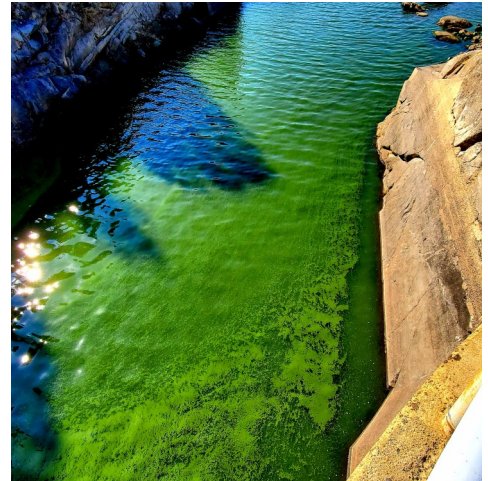


Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap No-cost Technical Assistance

In June the Conservation District was selected for the Closing Americas Wastewater Access Gap Grant (CAWAG) to provide no-cost technical assistance for South Lake Recreational Water and Sewer District and the City of Cascade. The process has been given a vote of support from the Valley County Board of County Commissioners. This EPA initiative provides no-cost technical assistance to communities with failing septic systems or without adequate wastewater infrastructure. The initiative is designed to help rural areas access clean water and safe wastewater treatment (reference EPA.gov). Through this grant South Lake Recreational Water and Sewer District and the City of Cascade may utilize the no-cost technical assistance to plan for future loads and ensure wastewater systems that protect water quality in Lake Cascade and the North Fork Payette River downstream.



Wave Action Study Confirms Phosphorus Concerns for Big Payette Lake

Dr. Frank Wilhelm, Professor from the U of I College of Fish and Wildlife Sciences, conducted a study on Payette Lake focused on human-caused eutrophication. Specifically, the study looked at the connection between wind waves and high energy boat waves in the suspension of phosphorus throughout the water column in nearshore environments. This study showed that phosphorus tended to stay in the water column during the summer months, despite the sandy substrate (a usual filtering layer). Plants like milfoil and harmful algal blooms feed on nutrients like phosphorus, potentially endangering the health of the lake. Payette Lake is the drinking water source for over 5,000 local citizens and businesses, therefore maintaining its health is critical for the community as well as recreationalist and tourist to the area. Previous to the Wilhelm Study there has been a lack of evidence that linked human caused eutrophication to boat traffic in the near shore environment. It is the Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council's goal to acquire funding to continue monitoring of phosphorus levels in the nearshore environment not only for the McCall community but for communities downstream.

North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition Update

Fall Community Event

October 23rd

Open House 4pm-6pm

Kelly's Whitewater
Park Welcome Center

Go to the website to
learn more and sign
up.

Valleyswcd.org

Since the formation of the Coalition, its goal has been to bring our community together to talk, identify issues and ultimately brainstorm possible solutions for the greatest areas of concern in our watershed. To date there have been three community meetings with smaller work groups meeting throughout the summer. The initial meeting introduced the goals and purpose of the NFPRWC as well as share the online mapping tool designed to pinpoint major areas of concern in the watershed. The online mapping tool is available to the public and is a visual way for you to pinpoint specific concerns you have (check it out at valleyswcd.org). The following two community meetings intended to provide more in-depth watershed information as well as an opportunity to break out into smaller workgroups. These workgroups were identified at the initial community meeting as top priorities for the Coalition and have continued to meet throughout the summer. The five workgroups are as follows; Land Use and Development, Wastewater Management, Stormwater Management, Water Availability Quality and Temperature, and Drought planning, Conservation and Climate Change. Each group is working on ideal outcomes, top priorities and action items for the Coalition. Our next community meeting will highlight the progress of these work groups. Learn more at valleyswcd.org

Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

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
Durena.Farr@id.nacdnet.net
Kim Thompson - NFPRWC Admin
NFPayette@outlook.org

(208)382-3317
209 North Idaho St
P.O. Box 580 Cascade, ID 83611
valleyswcd.org

Valley Soil and Water District Grant Activity

NFPR Bank Restoration Volunteer Planting Days

Cascade Strand and Alzar School Beginning in the classroom with visiting Boston high school students Micheal Young, Fish and Game volunteers and the District educated students on the watershed. They then took to the river cutting hundreds of willow steakes to be added to the Alzar eroding river banks. Then progressed to fence building and dry land plantings along the Strand.



Riparian Fencing efforts on Lake Cascade Continue

Idaho Conservation Corps young adult crews have assisted with a total of 14 miles of riparian fencing along two different USBR Wildlife Management Areas: West Mountain, and the South End Willow Creek WMA. Work has begun on 7 miles of the Hot Springs WMA on the East side of the reservoir but has not yet been completed. Projects are funded by IDEQ State Ag grants with materails providd by USBR.



Brush Creek Vault



Planting for Culvert discharge at the YWAM "The Depot" Conservation District with IDEQ Non-Point Source Water Quality grant partnered with Idaho Fish and Game volunteer crew headed by Michael Young to rework the willow weavings to stop a collapsing bank at the YWAM site, south of Cascade and west of the Cascade airport.



Installation Heartland High School student volunteers joined Idaho Fish and Game volunteers to plant 168 native plants repairing eroded banks at Brush Creek. A VSWCD-IDEQ grant provided funds for a vault installation at a highly used, year-round recreation area off Warren Wagon Rd, north of Payette Lake.

NFPR Bank Restoration – Heinrich Lane

Over 200 native riparian plants were planted by Trout Unlimited, Idaho Fish and Game staff, volunteers and VSWCD. Plants came from local Twin Peaks Native Nursery. Construction on permitted engineered plans for erosion control on NFPR banks at Heinrich Lane has been postponed.



Five new pivots funded for Valley County

Agricultural producers Pivots provide significant water savings for local farmers. Annual grants also available for off-site water development, livestock fencing and pivot conversions. Contact the VSWCD for funding opportunities through NRCS EQIUP, IDEQ State Ag Grant and ISCC WQPA.



No till drills provide sustainable soil benefits for small and large acreage



2023 Frontier GS1148 with Cultipacker

Drill Width: 5 ft, 4 ft seed bed

Tractor Size: 35 HP or greater

Connection: 3-point hitch

Transporting Seeder: Must be trailered to location (trailer and ramps are provided).

Acreage Cap: 10 acres max

2003 Traux Company Flex II Series

Grass Drill

Drill Width: 11ft, 8ft seed bed

Tractor Size: 65 HP or greater

Connection: Hydraulic Coupler

Transporting Seeder: Capable of being towed at slow speeds by a pickup or tractor with pintle hitch.

No till drills help protect soil structure, prevent erosion and improve nutrient cycling. No till drills and land planes are available for your fall and spring planting. To make reservations and learn more about the no till soil benefits contact VSWCD. The new VSWCD 2023 no till drill was made possible by a generous grant from the Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation.

Annual Southern Idaho Forestry Tour and Seedling Distribution Program

This spring 50 people from around the state gathered in Donnelly to take part in the 2024 Annual Southern Idaho Forestry Tour. Hosted by VSWCD, forestry professionals provided landowners with useable information on bugs, beetles and other stressors affecting their private forest stands. The tour is a valuable opportunity for landowners to interact with professionals regarding private forest concerns and forest program funding opportunities available to them such as NRCS EQIP (Environment Quality Incentives Program). John Lillehaug kicked off the morning with an introduction to the benefits of participating in the Tree Farm Program and how to apply. IDL, UI Extension, NRCS, and Valley County's new Fire mitigation program all focused on providing resources and education for forestry landowners and the public at large. The day wrapped up with time in the field showing sample projects. Contact VSWCD for details on forestry management funding options.



Be Lake Smart with Construction BMPs: Sediment/Phosphorus impacts are wide spread



Phosphorus is a naturally occurring element in our soil that feeds lake algae, a healthy part of any lake ecosystem. But too much phosphorus can put a lake out of balance, feeding massive toxic algae blooms that smell terrible, turn water green, degrade wildlife habitat, and potentially harm human and pet health. You can find phosphorus in many places – animal waste, fertilizers, leaking sewage treatment systems, individual septic's, bank erosion, household cleaners, and motor oil – none of which should ever find their way into a lake. But one of the biggest sources of phosphorus is soil erosion. Vegetative buffer zones and wetlands are Best Management Practices (BMPs) that help filter these pollutants. Buffer strips are trees, shrubs, and ground cover that catch sediment and nonpoint source pollution before they reach the lake. Vegetation along a shoreline should be left undisturbed or enhanced with native plants for distances of 100-250 feet, measured inland from the shoreline, depending on the degree of slope of the terrain. Valley Soil and Water, NFPR Watershed Coalition and Valley County Building Department are your resources for help.

Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Cascade ID 83611
PO Box 580

Visit our website at
www.valleyswcd.org

Follow us on Facebook
@ValleySoilWater

Spotted Knapweed and Oxeye Daisy - largest threats in Valley County

Noxious weeds can overtake pastures, causing a decrease in usable livestock and wildlife forage. These plants can easily propagate through roots, seeds or runners so it's important to stay on top of mitigation. Being able to identify these species could save your livestock as well as protect your harvest from being quarantined.

Reach out for the latest edition of the plant identification book as well as information on treatment and product options available to you.

Contact:

Steve Anderson - Valley County Weed Department
sanderson@co.valley.id.us (208)382-7199

Remember to sign up for the spring noxious weed recertification program put on by the Valley County Weed Department.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Spotted Knapweed | 6. Oxeye daisy |
| 2. Yellow toadflax | 7. Orange hawkweed |
| 3. Canada Thistle | 8. Houndstongue |
| 4. Leafy spurge | 9. Field bindweed |
| 5. Rush Skeletonweed | 10. Poison hemlock |



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ISWCC
Bill Lillibridge - State Engineer
Meghan Brooksher - Natural Resource Conservationist

USBR

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

Forestry and Fire Mitigation

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swittell@idl.idaho.gov
Mara Hlawatschek—Valley County Fire Mitigation
Program—mhawatschek@co.valley.id.us

VSWCD Board Meetings

Open to the public in-person and via zoom, first
Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. (Except
holidays).