



Conservation News & Notes

Volume 118 Number 1 Spring 2018

"Watersheds—Our Water, Our Home" 2018 Conservation Stewardship Theme

By: Lori Kent



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Quotation:

"Each soil has had its own history. Like a river, a mountain, a forest, or any natural thing, its present condition is due to the influences of many things and events of the past." - Charles Kellogg, The Soils That Support Us, 1956

Water is one of our most precious resources. Watersheds supply water for drinking and recreation, irrigation and manufacturing, and wildlife and bird habitat. It is essential that each of us adopts good water conservation habits so that we can keep our water resources safe and productive now and for future generations.

This year's National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) Stewardship theme is **"Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home"**. **Stewardship week is officially Sunday, April 29, 2018, through Sunday May 6, 2018.** Find out "How You can Help our Watershed" by participating in the Canyon Soil Conservation District (Canyon SCD) Poster or Speech Contest. Canyon SCD will be conducting activities for the Conservation Stewardship theme.

High School students and individual students can enter the **Speech Contest to be held Friday, September 28, 2018, at 4:00 PM at the Canyon SCD office.** A letter, application, and rules will be distributed to local high schools or you may contact Canyon SCD for forms at (208) 779-3443 (Lori).

Fifth and sixth graders can enter the **Poster Contest to be held Monday, October 1, 2018 at the Canyon SCD office.** Canyon SCD furnishes poster board to schools or individual students not involved in classroom activities. A letter and rules will be distributed to local elementary/middle schools or you may contact the Canyon SCD office for more information and poster board at (208) 779-3443 (Lori).

Exploring Idaho's natural resources including soil, water, wildlife, rangeland and forests is what campers will be doing at the **Natural Resources Camp (NRC) held in Ketchum, Idaho June 25-30, 2018.** Students must be 12-14 years old to apply. Teachers are also encouraged to get their credits through the University of Idaho by attending the Natural Resources Camp. To find out more about the camp their website is: uidaho.edu/natural-resource-camp. Canyon SCD sponsors limited student scholarships. Contact the office for more information. Continued on page 6



Your Canyon SCD

Supervisors:

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Mike Somerville, Vice Chair
Rex Runkle, Sec./Treas.
Robert McKellip, Supervisor
David Dixon, Supervisor

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Rich Sims
Matt Livengood

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Administrative Assistant
Outreach
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Soil Conservation
Technician

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Erin Brooks
Soil Conservationist
Justin Ross
Soil Conservationist
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Soil Conservation
Technician
Doug Higbee
Civil Engineer
Martin Pena
Civil Engineering
Technician
Linda Phillips
Earth Team Volunteer
Rich Sims
Earth Team Volunteer
Robin Hadelor
Earth Team Volunteer

District board meetings are held the first Thursday after the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. Call the office for exact times.

All programs and services of the Canyon Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, marital or familial status and political beliefs.

NRCS — Regional Conservation Partnership Program project with Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company

Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company (FCDC) of Parma has received \$500,000 matching project funds from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)'s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). RCPP promotes coordination and collaboration between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to qualified producers through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts.

The project is planned over a five-year timeline. One of the keystone conservation practices for the project is an 8.8-acre sediment basin, which officially began construction with a ground breaking ceremony at the site today. A water quality monitoring plan will accompany the basin.

Jerry Raynor, acting NRCS State Conservationist for Idaho, said, "This multi-prong approach to water quality allows the Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company to implement and promote voluntary conservation within the 4,000-acre project area. We are happy to be able to support the long term water quality, quantity and soil health goals of the company in Canyon County and the Lower Boise River watershed."

Tom Johnston, FCDC board member said, "The board is very committed to improve the Lower Boise River water quality. This project will help our shareholders improve water quality, quantity and reduce production costs."

With the sediment basin in place, the project will start to implement other conservation practices by FCDC shareholders in the project area. These participants may apply for EQIP contracts which provide cost sharing and technical assistance from NRCS. Examples of some of the EQIP-supported conservation practices that would apply to this project include Irrigation Water Management plans, pivot and wheel line sprinkler systems, and flow meters.

The deadline for eligible landowners to apply for funds related to this project is May 25. Please contact the NRCS Field Office in Caldwell at (208) 454-8695 for more information or assistance. The Farmers' Cooperative board will

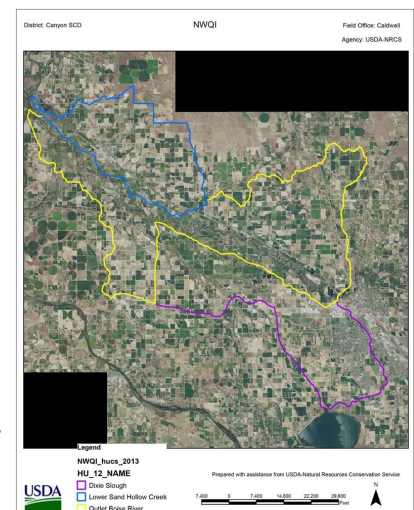
NRCS Seeks Projects to Improve Water Quality in High-Priority Watersheds

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Idaho is offering a second application period for the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) in three target watersheds (see map).

The NWQI for Idaho helps farmers and ranchers implement voluntary conservation practices, such as nutrient management, irrigation water management, cover crops, conservation cropping systems, filter strips, terraces and buffers, which protect and improve water quality. Conservation practices enhance agricultural productivity and profitability while also improving water quality. In addition, NRCS works with our various conservation partners as well as State water quality agencies to draw awareness and funding to these critical watersheds.

"Our continuing work in the Lower Sand Hollow, Dixie Slough and Lower Boise outlet watersheds is helping to address their residents' water quality resource concerns," said Jerry Raynor, acting NRCS state conservationist in Idaho. "It is also helping area producers improve their productivity by ensuring valuable soil and nutrients aren't washed away down the river."

The sign up for this funding pool period will close May 25. Contact the NRCS Caldwell field office for more information and to apply.



Local Producer Meeting

By Emery Meeks

The Soil Keepers recently gathered for an exchange of information and ideas relating to soil health. The group represents cattlemen, row-crop farmers, and gardeners who are committed to improving the soil on which we all depend. This meeting featured on display a row-crop planter modified for no-till, a small seed drill used to inter-seed into pastures, and a high-residue corrugator for gravity-irrigated fields.



One topic of great discussion focused on using the Ada SWCD rental no-till drill to plant wheat into corn stubble immediately following the combine. This practice has gained popularity in the Treasure Valley for the past several years – a testament to its viability. Growers with gravity irrigated fields expressed concerns about getting water to run across a field in this situation. The following group discussion highlighted several management tools to handle this situation including using a high-residue corrugator

to clean the rows and managing residue condition to create less of an impediment.

Several producers have expressed an interest in inter-seeding a cover crop into growing corn. This would give the advantage of having established cover as the corn starts entering senescence and extend the growing season in the fall. Cattlemen are seeing this as an oppor-



tunity to extend grazing time prior to winter feeding. Row-croppers see benefits of increased diversity in their rotations, water management, and weed suppression. Several experts, both government and private, are expected to provide advice on this practice with the group soon.

Rodent control has been of great interest to members in past meetings. There is still considerable work to be done on the subject but producers are seeing a notable reduction in gopher populations by using radishes and/or sudan grass in their cover crops and grazing paddocks. Hopefully the upcoming season will give us more information regarding these pests.

For more information regarding these and many other soil health efforts here in the Treasure Valley we invite you to join the online discussion at our forum website at: soilbuilders.forumotion.com. Please send an email to SoilKeepersGroup@gmail.com to get on our email list for future meetings and news or to seek advice with your operations.

Mission:

The Canyon Soil Conservation District is committed to providing quality leadership, information, education, technical assistance and financial assistance for the conservation and wise use of natural resources.

Controlling Puncturevine (Goathead)

By Bobby Hilton

They are small, painful, and seemingly indestructible. They will attach to your clothes and invade your home and yard much as they disperse into your carpet and lawn. You only notice them when it is too late and your thinking to yourself: "was that a Lego I just stepped on?" No. That was the seed of a puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*).

Puncturevine goes by many names: goathead, bullhead, burra gokharu, bhakhdi, caltrop, cat's-head, devil's-thorn, puncturevine, and tackweed to name a few. I will refer to it as goathead from here on out since that is how it was introduced to me. Goathead is a summer annual broadleaf plant that grows radially 2-5' in diameter with a deep taproot, which means it can find water more easily in the soil. This allows it to persevere in hot dry climates. Accentuating this survivalist life cycle, the seeds (pointy painful thing you step on) can remain viable in the soil for years.



Puncturevine seeds, *Tribulus terrestris*.

Photo by Jack Kelly Clark.

There is no doubt that throughout our lives we have all encountered this unnecessarily painful plant seed. And I'm sure no one reading this has any intention of cultivating any of their own. But sometimes we can't always manage our land to perfection, and they can creep into our landscape. So how do we prevent this from happening?

There is no single approach that can effectively eliminate the plant. And even after removal the seeds may "stick" around for a while. But a mixture of timing of removal, chemical application, and follow up may be the key. Long-term control of puncturevine can be achieved by reducing the amount of seeds in the soil. This is best accomplished by removing plants before they produce seeds (i.e., before or at flowering) and continuing to do so over several years. Goatheads that have dropped after removing the plant may be collected and removed by sweeping or raking the ground. Even patting the ground with a piece of carpet will help collect the goatheads.

The primary method of management for puncturevine in the home landscape and garden is removal of seedlings and older plants by hand or hoeing, taking care to also remove any goatheads that fall off the plant. Avoid bringing puncturevine into uninfested areas on shoes and the wheels of mowers or carts.

There are few preemergent herbicides that are effective. Products containing oryzalin, benefin, or trifluralin will provide partial control of germinating seeds. These must be applied prior to germination (late winter to midspring).

After plants have emerged from the soil (postemergent), products containing 2,4-D, glyphosate, and dicamba are effective on puncturevine. The smaller or younger the plant, the better the postemergent herbicides work. Dicamba and 2,4-D will injure most broadleaf plants, so it is important that they only be applied to the weeds and drift is minimized. They can be applied to lawns without injuring the desired grass. Glyphosate will kill or injure most plants, so it should only be used as spot treatments or on solid stands of the weed. (refer to the label on product for proper use).

Photo by Jack Kelly Clark pm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74128.html



I hope this information was helpful. Your pets and bike tires will thank you!

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74128.html>

2018 Western Idaho Ag Expo

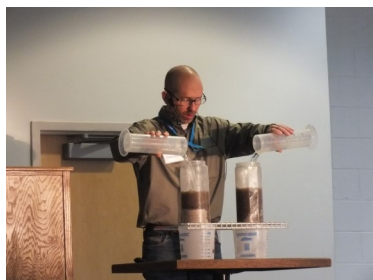
Canyon Soil Conservation District participated at the Western Idaho Ag Expo held January 23 & 24 at the Caldwell Events Center. Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency partnered with a booth next to the Canyon SCD. This was a great way for the partners to reach out to the landowners, operators and public as a one stop shop.

There were 154 visitors that entered the Canyon SCD booth to receive outreach information regarding Best Management Practices and Soil Health Information.



Soil Health Symposium

Canyon SCD and NRCS staff participated at the 9th Soil Health Symposium on February 15. There were 150 attendees at the event to learn soil health principles to enhance your crop, livestock production & presenter David Montgomery author of *Growing A Revolution: Bring Our Soil Back to Life*.



There was a slake soil test presentation, extension educators and local producer discussion panel.

Unusable Pesticide Collections

Held by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Pesticide Disposal Program in southwestern and northern Idaho in May 2018.

Nampa	May 7, 2018 Pickles Butte Landfill, 15500 Missouri Ave., Nampa
Weiser	May 8, 2018 ITD Maintenance Yard, 550 Indian Head Rd., Weiser
Lewiston	May 9, 2018 Nez Perce County Fairgrounds, 1229 Burrell Ave. Lewiston
Coeur D'Alene	May 10, 2018 Coeur d'Alene Transfer Station, 3650 Ramsey Rd., Cd 'A

All collections will run from 9 a.m. — 1 p.m., local time, each collection day.

Please check with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) office nearest you or with the Boise ISDA office to confirm dates or for additional information about these collections.

ISDA can only collect pesticides—no fertilizers, paints or oils can be accepted.

Coming Events . . .

District Board Meeting

Caldwell Field Office
2208 E. Chicago Street
April 5 @ 7:00 PM
May 3 @ 7:00 PM
June 7 @ 7:00 PM

Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group

Caldwell Airport
4814 E. Linden Street
April 12 @ 1:00 PM — 3:00 PM
June 7 @ 1:00 PM — 3:00 PM

2018 State Envirothon

Living Waters—Challis
April 23—24

2018 Natural Resources Camp

Ketchum, ID
June 25—30

Canyon County Fair

Caldwell Events Center
July 26 — 29

CSCD Speech Contest

Caldwell F.O.
September 28 @ 4 PM

CSCD Poster Contest

Caldwell F.O.
October 1

Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home

From: Soil Stewardship Week

Kids Connection. . .

Fill in the blank with these vocabulary words

Conservation, Contour lines, Dust bowl, Great Basin Watershed, Groundwater, Water cycle, Soil, Storm drain, Topography, Watershed, Wetland,

1. _____ water within the earth that supplies wells and springs.
2. _____ the top layer of the earth's surface, consisting of rock and mineral particles mixed with organic matter.
3. _____ an area of land from which precipitation drains into a body of water.
4. _____ a large drain built to carry away excess water from a road during heavy rain.
5. _____ the preservation of the environment and the management of our natural resources.
6. _____ on a topographic map represent the vertical distance between two points.
7. _____ is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, such that it takes on the characteristics of a distinct ecosystem.
8. _____ the study or detailed description of the surface features of a region.
9. _____ water vapor in the atmosphere condenses to form clouds and weather systems. Eventually the condensation becomes precipitation. Water re-enters the atmosphere to start the cycle all over again by evaporation and transpiration.
10. _____ the largest area of connected watershed in North America, encompassing parts of California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming.
11. _____ tons of topsoil were blown off barren fields and carried in storm clouds for hundreds of miles in the 1930's.

Continued from page 1

The Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) sponsors the Idaho Envirothon for high school teams to be held this year on **April 23 & 24, 2018 at The Living Water's Ranch in Challis, Idaho**. The overall goal of the Envirothon is to promote natural resource education in a manner that succeeding generations will be environmentally literate, with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions regarding the environment. The Idaho Envirothon is a hands-on environmental problem solving competition for high school aged students in Idaho. Participating teams complete training and testing in five natural resource categories: Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and the current issue for 2018 **"Rangeland Management, Wide-Open Spaces For All"** (*provided by North American Envirothon*). If your school would like to have a team contact IASCD at (208) 895-8928 and ask for Benjamin Kelly, Lori Kent at (208) 779-3443 or see new website at www.idahoenvirothon.weebly.com.



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Recipe Spot . . .

Sweet Potato Salad

By: Linda Codr

Ingredients:

- 8 strips of bacon, cooked and crumbed**
- 3 cups of sweet potatoes, cooked, peeled and chopped**
- 2 cups pineapple, tidbits**
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise**
- 1 tablespoon Dijon**
- 2 tablespoon fresh lime juice**
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper**
- 1/2 cup macadamia nuts**



Directions:

- Cook bacon – set aside**
 - Boil 4 or 5 sweet potatoes, whole with skin until tender – let cool**
 - Whisk together mayonnaise, Dijon, lime and pepper—set aside**
 - In a large bowl add sweet potatoes, bacon, pineapple and nuts**
 - Add in the mayonnaise mixture and combine all**
-
- For an added touch boil some eggs and put on the side.**

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