

PORTNEUF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

May 2011

Spring is here, maybe....

It does seem as if it's been a long winter and even longer cold spring! According to the **Idaho NRCS Water Supply Outlook Report of May 1, 2011** "April provided a bonus month of winter. The extra snow boosted peak snow water amounts and has provided more than enough water for all involved this summer. The situation has also created a threatening runoff season.

The cool temperatures delayed the snowmelt and combined with April's precipitation, which was twice normal in the Panhandle, Spokane, Clearwater, Upper Snake, Owyhee and Bear basins, to add significant amounts of snow water to the snowpack. The result is that many basins in eastern Idaho, the Upper Snake in Wyoming and the Bear River are now at or near record high May 1 levels. These sites are not at the all time high because in April 1997 the snowpack was even higher. In most years, including 1997, the mid-elevation snowpack started melting in April. This melt did not happen this year because of below normal temperatures and therefore, many sites are just now reaching their peak snow water content for the season. Snow indexes across Idaho's southern basins, including the Malad, Salmon Falls, Bruneau and Owyhee, are the highest since 1984.

This year's snow is 162% of the normal peak amount for the Snake River above Palisades Reservoir, 155% of the normal peak for the Henrys Fork and Teton basins and **212%** of the peak for the Willow, Blackfoot and **Portneuf** basins. 2011 will go down as one of the biggest winters ever measured in the Upper Snake basin."

Locally, the Portneuf River and tributaries have been overflowing for several weeks now; for real-time river stage levels on the Portneuf River and Marsh Cr., visit <http://www.portneufriver.org/> or just take a drive along our county roads and see for yourself!

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All Portneuf SWCD and NRCS programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Portneuf SWCD is an equal opportunity employer

www.pswcd.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Portneuf SWCD Board Meetings are normally held the second Wednesday of every month at 7 pm, Pocatello NRCS Office. Call for location and time as changes do sometimes occur

Please contact the office at 237-4628, x 111 or at portneufswcd@pswcd.org if you do not wish to receive this newsletter or if you would like to receive it electronically.... Thank you!

Happenings in the NRCS Field Office

Those of us at the Pocatello Field Office want to wish a 'tearful' fare- well to our own **Janet Pacioretty**. Janet will be leaving the position as PSWCD Administrator 27 May and starting a new position at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Janet will be remaining in the area though. Those of us in the field office are happy for Janet and her new opportunities at US Fish & Wildlife. Her efforts, work standard, and professionalism will be missed. Good luck Janet!

We are sad to announce the elimination of the NRCS portion of the funding for Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council. The council will continue to function but without any assistance from the NRCS. **Michelle Pak**, former NRCS RC&D coordinator, has become a resource conservationist assigned to the Pocatello FO. We are ecstatic to have Michelle working with us. She has hit the ground running and carried her professionalism with her to her new position. Welcome to the field office Michelle! **Jody Hogan** will remain as administer for Three Rivers RC&D Council with the new contact information below. Good luck to Jody and the council in their future endeavors!

Three Rivers RC&D
PO Box 2010, 214 E. Center St.
Pocatello, ID 83206-2010
(208) 241-4656
admin@3riversrcd.org .

As far as on the ground conservation activities, don't forget to get your soil tested. With the soil test results, nutrients (fertilizer and manure) can be budgeted to minimize costs and maximize yields. With these economic times, being efficient and not "leaving money on the table" is more important than ever.

Best of luck to all our producers/conservationists during the 2011 summer production season!

B.J. O'Doherty
District Conservationist
NRCS-Pocatello Field Office

FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS

At FSA we are busy with the 2011 crop year DCP (Direct/Counter Cyclical Payment) Program sign-up. The deadline for this important program is June 1st, so time is of the essence. If you haven't already made application, please call for an appointment. As always, we will be updating paperwork regarding payment limitation, sod/swamp provisions, and adjusted gross income. If there have been any changes in your farming operation, we must have the necessary paperwork filed with our office to ensure your payments are made in a timely manner.

It's also that time of year for completing your individual crop reports. Crop reports are mandatory for any producer receiving payments from USDA. If you have finished seeding your crops for the year, or if you have CRP or perennial crops that don't change from year to year, please contact us so we can assist you in this process. The deadline for completing your crop report is June 30th, but we would like to complete as many of these as possible as soon as possible.

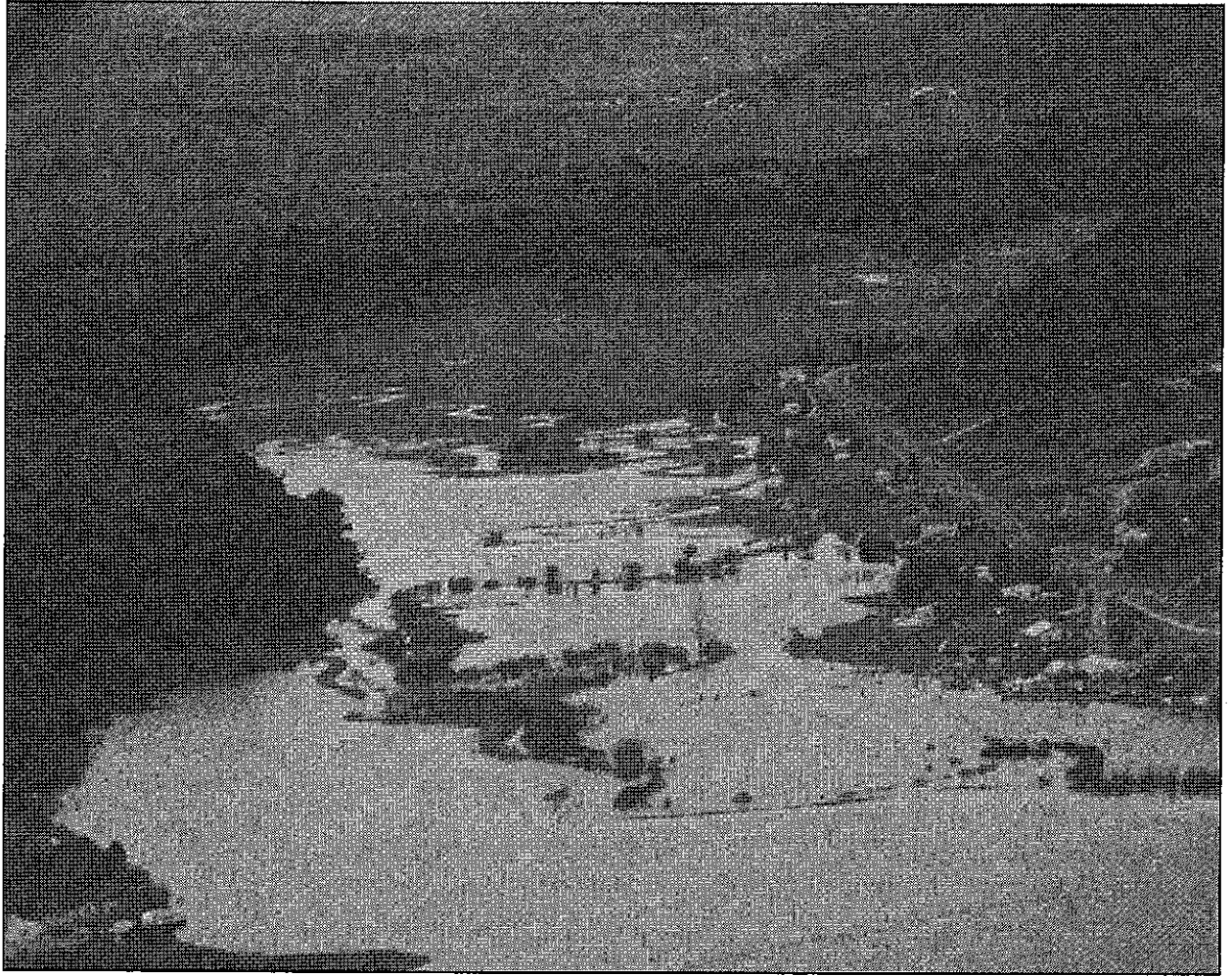
For those of you enrolled in CRP (Conservation Reserve Program), we want to remind you again of your responsibility to keep noxious weeds under control. You are also under obligation to ensure there is no unauthorized grazing on your contract acres. Failure to adhere to these rules and regulations will result in fines or even contract termination. Contract termination includes repayment of any and all previous payments, liquidated damages, and interest penalties. Needless to say, this can be very expensive, so it is obviously in the best interest of all CRP contract holders to make certain they remain in compliance. Call the office if you have any questions regarding CRP. Dave Hallinan is the Bannock County Weed Supervisor and is an excellent source for assistance regarding weed issues. His number is 251-0049.

Finally, our office continues to take applications for the SAFE (State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement) Program. This program is similar to CRP in that it requires a permanent vegetative cover and the contract period runs for 10 years. However, there are major differences between the two programs as well. This is a wildlife program designed specifically for Columbian Sharp-tail Grouse, and as such it requires a specific seeding mix conducive to wildlife habitat. NRCS, along with Idaho Fish and Game are acting as technical service providers for this program, so please call for an appointment and we can answer any questions you may have. Our number is 237-3435 ext 2.

We want to wish all of you a successful and productive year for 2011. As always, we look forward to working with you. It's always our pleasure to assist the producers of Bannock County.

All the best,

Steve Myler
County Executive Director
Bannock County Farm Service Agency



May
aerial
photos
of
Marsh
creek
near the
conflu-
ence
with the
Portneuf
River

Chris
Banks
photos



Pocatello Valley Environmental Fair, April 23, 2011

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Ryan Woodland, Soil
Conservation Technician

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Resource Conservationist
Kelsey Flandro, Water
Quality Analyst
Steven Smith, Water Quality
Resource Conservationist


PSWCD Office:

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Pocatello, ID 83201
208-237-4628 x111
portneufswcd@pswcd.org

The fair enjoyed great attendance again this year and some much needed nice weather!! The District teamed up with the American Fisheries Society and Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts to display several tanks of live native and non-native fish from the Portneuf River and tributaries. Also displayed were preserved native and non-native fish of the area; these brought all sorts of comments from "oh cool" to "oh gross!!" Thanks to Dr. Keeley's Fish Ecology lab for the loan of the fish and equipment!




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in Bannock County**




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