



BUTTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Long-time District Employee Frances Perkes Retires

After 37 years, Frances Perkes retired from the Butte SWCD in early September. When Frances started with the District in 1984, she said she had put her name in for consideration to replace the outgoing District Clerk and did not hear anything back until a couple weeks later when she received a call asking if she was coming to work. She hit the ground running and worked hard to assist the board and NRCS



Frances with District Supervisors and NRCS staff

staff to

meet the goals of conservation in our District. During her time with the SWCD, Frances has been instrumental in youth education outreach at the District and Division level and the state Envirothon competition. Frances' was



Frances serves lunch at a 6th grade tour

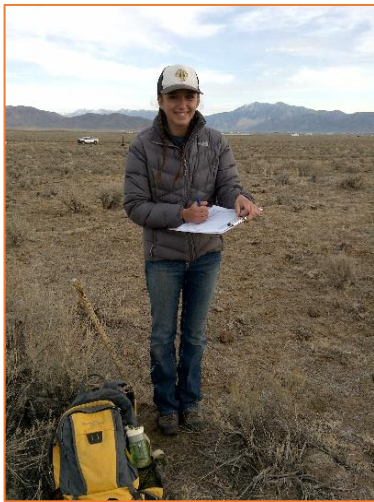
recognized as the Idaho Conservation District Employee of the Year in 2002. Frances will be missed by all and has plans to sit back and relax and follow her favorite sports teams in events this Fall. Please send her a note with well wishes to fperkes@atcnet.net.



Frances hard at work

District Hires New Employee

The Butte SWCD filled the NACD technical assistance grant role following previous technician Jennifer Weathered's employment with the Arco NRCS office. Samantha Spaulding



District Employee Sam Spaulding

started work in October and will be covering Butte, Custer, and Blaine Counties. Samantha has a bachelor's of science degree in wildlife management from the State University of New York at Cobleskill. Samantha has worked various

positions for Idaho Department of Fish and Game over the last three years, most recently as a fish culturist in American Falls. In her free time, Samantha likes to rock climb, bird hunt, and hike. Samantha will be assisting the NRCS in field work and contracting duties. Welcome aboard Sam!

6th Grade Natural Resources Tour

Forty-eight 6th grade students from Butte Middle School and Mackay Elementary gathered at the lower sportsman's access area to participate in a natural resources workshop sponsored by the Butte SWCD in September. The students attended presentations by the Salmon-Challis National Forest, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited,

Bureau of Land Management, Lost River Coordinated Weed Management Group, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Butte County's University of Idaho Extension Office, and the South Custer Fire District. Following the fun-filled day, the students were treated to a lunch of hot dogs



Mark Wheeler with the Butte County Weed Department shares information about noxious weeds

and ice cream at the Mackay Reservoir. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 6th grade natural resources tour!

The Butte SWCD board of supervisors meets the third Thursday of each month, visit www.butteswcd.org for more information

Local Working Group Meeting Held

The Butte SWCD and Blaine SCD held a joint local-working group meeting in August. The goal of this meeting was to determine the natural resource priorities to focus NRCS EQIP funding towards in 2022. Seventeen participants attended the meeting held via Zoom and in-person. The natural resource concerns identified during the meeting were:

- 1) Water quantity
- 2) Energy conservation
- 3) Soil health
- 4) Invasive weeds/pests
- 5) Streambank stabilization
- 6) Terrestrial wildlife habitat
- 7) Stockwater systems

- 8) Livestock feeding systems
- 9) Plant productivity and health

District Partners with the Bee Conservancy

This summer, the District partnered with The Bee Conservancy to act as a host site for a native bee house. The bee house will provide



Community garden participant Chad Cheney at the Arco Community Garden

nesting habitat for native leaf-cutter bees. The bee house was installed at the Arco Community Garden where it will serve as nesting habitat for bees pollinating the garden. We would like to extend a huge

thank-you to UI Extension professor emeritus Chad Cheney and the Arco Community Garden for installing the bee house. For more information on pollinators and The Bee Conservancy, visit www.thebeeconservancy.org.

Cheatgrass Challenge Started This Fall in Butte County

Landowners participating in the NRCS' Cheatgrass Challenge started their projects this fall. Vegetation surveys were completed by District staff to capture baseline conditions. Chemical treatment began in 2021 and post-treatment vegetation surveys will be completed for three years. For more information on the Cheatgrass Challenge contact the

NRCS office at 208-527-8557.

District Partners with Landowners and Agencies to Create Wildlife Friendly Corridor

A series of local working group meetings held in the Spring resulted in a team effort to retrofit fences to be more wildlife friendly along the pronghorn migration corridor in Butte and Blaine Counties. Interested landowners are



Public Meeting for Antelope Migration Corridor Initiative

eligible for NRCS, IDFG, and USFWS technical and financial assistance. Wildlife friendly fence along the corridor will allow pronghorn, and other wildlife, to move

more freely – reducing the time spent lingering on specific fields - and reduce injuries obtained by contact with barriers. For more information, contact the NRCS office at 208-527-8557.

District Participates in County Fair

The Butte SWCD provided an information booth at the Butte County Fair. The booth contained information on District, NRCS, FSA, and ISWCC programs. The booth also had a display and information about the invasive species Cheatgrass.

Speech Contest Winners

The annual speech contest was held in September with a record number of five participants vying for

first place. This year's theme was "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities." All five contestants did an excellent job and the board had a hard job designating awards. First place was George Cecil, second place Josie MacConnell, and third place Tannabe Cecil. The three winners were also selected in the same order at the Division level speech contest. Way to go!



2021 Speech Contest Winners

A Kiss for the Winner

District resident Timothy Barnes, Arco, placed second in the conservation practices photo category of the 2020

National Association of Conservation District’s photo contest. Timothy was awarded a certificate and \$50 for his photo of an elk herd in the Big Lost River Valley. The contest is held each year and includes categories for both youth and adults. The 2021 contest deadline is



Timothy Barnes receives his award certificate and a kiss from District secretary Stephanie Barnes (his wife)

December 1st. For more information and contest rules, visit www.nacdnet.org.

ISWCC Welcomes New Administrator; Sets New Loan Rates

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission recently

hired Delwyne Trefz as the organization administrator following the retirement of Terri Murrison. Delwyne has been with the Commission in various roles since 2009. The Commission board felt Delwyne had the institutional and background knowledge of the Commission that will be important to their mission. Congratulations Delwyne!

In August, the Commission board voted to lower the rates for their agricultural loans. The new rates are: 1.0% up to 7-year term 1.25% for 10-year term



1.5% for 15-year term For more information regarding agricultural loans, contact the Commission at 208-332-1790.

Annual Poster Contest Winners

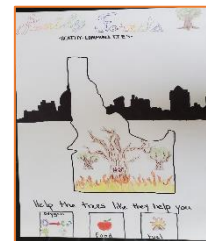
This year’s annual poster contest followed the theme “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities”. The 6th graders from Butte and Mackay Schools did an excellent job!



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place

Butte SWCD
P.O. Box 819
Arco, ID 83213

Butte SWCD Board of Directors

Randy Purser	Chairman
Mark Telford	Vice-Chairman
Todd Perkes	Treasurer
Walt Johnson	Member
Hayden Isham	Member

Butte SWCD Staff

Mindy Hawley	Outreach Coordinator
Stephanie Barnes	Admin. Assistant
Samantha Spaulding	Technician

NRCS Staff

Jesse Fullmer	Team Lead
Lara Fondow	Resource Conservationist
Berett Rosenkrance	Range Mgm't Specialist
Jennifer Weathered	Soil Conservationist
Brooke Morgan	Soil Conservationist

In This Issue:	
Frances Retires	1
6th Grade Tour.....	2
Cheatgrass Challenge.....	3
Speech Contest	4
ISWCC Loans.....	5