

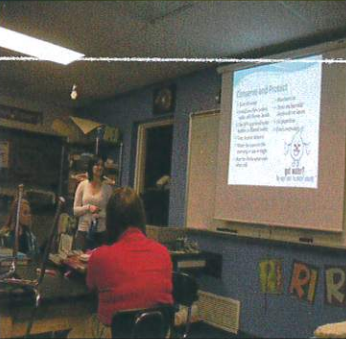


Marsh Creek Phase I Complete

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Insert: *New Faces*



Valerie Evans at Grace Lutheran

Through the Department of Environmental Quality Grants the Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been able to address their number one priority: The Marsh Creek and Middle Portneuf Watersheds. The plan for improving these watersheds (Marsh Creek Watershed Project) is divided into a phased approach.

In each phase Portneuf SWCD works with landowners to minimize impact of livestock on water quality in the watershed

as well as improving the overall health of the waterways. The successes of Marsh Creek Phase 1 & 2 and ongoing success of the current Phase 3 project have made a significant difference to the watershed.

To date: Approximately **\$2.2 million dollars** in projects including 319 monies as well as local matching funds have gone to local water improvements.

We have improved **21 local animal facilities.**

We have seen **proven effectiveness** in improving water quality through intensive sampling efforts.

The Marsh Creek projects have installed: 4-wire fence, corral fence, corral berm, waste containment, hay & pasture land planting, use exclusion, pipeline, watering facilities, heavy use protection, pest management, stream banks restoration, and willow planting, etc. as part of this ongoing focused watershed effort.

Agriculture Education for the Youth

The District has once again reached out to the youth in the area. Ag Days was held at Swore Farms in late September. This gave an opportunity to Pocatello and Chubbuck 4th graders to learn about agriculture, the water cycle, weeds, and where their food comes from.

The District also had the opportunity to present to Christine Casselman's seventh and eighth grade Earth Science classes at Grace Lutheran School in Pocatello. The presentation included location, purpose, and how to conserve water in the Portneuf Watershed. The students also created

their own watershed models. "The students took a real interest in our watershed and enjoyed learning how the watershed works," Valerie Evans, District intern said. The District plans to continue to teach the youth in Bannock County.



Kelsey Flandro



CRP is still FSA's Program

By B.J. O'Doherty, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

Hello from the Pocatello Field Office! I am happy to announce that we have many new faces to introduce. The best part of this process is we are now fully staffed in the field office for the first time since Clay Erickson retired. New to the staff we have Michelle Pak, Soil Conservationist and Matt Bringham as our Soil Conservationist Technician. We also have one of our partnering agencies represented by Carl Frey, with Pheasants Forever/Idaho Fish and Game as the local Conservation Specialist working on CRP.

Each of the new folks have more details in their respective introductions in this newsletter. As we gear up for spring and all its activities, some of you may be submitting applications to enroll land into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). With this latest sign-up, there are changes that may be confusing to many folks. CRP is still administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as part of the Farm Bill. NRCS is still responsible

for the field work portion of the program lead by the FSA. A change is the addition of partnering organizations, Pheasants Forever and Idaho Fish and Game that provide personnel to augment the efforts of the NRCS in the field. Habitat for targeted wildlife species (Columbia sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, and mule deer) play a more prominent role than it did in past CRP sign-ups.

When CRP began, soil erosion and water quality were the paramount issues that had to be addressed. As many of you can remember, many tons of topsoil eroded every year and ended up on county roads and, most importantly, the streams and tributaries of Bannock County. Once good stands of perennial grass, forbs, and shrubs were established, the vast majority of the associated soil erosion was

brought under control. Now, two decades later, for a field to get into CRP - whether it is in annual crop production or expiring CRP - conservation practices that create a high quality wildlife habitat are required. Establishing plant species that are most beneficial to wildlife is one such practice. Even though many of the fields with expiring CRP have wonderful solid stands of crested wheatgrass or smooth brome grass, those plant species are not preferred to the targeted wildlife. Crested wheatgrass and smooth brome grass are easy to establish, aggressive, and work great to control soil erosion and improve water quality. Yet they do not create as good of habitat for the targeted wildlife species as other plants. Having said everything in the paragraph above, I want everyone to be assured that we do not intend to **create soil erosion problems trying to solve wildlife problems.**

I want to emphasize that we will not suggest the steepest terrain be

plowed up and re-seeded. The areas that were the hardest to establish perennial vegetation will ideally remain in the existing perennial vegetation. With regard to noxious weeds, **activities necessary for noxious weed control take priority over CRP activities.** The establishment of broadleaved species, or forbs, should not interfere with the control of noxious weeds. Please continue to work with our Bannock County Weed Supervisor, Aaron Greenwell and the Bannock County Weed Department for your noxious weed issues. Good seed bed preparation will be a must for the establishment of perennial species that the wildlife prefers.

To wrap-up, CRP remains in the control and administration of the FSA. NRCS and its partnering agencies will work with land managers in the field to meet program requirements and create high quality wildlife habitat. If you have any questions feel free to call the service center.



New Faces



***Krystal Harmon – District Administrator –
Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District***

In May we welcomed Krystal Harmon to the Portneuf District. Krystal is a graduate of Idaho State University in Political Science and brings with her a background in environmental policy. She has two children and is active in the local community through the American Legion Auxiliary. She also is active in leadership development through Running Start and AAUW and currently is an associate on the Girls State Board of Directors. She is a native Eastern Idahoan and is excited for the opportunity to learn about and participate in conservation efforts in Bannock County.

Carl Frey – Conservation Specialist – F&G/PF

Carl comes to us through a special partnership with Fish and Game and Pheasants Forever. Carl received his degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis in fish and wildlife from Northland College. He recently worked in Fairfield, Idaho with Fish and Game as a wildlife technician doing habitat restoration. Carl loves spending time outdoors and is an avid hunter and fisherman. Carl works in the Pocatello FSA office providing technical assistance for CRP, SAFE and other farm bill programs.



***Valerie Evans – Information and Education
Intern – PSWCD***

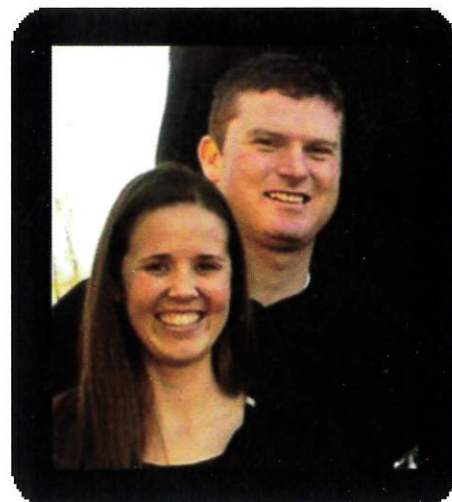
Valerie is a Masters of Public Health Student at Idaho State University. She received her bachelors in health education and has an interest in Environmental Health. Valerie is also a Middle Eastern dance instructor at Idaho State University. She is currently working on implementing the Portneuf District's outreach program along with finishing her thesis. Valerie plans to graduate December 2012.



New Faces

Matt Bringhurst – Soil Conservation Technician – NRCS

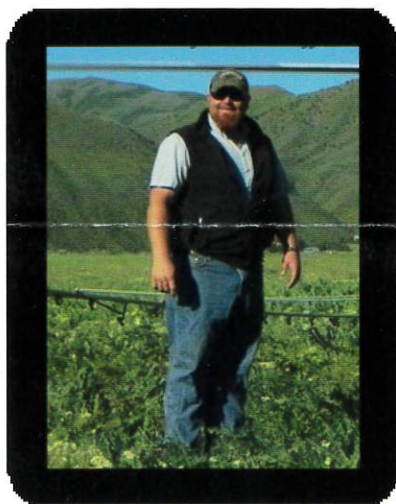
Matt Bringhurst is a native of Pocatello where he attended Highland High School and graduated in 1998. He attended CEU and UVU in Utah on a baseball scholarship and finished his Degree in Zoology at Idaho State where he graduated in 2006. He spent 5 years working as a seasonal for the BLM with Fire/Fuels and Forestry Programs before starting with the NRCS in 2010 in Burley. He accepted the position in Pocatello in October of 2011 and enjoys spending time with his wife (Ashley) and his two children (Hallie & Cooper).



Aaron Greenwell –

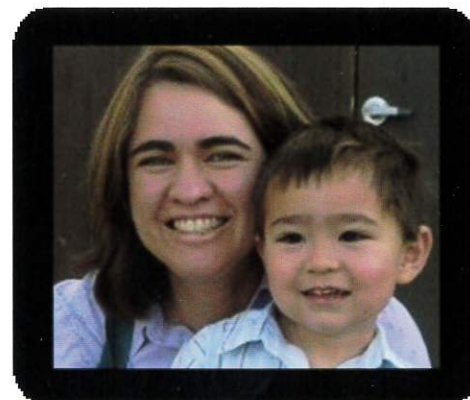
Noxious Weed Superintendent and Code Enforcement Officer – Bannock County

Aaron Greenwell has worked for Bannock County for the past three years. Aaron is an active member of Idaho Weed Control Association, Environmental Care Association and Eastern Idaho Weed Control Association. He is an active board member of Code Enforcement Professionals of Idaho (VP), Idaho Association of Weed Control Superintendents (Reg. Rep.), Utah and Idaho Cooperative Weed Management Area (Reg. Rep.) and Idaho State Department of Agriculture cost share board (Rep.). Aaron enjoys spending time with his wife and three daughters as well as hunting in the fall. He also works in the family business.



Michelle Pak-Soil Conservationist-NRCS

Michelle Pak has worked as the RC&D Coordinator since June 2010. Due to the lack of funding for RC&D Michelle has been reassigned as the Soil Conservationist in December 2011. Michelle grew up in Oregon and attended Whittier College in California graduating with her degree in Biology, she then attended Graduate school at the University of Oregon in Community and Regional Planning. Since college Michelle has worked as a city planner in Oregon, California, but mostly for the city of Pocatello, Idaho. Michelle is married to Josh Pak, a chemistry professor at Idaho State University and they have a first grader, Eddie. Michelle loves spending time with her family and the family cat Weezer.



Farm Service Agency Update

Steve Myler has retired as the County Executive Director for Bannock County. Steve retired on January 31, 2012.

Please join us in welcoming Ben Evans as the new County Executive Director for Bannock County. He started his new assignment on February 13, 2012. Ben grew up south of Downey, Idaho on his family owned ranch and attended Marsh Valley High School.

Ben received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science from Utah State University in Logan, Utah.

Ben is coming to us from the Jefferson/Clark FSA office in Rigby, Idaho. He managed the Farm Programs for both Jefferson and Clark Counties. Please stop by and meet him at the office any-time.

Some of the important FSA deadlines coming up for producers are

- General CRP Signup 43 began March 12, 2012 and ends April 6, 2012
- DCP/ACRE Signup began January 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.
- NAP Production evidence for 2011 is due by June 30, 2012.
- Crop Reporting deadline is June 30, 2012.



Portneuf District News

Future Projects for the Portneuf SWCD is in the Pebble Creek area. By expanding partnerships to local agencies and special interest groups we plan to reconstruct the original channel for Pebble Creek, a spawning stream for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and a large tributary to the Portneuf River a 303(d) listed stream.

Willows will be planted to provide bank stability and critical fish habitat. Additionally, this project will exclude the area directly around the confluence of Pebble Creek and the Portneuf River and offer offsite watering systems to reduce the impacts of livestock grazing.

**Estimated total cost of project:
\$318,025.82**

Portneuf SWCD Board Meetings, every 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7p.m., held at the PSWCD conference room.

Natural Resources Camp for Idaho Youth 12-14 years old. June 25-30, 2012 at the Central Idaho 4-H camp in Ketchum, Idaho. The Portneuf SWCD has scholarships available. Please contact the District on how to qualify. For more information on the camp please visit <http://extension.uidaho.edu/nrc>

For more information or to contact the District

**Phone: 208-237-4628 x111
E-mail: portneufswcd@gmail.com**

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Morgan Evans

Brad Kent

Kirk Irick

John Sigler

District Staff

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Krystal Harmon

NRCS Staff

BJ O'Doherty, District Conservationist

Michelle Pak, Soil Conservationist

Martha Nunez-Hagius, Engineer

Matthew Bringhurst, Soil Conservationist

ISCC/IASCD Staff

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April
2012

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**Portneuf Soil and Water
Conservation District**



Noxious Weed Control Update

By Bannock County Noxious Weed Control Department

In order to help protect Idaho's beautiful scenery and natural vegetation, lawmakers enacted Idaho Code Title 22 for the control of *Noxious Weeds*. Pursuant to Idaho Code Title 22-2407,

"It shall be the duty and responsibility of all landowners to control noxious weeds on their land and property..."

Aaron Greenwell the Weed Superintendent and Code Enforcement officer as the Bannock County Supervisor, is available to help in any way possible. Aaron has already placed a general notice of the *64 Noxious Weeds of Idaho*, and have listed the 27 weeds known to be in Bannock County, in the Idaho State Journal. I have pamphlets

and books available that have pictures and descriptions of the *64 Noxious Weeds*. Aaron has been working up many strategies to eradicate *Noxious Weeds*.

It has come to Aaron's attention that there may be some of these *Noxious Weeds* on your property. It is important to control these weeds early. The sooner that control is begun, the less time it will take to eradicate them. If you are having great success in your eradication efforts, then congratulations, keep up the good work! If you are not seeing the results that you would like, please give Aaron a call. We can set up a time and discuss some ways that might improve your weed control efforts.

Because *Dyer's Woad* is our first targeted weed of the season, please

keep an eye out for any possible infestations that may be in your surrounding areas. Delay in treatment could mean a much larger infestation to control later.

It is a State law that all *Noxious Weeds* be eradicated and County weed supervisors are required to enforce the weed law.

If you have any questions, please call Aaron Greenwell at

(208)251-5792

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