

Owyhee Conservation District

250 N. Bruneau Hwy.

Marsing, Idaho 83639

Five Year Plan

July 1, 2013- June 30, 2018



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Owyhee Conservation District

Five Year Plan of Work 2013-2018

Executive Summary

The Owyhee Conservation District is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are elected political subdivisions of state government. The conservation districts are not state agencies and are charged with carrying out a number of programs for conservation, use and development of soil, water and other natural resources.

The Owyhee Conservation District prime objective is to provide farmers, landowners, and users assistance in improving, sustaining and conserving Idaho's natural resources. The Conservation District programs are voluntary based on scientific information. The district encourages landowners to take part in cost share incentive programs that financially and technically improve current practices.

Both by legislation and by agreement, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission provide technical assistance to landowner and land users through conservation district. The Owyhee Conservation District has signed a mutual agreement with the Secretary of Agricultural and the Governor of Idaho that establishes a framework for cooperation.

This Five Year Resource Conservation s Plan was developed not only to guide the Conservation District, but also to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in Owyhee Conservation District.

This document identifies the resource needs in Owyhee Conservation District and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting these needs along with an operation plan.

Certification of Adoption

The elected board of supervisors for the Owyhee Conservation District this ____ day of ____ Do hereby approve the following document known as the Resource Conservation Five Year Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five year period ending June 30, 2017, during which time it will be updated annually and or amended, as necessary.

Charles Chadez, Chairman

Charles Kiester, Vice Chairman

Ray Mansisor, Treasurer/Secretary

John Cossel, Supervisor

Rick Smith, Supervisor

Elmon Thompson, Supervisor

Tim Volk, Supervisor



Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners

Idaho Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC)

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD)

Vision of the Owyhee Conservation District

To cultivate a prosperous agricultural lifestyle for producers of Owyhee Conservation District, by supporting their choices and encouraging sustainable viable production of commodities and livestock in a free market society.

Mission of the Owyhee Conservation District

OCD Mission is to preserve a locally administered voluntary approach for control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution, protect our soil and water resources on working lands, educate the public, and protect our food source.

Who We Serve & Why

- Producers, landowners, and public of Owyhee CD
- To assist the constituents to conserve, maintain and improve the valuable natural resources for sustainable use by all.

Population and Size

- Owyhee County covers 7639 sq. miles
- Owyhee County encompasses 2,072 square miles
- County Population size 10644 persons
- Homedale population 2528
- Marsing population 986
- Owyhee County -Median Income \$24,500

Community Outreach

The OCD uses a number of ways to reach the community from Information and Education to community events: Owyhee County Fair- information booth, Jr. Livestock 4H sale, poster and speech contest, "WET" water education for 5-6 grades, College Scholarship, Newsletters in local paper, FSA quarterly paper, community letters, Conservationist of the Year-Annual Banquet, Summer Tour, monthly OCD board meetings, monthly NOCWMA weed meetings, Division meetings biyearly, IASCD Conference, Farm Bill programs, legislature contact

Coordinated Implementation through healthy Partnerships

Owyhee Conservation District Partners with a number of local, state and federal agencies to accomplish a wide range of projects and programs to support the producers, landowners and the nations: Natural Resource Conservation Service, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, GEM Irrigation District and South Board of Control, Cities of Homedale and Marsing, Idaho South West Resource Conservation District, Idaho Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Owyhee Conservation District

- a) Poorly planned growth in agricultural areas
- b) Increase in small acreage farms, five acres or less
- c) Limited surface and ground water quantity
- d) Limited availability of State funds for conservation
- e) Increased documentation hinders timely due date completion

Strategies to Address Trends Impacting Conservation in Owyhee CD

- a) OCD hosts annual educational outings for county members & officials
- b) Coordinate outreach activities with like minded partners: County Fair, Garden Club, FFA etc.
- c) Educational activities and sponsorship for Ag minded students; poster contest, speech, water trunk
- d) Keep state legislatures and other elected officials abreast of agriculture issues and concerns
- e) Keep supervisors current on issues impacting working lands i.e. Farm Bill programs, State grants etc.
- a) Record and distribute information with County officials for natural resources concerns
- b) Map noxious and invasive weeds to more effectively target weed control efforts
- c) Establish a data base to track resource conditions (GPS mapping noxious weeds)
- d) Host an Farmers Appreciation Day to make public aware of district activities
- e) Solicit farmers input to improve Annual Plan through local venues.
- f) Offer producers information on project NRCS, SWRCD and IDSA & loans ISCC
- g) Publish and make available district accomplishments to county land owners
- h) Attend on- going training for Conservation District Supervisors and staff

Owyhee Conservation District

Natural Resource Priorities

1. Water quality
2. District Operations
3. Public Outreach - Information and Education
4. Rangeland
5. Riparian
6. Fish and Wildlife
7. Noxious Weed
8. Urban/Rural /Recreation
9. Water quantities

Priorities, goals, and objectives

1. Water Quality

- To reduce irrigation induced soil erosion on 9,000 acres to tolerable limits by 2018
- To improve ground water through education encouraging pesticide reduction by 2018
- To improve irrigation water management through Idaho Conservation Partners technical and financial assistance programs for county producers by 2018

2. District Operations

- To maintain and enhance the administrative capabilities of the District by 2018
- To maintain a working relationship with state legislatures in 2013
- To meet the requirements contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code daily
- To enhance district operations: by improving skills through ongoing education, training and development for district accounting, personnel management, , annual planning and reporting by 7/1/14.
- In cooperation with other Conservation Districts, develop and carry out an effective legislative outreach program to ensure 90% State matching funds for all Districts 2015
- To conduct Conservation District elections in 2013

3. Public Outreach – Information and education

- To increase public awareness of conservation resource problems and opportunities by 2015
- To annually conduct youth education programs and increase participation in various programs
- To annually sponsor a fair booth and Jr livestock sales
- To maintain quarterly communications with other state and federal governmental agencies
- To provide current information to producers through local paper and FSA newsletters
- By 2018 all 3,4,5, grade students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation poster contest.
- By 2018 all Conservation District cooperator addresses and files will be updated.

4. Rangeland

- To restore and improve identified rangeland values for the best application of resource conservation practices by 2018

5. Riparian

- To protect stream channels and riparian areas by 2018
- To promote BMP's of stream channels and riparian areas 2018
- To promote multiuse of riparian areas for financial and environmental gains by 2018

6. Fish and Wildlife

- To annually maintain awareness of endangered species in Owyhee Conservation District
- To reduce the threatened nature of the endangered species listings 2016

7. Noxious Weeds: Reduction of invasive and noxious weeds

- To sponsor the NOCWMA annually
- To target 100 landowners annually for weed management by 2014
- To reduce invasive and noxious weeds in Northwest Owyhee CWMA per granting cycle

8. Urban/Rural

- To identify rural development needs within district boundaries by 2018
- To address rural needs as identified with support of Southwest Idaho RC&D annually

9. Water Quantities

- To regularly obtain current and accurate water condition information for distribution
- To make available water information to producers in OCD annually

District Operations Key Decision Makers

Key Decision Makers and Contributors for Owyhee Conservation District

- a) Owyhee Conservation District Supervisors: Charles Chadez, Chairman; Charles Kiester, Vice Chairman; Ray Mansisor, Sect. Trea., Supervisors: John Cossel, Rick Smith, Tim Volk, Elmon Thompson,
- b) Producers, landowners and public *supporters*
- c) Owyhee County Commissioners: Jerry Hoagland, Kelly Aberasturi, Joe Merrick
- d) Planning and Zoning: Mary Huff, Administrator mhuff@co.owyhee.id.us; Commissioners: Connie Brandau, Chairman; Clay Atkins, Scott Jensens, Chad Nettleton, Lori Badiola
- e) Idaho District 23 Senator Bert Brackett, Rich Wills, Pete Nielsen
- f) U.S. Senators, Mike Crapo, and US Senator Jim Risch,
- g) Representatives Labrador 1st District and Representative Mike Simpson 2nd District
- h) Homedale City Mayor Fink and Marsing City Mayor Keith Green
- i) Homedale City Council Members Aaron Tines, Tim Downing, Dave Downum, Steve Atkins
- j) Marsing City Council Chris Evan, Aron Streibel, James Ferdinand, Stella Bush

Owyhee Conservation Districts Current 6 Months Priority Actions

- a) Develop a projected budget for FY2013 by May 1, 2013 to accurately reflect the districts needs; based on the Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code.
- b) To build a comprehensive Annual & 5 Year plan by March 31, 2013
- c) Hold monthly district board meeting – open to the public -2nd Thursday of month
- d) Meet with Owyhee County Commissioners for FY 2014 budget request and supply them with written materials of the districts accomplishments, before May 1, 2013
- e) Contact State and US Legislators of producers needs and issues.
- f) Manage NOCWMA weed management.
- g) Share information with school age children in the future of agricultural projects: Envirothon, Summer camps, High school Agricultural Scholarships, various contest.
- h) Organize educational summer District tour for June 2013