



# Conservation News & Notes

Volume 022 Number 4 Winter 2022

## Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP)



Please note: Low interest conservation loans are for new projects only. The Commission does not refinance already funded or completed projects. The maximum amount of any one loan is \$600,000.

### Loan rates are:

- 3% for up to a 7-year term
- 4% for a 10-year term
- 5% for a 15-year term loan
- 6% with new or used equipment & 2nd mortgages as collateral

The Conservation Commission invites landowners to apply for low-interest loans to install conservation measures on private property. Eligible projects address soil and water issues, like improving riparian areas or enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.

### A partial list of eligible projects includes:

- Irrigation equipment
- No-till drills
- Animal feeding operation improvements
- Livestock fencing
- Stream bank protection

Have questions? See our FAQ (continued on page 4) for answers to questions about our low-interest loan program.

### How to Apply

1. Contact us (see info below) to discuss your conservation project.
2. Work with Commission staff to develop the required conservation plan for your project that will be reviewed and ranked by your local conservation district.
3. Submit a completed loan application (click to read our Loan Fact Sheet and Loan Application Steps, instructions for completing and remitting forms) directly to our loan staff. Loan applications are confidential and not released to Districts or other agencies.

For more information, contact Terry Hoebelheinrich at [terry.hoebelheinrich@swc.idaho.gov](mailto:terry.hoebelheinrich@swc.idaho.gov), or call 208-332-1790. Or contact Lori Kent at [Lori.Kent@id.nacdnet.net](mailto:Lori.Kent@id.nacdnet.net) or call 208-779-3443. You may always stop by the office.

(continued on page 4)

Board of Supervisors .....2

IASCD Report .....2

IASCD Report (Continued from page 2) .....3

RCRDP Questions (Continued from page 1) .....4

ISDA Specialty Crop Grant .....4

Kid's Connection .....5

Recipe Spot .....7

The soil, it appears, is suited to the seed, for it has sent its radicle downward, and it may now send its shoot upward also with confidence. Why has man rooted himself thus firmly in the earth, but that he may rise in the same proportion into the heavens above? —

**Henry David Thoreau**

### Your Canyon SCD

**Supervisors:**

Mike Swartz, Chairman  
Rex Runkle, Vice Chair  
Bob McKellip, Sec./Treas.  
Chris Gross, Supervisor  
Brad McIntyre, Supervisor  
Clay Erskine, Supervisor

**Associate Supervisors:**

Tom Johnson  
Rich Sims  
Matt Livingood

**District Staff:**

Lori Kent,  
Administrative Assistant  
Outreach  
Stan Hays  
Canyon SCD 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  
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](https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org)

## Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) Report

From: Wendy Green, Director from Division III

The 65th Annual IASCD State Conservation was held in Burley from November 14-17, 2022. Here's highlights from Wendy Green, Adams SWCD. Thank you Wendy, for the information.

Joan Cloonan, Ada SWCD supervisor, stepped down from the IASCD Board after her recent appointment to the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission. Wendy Green, who had been alternate, replaces her as director from Division III. Steve Becker, Nez Perce District, also was appointed to the ISWCC. No supervisor in his division could take his position on the IASCD board, so he will continue in both roles. He resigned as president of the board, though; Devin Fielding of North Bingham was elected president of IASCD board. Bob Flagor, Kootenai-Shoshone District, was defeated in the local election for district supervisor. Tom Daniel of Kootenai-Shoshone replaces him on the board representing Division I. The board elected Daniel as board secretary to replace Flagor. The next IASCD board meeting will be in Meridian at 11:00 a.m. on January 16th.

All districts were urged to reach out to their legislators as soon as possible to acquaint them with what we do. With significant turnover in the legislature, there may be many new members who aren't familiar with the mission and value of Idaho's conservation districts. Consider sending a copy of your performance report and newsletter to your legislators and inviting them to a district board meeting.

"Every district needs a binder." Cindy Snyder with Snake River SCD gave a presentation on the 3 Ps to safeguard your district: Policies, Procedures & Passwords. A) Codify district policies, including personnel policies and records retention, checks and balances, etc. Note: Website and Facebook pages fall under public records retention law and must be archived. B) Create a basic outline of the procedures of the office: how & when bills get paid and other accounting duties; calendar of due dates of reports and other requirements; who is responsible for what plus a backup plan; where documents and information are kept; a facility emergency plan. Include a list of key contacts at banks, county, state, etc. C) List of all passwords and other credentials, including instructions for accessing portals. This information that is essential to district operations ought to be compiled and kept in a binder where it's quickly accessible when questions arise or personnel changes occur.

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### 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.**

(Continued from page 2)

Take advantage of training offered by Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP). Develop a relationship with ICRMP staff before you have a problem. Set aside time in district meetings for supervisor and employee training.

“There are consequences for not doing things right when you’re spending public funds.” The Idaho District Employees website (IDEA) is a good resource that links to multiple resources. Network with other districts; employees around the state are eager to share their expertise.

Think about what you can do to identify and plan projects so that you have something “shovel-ready” when funding opportunities arise such as Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) or Idaho Water Resource Board grants. Keep in mind that WQPA funds can be used in conjunction with grants from other sources.

Both keynote speaker Dave Holton, CEO of Valley Wide Co-op & Valley Agronomics, and Speaker/Lt. Governor-elect Scott Benke spoke to the increasing importance of the three elements of sustainable agriculture: environmental, social and economic. Practices must be economically sustainable for producers as well as being environmentally and socially sustainable.

We heard presentations on the purpose and impact of Envirothon, Land & Soil Evaluation Event, UI Natural Resource Camp, Forestry Event, and “Know Your Government.” Consider increasing contributions to these events and outreach to local schools to encourage participation in these valuable conservation education programs.

University of Idaho and a number of partners, including IASCD and Idaho Tribes, received a Climate Smart Commodities grant to implement best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Idaho agriculture. The details are still being finalized, including the total amount available statewide. No-till and cover-cropping practices are included. We should know more by the time we gather for spring Division III meeting.

Proposed changes to IASCD bylaws were not approved at the business meeting due to procedural concerns. The board approved formation of a Governance Committee that will continue to work to update the bylaws and policy handbook.

Annual Legislative Social is Monday, January 16th at 4:30 p.m. This in-person opportunity is especially important for supervisors to attend this year to meet those new legislators. Districts are invited to bring displays for Conservation

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***Have A Blessed New Year!!!***

## Coming Events . . .

### District Board Meeting

Caldwell Service Center  
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
February 8, 2023

### 319 TAC Meeting

WEBEX Meeting  
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM  
February 7, 2023

### Lower Boise River Watershed

#### Advisory Group

WEBEX Meeting  
1:00 to 3:00 PM  
February 9, 2023

### Soil Health Symposium

Four Rivers cultural Center  
Ontario OR  
Register at [PAYETTESWCD.ORG](http://PAYETTESWCD.ORG)  
February 9, 2023

### Harvest and Hearth

Peaceful Belly Farms  
Caldwell, ID  
February 10, 2023

### Division III Valley SWCD

#### Hosts Spring Meeting

Kelly's Whitewater Park  
Welcome Center  
9:30 AM registration opens  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
February 16, 2023

### Soil Stewardship Week

“One Water” (Theme)  
April 30—May 7, 2023



(Continued from page 1)

## Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP) Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the purpose of the loan program?

To provide long-term, low-interest loans to farmers, ranchers, and landowners to install conservation measures.

### When was the loan program started?

The Idaho Legislature created the loan program in 1985. The loan program has a dedicated revolving fund of approximately \$10 million.

### What kind of projects are eligible for low-interest loans?

Eligible projects include: Irrigation equipment, No-till drills, Animal feeding operation improvements, Livestock fencing, Stream bank protection and improving riparian areas for multiple use. Enhancing soil and water resources, Conserving and improving fish and wildlife habitat, & Stream bank protection

### How much money is available to landowners through the loan program and how low are the interest rates?

A single loan is limited to \$600,000. Interest rates vary from 3% to 6% depending on the number of years selected to repay the loan and the type of collateral offered to secure the loan. The maximum term offered is 15 years.

### What is typically used as collateral for the loans?

Preferably new equipment or first mortgage on real estate. We may accept used equipment or a second mortgage, subject to some restrictions. Title insurance, at borrower's expense, is required with all mortgages.

### Does the conservation project have to be located on private lands or could it be located on public lands, too?

Projects on private and most public land are eligible for RCRDP funding.

### Are loans available to pay off a conservation project that's already in place?

No.

### Are loans available to refinance the debt of an existing conservation project?

No.

### Would a project to improve water efficiency and convert to sprinkler irrigation qualify for loan funds?

Both water efficiency and irrigation system conversion projects are eligible for funding.

### How do I get started on a loan application?

Contact Loan Staff at 208-332-1790 to discuss your project. They'll guide you through the steps required for an application.

### Do I need a conservation plan?

Yes. See our page on creating a conservation plan for your property.

### Do I need to work with my local conservation district before submitting an application?

Yes. Your local Conservation District will review and rank your project. The District's ranking will be included with the loan application. To find out which conservation district is located closest to you.

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## ISDA Specialty Crop Grant

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will be accepting applications for the 2023 Specialty Crop Grant funding. Grant application and guidelines are available at [www.agri.idaho.gov/scbg/](http://www.agri.idaho.gov/scbg/).

Applications due: March 5, 2023.

Funding available for projects that enhance the competitiveness of Idaho's specialty crops.

**Eligibility Criteria:** \*Enhance the competitiveness of Idaho-grown specialty crops, & \*Benefit more than one product or organization.

**Eligible Entities:** \*Non-profit organizations, \*Local, state, and federal government, \*For-profit organizations, \*\*Universities, \*\*Applicants must reside in Idaho OR their business or educational affiliation must be in Idaho

**Project areas may include but are not limited to:** \*\*Pest and disease control; sustainability \*\*Marketing and promotion, \*Enhancing food safety, \*Improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems, \*Developing new and improved seed varieties \*\*Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, \*Assisting all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain in developing good agricultural, handling, or manufacturing practices, & \*Investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes.

**Eligible Crops:** \*Fruits, \*Vegetables, \*Herbs, \*Tree nuts, \*Dried fruits, \*Honey, \*Horticulture, \*Nursery crops, \*Spices, & \*Value-added processing of eligible crops also qualifies.

**Award Detail:** \*Eligible expenses are reimbursed on a quarterly basis, \*No minimum or maximum funding levels (average award is \$50,000-\$150,000), &

\*Matching funds are not required.



\* For more information contact:  
\* Brenden Meyet (208) 332-8547;  
\* Brenden.Meyet@isda.idaho.gov



**A home for bugs and creepy crawlies.**

Whether you like them or hate them, they are part of our world and play an important part in our ecosystem. Like any creature living on our planet, whether that is a human or a bug, we all need somewhere to call home. Creating somewhere for these critters to live will introduce your children to the nature that we live side by side with. It will open opportunities for learning about habitats, ecosystems, food chains and the concept of a life cycle in comparison to a humans. It will also hopefully begin to instill consideration and awareness to how we treat nature and for the life forms that live in it. These are important lessons to learn, at any age.

**So how can we help? We can start by building a bug hotel.**

If you start to research Bug Hotels, you may well find monumental structures that look a little daunting. Worry not! They don't have to be big, in fact, the best hotels are often the ones with not 1000s of rooms.

**What do I need to build one? Will it be expensive?**

No! That is half the fun of building a bug hotel. It doesn't have to be expensive. In fact the best ones are almost entirely free.

All you have to do is look round your house for an unwanted box or draw, look in your recycling for empty cans, cardboard, glass jars and plastic bottles, look outside and find some nature. It is simple as that. Once you start thinking about what you can use, you'll find that is all you can see!

**Hear are some ideas of what we can use.**

**Natural Materials:** leaves, pinecones, bark & twigs, flowers, moss, wood chips, nut shells, bamboo, grass, tree stumps. Stones, shells, twine.

**Recyclables:** toilet paper roll, scrap paper, bricks, palettes/skids, cardboard, plastic bottles/milk cartons, drain pipes, popsicle sticks, rope, chicken wire, plant pots old drawers or photo frames, old tires

If you start to research Bug Hotels, you may well find monumental structures that look a little daunting. Worry not! They don't have to be big, in fact, the best hotels are often the ones with not 1000s of rooms.

**What type of bugs may I see move into my bug hotel?**

Good question. That will entirely depend on where in the world you live and whether you live in an urban, suburban or rural area. Basically, whether you live in a city, close to a city or in the countryside. But if we are just giving a loose summary of the types of critters you may encounter, here are some possibilities. Wood lice, snails, bumble bees, hedgehogs, ants, slugs, butterflies, ladybugs, beetles, frogs/toads, grasshoppers, worms.

**Lets get started:**

- Go out into your gardens, parks, countryside and find some nature to collect. Take a bag and pick up anything you think you might be able to use. Have a look at the table above for some Nature ideas.
- Now go into your recycling and through your house to see if you can repurpose any items. It could be as big as a drawer, or as small as a child's shoebox. You will need something like a box or bottle in shape to pack your bug house up. Keep in mind it will need to be waterproof, as it'll be outside rain or shine! Have a look at our Recyclable table for some ideas. We have used a house shaped photo frame and a milk carton for these Bug Hotel bases. To use the frame, the backing was removed, but kept the glass. This way, we can quietly examine the inside of the hotel after the Bugs start to move in! Neat right?! If you use a plastic jug, you can achieve the same affect!
- Start to build up your Bug Hotel with all the items you have collected. Be inventive! There is no right or wrong.
- Once you are satisfied it is packed sufficiently full. Take a step back and admire your handiwork!
- Find somewhere in the garden or your balcony to make it's home. Remember to go and check up on it after a few weeks and see who has moved in. Just remember to be really careful not to scare them, we don't want them to move out after we have made it so welcoming.

**And just because we like a good pun, we'll end with one.  
Why are A's like flowers? Because B's come after them!**



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*Recipe Spot . . .***Bacon Wrapped Jalapenos**

From: Wellness52

These easy jalapeno poppers are great for appetizers or a snack.

Servings: 6 people

Equipment: Cutting board, Knife, Baking Rack, Pan, Toothpicks

**Ingredients**

4 Jalapenos

1 cup Cooked Sausage

2 Tb Cream Cheese

4 Slices Bacon

**Instructions**

1. Slice each jalapeno in half, lengthwise and remove seeds.
2. Cut strips of bacon in half and cook at 350 degrees for about 10 minutes.
3. Mix cooked sausage and cream cheese together and spoon about 1 Tablespoon into jalapeno halves.
4. Wrap each jalapeno with a half piece of semi-cooked bacon and secure with a toothpick.
5. Bake the bacon wrapped jalapenos at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. If you'd like to add extra crisp to the bacon, broil on high for 1 - 2 minutes at the end of cooking.

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**Mini Chimichangas**

From: Taste of Home

**Ingredients**

1 pound ground beef

1 medium onion, chopped

1 envelope taco seasoning or ranch seasoning

3/4 cup water

3 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese

1 cup sour cream

1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chiles, drained

1 package (1 pound) egg roll wrappers (14 count)

1 large egg white, lightly beaten

Oil for deep-fat frying

Salsa and additional sour cream

**Directions**

1. In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Stir in taco seasoning and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat; cool slightly
2. In a large bowl, combine the cheese, sour cream and chiles. Stir in beef mixture. Place an egg roll wrapper on work surface with a point facing you. Place 1/3 cup filling in center. Fold bottom third of wrapper over filling; fold in sides.
3. Brush top point with egg white; roll up to seal. Repeat with remaining wrappers and filling. (Keep remaining egg roll wrappers covered with waxed paper to avoid drying out.)
4. In a deep cast-iron or electric skillet, heat 1 in. oil to 375°. Fry chimichangas on each side or until golden brown, 1-1/2 minutes. Drain on paper towels. Serve warm with salsa and sour cream.

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**Crock Pot Chicken Tetrazzini**

From: allrecipes

**Ingredients**

6 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

2 tablespoons melted butter

1 (.7 ounce) package dry Italian-style salad dressing mix

2 tablespoons butter

1 small onion, sliced and separated into rings

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of chicken soup

1/2 cup chicken broth

1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened

**Directions**

1. Place chicken in the slow cooker crock. Top with 2 tablespoons melted butter; sprinkle with Italian dressing mix.
2. Cover, and cook on High for 3 hours.
3. Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Stir in onion and garlic; cook and stir until onion is soft, about 5 minutes. Mix in the cream of chicken soup, chicken broth, and cream cheese. Pour mixture over the cooked chicken in the slow cooker.
4. Cover, and continue to cook on Low until chicken is fork tender and the sauce has thickened, about 1 additional hour. Serve over homemade egg noodles or the noodles of your choice. Servings: 6