

Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation & Development

Annual Plan 2013



Canyon Crossroads Transportation Museum: Educational programs for children!

We are building an indoor educational venue, The Crossroads Transportation Museum. We have completed the shell and core of the building and when completed it will allow us to provide year round academic opportunities to 18,000 students each year.

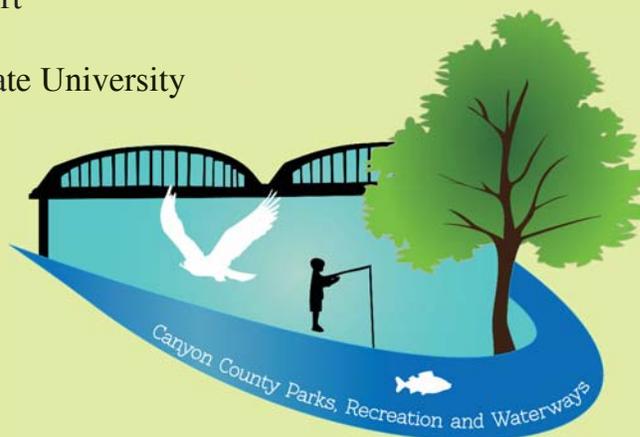
Elementary Schools from Hollister, Twin Falls, Sun Valley, Baker City, Oregon and 106 Treasure Valley Schools travel to Celebration Park every year to learn about Idaho History, social studies, mathematics and language arts through our academic field trip programs. Celebration Park is an active learning venue where trained, paid park staff and visiting teaching professionals interpret the past while enhancing and reinforcing specific goals and objectives set forth in Idaho Content Standards: Grades 4 and 5.

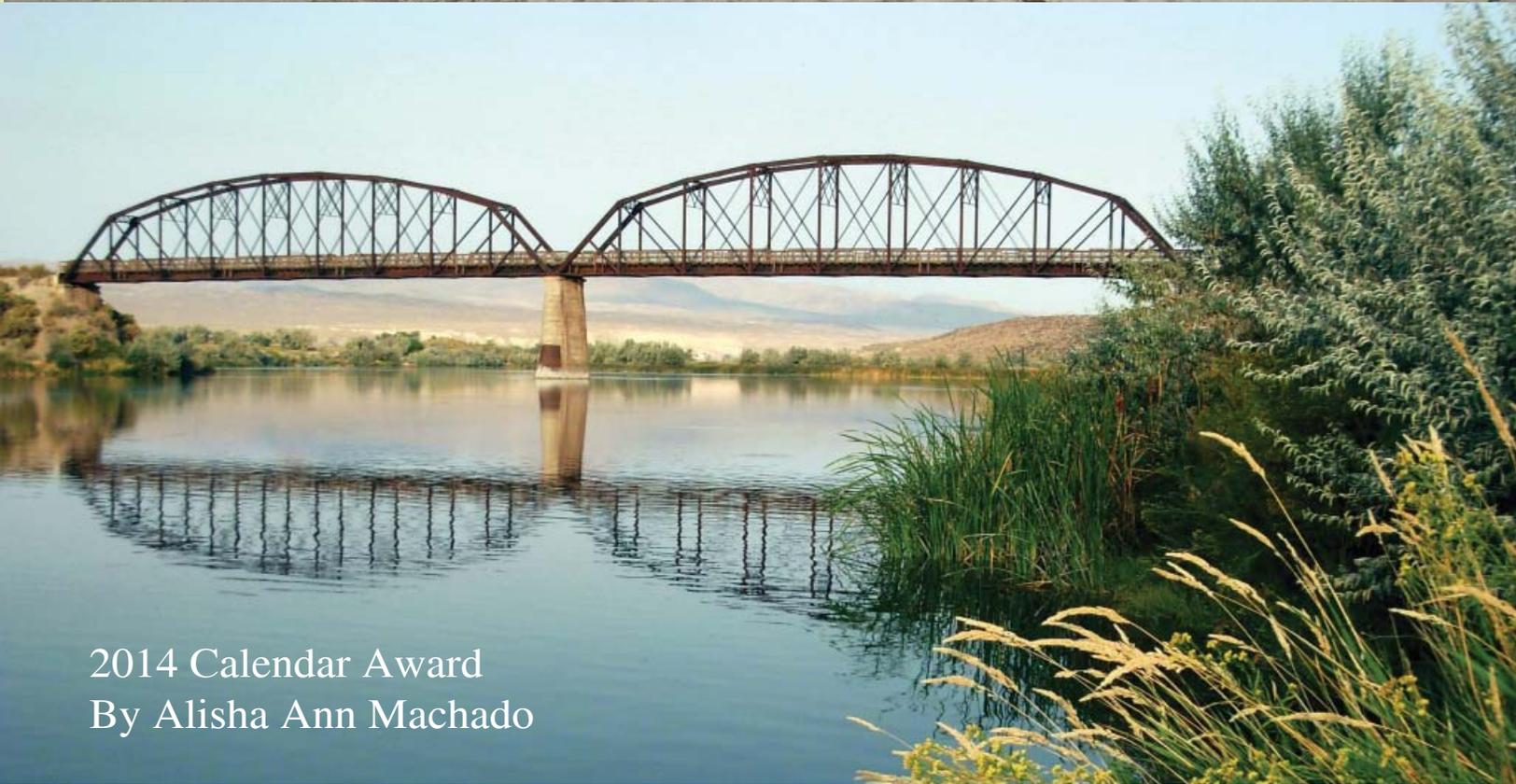
For twenty four years Canyon County Parks has been hosting up to 9000 students each year at Celebration Park to experience first-hand, Native American habitation sites, petroglyphs, relics and vestiges of early Euro-American activities or Wild Land Fire Ecology in the Snake River canyon.

Schools must reserve field trip dates at least one and many times two years in advance of their proposed visit to assure a trip for their students. All of our programs meet Elementary School objectives and all programs are based on introductory level, collegiate curriculum vetted and reviewed by Boise State University Faculty. We present learning activities rife with critical thinking opportunities. Our daily school program explores the activities of the Pre-historic and Tribal cultures that lived at Celebration Park. Students examine Native American artifacts and relics while enjoying a historical overview of Idaho. Students explore the physics and skills required to master the Atlatl. They hike among hundreds of petroglyphs and consider the science of interpreting ancient art. Students also visit several Indian habitation sites on their walk to the Historic Guffey Bridge, where they learn about fur trapping, emigrant trails, and disastrous conflicts between cultures, mining history and railroads in Idaho. All of this is supported by a classroom workbook, *Stories in Stone*, and all park programs happen without the advantages of an indoor venue.

Celebration Park is recognized as an outstanding educational facility by Universities and Colleges in Idaho and the west. We host Archaeological Field Schools, research opportunities, paid internships, credit –bearing coursework and workshops. The Desert Studies Institute a joint venture between Celebration Park and the Department of Anthropology at Boise State University offers a series of workshops for students and teachers every summer at Celebration Park.

We will use the Crossroads Museum and its educational potential to inspire students to seek higher education and to assist in retaining students so that they may meet their academic potential.





2014 Calendar Award
By Alisha Ann Machado

Idaho Oregon Snake River Water Trail Water Trails in South and Central Idaho

We are connecting water trails and bringing new recreational opportunities to all Idahoan's and our visitors. A water trail is a water route that provides recreational and educational opportunities for motorized and non-motorized boaters and economic opportunities for river communities. The Idaho Oregon Snake River Water Trail has connected with the Boise River Water Trail and stake holders in south central Idaho have partnered with both water trails to plan a Payette River Water Trail. Representatives of all three trails are currently meeting the second Wednesday of each month (10:00 a.m. to noon) to plan and implement this enormous project with its enormous recreational, educational and economic potential.

To join in or for information on a Water Trail session, email thepark@canyonco.org. Sessions are open to all interested individuals, agencies, governments and businesses.

The Idaho Oregon Snake River Water Trail Council continues to develop the 205 mile water trail in southwest Idaho and eastern Oregon. This water trail starts at Three Island State Park in Glens Ferry, Idaho and ends at Farewell Bend State Park in Huntington, Oregon. The goal of the Idaho Oregon Snake River Water Trail is to develop a water trail that is a valuable, sensitive resource for recreation, water safety, education and stewardship.

The Payette River is in south-central Idaho and is a major tributary of the Snake River. This water trail will begin at its tributaries and end at the confluence with the Snake River in Payette County, in the City of Payette. The Payette river is 45 minutes from Boise, Idaho via Hwy 55. It offers a variety of rafting and kayaking from easy class I white water all the way to Big Falls, an unrunable class VI.

The headwaters of the Payette River originate in the Sawtooth and Salmon River Mountains at elevations over 10,000 feet. The Payette River stream length to the head of the North Fork Payette River is 180 miles, while the South Fork is nearly 163 miles of spectacular cascading river. The South Fork of the Payette has its headwaters in the Sawtooth Wilderness, which is part of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.



**SNAKE
RIVER
WATER
TRAIL**





Sam McMurdie

The internship is a method of on the job training that all students at MTCHS are required to complete during their junior and senior year. An internship lets students experience what it is like to be a part of that particular job and how similar positions would be like. I did my internship at Canyon County Parks and Recreation.

During my 280 hours of work time with Canyon County Parks I did numerous things. I performed maintenance and updates to both their Idaho Snake River Water Trail site and their Healthy Hills initiative site. Most of these updates consisted of me getting an email from a supervisor or partner that pointed out an inconsistency with either the site format or content, which I would then fix. I also helped in the creation of the new Friends Of Canyon County Parks website via html, css, and javascript. I also helped give input on the design of the site.

My internship with Canyon County has allowed me to experience some of what it is like to be employed. It has also given me real world programming experience outside of a classroom. I can definitely say that I have enjoyed my time with them, and over six months later, I am still doing work for them.

Clinton Colwell

During my time interning for the Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council, I worked for the City of Boise. I developed and wrote the City of Boise Wildfire Mitigation Strategic Plan to guide future actions by the City of Boise to mitigate wildfire risk within the Wildland Urban Interface. I oversaw numerous wildfire mitigation projects around Boise ranging from hazardous fuels reduction to native plant reseeding efforts. On top of this I designed and created a series of wildfire informational signs that are displayed at trailheads around Boise's Ridge to Rivers trailheads. This was all done under the supervision of the City of Boise Wildfire Mitigation Committee, which consist of members from the Parks and Recreation, Planning Services, and Fire Departments of the City of Boise.

I enjoyed working with the Wildfire Mitigation Committee. It was fun to watch people with different expertise come at problems from their respective positions, each with their own perspective on any issues at hand. They work together well, and it was beneficial to see a team coming together to make progress toward a common goal. The experiences working with public policy, the public, and numerous contractors along the way have been rewarding. However, at times they have been extremely trying. It is nice to obtain a real world view of what needs to be done, and how things are done. I've also enjoyed meeting some of the professionals we've worked with and seeing how they are business people, yet still hold a good set of morals and do everything they can to ensure a fair deal.

Learning about wildfires and the efforts that are being made to reduce its impact on animal populations (human and otherwise) encompassed a large portion of my time. I believe that the choices that were made regarding fuel-treatments while I was here were well-informed and likely the best options available. I had no idea of the complexities and just how difficult it is to establish a long term fuel break. It makes me painfully aware of how huge an undertaking mitigating wildfire hazards is, especially when thought of on a national scale.

Finally, I'd like to say one last thing... Goats are awesome!



SWID Wildfire Mitigation Forum
Completed March 27th

Boise 2013 Chipper Project
Completed July 31st

WSM Sage Removal Chipper Project
Completed June 30th

Castle Rock Revegetation
Completed July 31st

Boise Heights Chipper Project
Completed June 30th

Briarhill - Sustainable Community Fuel Break
Completed July 31st

Wildfire Mitigation Projects

For the last few years Parks has partnered with Planning and Fire as the City of Boise's Wildfire Mitigation Team. This spring the team, Julia Grant, Jennifer Tomlinson and Jerry McAdams received the well-deserved ONE CITY ONE TEAM AWARD for their continued efforts to work with communities in the Wildland Urban Interface on wildfire mitigation projects. The team has received over \$400,000 in funding from the Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council Projects including: Quail Ridge goat grazing and restoration, Military Reserve goat grazing and restoration, Oregon Trail Reserve sagebrush thinning, Castle Rock Reserve goat grazing and restoration, NFPA Home Ignition Zone Class, roaming wood chipper (Central Foothills, Boise Heights, East Foothills, Warm Springs Mesa and Highlands), Firewise landscape demonstration projects at Boise Fire Station #1 and #12, Firewise community recognition for Quail Ridge, Boise Heights, Columbia Village, Briarhill and Morningside Heights, wildfire educational signage for Ridge to Rivers trailheads and trails, and a summer graduate wildfire intern.



Treasure Valley Canopy Study
Completed March 31st

Arbor Day Project
Completed April 26th

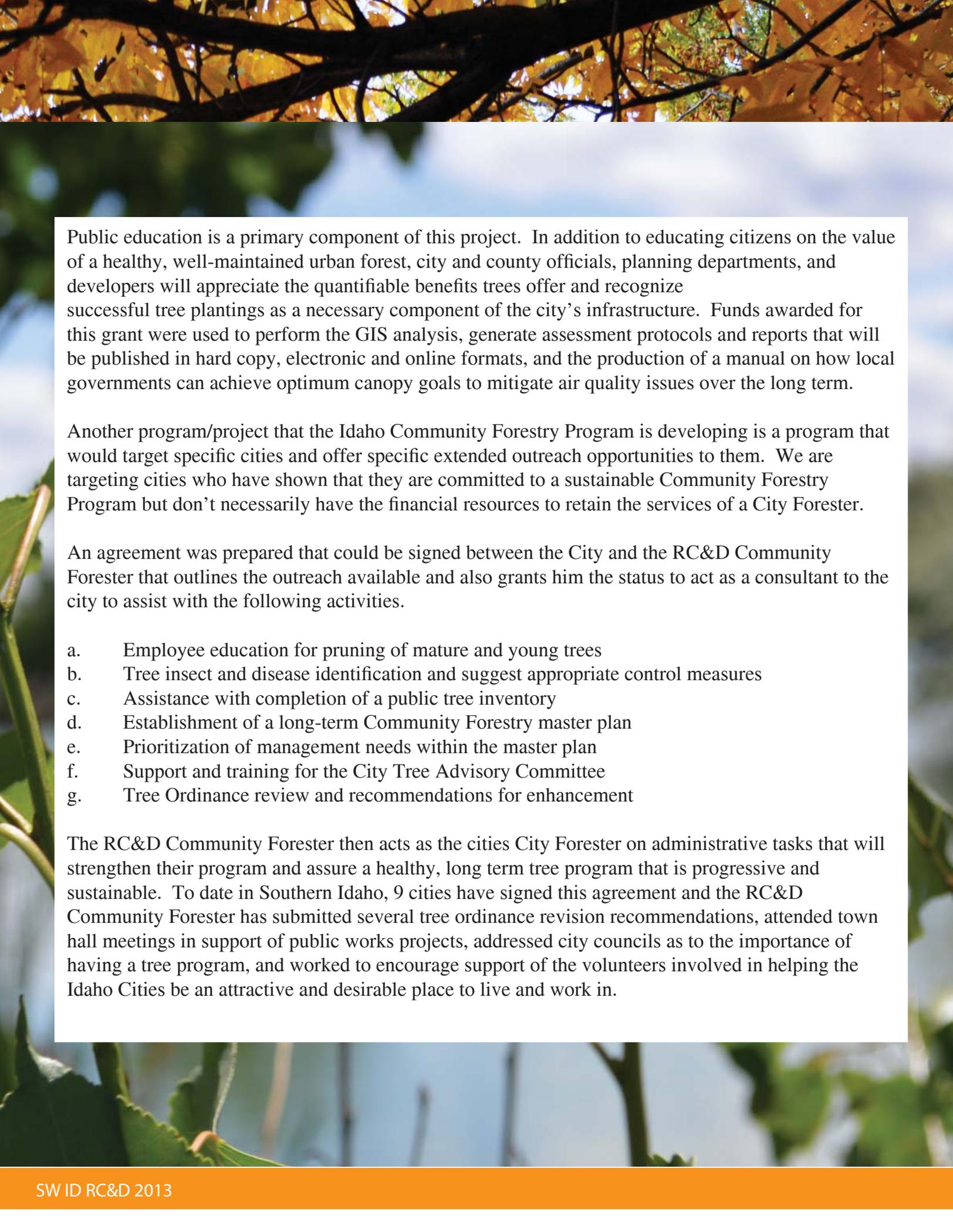
The Idaho RC&D Community Forestry Program has completed its 16th year in the area. Many communities have established community forestry programs while others are just beginning to develop programs. Informed community forestry managers are recognizing the benefits of trees and canopy as functional infrastructure, and the need to maintain this resource to maximize long term value.

Community Forestry outreach efforts are emphasizing strategic capacity building by the completion of tree inventories and the adoption of long term community forestry master plans. Successful, sustainable community forestry programs maximize benefits that trees offer such as air and water quality, stormwater management, energy conservation, recreation and more.

One project completed this year and is in the early stages of implementation is the Treasure Valley Tree Canopy Analysis Project. This project, in partnership with the Idaho Department of Lands and the USDA United States Forest Service, completed an analysis of the tree canopy in the urbanized areas of Ada and Canyon Counties.

The purpose of this project is to implement a GIS analysis of tree canopy to air quality mitigation in both developed and rapidly developing areas of Ada and Canyon Counties in Idaho, an area of approximately 240 square miles. The project identified impervious surfaces such as buildings, streets, and parking lots. It also identified locations of deciduous and coniferous trees, grasslands, bare soil, and water. Reports were generated which capture the air quality, water quality, storm water runoff, and carbon sequestration values for the tree canopy by local governmental boundaries. Within each community, a second report on potential benefits associated with an ideal, pre-determined increase in tree canopy coverage was prepared. The project will model various build-out scenarios in currently undeveloped land. We want to determine the impact of impervious surfaces with various development scenarios and densities and examine the benefit derived with increased canopy. The analysis also allows for the modeling of various scenarios of canopy manipulation to maximize the current and future benefits realized by jurisdictions managing the urban forests in the Treasure Valley.

Also of interest is the impact of urban tree canopy on energy conservation. Studies over the last 20 years show reductions in air conditioning costs ranging up to 40% when shade trees are located strategically to minimize summer heat load from the sun. Reduced demand for energy from fossil fuels also reduces air pollution. The GIS analysis will determine existing-and model future-canopy benefits, provide information for planning, management and education, and will help guide forestry and development activities to maximize public benefits from green infrastructure.



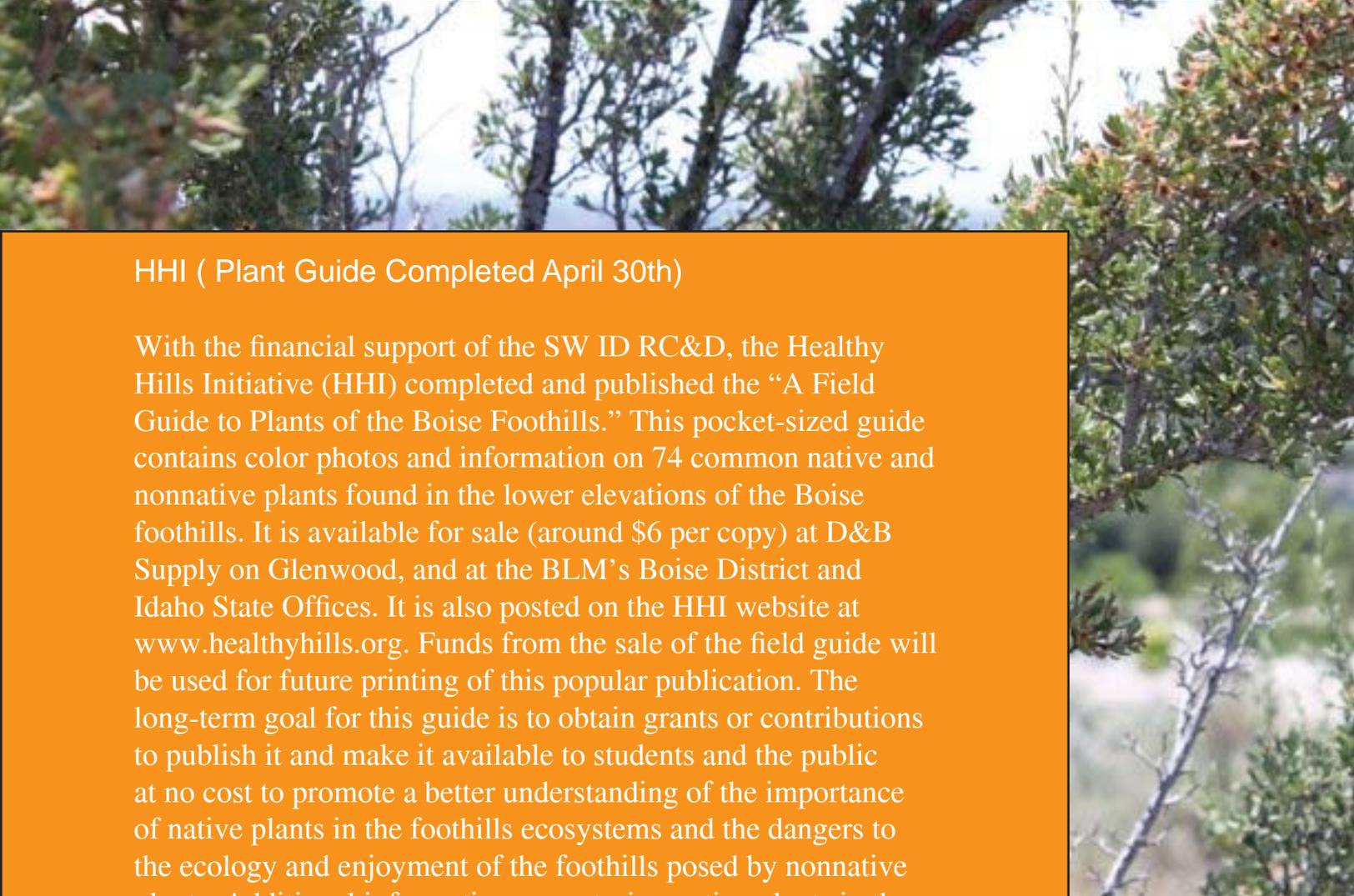
Public education is a primary component of this project. In addition to educating citizens on the value of a healthy, well-maintained urban forest, city and county officials, planning departments, and developers will appreciate the quantifiable benefits trees offer and recognize successful tree plantings as a necessary component of the city's infrastructure. Funds awarded for this grant were used to perform the GIS analysis, generate assessment protocols and reports that will be published in hard copy, electronic and online formats, and the production of a manual on how local governments can achieve optimum canopy goals to mitigate air quality issues over the long term.

Another program/project that the Idaho Community Forestry Program is developing is a program that would target specific cities and offer specific extended outreach opportunities to them. We are targeting cities who have shown that they are committed to a sustainable Community Forestry Program but don't necessarily have the financial resources to retain the services of a City Forester.

An agreement was prepared that could be signed between the City and the RC&D Community Forester that outlines the outreach available and also grants him the status to act as a consultant to the city to assist with the following activities.

- a. Employee education for pruning of mature and young trees
- b. Tree insect and disease identification and suggest appropriate control measures
- c. Assistance with completion of a public tree inventory
- d. Establishment of a long-term Community Forestry master plan
- e. Prioritization of management needs within the master plan
- f. Support and training for the City Tree Advisory Committee
- g. Tree Ordinance review and recommendations for enhancement

The RC&D Community Forester then acts as the cities City Forester on administrative tasks that will strengthen their program and assure a healthy, long term tree program that is progressive and sustainable. To date in Southern Idaho, 9 cities have signed this agreement and the RC&D Community Forester has submitted several tree ordinance revision recommendations, attended town hall meetings in support of public works projects, addressed city councils as to the importance of having a tree program, and worked to encourage support of the volunteers involved in helping the Idaho Cities be an attractive and desirable place to live and work in.



HHI (Plant Guide Completed April 30th)

With the financial support of the SW ID RC&D, the Healthy Hills Initiative (HHI) completed and published the “A Field Guide to Plants of the Boise Foothills.” This pocket-sized guide contains color photos and information on 74 common native and nonnative plants found in the lower elevations of the Boise foothills. It is available for sale (around \$6 per copy) at D&B Supply on Glenwood, and at the BLM’s Boise District and Idaho State Offices. It is also posted on the HHI website at www.healthyhills.org. Funds from the sale of the field guide will be used for future printing of this popular publication. The long-term goal for this guide is to obtain grants or contributions to publish it and make it available to students and the public at no cost to promote a better understanding of the importance of native plants in the foothills ecosystems and the dangers to the ecology and enjoyment of the foothills posed by nonnative plants. Additional information on restoring native plants in the foothills will be posted on the HHI website next year.



Boise City's Funds Spent

Quail Ridge	\$5,685.93
Wildfire Mitigation Workshop	\$ 567.71
Fire Station #1	\$17,891.00
Castle Rock	\$16,450.00
Military Reserve	\$7,700.00
Summer Intern	\$ 4,340.00
Central Foothills Association	\$ 5,130.60
Briar Hills HOA	\$ 4,812.50
Boise Heights Association	\$3,300.00
Northwest Boise	\$ 9,750.00
West Collister	\$9,662.50
Oregon Trail/Surprise Valley	\$27,820.00
Total Funds Spent	\$113,110.24



RC&D Expenses

Grant fund expenses	\$375,055.37
Operation expenses	\$32,013.85
Grants awarded this year	
BLM	\$313,176.00
Donations and other grants	\$166,091.47
Total	\$479,267.47



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