

IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

FIVE-YEAR (5) PLAN and
ANNUAL WORK PLAN
CERTIFICATION

DISTRICT:

Minidoka SWCD

FOR FISCAL YEAR:

2024


DUE :

March 31,

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan is true and accurate, and further submit said Plan for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Five-Year (5) Plan and Annual Work Plan shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.



Board Supervisor Signature

Desty Wilkins

Printed Name

3-11-24

Date

208 436 4202

District Telephone

minidokaswed@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District

84 East Baseline Road

Rupert Idaho 83350

208 436 4202

minidokaswcd@gmail.com

Annual Plan

1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025

Five-Year Plan

1 July 2024 - 30 June 2029

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FORWARD

The Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 50 conservation Districts in Idaho. Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Districts are political subdivision of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation Districts are charged with carrying out a program for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

Conservation Districts are the primary entities to provide help to private landowners and land users in conservation, sustainment, improvement, and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. They are the catalysts for coordinating and implementing conservation programs, channeling expertise from all levels of government into action at the local level. Programs are nonregulatory; consisting of science-based technical assistance, incentive-based financial programs, and informational and educational programs at the local level.

Both by Legislation and by agreement, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) provides technical assistance to landowners and land users through Conservation Districts.

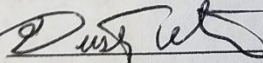
This annual plan/Five-year Resource Conservation Business Plan was developed not only to guide the Conservation District, but also to encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials. Through knowledge and cooperation, all concerned can ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations in the Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District.

This document identifies the resource needs in the Conservation District and presents a resource conservation action plan for meeting these needs.

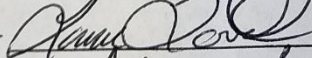
Certificate of Adoption

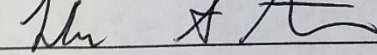
The Board of elected supervisors of the Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District this 13th day of March 2024, do hereby approve the following document known as the Annual and Five-year Resource Conservation Business Plan. This Plan will be in effect for a five-year period ending June 30, 2029, during which time, it will be updated annually and/or amended as necessary.

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

Dusty Wilkins, Chairman  _____

Reid Bowen, Vice Chairman _____

Lance Lovell, Treasurer  _____

Luke Stevenson, Supervisor  _____

Jeff Schow, Supervisor _____

Supporting Idaho Conservation Partners: (as applicable)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts. (IASCD)

Minidoka County Extension

Conservation District Structure and Governing Policies

Southern Minidoka County was opened for Homesteading after the Minidoka Dam on the Snake River was Completed and Lake Walcott was formed east of Rupert in 1907. The Minidoka Irrigation District now administers water in this area. In the late 1940's the Bureau of Reclamation found adequate underground water in the Snake River Plain aquifer and opened the Northside Pumping Division of the Minidoka Project to homesteading.

Public drawings for homesteads were held from 1953 to 1959 with 637 families taking up land in the project. They cleared sagebrush, leveled ground, laid out ditches, dug wells for drinking water and built barns and homes.

Many of the settlers had lived in a soil conservation district elsewhere, and in 1954 some of them formed the Homestead Committee. Their goals were to address local public concerns such as roads, telephones, fire protection, weed and pest control, and to establish a soil conservation district in Minidoka County. A public referendum passed and the Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District was officially organized July 1, 1955.

The first supervisors of the Minidoka SWCD were Edward Smith, George Hedlind, Willard Warren, and Roger Dean (all of Rupert) and George Falkner from Paul.

The first five years were spent helping farmers level land, build irrigation structures, and develop proper crop rotations. Land-leveling equipment was in great demand, so the District obtained a government surplus TD-18 International track-tractor and purchased a land plane and carryall, which it leased to cooperators.

The Minidoka SWCD has assisted farmers and growers in converting to sprinkler irrigation, which lessens soil erosion on sandy or steep ground, while helping to curb high water table problems. The District also promotes conservation practices to reduce erosion of surface-irrigated land. In many areas of the county, concrete ditches, gated pipe, and pump back systems make efficient use of water while reducing energy cost. The District also participate in an annual tree sale that is targeted to help with plant wind breaks.

Over the years, there have been major changes in the duties and priorities of the District. Foremost was the 1985 Food security Act bill that required farmers receiving any form of federal funding to obtain a Conservation Plan of Action for all actively farmed property. The District board was given the responsibility of approving and monitoring these plans for effective implementation.

In 1990, the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act (FACTA) expanded the government mandates and included water quality. Today the District is engaged in water quality, soil health and educational activities.

SWCD Administration and Financing

The northern three-fourths of Minidoka County was issued a certificate of organization on July 1, 1955, as the Minidoka Soil Conservation District. The remaining southern part of the county was issued a certificate of organization as the Walcott Soil and Water Conservation District on April 18, 1961.

The two districts were consolidated into one, and a certificate of organization was issued by Pete Cenarusa, Idaho Secretary of State, on April 16, 1969 to the Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District. The Minidoka County boundaries make up the district boundaries. Lands within the incorporated cities are not included in the District.

The District receives financing provided from the general fund of Minidoka County and the State of Idaho. The county is authorized by State law to provide the district with financial or other assistance. The State is authorized to match the county funds.

The District is administered by a five-person board of supervisors elected by the local residents. The board members serve four-year terms. They receive no salary but are entitled to reimbursement of expenses when carrying out responsibilities for the District. The five elected members select associate supervisors to assist them. A regular meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month with special meetings called as needed.

SWCD Policies

The Minidoka SWCD is governed by Title 22, Chapter 27 of the Idaho Code. The Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) Rule 60.05.02 and IDAPA Rule 60.05.04 direct Soil Conservation Districts to establish a Five-Year Plan and an Annual Work Plan to identify natural resource concerns within their boundaries and formulate strategies to address these concerns.

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWC) oversees the MSWCD (Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District) through its powers and responsibilities. The MSWCD is a grassroots organization that has accepted the responsibility of overseeing the wise use and conservation of our natural resources.

The Board of supervisors also enlists the support of local, county, state, and federal agencies to assist them with their goals.

A monthly meeting is held to address local, state, and federal issues that directly affect the conservation resources of this community.

The MSWCD willingly accepts the responsibility inherent to districts to address agricultural non-point source pollution as set forth in the 1987 Water Quality Act – Section 319; the Safe Drinking Water Act 1986; and the Clean Water Act of 1972 – Antidegradation Program. The MSWCD accepts this responsibility in order to preserve a locally administered voluntary approach for control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution to protect and enhance the quality and value of water resources of the State of Idaho.

Physical Characteristics

Land:

Minidoka County is located in Southern Central Idaho. It is made up of the Snake River Plain section of the Columbia Plateau province. The District encompasses 487,794 acres. The land ownership is nearly split between private and public ownership, and land use has remained relatively constant.

- Water 0.4%
- State 1.6%
- National Park Service 15.8%
- Bureau of Land Management 33.0%
- Bureau of Reclamation 1.6%
- Private Land 47.6%

Topography:

The topography of Minidoka County ranges from nearly level, very low terraces adjacent to the Snake River to a very gently undulation, loess-covered basalt upland in the northern part of the county. The elevation ranges from about 4,125 feet at the Snake River to 5,000 feet on Kimama Butte.

The soil associations in the Minidoka Soil survey of 1976 were grouped into five general kinds of landscape for broad interpretative purposes. The terms for texture used in the associations apply to the texture of the surface layer.

1. Level to strongly Sloping, Well-Drained Silt Loams on Basalt Plains.
2. Very Gently Sloping to Strongly Sloping, Well-Drained Silt Loams on Basalt Plains.
3. Level to Strongly Sloping, Well-Drained Sands and fine Sandy Loams on Basalt Plains
4. Level to Sloping, Well-Drained Sands to Silty Clay Loams on Low Alluvial Terraces.
5. Level and Nearly level, Poorly Drained Loamy Sands to Clay Loams on Low Alluvial Terraces.

Climate:

The average annual temperature is 48 degrees F* with a length of 125-130 days of frost-free weather. The average precipitation is 8-10 inches annually.

Economic Conditions and Outlook

Population and Employment:

The population and demographics of the county have made significant changes in the past years. The population is slowly increasing after slipping in 2005 where it dropped to 18,756 due to various industry issues and economic struggles. Since then, there has been steady growth, different farming practices are being implemented such as Direct Seed/minimum tillage, several industries have established in the area. The latest count in 2023 is 22,075. While still heavily dependent upon agriculture and food processing, the county economy has diversified to include durable manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade tied to agriculture.

Agricultural Economy:

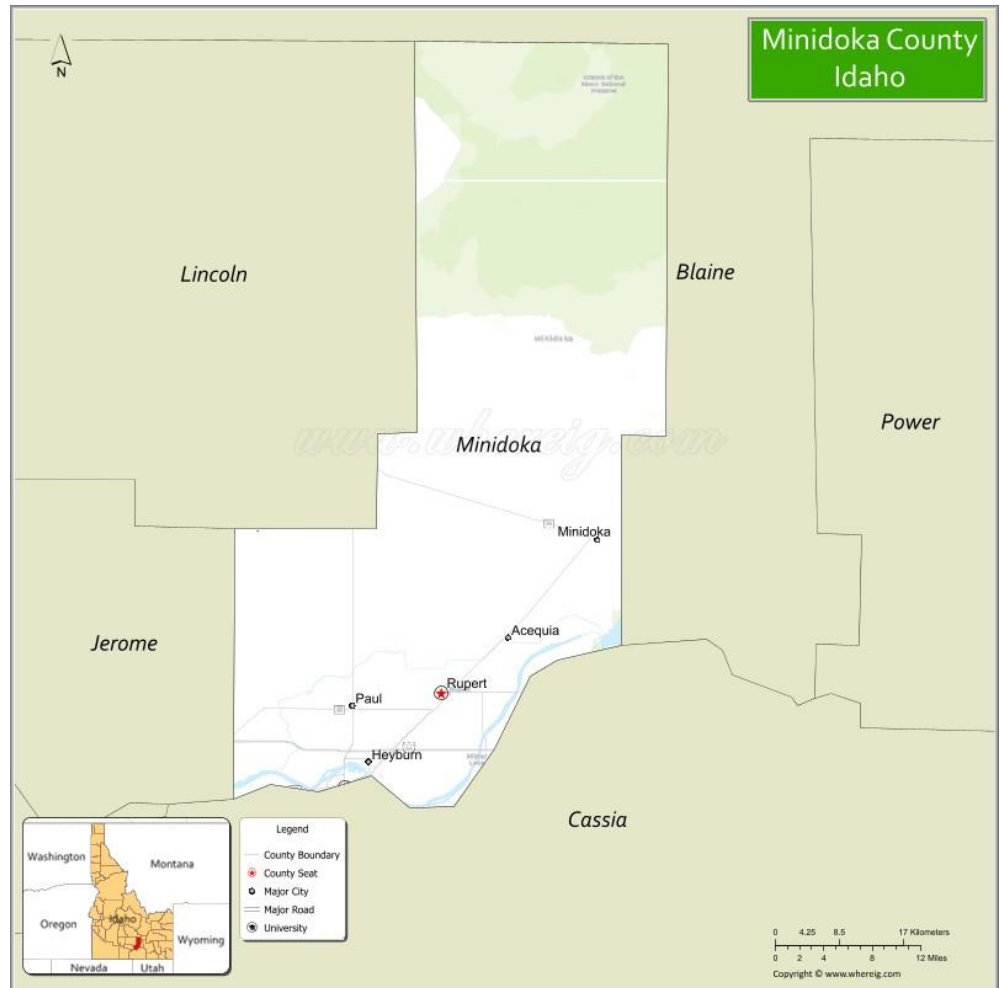
Agriculture is the number one business in the county. The major crops grown in the county are beans, hay, malt barley, potatoes, sugar beets, and wheat among other crops. Dairy cattle, feeder cattle, swine, sheep, and chickens are the primary animals raised in the county.

Manufacturing is making a large presence in the area, with cheese, powdered milk, potato packing and shipping, commodity shipping of all variety are based in the area as well.

Map of Minidoka County- District Boundary and Historical Facts.

The name Minidoka is said to be from Dakota Sioux origin which means 'a fountain or spring of water.' Minidoka was first used in the 1883 as a name for the Union Pacific's Oregon Short Line. A railroad spur in the middle of the Snake River Plain. The spur later became the site of a watering station along the line. The village of Minidoka grew up next to the station. The Minidoka name was then given to a reclamation project under then President Theodore Roosevelt which include the construction of the Minidoka Dam, completed in 1904. Minidoka National Historic Site (in Jerome County) was part of

the original reclamation project and hence shares in the name Minidoka County was created by the Idaho Legislation on January 28, 1913 by partition of Lincoln County.



Proposed budget and actual expenditures for FY 2022-2024 (as of February 2024)

Minidoka SWCD 2023 2024	Actual 2023-2024	purposed 2023-2024
INCOME		
County Appropriations		\$ 12,000.00
State Allocations		
District Base	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 8,500.00
State Match	\$ 16,049.03	\$ 19,000.00
District Bldg. Capacity		
District Operation Funding	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Grants		
Administrative Fees- Direct Seed project	\$ 1,886.50	\$ 1,886.50
banquet share. Ins share	\$ 1,686.58	\$ 1,636.58
Tree Sales		\$ 1,200.00
Other Income- Int. CD's rebate/refunds		
TOTAL	\$ 34,122.11	\$ 50,223.08
EXPENSES		
Dues		
Division IV		\$ 80.00
IASCD	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
IDEA membership	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
NACD	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00
Other Dues		
High Country RC&D	\$ 56.35	\$ 56.35
RC&D membership	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Memorials/funerals		\$ 150.00
Idea raffle		\$ 25.00
FAIR EXPENSE/ trees give away		\$ 200.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,156.35	\$ 2,611.35
PUBLIC OUTREACH Awards & contests		
Ag in the Classroom	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Banquet and Awards	\$ 508.73	\$ 500.00
Envirothon	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Forestry Contest		\$ 50.00
IASCD Door Prizes		\$ 50.00
KYG	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
LSEE (land judging)	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Water quality project/monitors	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Poster Contest	\$ 178.08	\$ 400.00
Scholarships		\$ 3,000.00
Natural Resouces Camp		\$ 560.00
Idaho Community foundation		\$ 50.00
Stewardship awards	\$ 66.23	\$ 150.00
Special projects (cap wells) WQPA project		
FFA		\$ 250.00
Soil testing through U of I	\$ 1,164.00	\$ 1,164.00
Speech Contest	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,692.04	\$ 12,949.00

PUBLIC EVENTS/MEETINGS		
Board Mtg. Lunch	\$ 94.46	\$ 575.00
Division IV Meetings	\$ 45.00	\$ 100.00
Picnic/banquet		
Tours/Workshops/Demonstrations		
Local work group		\$ 100.00
TOTAL	\$ 139.46	\$ 775.00
UTILITIES		
PMT	\$ 516.23	\$ 700.00
TOTAL	\$ 516.23	\$ 700.00
INSURANCE		
ICRMP and State Insur.	\$ 2,366.00	\$ 2,000.00
work comp ins	\$ 315.00	\$ 350.00
DISTRICT EMPLOYEE TRAVEL		
Meals & Lodging	\$ 446.76	\$ 300.00
mileage		
Registration	\$ 355.00	\$ 350.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,482.76	\$ 3,000.00
SUPERVISOR TRAVEL		
Meals & Lodging		\$ 1,300.00
Mileage		\$ 200.00
Registration	\$ 325.00	\$ 650.00
TOTAL	\$ 325.00	\$ 2,150.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT		
Equipment (computer/software)		
Postage	\$ 66.00	\$ 75.00
Visa (includes all kinds of expenses)		\$ 100.00
Office Supplies, other	\$ 377.94	\$ 150.00
deposits to CD's		
deposit books & ck order		\$ 75.00
TOTAL	\$ 443.94	\$ 400.00
PAYROLL EXPENSES		
Payroll	\$ 11,894.07	\$ 17,000.00
NRCS employee		
Quarterly Taxes	\$ 4,948.84	\$ 5,000.00
CPA	\$ 169.00	\$ 350.00
PERSI	\$ 2,516.02	\$ 3,700.00
TOTAL	\$ 19,527.93	\$ 26,050.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 34,122.11	\$ 50,223.08
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 35,283.71	\$ 48,635.35
Balance	\$ (1,161.60)	\$ 1,587.73
updated 9 February 2024		
Minidoka SWCD 2023-2024		

1 Year or Annual Plan

- 1) Minidoka SWCD will seek the compilation of data related to the past 5 years of the soil testing project we sponsored.
- 2) Minidoka SWCD and the 2 Cassia Districts will continue with the Direct Seed drill, maintaining them and renting them to area growers. These are 10 years old and are still of benefit to the original cover crop project.
- 3) Minidoka SWCD continues to work with NRCS by assisting with the Local Work Group and setting guidelines for future projects.
- 4) Tree sales for habitat and wind breaks will continue to be a priority. Sales do not normally open until the first of February, but we were seeing orders come in by mid-January.



5) We are launching a 3-year program with moisture monitors in conjunction with the two Cassia Districts. We will host a forum explaining the project and distributing the monitors. The plan is to have 4 growers per District participate with diverse soils and crops. We are looking to attain data that will support the past 9 years of workshops and promoting soil health protocols.

6) Youth programs such as FFA and 4-H are a continued priority for the District, we support activities and programs through these.

7) Minidoka SWCD also contributes to many events such as the state land judging competition (LSEE), Envirothon, Forestry contest, Ag in the Classroom, poster contest for 5th and 6th grades and the speech contest for high school students. This

years theme for poster and speech will be 'May the Forest be with you always'

- 8) Minidoka SWCD is active the community county Fair and sponsor an information booth with handouts regarding, cover crops, water conservation, pollinators, and habitat, also the purpose and benefits of wind breaks.



- 9) Continue to keep the ad for the 'Urban Farmer' on the overuse of fertilizer running on the website as a reminder to that more is not better. The website address: www.minicassiaswcd.com

5- Year Plan

Water quality and quantity always seem to be a concern and part of any discussion among growers here in the Minidoka SWCD. This area is a high dessert region, with an annual rain fall of 8-10 inches at best. The region – all the western states have been in extreme drought conditions for several years in a row. This raises many concerns for water usage, and is usually a hot topic in the Local Work Group meetings.

Minidoka County is seeing a growth spurt in housing that is encroaching into agricultural areas, which is and will impact soil, access, water, normal day to day farming practices and land use. Many of our growers are dealing with annexed areas that no longer allow farm trucks on the road ways, causing issues with getting commodities to production. Many who are now building and living in and on farm land do not understand the needs and practices of agriculture, which includes planting, harvesting, the sound and smell of animals and equipment to name just a few things pertaining to farming. These issues are some that will need to be addressed and possibly mitigated in the near future.

Priority and Plan of Action

In 2024 the Minidoka SWCD in conjunction with East Cassia and West Cassia SWCD will launch a 3- year moisture monitoring project which will entail the three districts purchase of 52 monitors to be dispersed to 17 participating growers. The fields will be documented, and data from the monitors will go to individual growers and collectively to the Districts. Data collected over 3 years in the same field with various crops using the moisture monitors will help determine if or do cover crops provide a benefit to soil health.

Minidoka SWCD, MID (Minidoka Irrigation District) and Amalgamated Sugar are working on enclosing a drainage area that is currently a safety factor for downstream water, and vehicle traversing the area where there is an open drainage and high-water table. Through some of the engineering there will need to be weeping tiles to allow the high-water or ground water to naturally flow through the area while keeping vehicles, dust and debris from entering the water, while providing access for possible fire mitigation for the facilities in the area. We believe this can be accomplished in about 2 possibly 3 years.

Forums and work group meetings will be provided as the need for information arises.

The Direct seed drills will continue to be maintained and rented out to assist with cover crops and the benefit to the soil and wildlife.

There has been discussion concerning pollinators and we are looking into programs that will provide a benefit that can be implemented through the District.

Priority Area number 1: Education of urban landowners as to their responsibility to water quality.

Commercial is posted on the websites of our tri-district MiniCassia.org, and ISWCC site, used as promo at meetings when electronic devices are available	On going	MSWCD, ISWCC
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Priority Area number 2: Soil Health preservation and education

Collect data from the past 5 years of soil testing	On going	MSWCD, East and West Cassia SWCD, NRCS, ISWCC
Continue with the no-till drill project with maintenance, renting it out, education of the benefits of cover crops.	On Going	MSWCD, Supervisors and staff

Priority Area number 3: Moisture Monitor Project

Identify local growers to participate	1-3 years	Three SWCD= East Cassia, Minidoka, West Cassia
The three Districts will self-fund this project	1-3 years	SWCD= East Cassia, Minidoka, West Cassia
Prepare a description, and contract, search costs analysis present to boards	1-	East Cassia, West Cassia MSWCD Supervisors and Admin,
Present project at forum, register growers to participate	1-3 years	SWCD= East Cassia, Minidoka, West Cassia Admin.
Go to fields and document, gather computer data and compile	1-3 years	East Cassia, Minidoka, West Cassia SWCD admin, and land owners.

Priority Area number 4: Outreach and Education

Sponsor poster contests, speech contests, KYG students, Land Judging students, booths at the County fair with information on conservation, Farmer Appreciation Days	annually	MSWCD Admin, and Supervisors
Jointly sponsor the Soil Health forum for producers throughout the state and northern Idaho	On going	MSWCD, East and West Cassia SWCD Admin, and Supervisors

Priority Area number 5: Enclose drainage near Sugar Factory

Meet with Amalgamated, MID, and Minidoka SWCD to out line and determine the issue and problems and solution	1-3 year	Amalgamated engineers, MID and Minidoka SWCD
Research costs and best practice with various products and how to implement	1-3 years	Amalgamated engineers, MID and Minidoka SWCD
Determine coarse of action and implementation to accomplish task	1-4 years	Amalgamated engineers, MID and Minidoka SWCD

Minidoka Conservation District’s Elected Officials and Office Staff

Title	Name	Phone
Chair	Dusty Wilkins	208 670 1641
Vice Chair	Reid Bowen	208 431 3209
Treasurer	Lance Lovell	208 681 2346
Supervisor	Luke Stevenson	208 431 7335
Supervisor	Jeff Schow	208 219 9221
Admin. Assist.	Sharon Hardy	208 430 3259

Minidoka SWCD is a political subdivision of the State of Idaho – authorities, powers, and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, Idaho Code. Organized July 1st 1955 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and uses with the Minidoka SWCD boundary. Minidoka SWCD is in Idaho District 27 being represented by Senator Kelly Anthon, Representative Scott Bedke and Representative Fred Wood.

VISION: To better co-ordinate and unify with our partners and other districts to provide a higher level of assistance to the landowners and producers in each of our areas.

VALUES: Sustainable use of natural resources, support for agriculture activity that uses sustainable, economically feasible practices, value and respect for the Idaho Conservation Partnership, and Conservation education for adults and youth.

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District; assisting land managers with their conservation choices.