

North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition Kicks Off



A 2-year grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation forms the North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition (NFPRWC) to develop a Watershed Restoration Plan. The goal of the coalition is to address watershed best management practices and water quality improvements within the North Fork Payette River (NFPR) watershed. The NFPR watershed, critical to local, domestic, wildlife, agricultural, and recreational water use, remains impacted by nutrient loading and warming from many non-point sources in the watershed. These increasing pressures threaten the drinkability, economic potential, recreational use, natural beauty, and other beneficial uses of the waterways in the NFPR watershed.

Under the umbrella of the Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, the Coalition brings together public land and resource managers, municipalities, Idaho Power, farmers, ranchers, irrigators, recreationists, developers, landowners, and the general public. The new watershed group will recruit a diverse set of stakeholders to help identify and prioritize various issues in the watershed to develop a North Fork Payette River Watershed Restoration Plan and the funding sources to implement solutions.

How can you become involved?

The first Coalition meeting will be this fall. We want to hear from you! If you value the streams, rivers, and lakes that make Valley County a great place to live, you belong at this meeting. Deteriorating water quality, especially in Lake Cascade has an impact on us all. We want to bring everyone's voice, opinion, expertise, and passion to the table. Collaboratively, we can have a positive impact on water quality and the health of the NFPR watershed.

NRCS Expands Source Water Priority Areas for Idaho

NRCS recently designated a majority of the NFPR Watershed a Source Water Priority Area. Priority Areas are created to help protect drinking water sources from agricultural pollution such as sediment, nutrients, and pathogens. With last year's spring bloom in Lake Cascade affecting Horseshoe Bend's drinking water, this expansion to Valley County aims to help protect public water sources. With this designation, private agricultural land owners with water quality and/or quantity resource concerns are offered higher cost-share rates (up to 90%) to voluntarily implement selected best management practices on their land. There are currently 14 active EQIP contracts being implemented in Valley County on 1,270 acres totaling \$460,000. The conservation practices being implemented are forest stand improvement, woody residue treatment, tree & shrub establishment and pruning, fuel breaks, streambank protection, herbaceous weed treatment, irrigation pipeline, prescribed grazing, fencing, watering facility, and pasture planting. For more information on how you can sign up for the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), contact the VSWCD or NRCS.

Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

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NRCS Emmett Service Center

Ron Brooks	1857 Highway 16, Ste B
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Want more productive pastures and soils? Try a no-till drill!

Frequent tilling and soil disturbance destroys the roots, microbes, earthworms, and soil structure of your pastures. No-till drilling practices improve soil health while saving time and money. A no-till drill allows producers to plant directly into a grazed field or previous crop. VSWCD now has 2 different no-till drills available for rent to local landowners. Thanks to an Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation grant, VSWCD acquired a smaller drill and trailer that is more useful for smaller-scale landowners.

Both drills are designed to plant a wide variety of legumes, grain crops, native grasses and wildflowers in diverse site conditions. These planters can be used in both no-till conditions and prepared fields. The rental fee for either drill is \$100 minimum for the first 5 acres and an additional \$20/acre over the 5 acres. All rental fees are used to maintain the equipment for community use.



2003 Traux Company Flex II Series Grass Drill

For Larger Tractors

Drill Width: 11ft, 8ft seed bed

Tractor Size: 65 HP or greater

Connecting the Implement: Hydraulic Coupler
(hydraulic kit needed on your tractor)

Transporting Seeder: Capable of being towed at slow speeds by a pickup truck with pintle hitch or pulled behind a tractor if you live close to the pick-up location.



2023 Frontier GS1148 with Cultipacker

For Smaller Tractors

Drill Width: 5 ft, 4 ft seed bed

Tractor Size: 35 HP or greater

Connecting the Implement: 3-point hitch

Transporting Seeder: Must be trailered to location (trailer and ramps are provided) or transported by tractor if you live close to the pick-up location.

Acreage Cap: No more than 10 acres can be planted with this drill at one time.

Visit valleyswcd.org or contact the District for more information on equipment rentals and for technical assistance to select appropriate seed mixes to make your pastures thrive.

A simple conservation practice that you can do today – Low-Mow Spring!

Lawns cover 2% of land in the US, so re-thinking the traditional American lawn can lead to huge cumulative habitat improvements for native pollinators. The start of the growing season is a critical time for all pollinators, but especially native bees. Leaving portions of your lawn tall and letting flowers bloom provides food sources for our winged friends. Some studies also show that less frequent mowing leads to fewer pests, and saves you money! You might also find that you attract more birds and other animals to your property. Want to go above-and-beyond? Consider adding more flowering species to your lawn like clover and thyme.



VSWCD: Serving You Since 1957

The 1930's Dust Bowl soil erosion crisis brought national attention to the importance of soil conservation. In Idaho, 1934 brought extreme drought, 56% of normal water supply, and 25% of the state had lost more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of its topsoil. Congress unanimously declared soil conservation a national policy priority. However, it became clear that the country-wide adoption of conservation practices would only be possible if communities worked together to solve the specific problems that each area faced. Conservation districts were initially formed by farmers and ranchers who wanted to come together to solve soil erosion and irrigation issues in their districts.

VSWCD has implemented natural resource conservation programs and provided assistance to local landowners since 1957. The District provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to private landowners and our community partners to help conserve soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources. All of our information is free-of-charge. The District is funded by a combination of local and state monies. Demands on soil, water, and other natural resources in Valley County are compounding and becoming more complex today than when we organized in 1957. Over the years, our programs have adapted to meet the needs created by changing land uses, a growing population, and recreation industry.

While the District still provides support to farmers and ranchers, Valley County was "discovered" during the 1970s, and the number of farms decreased while the population of the county increased by 55%. It became clear that a voice for conservation was needed to ensure proposed developments considered soil and water quality in their plans. Since the 1980s the VSWCD has worked with the county's Planning and Zoning Commission to provide natural resource input on proposed developments.

Since the 1970s, VSWCD has been addressing declining lake and reservoir water quality, its risks to livestock, and the increasing frequency of harmful algal blooms. VSWCD partners with federal, state, and local organizations and private landowners to implement water quality improvements in our streams, rivers, and lakes. While continuing to help farmers, ranchers, and private landowners stabilize streambanks, install center pivots, and build riparian and livestock fencing, the

Boots on the Ground: Current District Projects

3**culvert & drainage improvement**

Trout Unlimited, IDFG, ICC, & VSWCD planting willows & trees for bank stabilization & water tempera-

**6****center pivot**

Students at Alzar School planting willows to stabilize the streambank at a June 2023 field day.

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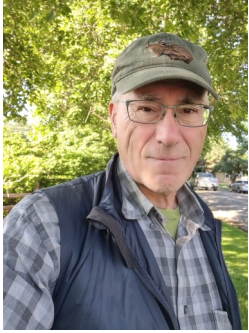
West Mountain Riparian Area Fencing Project installed by VSWCD, USBR,

**\$1.7 million****invested in conservation projects**

To learn more about what the VSWCD has done and is doing for you and your neighbors, check out our five-year and annual plans at valleyswcd.org.

Get to Know Your Board Members

The VSWCD is governed by a 5-member, locally-elected Board of Supervisors serving four-year-terms. Associate Supervisors are appointed by the Board as technical consultants. These local landowners volunteer their time to help conserve the area's natural resources. Board members are your neighbors and they are available to help you pursue, assess, and implement conservation practices on your property and in your community.



Art Troutner, Chairman - Term of Office: 2020-2024

A board member since 1986, Art was first inspired to serve the District after watching the SCS short film "The Plow that Broke the Plain." Art's background is in Plant Science and he has worked as a farmhand/irrigator, custom hay contractor, sawmill laborer, trail maintenance contractor, and builder. Art also volunteers with the Idaho Trails

John Lillehaug, Treasurer - Term of Office: 2022-2026

John has been a professional forester for 50 years. For 40 years, he's been assisting private landowners with insect control, disease management, and soil and erosion problems to develop forestry mitigation and treatment plans. John's passion lies in improving forest health and private landowner stewardship. Serving the District since 2014, he likes working to



Bill Leaf, Board Supervisor - Term of Office: 2022-2026

Bill operates a ranch in Lake Fork that has been in his family for almost 120 years. He raises cattle and hay. He was also an educator at Cascade Schools for 32 years. Bill runs the no-trill drill program for the District. He joined the board in 2021 and is passionate about soil and water in the county because he wants to ensure that we can continue to supply water for



Judy Anderson, Board Supervisor - Term of Office: 2023-2024

Appointed to the board this year, Judy is an avid gardener in Lake Fork. She taught for 18 years at McCall-Donnelly High School and also worked for the Payette National Forest doing riparian inventories. Judy believes that caring for and restoring our soil and water is



Colt Brown, Board Supervisor - Term of Office: 2022-2024

Colt is a farmer in the Donnelly area. He produces Timothy hay, certified gluten-free oats, and different seed crops such as peas, oats, and carrots. Since joining the Board in 2021, he has helped producers convert their irrigation practices from flood irrigation to pivot systems. Colt likes doing this work because his livelihood is dependent on clean water



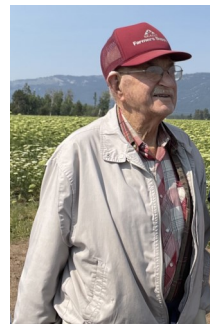
Lenard Long, Associate Supervisor - Appointed 2023

Lenard's background is in civil and geotechnical engineering with an emphasis on environmental remediation. Today, he mainly focuses on water quality issues in Lake Cascade. Working with the VSWCD is important to him because the water quality of the lake affects



Pam Pace, Associate Supervisor - Appointed 2023

Pam specializes in sustainable water supply. She studied civil engineering with a focus on hydrology and worked in water resources for most her career. As an Associate Supervisor, she is working to educate others about and expand cloud seeding programs in our area to help maintain adequate water quantity and quality in our beautiful streams, rivers, and lakes



In memory of Paul R. Kleint Jr.

A Board Supervisor since 1985, Paul passed away on March 14, 2022 at the age of 86. He owned and operated Needles View Ranch in Donnelly; his family's homestead. Paul loved the hard, challenging, and wonderful way of life of ranching and farming. Paul was active in encouraging and assisting others to improve their agricultural lands. He was an incredible supervisor and will be dearly missed. He loved the work of the District as the bridge between landowners and agencies in Valley County.

When was the last time you thought about your septic?

Everything you pour down a drain in your home ends up in your septic system. If your septic isn't working properly or is outdated, everything you put in your sinks, showers, and toilets can end up in our groundwater, surface water, or even our drinking water. This can contribute to harmful algal blooms and well-water contamination.

Your septic system should be pumped out and inspected every 3 to 5 years. Taking care of your septic system extends the life of your tank and drain field and saves you money. A properly-functioning septic system also protects your property value, the environment, and you, your family, and your neighbors' health.

For more information visit: <https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system>

Septic Tank Pump-Out Program

If you live in the South Lake Recreational Water and Sewer District (SLRWSD), have a septic system in need of pumping, and your septic is located 1,000 feet or less from a surface water then you're eligible for the Septic Tank Pump-Out Program. This program is funded by a State Source Water Protection grant and will reimburse you up to \$200 for the cost of pumping your septic system. Program funding ends in October 2023, so apply now!

Contact SLRWSD at slrwsd@outlook.com or VSWCD for more information.

Phosphorous-Containing Products Contribute to Harmful Algal Blooms

On your property:

- Use no-phosphorus or low-phosphorus fertilizer to avoid over-fertilizing. On fertilizer packages, phosphorus is normally the middle number.
- Pick up after your pets and keep large livestock off your streambanks.
- Use landscaping practices that stop or slow runoff from your property.

In your home:

- Use low- or no-phosphate cleaning products. Some soaps, detergents, and household cleaners contain phosphates. Consider switching to cleaning products branded "phosphate-free" in the store.



Know your feed!

Noxious weeds, especially oxeye daisy, can overtake pastures which decreases usable livestock and wildlife forage. Distributing hay containing noxious weeds spreads the problem to your neighbors.



Stop aquatic hitchhikers!

Make sure you're cleaning your boat ballast, propeller(s), and hull to keep harmful aquatic species from invading our watershed!

Are those beautiful flowers actually noxious weeds?

Did you know that landowners are responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their land according to Idaho law? You can be charged if the county needs to treat the spread of noxious weeds from your property.

But don't panic! It all starts with knowing what a noxious weed is and understanding how harmful they can be. Stop by the district office and pick up a copy of *Idaho's Noxious Weeds 10th Edition*, or any other resource on various conservation practices you can use on your property. Every person can make a difference! For more information on noxious weeds and the products and equipment available for you to use, contact the Valley County Weed and Pest Control Department. (co.valley.id.us/departments/NoxiousWeedControl; sanderson@co.valley.id.us)

VSWCD sponsored a portion of the Valley County Pesticide Recertification Training Seminar in May. This annual event is free for pesticide applicators and the public to attend. This year's seminar topics focused on bio-control of invasive species. Mark your calendars for the 2nd Thursday in May to participate in this educational event next year!

Up-side down for mailing purposes

@ValleySoilWater

Follow us on Facebook

www.valleyswcd.org

Visit our website at

Cascade ID 83611

PO Box 580

Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Forestry Landowners:

Annual Spring Forestry Tour

Every spring, the District co-hosts a forestry tour with Squaw Creek and Adams Soil Districts. This annual educational field tour gives landowners one-on-one opportunities to learn about forestry practices such as wildfire protection, disease management, thinning, and soil erosion. The 2024 Tour will be hosted by VSWCD and will tour a local property.

Seedling Distribution Program

In order to establish a more diverse, disease-resistant tree stand on your property, the District has coniferous seedlings for purchase in the spring. Diversification helps improve soil health and increases the resiliency of your property to fire and pest events. This program is first-come, first-serve. Please contact the VSWCD for more information.

Valley SWCD Board & Staff

Art Troutner - Chairman
John Lillehaug - Treasurer
Bill Leaf - Board Supervisor
Colt Brown - Board Supervisor
Judy Anderson - Board Supervisor
Lenard Long - Associate Supervisor
Pam Pace - Associate Supervisor
Durena Farr - District Manager
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Kaylee Tuning - NFPRWC Program Admin

Valley Co. Weed Department

Steve Anderson - Weed and Pest Control
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ISWCC

Bill Lillibridge - State Engineer
Meghan Brooksher - Natural Resource
Conservationist

USBR

Jason Dobis - Cascade Field Station
Manager jdobis@usbr.gov



VSWCD Board Meetings are open to the public in-person and via zoom, first Thursday of each month, 9:00 a.m. (Except holidays)
209 N Idaho Street in Cascade or via Zoom

Contact Durena.Farr@id.nacdnet.net for Zoom meeting invites or questions

Visit the VSWCD website for posted agendas and meeting minutes
valleyswcd.org