



FY2009 (7/1/08 – 6/30/09) Annual Work Plan Latah Soil and Water Conservation District

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Corral Creek – Passage Barrier Removal Project

District Supervisors

Cody Anderson, Chairman
Stu Goldstein, Vice-Chairman

Kevin Meyer, Secretary
Dave Huggins, Treasurer
Kyle Hawley, Supervisor
Wayne Jensen, Supervisor
Frank Walker, Supervisor

Joe Anderson, Associate Supervisor
Ree Brannon, Associate Supervisor
Lee Hawley, Associate Supervisor
Kevin Wagner, Associate Supervisor

District Staff

Patrick Adams, Information Technology and Outreach Coordinator
Trish Heekin, Resource Conservation Planner
Kenneth Preston, Resource Conservation Planner
Kenneth Stinson, District Manager

District Committee Appointments

Palouse River Watershed Advisory Group
Information and Education, SF Palouse River Watershed Advisory Group,
Palouse Coordinated Weed Management Area
Potlatch River Watershed Advisory Group
Research

Information and Education, Research, Cow Creek Watershed Advisory Group

Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council
Paradise Creek Watershed Advisory Group

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District

- ❑ Increasing landowner and operator interest in conservation tillage transition assistance.
- ❑ Increasing landowner and operator interest in technical and financial assistance to address livestock best management practices.
- ❑ Increasing producer interest in precision agriculture techniques.
- ❑ Increasing interest by grass growers and conservation agencies to find alternative management tools to maintain productivity and profitability without field burning.
- ❑ Increasing inter-state interest to address water quality and water quantity issues within the Palouse region.
- ❑ Strong landowner and conservation agency interest in protecting remaining “high quality” Palouse Prairie remnants.
- ❑ Increasing interest in bio-fuels production by both consumers and producers.
- ❑ Strong conservation agency interest in protecting and restoring steelhead habitat within the Potlatch River watershed.
- ❑ Increasing pressure to subdivide rural lands for residential development. This rural develop leads to an increasing number of requests for general conservation information regarding small acreage conservation issues.
- ❑ Increasing rural land values due to rural residential development.
- ❑ Increasing community concern regarding forest wildfires.
- ❑ Increasing community concern regarding invasive species throughout Latah County.

Projects Planned, Coordinated or Managed

Awarded and Active in FY 2009

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

- Potlatch River Water Quality Improvement Project
- Cow Creek Water Quality Improvement Project
- Palouse River Water Quality Improvement Project
- North Idaho Animal Feeding Operations Implementation Project/Phase III and Phase IV

Idaho Department of Fish & Game

- Landowner Incentive Program/Tier I
- Landowner Incentive Program/Tier II – Palouse Prairie Preservation and Restoration

Idaho Office of Species Conservation/Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund

- Potlatch River Watershed Restoration/Phase II

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

- Potlatch River Water Quality Improvement Project
- Cow Creek Water Quality Improvement Project
- North Idaho Animal Feeding Operations Implementation Project/Phase III

Idaho Transportation Department

- Corral Creek Wetland Mitigation Project

Bonneville Power Administration

- Potlatch River Watershed Restoration

Idaho Conservation Districts assisting landowners and operators with their conservation choices

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- Palouse Prairie Protection and Restoration

Proposed for FY 2009

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

- Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan – Phase I

Idaho Department of Fish & Game

- Landowner Incentive Program/Tier I

Idaho Office of Species Conservation/Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund & Snake River Basin Adjudication

- Potlatch River Watershed Restoration/Phase III

Bonneville Power Administration

- Potlatch River Watershed Restoration

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- Palouse Prairie Protection and Restoration

District Operations and Funding Sources

FY09 General Operations Funding - Anticipated

<input type="checkbox"/> State of Idaho – Base	\$	5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Latah County	\$	18,500
<input type="checkbox"/> City of Moscow	\$	2,500
<input type="checkbox"/> State of Idaho – 2:1 Match	\$	42,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Indirect Charges	\$	15,000
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Miscellaneous Income</u>	\$	<u>300</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Total General Operations	\$	84,000

Approximate Project Funding Available in FY09 - Existing and Pending Contracts

<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	\$	400,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho Department of Fish & Game	\$	75,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho Office of Species Conservation	\$	200,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho Soil Conservation Commission	\$	250,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho Transportation Department	\$	25,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonneville Power Administration	\$	395,000
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>US Fish and Wildlife Service</u>	\$	<u>75,000</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Total Project Funding	\$	1,420,000

District Mission

Lead local efforts to promote the stewardship of natural resources, through the development of comprehensive plans and the implementation of strategies for economic and ecological sustainability, on behalf of our citizens, through the coordination of leadership, information and funding.

District Goals

Local Governance - Lead and support landowners, agricultural operators, local communities and government agencies' efforts to collectively identify natural resource issues of concern, review alternative solutions to address these issues and undertake local efforts to resolve priority issues using voluntary mechanisms.

District Capacity - Develop and maintain the political and organizational capacity to fully exercise District rights and responsibilities.

Community Outreach - Promote efforts to enhance the local communities understanding of ecological systems, the social systems directly dependent upon these natural systems, and the political and organizational systems developed for the management of natural resources within the District.

Comprehensive Planning - Promote individual, local, regional, state, tribal and national planning efforts that recognize, and manage for, the interconnected elements of natural systems and seek sustainable management approaches for the natural resources within the District while providing for the long-term natural resource conservation objectives of land owners and agricultural operators, strengthening the long-term health of local economies and protecting the long-term public interest of the community, as a whole.

Coordinated Implementation Strategies - Lead the voluntary implementation of conservation efforts that seek to simultaneously protect and enhance the long-term productivity of the District's natural resource base while providing for the long-term natural resource conservation objectives of land owners and agricultural operators, protecting the established rights of individual land owners and operators, strengthening the long-term health of local economies and protecting the long-term public interest of the community, as a whole.

Local Governance Objectives:

- ❑ Support local efforts to identify common natural resource issues of concern and expand the community's understanding of the environmental, economic and social aspects of these issues.
 - ❑ Support local forums for developing alternative solutions to address natural resource issues of concern and support locally-led efforts to resolve issues of concern through voluntary mechanisms.
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District Capacity Objectives:

- ❑ Coordinate outreach activities to maintain full Board membership that represents the diversity of landowners and users within the District.
 - ❑ Coordinate local efforts to maintain the leadership role of the Board of Supervisors to direct the planning and management of natural resources within the District.
 - ❑ Coordinate the maintenance of a District infrastructure that is capable of supporting current and future programs. This infrastructure includes the office environment, internal policies and procedures, and outreach communication systems.
 - ❑ Coordinate efforts to recruit, train and retain professional staff to develop and manage District programs and infrastructure. District staff provides the necessary program development and management structure to fulfill the District's mission, goals and objectives.
 - ❑ Coordinate efforts to develop and maintain the District's capacity to coordinate technical assistance to aid local efforts in the management of natural resources within the District.
 - ❑ Coordinate efforts to develop and maintain the District's capacity to coordinate financial assistance for programs and projects that have been locally prioritized.
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Community Information and Education Objectives:

- ❑ Coordinate educational opportunities to enhance the community's understanding of natural resource systems and the social systems dependent upon natural resources.
- ❑ Support efforts to enhance the public's understanding of local, regional, state and national resource management policies and programs that affect the management of natural resources within the District.

Idaho Conservation Districts assisting landowners and operators with their conservation choices

Comprehensive Planning Objectives:

- ❑ Support individual landowner's and land user's comprehensive planning efforts that provide for their long-term conservation objectives while protecting and enhancing the natural resources within the District.
 - ❑ Participate in local, regional, tribal and state conservation planning efforts that provide for the long-term conservation objectives of land owners and land users while protecting and enhancing the natural resources within the District.
 - ❑ Review national planning efforts that provide for the long-term natural resource conservation objectives of land owners, land users and the community while protecting and enhancing the natural resources within the District.
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Coordinated Implementation Objectives:

- ❑ Coordinate local efforts to maintain and improve long-term soil productivity on agricultural lands while providing voluntary opportunities for the long-term preservation of working agricultural lands in Latah County.
 - ❑ Coordinate local efforts to preserve and restore fish habitat for the benefit of resident and anadromous fish.
 - ❑ Support local efforts to preserve and restore forest productivity on private and public lands while providing voluntary opportunities for the long-term preservation of working forest lands in Latah County.
 - ❑ Support local efforts to manage natural resources in a manner that protects the public health of citizens of Latah County and the Palouse region while simultaneously providing for long-term economic sustainability of private working lands in Latah County.
 - ❑ Support local efforts to preserve and restore range and pasture lands productivity for the benefit of wildlife and livestock while providing voluntary opportunities for the long-term preservation of working rangelands in Latah County.
 - ❑ Support local efforts to protect and restore habitat for the survival of individual special status animal and plant species within Latah County and the Palouse region.
 - ❑ Coordinate local efforts to protect and restore threatened ecosystems in Latah County and the Palouse region on a scale that supports the self-sustaining function of these ecosystems.
 - ❑ Support local efforts to protect, create and/or enhance wildlife habitats and populations to sustainable levels for aesthetics, harvest, and environmental/biological diversity.
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The District's objectives have been organized in a fashion consistent with other State of Idaho definitions and priorities. In descending order, the top seven resource conservation priority areas for FY2009 include:

1. District Operations
2. Water Quality
3. Fish & Wildlife
4. Information and Education
5. Non-irrigated Cropland
6. Animal Waste Management
7. Other (Threatened Ecosystems/Palouse Prairie)

Priority Area Number 1: District Operations

District Goal: Local Governance

Objective: Support local efforts to identify common natural resource issues of concern and expand the community's understanding of the environmental, economic and social aspects of these issues.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Hold monthly District Board meetings that are easily accessible to the public.	First Tuesday	Chairman/District Manager
Offer 2 - 3 public forums on topics of local interest at monthly District Board meetings.	First Tuesday	District Supervisors/Staff
Sponsor semi-annual conservation breakfast meetings with the Latah Board of County Commissioners and Idaho Legislators.	Spring and Fall	District Supervisors
Provide administrative support to local watershed advisory groups, as requested. There are currently five watershed advisory groups within Latah County.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator

Priority Area Number 1: District Operations

District Goal: District Capacity

Objective: Coordinate outreach activities to maintain full Board membership that represents the diversity of landowners and users within the District.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Recruit interested landowners and agricultural operators that might have an interest in serving as associate members.	Continuous	Supervisors

Priority Area Number 1: District Operations

District Goal: District Capacity

Objective: Coordinate local efforts to maintain the leadership role of the Board of Supervisors to assist with the planning and management of natural resources within the District.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Participate in Idaho Soil Conservation Commission’s (ISCC) district capacity training for district supervisors.	TBD	Supervisors
Financially support and participate in the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD).	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff
Maintain membership in the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).	Continuous	Supervisors
Participate in local, regional, state, tribal and federal intergovernmental processes that address issues relevant to the District’s mission, goals and objectives.	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff
Provide policy and administrative support to the IASCD Division II Director.	Continuous	District Manager
Develop and maintain close working relationships with local and regional research organizations.	Continuous	Research Committee Chair District Staff
Participate as a member of the Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council.	Continuous	Appointed Supervisor

Idaho Conservation Districts assisting landowners and operators with their conservation choices

Priority Area Number 1: District Operations

District Goal: District Capacity

Objective: Coordinate efforts to develop and maintain a District infrastructure that is capable of supporting current and future programs. This infrastructure includes the office environment, internal policies and procedures, and outreach communication systems.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Maintain a central District filing system. This filing system will include historical and current information.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Maintain a central public information area within the office to provide updated information to cooperators, inter-agency staff and the general public.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Maintain computer network, software and hardware necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of District programs.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Maintain a professional accounting system to manage District funds.	Continuous	District Manager
Update personnel policies and job descriptions, as needed.	Continuous	District Manager
Update the District’s mission, goals, objectives and actions, as needed.	Continuous	District Manager
Develop necessary policies and guidelines for the District’s newsletter and website.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Maintain an editorial board for the District’s newsletter and website.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Publish the <i>Working Conservationist</i> newsletter. Approximately 2,000 copies are printed and distributed.	Quarterly	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Maintain the District’s website to serve as a local clearinghouse for natural resource related information.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Update and maintain a central mailing list for District announcements and publications.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator

Priority Area Number 1: District Operations

District Goal: District Capacity

Objective: Coordinate efforts to recruit, train and maintain professional District staff to develop and manage District programs and infrastructure. District staff provides the necessary program development and management structure to fulfill the District’s mission, goals and objectives.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Actively participate in the Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA) and annual trainings.	Continuous	District Manager
Support staff training in the following areas: conservation planning, grant writing, water law and riparian restoration.	Continuous	District Staff
Maintain a salary schedule and employee benefits package comparable to peer positions within state and federal agencies.	Continuous	District Manager
Recruit and hire temporary technical staff to assist the NRCS Moscow Field Office through ISCC, IASCD and NRCS funding.	Continuous	District Manager
Provide technical and management assistance to other conservation districts, as requested.	Continuous	Supervisors and Staff

Priority Area Number 2: Water Quality

District Goal: Comprehensive Planning

Objective: Participate in local, regional, tribal and state conservation planning efforts that provide for the long-term conservation objectives of land owners and land users while protecting and enhancing the natural resources within the District.

Actions(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Participate in the Clearwater Policy Advisory Committee for the Mountain Snake Provincial Planning process of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPCC).	Quarterly	District Manager
Coordinate revisions to the Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan.	Continuous	District Manager
Actively participate in local watershed advisory groups organized through the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ).	Quarterly	District Manager
Participate in IDEQ's processes for developing TMDLs for local waterbodies within the District. In addition, review Washington State TMDLs that might affect waterbodies within the District.	Continuous	District Manager
Support the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee's (PBAC) planning efforts to protect and improve water quality and quantity of local groundwater systems.	Continuous	District Manager
Participate in Washington State's Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) planning effort for the Palouse River watershed.	Monthly meetings	District Manager
Assist with the coordination of the Palouse Water Summit scheduled for October, 2008.	Monthly meetings	District Manager

Priority Area Number 2: Water Quality

District Goal: Coordinated Implementation

Objective: Coordinate local efforts to protect and improve the water quality of local watersheds and groundwater systems.

Actions(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Coordinate the implementation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) on approximately 3,500 acres within the Cow Creek watershed through funding from the ISCC Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) and IDEQ's CWA §319 program.	Continuous	Conservation Planners
Coordinate the implementation of agricultural best management practices on approximately 3,500 acres (BMPs) within the Potlatch River watershed through funding from ISCC' WQPA and IDEQ's CWA §319 programs.	Continuous	Conservation Planners
Coordinate the implementation of agricultural best management practices on approximately 500 acres (BMPs) within the Palouse River watershed through funding from IDEQ's CWA §319 programs.	Continuous	Conservation Planners
Coordinate the implementation of BMPs on approximately three livestock feeding operations through funding from the Idaho Office of Species Conservation (IOSC) and the IASCD Division II North Idaho AFO Implementation Project.	Continuous	District Manager Conservation Planners
Coordinate additional technical and financial assistance to expand the District's ability to address priority water quality issues.	Continuous	District Manager Conservation Planners

Priority Area Number 3: Fish and Wildlife

District Goal: Comprehensive Planning

Objective: Participate in local, regional, tribal and state conservation planning efforts that provide for the long-term conservation objectives of land owners and land users while protecting and enhancing the natural resources within the District.

Actions(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Participate in the Clearwater Policy Advisory Committee for the Mountain Snake Provincial Planning process of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC).	Quarterly	District Manager
Coordinate Potlatch and Palouse River watershed planning processes.	Continuous	District Manager

Priority Area Number 3: Fish and Wildlife

District Goal: Coordinated Implementation

Objective: Coordinate local efforts to preserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat.

Actions(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Coordinate the implementation of sediment reduction BMPs on approximately 3,500 acres within the Potlatch River watershed through funding from ISCC' WQPA and IDEQ's CWA §319 programs.	Continuous	Conservation Planners
Coordinate the implementation of livestock feeding operations on approximately three stream miles through funding from the Idaho Office of Species Conservation (IOSC) and the IASCD Division II North Idaho AFO Implementation Project.	Continuous	District Manager Conservation Planners
Coordinate four miles of stream surveys using the NRCS Steam Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) to determine habitat conditions and land eligibility for USDA Farm Bill programs (e.g., Continuous Conservation Reserve Program).	Spring–Fall	Conservation Planners
Coordinate and support approximately 10 landowner applications to USDA and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) conservation programs.	Continuous	Conservation Planners

Idaho Conservation Districts assisting landowners and operators with their conservation choices

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Coordinate additional technical and financial assistance to expand the District's ability to implement the Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan.	Continuous	District Manager Conservation Planners
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Priority Area Number 4: Information/Education

District Goal: Community Outreach

Objective: Coordinate educational opportunities to enhance the community’s understanding of natural resource systems and the social systems dependent upon natural resources.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Coordinate the annual Conservation Awareness Days for area schools. Approximately 300 students participate in this annual event.	May	IT/Outreach Coordinator Conservation Planners
Sponsor three to four youth scholarships for participation in local natural resource education workshops, trainings and camps.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator Conservation Planners
Sponsor the annual speech and poster contest with area schools in coordination with IASCD.	Fall	IT/Outreach Coordinator Conservation Planners
Provide a display highlighting District programs at the Latah County Fair.	September	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Upon invitation, participate in community forums to discuss natural resource management programs within the District.	Continuous	Supervisors/Staff
Publish the <i>Working Conservationist</i> newsletter.	Quarterly	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Maintain the District’s website to serve as a local clearinghouse for natural resource related information.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Update and maintain a central mailing list for District announcements and publications.	Continuous	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Sponsor the annual Latah Conservation Stewardship Award banquet and field tour.	June	IT/Outreach Coordinator
Provide planning assistance to the Family Farm Landowners conference sponsored by the Clearwater RC&D.	March	District Manager
Provide management assistance to the annual Grazing Workshop sponsored by IASCD/Division II.	January	District Manager

Priority Area Number 5: Non-irrigated Cropland

District Goal: Coordinated Implementation

Objective: Coordinate local efforts to maintain and improve long-term soil productivity on agricultural lands while providing voluntary opportunities for the long-term preservation of working agricultural lands in Latah County.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Coordinate the conservation tillage cost-share program in the Cow Creek watershed through funding from ISCC' WQPA and IDEQ's CWA §319 programs. Approximately 3,500 acres are enrolled in this program.	Continuous	Conservation Planners
Coordinate the conservation tillage cost-share program in the Potlatch River watershed through funding from ISCC' WQPA and IDEQ's CWA §319 programs. Approximately 3,500 acres are enrolled in this program.	Continuous	Conservation Planners
Coordinate the conservation tillage cost-share program in the Palouse River watershed through funding from ISCC' WQPA and IDEQ's CWA §319 programs. Approximately 500 acres will be enrolled in this program.	Continuous	Conservation Planners
Coordinate additional technical and financial assistance to expand the District's ability to address agricultural soil health issues within the District.	Continuous	District Manager Conservation Planners

Priority Area Number 6: Animal Waste Management

District Goal: Coordinated Implementation

Objective: Support local efforts to preserve and restore range and pasture lands productivity for the benefit of wildlife and livestock while providing voluntary opportunities for the long-term preservation of working rangelands in Latah County.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Provide administrative and fiscal management assistance to IASCD/Division II's North Idaho AFO Implementation Project. To date, 44 individual projects have been developed with another four to six under development.	Continuous	District Manager
Provide conservation planning assistance to approximately two project sites within the IASCD/Division II's North Idaho AFO Implementation Project.	Continuous	Conservation Planners
Provide conservation planning assistance to NRCS and SCC staff for livestock BMPs on approximately three sites within the Potlatch and Palouse River watersheds.	Continuous	Conservation Planners
Coordinate additional technical and financial assistance to expand the District's ability to implement livestock BMPs within the District.	Continuous	District Manager Conservation Planners

Priority Area Number 7: Threatened Ecosystems/Palouse Prairie

District Goal: Coordinated Implementation

Objective: Coordinate local efforts to protect and restore threatened ecosystems in Latah County and the Palouse region on a scale that supports the self-sustaining function of these ecosystems.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2009	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Coordinate Palouse Prairie restoration efforts on approximately 200 acres with funding from the Idaho Department of Fish & Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA Farm Bill programs.	Continuous	Conservation Planner Asst. Conservation Planner
Coordinate additional technical and financial resources necessary for Palouse Prairie restoration and protection efforts.	Continuous	Conservation Planner Asst. Conservation Planner