

Upcoming Events 2024



National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship Week

NACD's 69th Stewardship Week will be held April 28-May 5, 2024,

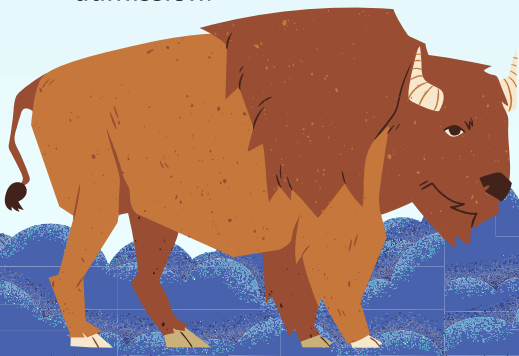
with this year's theme being "May the Forest be with you Always." Submissions for our 2024 Poster and Speech Contests will begin February 20, 2024, and will be reviewed at the Spring and Fall Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) Division V meetings. Any student from kindergarten to 12th grade is eligible to participate, winners will receive a monetary prize. Please see our website or contact us for more information.

Idaho Envirothon

The 2024 Idaho Envirothon will be held April 29-30, 2024, in Challis this year, with the current Issue being "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future." We would like to send good luck wishes to our local teams in Pocatello at this year's competition. The winning team will be sent to the National Competition in July. Any educators within Bannock County wishing to start their own Envirothon Team may contact us or visit the [Envirothon.org](https://envirothon.org) website for additional information.

Zoo Idaho Endangered Species Day

On May 17th, from 10 am till 2 pm, Zoo Idaho will be hosting 500 students, and invites the public to bring their kids of all ages, to come and learn about endangered species and other environmental topics through hands on activities. Surrounded by animals that are from all corners of Idaho, this event is fun, informative, and open to all after admission.



Portneuf Valley Environmental Fair

The City of Pocatello hosts the Portneuf Valley Environmental Fair every year. A free event, anyone can come and learn ways to help improve the environment and connect with organizations and community members. Last year, over 75 local businesses, agencies, and organizations participated, hosted hands-on activities, and informed the public about a variety of environmental topics. The event provides free food, live music, and free bus rides to the event. The event is April 27th, 2024. The event typically occurs from 11 am till 3 pm. Individuals can bring soil or well water samples as the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare offers free soil and well water testing. Interested in volunteering? Sign up online at <https://envirofair.org/volunteers/> to help lend a hand!

Poky Portneuf Paddle

In June 2024, the Poky Paddle is hosted in the evening at centennial park. Participating local vendors offer different information and activities about the environment, river(s), water system, or the community. The event raises money for the Portneuf River Vision, a plan to restore the Portneuf river corridor and improve the environmental health of our river. Admission is free and attendees can float the river.

Living on the land Workshop Series

Once a year, Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District partners with the Portneuf Watershed Partnership to bring the community the Living on the Land workshops. Local experts come and give talks about various environmental topics. The workshop will take place in March 2024, and will be free and open to all. More information will be available on the PSWCD website and event flyers will be sent out to the public prior to the first week of the event.

City of Pocatello Awarded Over \$1.6 Million Grant Through Water SMART Program

On November 15 the Bureau of Reclamation announced that the City of Pocatello was awarded over \$1.6 million in grant funding through the WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources program.

This grant will provide for the implementation of the Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation, a top priority project identified in the [Portneuf River Vision](#). The Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation project will take three years to complete, with construction estimated to begin in July 2025 and to be completed in May 2026. The project will include additional match funding from the City for a total project cost of \$2,219,448.

In 2016, the City completed the Portneuf River Vision, a master plan for the Portneuf River that aims to revitalize environmental, recreation, and economic development opportunities in the community while improving community pride, connectivity, and quality of life. The River Vision includes the revitalization of Centennial and Rainey Parks as a top long-term priority.

The 2023 WaterSMART Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation grant will allow the City to move forward with Phase I of the Centennial/Rainey Park plan. Restoration will be accomplished by moving the river's existing riprapped levee which was originally constructed in 1968 by the US Army Corps of Engineers. A wetland and stream side channel will be installed within the levee, along with ADA-accessible river access for anglers and floaters. Additionally, a stormwater pond will be installed to capture the first flood of sediment-laden waters off of city streets. This project includes a wide range of environmental goals including improving hydrologic functions by increasing floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat areas, as well as improving water quality.

The proposed wetland creation and levee-moving project is part of a larger park project, which includes parking lot and park improvements on both sides of the river. These other parts of the project will be built in future phases. This project is approximately one-third of the entire park improvement project.

For additional information on the project, visit river.pocatello.gov/vision/ to review the River Vision or contact Science & Environment Administrator Hannah Sanger at hsanger@pocatello.gov.



Portneuf River Vision (2016): Concept Rendering of Centennial and Rainey Parks looking north (downstream) toward Historic Downtown Pocatello

CROP REPORTING

Agricultural producers in Idaho who have not yet completed their crop acreage reports after planting should make an appointment with their U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center before the applicable deadline to avoid any late file fees.

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

DISASTER PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

USDA Offers Disaster Assistance for Producers Facing Inclement Weather

Severe weather events create significant challenges and often result in catastrophic loss for agricultural producers. Despite every attempt to mitigate risk, your operation may suffer losses. USDA offers several programs to help with recovery on losses to your crops and/or livestock. Contact your local FSA if you have suffered any weather related losses on your crops or livestock.

DOCUMENTATION

It's critical to keep accurate records to document all losses following this devastating cold weather event. Livestock producers are advised to document beginning livestock numbers by taking time and date-stamped video or pictures prior to after the loss.

Other common documentation options include:

- Purchase records
- Production records
- Vaccination/Vet records
- Bank or other loan documents
- Third-party certification

MAINTAINING ARC/PLC ACRES

If you're enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, you must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. By signing ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts, you agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If you fail to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on your farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate your contract for the program year.



DATES TO REMEMBER

March 15—ARC/PLC Deadline

April 1—Beginning of Primary Nesting Season

July 15—Spring crop reporting deadline, including fallow/crops left standing and perennial forage and grazing.

August 1—End of Primary nesting Season

September 30—NAP Application deadline for fall seeded crops
Last day to complete mid-contract management for CRP/CCRP/SAFE contracts expiring in 2027

December 1—NAP application deadline for perennial crops, annual planted mixed forage crops, and honey

December 15—Crop Reporting deadline for all fall grains

Ongoing Programs

Conservation Education Sponsorships

PSWCD on occasion sponsors K-12 students and educators to attend the NACD Conservation Camp, local FFA Competitions, Envirothon teams, forestry competitions, and many more conservation organizations

Waterjet Stinger Loan Program

PSWCD Loans a Waterjet Stinger to Landowners and local organizations for willow planting, which are helpful for streambank restoration projects. For more information, contact us or visit our website <https://portneufswcd.weebly.com/>

Conservation Loan Program

PSWCD Offers loans of up to \$10,000 at 2% interest for conservation projects. These loans can be used as a match on larger projects with the NRCS programs. Loan applicants must submit a request in writing to the Board of Supervisors, and upon approval, will begin the process by completing an application



To inquire about our loan conservation program, please fill out the information below, then cut out and send to Portneuf SWCD, 214 E Center St, Suite 10, Pocatello, ID 83201.

After your information is received, your project will be reviewed at the next monthly Board Meeting. If approved, you will be contacted by PSWCD

Conservation Loan Program Sign Up

First and Last Name: _____

Company Name *If Applicable*: _____

Phone Number: _____

Project location: _____

Is this project receiving NRCS Funding?: Yes___ No___

How does your project work towards conserving soil or water?:

URBAN CONSERVATION

SHARING YOUR SPACE WITH A BUZZ!

Pollinators are essential to our environment. They are necessary for the reproduction of over 85% of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. Unfortunately, in many places, pollinators are at risk due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP POLLINATORS!

- Grow Pollinator Friendly Flowers or Native Plants! Flowers provide the nectar and pollen resources that pollinators feed on. Growing the right flower, shrubs, and trees with overlapping bloom times will support pollinators spring through fall. Don't have space for a garden? That's fine! Even small plots or groups of potted flowers can help!
- Reduce the use of pesticides! Pesticides harm pollinators and other beneficial insects. Exposure to pesticides can compound the effects of other stressors on pollinator populations, avoid buying plants that have been treated with pesticides!
- Provide some shelter! Pollinators use a variety of items in a yard for shelter, such as downed tree limbs and rock piles. You can leave your leaves alone in the fall, since many shelter for the winter in leaves, or put up a bee hotel in your yard!

For more tips or resources, reach out to
PWSCD at Portneufswcd@gmail.com!

PSWCD
214 E. Center St., Suite 10
Pocatello, ID 83201

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Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District
meets every second Wednesday of each month
unless otherwise posted.

Our office observes federal holidays.



Contact Us:
PSWCD
214 E. Center St., Suite 10
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208)339-6023
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