



# Conservation News & Notes

Volume 020 Number 1 FALL 2020

## Canyon SCD No-Till Drill

From: Josh Chapman and Lori Kent

Great conservation work! In the last few months since July 31, 2020 the Canyon SCD No-Till Drill has treated 490 acres with cover crop plantings and has been rented by 9 Canyon & Owyhee District Landowners.

Dave Dixon, Canyon SCD Board Supervisor has planted this field in a cover crop. Cattle was turned into the field on October 31, 2020. This Best Management Practice is a soil health improvement.

Contact Stan Hays 208-779-3446 for availability of renting drill.



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This field was planted July 31, 2020. Oats, radishes and winter peas cover crop.



This picture was take August, 25, 2020.

**QUOTE:** "We spend our lives hurrying away from the real, as though it were deadly to us. "It must be somewhere up there on the horizon," we think. And all the time it is in the soil, right beneath our feet." - William Bryant Logan, Dirt-The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth



Picture taken October 17, 2020.



Picture taken on November 2, 2020.

## Your Canyon SCD

### Supervisors:

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

### Associate Supervisors:

Tom Johnson  
Rich Sims  
Matt Livingood

### District Staff:

Lori Kent,  
Administrative Assistant  
Outreach  
Stan Haye  
Soil Conservation  
Technician

### NRCS Staff:

Tate Walters — Caldwell  
District Conservationist  
Erin Brooks — Caldwell  
Resource Conservationist  
Josh Chapman — Soil  
Conservationist  
Martin Pena — Civil  
Engineering Technician  
Bobby Hilton — Civil  
Engineering Technician  
Ted Moyer — Civil Engineer  
Rich Sims — Earth Team  
Volunteer  
Greg Fischer —  
Administrative Support Specialist

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.

Canyon SCD Website  
[https://  
www.canyonsoilconservation.  
org](https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org)

Incorporating cover crops into your rotation is a great alternative to fallow periods and an effective way to promote the health of your soil and protect natural resources. Pictured right is a multi-species cover crop that was no-till drilled following a small grain and then grazed this fall (see pg 1). In addition to providing great forage well into the fall, this cover crop will stimulate the soil biology, protect the soil from erosion, and increase available nutrients.



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## NRCS report from Tate Walters

The NRCS Team Caldwell/Marsing has been working hard to navigate the challenges the global pandemic has presented. Whether the office was closed, open or somewhere in between we've been doing our best to get out in the field with producers working to solve natural resource issues.

As the holidays are upon us, we are thankful for the flexibility and resiliency of our partners and agricultural producers. Unfortunately, at this time, the NRCS offices in Idaho are still not able to accept visitors due to COVID-19 restrictions. But please don't let that stop you from contacting us. We are happy to come to you.

If you require assistance, just give us a call and we'd be happy to set up an appointment to try to help you whether over the phone or on the farm. We look forward to being able to allow partners into our offices and host meetings etc. when it is deemed safe and prudent to do so by USDA leadership.

From the NRCS staff to all of you we wish you a safe and happy holiday season this winter!

### 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.

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## USDA Engages Public for Input on Water Quantity in the West

From: Mindi Rambo  
NRCS Public Affairs Specialist

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced it is seeking public input about water quantity in the west related to existing Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. Acting NRCS Chief Kevin Norton will host a virtual, open public listening session Thursday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. Eastern. If additional time is deemed necessary to hear all input, a second session will be held Friday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. Eastern.

"We have heard from stakeholders that we need to do more to address water quantity issues in the western U.S.," said Acting Chief Norton. "This listening session will enable us to hear directly from people at the local level on how to improve our programs and operations."

Norton also noted that USDA's roles as Co-Chair of the National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP) and in the newly established Water Subcabinet place greater emphasis on the importance of western water quantity issues.

This virtual listening session will allow stakeholders to provide feedback on the following questions:

- For agricultural producers: What is the most pressing water-related issue that may constrain or currently constrains your operations?
- For partners and organizations: What are the most pressing water-related needs in the agricultural community you assist?
- For producers and organizations: What is the most pressing water-related issue that NRCS can address through a technical or financial assistance or through facilitating collaboration?
- How can NRCS best coordinate with other Federal, State, and Local efforts to address water-related issues?
- How can State Technical Committees assist in addressing your most pressing water-related issues?

What additional issues do you confront that NRCS should have awareness of?

NRCS will gather input regarding the challenges, needed breakthroughs, and priorities through this virtual listening session and through submission of comments either by e-mail or mail delivery. NRCS will then consider this information in its evaluation of existing programs and efforts.

For more information on attending the event and providing feedback, please see instructions in [the Federal Register Notice](#). Please note that registration is required to attend or speak during the listening session. Registration to speak must be submitted by Noon Eastern Tuesday, Dec. 8. Feedback may also be provided in writing before Jan. 19, 2021.

USDA plans to record the entirety of the public listening session, including any and all segments thereof, whether conducted on Dec. 17, 2020, or any other date, including Dec. 18, 2020. Attendance by any person at any segment of this public listening session will be construed as that person's consent to the recording of any and all segments of this session and any and all future listening or disclosure of the recording. If someone does not consent to the recording of the virtual public listening session, they should not attend.



## **Grants Available through 319 Funds to Implement the Lower Boise River TMDL**

The Lower Boise Watershed Council and Canyon Soil Conservation District formed a partnership in 2009 to address sediment and nutrient runoff to the Boise River watershed. We currently have 319 funding available. This funding provides up to 60% cost share to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) which decrease runoff. Implementation of these practices has been successful in decreasing sediment and nutrients in the Boise River watershed but more work needs to be done!

If you have a project in mind you can go to our website (<https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org>), download a project application and submit to us or give Stan Hays a call to discuss your ideas at 208-779-3446.

Participation is voluntary and offers opportunities to improve agricultural practices that benefit both operators and water quality.

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### **Greg Fischer**

Hello all! I am a new face in the Caldwell Field Office working as an Administrative Support Specialist. My name tag says I am Greg Fischer.

I come to NRCS with 38 years of admin experience. I was active duty Navy for 23 years and retired as a Chief Personnelman. Following retirement I did 15 years as a civilian with Navy Facilities Engineering Command Northwest at Public Works NAS Whidbey Island, WA. My time with NAVFAC was split between working as a Management Analyst and then as the real property accountable officer. Working at NAVFAC was great. NAS Whidbey Island was undergoing major infrastructure changes due to the retirement of the EA6B Prowler and the P3 Orion. These were replaced by the EA18/G Growler and the P8 Poseidon. Over my last couple years there we were building new runway, apron, hangars and support facilities, over \$300mil in construction projects.



My wife Robin and I had a small 5 acre horse property on Whidbey Island which kept us very busy. But retirement funds and some medical issues forced us to leave that passion behind. Anyone have a fishing boat for sale? I am also a ham radio operator and enjoy making long distance contacts (DX) by Morse code.

I will be spending most of my time in Caldwell but will also be supporting Emmett, Mountain Home and Marsing. I hope to meet as many of you as possible.

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### **Tate and Erin New NRCS Positions**

Tate Walters is now Team Leader District Conservationist for Caldwell and Marsing Field Office. Tate's official position began in September.

Erin Brooks is the Caldwell NRCS Resource Conservationist. Erin's official position began in September.

## CSCD Poster Contest

In October the Canyon SCD held their annual poster contest. Lori delivered and picked up the posters (at the door) from Caldwell Adventist Elementary with Jamie Miller's students. Yvonne Golden from Notus Elementary picked up posters and brought them back to Lori (parking lot). One Student from Mill Creek participated, also.

We were still able to participate even with the Covid issues. The districts in Division III held their poster contest virtual, as well as the IASCD State Conference.

1st—Randy Brooks— Mill Creek Elementary



## Coming Events . . .

**Due to no public access to USDA Buildings/stay at home order — meetings will be held remotely until further notice.**

### District Board Meeting

Conference Call  
For more information  
contact 208-779-3443  
1:00 to 3:00 PM  
December 3  
January 7

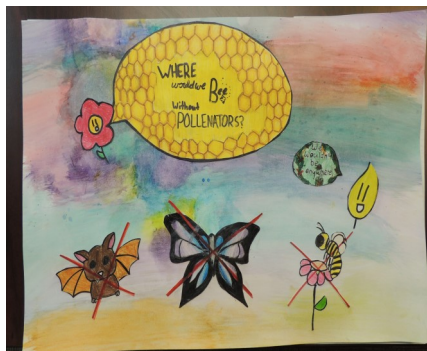
### 319 TAC Meeting

WEBEX Meeting  
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM  
December 8  
January 5

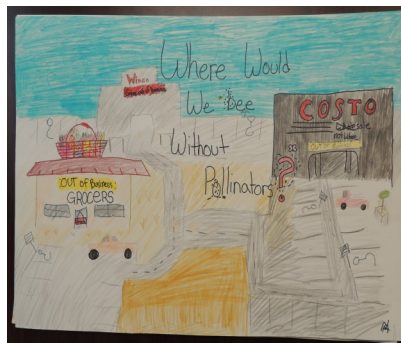
### Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group

WEBEX Meeting  
For more information  
contact 208-779-3443  
1:00 to 3:00 PM  
December NO MEETING  
January 14, 2020

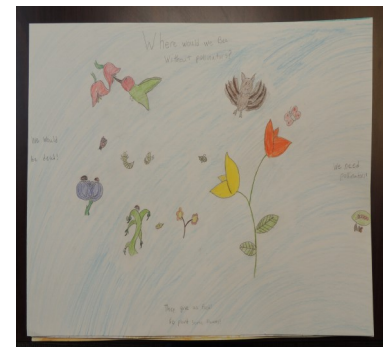
1st --Taylor Knauff—Caldwell Adventist



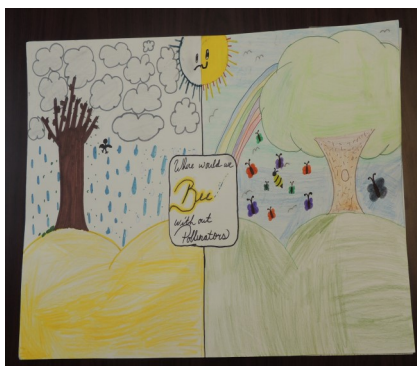
2nd-Amani Santos--Caldwell Adventist



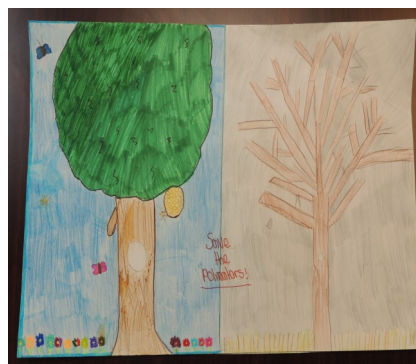
3rd -Allison Adams—Caldwell Adventist



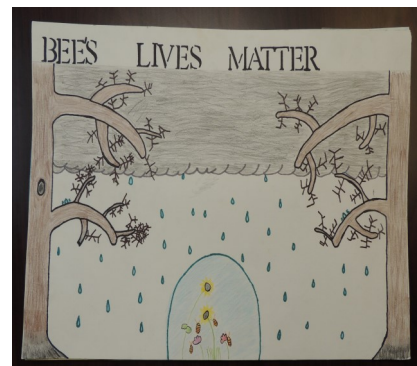
1st-Yizzy Gueiara—Notus Elementary



2nd- Anontia Garcia—Notus Elementary



3rd-Luke Jennings-Notus Elementary



## Kids Connection. . .

### Sled Ornaments

From: care.com

Santa's headed to town soon, but he's going to need his sled. Thank goodness you've got some Popsicle sticks lying around, right? Time to make some [sled ornaments](#).

**Materials:** Popsicle sticks or craft sticks, scissors, hot glue gun and glue, paint, paint brush, baker's twine or other thread

**Directions:** Cut three popsicle sticks in half, or use three mini craft sticks. Line them up, side by side, and shift the middle stick slightly up, so the sticks are staggered. Glue the sides of the sticks together to form the seat of the sled. Allow glue to dry. Cut another stick down to the width of the seat. Both rounded ends should be removed. Paint this stick and the seat. Allow to dry. Glue one full-sized stick, propped on its side, on the bottom edge of the seat. Repeat on the other side. Allow to dry. Add a loop of baker's twine or similar thread to the top, gluing in place. Hang on the tree!

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### Snowman Ornaments

From: care.com

Still feel creative and have lots of leftover Popsicle sticks? Then let the kids whip up some of these happy-faced snowman ornaments. They're easy and cute.

**Materials:** Popsicle sticks or craft sticks, hot glue gun and glue, paint, paint brush, foam stickers, baker's twine or other thread

**Directions:** Line up seven (or so) sticks, side by side, and then glue an additional stick vertically across them, about 1/3 the way down. Allow glue to dry. Paint the snowman's face and his top hat and allow to dry. Then use stickers, markers or more paint to make a snowman's eyes, nose, and mouth. Add a loop of baker's twine or similar thread to the back and glue in place. A perfect package topper, which can be then be used as an ornament.

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### Reindeer Ornaments

From: care.com

Kids will be excited to not only create these happy-making [reindeer ornaments](#) but also to hang them on their Christmas tree, too. They make sweet little gifts for grandparents or teachers and can even be used as decorative additions on a gifted cookie platter.

**Materials:** Pinecones, googly eyes, pom poms, felt, twigs, ribbon

**Directions:** Cut a pair of reindeer ears out of felt and then glue them, along with the reindeer's googly eyes, pom-pom nose and twig antlers in place. The last step is gluing a ribbon loop at the back for easy hanging.

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### Cookie Cutter Ornaments

From care.com

Homemade gifts are always a hit with grandparents, teachers, and of course your nanny. These [cookie cutter ornaments](#) are easy for even toddlers to help you make — with a little help from you — and they'll be used again and again.

**Materials:** Silver metal cookie cutters in holiday shapes, ornament string or twine

**Directions:** Cut a 6-inch piece of ornament string. Thread through the cookie cutter, and tie in a tight knot. Ask your child to choose who gets each ornament, or let them hang them on your own tree.







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## Zucchini & Yellow Squash Soup

From: Food.com

### *Recipe Spot . . .*

#### **Ingredients:**

1/4 cup olive oil  
1 medium onion, thinly sliced  
2 tablespoons minced shallots  
1 1/2 tablespoons minced garlic  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
2 medium zucchini, sliced into 1/4-inch-thick rounds (1 1/2 cups)  
2 large crookneck yellow squash, sliced into 1/4-inch-thick rounds (1 1/2 cups)  
3 cups rich chicken broth (preferably homemade)  
3 cups whipping cream  
2 teaspoons minced fresh basil  
2 teaspoons minced fresh oregano  
Salt & freshly ground black pepper

#### **Directions:**

- Heat oil in heavy large saucepan over medium-low heat.
- Add onion, shallots and garlic and cook until onion is translucent, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes.
- Add flour and stir 3 minutes.
- Add zucchini and crookneck squash and cook until softened, stirring frequently, about 5 minutes.
- Stir in stock, heavy cream, basil and oregano.
- Reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes.
- Season with salt & pepper to taste and serve immediately.

Soup may be pureed if a creamier texture is desired.

**Ready in: 1 hr 5 mins — Serves: 6-8**



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