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❄️ **Have a Safe and Happy  
Holiday Season!** ❄️

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**Portneuf Soil and Water  
Conservation District**  
1551 Baldy Ave., Ste. 2  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
208-237-4628

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# PORTNEUF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**December 2010**

## District News

The District is in the process of finishing up the Marsh Creek Phase 2 §319 grant; we will have a final report completed in January. This grant was a very short-term §319 grant, participants had around 18 months to get projects designed and completed. Participants have done an outstanding job of getting projects on the ground in this very short time frame, and the District really appreciates the cooperation of all the partners involved in getting these projects successfully completed! The Marsh Creek Phase 3 §319 grant is underway; if you would like more information on this grant call the office or Chris Banks, project coordinator.

## Idaho NRCS Snow Survey 2010 fall report

The NRCS has released the fall Snow Survey Report for 2010, it is available on-line at [www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/](http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/) and click on the fall 2010 report link.

Some key points from the fall Snow Survey Report regarding the projected winter weather: "Climate predictors are signaling a strong La Nina this winter. This usually provides good a snowpack in the Pacific Northwest. Expect a winter snow line elevation that is 500 feet lower than normal and an increase in the number of days with snow-fall. In addition, a cool phase of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation may be pointing towards a one-two punch for a cool, wet winter this year. In general it is rare for a warm October to lead into a cold winter; **however** that rule is not true when a strong La Nina is in play. Two warm Octobers (1942 and 1988) were followed by La Nina conditions and cold January-February temperatures. If past history means anything, there is a good chance this winter may follow the same pattern. A year like 2010, with such dramatic swings, is not common. These factors resulted in a challenge to predict, plan and manage our water supply. Let's hope La Nina brings plentiful snow to make it easier for water users to plan in 2011."

**Inside  
This  
Issue**

**District Updates**

**Snow Survey  
Report**

**FSA News**

**Natural Resource  
Camp**

**NRCS News**

All Portneuf SWCD and NRCS programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

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[www.pswcd.org](http://www.pswcd.org)

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District Conservationist  
Martha Nunez-Hagius,  
Engineer  
Ryan Woodland, Soil  
Conservation Technician

## IASCD/ISWCC Staff

Chris Banks, Water Quality  
Resource Conservationist  
Kelsey Flandro, Water  
Quality Analyst  
Steven Smith, Water Quality  
Resource Conservationist

## PSWCD Office:

1551 Baldy Ave., Ste. 2  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
208-237-4628 x111  
portneufswcd@pswcd.org

## Farm Service Agency News

The Bannock County FSA staff has been busy the last couple of months as we work to release CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) and DCP (Direct and Counter/Cyclical Program) payments for the 2010 fiscal year. To date, we have all but a handful of these payments released, so if you have not yet received notification of payment, please call the office. If you are not sure whether or not you have received your program payments, please contact us, as this probably means you have paperwork that has not been completed.

Our office is also in the process of taking applications for the SAFE program. (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) This program may be of particular interest to those of you who have had CRP acres expire. It is important to remember though, that SAFE is a wildlife enhancement program, specifically designed for Columbian Sharp-tail Grouse habitat, and as such, has different requirements than does the CRP program. If you are interested in this program, please call the office and make an appointment.

Our office will also be taking applications for the 2011 DCP program. Advance payments are available so call the office and make an appointment. Along with sign-up for 2011 fiscal year programs comes the requirements for completion of annual paperwork. This includes all new forms/paperwork whenever any changes are made in your farming operation. Please notify the office as changes occur as this helps us keep records up to date and allows us to make payments in a timely manner.

We also want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and the best of New Years! May you all enjoy the holidays with family and friends! We look forward to working with each of you during the coming new year! All the best for 2011!!

Steve Myler  
County Executive Director  
Bannock County FSA

## SAFE and CSP Programs

There are still acres available for sign-up in Bannock County through the SAFE program; contact the FSA office for more information. The deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign-up is January 7, 2011. Call the NRCS office if you are interested in CSP.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Portneuf SWCD Board Meetings are normally held the second Wednesday of every month at 7 pm, Pocatello NRCS Office. Call for location and time as changes do sometimes occur

21st Annual Water Quality Workshop: Monitoring, Assessment and Management February 8-10, 2011 Theme: Surface and Ground Water: A Single Resource. Boise State University, Student Union Building see [www.deq.idaho.gov/water](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water) for details

February 15-17, 2011 Nutrients and Water Quality, a Regional Collaborative Workshop in Salt Lake City visit [www.cwi.colostate.edu/nutrients](http://www.cwi.colostate.edu/nutrients) for more information

## Natural Resources Camp

For IDAHO YOUTH 12-14 YEARS OLD at the CENTRAL IDAHO 4-H CAMP in KETCHUM, IDAHO  
JUNE 27-JULY 2, 2011

### BECOME A NATURAL RESOURCES CITIZEN!

Will Idaho have abundant resources in 20 years? Will it still be a clean and scenic place to live? Idaho's natural resources need citizens who understand the trade-offs in environmental management. Camp participants will have many opportunities to discuss and debate natural resource issues, discover their responsibilities as citizens, and to conduct experiments and complete outdoor projects. Forestry, rangeland, soil, wildlife, and water issues are all covered in this hands-on camp.

### CAMP INFORMATION

Visit the NRC website at: <http://extension.ag.uidaho.edu/nrc>  
Cost: \$205, due by May 21; late registration is \$225. Scholarships may be available through your local Soil Conservation District. Applications for the 2011 NRC can be obtained at your local Soil Conservation District or County Extension Office, or by calling the Twin Falls R&E Center at 736-3634. Additional information on camp can be obtained by calling Megan Satterwhite at 736-3634.

## NRCS NEWS

Happy Holidays from the NRCS Pocatello Field Office!  
We have been swamped the last 90 or so days with new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts. With less than 4,000 acres available for CRP in Bannock County there were a lot of disappointed people. The question often asked is "Why was a particular tract of land offered a CRP contract and another tract was not?" The short answer is the difference in the Environment Benefits Index (EBI) score. Our sister agency, Farm Service Agency (FSA) assigns a unique EBI score based on six factors: wildlife cover, water quality, erodibility index, enduring benefits, air quality, and cost. Each factor is determined by the procedure outlined in the FSA website at the following address <http://www.apfo.usda.gov/FAS/newsRelease>.

To make a CRP offer more competitive, producers should consider which cover practice to apply, only offer the most environmentally sensitive land, and consider accepting a lower payment rate than the maximum amount FSA is willing to offer. If anyone has questions, I would be glad to do my best to answer them. My phone number is 237-4628 and my email is [bernard.o'doherty@id.usda.gov](mailto:bernard.o'doherty@id.usda.gov). Have a happy and safe holiday season!

B.J. O'Doherty  
District Conservationist  
NRCS-Pocatello FO