



# Conservation News & Notes

Volume 021 Number 2 Summer/Fall 2021



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## Huge Success for Conservation

In June of 2020, a local producer within the Lower Boise watershed followed a crop of grain after harvest and rented CSCD No-Till Drill and planted a four way mixture using peas, oats, turnips hairy vetch, and volunteer barley grazed the growth off, and will only chisel plow his field before planting a crop of corn. Usually, prior to planting, several tillage operations include a disking after harvest. Then, in the spring, two more passes with a disc or possible plow are made depending on compaction and soil type; Roller harrow followed by planter. By using CSCD's no-till drill, this producer figured he saved a minimum of \$35.00 an acre in costs.

Many of the diaries in Canyon County are planting triticale after a harvested corn crop. Then, in the spring, they will harvest this second crop prior to planting corn again, putting residue back into the soil making for better soil health.

After wheat harvest in July, CSCD received another request for the use of the no-till drill, and again, after beans and beets, planted with drill. After beet harvest, this field was planted last fall with CSCD's no-till drill.

When properly used, no-till drilling will reduce on farm fuel costs, soil erosion from both wind and water, labor costs, in effect better water quality and water quantity.

By October 1st, Canyon SCD No-Till Drill planted a total of 1224 acres of cover crops since the purchase in June of 2020.

### QUOTE:

**"What you see  
DEPENDS ON  
How you see  
THE WORLD."**

**"To most PEOPLE, this  
is just DIRT.  
To a FARMER, it is  
POTENTIAL."**

From: Doe Zantamata



↑ Winter Wheat



Field planted with CSCD No-Till Drill

CSCD  
NO-Till Drill



## 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 Hays  
Soil Conservation  
Technician

### NRCS Staff:

Tate Walters — Treasure Valley High Desert Team Leader/  
Caldwell District Conservationist  
Erin Brooks — Caldwell  
Resource Conservationist  
Josh Chapman — Caldwell  
Resource Conservationist  
Martin Pena — Civil  
Engineering Technician  
Bobby Hilton — Civil  
Engineering Technician  
Ted Moyer — Civil Engineer  
Rich Sims — CSCD  
Associate Supervisor/Earth Team  
Volunteer  
Martha Schmidt — Soil  
Conservationist  
Benjamin Stiff — Range  
Conservationist  
Teresa Villalobos  
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://](https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org)**  
**[www.canyonsoilconservation.org](https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org)**

## CSCD at Canyon County (CC) Fair

By: Lori Kent

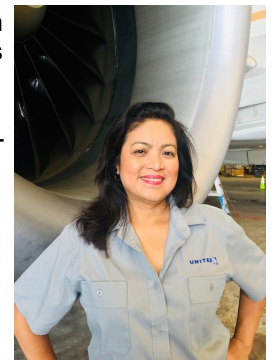
Canyon Soil Conservation District (CSCD) was so happy to participate at CC Fair, July 29th—August 31st of this year! I manned the CSCD booth all 4 days as NRCS was not able to help during pandemic. I want to thank Rich Sims, Rob & Nancy Roberts, CC Fair employee's, & all the others who helped me man CSCD booth when I needed some yummy fair food or anything else. It was good to be able to visit old friends and meet new friends. Each day over 100+ attendees entered CSCD booth for brochures and information on Best Management Practices. There was lots of interest in Canyon SCD No-Till Drill pictures and information on types of cover crops used for planting. The children were excited to receive candy, pencils, and Micro Mini brochures. Due to hot weather everyone enjoyed the chance to pick up a fan to cool off and grab a USDA bag to fill up with their goodies. I am looking forward to seeing everyone next year!



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## Administrative Support Specialist

My name is Teresa and I am new to the Treasure Valley. I grew up in the Philippines, lived in Japan and migrated here in the U.S. 29 years ago. I am a Foodie, world traveler and ended up hobbies of cooking international cuisine. I was at the Aviation Industry in San Francisco as a Maintenance Planning Analyst, so travel is on the side is all what we do during the spare time. My favorite places to travel is Japan, Caribbean and Italy. I love snorkeling, hiking and cooking at home. I am currently working at the USDA State Office as an Administrative Specialist. We started visiting Idaho last year and we fell in love with it. Now, we're permanently living in Nampa and enjoying life and nature. I am looking forward to meet the rest of the Area West Team and learn more about of what we do as a contributor to our Natural Resources Conservation.



### 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.

## Treasure Valley High Desert Local Work Group Meeting

By Lori Kent

The Treasure Valley High Desert Local Work Group (LWG) met on September 2, 2021 at the Homedale Event Building/ZOOM with 33 attendees. John Cossel supervisor with Owyhee Conservation District (OCD) chaired the meeting. The LWG is a diverse group made up of local farmers, ranchers, as well as representatives from natural resource agencies like: Fish & Wildlife, Fish and Game, Department of Environmental Quality, University Extension, local municipalities, and others with a stake in agriculture and natural resources. The LWG works together to determine natural resource priorities for the NRCS programs the upcoming year. These resource priorities then direct NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) financial assistance for work on projects to be accomplished within Ada, Canyon and Owyhee Counties. Thank you to everyone who participated in person and on ZOOM.



Susie Thayer, OCD



Treasure Valley High Desert Team 6



Oscar Evans-OCA & John Cossel-OCD

### Resource Concerns to prioritize:

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 funding categories—Ada, Canyon & West Owyhee Counties

1. Cropland — 50%
2. Pasture — 20%
3. Rangeland — 20%
4. High Tunnel — 5%
5. Soil Health — 5%

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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 on September 2, 2021. I think the group did a great job in outlining priorities that will address important resource issues and cover diverse agricultural operations. The Treasure Valley High Desert NRCS Team located in the Ada, Caldwell and Marsing Field Offices has been very busy. Whether the office is 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. 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. From—Tate Walters



## Lower Boise Watershed Council Project North Alkali Drain

On July 22, Mike Somerville, Mike Swartz, Tate Walters, Stan Haye, Hal Anderson & Rob Tiedemann visited the North Alkali Drain Water Quality Improvement Demonstration Project. This project provides empirical data to demonstrate the “proof of concept” and the efficacy of the removal of phosphorous from agricultural return water in the Lower Boise River basin by use of Constructed Basins / Constructed Wetlands (CB/CW). It has provided valuable information on the costs of design, construction, and operation of CB/CW. The Project is available in a series of reports and presentations submitted to the LBWC for use by private and public entities interested in improving water quality in the Lower Boise River by treatment of non-point source pollutants at tributaries to the river.

**Benefits and work products resulting from this partnership include the following:**

1. Demonstration of the efficiency of an interactive process - involving the land owner, designer, and engineer - that resulted in multiple preliminary design alternatives that differ in their ability to meet design objectives. The process allowed for the rational evaluation of alternatives and selection of a preferred alternative by objective criteria including: (a) constructability; (b) Federal, State of Idaho, and local permit requirements; © integration into the existing landscape; and (d) costs of construction and operation.
2. Development of a quality assurance/quality control plan for the collection and preservation of water samples.
3. Discovery of the means and methods of optimizing the collection, preservation, and processing of water samples given the constraints and limitations presented by the project location and its design.
4. Exactness in the operation of water control and measurement devices that: (a) delivered raw water to the CB, (b) portioned the decant to a distribution manifold that delivered process water to the CW, and (c) measured volumes of water at the outlet of the process.
5. Understanding of the risk of invasion by weeds, and the means and methods of their practical management.
6. Accuracy and precision in the processing of data, and analysis and interpretation of results.
7. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the production of original data demonstrating the efficacy of CB/CW in the removal of suspended solids and both total and dissolved phosphorous from irrigation return water.

**Work Products Deliverables:**

1. Annual written report(s): (a) summarizing all water quality and plant community data, our interpretation of the results, and their implications for use of CB/CW for the long-term treatment of non-point source pollutants (i.e. phosphorous, nitrogen, temperature) in the Lower Boise River basin; and (b) presenting a third-party analysis and evaluation of use of the WiseH2O mApp.
2. Annual presentation(s) to the LBWC and others providing a visual summary of our efforts and their results. Graphics and other visuals will be in an electronic format appropriate for use in presentations to the interested public and publication on the LBWC web site.
3. Availability of the principals of the project to answer questions from the LBWC related to the practices of maintenance and operation of CB/CW and other topics of interest.

For more specific information on this project contact Hal Anderson, Idaho Water Engineering, 2918 N. El Rancho Place, Boise ID 83704, 208-378-1513/208-830-5525 or [hal@idahowaterengineering.com](mailto:hal@idahowaterengineering.com).

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

If you have a project in mind you can give Stan Haye a call to discuss your ideas at 208-779-3446 or contact Lori Kent at 208-779-3443 to receive an application.

For more information visit the LBWC website at [www.lowerboisewatershedcouncil.org](http://www.lowerboisewatershedcouncil.org).



## The People's Garden

By Lori Kent

This year Caldwell Service Center — The People's Garden has donated 255 pounds of produce to Metro & The Salvation Army. Canyon Soil Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service donated 7 pounds of USDA sacks & fans to Metro.

Now as the weather is cooling off there's lots of green tomatoes and a few tomatoes that are slowly ripening. We informed the Caldwell Service Center to help their selves to the garden before the clean up begins.

We had to put in a few new fence posts as someone backed into the fence. Hopefully next year we can put up a new fence. I want to thank everyone who donated items and time towards The People's Garden.

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## NRCS Announces Application Deadline for EQIP Sign-Ups

From: Mindi Rambo

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Idaho has a November 5, 2021, application deadline for Fiscal Year 2022 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) projects.

"One way we can assist Idaho's farmers, ranchers and private timber producers is through EQIP," said Curtis Elke, NRCS State Conservationist for Idaho. "But, it is not the only way we can help. We offer technical assistance and conservation planning as well as financial aid. So, I urge you to get in touch with your local NRCS field office and learn more about what we have to offer."

Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis, however, only the applications received by November 5 will be considered for funding during this particular cycle. Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed in subsequent cycles.

EQIP helps agricultural producers complete resource conservation projects and make conservation-related management changes on their farms or ranches. Conservation program participation is voluntary and helps private landowners and operators defray the costs of installing conservation practices.

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## Site Visit

From: Benjamin Stiff

On a site visit at Tim Lequerica's, Benjamin Stiff & Josh Chapman found an interesting nature moment, a Gardner snake trying to eat a Rainbow Trout. Benjamin informed me that with proper management fish are able to live in smaller streams and the complexity of ecosystems and how nothing is wasted. The location of the stream is Corral Creek. Contact Caldwell Service Center for assistant at 208-779-3443.



## 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

7:00 to 9:00 PM

September 9

October 7

November

### 319 TAC Meeting

WEBEX Meeting

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

September—no meeting

October 5

November

### Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group

WEBEX Meeting

For more information  
contact 208-779-3443

1:00 to 3:00 PM

September 9

October 14

November

### CSCD Poster Contest

Caldwell Service Center

Conference Room

October 4

### Division III Fall Meeting

Payette SWCD Hosts

October 12

### IASCD State Conference

Boise Double Tree

November 9–12



**Materials Required:** 1 large empty cereal box; colored cardstock or construction paper; shells; kinetic sand (found at the Dollars Store for only \$3); light green pipe cleaners; Googly eyes; turquoise paint; silver paint; stones; string; Fish Template; X-acto knife (adults only to use); hot glue (adults only to use) & scissors.

**Directions to make a cereal box aquarium:**

1. First you need to trace a cut-out on your box. We used a sharpie to make our lines and then used an x-acto knife (adults only) to cut out the center of the box.
2. Now paint the inside of your box a turquoise blue color.
3. Paint the outside of your box silver (to make it look like an aquarium).
4. Now you can decorate your aquarium however you'd like!

**Here are the elements we added:**

**Kinetic sand** as a background on the bottom. We didn't try regular sand but regular sand would likely work too. The kinetic sand sticks together and holds in place so it's easy to work with. You could also use cereal like cheerios or a puff style cereal to make it look like sand.

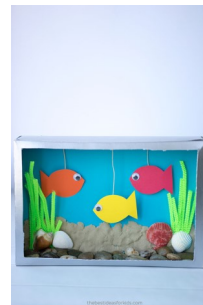
**Green Pipe Cleaners** – cut some strips of green pipe cleaners and glue to the bottom of your box to make it look like seaweed.

**Sea Shells** – we used the sea shells to hide the bottom of the pipe cleaners. Add some sea shells whenever you think they will fit! These will need to be hot glued down.

**Stones** for the bottom of the aquarium. Stones will add some weight for the aquarium to stand up on its own. Stones can be placed at the bottom or hot glued down.

**Now it's time to add your fish!**

4. Make a fish template
  5. Now cut out your fish template and use it to trace your fish shapes onto your colored paper. We used orange, yellow and red cardstock.
  6. Glue on googly eyes to your fish.
  7. Take a small piece of string and tape it to the back of your fish.
  8. Now attach the strings to the top of your cereal box.
- Now you have a finished cereal box aquarium. We hope you had as much fun making these as we did!



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**Cactus Pet Rocks**

<https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/pet-cactus-rocks>

**Materials Required:** rocks (choose them based on the size of your terra cotta pot. A flat surface area is needed for the googly eyes); googly eyes; outdoor acrylic paint (green, white & bright green; mini terra cotta pots; hot glue (adults only or glue dots for kids)

**Directions on how to make these adorable Pet Cactus rocks:**

1. First, select your rocks. As mentioned above, you want to look for rocks that are flat on one side so the eyes will go on smoothly. You can even see if you can find some extra details that may give the rock a mouth.
2. Clean your rocks before painting.
3. Paint with [outdoor paint](#) if you want to place outside. Otherwise, regular acrylic paint works well. We did 2 coats of the lighter green to ensure we got complete coverage. Once you have the green painted, use the white to create different cactus designs! We did dots, hash marks, lines and stars. Our favorite is the hash marks.
4. Now glue on your googly eyes! Use hot glue or glue dots.
5. Now they are ready to go into their pots!

If you'd like them to stand higher in their pots, use a little bit of paper towel or foam in the bottom of the pots.

And now you have a family of pet cactus rocks! You'll love your new "pet" to place in an office, on a porch or in the kitchen.







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## Recipe Spot . . .

### Chocolate, Chocolate Chip Zucchini Bread

From: Amber Shoemaker

#### Ingredients

1 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon sea salt  
2 large eggs, at room temperature  
1/4 cup unsalted butter melted and slightly cooled  
1/4 cup canola or vegetable oil  
3/4 cup packed light brown sugar  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1 1/2 cups packed shredded zucchini  
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips, divided



#### Instructions

Preheat your oven to 350°F. Grease a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan with nonstick cooking spray and set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and sea salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, add the eggs, melted butter, oil, vanilla extract, and brown sugar. Stir until smooth. Stir the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients, don't overmix. Stir in the shredded zucchini until just combined. Stir in ¾ cup of the chocolate chips. Pour batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle the remaining ¼ cup of chocolate chips over the top of the bread. Bake for 50-60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the bread comes out mostly clean, you might have some melted chocolate chips on the toothpick and that is fine. Remove the pan from the oven and set on a wire cooling rack. Let the bread cool in the pan for 15 minutes. Run a knife around the edges of the bread and carefully remove from the pan. Let the bread cool on the wire cooling rack.

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