

LEWIS SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

521 OAK ST. ROOM 8

NEZPERCE, ID 83543

208-937-2291 x 3



FIVE-YEAR RESOURCE CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2024

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ANNUAL PLAN

JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

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FORWARD

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

Conservation Districts are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. They are catalysts for coordinating and implementing conservation programs, channeling expertise from all levels of government into action at the local level. Programs are nonregulatory; science-based technical assistance, incentive-based financial programs and informational and educational programs at the local level.

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

This Five-Year Plan was developed to guide the Conservation District, and encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the Lewis Soil Conservation District.

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



Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

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

National Association of Conservation Districts	Lewis County Commissioners
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts	U. S. Forest Service
Idaho District Employees Association	Bureau of Land Management
Nez Perce Tribe	Basin Advisory Groups
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Watershed Advisory Groups
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission	Winchester State Parks and Recreation
Idaho Department of Agriculture	Clearwater RC& D
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Farm Service Agency
Idaho Department of Lands	Lewis County Weed Board
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	
U of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service	
Cities of: Craigmont, Nezperce, Reubens, Winchester, and Kamiah	
Public School Districts of: Highland, Nezperce, and Kamiah	
News Media: Lewis County Herald, Lewiston Morning Tribune, and Clearwater Progress, Cottonwood Chronicle	

Key Decision Makers

- **District Elected Board Officials:** Eric Hasselstrom – Chairman, Greg Branson – Vice Chairman, Tyler Nelson – Secretary/Treasurer, Drew Leitch – Member, Jonathan Rosenau – Member
- **Lewis County Commissioners:** Greg Johnson, Mike Ponzoso, Justin McLeod
- **City of Nezperce elected official:** Mayor – Steve Bateman
- **City of Craigmont elected official:** Mayor – Roger Riggers
- **State Legislators representing District 6–** Senator Dan Johnson, Representative Thyra Stevenson, Representative Mike Kingsley
- **The producers and citizens in Lewis County**
- **Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission**
- **Idaho Governor’s Office of Species Conservation**

Lewis Soil Conservation District Staff

- **Amanda Grant**

Certificate of Adoption

The Board of elected supervisors of the Lewis Soil Conservation District on this 2nd day of March 2020, do hereby approve the following document known as the Five – Year Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2024, during which time it will be updated annually and/or amended, as necessary. As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do hereby affix our signatures to this document.



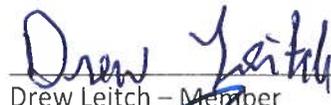
Eric Hasselstrom - Chairman



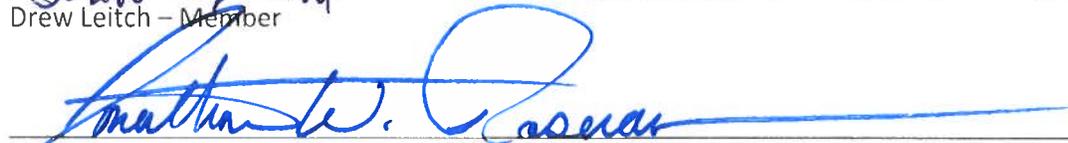
Greg Branson - Vice Chairman



Tyler Nelson - Treasurer/Secretary



Drew Leitch – Member



Jonathan Rosenau - Member



Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan

July 1, 2019- June 30, 2024

Lewis Soil Conservation District



For More Information Contact:

Eric Hasselstrom, District Board Chairman 208-937-2291 ext 3

Website: www.lewissoilconservationdistrict.weebly.com

Email: Lewisscd@outlook.com

Organization of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

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

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

Function of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

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

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

Who We Serve & Why

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

The LSCD provides technical assistance to landowners and operators in Lewis County in areas such as non-irrigated cropland, non-industrial private forestland and rangeland management. We strive to provide local leadership in the conservation development and productive use of soil, water and related resources to improve soil quality, soil health, water quality and long-term sustainability of the land.

In addition to providing technical assistance to landowners in the district the other primary service is to inform and educate the public. We provide numerous educational programs to the schools with the District.

Mission of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

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

Vision of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

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

Values of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

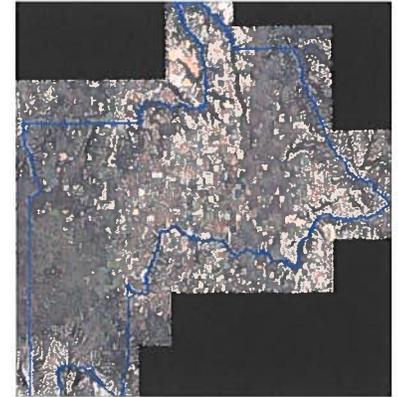
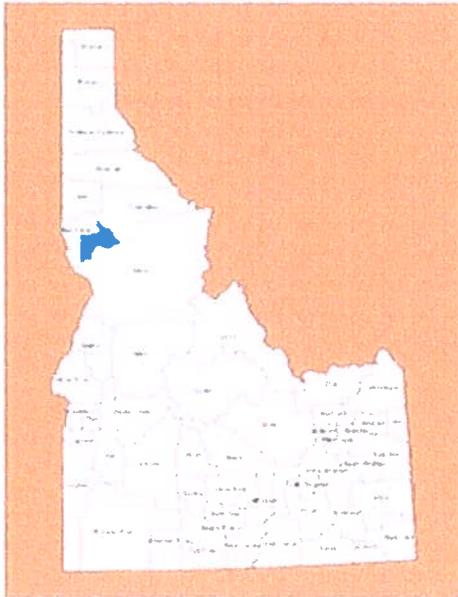
The LSCD values the resources of Lewis County. We are dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound Best Management Practices (BMP's). We promote clean water and productive soil. The District strives to ensure that local people make decisions on conservation problems at the local level.

The District supports and encourages the use of BMP's and Resource Management Systems (RMS) on agricultural lands within the District in an effort to control soil erosion and improve water quality. We value and have respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership. We act as a catalyst to bring people and programs together, to bring about a quality way of life, a quality resource base and a quality environment.



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

Section 1- Physical Characteristics of the District



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

Critical Geographic Areas:

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

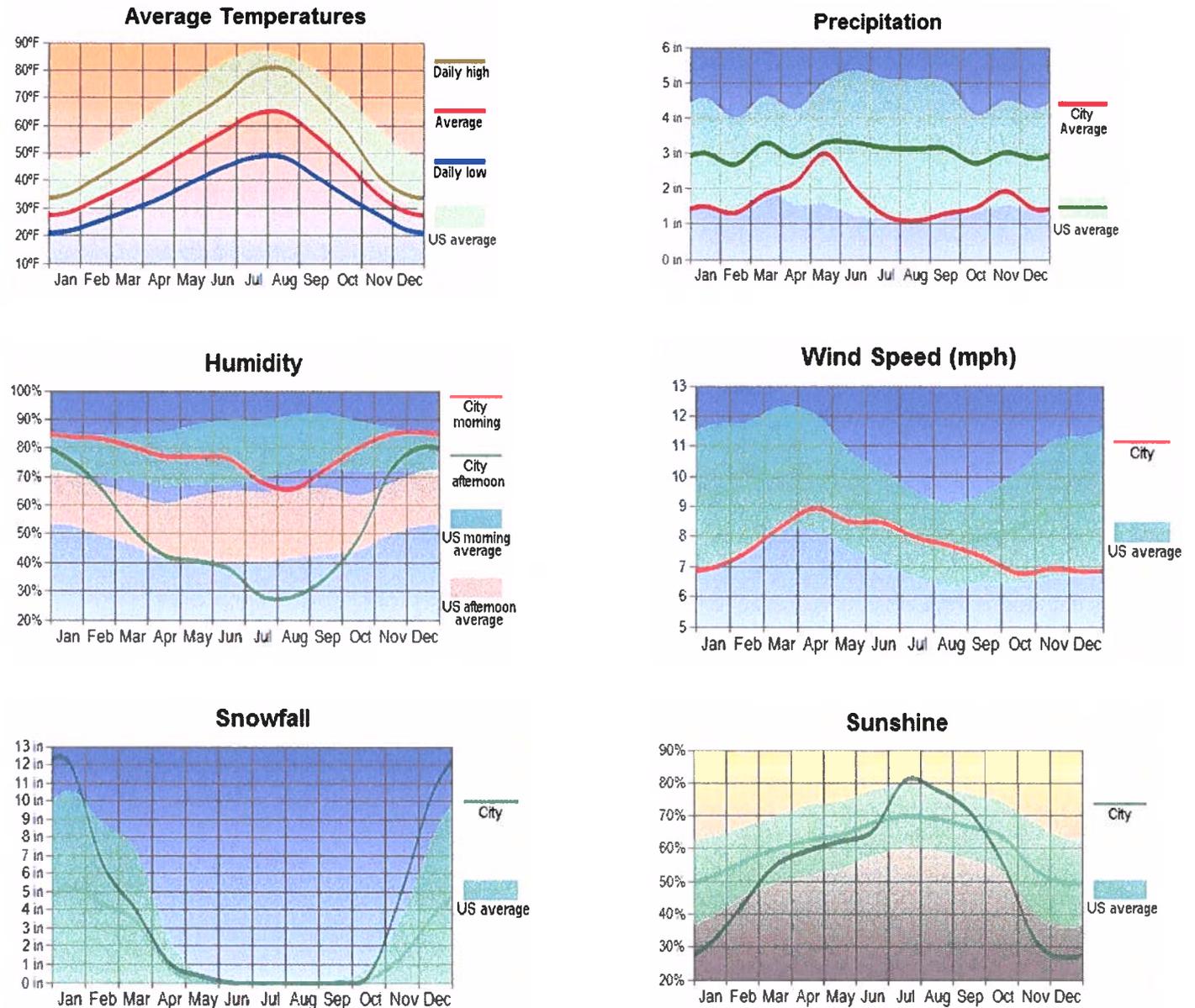
Lewis Geology:

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

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

Average climate in Nezperce, Idaho

Based on data reported by over 4,000 weather stations



Sources

- <http://www.city-data.com/city/Nezperce-Idaho.html#ixzz1n986XSwp>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_County,_Idaho
- http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Idaho/Publications/County_Estimates/index.asp

Section 2 - Economic Condition and Outlook

The population in Lewis County Estimated 2016 – 3,853 (all rural)

Land Area – 478.80 square miles

Homeownership Rate – 74.8%

Median Household Income \$36,159

Lewis County is the 7th least populated county in the state, ranks 40th in population and 41st in area

Most common industries of Lewis County

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (23%)
- Construction (11%)
- Wood products (10%)
- Public administration (8%)
- Truck transportation (4%)
- Educational services (4%)
- Paper (3%)

Agriculture in Lewis County:

Average size of farms: 1,024 acres

Average value of agricultural products sold per farm: \$156,792

Average value of crops sold per acre for harvested cropland: \$186.51

The value of livestock, poultry, and their products as a percentage of the total market value of agricultural products sold: 5.91%

Average total farm production expenses per farm: \$118,569

Harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms: 64.65%

Average market value of all machinery and equipment per farm: \$163,864

The percentage of farms operated by a family or individual: 83.05%

Average age of principal farm operators: 56 years

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

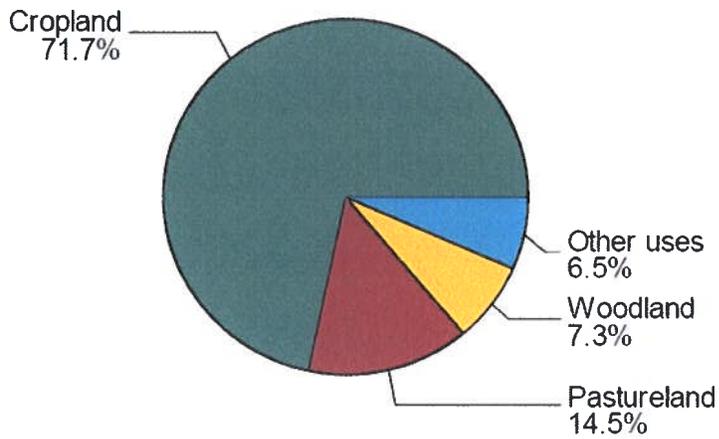
The primary economic base is dryland farming and livestock production. Lewis County uses dryland agriculture and relies on precipitation to irrigate the crops and surface water sources or groundwater wells for livestock productions. Lewis County is heavily dependent on natural resources, especially agriculture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

Ranching and farming remain one of the major industries of the area. Farm income remains a major factor in the spending power of the county residents. The county ranks 23rd in the State for agricultural products sold.

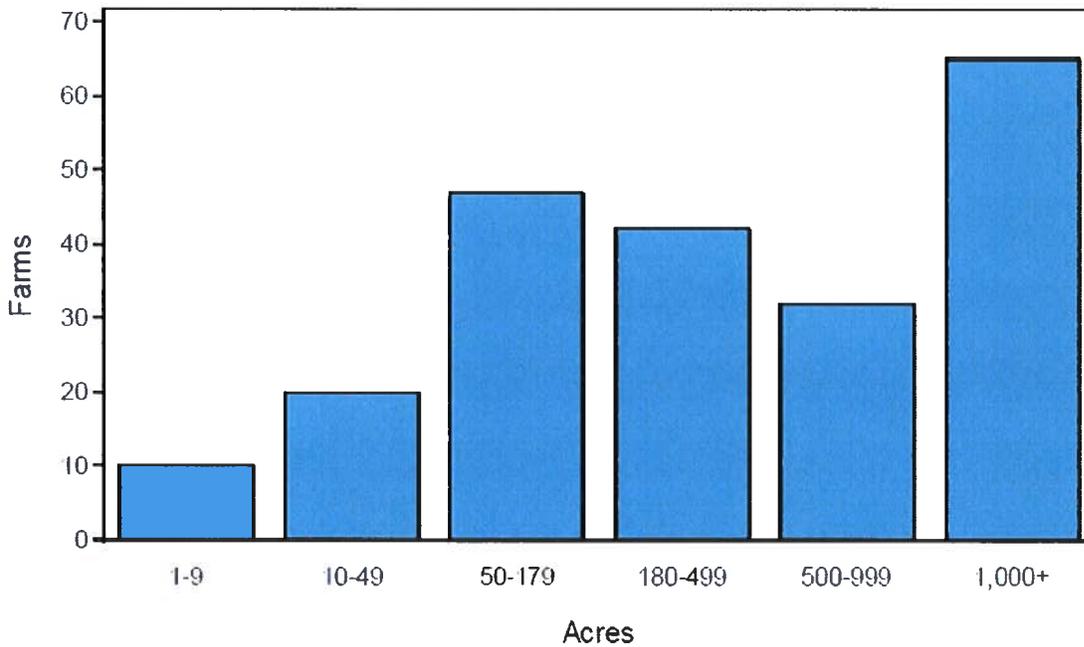
Adjacent counties

Clearwater to the northeast, Idaho to the south and Nez Perce to the northwest

Land in Farms, 2012
by Land Use



Farms by Size, 2012



https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Idaho/cp16061.pdf

The table below is provided by the Lewis County Farm Service Agency.

Lewis/Clearwater County 2019 Reported Acres						
Category	Crop	Type	Acres		Sub-Total	Total
			Lewis	Clearwater		
Small Grains	Wheat	Soft White Winter	64,633.6	3,949.9	85,482.0	
		Soft White Spring	10,347.6	361.7		
		Hard Red Winter	3,150.2	1,506.0		
		Hard Red Spring	1,025.5	507.6		
	Barley	Spring	6,138.2	359.6	7,789.6	
		Hulless	1,291.9	0.0		
	Oats		1,362.4	0.0	1,362.4	
Buckwheat		134.2	0.0	134.2		
Total Small Grains			88,083.5	6,684.7		94,768.2
Oilseeds	Canola	Winter	2,570.3	0.0	10,765.1	
		Spring	8,131.5	63.4		
	Flax	COM	463.2	0.0	463.2	
	Mustard	Yellow	0.0	222.5	222.5	
Total Oilseeds			11,164.9	285.9		11,450.8
Legumes	Lentils		3,903.7	0.0	3,903.7	
	Dry Peas	Austrian Winter	258.6	0.0	2,909.3	
		Green	2,366.2	284.5		
	Beans	Adzuki	40.6	0.0	40.6	
		Garbanzo (GAS)	2,594.3	0.0	13,559.4	
Garbanzo (GAR)		10,965.1	0.0			
Total Legumes			20,128.4	284.5		20,412.9
Forage	Hay	Alfalfa	3,260.5	27.6	17,337.5	
		Alfalfa Mix	1,562.5	413.8		
		Grass Mix w/ Alfalfa	1,778.4	554.7		
		Interseeded Grasses	2,349.1	1,951.3		
		Native Grass	563.0	69.4		
		Timothy	602.9	434.6		
		Brome	104.1	176.4		
		Fescue	110.1	0.0		
		Orchard Grass	173.8	20.0		
		Oat / Barley / Mixed Grain Hay	2,298.8	189.3		
		Other	697.3	0.0		
		Grazing	Cropland	4,573.1		
	Non-Cropland		35,444.6	13,502.2		
	Total Forage			53,518.2	18,768.9	
Seed Crops	Grass	Bluegrass, Kentucky	16,124.5	354.9	16,479.4	
		Brome	79.3	34.7		
		Crested Wheatgrass	278.3	0.0		
		Intermediate Wheatgrass	98.9	0.0		
		Fescue	676.4	89.9		
		Idaho Fescue	293.8	0.0		
		Orchard Grass	135.9	0.0		
		Blue Bunch Wheatgrass	99.8	0.0		
		Siberian Wheatgrass	19.1	0.0		
		Perennial Rye	76.5	0.0		
		Inter-seeded Grass Mix	75.4	0.0		
		Small Burnett	155.6	0.0		
	Clover	White	38.3	0.0	38.3	
	Flowers		0.0	0.0	0.0	
Nursery		190.5	0.0	190.5		
Total Seed Crops			18,342.2	479.5		18,821.7
	CRP		5,681.8	1,649.7	7,331.5	
	Wetland Reserve		0.0	96.0	96.0	
	Left Standing		977.8	298.3	1,276.0	

Other	Prev Planting		4,535.6	1,135.8	5,671.4
	Trees		32.3	9.6	41.9
	Wildlife Food Plot		0.0	7.0	7.0
	Fallow		6,522.4	1,202.0	7,724.4
	Total Other		17,749.8	4,398.4	22,148.2

Section 3 - Assessment

Soil Resources:

Soil Erosion

- Erosion occurs mainly as a result of winter runoff from snow melt and rainfall on frozen saturated soils. Gully erosion occurs in cropland areas.
- Approximately 47,954 acres are Non-highly erodible cropland and 93,015 acres are Highly erodible cropland
- Water Quality projects have reduced soil erosion in cropland areas
- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural practices reduce the amount of streambank erosion
- Erosion occurring on range and forest lands is often the result of improper grazing and improper road development and maintenance
- LSCD seeks funding sources for cost sharing the installation of BMP's
- Encourage producers to properly manage riparian areas
- Soil health is encouraged
- Host soil health workshop

Soil Quality

- 80 %of Lewis County acres have been adopted to no till/direct seed
- LSCD promote tillage and residue management practices that leave stubble standing during winter months, which is the critical erosion period
- LSCD encourages crop rotation which includes cereal, legumes, mustards, cover crops and perennial crops
- Hosts cover crop demonstrations to enhance the soil microbiology, nutrient availability, and soil health.
- Uses the soil survey which is useful in the conservation, development and productive use of soil water and other resources

Three broad groups of soil occur with the District

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

Water Resources:

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

- The majority of the LSCD jurisdiction is in the Camas Prairie High Nitrate Priority Area.
- Applying split fertilizer helps the water quality and crop production.

- Precision Agriculture where nutrients and chemicals are applied in zones to decrease applications in areas where they are not being used or areas where they are not needed.
- Nutrient management practices are adopted to help reduce nitrates leaching into the ground water and surface water.
- Most rural residents rely on septic systems and drain fields to treat their waste water. We have offered cost share to repair failing septic systems.
- Livestock watering systems and pipelines are primary uses of surface water in the agricultural sector
- BMP's offered through cost share programs have enhanced the surface water quality

Air Quality:

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

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

Forestlands, grasslands, pasture, hay land and rangeland:

- Forestland erosion occurs mostly on skid trails, landings and roads
- Forestlands and interface areas provide important habitat for many species of birds and mammals
- Promote sustainable forest harvest practices
- Coordinate with producers to develop grazing plans that leave appropriate amounts of vegetation
- Hay is used as part of a rotation in many areas
- Encourage control of noxious and invasive weeds
- Fire prevention and restoration strategies increase forest health, reduce erosion, and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat
 - Endorse forestry practices that minimize erosion and retain shading for streams
 - Fuel reduction to decrease catastrophic fire

Livestock production:

- Encourage producers to install Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's) and pasture management systems including exclusion fencing, offsite watering, waste management facility and riparian treatment

Fish and Wildlife:

According to old timer's fish numbers have decreased over the years.

Lewis County is home to a diverse array of fish and wildlife species.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 directs all federal agencies, or any project that has a Federal funding, to implement measures to protect all federally listed species found in the project area. LSCD has many listed or threatened species within the district boundaries. The presence of these species greatly affects farming and ranching communities. While they often bring federal funds to the district for project administration, they also bring the federal "nexus" for ESA consultation for these projects.

- Decrease threats to threatened and endangered species (T&E)
- LSCD addresses: salmon, steelhead, bull trout

- Conceivably all land in the county could be used for wildlife but it not currently economically feasible
- Preserve wildlife

Improving stream habitat

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

District Operations:

- Budget cuts are a big concern of the district
- Lewis SCD generates operational funds through limited funds from County and State
- Entered into an agreement with the ACES program through NRCS sharing staff time
- Actively looking for grants to provide financial help to landowners installing conservation practices on their land
- Cooperate with units of local, state, federal and tribal government
- Maintain staff to have a good relationship with landowners and continuously work with them to provide information and assistance to meet their conservation needs
- Have a good working relationship with partner staff personnel
- Maintain District records
- Retain the Technical Assistance provided to us from ISWCC
- Dedicated to conserving renewable resources and using sound management practices
- Publish three newsletters throughout the year reaching over 200 households

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District

- Continued reduction in funding which further reduces the districts efforts to be effective as a in conservation
- Limited Technical Support available from the ISWCC
- Limited funding through grant which impacts getting conservation on the ground
- No Till/ Direct Seed to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion
- Soil pH is affecting crop yields
- Pest Management to reduce pesticides leaching into the ground water and runoff entering surface water
- Animal Feeding Operations to improve surface water and ground water quality
- Wildfires
- Forest Health to improve forest health, fire restoration, reduce disease and erosion
- Invasive species and weeds need to be addressed and controlled
- Soil erosion

Strategies to Address Trends

- Actively looking for new and innovative ways for funding, i.e; grants, project, highway district's, so we can reach more producers in Lewis County
- Raise awareness of conservation values with the state legislature and elected officials. Help our decision makers be better informed
- Hold informational meetings to inform producers of programs available for cost share
- ISWCC helps to monitor grant projects after funding come available
- Proper grazing, culvert placement and structural measures to reduce the amount of stream bank erosion
- Use management practices to reduce the chance of fire and lessen the effects of fire
- Increase awareness of forestland management. Work with the Idaho Department of Lands

- Lead voluntary implementation of conservation efforts
- Supervisors to become more informed of current issues impacting working land, Farm Bill programs
- Implementation of water quality and water quantity projects to improve fish passage and habitat within the District to help address ESA issues
- Actively seeking additional funding through grants, 319, IDL, NRCS, ISWCC, Idaho Fish and Game
- Educate landowners of ways to reducing fire risks
- Inform interested landowners regarding cover crops, crop rotation, residue management, sustainable forest practices, invasive weed treatment
- Encourage landowners to participate in EQIP and RCPP programs to use conservation measures to reduce sheet and rill erosion and address soil health

Section 4 - Identify and Prioritize Objectives

1. District funding

State of Idaho Funding

- Provides \$8,500.00 for their base of operations
- 2:1 Match \$10,995.21
- Special allocation \$3,633.34

Funding supported from Lewis County

- \$8,000.00

2. Promote Forestry practices

Strategic plantings to address critical issues

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

3. Promote soil health and nutrient management practices

Assist landowners with implementing BMP's

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

4. Improve water and soil quality

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

- Follow U of I fertilizer guide to avoid over application of fertilizer
- Work with producers to help reduce nitrates in the groundwater
- Implement residue and nutrient management BMP's

Work toward decreasing sediment, nutrients and bacteria by assisting landowners with implementing BMP's

- Encourage the use of Precision Agriculture technology and cover crops
- Work with producers to implement these practices that improve soil quality and water quality.

5. Environmental Information and Education

The District encourages a strong effective public outreach program. The district maintains an active presence in all area schools working with the youth in different activities to educate them. We also work with adults to assist them with conservation practices and needs.

- Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District (IASCD) poster contest for students in 4-6 grades in Nezperce and Highland schools
- Collaborate with Lewis County Weed Board with poster contest with students in 3rd grade
- ISWCC, NRCS, Idaho Department of Land, Nez Perce Tribe, Western Forest Systems, Idaho Fish and Game provide educational workstations during the 6th Grade Field Day at Winchester State Park with about 100 youth participating.
- Worm Races teaching K-2 about earth worms and soils
- Hatchery in the Classroom working with Dworshak Fisheries and student
- Attend the Annual Farm and Forest Fair
- Coordinate with the U of I Cooperative Extension to sponsor an annual Crop and Conservation Tour
- Held educational meetings informing people the importance of soil health



Worm Races



Farm and Forest Fair



Hatchery in the Classroom



6th Grade Field Day



Crop Tour



Soil Health Workshop

Section 5 - Water Quality Component

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

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

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

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

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

Pollutants in Lewis SCD waters:

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

Problems for Ground Water:

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

Waters with TMDLs:

- Winchester Lake
- Lapwai Creek
- Lawyer Creek

The District is or will implement BMPs:

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

Section 6 - Identify and Prioritize Projects

The LSCD designs Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address non point source pollutants. Some of the BMP's include: Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Water Developments, Pipelines, Fencing, Pasture Plantings, Forestry Practices, Cover Crop plantings, Stream Crossing, Erosion Control, Windbreaks, Direct Seed/No Till, Septic Repair, Cap Abandoned Wells, Roof Runoff, Gully Plugs and many more.

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

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

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

- In May 2020 we will sponsor the 48th Annual 6th Grade Field Day reaching approximately 120 students in the area. Instructors from ISWCC, Department of Lands, NRCS, Fish and Game, Western Forest System, Nez Perce Tribe and Winchester Quick Response Unit
- Sponsor "Hatchery in the Classroom" with local student raising fish and releasing them into Lawyers Creek
- In February host Soil Health Workshop
- In the spring of the year we go to the local schools to present the rules and the theme of the IASCD poster contest. We have the County Commissioners judge the posters and send them on to the division and state levels.
- In June we sponsor a Cooperators Appreciation BBQ
- In the spring we coordinate with 3rd Grade teachers and students for weed awareness poster contest
- In the spring we coordinate Worm Races for K-2 teaching student about earthworms and soil.
- Coordinate with University of Idaho Extension to inform producers of different varieties of crops to produce for this area
- Coordinate with the U of I Extension organizing the Annual Crop Tour for producers to attend

Lewis County - Projects in need of funding

Watershed	Project	BMPs	Status
Lapwai Creek	Vinchester Fuels Reduction phase	Fuels reduction	Application in progress for 2020
Big Canyon / Little Canyon	Big Canyon Slope Stabilization and Erosion control	Plantings, slope stabilization, gully plugs, grassed waterways	NOAA grant?
Big Canyon	Senter Draw Slope Stabilization	3 landowners - tree plantings and log stabilization structures	~ 60K needed
Big Canyon/Little Canyon	Fisher Fire Culvert Replacements	23 culvert - replacements, upgrades, realignments - working with local road department	Base engineering done, local road department will install as match. Need roughly
Big Canyon/ Lawyer Creek/ Clearwater River	Fire Access	Access roads, fuel breaks to provide access into areas with heavy timber.	
Big Canyon	Fisher Fire Landscape Restoration	Tree planting, critical area seeding, fence	
Lawyer creek/Clearwater River	Lewis County - Clearwater Complex Fire Landscape Restoration	Tree planting, critical area seeding, fence	
Lewis County	Concentrated Flow BMP Implementations	sed basins, gully plugs, grass waterways, ...	
Lapwai Creek	Upper Lapwai Creek Erosion Control	sed basins, gully plugs, tree plantings,	5 landowners;
Lewis county	Liming - Soil pH	Liming to aid in pH, crop growth, nutrient utilization	need to identify landowners
Lewis County	Cover Crop Fencing	need fence/water around crop fields for cover crops	need to identify landowners
Lawyer Creek	AFO - winter feeding	fence, water, heavy use, manure mgt	need to call landowner
Big Canyon	Cold Springs Stream Stabilization and Habitat Improvement	plantings, stream stabilization	10K
Lawyer Creek	Pethtel Draw culvert replacement and slope stabilization	Replace culvert across main road with box culvert working with ITD; upslope tree plantings and log stabilization (2 landowners). Fire related project. Pethtels near culvert - assistance with bedload build up, plantings	Need roughly \$500K. ITD will do design and permitting on culvert as match.
Clearwater River	Clearwater Face Drainages (Fivemile-Sixmile Erosion Control)	sed basins, gully plugs, tree plantings,	5 landowners; 319 application in progress.// Partially funded

District Operations Priorities

Lewis SCD promotes sustainable resource management and encourage collaboration between individuals, organizations and government agencies

Explore all avenues of available grants

Explore alternative funding sources to meet conservation needs work with Highway Districts, Idaho Department of Land, RC&D,

Present annual budget to the County Commissioners

Retain the Technical Assistance provided to us from ISWCC to assist with the planning, design and implementation of project funds within the district

Retain a good relationship with local schools and communities, teaching about soil, water and other natural resources

Prepare monthly financial reports

Maintain the accounting system on Quick Books

Working with Steve Clack to conduce financial review and audit of the year's financial activity providing accountability for funds administered through the district.

Cooperate with NRCS, ISWCC, and DEQ in applying conservation programs.

Currently we are working with NRCS with RCPP funds

Provide administrative partnership to NRCS and Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Continue to build partnerships with agencies and organizations that share the same goals and objectives

Expand, strengthen and maintain relationship with the Idaho Conservation Partnership, whenever possible will assist other agencies to reach our common goal.

Hold regular monthly meetings to address conservation in Lewis County

Retain a relationship with our legislators

Strengthen relationship with political decision makers to obtain support for the District

Keep the Board Members directly involved in planning and proceeding

Provide landowners and operators with natural resource technical, financial, and educational assistance.

Publish educational material on topics such as funding available and ways to improve resources

Coordination with the U of I Extension for the Lewis and Idaho County Annual Crop Tour



Action	Begin Date	End Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify budget and staff needs, continue to pursue funding through grants 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with landowners/homeowners within the Western Lewis County Fuels Reduction grant area to implement practices to reduce wild fires 	7/2019	6/2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educate landowners for proper forest management 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have applied for forestry grants 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to encourage landowners to protect cropland from erosion through the implementation of BMP's. 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with producers to promote sustainable agriculture systems, improve cropland productivity 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen relationships with political decision makers and partner agencies 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue educating the public and youth about conservation coordinating with area schools 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue a one on one contact with producers about conservation practices. 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sponsor several youth activities teaching conservation. 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upon request, provide natural resource conservation assistance to individual landowners seeking assistance 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate the development of grazing plans that maintain appropriate levels of groundcover 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to address invasive species and weed control improvements 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor projects and improvements to better tell conservation story 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to encourage fire prevention practices and fire restoration projects 	7-2019	6-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to host workshops and tours keeping producers informed about new trends 	7-2019	6-2024

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

DISTRICT: Lewis

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2021

DUE :

March 31, 2020

CERTIFICATION

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

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

Eric Hasselstrom

Board Supervisor Signature

ERIC Hasselstrom

Printed Name

3/2/2020

Date

208-937-2291 x 2

District Telephone

lewisscd@outlook.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:



FY2019 (7/1/19 – 6/30/20) Annual Plan of Work
Lewis Soil Conservation District
For Information Contact: Eric Hasselstrom, Chairman
Telephone Number: 1-208-937-2291 EXT 3
Email: lewisscd@outlook.com
Counties Served: LEWIS Legislative District: District 6

Eric Hasselstrom – Chairman
 Greg Branson - Vice Chairman
 Tyler Nelson – Sec/Treas.
 Drew Leitch – Member
 Jonathan Rosenau - Member

Mission of the Lewis Soil Conservation District

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

Trends & Issues Impacting Conservation in the Lewis Soil Conservation District

- Limited Funding State funds for conservation
- Soil pH is affecting crop yields- offering cost share for lime applications for pH showing 5.5 or less
- Cover Crops to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion
- Forest Health to reduce fire danger, recover from the summer of 2015 fires
- Nutrient and Pest Management to reduce nitrates and pesticides from leaching into the ground water and surface water

Projects Planned, Coordinated and Managed by the Lewis Soil Conservation District

Applied for; Idaho WFM project – Winchester Fuel Reduction Project; NOAA grant

Funding Sources for District Operations and Projects Coordinated

<i>Lewis County</i>	\$ 8,000.00	<i>(County Contribution - District Operations)</i>
<i>State of Idaho</i>	\$ 8,500.00	<i>(Base funding - District Operations)</i>
<i>State of Idaho (2:1 match)</i>	\$ 10,995.21	<i>(2 to 1 Match- District Operations)</i>
<i>State Special allocations</i>	\$ 3,633.34	<i>(Capacity and special funds)</i>
TOTAL	\$ 31,128.55	



FY 2019 (7/1/19 – 6/30/20) Annual Plan of Work

Lewis Soil Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 1: District Funding/ Operations

Objective: *Maintain District Operations, manage the ongoing business and activities on the district*

Goal(s): *Increase and strengthen the boards effectiveness and secure funding for the District*

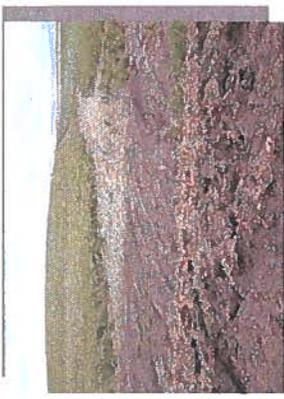
ACTIONS	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<i>Coordinate directly with Lewis County Commissioners to discuss resource needs of the District, they also help judge the annual IASCD poster contest. Retain a relationship with our legislators.</i>	<i>Annually</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors and District staff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

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice



FY2019 (7/1/19 – 6/30/20) Annual Plan of Work

Lewis Soil Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 2: Water and Soil Quality

Objective: Address conditions water and soil quality within the Districts Watersheds. Reduce soil erosion by using Best Management Practices.

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

ACTIONS

Hold a Soil Health Workshop to provide information to landowners on ways to create a healthy soil environment and to improve the soil and water quality

Identify key areas of erosion, work with landowners to implement BMP's for concentrated flow reduction. Monitor erosion and water quality

Continue to seek funding and assistance to implement project that control soil erosion and improve water quality

The District is aggressively seeking grants for cost share for Best Management Practices to focus on practices improving soil health functions and water quality, to protect our topsoil, reduce nitrate leaching, and address invasive weeds

Coordinate with ISWCC for technical assistance to expand the District's ability to address priority water quality issues

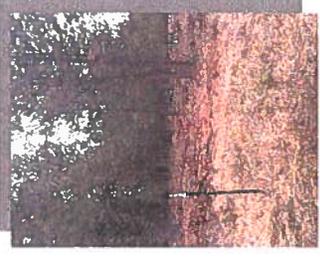
Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
February	Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, NRCS, District Staff
Continuous	Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, NRCS, landowners
Continuous	Board of Supervisors District staff, ISWCC
Continuous	Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC
Continuous	Board of Supervisors, District Staff, ISWCC

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice



FY2019 (7/1/19 – 6/30/20) Annual Plan of Work

Lewis Soil Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 3: Forestry - fire restoration and prevention

Objective: *To help reduce the damage to woodlands and private structures in the event of a wildfire*

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

ACTIONS

	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<i>Increase reforestation on cut-over timber land that has been removed from agricultural production</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, and District Staff</i>
<i>Educating landowners to be fire wise on their property</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors, District staff, ISWCC, landowners</i>
<i>Identify areas needing weed control and do follow up on procedures for control/management</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>ISWCC, Producers, Board of Supervisors, District staff</i>
<i>Determine and promote measures to reduce wildfire hazards to home and forestland. Decrease the effects of erosion after wildfires</i>	<i>Year long</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, District staff</i>
<i>We have applied for IDL grants – Fuels Reduction Western Lewis County, Landscape Scale Restoration Grant</i>	<i>2018 -2019</i>	<i>District staff, ISWCC</i>

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice



FY 2019 (7/1/19 – 6/30/20) Annual Plan of Work Lewis Soil Conservation District



Conservation District Priority 4: Environmental Information and Education

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

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

ACTIONS		Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Sponsor the annual IASCD Poster Contest and Weed Awareness poster contest with local school		School year	District staff, local schools and students
Publish newsletters with information about upcoming and past events also project funds available. Write newspaper articles for the local paper about events		4 per year	District staff
Worm Races with k-2 nd grade at Nezperce and Craigmont schools		May	District staff, teachers and students
Display the Soil Tunnel - students go through the tunnel seeing soil from a "worms eye view"		School year	District staff, students' teachers
Sponsor the annual 6 th Grade Field Day with approximately 80 students from five area schools attending. Students rotate through eight different learning stations learning a variety of conservation skills		May	District Staff, Board of Supervisors, ISWCC, NRCS, Dept of Land, Fish and Game

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choice



FY2019 (7/1/19 – 6/30/20) Annual Plan of Work Lewis Soil Conservation District

Conservation District Priority Area 5: Nutrient Management

Objective: *Promote nutrient management*

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

ACTIONS

Facilitate soil health workshop with approximately 90 attending

Promote cover crops to improve crop production and soil health to minimize erosion

Promote management and tillage practices that decrease the amount of soil disturbed. Residue management practices are encouraged

RCPP funds from NRCS to implement nutrient management practices - cover crops, precision ag

Educate landowners the importance of lime in the soil which improves pH levels for more productive crops

	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
	February	District staff, ISWCC, NRCS, Board of Supervisors
	Year long	Board of Supervisors, District staff, NRCS
	Year long	District staff, Cooperators, ISWCC, Board of Supervisors, NRCS
	Year long	Board of Supervisors, Cooperators, ISWCC, NRCS
	Year long	NRCS, ISWCC, and District, Board of Supervisors

Lewis Soil Conservation District assisting land managers with their conservation choices

Lewis Soil Conservation District is located in Lewis County within Division II

