



# Conservation News & Notes

Volume 020 Number 4 Winter 2020/2021

## Canyon SCD Performance Report FY20

The Canyon Soil Conservation District (SCD) worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Under the Team 6 EQIP there were 22 contracts totaling \$1,117,000 on 851 acres within the Canyon SCD. There was 1 contract that qualified as a State Socially Disadvantaged producer, and one that qualified as a Beginning Farmer. Through EQIP organic there were 2 contracts. This year Canyon County received the opportunity for EQIP National Water Quality Initiative funding with 7 contracts totaling \$570,000, on 489 acres. These projects included: pivot/sprinkler irrigation systems, drip irrigation systems, Irrigation Water Management (IWM), Soil Health Practices, and Pasture improvement practices.

In FY 2020 Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) was provided to 8 different producers on 1500 acres. This assistance consisted of site visits, conservation planning, engineering designs, and analysis and recommendations for irrigation systems, and planting. There were various irrigation systems including recommendations for improved gravity systems, sprinklers, and drip systems.

The 319 Program 2020 funded 3 projects in amount of \$130,000.00 on 155 acres.

Canyon SCD (CSCD) Outreach educates the landowners, public, and students in conservation awareness.

**\*\*** July 25-29, 19th CSCD had an education and outreach booth and display at the County Fair with 358 participants for the four-day event.

**\*\*** CSCD/319 Project tour was held 8/29/2019 with 22 attendees. FY 2019 tour focused on completed project sites for Best Management Practices.

**\*\*** Caldwell Service Center donated 240 lbs. to Metro Community Services, 9/23/19.

**\*\*** Canyon office staff participated in 5<sup>th</sup> grade Ada SWCD conservation field days with over 200 students & teachers at the 5-day event, 9/ 29/19.

**\*\*** Sponsored the District Poster Contest students from Notus Elementary, Caldwell Adventist Elementary and Mill Creek Elementary, 10/4/19.



Board of Supervisors .....	2
CSCD Performance Report FY 20 (continued) .....	2
Local Work Group .....	3
Treasure Valley Pollinator ....	4
Grant 319 Funds .....	4
Idaho Snow Survey .....	5
Upcoming Events .....	5
Kid's Connection .....	6
Recipe Spot. ....	8

### QUOTE:

**It is humankind's duty  
to respect all life, not  
only animals have feel-  
ings but even also  
trees and plants.**

**BY: Albert Einstein**

## 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)

\*\* January 26-27, 2019, participated at the Western Idaho Ag Expo with an educational display. NRCS & Farm Service Agency partnered a booth next to CSCD. This was a great way to reach out to the public as a one stop shop for 233 attendees at the two-day event.

\*\* Participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Soil Health Symposium 2/13/20 with 180 participants, along with the CSCD Soil Health Display.

\*\*CSCD participated at the Harvest and Hearth Workshop Farm & Heritage Ad SWCD hosted event on 2/14/20 at the College of Idaho, Caldwell.

\*\* The Canyon SCD newsletter goes out quarterly to 600 subscribers.

Canyon SCD will continue to seek future projects for Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Water Quality Improvements and the possibility of additional 319 funding. In the absence of 319 funding, there may be some irrigation evaluations to be done and used for demonstration. There are numerous projects for 319 funding if available. Center pivot sprinklers, wheel line sprinklers, annual drip systems, and permanent drip systems have been requested and there is a continued interest in products utilizing this funding.

Continued efforts will be made with the assistance of a Conservation Technical Assistance Program. The Canyon SCD Resource Enhancement Project is designed to accelerate natural resource treatment and improvements. This project will address high priority natural resource issues documented by Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) plans and Watershed Planning documents.

Canyon SCD will continue partnering with agencies, and plan and seek funding to address resource concerns.

Canyon SCD will continue to promote natural resource conservation through outreach & education programs for youths and adults. Canyon SCD \$800.00 Capacity Building Funds

The Canyon SCD was able to use the Capacity Building Funds in the amount of \$800.00 for outreach and education to inform landowners, students and the public of the importance of Best Management Practices (BMP's) for our soil and water conservation and natural resources. Power Point Presentations were put together for the Western Idaho Ag Show, Canyon County Budget Meeting, Canyon County Fair, Canyon SCD Tours, Soil Health Symposium, and several other events. Canyon SCD will continue outreach and education to inform the landowners, students and the public to teach and conserve all-natural resources and importance of (BMP's).



5th Grade Conservation Days



CSCD No-Till Drill Cover Crop Planting

### 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.

## Local Work Group Concerns

Local Work Group (LWG) met on November 17, 2020. This is a group meeting chaired by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and is a diverse group made up of local farmers, ranchers, as well as representatives from natural resource agencies like: Fish & Game, DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality), University Extension, local municipalities and others with a stake in agriculture and natural resources. This group works to determine natural resource priorities for the upcoming year. These resource priorities then direct NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) monies for work on projects to be accomplished within Ada, Canyon and Owyhee Counties, (Treasure Valley High Desert Team.)

### Areas of concern and priorities that were discussed were:

1. Wind and Water Erosion
2. Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss
3. Source Water Depletion
4. Degraded Plant Condition
5. Soil Quality Limitation
6. Fire Management, and
7. Livestock Production Limitation

### Team 6 funding categories—Ada, Canyon & West Owyhee Counties

1. Cropland
2. Pasture
3. Rangeland
4. High Tunnel
5. Soil Health

Questions will be developed by NRCS to provide a point system for qualification for those applying for the various projects.

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The Local Working Group recommendations are essential to NRCS in making sure that the priorities we put our Farm Bill assistance dollars toward, are actually the issues that the local producers and community believe need addressed. Local input is critical, so I want to thank all of the folks who took the time to participate in last fall's meeting. I think the group did a great job in outlining priorities that will address important resource issues, and cover diverse agricultural operations. I am thankful that as I write this, an unusual amount of snow is melting off my roof. Much of our area saw greater than average snowfall this month, and it was sorely needed. Hopefully it will be adequate to fill reservoirs to fully supply this coming irrigation season, and to put up lots of feed and spring water in the range. The Treasure Valley High Desert NRCS Team located in the Caldwell and Marsing Field Offices has been very busy over this winter. 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. We are excited to see progress being made in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic and look forward to being able to return a more "business as usual" method of working. I am happy to report that currently, the Caldwell office is now able to allow visitors by appointment into our office building. That is subject to change as number of cases changes, so call to be sure. Regardless of our office abilities, we are happy to meet with 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. – Tate Walters

## Treasure Valley Pollinator Project

Jessica Harrold from Ada SWCD

Did you know that YOU can make a big difference to local pollinators? Join the Treasure Valley Pollinator Project to start your garden, learn how to make your habitat the best it can be for insects, and help us keep track of the pollinators you see in your garden!

### How to Participate

#### 1. Purchase your flowers

There are FOUR different flower mixes available. Each mix is blended to attract a wild variety of pollinators including native bees, butterflies, beetles, and tons of other beneficial insects! You can purchase just one tray, or multiple varieties of any tray! No flower substitutions are allowed between trays, however. To order flowers - <https://www.adaswcd.org>.

#### 2. Attend our pollinator workshops and field days

Throughout the year there will be several FREE workshops available for you to attend, including "How to Create a Healthy Pollinator Habitat" and "Insect Identification and Conducting Pollinator Counts"

#### 3. Help us track our local pollinators with citizen science and receive a pollinator prize pack

Beginning in July, we will send out monthly pollinator surveys to track our pollinator success! This feedback will help us monitor pollinator species, keep track of what's blooming, and help us see how great our community has been at providing beneficial bug habitat!

Complete three out of four pollinator surveys to be eligible for our Pollinator Gift Pack! This pack includes stickers, postcards, a pollinator activity pack, and more -- all made by local artists!

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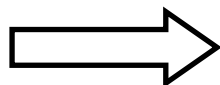
### Grants Available through 319 Funds to Implement the Lower Boise River TMDL

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.

**Gravity Irrigation to  
Pivot is one BMP's.**





## Idaho Snow Survey-Trinity Mountain

From: Mindi Rambo, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist

The NRCS Idaho Snow Survey program gathers critical snowpack data which is vital to water management in Idaho. These data are especially important to the agricultural community, as the water supply to grow crops is largely dependent on our winter snowpack. Additionally, dam operators heavily rely on Snow Survey data to properly manage and assess flood risk.

For a number of years, we have evidence to suggest one or more people has/have been using a snowmobile to intentionally sabotage snow data at the Trinity Mountain SNOTEL station in Elmore County, by repeatedly riding over the snow pillow and under the snow depth sensor (see attached photo of site configuration). At 7,770 ft, Trinity Mountain SNOTEL is the highest elevation snow measuring site in the entire Boise River Basin, and is **critical** to all water management decisions made in the basin and for users throughout the Treasure Valley of Idaho.

Please help spread the word that sabotaging snow data at Trinity Mountain has negative implications for water management in Idaho and directly impacts our farmers and ranchers.



### 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

March 4

April 8

7:00 to 9 PM

May 6

#### 319 TAC Meeting

WEBEX Meeting

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

March 2

March 30

May 2

#### Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group

WEBEX Meeting

For more information  
contact 208-779-3443

1:00 to 3:00 PM

March 11

April 8

May 13

**Soil Stewardship Week**  
**April 25—May 2, 2021**  
**2021 Theme for Contests**  
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## Envirothon Information 2021

### *Kids Connection. . .*

The Idaho Envirothon: is a hands-on environmental problem solving competition for high school aged students in the Idaho. Participating teams complete training and testing in five natural resource categories: Soils & Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and the current issue. Winning teams from each state and province advance to the North American Envirothon for an opportunity to compete for recognition, scholarships, and prizes.

2021 Idaho Envirothon has been scheduled for April 30th to be held online through ZOOM. 2021 Current Issue: Water Resource Management: Local Control and Local Solutions.

For additional information, team registration form and timeline guidance go to <http://idahoenvirothon.weebly.com/>.

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### Pop up Daffodil Flowers

kidscraftroom.com

Supplies to make pop up daffodil flowers: large yellow cupcake liners, mini yellow cupcake liners, mini oranges cupcake liners, green drinking straws, paper plates, glue, sticky tape, staples, scissors.

Start making your pop up daffodil craft by using some large yellow cupcake liners to make petals. Our cupcakes liners were quite thin and only colored on one side so we glued them back to back to give us a color on both sides & to make them a bit thicker.

Cut your yellow cupcake liners around the edge to make the petals. Young children might prefer just to straight cut but other or more able children could cut traditional petal shapes.

It's lovely if possible for children to be able to look at a real daffodil so they can see how many petals there are in real life, & what shape they are.

It's easy to make your daffodil cup using two small cupcake liners. Again we tuck two back to back but this time used yellow & orange.

Older children might like to pinch the sides of the cupcake liner to give a fluted effect.

If a fluted edge is too tricky for younger children you can stick the cup in as it is or maybe snip around the edge instead.

To finish off your homemade daffodil use some sticky tape to attach each one to a green straw for a stem.

To turn your daffodil cup into a pop up, paint a paper plate green, fold it in half & staple each side to make a large pocket.

Cut a little tiny notch out of the middle bottom of your folded plate & thread your straw through the notch.

Now your daffodil flower can be pulled down to hide inside the green paper plate hill.

To grow their daffodil children can gently push their daffodil back out.

We think this pop up daffodil is lots of fun & hope you & your children have a great time with it too!







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## Lemon Jell-O Cake

From: Mama Sara

### *Recipe Spot . . .*

#### **Ingredients:**

1 Pkg of Yellow cake mix  
1 Pkg of Lemon Jell-o  
4 Eggs  
3/4 cup Oil  
3/4 cup Water



Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. Beat real good about 8 minutes. Grease and flour pan or spray with PAM & put in 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. Take out of oven poke holes in cake real good with fork.

#### **Toppings/Combine:**

2 cups Powdered Sugar  
Juice from two Lemons spoon over cake while still hot.  
Make topping real runny.

Serve with your favorite ice cream.

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