



BUTTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Butte SWCD Presents Service Awards



Frances Perkes

The Butte Soil and Water Conservation District recognized Board Supervisors and staff for their dedicated service during the 2019 Annual Meeting in Arco. Each were presented with a service award plaque and a certificate of appreciation signed by Governor Little. **Frances Perkes** was presented an award for 35 years of service. Frances has served as the administrative assistant, educational outreach coordinator, and is the current financial advisor and office manager. Frances has created environmental education materials for youth, coordinated farming and ranching workshops for residents, and been actively involved in local and state levels of Envirothon. Board Supervisor **Randy Purser** was recognized for 33 years of service with the District. Randy has been very hands-on during his time as Supervisor and does everything from attending conservation meetings across the state to cooking hotdogs during the Annual 6th Grade Natural Resources Tour. Randy is the current Board Chairman and has been instrumental in keeping the District active in environmental conservation. **Jeff Isham** was recognized for 30 years of



Randy Purser



Jeff Isham

service as a Board Supervisor representing the Little Lost River Valley. Jeff is a leader in conservation within his community and is always willing to share his experiences with his neighbors. We appreciate all our Board Supervisors and staff for their hard work to keep natural resource conservation a priority within the Butte Soil and Water Conservation District and we look forward to serving you for many more years to come. To learn more about the District and their projects, visit butteswcd.org.

Invasive Weed Spotlight

Leafy spurge is classified as a noxious weed in



Leafy spurge near Mackay

several states, including Idaho. Leafy spurge is an invasive and aggressive weed that is hard to eradicate once established. Leafy Spurge is characterized by heart shaped leaves arranged on an umbel shaped head that produces a milky white sap when damaged. The sap is toxic to cattle, horses and humans if injected. Control measures include chemical, physical and biological. Interestingly, there are seven beetles, two flies and three moth

species used for biological control of leafy spurge. Pictured below is a hawk moth larva feeding on a leafy spurge plant near Arco. For help identifying and treating leafy spurge, please contact your county weed department, extension office, or NRCS service center.



A hawk moth larva feeds on leafy spurge near Arco

District Speech Contestant Places Second in State Competition

Last fall, Jennifer Schaefer, of Moore, participated in the

Division VI speech contest during the Fall Division VI meeting, representing the Butte SWCD. She won first place and was awarded a check and a trip to the state competition in Boise. The state competition was held during the annual IASCD conference in Boise where contestants competed in front of a large crowd of District and NRCS employees. Jennifer's speech focused on the importance of soil health in agriculture. Jennifer placed second and received a \$200 check. Way to go Jennifer!



Jennifer Schaefer at the Speech Contest in Boise

Arco NRCS Receives EQIP Special Project Funding

The Arco NRCS office was awarded special funding provided through the Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSmart grant. The award provided



Pipeline installation near Arco

cost-share funding to convert an existing irrigation ditch into a pipeline and retrofit existing pivot nozzles with low elevation spray application (LESA) sprinklers. The project will increase irrigation efficiency by eliminating water loss from shrink and evaporation. Additional funding and in-kind support for the project was provided by the Big

Lost River Irrigation District, the Munsey Ditch Committee and the Butte SWCD. The project was completed last Fall.

Staff Attend Annual IASCD Conference

Three staff were able to attend the annual Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District’s conference in Boise. The three-day conference provided attendees with opportunities to attend educational sessions on various natural resource related topics and administrative updates. An educational field trip was conducted to Vine and Branch Ranch and McIntyre organic farm near Boise. The staff obtained useful information and appreciated the opportunity to attend the conference.

Learn more about the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts by visiting IASCD.org

Local Work Group Meeting Held

The Butte SWCD and Blaine SWCD held a joint local work group meeting in December at the Craters of the Moon National Monument Visitor’s Center. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss local natural resource concerns and provide the NRCS with direction for 2020 funding priorities. Twenty-nine people were in attendance representing local



Local Work Group Meeting

landowners and partner agencies. The meeting was very productive and informative. We appreciate everyone who attended. Minutes from the

meeting can be found on our website at butteswcd.org.

2019 Division VI Fall Meeting Held in Moore

The Butte SWCD hosted the annual Division VI meeting at the Valley Community Center in Moore last October. The division meeting gives the Districts with the Division VI area (includes Butte, Custer, East Side, West Side, Jefferson, Lehmi, Madison, Teton and Yellowstone SWCDs) a chance to gather and discuss current events taking place across the state and



Division VI meeting in Moore

2020 Redbooks are available at the Butte and Custer County Extension Offices

District Annual Performance Report Now Available Online

The Butte SWCD annual performance report is now available on the District’s website. The report features highlights of District activities, accomplishments and goals for the coming year. The report is submitted to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and our local senators and representatives.

Range Management Specialist Added to NRCS Office

A range management specialist position was added to the Arco NRCS field office. We are pleased to welcome Berett Erb to the NRCS team. Berett has been employed by the Butte SWCD since July 2019

under the District’s technical assistance grant. Berett is from Mackay and obtained a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Montana Western. Berett has been previously employed by the BLM as a range technician. Berett will work with producers to create livestock grazing plans and focus on rangeland management conservation projects.

District Facebook Page Created

The District has a Facebook page that can be found by searching “@ButteSoilAndWaterConservationDistrict” in Facebook. Updates, notices, photos, and conservation related articles will be posted on the page. Be sure to “like” us to stay connected.

Butte SWCD's Winter Workshop

Focus: Irrigation Efficiency

Featuring U.I.
Extension/N.R.C.S.
Presentation Topics:

- ❖ L.E.S.A. Systems
- ❖ Soil Sampling
- ❖ Water Sensor Technology
- ❖ Nutrient Management
- ❖ N.R.C.S. Programs

Please Join Us!

March 9th, 2020

1:00-3:30pm

B.I.C., 159 N. Idaho St., Arco

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

Free and Open to the Public!

Butte Soil and Water Conservation District

For more information contact: 208-527-8557, ext. 101



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
Jeff Isham	Member

Butte SWCD Staff

Frances Perkes	Office Manager
Mindy Hawley	Outreach Coordinator
Stephanie Barnes	Admin. Assistant
Jennifer Weathered	Technician

NRCS Staff

Jesse Fullmer	District Conservationist
Lara Fondow	Soil Conservationist
Chris Merrill	Engineering Technician
Berett Erb	Range Mgm't Specialist

In This Issue:	
Service Awards	1
Speech Contest	2
Local Work Group Meeting	3
New NRCS Staff.....	4
Winter Workshop.....	5