

Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District

*“One person
can make a
difference, and
Everyone
should try.*

-John F. Kennedy



Celebrating 79 Years of Conservation

Looking Ahead

Living on the Land~ an educational workshop for small acreage landowners & urban farmers

We are excited to invite you to join us along with our partners in hosting this free educational event! This event will cover the following topics:

- Streams 101**
- Water & Land Stewardship**
- Living on the Land**

This workshop is geared toward small acreage landowners and urban farmers. Local resource experts will focus on topics, answers questions and provide resources for those in attendance. Join us for fun giveaways and an amazing educational opportunity.

For more information on this event and to reserve a seat, please contact our office at 208-244-5011 or send email to: portneufswcd@gmail.com. You may also visit our website: www.portneufswcd.weebly.com

The Portneuf Soil & Water Conservation District presents:

LIVING ON THE LAND

*an educational workshop for
small acreage landowners & urban farmers*

April 9, 16 & 23, 2019

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Idaho Department of Fish & Game-Southeast Regional Office

1345 Barton Road, Pocatello, Idaho

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Spring 2019

Who Are We & What's a Conservation District Anyway?

The Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District is a subgroup of state government that is directed by an elected board of supervisors and volunteer associates. The District was organized on May 18, 1940 to assist in developing and implementing soil erosion control programs on a local level. The District, now at the age of 79, promotes conservation and protection of our natural resources and has a strong emphasis on conservation education programs for people of all ages. The Board meets monthly to discuss conservation issues, to implement conservation projects, and conduct District business.

The District is funded by the state and local government, and uses their funding for conservation and education programs, to identify local natural resource conservation needs, and to provide services to land owners.

There is one District employee, but the Board and employee do not work alone. They work directly with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC), and other agencies and partners. The District also works in cooperation with Bannock

County and the cities within the county boundaries.

In addition to the District newsletter, the PSWCD hosts tours and educational sessions to help inform landowners and other citizens of programs that are available to help conserve the land and water.

Visit www.nacdnet.org for a more detailed look at the role of conservation districts nationwide.



Confluence of Marsh Creek & the Portneuf River, Inkom, Idaho



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Life in the Soil: DIG DEEPER



Portneuf Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Loan Program

Putting Conservation on the ground in Bannock County with a Handshake.

- Up to \$10,000
- 2% Interest
- Use with NRCS Programs

Contact our office for more information
208.237.4628 x111
portneufswcd@gmail.com
www.portneufswcd.weebly.com



Conserving Natural Resources for our Future

Portneuf Soil & Water Conservation District DRONE PROGRAM

Taking Conservation in Bannock County Above and Beyond

- 3D Mapping
- Plant Health Analysis
- Personalized Pricing
- Starting at \$50/acre
- Percentage-based Discounts Available



For More Information

Contact Our Offices:

208-244-5011

pswcd.drones@gmail.com



**Conserving Natural Resources
For Our Future**

A Message From the PSWCD Chairman

The Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District, is happy to announce a new loan program for small conservation projects or as match on larger programs.

These loans can be used for almost anything that involves conservation. It is our hope that this is a beginning of something that can benefit all of us. If we all do a little it adds up to a lot. For more information call the PSWCD at 208-244-5011.



Kevin Koester,
Chairman PSWCD

Supervisors & Staff

Kevin Koester,
Chairman

Kit Tillotson,
Supervisor

Scott Henderson,
Vice Chairman

John McNabb,
Supervisor

David Jackson,
Treasurer

Cali Johnson,
District Administrator

Spring is Tree Sale Time

Our neighboring Conservation Districts will be holding their annual tree sales in April.



Central Bingham Soil & Water

*April 27 & 28,
2019*

Located in
Blackfoot, Idaho
www.cbtreesale.com

Power Soil & Water

*Orders due
April 15, 2019*

Located in
American Falls, Idaho
208-221-2533



Owl Box Program

Barn Owls offer an effective form of natural pest control that often provides better results than conventional trapping or poisons. The use of Barn Owls for pest control is also eco-friendly, and requires little to no maintenance. The Army Corps of Engineers estimates that it takes 3,000 gophers a year, plus mice and voles, to sustain a pair of owls and their young.

Barn owls are anatomically quite different from other owls, so they have been placed in a separate taxonomic family. They are distinguished by a heart shaped face, notched tail, and long legs. Adults have a snowy white face and underparts, and sparsely feathered legs and toes. The chest and belly are thinly covered with black spots. Above, these birds are a light golden brown, finely mottled with black. The eyes are dark. Although their flitting, moth-like flight and repertoire of shrieks, groans, and hisses have spooked the superstitious, in reality this is a mild-mannered species.

HABITAT AND FOOD

Barn owls are found on every continent except Antarctica. They prefer a more open habitat than do many other owls, such as meadows, fields, prairies, and marshes. They frequent granaries, barns and other farm buildings, and are even found in cities.

Rodents are the barn owl's most important prey. Adults capture several mice in a single night—more if they have young to feed--thus amply repaying farmers for use of their barnyard and field. Insects and small birds are also taken. Barn owls are strictly nocturnal hunters, although sometimes seen abroad in daylight.

REPRODUCTION AND STATUS

Barn owls nest in tree cavities, cliff crevices, haystacks, artificial nest boxes, barns, church steeples, or building ledges. Usually no attempt is made at nest construction, and the eggs are often laid precariously on bare surfaces. Sometimes a burrow is dug in a vertical sand or dirt bank. Egg laying starts in late March to early May. Usually four to seven eggs are laid, but there may be up to a dozen. Incubation is about 33 days. The young have voracious appetites; each will eat several mice in a night. They fledge at eight to nine weeks of age. Occasionally barn owls raise two broods of young a year. In Idaho, barn owls are widespread across most of the southwest, less common in the east, and rather rare in the north (although they are present in the lower Clearwater and Snake River Canyons). In southern Idaho, barn owls are falling victim to motor vehicles on Interstate 84. It is believed that barn owls are hunting for prey along the interstate at night and collide with vehicles. Thousands have been killed yearly and this may impact the population. Barn owl numbers have declined across the nation and many biologists believe that this species should be given special protection.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

In Idaho, because vehicle collisions are a threat, the planting of continuous hedgerows or closely spaced trees along roads, especially roads that are level with or raised above the surrounding terrain, may help reduce mortality from collisions. Also, the elimination of vegetation that supports dense small mammal populations near roads will also help. Barn owls nest quite successfully in nest boxes and can be used to maintain healthy populations.

For more information about Barn Owls or to purchase a Barn Owl Box, please contact our office at 208-244-5011 or portneufswcd@gmail.com.



Natural Resource Conservation Service

NRCS Area East Engineering, Project and Staffing Update

Area East engineering staff continue to work on projects designs slated for spring 2019 installation, along with preliminary work on new applications. The M3 project is back in full swing after the holiday break and are around 50% complete for the planned work this season. Deep snow, frigid temperatures and bedrock have slowed progress, but pipe installation crews are persevering and continue to get pipe in the ground.

The Goose Creek Irrigation Pipeline project is also back in full swing despite a holiday slowdown and various unforeseen road blocks. NRCS crews from the Burley and Twin Falls office have done an excellent job keeping the project on-track and providing good solutions as problems arise. Crews have installed nearly 16,000 feet of 36" PVC pipe to-date.

Work is underway on a streambank restoration project on the Portneuf River near Lava Hot Springs. Severe bank erosion is being mitigated using bioengineering techniques including, juniper rootwads, willow planting, bankfull bench creation and riparian grass establishment. The landowner is doing a great job with installation and has

installed nearly 600 feet of the total 2,060 feet. Please welcome Nichole Sternquist and Randall Watson to the area east engineering team. They both have been extremely helpful and are a tremendous asset to area east operations.

Nichole Sternquist started January 16 as acting Agricultural Engineer in the Pocatello Field Office for 120 days. She is a Licensed Professional Civil Engineer in Minnesota and has been with NRCS for 7 years. Her experience includes design and construction of waste management systems, wetland restorations and streambank stabilizations. Nichole enjoys skiing, hiking and visiting state capitals. She is excited to be working in Idaho until May.

Randall Watson is a Professional Civil Engineer and a graduate of the College of Southern Idaho and Idaho State University. He is a native of Twin Falls, Idaho, and recently has worked as a private engineering consultant. Prior to that, he worked for the Idaho Falls BLM as a District Engineer for 15 years.

For more information on these projects or projects like these contact your local NRCS Office.



Farm Service Agency

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Once again, the Bannock County Committee elections were a great success. Local Administrative Area (LAA 3, including, Virginia, Downey and Swan Lake) was up for election. We would like to welcome Lori Davis back on board. Lori has been elected as the Bannock County Committee Chair, with Mike McNabb as Vice-Chair and Kevin Peck as member. The Committee serves as a great asset to our agency. Please contact your local FSA office at 237-3435 for more information.

SPRING CROP REPORTING

Spring is around the corner (hopefully) and planting will soon be in the air. Spring crop reporting deadline is July 15, 2019, anything reported after this date will be assessed a late file fee \$31-46 per farm.

CRP MID-MANAGEMENT

If your CRP contract expires in 2023, a friendly reminder that 2019 is the last year to get your mid-management work done. This needs to be completed by September 30, 2019, to be in compliance with your contract. Otherwise it can result in termination of the contract with penalties.

Remember NO work can be done during the Primary Nesting Season (PNS), April 1-August 1. Please contact NRCS before starting, to discuss what practice is recommended for your CRP contract.

Cost-share is authorized for management activities.

WEED AND CATTLE

It will soon be time to check your CRP for noxious weeds and be preparing to complete any spraying that may be needed. Weed control is required as part of the CRP contract, noxious or other weeds that are not considered noxious must be controlled.

A reminder that that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence! Please keep unauthorized livestock out of CRP. Even if it isn't your cattle or you don't own cattle, responsibility rests on the CRP participant.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 31- Last day to request LDP or MAL for 2018 grain

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

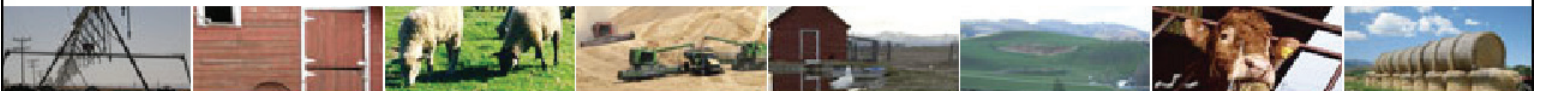
September 30- NAP application deadline for fall seeded crops
Last day to complete mid-contract management for CRP/CCRP/SAFE contracts expiring in 2023

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

December 15- Crop reporting deadline for all fall grains

REMINDER

Bannock County Weed Control Supervisor is David Herter and can be reached at: office (208) 236-7409, cell (208) 251-3083, or email dherter@bannockcounty.us.





Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District
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 Pocatello, ID 83201

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Conserving Natural Resources For Our Future

MARCH 2019	APRIL 2019	MAY 2010
PSWCD Board Meeting March 13, 2019 NRCS Field Office Pocatello, Idaho	PSWCD Board Meeting April 10, 2019 NRCS Field Office Pocatello, Idaho	PSWCD Board Meeting May 8, 2019 NRCS Field Office Pocatello, Idaho
Healthy Soils, Healthy Region Workshop March 12-14, 2019 Pendleton, OR	Portneuf Valley Environmental Fair April 20, 2019 Caldwell Park Pocatello, Idaho	
Division V Spring Meeting March 20, 2019 Pocatello, Idaho	Living on the Land Workshop April 9, 16 & 23, 2019 Pocatello, Idaho	Memorial Day, Observed May 27, 2019 Office CLOSED

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our projects & programs.

PSWCD
 1551 Baldy Ave Suite 2
 Pocatello, ID 83201
 (208) 244-5011

portneufswcd@gmail.com
 Visit us on the web at:
<https://portneufswcd.weebly.com>

