



# Conservation News & Notes

Volume 022 Number 2 Summer

## Canyon District Supervisors Election

On November 1st there will be two Canyon Soil Conservation District (Canyon SCD) Supervisor positions open for election. Canyon SCD supervisor position is voluntary & they either assist or lead the way by offering non-regulatory technical assistance in the following areas:

- Implement farm, ranch and forestland conservation practices to protect and improve soil productivity, water quality and quantity, air quality and wildlife habitat;
- Conserve and restore wetlands, which purify water and provide habitat for birds, fish and numerous other animals;
- Protect groundwater resources;
- Assist communities and homeowners to plant trees and other land cover to hold soil in place, clean the air, provide cover for wildlife and beautify neighborhoods;
- Help developers control soil erosion and protect water and air quality during construction;
- Reach out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts.

Canyon SCD Supervisors are landowners who volunteer their time. They are interested in farming issues and want to make a positive difference in their communities.


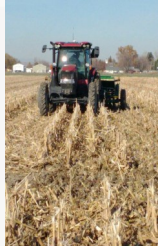
Serving as a Supervisor is a great opportunity to learn how to improve your own operation as well as help to make a positive difference within your own community.

If you are interested in serving on the Canyon SCD contact a current board member or for candidate forms contact Canyon Election office at (208) 454-7562 or Lori Kent 208-779-3443.

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**QUOTE:**  
**TO FORGET HOW TO DIG THE EARTH AND TO TEND THE SOIL IS TO FORGET OURSELVES.**



**Mission:**

The Canyon Soil Conservation District is committed to providing quality leadership, information, education, technical assistance and financial assistance for the conservation and wise use of natural resources.

## Your Canyon SCD

### Supervisors:

Mike Swartz, Chairman  
 Robert McKellip, Vice Chair  
 David Dixon, Sec./Treas.  
 Mike Somerville, Supervisor  
 Rex Runkle, Supervisor

### Associate Supervisors:

Tom Johnson  
 Rich Sims  
 Matt Livingood

### District Staff:

Lori Kent,  
 Administrative Assistant  
 Outreach  
 Stan Hays  
 Soil Conservation  
 Technician

### NRCS Staff:

Tate Walters — Treasure  
 Valley High Desert Team Leader/  
 Caldwell District Conservationist  
 Erin Brooks — Caldwell  
 Resource Conservationist  
 Josh Chapman — Caldwell  
 Resource Conservationist  
 Martin Pena — Civil  
 Engineering Technician  
 Bobby Hilton — Civil  
 Engineering Technician  
 Taylor Schulze — Civil Engineer  
 Rich Sims — CSCD  
 Associate Supervisor/Earth Team  
 Volunteer  
 Martha Schmidt — Soil  
 Conservationist  
 Benjamin Stiff — Range  
 Conservationist

District board meetings are held the first Thursday after the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. Call the office for exact times.

All programs and services of the Canyon Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, marital or familial status and political beliefs.

Canyon SCD Website  
<https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org>

## Canyon SCD Best Management Practices (BMP'S)

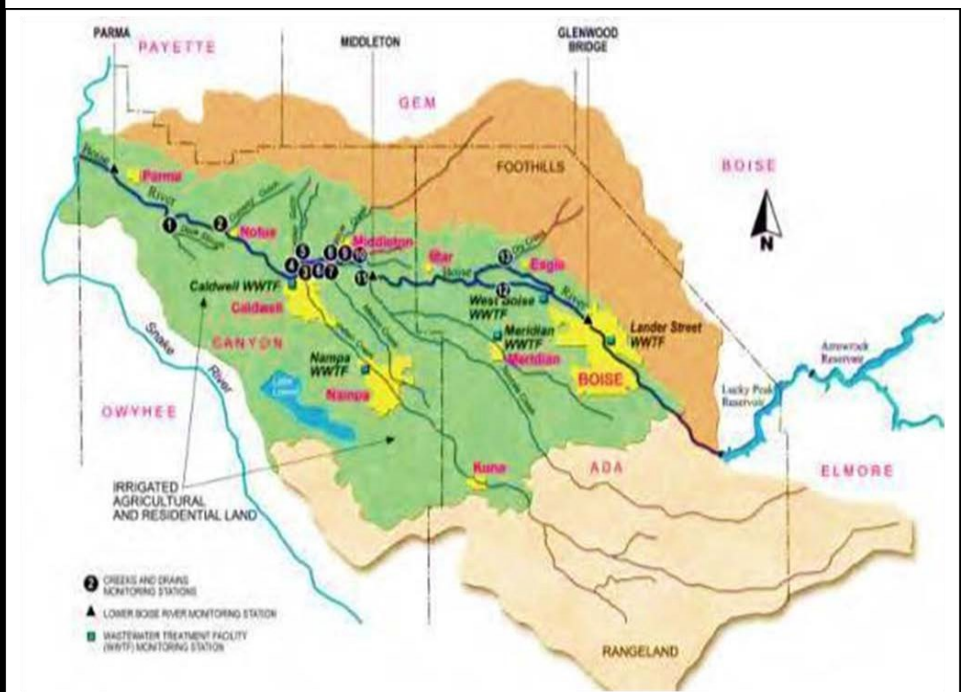
Canyon County is located within the lower Boise River Watershed, which is one of the high priority watersheds for Southwestern Idaho. The lower Boise River Watershed represents a physically complex network of river, tributaries, irrigation conveyances and drains that transport water from the headwaters of the basin at Lucky Peak to its mouth at the Snake River.

The lower Boise River flows northwest through Ada and Canyon Counties and is approximately 64-miles in length. The Boise River originates at Lucky Peak Dam and flows into the Snake River near Parma. The watershed drains approximately 1290 square miles of mixed uses, including rangeland, forest, agricultural lands, and urban areas. Major tributaries in Five-Mile, Ten-Mile Creek, Mill Slough, Mason Creek, Indian Creek, Conway Gulch, and Dixie Drain.

The Lower Boise River sub basin is identified in the Idaho water quality standards as water body ID 17050114. The Boise River is impaired for sediment, bacteria and from Middleton to the confluence with the Snake River is also impaired for total phosphorus from Middleton to the confluence. Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Lower Boise River call for significant reductions to these pollutants in order to achieve the designated beneficial uses which include cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, domestic and agricultural water supply, primary and secondary contact recreation. Grant outcomes and benefits are -

1. Outcome: Continue to provide financial assistance to landowners in Canyon County for implementation of on-the-ground improvements (BMP's). Benefit: Reduced loading of sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to the Lower Boise River and its tributaries.
2. Demonstrate feasible and effective solutions to non-point source pollution within the Lower Boise River watershed. Benefit: Increased public awareness of effective BMP's that can be installed.
3. Promote coordination between local landowners and state organizations/agencies. Benefit: Applying limited BMP funding most effectively to address regional water quality issues.

If you live in this area and are interested in this grant project contact the Canyon SCD at (208) 779-3443. Also, there's other project opportunities through Natural Resources Conservation Service if you live in a different area.



## Engineering Team Field Day

By: Taylor Schulze

On June 14, 2022, Moscow Area West Office staff joined State Office staff and the Caldwell engineering team for a day in the field. The group toured several NRCS projects in Canyon County. The day was a great opportunity to build relationships and share knowledge about conservation practices in different regions of Idaho.

The day began at the State Office in Boise where State Conservationist Curtis Elke welcomed the group and answered questions. Area West Conservationist Trisha Cracraft and State Conservation Engineer Bruce Sandoval also greeted and talked with the group. The gathering gave new employees the opportunity to meet many of their State Office colleagues in-person for the first time.

Next, the group traveled to Parma to tour the Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company's sediment basin. State Irrigation Engineer Dan Murdock gave a presentation about the project's design and construction and explained how the basin has helped improve water quality by capturing sediment and nutrients.



**The group at the Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company's Sediment Basin in Parma.**



**The group touring Gooding Farms' hop processing facility.**

Afterwards, the group headed to Gooding Farms to tour their hop processing facility. The visit gave the group a chance to get an inside look at the day-to-day operations of a large-acre hop farm in the Treasure Valley. The tour was made possible by Civil Engineering Technician Martin Pena who, after designing a drip system for Gooding Farms several years ago, has maintained a good working relationship with the producer ever since.

Lastly, the group visited Canyon Soil Conservation District Board Member Dave Dixon's onion field to learn about drip irrigation systems. There, Martin Pena gave a presentation about the design and operation of drip systems and answered questions.

All in all, the day was a valuable opportunity to make new connections and gain new knowledge which will help further the mission of the NRCS. Many thanks to Caldwell Civil Engineering Technicians Martin Pena and Bobby Hilton for planning and organizing the event.

## Local Working Group

The USDA-NRCS works in a partnership effort with Soil Conservation Districts, other local and federal agencies, conservation groups, Native American Tribes and private land owners to conserve, sustain and improve natural resources on private, tribal, and other non-federal lands. Our primary responsibility is to implement Farm Bill financial and technical assistance programs at the local level. To ensure the input and involvement of local stakeholders, Local Work Groups (LWGs) are convened annually. For our area of Idaho, the LWG area is made up of the following counties: Elmore, Owyhee, Canyon, Ada, Payette, Washington, Adams, Gem, Boise, and Valley.

If you have an interest in private land conservation and want a say in how Farm Bill financial and technical assistance resources are prioritized, we request that you, or a member of your organization, join our Local Work Group meeting.

Here are the three items Curtis Elke, State Conservationist, is asking for your recommendations:

- Identify the top three (3) priority resource concerns and high priority areas needing assistance from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).
- Develop 5 to 7 Local ranking Question for FY-18 EQIP ranking tools.
- Recommend the distribution of EQIP funds with the Division Fund Pools.

The Local Working Group Meeting will be held October 26th hosted by the Ada SWCD at the Boise Watershed Facility.

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## The People's Garden

The Caldwell Service Center, Canyon SCD & NRCS Staff planted The People's Garden on May 7th with a variety of tomatoes and peppers. Due to a few nights of frost the first part of May, the group replaced 18 plants on May 23rd. We have delivered 84 lbs. of produce to The Salvation Army in Caldwell. This is the 10th year in participating with The People's Garden.

Pictured-Left to right: Carly Whitmore, NRCS Public Affairs Intern, Mindi Rambo, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist & Erin Brooks, Caldwell Resource Conservationist.



### Coming Events . . .

#### District Board Meeting

Caldwell Service Center  
Conference Room  
7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM  
August 4  
September 8

#### 319 TAC Meeting

WEBEX Meeting  
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM  
August 30  
September 27

#### Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group

WEBEX Meeting  
For more information  
contact 208-779-3443  
1:00 to 3:00 PM  
August 11  
September 8 or 15

#### CSCD Speech Contest

Caldwell Service Center  
Conference Room  
September 30

#### CSCD Poster Contest

Caldwell Service Center  
Conference Room  
October 3

#### Division III Fall Meeting

October 11, 2022  
Ada SWCD Hosts

#### Local Work Group Meeting

October 26  
Tentative time 10:00-2:00  
Boise Watershed Facility

#### IASCD State Conference

Burley, Idaho  
November 15—18



**Paper Plate Ice Cream Craft**

By Easy Pease and Fun

Summer and ice cream go hand in hand and while this paper plate ice cream craft won't exactly cool you, it still is super fun to make.

**What you need to make a paper plate ice cream craft:**

Paper plates, brown card stock, pink, mint and black paint, red pom-pom balls, sprinkles, black markers, scissors, glue & brushes.

# 1. Draw an ice cream scoop onto your paper plates with a rounded circle top, a scalloped bottom with the sides slightly bigger than the top circle and cut out with scissors.

# 2. Paint one scoop pink and one mint green and let dry.

# 3. Cut out two triangle shapes from your brown paper with the top being about 4-5" wide.

# 4. Draw a criss cross pattern onto your brown triangle cones with your black marker. Glue your ice cream scoops onto the top of your cones.

# 5. Use a small paint brush to paint on small black dots onto your mint green scoop to look like chocolate chips.

# 6. Apply glue onto the pink scoop and top with sprinkles (do not eat).

# 7. Then glue one red pom-pom ball onto the top of each ice cream scoop and let your cones dry.

**Paper Roll Crab Craft**

By Easy Peasy and Fun

We're showing how to make another cute toilet paper roll craft for kids to make this one too perfect for summer! Ready? Let's make a paper roll crab craft.

**What you need to make a paper roll crab craft:**

Paper rolls (toilet paper, kitchen paper rolls, wiggle eyes stickers, red construction paper (or red paint, glue, scissors & black marker).

# 1. First we need to make our tube red. You can either drape it with red construction paper or paint it red. Next draw crab claws and feet on the construction paper and cut them out.

# 2. Decorate the red paper tube. Stick on two wiggle eye stickers (aren't these cute) and draw the mouth with the black marker. You can also add other facial details like eyelashes, nostrils...

# 3. Glue on legs and claws. Your cute little toilet paper roll crab craft is ready to be displayed or played with. Rather cool looking isn't he (or she)?





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*Recipe Spot . . .***Macaroni Salad with Shrimp & Peas**

From: Lori Kent

**Ingredients:**

2 cups macaroni shells (cooked)	1—1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
6 hard boiled eggs (sliced)	1 teaspoon sugar
1 red onion (diced)	3/4 teaspoon garlic salt
1 can of tiny shrimp (drained)	1 teaspoon pepper
1 cup frozen peas (thaw in hot water & drain)	
1 can of sliced black olives (save 1 tablespoon of juice to mix in the salad)	

**Directions:**

In a large mixing bowl pour in all the ingredients (save 2 eggs) & mix thoroughly. You may add a splash of milk or adjust any ingredient to your liking. Top with the 2 remaining eggs and sprinkle paprika over the eggs. Chill, serve.

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**Authentic German Potato Salad**

From: allrecipes.com

**Ingredients:**

3 cups diced peeled potatoes	3 tablespoons white sugar
4 slices of bacon	1 teaspoon salt
1 small onion, diced	1/8 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup white vinegar	1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley
2 tablespoons water	

**Directions:**

Place the potatoes into a pot, & fill with enough water to cover. Bring to a boil, and cook for about 10 minutes, or till easily pierced with a fork. Drain, set aside to cool.

Place the bacon in a large deep skillet over medium-high heat. Fry until browned & crisp, turning as needed.

Add onion to the bacon grease, and cook over medium heat until browned. Add the vinegar, water, sugar, salt & pepper to the pan. Bring to a boil, then add the potatoes & parsley. Crumble in half the bacon. Heat through, then transfer to a serving dish. Crumble the remaining bacon over the top, serve warm.

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**Garlic Scape & Sharp Cheddar Biscuits**

Wholefully.com

**Ingredients:**

3 cup all purpose flour	1 tablespoon sugar
4 teaspoons baking powder	1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt	1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese (the sharper, the better!)
1/3 cup chopped garlic scapes	1 2/3 cup buttermilk
1 1/2 sticks chilled butter, cut into chunks	
Additional flour for kneading.	

**Instructions:**

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda & salt until well-mixed. Stir in the cheddar cheese and scapes.
2. Using a pastry blender, two forks or your fingers, work the butter into the dry ingredients until the butter pieces are a touch smaller than a pea.
3. Gently stir in the buttermilk, being careful not to over mix. The mixture will (should!) be very sticky and liquidly.
4. Heavily flour a work surface, and dump the dough onto the flour. Flour the top of the dough well, & then pat out until 1/2-inch thick. Fold the dough in half horizontally, then pat down again until 1/2-inch thick, adding more flour to cover sticky parts if necessary. Fold the dough in half vertically, then pat down again until 1/2-inch thick. Repeat the process 5-6 more times.
5. Flour a circle biscuit cutter or a drinking glass, & press straight down to cut the biscuit. Do not twist the cutter! Twisting "seals" the sides of the biscuit & stops it from rising.
6. Transfer the biscuit rounds to an ungreased baking sheet, & bake in preheated oven for 10-12 minutes, or until golden brown on top.