

## FY-2023 (7/1/22 – 6/30/23) Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



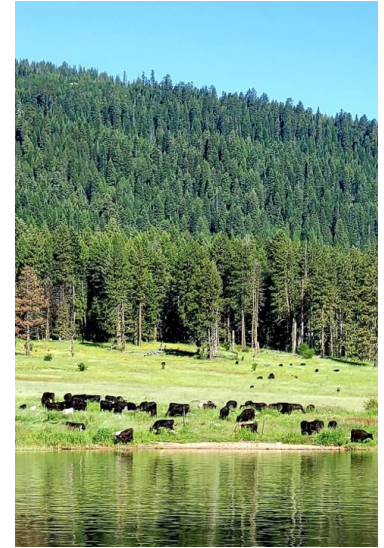
### Conservation District Priority 1: **Water Quality**

**Goal:** Protect water resources through proper use and treatment. Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) encourages cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials to improve and protect our natural resources. Promote and develop multiple beneficial uses.

- Objectives:**
- (1) Valley SWCD's priority is to implement the Ag Source and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans.
  - (2) Promote multiple uses of Lake Cascade (Cascade Reservoir) and the North Fork Payette River System.
  - (3) Promote water conservation and efficiency by improved best management practices.

Actions for FY2023	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Actively participate in workgroups and advisory committees evolving from NFPR Watershed Summit, water operations workgroup and Cooperative Watershed Management Program. Continue with TMDL watershed implementation projects from updated Cascade reservoir 5-year review and Payette Lake water quality monitoring results.	6/30/23	Art Troutner John Lillehaug ISWCC, IDEQ, NRCS Tech Staff
2. Protect Idaho's 303(d) listed streams by providing input into resource plans and EIS that concern the North Fork Payette River Watershed. Support USBR and Idaho Fish & Game (IFG) agreement to maintain a minimum pool in Lake Cascade to protect water quality and sustain recreational use.	Ongoing	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf and Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
3. Continue implementing Valley SWCD 319 Subgrants, S602, S696; State AG BMP grants S648 and S695. Develop landowner contracts to implement North Fork Payette River TMDL and South Fork Salmon through 319 grant and/or conservation cost share funds. With ISWCC engineer, review and tour past 319 projects to verify compliance and assist with project maintenance.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf and Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
4. Support IDEQ, Friends of Lake Cascade monitoring of reservoir & tributaries, assist with ensuring access for monitoring. Assist DEQ with Wave Action monitoring sites on Payette Lake and Lake Cascade.	Ongoing	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf and Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
5. Co-sponsor with other partners such as Trout Unlimited, Payette Children's Forest, Idaho Fish & Game, BOR, ISWCC, Farm Bureau hands-on educational projects for local schools such as Donnelly Elementary monitoring Boulder Creek, Mud Creek and NFPR at Riverfront park. Seek funding sources for interactive educational displays, tools and/or demonstration projects.	Ongoing	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf and Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
6. Assist County to coordinate workload sharing solution for Boulder Lake camping sanitation issues on Federal land. Encourage efforts of South Lake Recreational Water and Sewer district to address inputs to Lake Cascade. (Septic Pumping Pilot Program)	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf and Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
7. Promote and assist landowners with conservation planning development; assist cooperators to improve on-farm systems, water management and efficiency of irrigation water delivery and one Irrigation District or Company. Explore ISWCC WQPA, DEQ State AG BMP; BOR WaterSMART funding opportunities.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
8. Continue partnerships with Valley County Commission, ISWCC, NRCS, Idaho Fish & Game, Trout Unlimited, UI Extension, UI MOSS, Cities of McCall, Donnelly and Cascade, Cascade High School and Donnelly Elementary School. Expand partnerships to include Barbara Morgan Elementary, Payette Lakes Middle School and McCall-Donnelly High School.	Ongoing	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr

## FY-2023 (7/1/22 – 6/30/23) Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



### Conservation District Priority 2: Riparian

**Goal:** Protect and improve the condition in designated critical areas of Lake Cascade Watershed and North Fork Payette River Watershed for water quality, forage and fish/wildlife habitat. Assist and/or complement other watershed efforts to restore beneficial uses for the 303(d) listed stream segments.

- Objective:**
- (1) Improve riparian condition in designated critical areas of Lake Cascade Watershed and North Fork Payette River Watershed for water quality, forage, and fish/wildlife habitat.
  - (2) Reduce nutrient and sediment inputs to the North Fork Payette River system
  - (3) Improve riparian conditions throughout the District with focused efforts on Lake Cascade

Actions for FY2023	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Contract with one landowner to implement BMPs on Priority Tier 1 acres through 319 funds, BOR WaterSMART grant, and/or USDA Farm Bill (EQIP) cost share programs.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
2. Work with other agencies and groups to implement programs to improve riparian conditions. (e.g. Bureau of US Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited, UI McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS), UI Extension and local schools.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
3. Seek funding opportunities to implement Tier 1 acres in other sub-watersheds through USDA Farm Bill and other state and federal cost share programs.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
4. Educate landowners and public of multiple values and benefits of healthy riparian habitat through District newsletter. Support Donnelly Elementary School with Boulder Creek ongoing outdoor education program including riparian and fish habitat projects. Support Cascade High School students in ongoing North Fork Payette River outdoor education projects. Initiate McCall-Donnelly School District educational programs including riparian, fish habitat and pollinator habitat projects.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
5. Support and assist BOR, IDFG with completion of 2/10 mile of riparian fencing along West Mountain Watershed. Begin S695 3 mile southwest end Lake Cascade riparian fencing Spring '22 project. Partners NWYC, ICC, IDFG, BOR	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr



## FY-2023 (7/1/22 – 6/30/23 Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



### Conservation District Priority Number 3: **Traditional Agriculture, Pasture and Hayland Management**

**Goal:** Resource protection and improvement through proper treatment of critical acres in the watershed. Maintain and improve resource for Long-term sustainability of the resource and livestock industry.

**Objective:** Improve irrigation and grazing management on 85% of pastures and hayfields.

Actions for FY2022	Target Dates	Person(s)Responsible
1. Promote USDA Farm Bill EQIP, 319 and/or to prepare conservation plans and implement BMPs on Tier I and Tier II projects.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
2. Explore Farmland and Open Space Preservation Tools - Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs. Work together with Payette Land Trust. Continue to develop Cascade Bridge to Bridge concept with West Central Economic Development Council, National Park Service, Valley County Weed Department, Cascade Horizons, and private landowners.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
3. Agriculture Outreach – partnerships with Donnelly Elementary School and Cascade FFA classes on stream monitoring projects related to offsite livestock water study. Present partnership opportunities to Barbara Morgan Elementary, Payette Lakes Middle School, Heartland and McCall-Donnelly High School	6/30/23	
4. Explore 'Buy Local' markets for local production, support local Agriculture sustainability. Expand local product contributions for school lunch program.	6/30/23	
5. Encourage pollinator plantings, with NRCS encourage idle land for pollinators and expanded public/residential education for pollinator support. Provide technical and financial support for McCall-Donnelly High School Community Garden.	6/30/23	

## FY-2023 (7/1/22 – 6/30/23) Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



*In loving memory of Paul Kleint and his countless contributions to Valley County. agriculture conservation*

### Conservation District Priority Number 3: Traditional Agriculture, Irrigated/Non-Irrigated Cropland

**Goal:** Protect Cropland base through proper use and treatment (this includes irrigated and non-irrigated cropland)

**Objectives:**

- (1) Reduce soil erosion
- (2) Provide economic stability by promoting improved technology for resource management
- (3) Encourage soil health through nutrient management plans to maintain soil fertility and favorable pH as requested

Actions for FY2023	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Promote the implementation of state and federal programs for reducing soil erosion.	Ongoing	Art Troutner, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
2. Encourage nutrient management plans to maintain soil fertility and favorable pH as requested, based on soil testing. Promote use of UI Fertilizer Guide and web soil survey.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
3. Encourage technology transfer of integrated pest management. Support Valley County Weed Department Integrated weed management plan incorporating bio-control treatment efforts and noxious weed herbicide application, education and cost share program.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
4. Co-sponsor local farm/ranch tour or workshop to educate and promote agricultural sustainability management methods, highlighting completed or in-progress 319 cost share projects.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
5. Promote landowner use of District's No-Till Drill and Land Plane. Update contract to reflect fees to cover maintenance and delivery costs. Explore adding weed spraying equipment.	Ongoing	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr



## FY-2023 (7/1/22 – 6/30/23) Annual Plan of Work Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



*Annual Spring Forestry Tour*

### Conservation District Priority 4: **Woodland and Wildfire Mitigation**

**Goal:** Promote forest health and reduce wildfire risk on private woodlands.

**Objective:** Work with landowners to maintain health of private woodlands, while promoting sound forestry planning and practices.

Actions for FY2022	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Educate landowners on proper forest management practices by promoting the annual Forestry for Southern Idaho Tour, District Forestry Newsletter (with outreach of 400 landowners) and individual landowner on-site visits.	6/30/23	John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf Tech Staff/Durena
2. Educate and promote private forest landowner participation in USDA Farm Bill EQIP and forestry BMP implementation through thinning, slash treatment, planting, and fire protection, partnering with Idaho Department of Lands, USDA-NRCS and UI Forestry Extension.	6/30/23	John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf Tech Staff/Durena
3. Co-sponsor with McCall Tree Committee the Arbor Day Celebrations for Cascade, Donnelly and McCall. Implement District Ponderosa Seedling Sale program	5/31/23	John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf Tech Staff/Durena
4. Educate landowners on forest fuel reduction treatments through county grant programs and EQIP cost-share practices.	6/30/23	John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf Tech Staff/Durena
5. Assist in forestry core topic preparations with high school Idaho Envirothon Team.	4/30/23	John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf Tech Staff/Durena



**Conservation District Priority 5: Fish and Wildlife**

**Goal:** Maintain fish and wildlife populations at sustainable levels in balance with other multiple use values.

**Objective:** Maintain or improve fish and wildlife habitat

Actions for FY2023	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
1. Review management plans of state and federal agencies. Promote multiple use of natural resources. Evaluate impact on agriculture of special management plans for TES species.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
2. Assist and promote the construction of fish screens and fish passage structures on diversion systems (e.g. West Mountain Road, Center Irrigation District and Gold Fork Irrigation Company system).	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
3. Support Donnelly Elementary School Trout grow and release classroom program. Initiate similar program for Barbara Morgan Elementary, Payette Lakes Middle School and/or McCall-Donnelly High School and Cascade School District in connection with active 319 projects, improving fish habitat and populations.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
4. Include a fish habitat component whenever appropriate to 319 Bank Stabilization project design (Riverfront Park, Cascade Strand 319 projects.) especially West Mountain Watershed improvements. Partner with Trout Unlimited, Valley County, BOR when appropriate.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
5. Assist Idaho Fish & Game with depredation tags to manage elk and deer populations where needed.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr

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*Cascade Pollinator Project  
Bee hotels and flower plugs*

### Conservation District Priority 6: *District Operations*

**Goal:** Maintain active, viable Conservation District

- Objectives:**
- (1) Maintain a dynamic, active Board of Supervisors
  - (2) Implement elements of the Annual Work Plan and the Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan
  - (3) Enrich District Support Staff through training
  - (4) Increase adequate financial operating base
  - (5) Cultivate active cooperators
  - (6) Provide multi-faceted technical assistance base

Actions for FY2023	Target Dates	Persons Responsible
1. Maintain qualified Supervisors, recruit and retain active associates. Schedule and hold dynamic, educational monthly board meetings..	Ongoing	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
2. Participate in annual Board/Supervisor Training at one monthly District meeting or attend workshop such as Commission (ISWCC) Partnership District Capacity Training or attend State Conference. Complete Annual Employee Performance Review	Ongoing	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
3. Distribute Conservation Plan needs, goals and project information to: Legislature, County Commissioners, WAG, Technical Assistance Committee and UI Extension. Seek assistance and funding through traditional and non-traditional sources for TMDL/Technical assistance and cost share assistance for landowner BMP implementation. Active participation and project development with SWID RC&D.	Ongoing	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
4. Review and update Valley SWCD Annual Plan including receiving public comment at Valley SWCD February-March and September-October meetings. Submit Valley SWCD 5-Year Resource Business Plan and FY23 Annual Plan to Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) by March 31, 2022. Submit FY23 Request for Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Technical Assistance to ISWCC by March 31, 2022.	Ongoing	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr
5. Provide input for and updates to Valley SWCD Website, <a href="http://www.ValleySWCD.org">www.ValleySWCD.org</a> and @ValleySoilWater on Facebook with current events, monthly meetings and board minutes, add site links from partner websites and to partner websites. Continue building email contact list for information/newsletter distribution, public outreach, current events and education opportunities for the public, supervisors and district staff.	6/30/23	Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown Tech Staff, Durena Farr