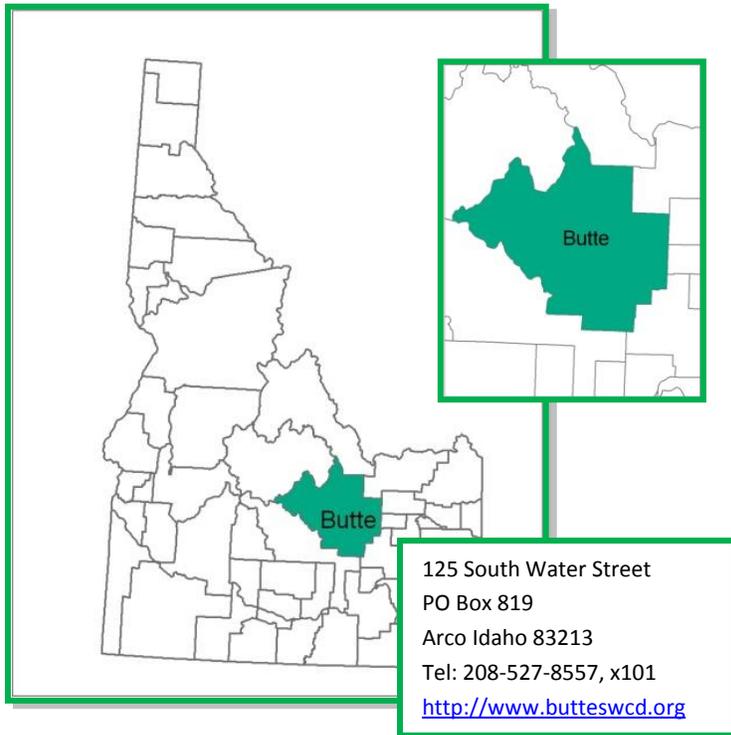


Butte Soil and Water Conservation District - January 2014 – December 2014



Natural Resource Concerns

- Water Quality and Water Resources (quantity)
- Cropland and Pasture (irrigated and non-irrigated)
- Animal Waste Management and Riparian
- Information and Education

Board of Supervisors & Staff

- Randy Purser Chairman
- Walt Johnson Vice-Chairman
- Todd Perkes Sec/Treasurer
- Jeff Isham Member
- Mark Telford Member
- Frances Perkes Administration Assistant
- Teena Lord Program Coordinator

January – December 2014 Funding

Local Units of Government -----	\$ 8,277.60
State of Idaho -----	\$22,832.22
Capacity Building Grant -----	\$ 875.00
District Operations Funding -----	\$ 1,000.00
Donations and Sales -----	\$ 3,500.00
Estimated Value of Volunteer Time --	\$9,000.00
RC&D Ag Energy -----	\$ 4,727.00
Weed Program Administration -----	\$ 1,229.00
USDA NRCS Farm Bill Programs-----	\$2,619,277.00

Sage Grouse Initiative

Butte County continues to be a center of activity for the NRCS' Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), which seeks to address threats to the greater sage grouse through voluntary, cooperative conservation practices implemented by agricultural producers. Because "what is good for the grouse is good for the ground", the goals of the SGI and private landowners often dovetail, and win-win conservation plans can be developed that benefit both the grouse and the long-term viability of a ranching operation. The SGI is implemented through multiple NRCS programs:

Grassland Reserve Program

In 2014, NRCS conservationists continued to work with landowners enrolled in or still awaiting final closure on SGI conservation easements through the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), which has been replaced by the restructured Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) in the 2014 Farm Bill. Baseline inventories were completed on two ranches, and conservation and grazing plans are currently being developed for those properties.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Butte Soil & Water Conservation District accepted three applications for EQIP through the Sage Grouse Initiative in 2014. One of these projects has been deferred due to potential disruption to cultural resources during planned conservation practice implementation, and an alternate plan is being developed to address these concerns. Two applications were approved and contracted. The first project involves range planting to enhance sage grouse late brood rearing habitat along a riparian and wet meadow area. The second project involves prescribed grazing on nearly 3,000 acres to improve residual grass cover, plant diversity and vigor and long term range health in potential breeding, nesting, and winter habitat. Structural practices such as fence, pipeline and watering facilities are included in the conservation plan to facilitate the implementation of prescribed grazing on the property. All practices will be implemented with great care to minimize and mitigate disturbance to sage grouse and other wildlife. This includes installing fence markers along the new cross-fence and existing fence near a lek and installing wildlife escape ramps in all livestock watering facilities.

Educational Programs

6th Grade students from Arco and Mackay participated in the Poster Contest. The theme this year was “DIG DEEPER - Mysteries in the soil”



- 295 students from Arco and Mackay elementary made edible soil profiles to learn about the “Mysteries in the soil”.
- Held an annual 6th grade Natural Resources Day with Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Fish and Game, Lost River Coordinated Weed Management Group and South Custer Fire District participating.



Steve Wright, archeologist with the Bureau of Land Management in Salmon



Cassie Wood, U.S. Forest Service

- Nine students attended the Natural Resources Camp in Ketchum, Idaho on scholarships coordinated by Butte SWCD.



- Sponsored two teams to the Idaho State Envirothon. The team from Butte planted choke cherry trees at the Community Garden for a team project.



- Thank you to SWC for the Capacity Building funds that BSWCD used to help sponsor this activity.

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION**

DISTRICT: BUTTE SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FOR YEAR:

2014

DUE :

December 20, 2014

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Performance Report is true and accurate, and further submit said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Performance Report shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.



Board Supervisor Signature

RANDY PURSER

Printed Name

12/8/14
Date

208-527-8557, EXT 101
Telephone

Telephone

Frances.Perkes@id.nacdnet.net
District Email Address

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: