

IDAHO **Benewah County Farm Bureau**
412 Main Avenue
St. Maries, ID 83861, 208-245-5568



CODE OF THE NEW WEST

Editor's Note; this document is a "first run" compendium of information gathered from authoritative sources. It is our intent to help the prospective new resident find relevant GENERAL information with a broad application. Pertinent SITE SPECIFIC development questions should always be taken to the authoritative sources herein described. Your realtor, when chosen, will also be very helpful. Your comments or corrections are solicited and welcome. Please feel free to print this document and share it with others.

TO THE PERSONS, CITIZENS OR AGENCIES IMPORTANT TO THIS EFFORT

If you are an authoritative source of information pertaining to the subjects covered by this project or just an interested citizen of the county, we would appreciate you contacting us to offer further suggestions on how we can provide prospective residents with accurate tips or subject matter to help them make a satisfying transition to their residency in Benewah County. We have used questionnaires and personal interviews to help us gather this information. We will be continuously open to further suggestions. Thank You! Benewah County Farm Bureau.

A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT OF BENEWAH COUNTY FARM BUREAU

North Idaho can be very attractive to those who see many Benewah County residents living as "happy refugees" from big city and urban life. The good news is: to a great extent, "Idaho still is what America once was." Benewah County, home of the spectacular St Joe and St Maries River drainage basins, is no ordinary place. This is a very special North Idaho county, with productive timber land, farm land and many locations for hunting, fishing, hiking, 4-wheeling, golfing, boating, boat races and access to nationally recognized Coeur d'Alene Lake and Heyburn State Park, Idaho's first and oldest state park.

One common mistake newcomers sometimes make when coming to live in a rural county is bringing their urban expectations with them. The happiest new transplants from urban America to our county are those who take the time and patience to learn to be rural Idahoans and enjoy Idaho's unique culture and history rather than immediately expecting all of the same urban norms. Newcomers bring new skills and energies to the community, which is much appreciated, especially where offered with generosity and a sense of contribution. Suggested changes affecting local activities or customs should be considerate of Benewah County's unique history and culture.

By contacting a locally established Real Estate Brokerage, listed at the end of this document, one can access valuation reports on all types of property from residential, residential lake properties, waterfront, vacant Land waterfront, vacant land, multi-Family, commercial, new construction, along with foreclosure and short sale properties.

Benewah County Farm Bureau is composed of real "down to earth" hard working people who still believe that a life of individual liberty, contentment, fulfillment of dreams and solitude (with the help of friends when needed) can still exist in

the midst of today’s reality. It has been said “in some ways, Idaho is behind the times!” If that is actually true, it may also be the best recommendation for those seeking refuge from the discontent and political unrest often found elsewhere.

This document is Benewah County Farm Bureau’s attempt to provide prospective new residents with a broad range of information about making Benewah County their home. We submit this information in the hope that no surprises may cause disappointment or regret after you have chosen to join us in this beautiful part of Northern Idaho. The Code of the New West is not intended to promote nor discourage new residents; rather, we have collected relevant, factual information, which may be useful to the prospective resident or buyer of a home or property in Benewah County.

- While every county and state department offering factual information and suggestions for this project has been cooperative, open and transparent in the sharing of public information, the more subjective narratives of the text result from input submitted by many residents from all over Benewah County. The Benewah County Farm Bureau chapter is solely responsible for the editing and content of these narratives. However, your constructive suggestions (or even criticisms) are welcomed!
- This document may be accessed in many different ways and will be revised and re-dated as new information or need arises. Copies or a simplified brochure will be available at:
 - The Farm Bureau Insurance Office in St. Maries
 - Other community organizations
 - On this website for your downloading convenience
 - And at many St Maries realtor’s offices
- This fully EXPANDED VERSION, supplemental documents to the Code of the New West and information about Benewah County Farm Bureau may be accessed online at www.benewahcountyidaho.org
- Information Subjects by section are:
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ACCESS

1.0 Emergency response from law enforcement, fire departments, and ambulances is often not as quick in rural communities as in the cities. Obviously, distance is a big factor. Responding parties are generally within a mile or less of the need in a city but could be miles from the emergency in the country. The fact that you pay taxes to a fire district or the ambulance district will not change this distance factor. It is a risk you choose to accept when you live in the country. Weather conditions can also become a complicating factor with responding vehicles. Distances to emergency services are a factor you should consider in evaluating property.

Think about whether or not the property you are considering purchasing is within a Fire Protection District. The following are the fire districts within Benewah County: Emida, Fernwood, Plummer Gateway, St. Maries, and Tensed. You can find the map of the districts on our supplemental page <http://benewahcountyidaho.org/?p=288>. Even if you are within a Fire Protection District, the road must be maintained year around and wide enough for the fire trucks to drive within a reasonable distance to the structure or your fire protection may be voided. District fire trucks require a minimum road width of twelve feet, at least ten feet clearance from the ground to allow the truck to drive through, and a road solid and smooth enough for the heavy trucks to drive over. It is preferred (and improves firefighting efforts) if there is room for trucks to park near the structure and to turn around. Forest firefighters need a ten foot wide road for their pumper trucks to protect your land and forests.

1.1 County Roads are maintained by the Benewah County Road and Bridge Department. Total inventory amounts to slightly over 318 miles. There are approximately 54 miles paved and the remaining 264 miles are graded and drained gravel roads. Roads can be dusty and narrow. Dust is controlled as much as possible in summer and snow is plowed

in the winter. Drivers should drive on the right side of these narrow roads or straddle the outside track. The county does not clear snowplow berms to private driveways. Only roads with green signs are maintained by the county. Roads with blue signs are privately maintained. The county does **NOT** plow snow on private roads and has no responsibility to maintain access for those residents. Owners themselves or cooperating neighbors do the maintenance on private roads (if at all).

1.2 Private roads, boundaries and parcel descriptions (Source: County Assessor)

"We see a lot of people in the rural area throwing up gates over private roads that go through their property without regard for those who have the right to use them. Prospective buyers should research easements to see what access they have to their property and who may have the legal right to go through their land. Easement information is available at the Assessor's Office in the County Courthouse. Many land parcels in Benewah County, including many subdivisions, have not been surveyed. Maps and existing fence lines are not the equivalent of a survey. Recorded surveys are available for public review in the Assessor's Office and may be purchased. Land descriptions which include 'Government Lot' or Tax Number do not refer to government ownership or a number connected with taxes. These are for descriptive survey purposes only."

Road districts: 3 of the 4 are directed personally by County Commissioners

1. North- East to Parkline and south of St. Maries. Commissioner is Jack Buell.
2. Santa – Fernwood – Emida. Commissioner is Norman "Bud" McCall.
3. Tensed. Commissioner is Phil Lampert.
4. Plummer – Gateway. The Supervisor is Walter Flock.

1.3 **Logging** is a major industry in Benewah County. Truck traffic can be heavy and dusty at times on paved, gravel or dirt roads in summer. Log truck drivers use Citizens Band radio to warn vehicles on narrow (sometimes precipitous) unimproved roads in the back country. You would be wise to install one and learn the channel regimen (ask a log truck driver) if you choose to explore widely. Channel 7 is universally used by log trucks, logging crews and flatbed hauling of heavy equipment in the county unless the road is posted otherwise. Large chip trucks, traveling to or from mills, use channel 10.

1.4 **School District busses** generally will not travel on private roads. Parents may need to provide the means for their children to get to a bus stop on the public road. The School District Offices can answer questions on this subject.

1.5 **Dust and potholes** are frequently a problem to new homeowners on unpaved roads, when roads dry after snow and rains. Some roads are treated with dust guard in the summer, but this doesn't always solve the problem completely.

1.6 **Don't expect new services** from the county. Costs are kept down by the willingness of people to provide for themselves or go without many things suburban and urban people expect to be provided. Rural Idahoans cherish their independence, and seem to possess a willingness to take care of their own as well as help others.

1.7 **If your road is unpaved** it is highly likely that it will remain that way for some time. \$200,000 to \$300,000 per mile for construction is not easy for the county, and ultimately the tax-payers, to fund. Road dollars are collected by the State on the sale of fuels and distributed back to counties and cities. Usually, these dollars, when added to the county road tax, are enough to maintain public roads but not to construct many miles of new, paved roads.

UTILITIES

2.0 **Electricity and Telephone** service is often available, but check the costs in undeveloped areas. Avista services the northern part of the county, while Clearwater Power provides power in the southern part. Since much of Benewah County is heavily timbered, winter storms may take down power lines for a time. In very remote areas, you may want to consider emergency heat or power generation. Several wireless providers serve Benewah County residents and can be found in the local telephone directory.

- 2.1 **Septic Permits** from Panhandle Health must be obtained prior to a residential building permit being issued. Applications can be obtained from the Panhandle District Health Office in St. Maries. A few subdivisions and private properties have central water systems but most do not.
- 2.2 **Water** can usually be obtained from a well, which you must drill. Permits from the Idaho Department of Water Resources are required. Public Water and Sewer are services not generally available in rural Benewah County except in municipalities or special purpose districts. Water right claims: County property owners are required to file a “water right” claim for wells, creeks, and lakes with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR phone 208-762-2800). There is an online application at <http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/watermanagement/NorthIdAdju/default.htm>. Water rights also pertain to farming and ranching uses. The North Idaho Water Adjudication, started in 2012, regulates water usage. A residential well permit allows you to draw domestic needs and irrigation for up to a half acre of landscaping. You can use the IDWR website to check nearby well drilling reports showing average depths of wells drilled.
- 2.3 **Refuse.** Benewah County has public dumpsters located in rural areas. There is no individual home trash pickup in outlying rural areas unless by contract arrangements. Assessment for county “dumpster” trash service will show on your assessor’s property tax notification annually. Large items must be taken to the county transfer station at 81725 Highway 3, which is three miles south of St. Maries. Debris burning is allowed at specific times of the year without a permit. During fire danger season burning may be prohibited altogether. Call the Idaho Department of Lands for more information.

THE PROPERTY

- 3.0 **Owning a parcel of timbered land**, especially a rural parcel, demands a certain level of care. Logging is the major industry in the county and timber is a renewable resource. Your non-residential timberland (more than 5 acres) may be taxed as residential unless you register a timber management plan with the County Assessor and practice it.
- 3.1 **Learn about any easements** that affect your property. They may allow another party to use a road across your land. You should also be aware that long term use may have established a defacto prescriptive easement which must be honored, even though you hold title to the land. The best way to avoid relation difficulties with your prospective neighbors is to talk to them about your interests and discuss any potential problems before deciding to move or buy. Look over the property for signs of vehicle use. Obtain a title search. If in doubt, consult an attorney in advance of your decision to purchase.
- 3.2 **Surveys** can be a benefit to prospective home buyers. Generally, the surveyor will find a set of property corners or will find or set the property corners, locate any potential encroachments, produce a map and record it with the county. Fences are often misaligned and do not necessarily depict the property line. Always ask the seller to point out the survey pins and compare them with the plat of the subdivision or survey map. Beware of total reliance on appearances. In some cases, long term misalignment of maintained fences may become the new legal boundary by Adverse Possession. If in doubt, check it out! Many parcels have never been surveyed. Keep in mind that un-surveyed land carries the risk and potential cost of clarifying an uncertain boundary in the future. (County Assessor)
- 3.3 **The Coeur d’Alene Tribe:** Most of the western half of Benewah County is designated as the Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation. The Coeur d’Alene Tribe has civil jurisdiction of some matters within the reservation, even if you are not a tribal member. This is especially true on the St. Joe River waterfront from St. Maries to Heyburn State Park. You may have to pay fees or obey certain regulations of the tribe in that area. The tribe and some tribal members also own acreage within the reservation, as well as non-tribal members. While you may hunt on private or public lands with an Idaho hunting license, if you want to hunt on tribal lands, you must also purchase a tribal license. (County Prosecuting Attorney Doug Payne)
- 3.4 **Planning and Building:** Both Benewah County and the City of St. Maries require building permits. The adopted building code is the 2006 International Building Code, as published by the International Code Council, and adopted retroactively 12/17/2007, County Ordinances 2007-2117. Please take note that the County Building Official may recommend certain elements of newer building or fire codes but acceptance of a recommendation from a non-adopted code is voluntary. Building Permits for both Benewah County and the City of St. Maries are obtained from

the Benewah County Building Department. Information on plumbing, electrical and mechanical permits can be obtained from the County Building Official.

- **Plummer building permits** may be obtained from the City of Plummer, 208-686-1641. Inspections are contracted with North Idaho Building Inspections.
- **Storage buildings** under 200 square feet do not require building permits. The building code regulates how close buildings can be constructed to each other without fire walls being installed.
- Benewah County has a **Site Disturbance Ordinance** which regulates among other items the distance structures can be constructed from sources of water.
- Benewah County has a **Flood Plain Control ordinance** which regulates construction in the FEMA mapped flood plain.
- The **City of St. Maries** has zoning, which regulates the types of construction in various areas of the city along with required setbacks from ownership lines.
- Both the City and the County regulate the placement of manufactured homes as required by state statute. Homes constructed prior to June 15, 1976 must meet all HUD standards.
- **Benewah County ordinances** can be accessed at http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=877
- **St. Maries ordinances** are not available online but may be viewed or copied at City Hall.
- **Plummer ordinances** can be accessed at http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=890
- Both the City of St. Maries and Benewah County have **subdivision ordinances**. The Benewah County subdivision ordinance states that a subdivision is a division of any lot, tract, or parcel into five or more parcels for the purpose of transfer of ownership or development where any part is less than twenty acres. Another ordinance states that an unplatted parcel or tract is a contiguous area of land located within a single section, described in a single accepted conveyance; separately owned, either publicly or privately, and capable of being separately conveyed.
- The Benewah County **Emergency Management Web Page** can be accessed at: <https://sites.google.com/site/benewahcounty/home>. Information can be obtained regarding current emergency situations such as floods or fires. Floods and wildfire occur almost every year in Benewah County. When they impact a residence they often result in very high losses to the home owner. The most costly year-in, year-out expense to residents of Benewah County is often a result of winter storms. Verify that you can receive flood insurance and if it is a requirement by the bank to have flood insurance on your home before you purchase any property. Contact the Benewah County Building Inspector, Planning and Zoning Administer and Director of Emergency Management for more information.
- The Benewah County Planning Commission has proposed (March 2014) a complete set of NEW pending zoning proposals and has held “Town Hall” meetings to hear and receive comments prior to holding final hearings on a County zoning ordinance. Prior to the current process, the county has had no zoning ordinance. As of the date of this publication, the zoning ordinance has been set aside for the time being. The implications could be important for the uninformed buyer depending on circumstances. Contact the local Farm Bureau office for any updates.

3.5 Insuring your home is becoming harder because insurance companies are raising their requirement standards when the home is located near forests. Not all insurance agents will visit the home prior to writing your business, be aware that companies can send inspectors out at a later date. These inspectors can have your policy canceled if they see that the up keep is insufficient or if there is a danger of a total loss on the home and property. Only then you may realize that no company wants to insure your home because the neighbor’s forest is next to your front porch or you are expected to perform major repairs or landscaping changes. The local Farm Bureau County Secretary has collected tips to avoid common insurance problems. Please view these tips before you buy property or seek insurance for your home, then you can be prepared to talk to your agent about the insurability of your home. <http://benewahcountyidaho.org/?p=218>

3.6 The Idaho Department of Lands is located in St. Maries on Main Avenue and provides the following services:

- **The IDL Service Forester** provides information about timber management of woodlands and administers the “Idaho Forest Practices Act,” which encourages reforestation, clean water, forest fuel hazard reduction, and soil erosion control. Forest Practices Act may be accessed at <http://extension.uidaho.edu/idahoforestrybmps/idaho-forest-practices-act/>.
- **Timber harvest notifications.** Persons seeking to perform a forest operation must notify the Idaho Department of Lands. Forest practice rules for land owners are available at the IDL office.
- **State lands firewood permits and burning permits** should be obtained before October 20, the day open burning season usually starts. Note that slash piles are burned by the Department of Lands as well as logging companies and

the Coeur d’Alene tribal fields are burned in the fall after the rains begin. This can produce poor air quality for a limited time but reduces fire danger.

“*Timberland Woodlots, Things to Do to Improve Forest Health*” by John Ferris, a St. Maries certified forester, is now available on the Farm Bureau site <http://benewahcountyidaho.org/?p=224>.

- 3.7 Subdivisions and PUD’s** are internally governed by a set of covenants (CC&R’s) that lay out the restrictions and rules by which owners must live. These are usually written by the developer’s attorney and one should never buy a piece of property without thoroughly reading the legal documents that go with the development you are considering. The seller is obligated to provide you with a copy so don’t hesitate to remind the seller or agent. Make certain you can abide by any rules or restrictions. Homeowner’s Associations can change the CC&R’s after the developer has sold his interest. The county **does not** enforce internal development rules which are non-related to county ordinances. That’s up to homeowners or associations themselves.
- 3.8 Unforeseen Changes.** Don’t forget that changes may occur around your chosen home site. Views can change by growth of trees or can be blocked by new development. Treasured adjacent timber lands may be logged off. Traffic can increase. Peace and quiet can be affected. Be aware that the “ambiance” of your prospective new home may not be in your total control.
- 3.9 Noxious weeds** are a serious concern in Idaho. They threaten natural ecosystems with their ability to crowd out native plants and completely take over valuable rangeland and natural habitats. They are generally disdained by wildlife and domestic farm animals. In addition, Idaho law directs that it is a landowner’s responsibility to eradicate noxious weeds on their property. Contact the County Weed Control Officer at **245-4122**.

MOTHER NATURE

- 4.0 Fire Season.** Benewah County is blessed with four distinct seasons. They all bring typical North Idaho weather. Summers can be pleasantly warm. Late summers are usually the fire danger season and occasionally thousands of acres of North Idaho forests may go up in smoke. These events can be dangerous to woodland residential living. Generally, forests are protected by the Forest Service or Idaho Department of Lands, but private structures and residences outside of a rural fire district are not provided protection. For that reason, you might choose to initiate woodland residential fire protection measures on your own. Timber, brush, diseased and insect infested trees can be a disadvantage during a forest fire. Dry grass and brush can become dangerous fuel if left to grow near your home. Designing your landscape to give your home a protected green envelope will help against wildfires and improve the insurability of your home (see our website supplemental documents). Advice on this subject is available from the local fire department/district and the Idaho Department of Lands offers help and advice as well as fire protection surveys to private property owners upon request. “**Fire Safe**” Guidelines are available for download at <http://www.idl.idaho.gov/bureau/ForestAssist/foresterforum/firemngmt2.pdf>.
- 4.1 Winters** often bring periods of below zero temperatures and heavy snowfalls in higher elevations. A few warm days in spring can change the snow into rushing torrents of water that can damage property, bridges and roads. Each of the seasons should be considered when you are choosing a home site. County, state and local fire protection agencies are not always able to protect private property from wild fires and flooding. Most of that protection has to be built into the site from the beginning. Of course, there are always a few areas that simply defy reasonable development from a fire or flood safety standpoint. Consider before buying property if you will need or be required by a bank to have flood insurance.
- 4.2 Wildlife.** Country living and getting next to nature is a terrific thought. However, be aware that some of the wildlife you may encounter could wreak havoc on your life style. Deer might browse on many of the bushes and small trees that decorate yards. Be prepared to see and deal with coyotes, foxes, mountain lions, ground squirrels, bears, and even wolves in more remote areas. Small pets and pet food left unattended will attract many of these animals. Skunks and raccoons frequently like to dine on whatever scraps are left lying around. Mountain lions, coyotes, and large birds of prey will eat cats and small dogs whereas the bear likes your kitchen trash but prefers your refrigerator if it can gain entry to a little-used and very remote cabin. Precaution is prevention.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is still actively pursued in this county. Even though many still think of farming as a romantic life, the truth is that farmers work hard to produce every item of food in the grocery store. The family farm is a noble calling, regrettably diminishing in numbers. There are several in Benewah County and many of these are **Farm Bureau members**. Anyone can be a Farm Bureau member. Please visit our website for more information on membership benefits: <http://benewahcountyidaho.org/member-benefits/>

- 5.0 Farming.** Farmers often work long hours, especially during planting and harvest. Those hours may conflict with yours, especially after mid-night when the farmer and his bailer are just getting warmed up. Machinery like tractors and bailers are very noisy and they invariably cause lots of dust. If you locate near this occupation, you should be prepared to live with it. State law says a farmer has a right to farm.
- 5.1 Logging.** Logging is a major industry in Benewah County. Truck traffic can be heavy and dusty at times on paved, gravel or dirt roads.
- 5.2 Chemical Spraying.** In some parts of the county, chemicals may be sprayed from airplanes. They try to spray when the wind isn't blowing but there is no guarantee. Aerial sprayers are required to notify the neighbors of planned adjacent activity. Some timber replanting of logged areas may be accompanied by selective spraying of brush, grass and noxious weeds, usually by helicopter, to help young trees establish.
- 5.3 Ranching.** Cattle and other herd animals can be noisy at times and may create objectionable odors, especially when large numbers are confined in a small area. Can you handle living near them?
- 5.4 Wide open spaces** are not a license for your pets to roam. An untrained or undisciplined dog can quickly become a nuisance. Dogs caught attacking livestock or big game animals may be shot in Idaho. For the sake of the pet, teach it to stay on your property.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- 6.0 Benewah County Sheriff.** Before calling the Sheriff's office to report hearing gunshots, please be aware that Benewah County residents often target practice and use their firearms to ward off coyotes at night. Reasonable discretion should be exercised.
- 6.1 Personal responsibility.** Please be responsible for your dogs and/or livestock. Benewah County is not free-range. Neighbors tire of hearing dogs continually barking. Please be considerate. Letting your dog roam free jeopardizes your dog's well-being and your peace of mind.
- 6.2 Waterways.** Please understand that rivers and small children don't mix. If you locate near any of the rivers or lakes be aware of the dangers posed to children. Drowning can almost always be prevented by reasonable precautions. Keep away from any frozen lake or stream unless you know what you are doing. Falling through the ice is often fatal.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- 7.0 Panhandle Health District.** Their mission is to prevent disease, disability, and premature death; promote healthy lifestyles; and protect and promote the health and quality of the environment. Visit their site for all the public health services they offer the community. <http://www.phd1.idaho.gov>
- 7.1 Benewah Community Hospital.** Their mission is to provide quality comprehensive healthcare and wellness services to residents of Benewah County. They are a 19-bed Critical Access Hospital, offering a full range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. They also house St. Maries Family Medicine, a health clinic. They have multiple family practice physicians trained to prevent and diagnose diseases and treat patients of all ages. Please visit the website for more information on their services. <http://www.bchmed.org>

CONCLUSION

For The Prospective Benewah County New Citizen

We invite you to learn more about the folks who came before you, the ranchers, loggers and miners who opened up this part of North Idaho for settlement. Libraries and museums, consisting mostly of old photographs, are located in St. Maries, Fernwood, Harrison, Plummer, Tensed and Avery; the Chamber of Commerce and tribal offices also provide much information.

Please pass this publication along to your neighbors or give them this link to the Benewah County Farm Bureau web site <http://www.benewahcountyidaho.org>.

It is our sincere hope that your choice to live in Benewah County will be a positive experience. If the tips offered in this publication helped you make your decision, the effort will have been worthwhile. This information will be amended, added to, or removed as the need or circumstances change. Your comments are appreciated to help us provide the most useful tips for potential new neighbors.

After reading this article, you should take all SITE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS directly to the sources of information we have listed.

If you contemplate an activity directly or indirectly connected with agriculture including forest products production, we invite you to consider membership in the Benewah County Chapter of Idaho Farm Bureau. Call 208-245-5568.

CONTACTS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(All numbers have a 208 area code):

Emergency Contacts

- Call 911 for emergencies only
- St. Maries Police Department: 245-5102
- Tribal Police, Plummer: 686-1742
- Fire Reporting on State or National Forest Land: 245-2555.
- St. Maries Fire Protection District – Chief Larry Naccaroto: 245-2183

City Contacts

- St. Maries City Hall: 245-2577
- Plummer City Hall: 686-1641
- Harrison City Hall: 689-3212

Post Offices

- St. Maries: 245-2031
- Fernwood: 245-3382
- Harrison: 689-3413
- Plummer: 686-1748
- Tensed: 274-5551
- Desmet: 274-6461
- Santa: 245-3685

Public Libraries

- St. Maries Public Library: 822 College Avenue, St. Maries 245-3732 StMariesLibrary.lili.org
- Plummer Public Library: 800 Dogwood Street, Plummer 686-1812 Plummer.lili.org
- Tensed Library: 315 C Street, Tensed 274-3201 Tensed.lili.org
- Tri-Community Library: 46 Isaacson, Fernwood 245-4883 TriCommunity.lili.org

County Contacts

- County Prosecuting Attorney Doug Payne: 245-2564
- County Assessor Donna Spier and the entire staff – Office on 2nd floor of Courthouse: 245-2821
- County Sheriff Dave Resser and county officers, Non-emergency calls: 245-5555

- County Building Inspector/Permitting – Norm Suenkel – Office in basement of Courthouse: 245-4122
- County Clerk’s Office: 245-3212
- County Assessor’s Office: 245-2821
- County Commissioners: 245-2234
- Idaho Department of Lands: Local office – Fire Warden Josh Harvey: 245-4551

School District Contacts

- St. Maries School District: 245-2142
- Plummer-Worley School District: 686-1621
- Avery School District: 245-2579
- Kootenai School District: 689-3631

Health Facilities and Services:

- Benewah Community Hospital: 245-5551
- St. Maries Family Medicine: 245-2591 www.bchmed.org
- Panhandle Health District: 245-4556 www.phd1.idaho.gov

Newspaper

- St. Maries Gazette Record – 610 Main Ave.: 245-4538 <http://www.gazetterecord.com/>

Realtors (those who have committed to share this “Code of the New West” information with clients, in process 2014)

- 2 Rivers Realty: 245-2551 <http://www.tworiversstmaries.com>
- Century 21: 245-2001 <http://www.century21.com>
- Four Seasons: 245-6898 <http://www.4seasonsrealty.net>
- St. Maries Realty: 245-4502 <http://www.northwest-national.com>
- Timber Realty: 245-2345 <http://www.timberrealty.net>
- Duffey Realty: 208 771-0913 <http://www.duffeyrealtyinc.com>

Other Useful Links:

- Employment: Idaho Department of Labor <http://labor.idaho.gov>
- Extended education opportunities: North Idaho College <https://www.nic.edu>
- Chamber of Commerce/Timber Plus: <http://www.stmarieschamber.org>

THANK YOU!

The Benewah Chapter of the Idaho Farm Bureau is grateful for the support, participation, information, comments and editing assistance by the authoritative sources listed as well as many Farm Bureau members and private **citizens**.

Mary Orr for letting us use your photography. Truphotography.smugmug.com

Farm Bureau Board of Directors and County Farm Bureau Office: – 245-5568

Code of the New West Committee:

- Stan McNutt – “Code of the New West” chairman
- Del Rust – Farm Bureau chapter President – 568-1051
- Committee members – John Ferris, Russ Lowry, Mike Ingersol, and Bud Steinebach
- Alice Leavitt – Special formatting and content assistance
- Karen Calisterio – Graphic Design of the brochure
- Susie Patterson – Editor, Web Admin, and County Office Secretary

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Editor’s Note: Thank you for taking a discerning look at this compendium of tips and factual information for the prospective residents of our county. Please submit articles or tips on successful living in rural Benewah County to Benewah County Farm Bureau. Additional article pages and additions or corrections within the document itself will be made, as needed, at the discretion of the “Code of the New West” Committee.