



NEZ PERCE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**FY13
ANNUAL
WORK PLAN**

JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013

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Certificate of Adoption

The Board of elected supervisors of the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District, this 12th day of January 2012, do hereby approve the following document known as the FY13 Annual Work Plan. This plan will be in effect for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 during which time it will be updated/amended as necessary.

As evidence of our adoption and final approval, we do hereby affix our signatures to this document.

Steve Becker, Chair _____

Tracy Hill, Vice Chair _____

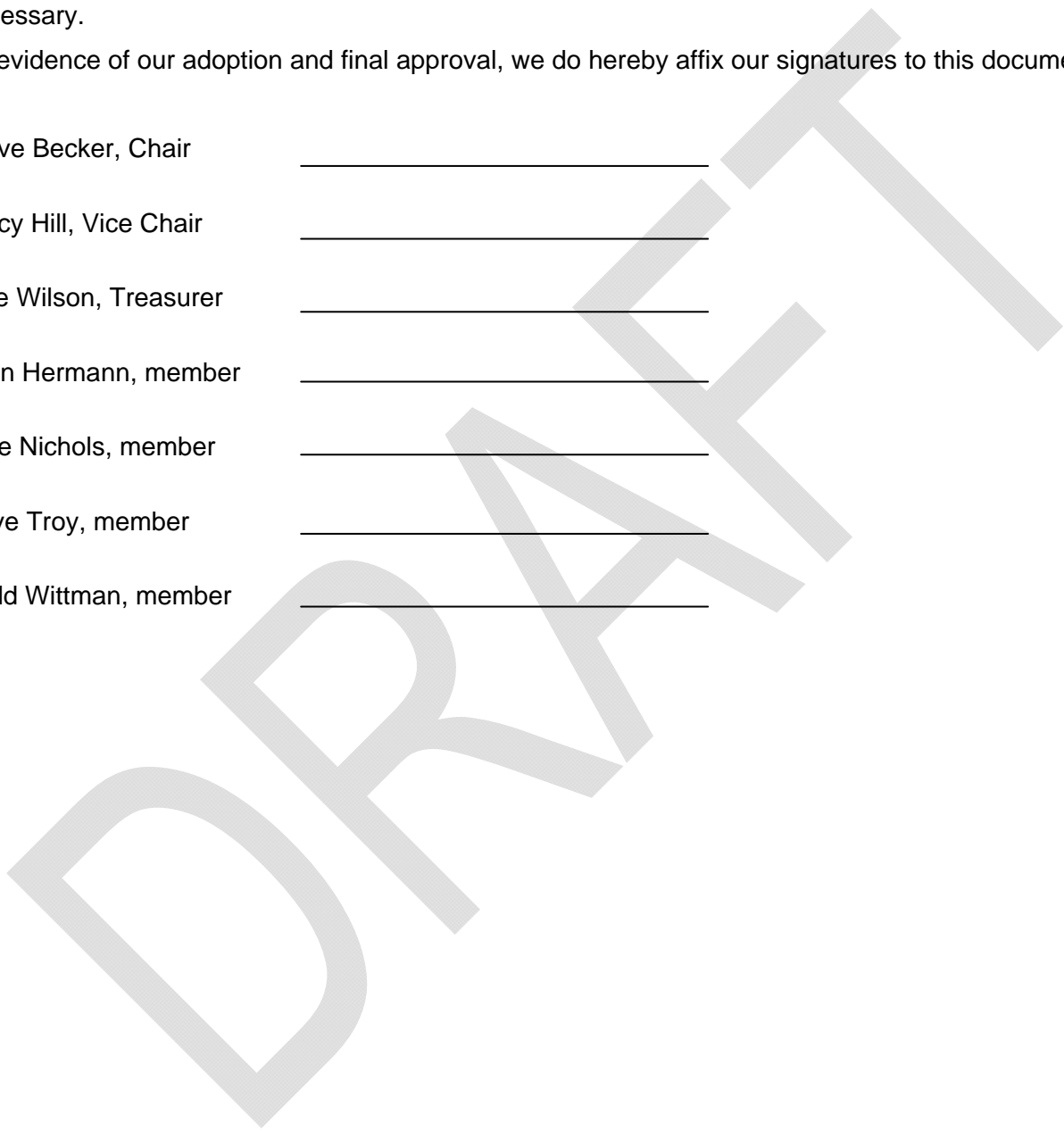
Kyle Wilson, Treasurer _____

John Hermann, member _____

Dale Nichols, member _____

Dave Troy, member _____

Todd Wittman, member _____





Annual Work Plan (7/1/12 to 6/30/13) Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District

For More Information Contact: 208.843.2931 NPSWCD@CO.NEZPERCE.ID.US

District Mission

We provide progressive leadership to coordinate technical and financial resources in the implementation of programs to enhance plants, animal, and aquatic life, while supporting conservation communities, and the wise use and protection of air, water soil and their related ecosystems.

District Vision

Our vision is maintaining a productive, sustainable natural resource base while promoting the wise use of our natural resources to protect the environment for future generations and communities.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals

Priorities were developed from information gathered in focus groups, interviews, surveys, and from analysis of existing information. These issues form the foundation upon which the District's 5 Year Plan was developed. The eight priorities are:

- Priority #1: Fulfill Current Grant, Statutory, and Client Commitments
- Priority #2: Establish a Sustainable Resource Infrastructure
- Priority #3: Improve, Protect, and Enhance Riparian Corridors
- Priority #4: Run-off Management
- Priority #5: Responsible Rural Land Development and Urban Expansion
- Priority #6: Maintain, Restore, and Enhance Productive Capacity of Working Lands
- Priority #7: Sustainable Energy Systems
- Priority #8: Community Education

District Organization

The Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (District) is one of 52 Conservation Districts in Idaho. The District is a subdivision of Idaho State government and is governed by a Board of seven members who are elected and serve a four year term without pay. Board members are landowners or land managers within the district boundary. Board members are elected by public ballot in the Nez Perce County general election process.

The Nez Perce Board meets on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings are open to the public and conducted according to Idaho's Public Meeting Law. Meetings are held in the

evening during April through October, and in the in the afternoon during November through March.

The District receives funding annually through the Nez Perce County Board of Commissioners (NPC) and State of Idaho appropriations. These funds are used for District operations.

The District cooperates with numerous agencies and organizations to meet their goals. This cooperation includes sharing of personnel and equipment, local support and advisory roles, and the exchange of resource information. The District refers to these entities as “partners”.

The District develops and implements programs to protect and conserve soil, water, farmland, rangeland, forestland, wildlife, energy, and other renewable resources in lands located within the District boundary.

The mission of the District is largely, but not wholly, carried out and its purpose and objectives are achieved, through the development of Cooperative Working Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with units of government, individuals, tribes and groups.

The District has over 65 years of experience in resource conservation, design and implementation of land improvements, and working with local landowners to install on-the-ground conservation practices. As a result of current and past efforts, the District has an excellent working relationship with local landowners and elected officials.

The District implements conservation programs with private landowners and agricultural operators through formal agreements. Landowner contracts are based on approved conservation plans that are developed primarily by District staff. These individual conservation plans formally define and link landowner conservation objectives with federal and state program objectives.

Operating funds are provided primarily through grants and appropriations from the State of Idaho and Nez Perce County. The District administers grants from the State of Idaho and federal government to accomplish soil and water objectives.

Function of the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District

The function of the District is to act as the “primary entity to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of the District’s natural resources” as outlined in Idaho State Law §22-2715.

We Serve and Why

The District serves all landowners within the District boundary as charged by Idaho State Law §22-2716.

Critical Geographic Areas:

Lapwai Creek
Surface Water Quality
Fish Habitat

Tammany Creek
Surface Water Quality
Ground Water Quality

Big Canyon Creek
Surface Water Quality
Fish Habitat

Cottonwood Creek
Surface Water Quality
Fish Habitat

Cow Creek
Surface Water Quality
Ground Water Quality

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District

1. Continued profitability challenges of production agriculture
 2. Increase in fossil fuel prices
 3. Urbanization
 - a. fragmentation of habitat
 - b. increase in natural disasters (flood, fire, landslides)
 - c. increase in recreation use
 4. Changes in land management and land use
 5. Increasing use of water for irrigation purposes
 6. Less funding for planning and implementing practices
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Strategies to Address Trends

Strategies to address trends within the District include the maintenance and development of technical expertise within District staff, continued promotion of conservation tillage measures which reduce the need for fossil fuels, coordination with county zoning to promote conservation related zoning ordinances, and continued development of partnerships with Nez Perce County and the Nez Perce Tribe.

Staffing Needs

In order to fulfill all items in the District strategic plan, an estimated 8 full time equivalent (FTE's) positions are needed with expertise in accounting, soils, fisheries, management, and communication. The District currently has 4 FTE's resulting in a shortfall of 4 FTE's.



FY2013 (7/1/12 – 6/30/13) Annual Work Plan
Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District



Priority Number 1: Fulfill current, grant, statutory, and client commitments.

Objective 1.1: Strengthen and streamline financial management.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Complete District financial audit.	12/30/12	Auditor
Develop FY14 budget.	1/31/13	SWCD
Complete Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission financial match report.	9/1/13	Boyer
Develop an inventory tracking system.	12/31/12	Boyer

Objective 1.2: Utilize the Resource Conservation Plan as a decision making tool for addressing the District’s natural resource issues.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Complete District financial audit.	12/30/12	Auditor
Develop FY14 budget.	1/31/13	SWCD
Complete Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission financial match report.	9/1/13	Boyer

Objective 1.3: Improve quality and accountability to deliver better products and services.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Conduct board meetings to carry out the business of the District.	6/30/12	SWCD
Develop FY 2014 Annual Work Plan	1/31/13	SWCD
Conduct District elections on County General Ballot	11/15/12	Nez Perce County
Complete annual accomplishments report and submit to Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission.	12/1/13	Boyer
Post resource assessment information on District web site	5/1/13	Lane
Complete physical inventory of District.	5/1/13	Hall

Priority Number 2: Explore Stable Funding Sources

Objective 2.1: Identify stable funding mechanisms.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Meet with Idaho Legislative representatives to identify potential funding sources.	6/30/13	SWCD
Complete feasibility study for tree and other conservation product sales.	12/31/12	Boyer

Objective 2.2: Expand District capacity.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Participate in the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District's annual meeting	11/2012	SWCD
Attend Idaho County Risk Management Program Certification Program session	11/2012 3/2013	Rasmussen, Boyer, Becker
Finalize cooperative working agreement with Idaho Department of Fish and Game	3/2013	Rasmussen, Wittman
Improve plant nursery to increase efficiency in watering and reduce plant loss.	8/2012	Erling

Objective 2.3: Build and strengthen partnerships and coalitions.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Develop a cooperative working agreement with the Port of Lewiston	9/2012	Rasmussen, Becker
Meet with Nez Perce County Board of Commissioners to identify projects and shared resource opportunities	10/2012 5/2013	Rasmussen, Wittman
Participate as a steering committee member for the Clearwater Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area	10/2012 5/2013	Boyer

Priority Number 3: Improve, Protect and Enhance Riparian Corridors

Objective 3.1: Increase anadromous fish productivity and production, and life stage specific survival through habitat improvement.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Implement the statement of work for the Bonneville Power Administration Lapwai Creek Steelhead Restoration project	4/30/13	District Staff
Implement conservation measures identified in the Tom Beall restoration plan.	6/30/13	District Staff, SWCD
Install 2 miles of habitat improvements.	6/30/13	District Staff
Collect stream temperature data within the District. Data will be used for water quality and fish habitat assessment purposes. Implement stream temperature monitoring plans for Big Canyon, Lapwai, and Nez Perce County.	6/30/13	District Staff
Implement actions in the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery's Big Canyon Fish Habitat Restoration Project.	6/30/13	Erling

Objective 3.2: Reduce the number of artificially blocked streams.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
In cooperation with Nez Perce County remove two stream barriers on Sweetwater Creek.	8/30/12	District Staff, Nez Perce County
Complete barrier assessment for the Catholic Creek watershed	9/30/12	District Staff

Objective 3.3: Restore, repair and enhance riparian and wetland resources within the District.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Complete a hydric soils analysis to identify the location of all potential wetland areas.	9/30/12	Hall
Meet with local wetland scientists to identify priority wetland treatment areas.	11/30/12	Rasmussen, Erling
Improve wetland function and quality on 0.5 acres by controlling invasive species and installation of conservation practices.	11/30/12	Erling
Complete Wetland Mitigation Project obligations.	12/2012	Erling
Produce wetland biolg and sod products for use in conservation projects.	6/30/13	District Staff
Implement 5,000 feet of riparian restoration practices.	6/30/13	District Staff, NRCS
Install 3,000 feet of fence to protect riparian areas.	6/30/13	District Staff, NRCS

Objective 3.4: Reduce animal feeding operation impacts on water quality and fisheries habitat.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Participate in Division II Animal Feeding operation committee	6/30/13	Hill
Install conservation measures at two animal feeding operations.	6/30/13	Field Technician



Six Mile Creek



Mountain Lady Slipper – *Cypripedium montanum*

Priority Number 4: Run-off Management

Objective 4.1: Reduce risks from drought and flooding.

Goal(A): Reduce the impacts of flooding.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Finalize Lapwai Creek floodplain reconnection assessment.	10/30/12	District Staff, NRCS
Incorporate floodplain management action items into the Catholic, Cottonwood and Jacks Creek watershed plans	6/30/13	District staff

Goal(B): Promote water conservation and water use efficiency.

No activities planned for FY13

Objective 4.2: Improve and enhance water quality to acceptable standards for ground and surface waters within the District.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Participate in local watershed advisory group meetings.	6/30/13	District Staff
Reduce sediment through the protection of 1,000 acres of cropland from excessive erosion. ¹	6/30/13	District staff
Develop 500 acres of nutrient management plans.	6/30/13	District Staff, NRCS
Incorporate TMDL implementation planning actions into the Catholic, Cottonwood, and Jacks Creek watershed plans.	6/30/13	District Staff

Objective 4.3: Assess and monitor watershed conditions.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Complete 20 miles of stream inventory on the Jacks Creek watershed.	6/30/13	District Staff
Complete 40 miles of stream inventory in Pine and Bedrock Creek watershed.	6/30/13	District staff

¹ las.sc.egov.usda.gov PRS report # 2.10.

Objective 4.4: Develop watershed based resource plans for improving and protecting natural resources.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Write a proposal and obtain funding for watershed plans for the Deer, Eagle, and China Creek watersheds.	6/30/13	District Staff
Complete Cottonwood Creek watershed plan.	6/30/13	District Staff, NRCS
Complete Catholic Creek watershed plan.	6/30/13	District Staff

Objective 4.5: Reduce transportation system impacts on water quality, fish habitat and hydrology.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Install 3 miles of road improvement measures.	6/30/13	District Staff
Complete a culvert inventory and road assessment in the Jacks Creek watershed.	6/30/13	District Staff, NRCS



Snake River Canyon

Priority Number 5: Promote Responsible Rural Land Development and Urban Expansion

Objective 5.1: Promote responsible urban developments so that soil and water resources will be conserved and meet the TMDL objectives.

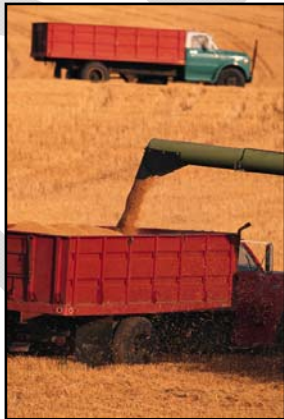
Action(s):

Activities for FY2013	Target Dates	Person Responsible
Participate in coordinated plans for the development of recreational areas, industrial sites, and other facilities as requested by the City of Lewiston and/or Nez Perce County.	12/31/12	SWCD
Preserve prime and unique farmland.	12/31/12	NRCS
Work with the City of Lewiston to identify potential projects within the Lindsay and Tammany Creek watersheds.	6/30/13	District Staff

Objective 5.2: Protect Cultural and Historical Resources within the District.

Action(s):

Activities for FY2013	Target Dates	Person Responsible
Consult with State Historic Preservation Officer when installing earth disturbing practices. Estimate 10 consultations completed. ²	6/30/13	District Staff, BPA



² PRS report #4.2, 4.3.

Priority Number 6: Maintain, restore, and enhance the productive capacity of working lands within the District.³

Objective 6.1: Maintain productive working farms and ranches.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Encourage the use of the RCRDP loan program for direct seed systems equipment.	6/30/13	District staff
Maintain membership in the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association.	6/30/13	District staff
Encourage the adoption of direct seed systems.	6/30/13	District staff
Complete 1,000 acres of Conservation plans on non-irrigated cropland. ⁴	6/30/13	NRCS , District Staff
Provide SCCD reduced tillage/direct seed/no till loan program information to cooperators.	6/30/13	District staff
Pursue resources to develop grazing plans and implement grazing land conservation treatments.	6/30/13	District Staff, SWCD
Implement conservation practices on 500 acres of grazing lands.	6/30/13	District Staff, NRCS
Support the Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development forestry measures.	6/30/13	SWCD, District Staff
Apply 50 acres of forest stand improvement.	9/30/12	NRCS

Objective 6.2: Encourage protection of existing and the development of additional ponderosa pine communities.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Plant 50 acres of ponderosa pine trees	6/30/12	District Staff

Objective 6.3: Restore and / or protect native plant communities.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Inventory and map existing prairie remnants during conservation plan development within the Big Canyon and Lapwai Creek watersheds.	6/30/13	District Staff
Restore prairie habitats through noxious weed control, cultural practices and seeding.	6/30/13	District Staff

³ Adopted from the USDA-NRCS Strategic Plan FY2003-2008

⁴ las.sc.egov.usda.gov PRS report # 1.2.

Objective 6.4: Reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Identify and prioritize areas for noxious weed treatment.	6/30/13	District staff
Release biocontrol agents for yellow starthistle and spotted knapweed control at 20 sites within the county.	7/5/12	District Staff
Coordinate an interagency biocontrol agent collection day.	7/5/12	District Staff
Complete a bio-control workshop for noxious weed pests.	6/30/13	NPT
Implement 250 acres of Pest management conservation plans. ⁵	6/30/13	District Staff, NRCS

Objective 6.5: Prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of invasive species.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Prevent seed dispersal from equipment	6/30/13	District staff
Recommend and use noxious weed free seeds when implementing grass seeding projects.	6/30/13	NRCS, District Staff
Participate in the Clearwater Basin Weed Group.	6/30/13	District Staff
Control 15 acres of Hybrid Knotweed.	6/30/13	District Staff
Coordinate with local weed control entities to identify noxious weed areas	6/30/13	District Staff

Objective 6.6: Ensure the long-term survival of native fish, wildlife, and plants.⁶

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Develop conservation plans on 200 acres to address native species restoration. ⁷	6/30/13	District Staff, NRCS
Develop 4 habitat conservation plans within the Big Canyon Creek Watershed and 6 habitat conservation plans in the Lapwai watershed.	6/30/13	District Staff
Provide information to landowners regarding the distribution, abundance and conservation of native fish, wildlife, and plants.	6/30/13	District Staff
Collaborate with IDFG and NPT to develop plans to recover threatened and endangered species and conserve native fish, wildlife and plants.	6/30/13	District Staff
Support the efforts of the Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC) to document the occurrence of rare species and work toward increased reporting of sightings. Provide CDC inventory forms on an annual basis. ⁸	6/30/13	District Staff

⁵ las.sc.egov.usda.gov PRS report # 2.14.

⁶ Adopted from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Strategic Plan. The Compass. 2005

⁷ las.sc.egov.usda.gov PRS report # 1.2.

⁸ Adopted from the Clearwater subbasin Plan. November 2003.

Priority Number 7: Promote Sustainable Energy Systems

Objective 7.1: Demonstrate and deploy clean energy technologies.

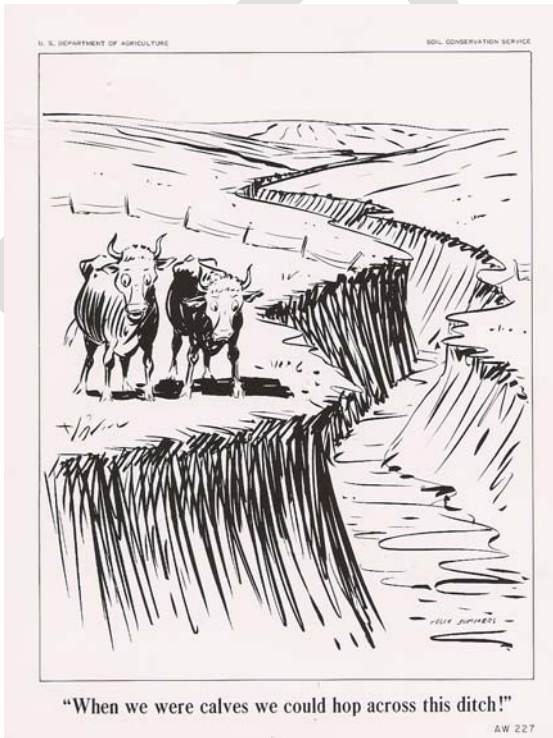
Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Demonstrate wind mill livestock watering system.	6/30/13	SWCD, District staff

Objective 7.2: Identify sustainable energy systems for implementation in District.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Obtain technical assistance from the Department of Energy in order to identify system types and potentials for the District.	6/30/13	SWCD, District staff



Cow Creek – May 2002

Priority Number 8: Promote Community Education

Objective 8.1: Increase public awareness of conservation programs and activities.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Publish Forever Soil and Water Newsletter—4 times per year	6/30/13	District Staff
Maintain District Web Site.	6/30/13	District Staff
Participate in the Nez Perce County Fair.	9/30/12	District Staff
Complete one display focusing on water quality education.	6/30/12	OC
Disseminate accomplishment report to conservation partners, clients, and general public.	12/31/12	District Staff

Objective 8.2: Increase public awareness of conservation programs and activities.

Goal(2): Provide conservation education/information to students and educators.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Coordinate annual Environmental Awareness Days program for area schools.	6/1/13	District Staff, Partners
Provide one scholarship to attend a resource camp.	6/30/13	SWCD
Support Camp Wittman education activities	6/30/13	SWCD
Develop 2 resource internships with local colleges.	6/30/13	SWCD

Objective 8.3: Transfer technology to District clients.

Action(s):

Actions for FY2013	Target Dates	Person(s) Responsible
Support the Rangeland Grazing conference	6/30/12	District Staff
Evaluate conservation field trials and disseminate results	3/30/13	District Staff
Complete the Roadside Vegetation Plant Materials trial evaluation with the Pullman Plant Materials Center	6/30/13	Pullman PMC

District Contact Information

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