



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
- Mark Telford Vice-Chairman
- Todd Perkes Treasurer
- Jeff Isham Member
- Walt Johnson Member
- Frances Perkes Administration Assistant
- Mindy Hawley Public Outreach Coordinator
- Stephanie Barnes Technical Assistant

January 2018 – December 2018	Funding
Local Units of Government -----	\$ 9,481.00
State of Idaho -----	\$ 21,329.24
Capacity Building Grant -----	\$ 800.00
District Operations Funding -----	\$ 2,000.00
Donations and Sales -----	\$ 7,325.00
Estimated Value of Volunteer Time --	\$ 9,000.00
Program Administration -----	\$ 5,486.00
USDA NRCS Farm Bill Programs-----	\$ 1,439,352

LOW ELEVATION SPRINKLER APPLICATION



LESA with different nozzle heights

Low-elevation sprinkler application (LESA) applies water 12 to 18 inches above ground wetting less foliage. Nozzle pressures can be regulated to as low as 6 to 10 psig. which reduces pumping energy and water leaks. The technology is especially effective during periods of high temperatures, high winds, and low humidity.

Both surface and ground water availability is limited within the Butte SWCD area. Most of the irrigated cropland in this region has been converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation.

Declining water availability has been a source of controversy and conflict in the unique Lost River Watersheds for many decades, pitting outdoor enthusiasts, surface irrigators, and groundwater irrigators against each other. Drought years exacerbate the issue, and irrigators are looking for ways to cut back on their water consumption both voluntarily and to meet potential future curtailment requirements.

Because center pivot equipment life is approximately 30 to 50 years, irrigation equipment manufacturers and distributors have developed retrofit kits that can be used to convert existing pivots into LESA units.

Brian Harrell installed LESA on two pivots that would dry up by July. This year he was able to harvest a crop from under all the whole pivot even when the water table dropped.

There have been two LESA's and eighteen retrofit projects completed through the Arco FO. A rebate system is also available through power companies.

Educational Programs

- **STEWARDSHIP**



Over 100 Students from Arco and Mackay elementary participated in Stewardship Week.

- **6th GRADE POSTER CONTEST**



Over Sixty students from both Butte Middle School and Mackay Elementary participated.

- 1st: Aislin Stayman(Arco)
- 2nd: Jaimie Bodreau(Mackay)
- 3rd: Brenna Waymire(Arco).

- **NATURAL RESOURCE CAMP**



Butte SWCD sponsored seven students from Arco and Mackay to attend the Natural Resources Camp in Ketchum, Idaho.

- **NATURAL RESOURCE WORKSHOP**



Over sixty local 6th grade students attended presentations by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Lost River Coordinated Weed Management Group, Butte SWCD, South West Custer Fire Station and NRCS.

- **SPEECH CONTEST**



Butte SWCD sponsored Jennifer Schaefer at their Division VI Fall meeting. She won first place and advanced to participate in the IASCD Contest in Post Falls, ID. where she won third place.

- **IDAHO ENVIROTHON**



Butte SWCD sponsored one team for the Idaho Envirothon.

- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANT**



Butte SWCD applied for and received a grant of EQIP technical assistance funds from NACD. Stephanie Barnes has been hired to assist NRCS in carrying out a coordinated soil and water conservation program. Stephanie was born and raised in northeastern Oklahoma. She obtained her bachelor's degree in fish and wildlife biology from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and a Master of Science degree from the University of Nebraska. After graduation, she worked for Nebraska's Natural Resource Districts for almost four years. Stephanie recently married and relocated to Arco. In her free time, Stephanie enjoys gardening, hiking, quilting, and collecting insects. She is thrilled to join the Butte Soil and Water Conservation District team.