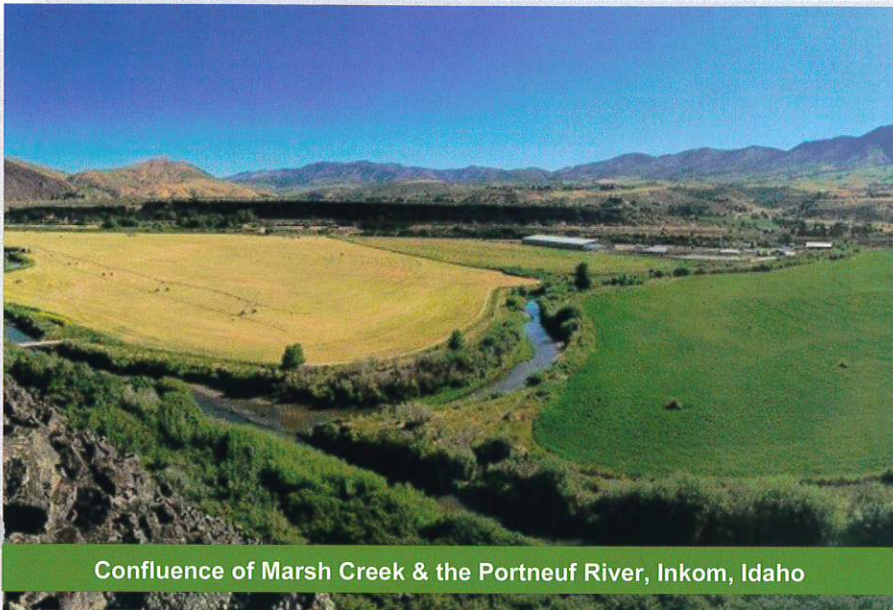


# PORTNEUF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Celebrating 78 Years of Conservation



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

### In This Issue

- Looking Ahead
- PSWCD News
- NCF- Envirothon
- Marsh Creek
- NRCS News
- FSA News
- Dates to Remember



## Looking Ahead

### Marsh Creek Small Acreage Water Quality Project

We are excited to be partnering with NRCS and the City of Pocatello on a Water Quality Project on Marsh Creek. Together we have acquired \$250k to be invested into Marsh Creek.

This project aims to reduce sediment loads, provide stability to eroding banks, install riparian buffers and off site livestock watering systems to those utilizing Marsh Creek and improve habitat and aesthetics.

A public meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 26, 2018 @ 6:30 PM** to discuss sediment issue in Marsh Creek and the Water Quality Improvement Programs available to land owners on Marsh Creek. Location to be determined.

For more information on this project or projects like this one, please contact our office at 208-244-5011 or send email to: [portneufswcd@gmail.com](mailto:portneufswcd@gmail.com)  
You may also visit our website: [www.portneufswcd.weebly.com](http://www.portneufswcd.weebly.com)

*“Despite all our accomplishments*

*we owe our existence to a six inch layer of top soil and the fact that it rains.*

*-Anonymous*





## 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 @ 208-244-5011.  
Kevin Koester, Chairman PSWCD



# WATERSHEDS OUR WATER, © OUR HOME





2018 NACD Stewardship Theme

### 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

### 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  
208.237.4628x111  
portneufswcd@gmail.com  
www.portneufswcd.weebly.com

Conserving Natural Resources for our future

### PSWCD Supervisors and Staff

Kevin Koester, Chairman

Scott Henderson, Vice Chairman

David Jackson, Treasurer

Kit Tillotson, Supervisor

John McNabb, Supervisor

Cali Johnson, District Administrator



# NCF Envirothon – Idaho 2018



## NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOL NAMED 2018 NCF-ENVIROTHON CHAMPIONS

POCATELLO, IDAHO – On Friday, July 27, The Mount Academy team from Esopus, N.Y., won the 2018 National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon, an international environmental education competition for high schoolers conducted by the NCF and supported by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

The top three overall scoring teams received cash prizes sponsored by Smithfield Foods, the world's largest pork producer and processor. The top fourth through tenth placing teams received cash prizes from Canon U.S.A., Inc.

More than 250 high school students traveled to the Idaho State University campus from across the United States, Canada and China for the week-long competition. Students tested their knowledge of soils, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and this year's topic, Western rangelands, through written tests and oral presentations.

The Envirothon competition began in 1979, when the Pennsylvania Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts created an "Environmental Olympics" competition. Conservation districts throughout the country have supported Envirothon since its inception to encourage high school students to pursue environmental, conservation and natural resource-related fields.

"NCF congratulates the team from The Mount Academy and all of the competitors for their hard work this year," NCF-Envirothon program manager Carly Burton said. "The students displayed exemplary knowledge of environmental and natural resource issues not only this week but in the months leading up to this event. It's an honor to reward such talented students."





# Marsh Creek

## Discovering the Source of Marsh Creek's Muddy Waters

by: Ben Crosby, Professor of Geosciences, ISU

Marsh Creek is the largest tributary to the Portneuf River and its broad, fertile valley and surrounding hillsides have supported crops and livestock for over



120 years. However, farming in Marsh Valley has not been easy. Severe storms, flooding, and erosion have made farming difficult. The first regional report on these lands, published back in 1965, indicated that Marsh Valley had the highest erosion rates in the Portneuf Watershed.

Since the 1980s, landowners have been working together with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to modernize farming practices, improve water quality and stabilize fertile soils in Marsh Valley. Though these investments in conservation have made significant improvements to water quality, today, the sediment and nutrient concentrations in Marsh Creek remain above the allowable limits. In order to address the persisting issues, students at Idaho State University have spent the last 6 years learning how, when and where sediment enters Marsh Creek.

## Where does all the mud come from?

Historically, sediment in Marsh Creek came from erosion of the upper benches, high plains and gullies surrounding Marsh Creek. The fine, silty soils there erode quickly once vegetation is removed and must be managed carefully.

Today, the dominant source of sediment is bank erosion all-along the main stem of Marsh Creek. There are no unique 'hot spots' adding sediment, but instead it accumulates from hundreds of local sources. These sources are primarily stream banks where the deep rooting vegetation was removed. These banks then collapse into the creek when either undercut by flowing water or are trampled by uncontrolled livestock accessing the creek. Upland and tributary sources are minor.

When sediment enters the channel, it is stored temporarily on the bed in calm areas until it remobilizes during high flows, moving downstream in pulses. 10,000 tons of valuable, fertile soil are washed down Marsh Creek each year. Carp and other aquatic life in the creek do stir up the sediment but they do not add to the sediment in the creek.



# Marsh Creek

## What improvements have we made?

Over \$62 million dollars were spent on conservation actions by the NRCS and the IDEQ over the past 45 years, with 90% of this money spent on the Conservation Reserve Program, aimed at stabilizing soils on the upper benches. These upland investments have reduced the amount of sediment that moves down the creek each year by 75%. The eroding banks are the main target for current and future conservation efforts.



## Who wants to help?

Marsh Creek landowners are committed stewards of their land. A recent survey found that 78% of landowners are concerned about sediment issues. Out of the respondents who grow crops and/or livestock, 35% have participated in a cost-share conservation program. Frequently, participation in

such programs involves the adoption of water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs). The most frequently adopted BMPs among survey respondents include the installation of off-stream stock water systems, the adoption of no-till or low-till crop management systems, and the construction of buffers, ditches or levees. Basin-wide, 36.5% of Marsh Creek landowners indicated that they were somewhat or very interested in participating in such programs, while 42.4% of landowners in lower Marsh Creek indicated interest in participating.

## What can you do?

Off-channel watering and healthy, deep-rooting vegetation on the banks of the stream helps stabilize soils and reduce erosion. The Department of Environmental Quality (208-236-6160) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (208-237-4628) offer cost share programs to help pay for improvements on your property that can benefit both you and the stream. Feel free to contact Dr. Ben Crosby at ISU ([crosby@isu.edu](mailto:crosby@isu.edu), 208-282-2949) for more information about this work. A website detailing not only the sediment story but also the natural and human history of Marsh Creek is in development and will be completed in 2019. Stay posted.



**REMINDER: A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 @ 6:30 PM to discuss sediment issue in Marsh Creek and the Water Quality Improvement Programs available to land owners on Marsh Creek. Location to be determined.**

For more information regarding the meeting please call 208-244-5011 or email the PSWCD @ [portneufswcd@gmail.com](mailto:portneufswcd@gmail.com)



# Natural Resource Conservation Service

6

## Meet our Staff



From Left to Right.

Michelle Pak– Soil Conservationist, Roni Pasi– ISWCC Soil Conservationist,  
Nate Matlack– District Conservationist, Collin Gossett– Soil Conservation  
Technician, David Dressel– IDFG Farm Bill Biologist

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1551 Baldy Ave., Suite 2  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
Phone: (208) 237-4628 X 125  
Fax: (208) 237-3412



*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



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

Water Quality Resource Consultant  
banks.chris08@gmail.com

**KT EXCAVATION**  
SPECIALIZING IN ALL YOUR EXCAVATION NEEDS  
LAVA HOT SPRINGS, IDAHO  
LICENSED - BONDED - INSURED



Kit Tillotson

Ph 208.251.5829 Fax 208.776.5829

**D. L. Evans**  
**Bank** Since 1904





# Farm Service Agency

7

## Fall Crop Reporting

It is here and harvest time is in the air. Spring crop reporting ended July 15, 2018, anything reported now will be assessed a late file fee \$31-46 per farm. **For all fall seeded crops, forage and pasture crops, including both private and Federal land, the reporting deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for 2019 crop year, and subsequent years for those who do not carry crop insurance.**

## USDA Authorizes Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP Acres for Bannock County

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has authorized emergency haying and grazing use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for Bannock County.

Eligible producers who are interested in emergency haying or grazing of CRP must request approval before haying or grazing eligible acreage. It is also important for producers to obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that includes haying and grazing requirements. The eligible CRP acreage is limited to acres located within the approved county. Eligible producers who are interested in haying or grazing CRP under the emergency authorization and current CRP participants who choose to provide land for haying or grazing to an eligible livestock producer, must first request approval to hay or graze eligible acreage and obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to include haying or grazing requirements.

Since Bannock County is authorized for emergency haying and grazing, producers are reminded that the same CRP acreage cannot be both hayed and/or grazed at the same time. For example, if 50 percent of a field or contiguous field is hayed, the remaining unhayed 50 percent cannot be grazed; it must remain unhayed and ungrazed for wildlife. In addition, participants are limited to one hay cutting and are not permitted to sell any of the hay.

For more information and to request approval for emergency haying and grazing of CRP acres please call the office at 237-3435, ext. 2.

## CRP MID-Management

If your CRP contract expires **2022**, a friendly reminder is that **2018** is the last year to get your mid-management work done. This needs to be completed by September 30, 2018 in order to be in compliance with your contract. Otherwise it can result in termination of the contract with penalties. **Please contact NRCS or FSA before starting to discuss what practice is recommended for your CRP contract.**

## FSA Nomination for County Committee

The nomination period has ended for Bannock County Committee for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 which includes the Virginia, Downey and Swan Lake area. County committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level. It is also important that committees are comprised of members who fairly represent the diverse demographics of production agriculture for their community. Ballots will be mailed out starting November 5, 2018 and must be returned to the office or postmarked no later than December 3, 2018.

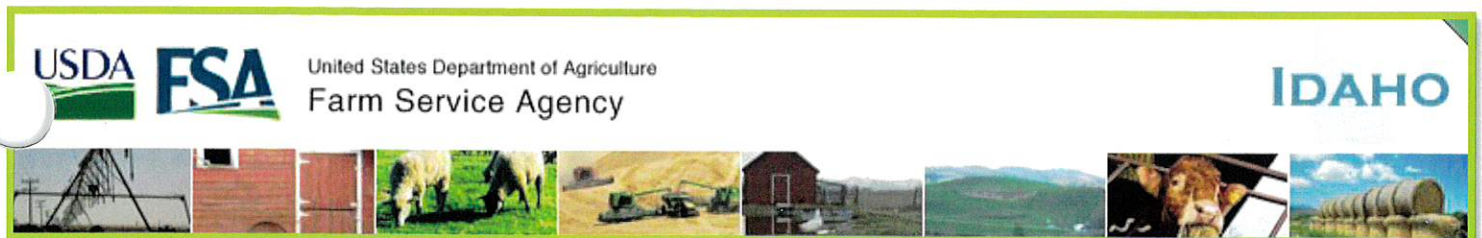
## Dates to Remember

**December 1:** NAP application deadline (perennial crops, annual planted mixed forage crops, and honey).

**December 15:** Fall crop reporting deadline for all fall grains & forage crops (grazing, mixed forage, grass hay and alfalfa for hay. NOT including alfalfa for seed) **(late file fee per farm will apply after this date).**

## Reminder

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







**Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District**  
 1551 Baldy Ave Suite 2  
 Pocatello, ID 83201

Non-Profit Org  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit #51  
 Pocatello, ID



*Conserving natural resources for our future*

<b>September 2018</b>	<b>October 2018</b>	<b>November 2018</b>
Labor Day, Observed September 3, 2018 Office Closed	Columbus Day, Observed October 10, 2018 Office CLOSED	PSWCD Board Meeting November 14, 2018 NRCS Field Office Pocatello, Idaho
PSWCD Board Meeting September 12, 2018 McNabb Residence Inkom, Idaho	PSWCD Board Meeting October 10, 2018 NRCS Field Office Pocatello, Idaho	IASCD Conference November 13-16, 2018 Post Falls, Idaho
Marsh Creek Meeting September 26, 2018 Location: TBD	Halloween October 31, 2018	Labor Day, Observed November 12, 2018 Office CLOSED  Thanksgiving, Observed November 22, 2018 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>

