

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter

For The Record

by Holly Cotton

“The goal of the ISWCD is to enthusiastically promote land conservation practices, for the present and future generations of the residents of Idaho County. We can all agree, we want to have clean water in our lakes, streams, and rivers. The goal is to preserve the good water quality that we already have and to recognize the need to invest in preserving the water quality.”

By implementing best management practices now, the water quality that we have currently will improve. The



technical assistance is available to landowners, and the Idaho SWCD has financial cost-share programs to assist the working family farm in the best management practice im-

plementation. The Idaho SWCD encourages those interested in voluntarily joining us in this effort to preserve the water quality, reduce soil loss and overall improve our natural areas, contact the district office in Grangeville. Funding assistance is now available in the Stockney Creek area, but can be considered to

projects adjacent to this area. Contact the district office to find out more information on how you can be a part of this locally-led soil and water conservation district's efforts.

ISWCD Board

Scott Wasem, Chairman
Leon Slichter, Vice Chairman
Mike Duclos, Secretary
Pete Lane, Treasurer
Ed Stuiivenga, Member

Associate Supervisors

Bob Rylaarsdam
Doug Boggan

ISWCD Staff

Holly Cotton, District Administrator
Jessica Wells, Administrative Assistant
Leslie Workman, District Staff

NRCS Staff

Richard Spencer
Bob Sandlund
Rich Gribble
Sydney Yuncevich

FSA Staff

Dan Mattson
Georgia Dehaas
Charlotte Sickles
Shyla Brannan

SCC Staff

Eileen Rowan

Conservation Security Program Announced for Idaho County Watersheds

Approximately 2,100 farmers and ranchers in 15 watersheds throughout Idaho will have the opportunity to participate in USDA's new Conservation Security Program (CSP) in 2005. Maps of the selected watersheds are available at the local NRCS office.

What is CSP?

The Conservation Security Plan (CSP) is a three tier, voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing stewardship of private agricultural lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources.

Participants in CSP are eligible to receive financial and technical assis-

tance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life .

The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size of operation , crops produced, or geographic location.

“CSP is open to producers who have practiced good stewardship on their agricultural lands and additionally provides incentives for those who want to do more.”

How does CSP work?

- CSP sign-up will be offered for the following watersheds within

Idaho County: South Fork Clearwater River, Lochsa, Middle Fork Clearwater, Lower Selway, Upper Selway, Lower Salmon, Littler

Salmon, Middle Salmon and Hells Canyon.

- Producers will complete a self assessment workbook to determine eligibility. This workbook is available online at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp> or at the NRCS office.
- Eligible producers submit an application to the NRCS office.
- Based on the application, description of conservation activities, and a follow-up interview, NRCS then determines which program tier and enrollment category the applicant may participate.

(continued on page 3)

6th Grade Campout 2005 A Success

The annual 6th grade campout, sponsored by ISWCD was held at the Campfire Girl Campsite (Fish Creek Dispersed Site) on September 21-23rd. Sixth grade students from Grangeville Elementary and Saints Peter and Paul receive a 5 days of classroom instruction and 3 days of outdoor hands-on activity.

Students gain hands on experience in agriculture, archeology, compass use, forestry, range plant identification, water quality, wildlife and problem solving/life skills.

Grangeville principal Ed Cox sees the program as a great "social", "hands-on" learning environment and "would like to see it expanded in the future.

Mrs. Anderson, new sixth grade teacher at the Grangeville school thought the program was "fantastic". She sees the

*"I hear, I forget.
I see, I remember.
I do, I understand."
~Chinese proverb*

program as a wonderful addition to curriculum. Its organization, "informative" value and the "professionalism and knowledge of the speakers" were some other aspects of the program that she loved. "It's a very beneficial", "very academic" program, the only way to improve it would be to make it longer!". "The students talked about it for weeks after it was over, I can't wait to do it again next year".

The curriculum is presented by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District, National Resource Conservation Service, BLM, Idaho Department of Lands, DEQ, University of Idaho, school educators, and community volunteers.

ISWCD and NRCS would like to thank teachers, students and everyone else involved in making this years campout a success.

Did You Know?

An article written in the Journal of Statistics Education talks about the advantages of hands-on versus other types of learning "Learning is situated in activity. Students who use the tools of their education actively rather than just acquire them build an increasingly rich implicit understanding of the world in which they use the tools and of the tools themselves." It has also been shown that if tested students who were taught by the hands on method score higher when tested on the material than those who were taught by conventional class room methods.

Idaho Association of Conservation Districts Annual Poster Contest Winners Announced

The annual IASCD poster Contest open to 5th and 6th grade students. The theme of this years poster contest was "The Living Soil". Posters should pertain to soil, water, wildlife, forest or range conservation but must contain at least one of these subjects.

The poster were then judged on four criteria; message, originality, art and balance, and neatness.

The district winners were: 1st place: Dakota Murphy, 2nd place: Kelsey Walker, 3rd place: Carter Hazelbaker. Honorable mentions were Chandra Wilsey and Cody Dewey. Each of the winners received a cash award between \$20 and \$5. The first, second, and third place winners moved on to their Division meeting for further judging. However, none were chosen to move on to the state conference.



L to R: Carter Hazelbaker, Dakota Murphy, Cody Dewey, and Chandra Wilsey (missing: Kelsey Walker)

Conservation Tree Program 2005 Begins

With the recent startup of our Conservation Tree Program we have decided to do a special on the benefits of trees.

Not only do trees add beauty to your home but they offer so much more. They can provide shade, clean air, protection from the elements, a haven for wildlife, and even lasting memories.

If properly located, trees can help control energy costs. For example, a large shade tree planted on the southwest side of a house can provide cooling shade in the summer and reduce air conditioning costs. When the leaves drop in the fall, the winter sun is able to warm your home on chilly days. If you plant evergreens they can help to reduce winter heating costs even more by blocking winters bitter winds.

Trees can also provide shelter and food for a vast array of wildlife. It will give birds and squirrels a place to escape danger, build nests, and store food. When selecting trees consider

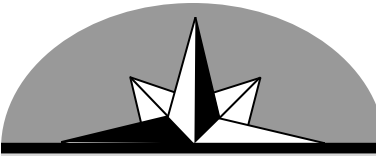
what food value they may offer the wildlife in your community.

If used in the form of a windbreak trees can control drifting snow, sand, and soil. Thus, reducing wind damage to field, garden, and orchard crops. They can also be used to protect livestock and residences from cold winds, and to provide screening from road dust and noise.

Windbreaks were used as far back as the 18th century in Scottish agriculture. Early settlers on the Great Plains of the U.S. planted residential and farmstead windbreaks. Prompted by a general desire for a forested landscape like those left behind, these pioneers soon realized that tree plantings protected their homesteads from tenacious winds. They found the protection valuable throughout the year, but especially so in the wake of winter, when nature's elements are most detrimental.

Studies have shown that trees and landscaping add value to your property. Even if you don't plan to sell your property, trees can provide you and your family many years of

enjoyment. Hanging a swing, building a tree house or simply relaxing in the cooling shade of a tree on a hot summer day can be memorable experiences. Consider planting a tree to commemorate a milestone in your family's life!



After reading this article are you wondering where you can get trees and begin saving money, energy and making family memories.?

The 2004-2005 Conservation Tree Program catalogs are now available. All orders must be placed by December 31, 2004!

So why not take a few minutes out of your day, order a tree and invest in your future!

CSP, Continued from page 1

Eligibility Requirements

- Land must be privately owned or Tribal land a majority of the land being located within the selected watersheds.
- Applicant must be in compliance with highly erodible and wetland provisions of the Food and Security Act of 1985.
- Applicant must be in compliance with highly erodible and wetland provisions of the Food and Security Act of 1985.
- Applicant must share in the risk of producing crops or livestock and be entitled to a share in the crop or livestock marketed from the operation.

Benefits

- Will help producers maintain conservation stewardship and implement additional conservation practices.
- Provides added environmental enhancement and creates powerful incentives for other producers to meet the same conservation standards.
- Benefits gained will help farms and ranches be more environmentally sustainable and will increase natural resources benefits provided to all Americans.
- If you were ineligible for the CSP but would like to be, you can



contact your local NRCS office to find out what changes you can make to become eligible in the future.

Dates of informational meetings and signups will be announced by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Additional information about the CSP program is available by contacting the NRCS office at 208-983-0146 x3.

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

Rt 1 Box 2
Grangeville, ID 83530
Phone: 208-983-1046 x3
Fax: 208-983-0519
Email: idaswcd@camasnet.com

Non-Profit Organization
Permit # 2
Grangeville, ID 83530



Happy Holidays!



Better Soil, Cleaner Water, Brighter Future!

Grazing Lands Conference Coming to Grangeville

A grazing lands conference will be coming to Grangeville January 19, 2005. It is sponsored by the Idaho Association of Conservation Districts Division II, Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Idaho Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Commission. Bob Budd, Past President of the Society for Range Management and manager of The Nature Conservancy 35,000 acre Red Canyon Ranch in Lander, Wyoming will be the keynote speaker. Budd is a dynamic speaker who will discuss how he intensively manages the ranch using livestock grazing to benefit vegetation, riparian areas, water quality and wildlife. Other speakers will speak on topics such as grazing plan basics, weed control in North Central Idaho, plantation grazing, and Animal Feeding Operation successes.

For Your Info

Why Are Barns Red?

Traditionally barns were painted red, the tradition began in the early 1800's when farmers concocted a folksy, homemade paint out of red iron oxide (rust), skimmed milk, and lime. The result, a bright-red paint which hardened like plastic resin, caught on. Farmers, being traditional by nature, kept them that way, even after inorganic factory colored paint became available.

Extracted from
**The ALMANAC
For Farmers
And City Folk.**



Conservation Program Applications Due Jan. 14

Applications for the following Conservation Programs are due January 14th;
EQIP—Environmental Quality Incentives Program
WRP—Wetland Reserve Program
GRP—Grassland Reserve Program
WHIP—Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

Ranking of applications for all programs will begin on January 17th. **Applications that have not been received before Close of Business on January 14th, 2005 will be considered in the next ranking period.**