

TAMMANY CREEK WATERSHED

CONSERVATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SURVEY RESULTS

January 2005



NEZ PERCE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Introduction

In May of 2004, the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (District) surveyed the local community to determine natural resources priorities for the Tammany Creek Watershed.

The Conservation Needs Assessment Survey identifies natural resource concerns and goals and prioritizes areas most in need of conservation efforts. This survey will be the foundation for future plans and projects for the Tammany Creek Watershed.

In 1941, Idaho state law created the District to protect and manage the natural resources of Nez Perce County. The District coordinates technical and financial assistance from all levels of government for private landowners and land users to address local natural resource concerns.

The District is governed by a board of elected supervisors. The supervisors are county residents who take an oath of office to carry out the District's mission. The District's supervisors are unpaid officials dedicated to the service of the community and its natural resources.

The Tammany Creek Watershed is located near Lewiston, Idaho. (Figure 1)

Figure 1. Tammany Creek Location Map



Survey Results

Of 662 surveys distributed, 3.3% were returned. The survey collected information in four areas: respondent type, natural resource issues, customer groups and conservation services. The information for each of these areas is described in this document.

A. Respondent Type

Respondent type data determines the customer base represented by the surveys. Nine categories were included in the survey: urban/suburban resident, rural resident (non-farm/ranch), special interest groups, government agency, educational institution and other. Table 1 summarizes the percent of surveys returned for each category.

The majority of responses were from the urban/suburban resident category (59.1%). Other groups included farm/ranch owner (18.2%), rural resident (not farm/ranch) (13.7%), farm/ranch operator (9.1%).

Table 1. Respondent Type

Category	Percentage of Respondents selecting this category
Urban/Suburban Resident	59.1%
Farm/Ranch owner	18.2%
Rural Resident (not farm/ranch)	13.7%
Farm/Ranch Operator	9.1%
Special Interest Group	0.0%
Government Agency	0.0%
Business Owner/Operator	0.0%
Educational Institution	0.0%
Other	0.0%

B. Customer Groups

Survey respondents were asked to select the four customer groups that the District should make the most intensive effort to reach with information, products, and/or services to help solve natural resource issues. Twenty categories were available for selection. Table 2 summarizes the data for all groups.

Table 2. Customer Group Data

Category	Respondents selecting this category as a top four issue
Agribusiness	50.0%
State/Local Politician	45.5%
Urban/Suburban Citizens	40.9%
Full-time Farmers/Ranchers	36.4%
Federal, State, City Agencies	27.3%
Recreational Users	27.3%
Hobby Farmers/ranchers	27.3%
Developers	27.3%
Planners	22.7%
Schools	18.2%
National Politicians	13.6%
Environmental Group	13.6%
Part-time Farmers/Ranchers	13.6%
Tribal Land Owners	9.1%
Business Community	9.1%
Commodity Groups	4.6%
Foresters	4.6%
Minority Farmers/Ranchers	4.6%
Timber Producers	0
Other	0

C. Natural Resource Issues

Those surveyed were asked to select the 10 most important natural resource issues facing the Tammany Creek Watershed in the next decade. Twenty-six categories were presented on the survey. Table 3 summarizes the percent of responses for each category.

Table 3. Natural Resource Issue Summary

Category	Respondents selected this category as a top 10 issue
Weeds	81.8%
Drinking Water Quality	63.6%
Water Availability/Quantity	63.6%
Water Quality	63.6%
Irrigation/Water Management	59.1%
Soil Erosion	50.0%
Soil Quality/Soil Health	45.5%
Rural Land Development/Urban Sprawl	40.9%
Loss of Agricultural Land	36.4%
Animal Waste	31.8%
Grazing Lands	31.8%
Agricultural Sustainability	27.3%
Pesticide Management	27.3%
Storm Water Management	22.7%
Urban Land Use	22.7%
Urban Water Pollution	22.7%
Wildlife	22.7%
Agricultural Productivity	18.2%
Fisheries	18.2%
Road Associated Erosion	18.2%
Wetlands	18.2%
Air Quality	13.6%
Flood Plain Development	13.6%
Food and Fiber Production	13.6%
Other	13.6%
Threatened/Endangered Species	13.6%
Urban Livestock	13.6%
Land Disposal of Organic Waste	9.1%
Nutrient Management	9.1%
Urban Pesticide and Nutrient Management	9.1%
Flooding	4.6%
Land Slides/Soil Mass Management	4.6%

D. Products

Survey respondents were asked to select the five most important products, services, and programs the District could provide to solve resource issues in the watershed. There were 22 categories for selection. Table 4 summarizes the data.

Table 4. Products, Services and Programs Summary

Category	Respondents selecting this category as a top five issue
Irrigation Water Management	68.2%
Weed Control Strategies	68.2%
Educational Programs	45.4%
Water Quality Planning	40.9%
Erosion and Sediment Control	36.4%
Conservation Planning	27.3%
Wildlife Habitat Planning and Management	27.2%
Soil Survey and Soil Information	22.7%
Agricultural Waste Management	22.7%
Information (e.g. databases)	18.2%
Develop/Maintain Standards	13.6%
Flood Preservation	13.6%
Resource Inventories	13.6%
Riparian Management Planning	13.6%
Engineering Design	9.1%
Recreational Opportunity	9.1%
Rural Development Assistance	9.1%
Cost-Share	4.6%
Urban Forestry Programs	0
Outdoor Recreation Assistance	0
Home Assessments	0
Other	0

Conclusions:

Top 10 resource issues include:

- Weeds
- Drinking Water Quality
- Water Availability/Quantity
- Water Quality
- Irrigation/Water Management
- Soil Erosion
- Soil Quality/Soil Health
- Rural Land Development/Urban Sprawl
- Loss of Agricultural Land
- Animal Waste & Grazing Land (tied for #10)

Top four consumer groups to target are:

- Agribusiness
- State/Local Politicians
- Urban/Suburban citizens
- Full-time Farmers/Ranchers

Top five products, programs and services that would be valuable to customers are:

- Irrigation water management
- Weed control strategies
- Educational programs
- Water quality planning
- Erosion and sediment control

Survey respondents were asked to identify specific areas of the Tammany Creek Watershed in need of resource conservation assistance. Comments are summarized below.

- Remove of trash to improve water quality
- Weed control along roads
- The area from the bottom of 6th Street grade to the mouth of the creek and the steep canyons along that stretch of road
- The wetland area around milepost 7
- The amount of animal waste and agricultural contaminants (herbicide and pesticide run-off) that goes into Tammany Creek
- The concrete channel
- The areas where starthistle has intruded and taken over
- A well for irrigation is needed or a pump to drain water from the Clearwater River
- Appropriate use of irrigation water
- Urban hobby farmers and ranchers along Tammany Creek
- Year-round riparian areas
- Tree planting along Tammany Creek to lower water temperatures
- Rules for recreational use of Tammany Creek
- The area between the 49er and the Saddle Club could use shade trees in riparian zone
- Waha zone, lower Tammany Creek road
- the area south of the orchards

Survey respondents were given an opportunity to provide general comments. Comments provided are summarized below.

- Educating urban residents about the need for chemical use on farms and the precautions taken by farmers is needed.
- Tammany Creek is not being protected from heavy agricultural and rural population living directly on its banks. Fencing of the creek to avoid animal and human waste and reduce water runoff of nearby polluted lands is necessary.
- Give notice to everyone along the creek to have clean up days. All metal, trash and junk needs to be removed from the water and surrounding area. The cattle and farmers are not the problem. Everyone should do their part.
- Stock owners and farms are growing a product. That is their livelihood. We need water not rationing. We need time to find more water.
- I think it's most important to get information to the next generation; children form school groups, projects, field trips etc.
- Livestock must be removed from creeks. Stockmen must receive help in fencing and alternate water sources, pumps, tanks, etc.
- I would like to see a non-motorized trail from Lewiston Round Up Grounds to Hellsgate.
- Improve wildlife zone and recreational opportunities.

For Additional Information:

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All District programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis regardless of race, religion, national origin, color, sex, age or disability.