in the late fall, the wet leaves “melt” onto the surface of the soil and thru the winter can provide a natural barrier, helping to reduce new infestations of weeds the next spring.
- Using the addition of a soil bacteria amendment to help control cheatgrass is showing more promise. These bacteria inhibit the growth of roots of the cheatgrass and seem to be specific only for the weed; this practice may prove to be the most equitable solution yet to reducing the cheatgrass competition so new desired grasses can have the opportunity to establish.
- Allowing intensive grazing of unestablished stands to reduce weed growth and promote better seedbed preparation is being considered with agencies and producers. CRP rules have been clear that grazing cannot occur on stands that have yet to be established. If a pilot project could be initiated, the value of high intensity, short duration grazing could actually prove to be a very feasible option to re-establish stands.
- Herbicide treatment options such as the product Plateau is a valuable tool that has proven to be very effective

for control of cheatgrass and other annual grasses and provide suppression of many of the common broadleaf weeds such as mustard, kochia, and Russian thistle. Legumes such as alfalfa, forbs such as blue flax, and brush such as rabbit and sage are tolerant to the product, which makes this a well-rounded option for weed suppression to promote native grass stands. The label shows a “minimum plant back interval” of 1 year for wheat, 2 ½ years for corn, and up to 4 years for high valued rotational crops like sugar beets and potatoes. For contracts that have 5 years remaining, producers who plan to return to farming the land are not favorable to using this product.

- In fields where no grasses or desired vegetation are found, a glyphosate product such as Roundup has been used to completely kill all plant growth and clean up the ground for the next seeding attempt. Multiple applications as needed for complete weed control is proving to be the most economic and locally acceptable option for weed control and water savings.

Mid-Management Practices

- For lighter, less dense stands, harrowing can be an option to stimulate the grasses.
- “Knee-high” clipping is usually recommended on most stands to minimize stress and help provide plant diversity. Plant species type is considered when working with individuals in the field. Heavier, dense stands are usually clipped and some that have heavier residue can be clipped and removed so as not to “smother” the stand.
- The use of a heavy rubber tire roller may prove to be a useful, cost effective alternative for breaking the mustard and other weed stems in lighter density stands, especially when dry, while at the same time helping to repack the soil to aid in moisture retention. One producer traveled across a field with an implement to evaluate the effectiveness of the practice. Weed carcasses crumpled, while the grasses remained intact. The compaction from the heavy roller seemed to help hold moisture to the surface longer. This less invasive method may prove to be an inexpensive option to help reduce the blowing mustards and Russian Thistle and allow established vegetation to succeed.

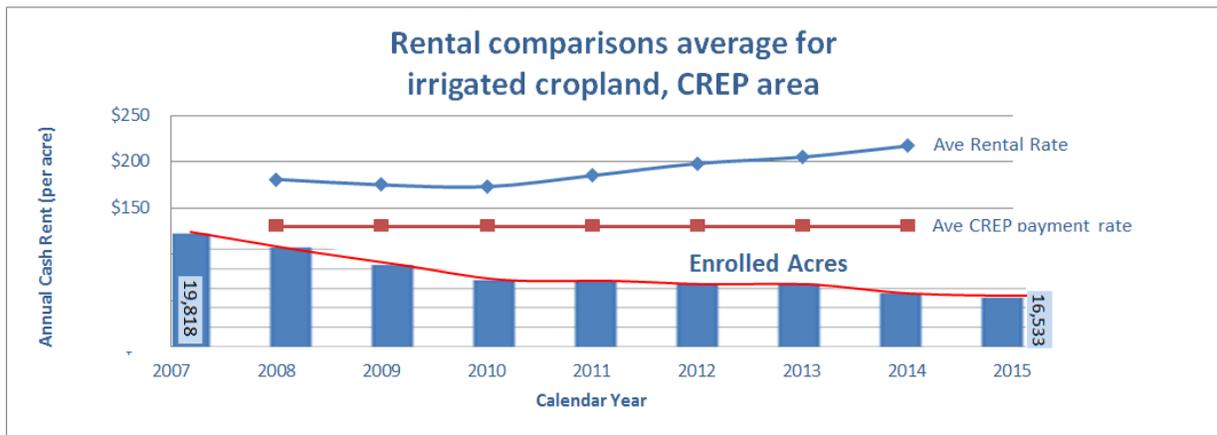
Challenges to Acquiring New Enrollment

The original goal for CREP was to enroll up to 100,000 acres of ground water sourced irrigated cropland into the program, saving approximately 200,000 acre-ft. (AF) of water annually. A few years later, the available program acreage was modified to 50,000 to accommodate the actual response to the program. Some of the challenges to reaching the goaled participation include:

- Annual payment rates since the program began have not kept pace with current cropland rental rates. Producers have been reluctant to enroll additional land when commodity prices have significantly increased in the last ten years.
- Producers have been hesitant about making a 15-year commitment with a fixed annual rent that doesn’t provide income adjustments with inflation.
- The high cost of native grass seed and only limited success from several years of drought have discouraged many from continuing to try to get stands established like they would want. In addition, weeds such as mustards, kochia, Russian thistle and cheatgrass continue to impede success. Even some previously established stands have failed from the more aggressive nature of the non-native weeds.
- In several cases, program payment limitations for producers kept them from participating fully in the program.
- Lack of threat of mandatory curtailment.
- Three of the counties within the program area originally did not qualify because of acreage limitations.
- Non-highly erodible land (NHLE) was not eligible for CREP at the beginning of the program.

Seeking solutions to Acquiring New Enrollment

- In the spring of 2016, the CREP working group met to discuss some of these issues and discuss options of making the program more attractive and less of a burden to the producers.
- The increased value of cropland since the program began has producers wondering whether they want to stay in the program or not. Land sales prices in some areas have actually been enough to justify paying the liquidated damages when terminating a contract.
- The data in the graph below helps to visualize the response to how the number of enrolled acres in the program dropped considerably, coinciding with the time period when average rental rates increased. This trend began in year 2010. Crep program rates at \$120 were not high enough in some areas to make it as a viable option. In some regions just the water assessment itself now reaches close to \$100 per acre.



In attempts to find ways of enrolling more acres, the working group decided to investigate the possibility of offering an increase of payments to bring the amounts in line with today's economy. Data was gathered and collected from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Data included previous rental rates, lease agreements, value of crops harvested within and adjacent to the CREP program boundary. A rate enhancement proposal was drafted and the recommendation was sent to FSA to consider adding \$30 per acre rental rate and reducing the length of the contract term from 15 to 10 years. This proposal is currently under consideration by FSA in Boise and Washington D.C. If FSA approves this increase, the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators (IGWA) have passed a resolution to offer an additional \$30 per acre for the ten year term in the form of either cash or assessment reductions.

Outreach

- Two CREP working group meetings were held this past fiscal year to keep all agencies apprised of the ongoing efforts implementing the program.
- The program is regaining momentum as ground water users consider different strategies to meet the challenges of the 240,000 ac-ft. floating average reductions needed to meet the Surface Water Coalition settlement. IGWA has been working with each individual ground water district to find ways of minimizing economic losses. Part of that goal can be met by enrolling additional acres into CREP to help meet those reductions.
- Ground water districts have passed a resolution to sponsor added annual payments to CREP rental rates. CREP is viewed as an option that provides an equitable, measurable water savings over a longer period of time.
- Another issue arose this summer from the curtailment order on expansion water rights specific within the Raft

River area. This prompted the CREP team and partners to quickly address questions that had been received concerning eligibility considerations to IDWR and FSA. As a result, new offers were coming in September. Specific information was conveyed at local soil conservation district and division meetings, and a number of growers have responded. It is anticipated this will create additional contracts for approximately 1,200 acres. Strategies such as enrolling cropland for end gun removals and retirement of corners are being considered for entry into the program.

- ISWCC staff attends district and some FSA committee meetings providing updates through the year.
- CREP informational brochures are distributed at community events and grower meetings. The brochures continue to be displayed in the USDA service centers that producers can see when they walk into the office.

Other actions and activities in the ESPA

Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP)

The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) or ESPA CAMP establishes a long-term program for managing water supply and demand in the ESPA through a phased approach to implementation, together with an adaptive management process to allow for adjustments or changes in management techniques as implementation proceeds. It is projected that a hydrologic goal of a net ESPA water budget change of 6,000 AF annually can be achieved by the year 2030 through implementation of a mix of management actions including, but not limited to,

- aquifer recharge
- ground-to-surface water conversions
- Demand reduction strategies.

The Plan sets forth actions which stabilize and improve spring flows, aquifer levels, and river flows across the Eastern Snake Plain.

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)

- NRCS funded programs such as the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provided funding for producers to install surface water soft conversions which have provided more than 35,000 AF of additional demand reductions on the ESPA.
- Although these programs compliment the water savings goals, actual savings realized with these projects can vary depending upon having enough surface water available. CREP provides an option that demonstrates water savings that is consistent and measurable.
- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a current program thru NRCS submitted by the Idaho Water Resource Board, tailored to implement water savings measures including installing soft conversions and implementing end gun removal and dryland conversion practices. To date, 6 contracts have been approved implementing end gun removal and dryland conversions on 2,901 acres, obligating \$784,430. This will provide annual water savings of approximately 5,800 AF per year for the five-year program.

Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. (IGWA)

The Idaho Ground Water Appropriators) purchased three large fish facilities in the Hagerman Valley in 2010. In purchasing these three large aquaculture facilities, it fulfilled the requirement of more than 160,000-200,000 AF of Demand Reduction for the Southern part of the ESPA CAMP. There is still a need for Demand Reduction in the Middle and Northern sections of the ESPA.



CREP acreage continues to provide nesting and cover opportunities for birds such as doves, sharp-tailed, sage grouse and other wildlife.

Recommendations for Program Improvement

Increasing Field Efficiency Implementing CREP

ISWCC staff continues to use merged GIS shape file “road maps” for planning field visits efficiently and selecting areas needing follow up. Staff use Galaxy Android smart pads and phones that utilize Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to tag photos, pinpoint problem areas, and expedite compliance checks. The use of these devices and the Avenza PDF mapping program has reduced hours of staff and travel time expediting field work documentation. This technology facilitates providing more accurate information to FSA and the producers for documentation all the while keeping the files well-organized on our local computer drive. The use of smart pad/phone technology has provided staff the ability to confirm locations and provide more accurate estimation of areas needed for weed control and seeding.

GIS products and technology

Additional field tools are being analyzed for improved utilization of existing programs. There will be an ability to share, at minimum, information on which contracts have been checked, and to report growers’ needs in real time. However, this technology has been put on hold until USDA determines the security provisions of cloud technology and preserving sensitive information. The state Department of Administration Information Technology (I.T.) and IDWR have been exploring ways of secondary authentication of data on the state’s hard drive and utilizing external base maps.

Continue seeking solutions to securely share information

IDWR has made several improvements and changes last year to provide staff time needed to evaluate new offers and prepare revisions to verify water savings. The ISWCC office will be moving to the same building where IDWR is located and this will provide easier face to face access with staff.

The Idaho Department of Administration has been seeking ways of “hosting” the files on their server and limiting access to only those primarily responsible for the program. This can provide a much needed improvement to database management and communication.

Individual Privacy Provision

Privacy concerns are maintained and 1619 policies are followed. When locations are analyzed for computing water savings, modeling, and estimated travel times, field boundary displays for meetings are “fogged” to dissipate actual boundaries and individual information is scrubbed to ensure private information stays secure.

ISWCC staff have been working with GIS staff at the Idaho Department of Administration, and FSA to find solutions to utilize the technology such as ARCGIS online and collector tools that are available. When the solutions are found, increased field data collection efficiencies will provide more real time reporting.

Measuring Soil Quality

Testing for soil quality before and after program enrollment was not considered at the beginning of the program. This information can be useful for measuring the effects of the CREP program on soil quality as the field changes from conventional tilled, irrigated cropland to permanent vegetative dryland cover/wildlife land. It was recommended at the beginning of the program as part of its Best Management Practices (BMP) effectiveness that ISWCC create a work plan and collect soil quality data on some sites at the beginning of the contract period, periodically thru the contract period, and upon conclusion of the contract. Soil quality trends gathered can show changes in soil quality and health including the effects on organic matter, compaction layers, water holding capacity, and pH levels. This feedback process, which could provide some valuable information for soil health, has not been initiated due to limited staffing and funding.

Results of the Annual Monitoring status

The CREP partners collect and analyze data annually to assess water and power savings, determine soil savings and average reduction of chemicals, and monitor wildlife habitat. Field checks are performed to assess grass establishment and modify efforts in weed management based on existing conditions. The total amount of acreage enrolled in CREP can be compared to retiring water usage from 118 pivots covering 140 acres each or retiring the equivalent to almost 26 sections of land (640 acres = one section).

Water Savings

IDWR monitors and documents actual water savings. Each acre enrolled into CREP equals actual water savings of approximately two AF. With 16,504 acres currently enrolled, decreed water rights are reduced by approximately 66,016 AF: or an estimated actual savings of 33,008 AF of water saved annually. The CREP is currently at 17% of the original goal to save 200,000 AF annually or 34% of the refined target of 100,000 AF. The equivalent water savings is close to the annual consumptive use of approximately 320,000 people.

The extent of these water saving benefits are shown using the IDWR ground water model. The ESPA ground water model has been measuring Snake River flows and detecting moderate increases in spring levels from the Thousand Springs area and larger increases from the American Falls area. Model trends indicate continued increases for future years.

Soil Erosion

Due to the highly erodible nature of the farm ground enrolled in the CREP program, changing the ground cover from annual cropping systems to permanent vegetative cover provides average soil savings of two tons per acre per year due to water erosion and six tons per acre per year due to wind erosion. This equals soil savings of 33,008 tons per year due to water erosion and 99,024 tons per year due to wind erosion.

Pesticides and Nutrients

Often attached to eroded soil particles are nutrients such as nitrate (NO₃) and phosphate (PO₄), pesticides, or other agricultural chemicals applied to the field. By reducing the amount of soil erosion, the potential amount of nutrients and pesticides reaching ground water or water bodies downstream is greatly reduced. Considering variables such as amount of fertilizer applied to a field, the type of fertilizer used, and crop rotation, it is estimated that 1.7 to 4.5 million pounds of fertilizer are no longer being applied to enrolled acres.

Wildlife Populations and Habitat

Of special concern within the CREP area is habitat of grassland-nesting birds including sharp-tailed grouse and sage grouse. Sage grouse are of particular concern throughout the entire state due to a steady decline in population since monitoring began in the 1950's. More extensive declines have occurred in the Upper Snake region, which encompasses much of the Idaho CREP area¹. Acres enrolled in CREP can provide nesting and cover opportunities especially if the fields are adjacent to growing sagebrush. While some contracts specifically had sagebrush planted initially, many fields have sage brush establishing naturally from nearby seed sources. As noted from Fish and Game, this can provide some brood benefits for the sage grouse.

Fish Habitat

The benefits of the CREP program peak during the irrigation season when the demand for irrigation water is the greatest. Voluntary reduction programs reduce the demand during this peak, allowing more water to stay in the aquifer. Aquatic habitat will continue to improve through the reduction of potential sediment, pesticides, and harmful nutrients entering the waterways. Improved water quality and increased stream flows can provide a higher quality habitat for various native aquatic species as well as sensitive species found throughout the Thousand Springs reach of the Snake River.

Coordinate additional CREP efforts targeting sage grouse

It is recommended that Idaho CREP partners continue to identify measurable objectives aimed at protecting sage grouse by increasing existing efforts and proposing new measures. The permanent vegetation does provide continued cover, and nesting opportunities that didn't exist before when annually tilled. As mentioned above, there are many areas that are naturally establishing with sage brush. Staff makes recommendations to the producers to not clip and only spot spray in those areas where the sage brush is establishing.

¹ Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2006

Summary of Non-Federal Program Expenditures

PROGRAM TOTALS – FY 2007 THROUGH FY 2016 TOTAL STATE CASH AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

FY 2007	\$5,230,360
FY 2008	\$35,390,421
FY 2009	\$3,814,925
FY 2010	\$4,436,640
FY 2011	\$5,271,232
FY 2012	\$1,528,156
FY 2013	\$3,263,418
FY 2014	\$1,926,576
FY 2015	\$9,489,531
FY 2016	\$9,714,041

PROGRAM TOTAL TO DATE: \$80,065,300

FY 2016 TOTAL STATE CASH AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	
Idaho Department of Water Resources	\$9,158,369
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission	\$554,692
Idaho Ground Water Appropriators	(included in IDWR)
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	\$980
TOTAL	\$9,714,041

FY 2016 DETAILED SUMMARY BY AGENCY:	
Idaho Department of Water Resources	
Water Master Expenses by District	
WD 01	\$1,715,480
WD 100	\$10,999
WD 110	\$73,954
WD 120	\$61,416
WD 130	\$42,430
TOTAL Water District Master Expense	\$1,904,279

Idaho Ground Water Appropriators (Included in IDWR report above)		
IDWR Projects Recharge projects, loans, studies, cloud seeding projects within the ESPA		
	\$7,252,693	
Total IDWR Projects		\$7,252,693
IDWR Employees Neal Farmer, Rick Collingwood, Linda Davis, Paula Dillon, Sandra Thiel		
Total IDWR employee wages		\$1,397

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission		
ISWCC Employees Chuck Pentzer, State CREP Coordinator Brian Reed, Idaho Falls Rob Sharpnack, Shoshone Carolyn Firth, Burley Technical Records Specialist, administrator, Boise support		
Total ISWCC Employee Wages		\$134,588
ISWCC Operating Expense Contract assistance Fuel, travel, office expenses Equipment		
	\$17,172	
Total ISWCC operating expense	\$22,343	\$39,515
Annual Loans Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (Loan)		
TOTAL ISWCC program loans (ESPA only)	\$380,589	\$380,589

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)		
IDFG Employees Sal Palazzolo (meetings, updating staff)		
	\$980	
Total IDFG		\$980

Pursuant to the terms of the contract, it should be noted that the State of Idaho has met its obligation to use \$5 million to purchase permanent private water rights in the ESPA CREP area no later than December 31, 2010. During 2007, the State of Idaho partnered with the City of Twin Falls and the North Snake and Magic Valley ground water districts to purchase the Pristine Springs area for a total of \$26 million. The purchase of this area addressed a number of conflicts between spring water users and ground water users in the Magic Valley and provided the City of Twin Falls with a fresh water source to improve the quality of its water supply.² This expenditure was reported as a line item by IDWR in the FY 2008 Annual Report.



**SOIL & WATER
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- Leon Slichter
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- Dave Radford
Commissioner
- Glen Gier
Commissioner
- Teri Murrison
Administrator

MEMO

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS TREBESCH,
SLICHTER, GIER, AND RADFORD**
FROM: TERRY HOEBELHEINRICH, LOAN OFFICER
**RE: RESOURCE CONSERVATION & RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM REPORT**

Since your last meeting, the following activities have been conducted by staff:

Marketing	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IASCD Conference (Pocatello), • Treasure Valley Irrigation Conference (Nampa), • 2017 Idaho Ag Outlook (Burley) Industry Credit Deterioration Working Capital Disappearing Real Estate Equity Used Up <p>Upcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Central Idaho Grazing Conference (Lewiston), • Irrigation & Equipment Show (Burley) • Soil Health Symposium (Ontario) • Soil Health Workshop (Idaho Falls) • Idaho Family Forest Owners Association (Moscow) • Survey Ag Lenders • Marketing Consultant
Loan Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 loan inquiries have been received since the last update on October 31 • 1 application received (and denied) • Disbursing 2 loans with loan closing challenges •
Loan Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76 loans, \$2,914,825 • \$291,093 approved, but not disbursed • 1 delinquency resolved • 1 new delinquency (executive session)
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New IRS Form 1098 • NLS Software Update • Office Move

Staff requests a Board discussion about possibly conducting an informal review of the ag lending climate at present to determine what, if any, changes are necessary to better position the Loan Program to increase volume in the improving economy.

Once that is accomplished, if warranted, we propose to contract with a consultant to identify marketing best management practices to help us set and accomplish new goals.

REQUESTED ACTION: For information only



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MEMO

TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS TREBESCH, SLICHTER, GIER, RADFORD AND PRESIDENT TILLOTSON, DIRECTORS BROWN, BECKER, FOSTER, KUNAU, AND WOODARD

FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR, DELWYNE TREFZ, DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES SPECIALIST

DATE: JANUARY 4, 2017

RE: JOINT BOARD MEETING WITH IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The following items will be discussed during the Joint Board Meeting item.

Listening Session Feedback received at Commission meeting on November 17, 2016 re District Reference Manual

Comments were received regarding:

- The District Reference Manual, indicating interest in having a representative from each IASCD Division on the Committee. Staff proposes that after IASCD and IDEA have chosen their representatives, staff can attempt to achieve this by inviting additional supervisors from the other divisions to participate.
- A request was made that Delwyne (and Chris, if possible), report progress at Joint ISWCC and IASCD Board meetings.

District Reference Manual Update Process

Updates to the Reference Manual for Districts were approved by the Commission during their June 9th, 2016 meeting. The revisions had been developed by SWCC district support services staff and reviewed by SWCC field staff and IDEA Directors. Subsequently, IASCD Directors requested greater IASCD involvement in the development of future modifications.

In response to IASCD's request, SWCC Commissioners directed staff to develop a process to facilitate the development of future revisions to the Reference Manual. This process was introduced to Districts during the Fall 2016 Division meetings, was emailed to all districts in October, 2016, was presented to district staff during an IDEA training, and during the SWCC meeting and listening session at the IASCD Conference in November, 2016. Future revisions to the Reference Manual for Districts will be developed following this process:

- a) **Identifying Needed Changes** District supervisors and staff may suggest changes at any time of the year.
- b) **Review of Suggested Modifications** In April ISWCC district support staff will convene an advisory committee to review and provide guidance on suggested updates.

- c) The Advisory Committee will be comprised of:
- 1 rep from IASCD selected by IASCD
 - 1 rep from IDEA selected by IDEA
 - 3 District supervisors from throughout the state selected by ISWCC district support staff
- d) **Dissemination of Reference Manual Updates** In May SWCC will inform Districts, IASCD and IDEA of the outcome of the advisory committee meeting and provide a draft of recommended updates. Districts, IASCD and IDEA will have 1 month during which to provide feedback on the draft updates. SWCC staff will consider the feedback received as they draft the final version of the updates.

Commissioners and IASCD Board members will be briefed on and invited to comment on both advisory committee process, outcomes, and any updates made to the District Reference Manual. All Districts will be notified that the updated Reference Manual is available on the SWCC website.

Washington DC Fly-In

NRCS State Conservationist Curtis Elke has been invited to the Joint Board Meeting to discuss the Washington DC Fly-In February 5-8, 2017.

Summer Joint Board Meeting

In addition, IASCD Board Members will bring forward a proposed date for your Summer Joint Board Meeting, and provide the 2017 Spring Division Meetings Schedule.

Attached for your information is a copy of the IASCD Board Agenda for their meeting to be held earlier in the week. Commissioners can request an update from the IASCD Board members on any items on their agenda.

District Support Services Update Staff will provide an update to on progress made on Chris Banks' workplan to:

- Conduct a statewide assessment of the traditional conservation partnership to document needs, challenges, and opportunities
- Work with districts, IASCD, IDEA, Commissioners, NRCS, and other stakeholders to develop a collaborative Commission Capacity Building Action Plan
- Energize and expand the local, state, and federal conservation partnership
- Build effective districts, secure funding for SWCC-led conservation work around the state and engage the next-generation of conservationists
- Develop standard operating procedures for SWCC staff
- Develop a leadership curriculum and training materials for SWCC staff
- Identify and implement new strategies to diversify funding and partnership resources
- Inspire and involve the next-generation of conservation champions

REQUESTED ACTION: For information only

Attachments:

IASCD Board Agenda, January 2017



Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting
January 15th & 16th, 2017
Safari Inn - Boise, Idaho

Sunday 1:00 PM

Call to Order - President Kit Tillotson

- Agenda Review

Minutes for Approval

- November 15 & 18, 2016

Financial Report

- Current Financial Report - July 1, 2016 - December 31, 2017

Important dates

- January 16 - Legislative Appreciation Social
- January 17 - Capitol Displays
- January 18 - ISWCC Meeting
- January 19 - JFAC Budget Hearing
- January 28 - NACD Annual Conference
- February 5-8 - Partners Washington D.C. Fly-in

2017 IASCD Legislative Strategy

- Priorities
 - Wildfire Disaster
 - Fire Protection Plan
 - Water Quality (W
 - Farmland Preservation
- Committee reports
 - Presentation
 - Dates?

IASCD Conference 2017

- Location
- Speakers
- Dates
- Tours/Activities

Spring Division Meetings (2016 dates below)

Division I	Boundary	April 14
Division II	Idaho	In lieu of Division mtg - spring tour May 11
Division III	Payette	March 8
Division IV	Blaine	March 9
Division V	S. Bingham	March 16
Division VI	Yellowstone	In lieu of Division mtg - Soil Health Workshop February 16

Monday 8:00 AM

Partner Reports (When Available)

- NRCS - Curtis Elke
- IDEA - Chris Simons
- ISWCC - Teri Murrison

Executive Director Update

- Review action items from conference business meetings
- District outreach and support plan - 2017
- Spring Division Meetings
- Envirothon updates - National and State

Washington D.C. Fly-in

- Planning
- Presentation

District Procedures Manual

IASCD Summer Board Meeting

- Date
- Location

New Business

Adjournment

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