



Latah Soil & Water Conservation District

Annual Work Plan

Fiscal Year 2014

(July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014)

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Mission Statement

Lead local efforts to promote the stewardship of natural resources through the development of comprehensive plans and the implementation of strategies for economic and ecological sustainability, on behalf of our citizens, through the coordination of leadership, information and funding.

Goals

Local Governance - Lead and support landowner, land user, local community, and government agency efforts to collectively identify natural resource issues of concern, review alternative solutions to address these issues, and undertake local efforts to resolve priority issues using voluntary mechanisms.

District Capacity - Develop and maintain the political and organizational capacity to fully exercise Latah SWCD rights and responsibilities.

Community Outreach - Promote efforts to enhance local community understanding of ecological systems, the social systems directly dependent upon these natural systems, and the political and organizational systems developed for management of natural resources within Latah County.

Comprehensive Planning - Promote individual, local, regional, state, tribal and national planning efforts that recognize, and manage for, the interconnected elements of natural systems and seek sustainable management approaches for the natural resources within the Latah SWCD while providing for the long-term natural resource conservation objectives of landowners and land users, strengthening the long-term health of local economies and protecting the long-term public interest of the community.

Coordinated Implementation - Lead the voluntary implementation of conservation efforts that seek to simultaneously protect and enhance the long-term productivity of the Latah SWCD's natural resource base while providing for the long-term natural resource conservation objectives of landowners and land users, protecting the established rights of individual landowners and land users, strengthening the long-term health of local economies, and protecting the long-term public interest of the community.

Overview of Annual Work Plan

The Annual Work Plan delineates current District priorities as derived from the Latah SWCD Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan. The Annual Work Plan is comprehensive *only with regard to specific tasks to be completed during the current fiscal year*. Annual tasks listed in this plan are proposed for completion with existing financial and technical resources. Where applicable, tasks are assigned a lead district supervisor. District staff members responsible for implementing each task are also identified, with the lead staff member listed first. For example, if Anderson is the lead supervisor and Heekin is the lead staff with support from Erhardt, it will appear as (Anderson/Heekin, Erhardt).

The companion Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan was developed to serve as a comprehensive document. It thoroughly identifies Latah SWCD objectives and strategies as they pertain to each of the five Latah SWCD goals. The Five-Year Plan includes a complete list of tasks that Latah SWCD could accomplish over the next five years should adequate technical and financial resources become available. Furthermore, it provides overviews of the Latah SWCD (history, law, structure and financing), Latah County (area, watersheds, land use, transportation and infrastructure, demographics, and economics), natural resources within Latah County, and interagency collaboration.

Each task within the Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan and the Annual Work Plan begins with a specific “action word” described as follows:

- Coordinate:** Coordination implies an active leadership role for the design, development and implementation of a given task.
- Participate:** Participation implies that another entity or individual assumes the lead coordination role and the Latah SWCD serves in an active advisory or supporting role.
- Facilitate:** Facilitation assumes a temporary leadership role with primary roles eventually assumed by other parties. The facilitation role of the Latah SWCD is to link interested individuals with existing agencies and community resources.
- Review:** Reviews include the identification and summation of resource conservation concerns within Latah County and an outline of the Latah SWCD’s potential future role.
- Monitor:** Monitoring implies a passive role that simply keeps the Latah SWCD alert to resource conservation issues that may affect Latah County.
- Inform:** Inform refers to the dissemination of readily available resource conservation information.
- Sponsor:** Sponsorship implies financial contributions in the form of membership dues or project/event donations.
- Endorse:** Endorsement implies explicit support for individual conservation strategies developed by other agencies and organizations. The Latah SWCD does not have an active role within the proposed strategy.

Organization of Annual Work Plan

The Annual Work Plan is divided into five separate work plans which correspond to the five Latah SWCD Goals:

- Local Governance
- District Capacity
- Community Outreach
- Comprehensive Planning
- Coordinated Implementation

Within each of the five work plans, tasks are grouped into categories. The Coordinated Implementation Work Plan is subdivided according to eight categories known as Resources of Community Concern (ROCCs). These include:

- Agricultural Lands
- Fisheries
- Forest Lands
- Public Health
- Range and Pasture Lands
- Special Status Species
- Threatened Ecosystems
- Wildlife

Note: Water quality resource concerns are addressed throughout the above-listed resource concerns.

Local Governance Work Plan

Goal: Lead and support landowner, land user, local community, and government agency efforts to collectively identify natural resource issues of concern, review alternative solutions to address these issues, and undertake local efforts to resolve priority issues using voluntary mechanisms.

The local governance work plan is categorized according to:

- 1) Latah SWCD Governance
- 2) Local Governance

Latah SWCD Governance Tasks	
1.	Coordinate directly with federal, tribal, state and local agencies to develop and/or revise conservation policies and management practices to improve the Latah SWCD’s ability to fulfill the conservation goals, objectives, strategies, and tasks as outlined in the Resource Conservation Plan. (All staff)
2.	Coordinate directly with other elected officials to address common natural resource management concerns. (Board/Stinson, Schwendiman)
3.	Coordinate with the signatories of the Mutual Agreement and the Cooperative Working Agreement to make necessary revisions to the agreements, as needed. (Board/Stinson, Schwendiman)
4.	Coordinate Latah conservation breakfast meetings with the Latah Board of County Commissioners and Idaho State Legislators. (Schwendiman)
5.	Participate with the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District/Division II collaborative efforts within North Central Idaho (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce conservation districts). (Board/Stinson, Schwendiman)
6.	Coordinate monthly Latah SWCD Board meetings so that they are easily accessible to the public. (Schwendiman, Stinson)
7.	Participate in the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts’ annual conference. (Board/Stinson, Schwendiman)
8.	Participate with other conservation district boards and staff with developing policy, management and technical capacity, as requested. (Board/All staff)

Local Governance Tasks	
1.	Participate in public forums on topics of local interest. (Board/All staff)
2.	Participate in the annual Palouse Basin Water Summit. (Stinson)

District Capacity Work Plan

Goal: Develop and maintain the political and organizational capacity to fully exercise Latah SWCD rights and responsibilities.

The district capacity work plan is categorized according to:

- 1) Board Leadership
- 2) Professional Staffing
- 3) Organizational Infrastructure

Board Leadership Tasks	
1.	Coordinate Latah SWCD elections in concert with Latah County’s general election. (Schwendiman)
2.	Coordinate the recruitment of interested landowners and agricultural operators that might have an interest in serving as supervisors or associate supervisors. (Board)
3.	Participate in local, regional, state, tribal and federal intergovernmental processes that address issues relevant to the Latah SWCD’s mission, goals and objectives. (Board/Stinson, Schwendiman)
4.	Participate in the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD). (Board)
5.	Sponsor the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). (Board)
6.	Participate as a member of the Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council. (Stinson)
7.	Participate in district capacity training for district supervisors. (Board/Stinson, Schwendiman)

Professional Staffing Tasks	
1.	Coordinate and maintain a salary schedule and employee benefits package comparable to peer positions within state and federal agencies. (Board/Stinson)
2.	Coordinate staff training. (Stinson, All staff)
3.	Coordinate technical and management assistance to other conservation districts, as requested. (Stinson, All staff)
4.	Sponsor the Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA). (Board)

Organizational Infrastructure Tasks	
1.	Coordinate a central Latah SWCD filing system. This filing system will include historical and current information. (Schwendiman, Adams)
2.	Coordinate the development and maintenance of a computer network; update computer software and hardware necessary for the effective delivery of Latah SWCD programs. (Adams, Marchinek)
3.	Coordinate the development of a district GIS database and perform technical data analyses (Dansart)
4.	Coordinate a professional accounting system to manage Latah SWCD funds in accordance with standard accounting policies while maintaining the security of the personnel and program participant’s sensitive information. (Stinson, Schwendiman)
5.	Coordinate updates to the Latah SWCD’s personnel policies, as needed. (Schwendiman, Stinson)
6.	Coordinate updates to the Latah SWCD’s mission, goals, objectives, etc. (Schwendiman, Stinson)
7.	Coordinate the purchase and maintenance of district vehicles and field equipment. (Adams,

Marchinek)

Community Outreach Work Plan

Goal: Promote efforts to enhance local community understanding of ecological systems, the social systems directly dependent upon these natural systems, and the political and organizational systems developed for management of natural resources within Latah County.

The community outreach work plan is categorized according to:

- 1) General Community Outreach
- 2) Youth Outreach
- 3) Landowner/Land User Outreach
- 4) University Outreach

General Community Outreach Tasks

- 1. Coordinate maintenance of distribution lists for distributing Latah SWCD announcements and publications. (All staff)
- 2. Coordinate the development and maintenance of the Latah SWCD website. (Schwendiman)
- 3. Coordinate the development and distribution of Latah SWCD press releases and updates. (Schwendiman)
- 4. Coordinate community educational forums to discuss natural resource management programs within Latah County. (All staff)

Youth Outreach Tasks

- 1. Coordinate the annual Conservation Awareness Days for area schools. (Schwendiman)
- 2. Sponsor Envirothon, Forestry Contest, Land and Soil Evaluation Event, and Idaho Ag in the Classroom up to the historical amounts. (Board/Schwendiman)
- 3. Coordinate scholarships for students to attend Natural Resources Camp. (Board/Schwendiman)
- 4. Coordinate assistance for teams to participate in Envirothon, Idaho State Forestry Contest, and Land and Soil Evaluation Event. (Board/Schwendiman)
- 5. Coordinate annual poster and essay contests. (Schwendiman)
- 6. Coordinate classroom presentations as requested. (Schwendiman)

Landowner/Land User Outreach Tasks

- 1. Coordinate the annual Latah Conservation Stewardship Award banquet and field tour. (Schwendiman, Stinson)
- 2. Participate in the annual Family Forest Landowners and Managers conference. (Stinson)
- 3. Participate in the annual North Idaho Grazing Workshop sponsored by IASCD/Division II. (All staff)
- 4. Coordinate field and farm tours to highlight new and innovative technologies and practices. (Schwendiman, All staff)

University Outreach Tasks
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Coordinate scholarships and/or internships for university students focused on natural resource conservation. (Brown, Stinson)2. Participate in formal and field presentations and forums as board and staff time permits. (Heekin, Erhardt)

Comprehensive Planning Work Plan

Goal: Promote individual, local, regional, state, tribal, and national planning efforts that recognize, and manage for, the interconnected elements of natural systems and seek sustainable management approaches for the natural resources within the Latah SWCD while providing for the long-term natural resource conservation objectives of landowners and land users, strengthening the long-term health of local economies and protecting the long-term public interest of the community.

The comprehensive planning work plan is categorized according to

- 1) Landowner and Land User Conservation Planning
- 2) Watershed Planning
- 3) Community/Economic Development Planning
- 4) Land-Use and Transportation Planning

Landowner and Land User Conservation Planning Tasks	
1.	Coordinate the development and maintenance of an efficient and effective Latah SWCD process for planning and contracting services between the Latah SWCD and individual landowners and land users. (Heekin, Dansart, Stinson)
2.	Coordinate the identification and development, if needed, of appropriate professional standards and specifications for conservation practices. (Dansart, Heekin)
3.	Coordinate conservation planning assistance to partner state and federal conservation agencies when staff resources are available and the assistance is mutually beneficial to Latah SWCD and affected parties. (Heekin, Dansart)
4.	Review state and national planning policies that may affect the ability of the Latah SWCD to provide conservation planning assistance to landowners and land users. (Stinson, Heekin, Dansart)

Watershed Planning Tasks	
Columbia and Snake Rivers	
1.	Monitor the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) process to determine possible effects on the Latah SWCD’s ability to provide resource conservation services. (Stinson)
Clearwater River	
1.	Participate with the Clearwater Technical Group. (Stinson, Dansart, Heekin, Schwendiman)
2.	Monitor Clearwater River watershed planning efforts to determine possible effects on the Latah SWCD’s ability to provide resource conservation services. (Stinson, Dansart, Heekin, Schwendiman)
Potlatch River	
1.	Coordinate continued updates to The Latah SWCD’s Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan. (Schwendiman, Stinson)
2.	Participate in the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality’s (IDEQ) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) processes related to the Potlatch River watershed. (Dansart, Stinson)
3.	Review IDFG’s Potlatch River fisheries monitoring program. (Stinson, Dansart, Heekin, Schwendiman)
4.	Review ISDA’s and IDEQ’s Potlatch River water quality monitoring program. (Dansart)
5.	Review USDA Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands’ (IDL) planning efforts within the Potlatch River watershed to determine opportunities for collaborative conservation on private lands within the

watershed. (Dansart, Heekin, Stinson, Schwendiman)
Palouse River
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee’s (PBAC) planning efforts to protect and improve water quality and quantity of local groundwater systems. (Dansart) 2. Review IDEQ’s water quality monitoring programs throughout the watershed. (Dansart)
Cow Creek/Union Flat Creek
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate with the Cow Creek WAG and associated state agency’s efforts to develop a TMDL implementation plan for the Cow Creek watershed. (Dansart, Stinson)

Community/Economic Development Planning Tasks
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review economic opportunities for biofuel production, and associated agricultural crop production, within Latah County and the greater Palouse region. (Stinson, Brown) 2. Review opportunities for forest biomass utilization within Latah County and north-central Idaho. (Stinson)

Land Use and Transportation Planning Tasks

Coordinated Implementation Work Plan

Goal: Lead the voluntary implementation of conservation efforts that seek to simultaneously protect and enhance the long-term productivity of the Latah SWCD's natural resource base while providing for the long-term natural resource conservation objectives of landowners and land-users, protecting the established rights of individual landowners and land-users, strengthening the long-term health of local economies, and protecting the long-term public interest of the community.

The coordinated implementation work plan is subdivided according to eight primary Resources of Community Concern (ROCCs) for planning and management purposes. These include:

Agricultural Lands
 Fisheries
 Forest Lands
 Public Health
 Range and Pasture Lands
 Special Status Species
 Threatened Ecosystems
 Wildlife

Note: Water Quality Resource Concerns are addressed throughout the above-listed ROCCs.

A ROCC is defined as an individual issue, or grouping of issues, that is inherently valuable to members of the community. This community value is strong enough to warrant a voluntary commitment of time, energy and/or financial resources. A unique conservation goal pertains to each ROCC. Each of the eight primary ROCCs is divided into secondary ROCCs. Annual Work Plan tasks within the Coordinated Implementation Work Plan are organized according to secondary ROCCs.

There are common tasks applicable to all eight primary Resources of Community Concern. Tasks common to all ROCCs include:

1. Coordinate and participate in inter-agency efforts relevant to the fulfillment of each ROCC's goal and objectives. (All staff)
2. Facilitate landowner and land user access to technical resources, financial resources and educational resources (e.g., handbooks, resource guides, demonstrations, tours, roundtables, competitions, etc.) relevant to the fulfillment of each ROCC's goal and objectives. (All staff)
3. Endorse federal, tribal, state, local and non-governmental efforts to implement management plans and practices that are consistent with the Latah SWCD's mission statement and will significantly enhance the fulfillment of each ROCC's goal and objectives. (Board/All staff)
4. Endorse land use planning efforts consistent with Latah SWCD's mission statement and each ROCC's goal and objectives. (Board/Stinson)
5. Endorse research and monitoring efforts consistent with Latah SWCD's mission statement and each ROCC's goal and objectives. (Board/All staff)
6. Review program development opportunities consistent with each ROCC's goal and objectives. (Stinson, All staff)

Agricultural Lands

Agricultural Lands Resource Conservation Goal: Maintain and improve long-term soil productivity on agricultural lands while providing voluntary opportunities for the long-term preservation of working agricultural lands in Latah County.

The agricultural lands ROCC is categorized according to two secondary ROCCs:

- 1) Soil Productivity
- 2) Agricultural Land Preservation

Soil Productivity Goal: Maintain and improve long-term soil productivity on agricultural lands through development, adoption, promotion, and demonstration of practices that benefit inherent and dynamic soil properties associated with productivity potential within the framework of economic and social needs.

Soil Productivity Tasks

Soil Health/Quality Deficiencies

1. Coordinate trials addressing alternatives to commercial fertilizer inputs. (Jones, Esser, Huggins, Meyer/Brown)
2. Coordinate soil erosion and water quality control practices to manage concentrated flow affecting agricultural lands (i.e., BMP, program that complements existing NRCS programs). (Hawley, Meyer, Walker/Stinson, Dansart)
3. Facilitate outreach and adoption of appropriate strategies to halt or reverse soil acidification. (Hawley, Huggins, Meyer/Brown, Stinson, Schwendiman)
4. Facilitate ability of agricultural producers to evaluate achievement of goals through yield monitoring, soil testing, plant testing, and soil health monitoring/assessment. This includes coordinating acquisition of a weigh wagon to facilitate yield trials. (Jones, Esser/Brown, Stinson, Schwendiman)
5. Participate in on-farm investigations/trials of best management practices or alternative practices. (Hawley/Brown)
6. Participate with NRCS to develop and/or modify Best Management Practice standards and specifications while also informing landowners and land users of NRCS programs. (Meyer, Walker/Brown, Stinson, Dansart)
7. Endorse research evaluating direct linkages between productivity and soil biology response to management practices. (Board)

Precision Management Deficiencies

1. Coordinate synthesis of existing knowledge on current topics of high priority (e.g., the relationship between cropping system, soil organic matter, soil health, nutritional value of food, and human health). Draw from local expertise/experience, extension publications, relevant research, etc. (Hawley, Esser/Brown, Stinson, Schwendiman)
2. Facilitate programs targeting adoption of precision agriculture principles and/or technology including but not limited to remote sensing diagnostics to evaluate mid-season progress. (Esser, Jones/Brown, Stinson, Schwendiman)
3. Coordinate increased understanding of how precision agriculture impacts economic and environmental sustainability of agroecosystems. (Anderson, Huggins/Brown, Stinson)

4. Coordinate mitigation practices for sensitive areas. (Walker/Brown)
5. Monitor advances in soil fertility testing and nutrient management planning to improve understanding of individual agroecosystems (Jones, Meyer/Brown)

Agricultural Land Preservation Goal: Maintain productive agricultural lands within Latah County through the implementation of voluntary strategies that support profitable family farms and rural economies.

Limiting factors affecting agricultural land preservation include: loss of productive agricultural lands, loss of rural amenities, and crop predation by animals.

Agricultural Land Preservation Tasks
Loss of Productive Agricultural Lands
1. Review “right-to-farm” programs to support continued commercial agricultural production in Latah County. (Stinson, Schwendiman, Brown)
Loss of Rural Amenities
Crop Predation by Animals
1. Review programs to increase public awareness of crop predation by elk and deer. (Stinson, Schwendiman)

Fisheries

Fisheries Resource Conservation Goal: Preserve and restore fish habitat for the benefit of resident and anadromous fish.

The fisheries ROCC is categorized according to two secondary ROCCs:

- 1) Resident Fish
- 2) Anadromous Fish.

Resident Fish Goal: Protect and restore resident fish habitat throughout Latah County in a way that is consistent with habitat protection and restoration needs of other fish and wildlife species.

Resident Fish Tasks¹
Degraded Water Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate local riparian restoration efforts, including streamside plantings, fenced cattle exclosures and off-stream watering developments, control of invasive vegetation, and streambank stabilization. 2. Coordinate local restoration efforts designed to stabilize known sources of sediment input (e.g. eroding gullies, bare streambanks, and forest roads).
Extreme Fluctuations in Water Quantity
Degraded In-Stream Habitat Conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate conservation planning with agricultural producers, including the use of conservation programs designed to encourage protection of prairie, wetland, and riparian areas and highly erodible lands.

¹ In FY13, projects undertaken that benefit resident fish will be accomplished as a complementary component to projects focused on restoration of anadromous fish habitat. Staff leads for these tasks are identified within the anadromous fish tasks.

Anadromous Fish Goal: Protect and restore anadromous fish habitat in the Potlatch River Watershed as outlined in the Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan consistent with habitat protection and restoration needs of other native fish and wildlife species.

Limiting factors affecting anadromous fish include: These factors include: high water temperatures, flashy stream flows, low summer base flows, lack of stream complexity, barriers to migration, and sedimentation. These issues are addressed in the Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan.

Anadromous Fish Tasks

1. Coordinate the implementation of best management practices as outlined in the Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan.

The majority of funding managed by the Latah SWCD are grants and contracts secured from various state and federal funding sources for implementation of Latah SWCD’s Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan. FY13 efforts seek to address several limiting factors that affect the production and distribution of wild steelhead within the Potlatch River.

Highlighted below are the projects, organized by subwatersheds within the Potlatch River drainage, which will be managed by Latah SWCD in FY13.

Big Bear Creek

- IDL Schwartz Creek Passage Barrier Removals (Dansart, Stinson, Schwendiman)
- IDL Big Bear Forest Riparian Restoration (Dansart, Heekin, Stinson)
- Upper Big Bear Riparian Restoration (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)
- Riparian Plantings/Vegetation Monitoring (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)
- Culvert Inventory (Dansart)
- Stream Assessment (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek, Schwendiman)

Bob’s Creek

Boulder Creek

- Riparian Plantings/Vegetation Monitoring (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)

Cedar Creek

- Culvert Inventory (Dansart)

Corral Creek

- Racetrack Meadow Restoration (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)
- Railroad Fill Removal Site Stabilization (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)
- Avulsion/Round Meadow Restoration (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)
- Tee/Colby Meadow Restoration (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)
- USFS West Fork Meadow Restoration (Engineering) (Heekin)
- USFS Livestock Off-Site Water Developments (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek)
- Water Table Monitoring (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek)
- Stream Assessment (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek, Schwendiman)
- Discharge Monitoring (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek)

Cougar Creek

- Stream Assessment (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek, Schwendiman)

East Fork Potlatch River

- Forest Road Stabilization (Dansart)
- Riparian Plantings/Vegetation Monitoring (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)
- Culvert Inventory (Dansart)

Feather Creek

- USFS Road Relocation and Meadow Restoration (Engineering) (Dansart)

Leopold Creek**Little Bear Creek**

- Dutch Flat Dam Passage Barrier Removal (Engineering/Planning) (Dansart)
- Riparian Plantings/Vegetation Monitoring (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)
- Culvert Inventory (Dansart)
- Discharge Monitoring (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek)

Little Potlatch Creek

- Riparian Plantings/Vegetation Monitoring (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)
- Streambank erosion monitoring (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek)

Lower Potlatch River Mainstem**Middle Potlatch Creek**

- Stream Assessment (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek, Schwendiman)
- Riparian Plantings/Vegetation Monitoring (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)

Moose Creek

- IDL Livestock Off-site Water Developments (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek, Stinson, Schwendiman)

Pine Creek

- Riparian Plantings/Vegetation Monitoring (Heekin, Adams, Marchinek)
- Culvert Inventory (Dansart)

Pivash Creek**Purdue Creek****Ruby Creek****Upper Potlatch River Mainstem**

- USFS Livestock Off-site Water Developments (Dansart, Adams, Marchinek, Stinson, Schwendiman)
- Culvert Inventory (Dansart)

Forest Lands

Forest Lands Resource Conservation Goal: Preserve and restore forest productivity on private and public lands while providing voluntary opportunities for the long-term preservation of working forest lands in Latah County.

The forest lands ROCC is categorized according to two secondary ROCCs:

- 1) Forest Productivity
- 2) Forest Land Preservation

Forest Productivity Goal: Protect and enhance forest conditions that maintain ecosystem functions and processes, support water quality, and provide for habitat and species diversity, while enhancing the future production potential of private forests.

Forest Productivity Tasks
Soil Erosion
1. Facilitate landowner access to technical resources and educational opportunities related to best management practices for road building and maintenance and harvesting practices. (Stinson, Schwendiman)
Altered Fire Regimes
1. Facilitate landowner efforts to complete forest thinnings for fuel-reduction and/or prescribed fire treatments. (Stinson)
Harmful Insects and Diseases
1. Endorse programs or activities that educate landowners about harmful insects and diseases. (Board/Stinson)
Invasive Plants
1. Facilitate landowner access to educational materials related to the identification and control of invasive plants. (Heekin, Erhardt)
Reduced Stand Diversity
1. Participate with the Idaho Department of Lands with regard to the implementation of Idaho’s Statewide Forest Resource Strategy. (Stinson)
2. Facilitate landowner access to technical materials related to profitable and ecologically sound harvesting practices. (Stinson)
3. Endorse programs or activities that educate landowners on profitable and ecologically sound harvesting practices, including snag retention. (Board/Stinson)
Inadequate Stand Stocking
1. Facilitate landowner access to technical resources and programs related to reforestation. (Stinson/Schwendiman)

Forest Land Preservation Goal: Preserve working forest lands within Latah County through the implementation of voluntary strategies that support sustainable timber extraction consistent with natural processes and the protection of water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife.

Forest Land Preservation Tasks
Resource Conflicts
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate the delivery of multi-disciplinary forest planning information to landowners. (Stinson) 2. Participate in the annual Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference. (Stinson) 3. Facilitate landowner access to information about conservation easements. (Stinson, Schwendiman)
Unsustainable Harvest
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor forest products and practices that may improve the ecological and economical sustainability of working forest lands. (Stinson)

Public Health

Public Health Resource Conservation Goal: Support the management of natural resources in a manner that protects the public health of citizens of Latah County and the Palouse region while simultaneously providing for long-term economic sustainability of private working lands in Latah County.

The public health ROCC is categorized according to five secondary ROCCs:

- 1) Air Quality
- 2) Global Climate Change
- 3) Drinking Water Quantity
- 4) Drinking Water Quality
- 5) Surface Water/Recreational Contact

Air Quality Goal: Protect air quality throughout Latah County.

Air Quality Tasks

Agricultural Field Burning

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| 1. Monitor existing agricultural field burning laws and policies. (Stinson, Schwendiman) |
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Forest Slash Burning

Unpaved Roads

Global Climate Change Goal: Reduce carbon emissions and support self-sustaining carbon sequestering land management practices.

Global Climate Change Tasks

Profitable Carbon Sequestration Opportunities

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| 1. Participate in carbon sequestration programs at local, state and national levels that show a likely impact at an appropriate geographic and temporal scale. (Stinson) |
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Carbon Emissions Reduction

Drinking Water Quantity Goal: Safeguard drinking water supplies.

Drinking Water Quantity Tasks

Limited Aquifer Recharge

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| 1. Participate in water conservation planning undertaken by local governments. (Dansart, Stinson, Schwendiman) |
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Non-Sustainable Water Consumption

Drinking Water Quality Goal: Protect the health of Latah County citizens by safeguarding clean drinking water supplies.

Drinking Water Quality Tasks
Contamination of Shallow Aquifers
1. Participate in local efforts to identify and protect aquifer recharge zones. (Dansart, Stinson)
Contamination of Surface Water Supplies
1. Participate in local efforts to identify and protect surface drinking water protection zones. (Dansart, Stinson)

Surface Water/Recreational Contact Goal: Protect the health of Latah County citizens by safeguarding surface water quality for recreational use.

Surface Water/Recreational Contact Tasks²
Bacteria
1. Participate in revisions of TMDLs and associated Implementation Plans for the Potlatch River and Palouse River watersheds. (Dansart, Stinson)
2. Coordinate local riparian restoration efforts, including: streamside plantings, fenced cattle exclosures and off-stream watering developments.
Nutrients
1. Participate in revisions of TMDLs and associated Implementation Plans for the Potlatch River and Palouse River watersheds. (Dansart, Stinson)
2. Coordinate local riparian restoration efforts, including: streamside plantings, fenced cattle exclosures and off-stream watering developments.
Oil and Grease
1. Coordinate local riparian restoration efforts, including: streamside plantings, fenced cattle exclosures and off-stream watering developments.
Organics and Pesticides
1. Coordinate local riparian restoration efforts to minimize pesticide delivery to local streams.

²In FY13, implementation projects undertaken that affect public health will be accomplished as a complementary component to projects focused on restoration of anadromous fish habitat. Staff leads for these tasks are identified within the anadromous fish tasks.

Range and Pasture Lands

Range and Pasture Lands Resource Conservation Goal: Preserve and restore range and pasture land productivity for the benefit of wildlife and livestock while providing voluntary opportunities for the long-term preservation of working rangelands in Latah County.

The range and pasture lands ROCC is categorized according to two secondary ROCCs:

- 1) Range and Pasture Productivity
- 2) Rangeland Preservation

Range and Pasture Productivity Goal: Protect and restore natural productivity to range and pasturelands for the benefit of livestock and wildlife.

Range and Pasture Productivity Tasks
Invasive Plants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate landowner access to programs that may assist them in weed control efforts. (Heekin, Erhardt) 2. Inform landowners regarding the identification and effective control of invasive weeds. (Heekin, Erhardt)
Soil Erosion and Compaction
Departures from Natural Woodland Stocking Densities

Rangeland Preservation: Maintain productive rangelands within Latah County through the implementation of voluntary strategies for the benefit of livestock and wildlife.

Rangeland Preservation Tasks
Loss of Range and Pasture Lands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review voluntary land protection programs that focus on maintaining the viability of range and pasture lands. (Stinson, Schwendiman)

Special Status Species

Special Status Species Resource Conservation Goal: Protect and restore habitat for the survival of individual special status animal and plant species within Latah County and the Palouse region.

The special status species ROCC is categorized according to two secondary ROCCs:

- 1) Animal
- 2) Plant

Animal Goal: Protect special status animal species and preserve and restore the habitats, landscape connectivity, and ecosystem processes necessary to sustain these populations in Latah County.

Animal Tasks³
Habitat Degradation
1. Coordinate local riparian restoration efforts, including: streamside plantings, control of invasive vegetation, fenced cattle exclosures, and off-stream watering developments.
Disruption of Ecosystem Processes
Habitat Fragmentation
1. Coordinate local riparian restoration efforts to remove passage barriers for wild steelhead and other aquatic species of special status.

³ In FY13, implementation projects undertaken that affect special status animal species will be accomplished as a complementary component to projects focused on restoration of anadromous fish habitat. Staff leads for these tasks are identified within the anadromous fish tasks.

Plant Goal: Protect special status plants by preserving and restoring the habitats necessary to sustain these populations in Latah County.

Plant Tasks
Habitat Loss
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate Palouse Prairie, canyon grassland, and mature forest protection and restoration efforts. (Heekin, Erhardt, Adams, Marchinek)
Habitat Fragmentation and Degradation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate Palouse Prairie, canyon grassland, and mature forest protection and restoration efforts. (Heekin, Erhardt, Adams, Marchinek) 2. Inform interested landowners regarding prairie restoration opportunities. (Heekin, Erhardt) 3. Inform landowners regarding the identification and effective control of invasive weeds. (Heekin, Erhardt)

Threatened Ecosystems

Threatened Ecosystem Resource Conservation Goal: Protect and restore threatened ecosystems in Latah County and the Palouse region on a scale that supports the self-sustaining function of these ecosystems.

The threatened ecosystem ROCC is categorized according to five secondary ROCCs:

- 1) Camas Meadows
- 2) Canyon Grasslands
- 3) Palouse Prairie
- 4) Ponderosa Pine
- 5) Wetlands

Camas Meadows Goal: Protect and restore camas meadows in Latah County on a scale that supports the self-sustaining function of these ecosystems.

Camas Meadows Tasks
Lowered Water Tables
Land Conversion
Invasive Plants

Canyon Grasslands Goal: Protect and restore canyon grassland ecosystems in Latah County on a scale that supports the self-sustaining function of these ecosystems.

Canyon Grasslands Tasks
Livestock Grazing
Invasive Plants

Palouse Prairie Goal: Protect and restore Palouse Prairie ecosystems in Latah County and the Palouse region on a scale that supports the self-sustaining function of these ecosystems.

Palouse Prairie Tasks
Land Conversion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate planning efforts to identify potential sites for protection and/or restoration. (Heekin, Erhardt) 2. Coordinate Palouse Prairie restoration projects. (Heekin, Erhardt, Adams, Marchinek) 3. Endorse research to identify effective restoration methods. (Board/Heekin, Erhardt)

4. Facilitate the use of CRP and other state and federal programs available to landowners for prairie restoration. (Heekin, Erhardt)
5. Inform landowners regarding protection and restoration options for Palouse Prairie. (Heekin, Erhardt)

Invasive Plants

1. Coordinate Palouse Prairie restoration efforts that include the control of invasive weeds. (Heekin, Erhardt)
2. Facilitate landowner access to programs that may assist them in weed control efforts. (Heekin, Erhardt)
3. Inform landowners on the identification and effective control of invasive weeds. (Heekin, Erhardt)

Ponderosa Pine Goal: Protect and restore ponderosa pine habitat in Latah County on a scale that supports the self-sustaining function of these ecosystems.

Ponderosa Pine Tasks

Altered Fire Regimes

Disease and Insects

Wetlands Goal: Protect and restore wetland ecosystems in Latah County on a scale that supports the self-sustaining function of these ecosystems.

Wetlands Tasks⁴

Lowered Water Tables

1. Coordinate local stream/wetland restoration efforts.

Land Conversion

1. Inform landowners regarding wetland protection and restoration opportunities.
2. Facilitate access to programs that assist in the protection and restoration of wetland communities.
3. Inform landowners regarding land trusts and conservation easements.

Invasive Plants

⁴ In FY13, wetland projects will be accomplished as a complementary component to projects focused on restoration of anadromous fish habitat. Staff leads for these tasks are identified within the anadromous fish tasks.

Wildlife

Wildlife Resource Conservation Goal: Protect, create and/or enhance wildlife habitats and populations to sustainable levels for aesthetics, organic cultural pursuits, and environmental/biological diversity.

The wildlife ROCC is categorized according to two secondary ROCCs:

- 1) Game Species
- 2) Non-Game Species

Game Species Goal: Protect viable, balanced and sustainable populations of game species for wildlife diversity; aesthetics; and organic cultural pursuits such as hunting, viewing, photography, etc.

Game Species Tasks
Habitat Loss
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate the use of programs such as CRP, CCRP and WHIP that provide valuable wildlife habitat within agricultural settings. (Heekin, Erhardt) 2. Inform landowners regarding cost-share programs, land trusts, conservation easements, and other options that may be available to protect critical habitat on private lands. (Heekin, Erhardt) 3. Inform landowners regarding agricultural practices that benefit game species. (Heekin, Erhardt)
Habitat Fragmentation
Invasive Plants
Riparian Habitat Degradation ⁵
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate local riparian restoration efforts, including: streamside plantings, fenced cattle enclosures and off-stream watering developments, control of invasive vegetation, and streambank stabilization.
Wetland Conversion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate local wetland protection and restoration efforts. ⁶

⁵ In FY13, riparian habitat restoration projects will be accomplished as a complementary component to projects focused on restoration of anadromous fish habitat. Staff leads for these tasks are identified within the anadromous fish tasks.

⁶ In FY13, wetland restoration projects will be accomplished as a complementary component to projects focused on restoration of anadromous fish habitat. Staff leads for these tasks are identified within the anadromous fish tasks.

Non-Game Species Goal: Maintain healthy populations of non-game wildlife throughout Latah County to support ecosystem functions, economic, cultural, and aesthetic values.

Non-Game Tasks
Landscape Changes in Forest Structure
Conversion of Palouse Prairie and Canyon Grasslands
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate Palouse Prairie and canyon grassland protection and restoration efforts. (Heekin, Erhardt, Adams, Marchinek) 2. Coordinate planning efforts to identify potential sites for protection and/or restoration. (Heekin, Erhardt, Adams, Marchinek) 3. Facilitate landowner access to programs that may assist them in weed control efforts within canyon grassland or Palouse Prairie habitats. (Heekin, Erhardt) 4. Facilitate the use of CRP and other state and federal programs available to landowners for prairie restoration. (Heekin, Erhardt) 5. Inform interested landowners about protection and restoration of Palouse Prairie. (Heekin, Erhardt)
Wetland Conversion and Degradation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate local wetland protection and restoration efforts.⁷
Riparian Habitat Degradation ⁸
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate local riparian restoration efforts, including: streamside plantings, control of invasive vegetation, fenced cattle enclosures, and off-stream watering.
Habitat Fragmentation
Disruption of Ecosystems Processes
Mine Closures

⁷ In FY13, wetland restoration projects will be accomplished as a complementary component to projects focused on restoration of anadromous fish habitat. Staff leads for these tasks are identified within the anadromous fish tasks.

⁸ In FY13, riparian habitat restoration projects will be accomplished as a complementary component to projects focused on restoration of anadromous fish habitat. Staff leads for these tasks are identified within the anadromous fish tasks.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AgPlan	Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan
BAG	Basin Advisory Group
BiOp	Biological Opinion
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
BOCC	Board of County Commissioners
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
BURP	Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Project
CBAG	Clearwater Basin Advisory Group
CCRP	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
CDC	Conservation Data Center
CES	Cooperative Extension Service
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	Cubic Feet per Second
Clearwater RC&D	Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.
CNF	Clearwater National Forest
COE	Corps of Engineers
Council	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
CPI	Clearwater Pheasant Initiative
CRFMP	Columbia River Fish Management Plan
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CSP	Conservation Security Program
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWD	Coarse Woody Debris
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentive Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESU	Evolutionary Significant Unit
FCRPS	Federal Columbia River Power System
FLEP	Forest Land Enhancement Program
FPA	Forest Practices Act
FRPP	Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program
FSA	Farm Services Agency
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
GRP	Grassland Reserve Program
HIP	Habitat Improvement Program
I&E	Information and Education
IASCD	Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
ICBEMP	Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project
IDAPA	Idaho Administrative Procedures Act
IDEA	Idaho District Employees Association
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
INFISH	Inland Fisheries
INPS	Idaho Native Plant Society
ISDA	Idaho State Department of Agriculture
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department
Latah SWCD	Latah Soil and Water Conservation District
LHTAC	Local Highway Technical Assistance Council
LIP	Landowner Incentive Program
LOD	Large Organic Debris
LSRCP	Lower Snake River Fish and Wildlife Compensation Plan
NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts
NLHD	North Latah Highway District
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
NPT	Nez Perce Tribe
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWPCC	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
OSC	Idaho Office of Species Conservation
PAC	Policy Advisory Committee
PACFISH	Pacific Fisheries
PBAC	Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee
PCEI	Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute
PCSRF	Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund
PF	Pheasants Forever
PFW	Partners for Fish and Wildlife
PL	Public Law
PLT	Palouse Land Trust
PPF	Palouse Prairie Foundation
RCRDP	Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program
RHCA	Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas
ROCC	Resource of Community Concern
SCD	Soil Conservation District
SCS	Soil Conservation Service (former title of the NRCS)
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SIP	Stewardship Incentive Program
SLHD	South Latah Highway District
SPZ	Stream Protection Zones
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program
SWC	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TU	Trout Unlimited

UAA	Use Attainability Analysis
UI	University of Idaho
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of the Interior
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WAG	Watershed Advisory Group
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
WHIP SI	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program Salmon Initiative
WQPA	Water Quality Program for Agriculture
WRIA	Water Resource Inventory Area
WRP	Wetlands Reserve Program
WSU	Washington State University