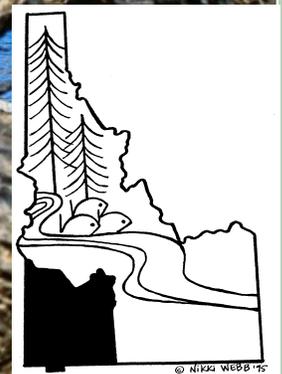




**Southwest Idaho Resource  
Conservation and Development  
Annual Report 2017**



## Contact Information for Southwest Idaho RC&D

### Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 123, Meridian, Idaho 83680

Phone: (208)573-4875

Email: [swidred@idahored.org](mailto:swidred@idahored.org)

### Current 2017 Sponsoring Entities Include:

#### County Commissions

Ada County  
Canyon County  
Elmore County  
Owyhee County  
Valley County

#### Incorporated Cities

Boise  
Eagle  
Fruitland  
Glenns Ferry  
Grand View  
Greenleaf  
Kuna  
Marsing  
Melba  
Middleton  
Mountain Home  
Nampa  
Wilder

#### Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Ada  
Canyon  
Elmore  
Owyhee  
Adams

#### Other

Boise National Forest Coalition  
Central District Health Department  
Idaho Youth Ranch  
Meridian Seniors  
Payette National Forest Coalition  
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes  
Star Seniors  
Warm Springs Mesa Homeowners Association  
Pathways Crisis Center of Southwest Idaho

## Southwest Idaho RC&D Vision Statement

The Southwest Idaho RC&D Council (SWID RC&D) is recognized as a leader in cooperation between the public and private sector in natural resources management, conservation and human resource development in rural and urban areas.

## Southwest Idaho RC&D Mission Statement

The Southwest Idaho RC&D Council will assist sponsors in implementing projects by providing technical and financial information and coordinating activities through communications, education and networking.

## What is the Southwest Idaho RC&D Council?

There are many individuals, organizations, and agencies working toward the goals of natural resource conservation and human resource development for rural and urban areas in Southwest Idaho. The council's opportunities to assist these partners lie in its resources. The Southwest Idaho RC&D Council's general objective in providing this support is to facilitate improvement in community development and land and water conservation and management.

The Council, formed in 1995, is charged with helping the people protect and develop economic, natural and social resources in ways that improve their area's economy, environment, and quality of life. Council actions provide a way for people to plan and implement projects that will make communities better places in which to live. The Council works with partners to bring together people, needs, concerns, opportunities and solutions. They will promote grant opportunities; assist with grant writing and administration; coordinate technical assistance; hire employees; and assist in education, outreach, fundraising, and research activities.

The Southwest Idaho RC&D Council Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization within the State of Idaho and is considered a 501(c)(3) entity by the Internal Revenue Service. This standing makes the council eligible to secure grant funds from private foundations and others, to receive private individual donations, and to become holders of property, as allowed in its by-laws.

The Southwest Idaho RC&D Council administrative area is generally considered as the 22,278 square miles that includes: Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington Counties in Idaho, as well as Duck Valley Indian Reservation in Idaho and Nevada, for a total population of 711,800 residents. However, the council becomes involved with projects that are determined by the extent of the resource concern or opportunity, not just by the administrative boundary of the Council.

The Board of Directors for the Council are representatives from our sponsoring entities within the aforementioned area. For 2017 the executive committee included President, Debbie Cook; Vice President, Susie Colthorp; Secretary/Treasurer, Nichole Schwend; and members, Leslie Jayo and Paul Calverly. The Project Coordinator was Bill Moore and Project Coordinator protégé Jacque Henrickson.



# Treasure Valley Shade Tree



The Shade Tree Project is an urban tree planting project that has grown from a one year, 250 tree planting pilot program in 2013 operated by Idaho Power to a robust multi-partner, 3,000 tree/year planting program by the fall of 2017. As of the fall of 2017, 8,967 trees have been distributed to 5,331 homeowners.

This project leveraged the resources and expertise of diverse partners—energy producers, air quality experts, planners and foresters—to design and implement a cost-effective, sustainable and replicable energy conservation/education program. The 8,976 trees were distributed to homeowners to plant in order to maximize long-term energy efficiency. The project was first open to residential customers of Idaho Power living in a two-county (Ada and Canyon) area. After the initial success, the program was expanded to include two additional counties (Elmore and Owyhee). In 2017, the project was expanded yet again to include three more counties (Washington, Payette, and Gem Counties).

## Activities Completed

Offering	Trees Distributed	Trees Donated	Events Held	Participants Reached
Fall 2013	220	30	4	220
Spring 2014	1,058	142	4	633
Fall 2014	983	68	4	578
Spring 2015	801	106	4	455
Fall 2015	1,124	121	4	646
Spring 2016	701	69	4	399
Fall 2016	1,369	144	4	793
Spring 2017	1,307	183	4	762
Fall 2017	1,404	96	4	845
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,967</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5,331</b>





## Treasure Valley Shade Tree (continued)



The Treasure Valley Shade Tree Project is a partnership between the SWID RC&D Council, Treasure Valley Canopy Network, Idaho Power Company and Idaho Department of Lands. This project, funded by the US Forest Service, is targeted at providing shade trees to residential homeowners to be planted for energy conservation.

The Arbor Day Foundation's Energy Saving Trees tool estimates, over the next 20 years, the following ecosystem service benefits will be provided by the shade trees that have been planted

Cumulative Benefits at Year 20;

- Storm water runoff filtered (Gallons) 66,081,948
- Carbon sequestered/avoided (Lbs) 11,259,622
- Air Pollutants absorbed (Lbs) 45,557
- Energy Benefits Saved (Kwh) 15,819,106
- Energy Impact (heating) (Therms) (1,308,406)

To stay up-to-date on the Shade Tree Project, visit the Treasure Valley Canopy Network's project website:

<http://www.tvcanopy.net/treasure-valley-shade-trees/>

The Idaho Power project website:

[www.idahopower.com/shadetree](http://www.idahopower.com/shadetree)

## Surprise Valley



Surprise Valley, a 470 home and condominium development in SE Boise, is in partnership with the SWID RC&D Council along with wildfire experts from Boise city and Idaho state and federal resources. Together, these entities have contributed to the planning of a 5800' long by 20' wildfire defensible space along the north rim of the development. This initial effort was completed in September and required the removal of hundreds of yards of weeds and highly flammable sagebrush along a sometimes steep slope which required non-mechanized removal.

This initial project, funded by a BLM grant through Southwest Idaho RC&D, will be expanded in 2018 with further removal of sagebrush and other highly flammable materials while creating islands of cover for wildlife. Once this defensible space is established, the area will be reseeded with fire resistant native bunchgrasses.



# Indian Valley Community Hall

The Indian Valley Hall is a log building constructed in 1950 by volunteers from the community. It has been in continual use since then as a place for the community to gather for memorial services, weddings, family celebrations and reunions. It is also the home of the Indian Valley Trap Club, which has a shooting range on adjacent Hall property. They rent the building 12 to 14 times a year. By the 1990's the logs, particularly on the south and west sides were deteriorating, and the interior was in great need of basic upgrades. For example, there was no ADA accommodation other than a shaky, portable wooden ramp. Since 2000, many improvements have been made. The kitchen was renovated, two ADA accessible bathrooms were added, and a covered cement porch with a ADA ramp and handrails was added to the front of the building. Extensive electrical work was also done including new energy saving fluorescent lighting, additional outlets, and a new electrical panel. The interior was painted, and new windows, doors, and ceiling fans were added. The roof was replaced, and insulation and steel siding were added to the exterior on three sides to preserve the original structure, and help with heating efficiency. The hardwood floor has been refinished, making it an attractive, convenient place for the community to use. The RC&D continues to partner with ventures such as this by assisting communities in finding grants that make renovations possible, preserve building integrity and allow upgrades that can reduce operating costs.



# Pathways Crisis Center of Southwest Idaho

Southwest Idaho's 24 hour Community Crisis Center

The crisis center provides assessment, intervention, and referral services to individuals 18 years and older who are experiencing a crisis related to mental health or substance-use disorders.

## Your Support Staff

### Medical

- Medical Assessment
- Medical Monitoring

### Behavioral Health Specialists

- Behavioral Health Assessment
- Identify Presenting Problem
- Brief Counseling
- Provides recommendations for Plan of care

### Peer Support Specialists

- Builds a Recovery Plan
- Problem Solving Barriers
- Promotes Recovery & Resiliency

### Case Mangers

- Accesses Resources in Community
- Facilitates Referral Linkage and Coordination

### Security (24/7)

- Provides a safe and secure environment



*"Basically it's a triage and stabilization center. Individuals can come here and stay here for up to 23 hours and 59 minutes to get some behavioral health services and get linked to the services that fit their needs in the community."*

**Chris Christopher, the Director of Business Development for Pathways of Idaho.**

## ADA-Accessible Shuttle Bus Grant

The Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council is assisting Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources to raise grant funds for a parks accessibility shuttle program. While all Canyon County Parks educational programming is free, the cost of transport to and from Celebration Park is often prohibitively expensive for schools and students. We hope to purchase an ADA-accessible shuttle bus which will provide free transportation to and from Celebration Park for those who need it.

The bus would also provide a shuttle between community centers and our park locations for museum exhibits, summer day camps, symposia, and archeological demonstrations. We have already received a commitment of \$20,000 from the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation to assist in purchasing an ADA-accessible 2017 Ford Allstar 25' shuttle bus. We anticipate that this bus will provide park access to tens of thousands of students over its lifespan. Students from 110 schools in Idaho and Oregon (including many rural communities and Title I districts) travel to Celebration Park every year to learn about local and regional history, natural and cultural resources, mathematics, science, and the arts—all through the lens of our place-based, academic field trip programs. In 2017, over 12,000 K-12 children participated in our academic programs.

We are dedicated to ensuring that all students have equal opportunity to engage in our exceptional educational experiences at Celebration Park, regardless of income level, school budget, or locality. An ADA-accessible shuttle program would enable us to translate this mission into reality for thousands of Idaho and Oregon students.



# Project All Access

**Project All Access:** *applying a disability lens to our industry and philanthropy so that inclusion of people with all abilities becomes a reality.*

Tom Bicak created Project All Access in March, 2017. It focuses on unaddressed inclusion issues impacting people with disabilities. It assists with identifying solutions to accessibility barriers, secures contributions and donations, and provides grants to help defray the cost of accommodation.

Tom has created and piloted a grants writing seminar. The eight, one-hour presentations that comprise the program provides instruction, exercises and advice to assure that a novice grants writer can make a more than respectable application to most any granting agency interested in funding programs in Idaho. That seminar is being marketed with 90% of the proceeds assisting Project All Access: 10% will assist the SWID RC&D.

Tom will be the Nampa Art Collective's Featured Artist during spring 2018. He will display 9 new works at the Nampa Civic Center, in Nampa, Idaho and all of these works will be priced at \$1.00 per square inch. Ten cents of each dollar will benefit the SWID RC&D, \$0.20 will benefit the Nampa Art Collective (a 501 (c)(3) private non-profit organization) and \$0.70 will benefit Project All Access.



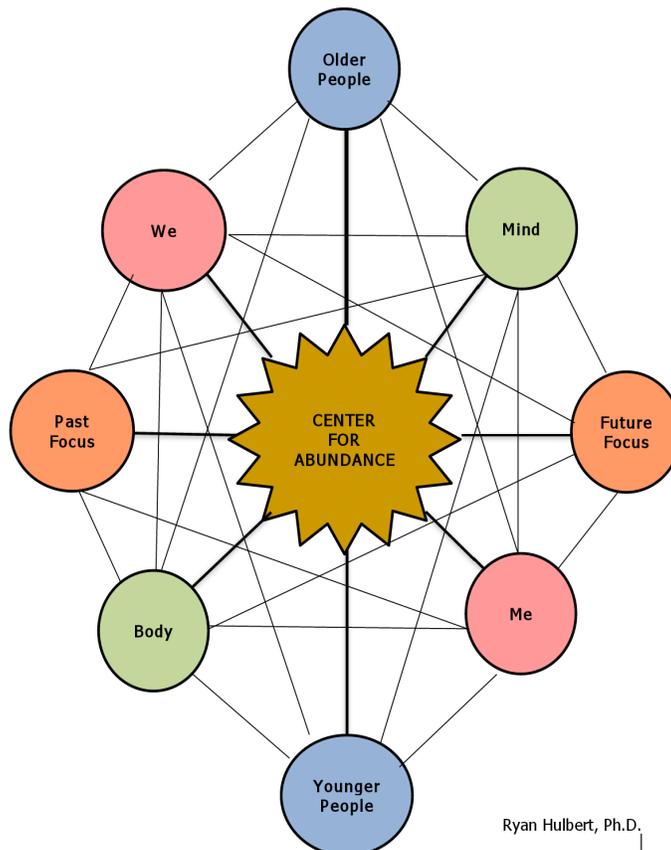
# Center for Abundance

**Helping individuals and families connect, survive, strive, and thrive.**

A new project this year for the RC&D is the Center for Abundance, a proposed community center in Canyon County. It is envisioned to be a multi-generational, cross-cultural, inter-faith creative art center. Expected benefits are to help preserve the cultural arts and talents passed from one generation to the next, promoting greater community connectedness, improve senior health and involvement, reduce loneliness, increase appreciation of people from different cultures and backgrounds, and develop in young people an interest in activities other than digital devices, practice creative skills, and instill greater desire for continued education and career advancement.

Over the last 2 years, the founder, Ryan Hulbert, Ph.D., has held many meetings with hundreds of people in creating potential partners for the center. The proposed site has been formally reviewed, inspected, and approved by Caldwell City Planning and Zoning. Letters of support are being collected to bolster grant opportunities for this exciting new proposed resource for the area.

*“Envision a spacious, climate controlled, friendly environment where people can have an ongoing forum to share their talents and skills with others of different ages, cultures, and backgrounds. Among other benefits, we envision this center as a place for helping young people find a broader array of interests, help those interests turn into skills, those skills into potential jobs, and with further training having those job skills turn into satisfying professions.”* Ryan Hulbert PhD





# Free Fishing Day 2017



Free Fishing Day at Kleiner Ponds in Meridian was a success. And the smiles on these kids faces were priceless. Over 500 individuals attended this great community event, and over 120 rods and reels were given out to kids who did not own their own poles. Kids were entered into a drawing to win prizes such as tackle and other fishing equipment. A special thanks to Idaho Department of Fish and Game for all their help and our sponsors Micron, Sportsman's Warehouse, and Cabelas. We couldn't have done it without you!





## Boise Forest Coalition

### **The Boise NF Accomplishments for FY 2017.**

- Miles of stream habitat restored – 51.14 miles
- Acres treated annually to sustain/restore watersheds – 64,144 acres
- Acres treated for noxious weeds/invasive plants on National Forest Service lands – 10,582 acres
- Forest Service acres of fuels treated in Wildland Urban Interface – 2,053 acres
- Acres of forest vegetation established – 2,097 acres
- Timber volume sold – 119,732 ccf (87% of assigned target)

### **What's New for 2018 – LOTS OF CHANGE**

- New Forest Service Chief– Chief Tony Tooke assumed the role of Chief of the Forest Service in September 2017
- Another effort that is being launched in parallel with the environmental analysis and decision making processes is Forest Products Modernization. There has been a growing realization that the internal Forest Service processes and procedures are based on historical models from 30 - 50 years ago. Today's multiple objectives of ecological restoration/protection, wildfire hazard reduction, and the maintenance of healthy and resilient forests require new processes and procedures to increase the pace and scale of restoration. This effort is primarily focused on what happens behind the scenes for timber sale preparation, timber sale, and sale administration.
- Proposals to increase the future scale and scope of restoration are being discussed at a national level and the Forest may see an additional 15% increase for total treatment acres with accompanying increase in timber target.





# Payette Forest Coalition

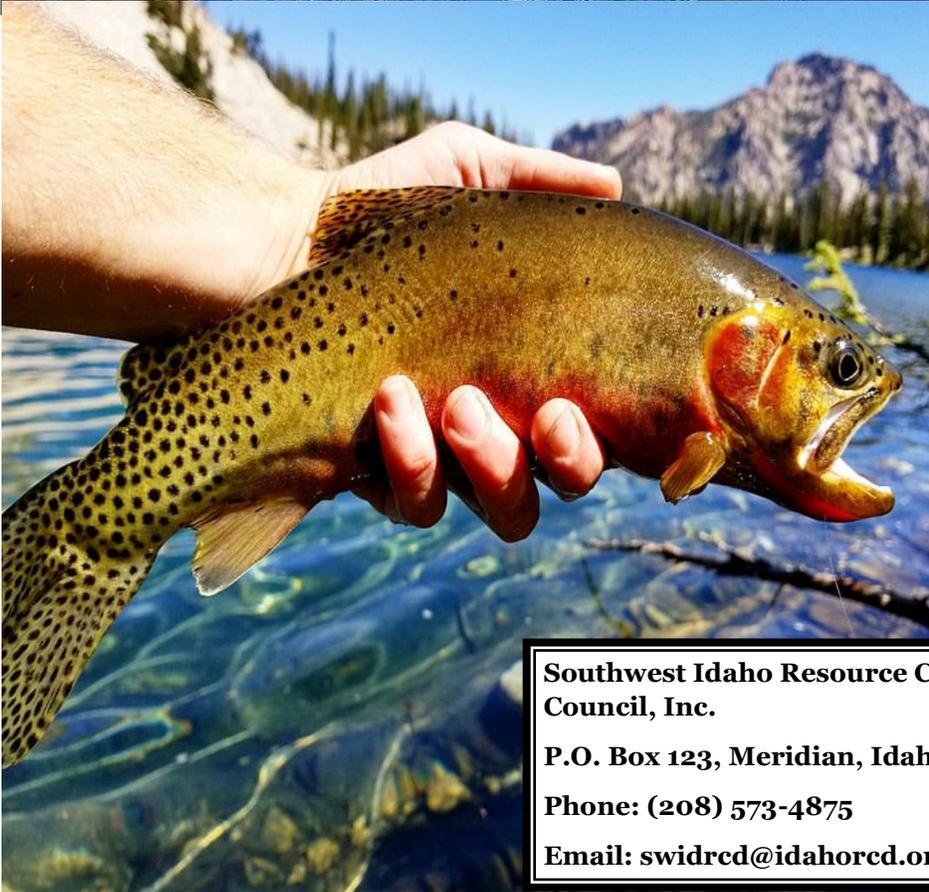
The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC), now in its seventh year working with the project, remains committed and active in learning about the program and providing project design recommendations for large scale landscape restoration. The Payette Forest Coalition grew from 21 to 22 voting members in 2017. The Steering Team added three new members and now has a total of five members, including the Valley County Parks and Recreation Director. The group was energized with the favorable court ruling on the Lost Creek Boulder Creek project litigation in 2016. Payette Forest Coalition recommendations have strengthened the design, analysis, and ultimately the decisions with the projects. There have been nine meetings and three field trips in 2017, with strong participation at each. This year the Payette Forest Coalition focused their work on completing a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the third project- Middle Fork Weiser River (50,000 acres) and scoping of a Proposed Action for the fourth project- Huckleberry (67,000 acres). The PFC continues to monitor and support implementation of the first and second projects: Mill Creek Council Mountain (50,000 acres) and Lost Creek Boulder Creek (80,000 acres). The PFC intervened on behalf of the Forest Service in the litigation on the Lost Creek Boulder Creek project, and the court mentioned the strong collaborative support. The project will continue full implementation and improve watershed condition class, improve forest resiliency, contribute to habitat improvement for endangered species, and benefit local economies. In mid-October 2016, the plaintiffs in the Lost Creek Boulder Creek project litigation appealed Judge Lodge's decision to the 9th Circuit Court. The plaintiffs did not require a temporary injunction. The Payette Forest established a new agreement with Southwest Idaho RC&D to administer the contracts and payments for Payette Forest Coalition facilitator, note keeper, and web services. This replaced the agreement with West Central Highlands RC&D, which disbanded at the end of FY 2016.



# RCD Annual Luncheon

On December 5, 2017 the SWID RC&D Council met at Celebration Park's Crossroads Museum in Melba Idaho for the annual meeting to discuss local community opportunities. Lunch was catered by the Sandbar—Restaurant With a Cause. Proceeds from their food services go to the Marsing Sr. Center and Meals on Wheels. Following the luncheon, the council participated in a petroglyph tour highlighting the geologic and archaeological history of the area.





**Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 123, Meridian, Idaho 83680**  
**Phone: (208) 573-4875**  
**Email: [swidrcd@idahorcd.org](mailto:swidrcd@idahorcd.org)**