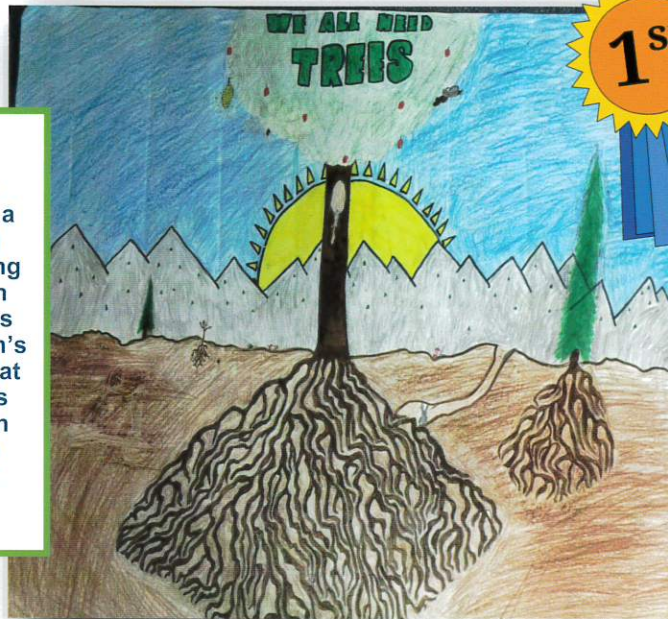


Summer 2016

PORTNEUF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Celebrating 76 Years of Conservation

Congratulations to Dayton Jon Smedley a 5th Grader at Inkom Elementary for creating the winning poster in the We All Need Trees poster contest. Dayton's poster will be judged at the division level this fall. More information about the contest is available on page 2.



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- ISWCC- Loan Fact Sheet
- FSA News
- Dates to Remember



Looking Ahead

Sacajawea Park

The PSWCD has been awarded an Idaho Community Foundation Grant to make improvements to Sacajawea Park in Pocatello, Idaho.

Sacajawea Park is located on the bank of an un-channeled portion of the Portneuf River in Pocatello, Idaho. The park has wonderful paved trails and great habitat for nesting waterfowl. The park is used for a number of activities including, casual family cycling, walking, running, sightseeing, bird watching, fishing and education. The park is also a popular spot for local photographers.

This project aims to improve accessibility, habitat and aesthetics for those that visit and call the park its home. Improvements will begin in the Summer of 2016.

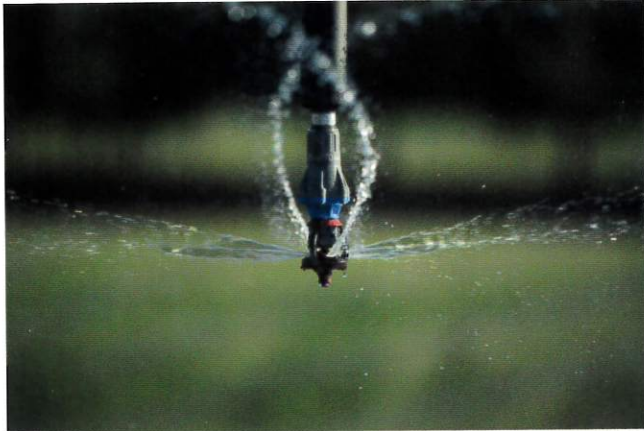
For more information on this project or projects like this one, please contact our office at 208-237-4628 x111 or portneufswcd@gmail.com.



"The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways."

- John F. Kennedy

PSWCD District News



Irrigation Water Management Workshop

The PSWCD will be hosting an Irrigation Water Management Workshop at the Regional Fish & Game Office in Pocatello, Idaho on November 30, 2016. Times TBA. Registration will include Lunch and Educational Materials.

For more information, please contact our office at 208-237-4628 x111 or by emailing port-neufswcd@gmail.com

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NACD 2016 Poster Contest

The annual National Conservation Poster Contest provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. It also highlights the educational outreach efforts of conservation districts and their state conservation associations, auxiliaries and agencies.

The poster contest theme follows the annual Stewardship theme. The theme for 2016 is: "We all Need Trees". The contest is co-sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts and the NACD Auxiliary.

Each year, the poster contest starts at the district level. Individuals and teachers with questions regarding district contests should contact their local district. District winners advance to the state level. For questions regarding state competitions, districts should contact their state association. Finally, state winners advance to the National Contest. National winners are recognized each year at the NACD Annual Meeting.



PSWCD Supervisors and Staff

Kevin Koester, Chairman

Scott Henderson, Vice Chairman

David Jackson, Treasurer

Kit Tillotson, Supervisor

John McNabb, Supervisor

Cali Johnson, District Administrator

Let's Talk Envirothon!

Envirothon is a competition for high school students, grades 9-12, in which the students visit different stations learning about forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and soils. There is also a different current issue each year, for example the 2016 current issue is *Invasive Species: A challenge to the environment, economy, and society*. Students attend each station where a 45-minute presentation is given, after the presentation is complete, students are given 15 minutes to take an exam on what they have learned from the presentation and from their preparation leading up to the competition.

Another major aspect of the competition comes when students are given a problem dealing with the current issue and they are asked as a team to develop an oral presentation, lasting 10-12 minutes, and deliver the presentation to a panel of preliminary and final round judges. Typically, the top five teams, determined through a combination of test scores, and preliminary round presentation scores, compete for the top spot in the final round.

Envirothon is an international competition too! Most of the states in the union and several provinces and territories from Canada participate in the Envirothon competition. Each state or province host its own private competition and the winning team from each location travels to compete against all of the other teams at the Nation Conservation Foundation Envirothon. The NCF competition travels throughout the participating areas as well. Last year (2015) the event was in Springfield, Missouri. This year the event is in Ontario Toronto, Canada. An exciting announcement about the NCF Envirothon is that Idaho will be hosting the event in Pocatello, Idaho at Idaho State University in 2018. This is a unique opportunity to bring approximately 50, seven member teams to Idaho to showcase our beautiful state and the natural resources we all enjoy on a daily basis.

We are always looking for more teams for the Idaho competition, you have a son or daughter that would like to be a part of Envirothon contact Cali Johnson with the Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District 208-237-4628 ext. 111 or Chris Banks with Conservation Basics 208-221-5681 to learn how to get involved.

Fundraising is a large part of the Envirothon so we can continue to provide this opportunity for the students both at the state and the national level. It cost approximately \$30,000 to put on the state event every year and we are working toward raising \$230,000 for the National Event in 2018. If you or your business would like to donate to either the state competition or the National competition or both, please send your sponsorship to:

All sponsorships are tax deductible!

Bear Lake SWCD,
c/o Lisa Transtrum
785 North 4th Street
Montpelier, Idaho
83254



"Where Common Sense and Conservation Meet"

Chris Banks
3231 Banks Road
Chesterfield, Idaho 83217
1-208-221-5681

Water Quality Resource Consultant
banks.chris08@gmail.com





unlock the secrets in the soil basics & benefits

**Healthy, fully
functioning soil is
balanced to provide
an environment
that sustains and
nourishes plants,
soil microbes and
beneficial insects.**

Managing for soil health is one of the most effective ways for farmers to increase crop productivity and profitability while improving the environment. Positive results are often realized within the first year, and last well into the future.

Soil Health

Soil is made up of air, water, decayed plant residue, organic matter from living and dead organisms, and minerals, such as sand, silt and clay. Increasing soil organic matter typically improves soil health since organic matter affects several critical soil functions. Healthy soils are also porous, which allows air and water to move freely through them. This balance ensures a suitable habitat for the myriad of soil organisms that support growing plants.



It's not difficult to improve soil health. Here's how: till the soil as little as possible; grow as many different species of plants as possible through rotations and a diverse mixture of cover crops; keep living plants in the soil as long as possible with crops and cover crops; and keep the soil surface covered with residue year round.

Soil Health Benefits

Farmers who manage their land in ways that improve and sustain soil health benefit from optimized inputs, sustainable outputs and increased resiliency. Healthy soils benefit all producers – managers of large, row crop operations to people with small, organic vegetable gardens. Healthy soils provide financial benefits for farmers, ranchers and gardeners, and environmental benefits that affect everyone.

Healthy soils lead to:



Increased Production – Healthy soils typically have more organic matter and soil organisms which improve soil structure, aeration, water retention, drainage and nutrient availability. Organic matter holds more nutrients in the soil until the plants need them.



Increased Profits – Healthy soils may require fewer passes over fields because they are only minimally tilled and they aren't over-reliant upon excessive nutrient inputs to grow crops. Healthy soils can increase farmers' profit margins by reducing labor and expenses for fuel, and optimizing inputs.



Natural Resource Protection – Healthy soils hold more available water. The soil's water-holding capacity reduces runoff that can cause flooding, and increases the availability of water to plants during droughts. Good infiltration and less need for fertilizers and pesticides keep nutrients and sediment from loading into lakes, rivers, and streams. Groundwater is also protected because there is less leaching from healthy soils. Additionally, fewer trips across fields with farm machinery mean fewer emissions and better air quality.

Soil Health Management Systems

Implementing Soil Health Management Systems can lead to increased organic matter, more soil organisms, reduced soil compaction and improved nutrient storage and cycling. As an added bonus, fully functioning, healthy soils absorb and retain more water, making them less susceptible to runoff and erosion. This means more water will be available for crops when they need it. Soil Health Management Systems allow farmers to improve profitability because they spend less on fuel and energy while benefiting from the higher crop yields resulting from improved soil conditions.

Contact your local NRCS office to learn more about Soil Health Management Systems and the technical and financial assistance available to help "Unlock the Secrets in the Soil."



United States Department of Agriculture

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District Conservationist
NRCS
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Soil Conservationist



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unlock the
SECRETS
IN THE SOIL



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP)
 Boise Office Phone: (208) 332-1790 · Fax (208) 332-1799 · info@swc.idaho.gov

Loan Fact Sheet

PURPOSE:	To provide long-term, low-interest loans to farmers and ranchers for resource management projects and improvements.				
INTEREST RATE:	Maximum Loan \$200,000 / loan \$300,000 / borrower	Term: 1 to 7 years	Term: 8 to 10 years	Term: 8 to 12 years	Term: 13 to 15 years
		2.5% APR	2.75% APR	3% APR	3.5% APR
COLLATERAL:		Used Equipment New Equipment Real Estate	New Equipment Real Estate	Real Estate	Real Estate
The following applies to all loan terms:					
LOAN SECURITY:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preferably first mortgage real estate. <u>May accept second mortgage and/or chattel, if circumstances justify.</u> - Title insurance (at borrower's expense) required with all mortgages - <u>New equipment:</u> loan limited to 80% of retrievable equipment value - <u>Used equipment:</u> loan limited to 70% of retrievable equipment value - <u>1st mortgages:</u> loan limited to 80% of value (assessed or appraisal) - <u>2nd mortgages:</u> on a case-by-case basis 				
ELIGIBLE LAND:	Land within the state of Idaho.				
ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:	Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conserving soil and water resources - Promoting efficient and beneficial use of the State water resources through implementation of TMDLs - Improving riparian areas for multiple use - Conserving and improving fish and wildlife habitat <p><i>NOTE: No refinancing. Projects cannot be installed before loan approved</i></p>				
APPLICATION:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call the loan staff in Boise to discuss your idea or project 2. Create a conservation plan to solve a soil or water resource problem. Commission field staff, USDA NRCS staff or your local district can assist you 3. Commission staff will present your plan to the local district for ranking 4. Commission staff prepares the Conservation Data Sheet from your conservation plan 5. Obtain a bid(s) or quote(s) for the project or equipment 6. Provide a copy of your EQIP Schedule of Operations, if applicable 7. Provide an aerial map of the project location. NRCS or Commission staff can provide it 8. Complete a loan application 9. Complete a NRCS release form 10. Provide complete copies of 3 years of federal income tax returns 11. Complete and sign a balance sheet 12. Provide a photocopy of your driver's license or other government issued photo ID 13. Provide a copy of the real estate tax assessment for the property where the project is located and/or is offered to mortgage 14. Mail the loan package to: Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0083 				

Farm Service Agency News

Bannock County FSA would like to welcome Kevin Peck to the County Committee. Kevin will finish out the term in Local Administrator Area (LAA 1) which was vacated by Ralph Wheatley. We look forward to having Kevin serve on the committee and will he take office May 2, 2016.

GENERAL CRP SIGN-UP 49

We are waiting to hear from National Office on the results of sign-up 49. There were a total of 27,000 acres offered State Wide. Out of this 27,000 acres, 19,000 were expiring CRP.

ARC/PLC CONTRACT SIGN-UP

Producers can begin enrolling for 2016 at their local FSA office, sign-up started December 7, 2015. The deadline for enrollment is August 1, 2016. Please contact the office to make sure you are up to date on 2016 paperwork.

Crop Reporting

Spring is here and it's that time of year to report your spring planting. Once you're done planting, please contact the office before July 15th, 2016 to make an appointment and to avoid a **late file fee**.

FSA DATES TO REMEMBER

July 15, 2016-----Crop reporting ends for spring seeded crops (if any fall planting forage or grazing not reported by November 15, 2015, a late file charge fee of \$31.00-46.00 per farm will apply). Any reporting including revisions after July 15th will be charged a late file fee per farm.

August 1, 2016-----ARC/PLC enrollment ends August 1, 2016

November 15, 2016—Crop reporting deadline Forage (including mixed forages, grass hay, and alfalfa for hay)
Note: Not Alfalfa for seed

December 1, 2016—NAP application deadline

December 15, 2016—Fall crop reporting ends

REMINDER:

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

USDA **FSA** United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

IDAHO





Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District
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Pocatello, ID 83201

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Conserving natural resources for our future

May 2016	June 2016	July 2016
NRC Applications Due May 20, 2016	Summer Solstice June 20, 2016	NCF-Envirothon July 24-29 Peterborough, Ontario
PSWCD Board Meeting May 11, 2016 Pocatello, Idaho	PSWCD Board Meeting June 8, 2016 Downey, Idaho	No Meeting
Memorial Day May 30, 2016 Office Closed	Natural Resources Camp June 27– July 2, 2016 Ketchum, Idaho	Independence Day July 4, 2016 Office Closed

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information
about our services and products.

PSWCD

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