



**CUSTER SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
P. O. BOX 305
1340 PLEASANT AVENUE, SUITE C & D
CHALLIS, IDAHO 83226
<http://www.custerdistrict.org/>

To take available technical, financial and educational resources and focus them wisely to meet the needs of the local landowners for the conservation of soil, water and related resources.

**Annual Plan July 1, 2022 to June 30,
2023**

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Custer Soil & Water Conservation District

- ✚ A decrease in state funding has impacted our ability to maintain district infrastructure.
- ✚ A reduction in budget from Bonneville Power Administration will impact staff time.
- ✚ Unfunded mandates as it affects agricultural, natural resource and forest management.
- ✚ Endangers Species Act mandates and enforcement. Sage Grouse management has been an impact on grazing.
- ✚ Urban development and absentee landowners has become more prevalent.
- ✚ Recreational use and its impact to agricultural management

Strategies to Address Trends (IDAPA 60.05.02.025.03)

- ✚ Develop legislative outreach program to address funding shortfalls and State funds.
- ✚ Secure funding to address agricultural mandates and landowner private property rights.
- ✚ Implementation of water quality and water quantity projects to improve fish passage and habitat within the District to help address ESA issues.
- ✚ Attend Custer County Economic Development Coordination meeting annually to increase awareness of activities taking place within the county.
- ✚ Work with local partners including but not limited to, Custer County R&B, Custer County Extension, Custer County Department of Noxious Weeds.
- ✚ Continue an active information and education program for landowners to address urban development.
- ✚ Work with public land users to EDUCATE and encourage cooperation among private recreational entities and public land users/permitees and landowner private property rights.

Section 4: Identify and Prioritize Objectives (IDAPA 60-.05.02.025.04)

Priority 1: District Natural Resource Education Program related to District Priorities of Water Quality, Water Quantity, Range, Pasture and Hay-land and Recreation:

The district maintains an active presence in all area schools within the district. The Envirothon program at Challis High School has been elevated to an extracurricular school club called the Natural Resource Club and is recognized as a school activity. CSWCD maintains their accounting system on QuickBooks and completed a single audit of this year's financial activity providing accountability for funds administered through the district.

- ✚ By January 30, contact will be made at the High School to work with Envirothon/FFA
- ✚ By June 30, all Conservation District cooperator addresses and files will be updated.
- ✚ By June 30, the District will review and if needed update their policy and procedures manual and accountability policy.
- ✚ By September 30, Custer SWCD will participate in new supervisors training if appropriate.
- ✚ By October 15, the District will have completed their annual audit and provided the audit to the Division of Financial Management and others requiring this information.
- ✚ By October 30, all 5th and 6th grade students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation poster contest and 5th Grade Tour and all 9th through 11th grade students will have had the opportunity to participate in the conservation speech contest.

Priority 2: District Water Quality and Quantity Priorities and Goals:

- ✚ District projects related to Water Quality and Water Quantity include continued efforts to provide irrigation improvements, riparian protection and management. These efforts are focused on the enhancement of anadromous and native fisheries within the district as well as long term sustainability of the agricultural community.
- ✚ Local Working Group priorities in the order and ranking of importance is Irrigated Cropland and Pasture - 35%, Rangeland and Forestry- 35%, Wildlife 30%.
- ✚ By June 30, the district will assist with the development of plans to install riparian fencing to include pasture management where applicable and addresses weed control. Where feasible, full ranch planning will be accomplished.
- ✚ By June 30 CSWD will assist in the development of plans to improve irrigation diversions or where feasible consolidate and remove irrigation diversions and development of off stream stock-water systems where appropriate.
- ✚ Remove fish passage barriers as determined necessary and financially feasible.

Priority 3: Range Land

- ✚ Maintain an economic stability of the ranching industry and multiple uses by assisting cooperators to improve forage quality and quantity of rangeland within the district.
- ✚ Promote the development of coordinated resource management plans under EQIP.
- ✚ Develop relationships with BLM, USFS, USFWS, NMFS, NRCS and IDFG to assist with public land grazing issues and enhancements.
- ✚ Assist Ranchers to address Sage Grouse and Wolf Management on public and private grazing lands.

Priority 4: Pasture, Hay-land and Pasture:

- ✚ Provide administrative assistance to NRCS on USDA/Farm Bill programs
- ✚ Promote and provide information to improve control of noxious weeds on both public and private lands in cooperation with county weed supervisor.
- ✚ Evaluate water conservation opportunities of sprinkler irrigation versus flood irrigation.

Priority 5: Recreation

- ✚ Provide assistance to help reduce conflict between ranching and recreation.
- ✚ Assist local recreational industries remain sustainable in our local economy

Priority Actions – 6 Months *Summary of the priority actions needed to start the 5-year plan of the Custer Soil & Water Conservation District*

Action	Begin Date	End Date
• Seek public comments from the Local Working Group established by the Custer and Lemhi SWCD to assist NRCS in the priority ranking.	1/1	5/1
• Seek public comments on Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan	2/15	3/1
• Board of Supervisor review of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan priorities, actions, and public comment	2/4	3/1
• Complete written update of Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan	1/1	3/31
• Adopt and submit Annual Plan/Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan	3/4	3/11
• Identify budget and staff needs	4/1	5/6
• Develop, adopt and submit annual budget	4/1	5/6
• Implement Annual Plan and Five-Year Resource Conservation Business Plan	7/1	6/30

Section 6: Identify, Prioritize and Implement Projects: (IDAPA 60-.05.02.025.06&07)

By April Custer SWCD has identified projects for State and County Funding as follows:

- Staff Hours to secure grants and or funds for projects and to retain the office
- Workshops or Tours and Publications on Water Quality Improvement/Management
- Idaho Envirothon Teams
- Natural Resource Awareness Day
- Annual 5th Grade Tour
- Agricultural Awareness Week – Community and K-12 Grades (all schools)
- Support local to Future Farmers of America
- Poster Contest – 5th and 6th Grade
- Speech Contest –High School
- Bread in a Bag – 4th Grade
- District Equipment Program
- Support of the State Lands Judging Contest
- Support of the Idaho Forestry Contest
- Community Support
- Dues support of IASCD (at \$1,800 level), RC&D (\$150), IDEA (\$50)

The above projects and activities are ranked in a priority order however Custer SWCD believes they have secured adequate funding to provide both staff and sponsorship of these activities for the next fiscal year.

By April Custer SWCD will have identified funding under Bonneville Power Administration Funding, Pacific Coast Funding, Bureau of Reclamation and Energy Conservation Funding. Of the 10 projects listed below. Of these projects 13 (Thirteen) were ranked High and 1 (one) Medium.

- 3 - Fish Passage Improvements by planning and installation practices (Water Quality)
- 1- Stream Reconnect - (Water Quality and Water Quantity)
- 1- Stock-water systems to provide off stream water (Water Quality and Water Quantity)
- Identify at least 5 landowners or Projects for Ag Energy Conservation (Water Quantity)

The above listed projects will be ranked on technical merit on BPA and PSCRF projects. The ranking will be done by an independent ranking committee made up of numerous natural resource specialists from various agencies with a focus on anadromous fish recovery. The above projects were reviewed in a publically advertised meeting along with the Custer SWCD Annual Resource Plan in March. Implementations of these projects are scheduled to take place through the fiscal year starting July and have secured project funding. Custer SWCD Board of Supervisors, Project Manager and Administrative Staff will oversee the implementation of this work with the assistance of

the NRCS, USBOR and IDFG as project support. Other multiple agencies and groups (noted on page 16) will provide assistance on some level.

The fish recovery projects listed above address the stream segments of concern and will be implemented under the best management practices of the NRCS and adopted by the Custer SWCD.

**CUSTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

July 2021

4	Fourth of July - office closed
13	CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
26-31	Custer County Fair – Display at Fair

August 2021

10	CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
**	CSWCD Summer Tour

September 2021

6	Labor Day – Office Closed
14	CSWCD Board Meeting
23	5 th Grade Annual Outdoor Field Day – Pahsimeroi

Valley

October 2021

11	Columbus Day office closed
12	CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
	Poster Judging/Speech Contest Judging
**	Fall Division VI meeting
	Division VI Poster Contest and Speech Contest

Judging

November 2021

2	Election Day
9	CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
**	Local Work Group Meeting – 10:00
11	Veterans Day office closed
**	IASCD Conference – Boise, Idaho
26	Thanksgiving - Office closed

December 2021

14	CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
24	Office closed for Christmas
25	Christmas Day

	31	New Year's Eve – Office Closed
<u>January 2022</u>	1	New Year's Day – Office Closed
	12	CSWCD Board meeting – 1:30 P.M.
	*	Workshop or public meeting sponsored by CSWCD
	17	MLK Day – Federal Holiday
	**	Legislative Displays – State Capitol
<u>February 2022</u>	8	CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 P.M.
	*	Spring Division IV meeting
	15	President's Day – Office Closed
		Bread in a Bag – Challis Elementary 4 th Graders
<u>March 2022</u>	8	CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 P.M.
	21-25	Ag Week Activities co-sponsored with Custer Co
Extension		
<u>April 2022</u>	12	CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 P.M.
	15	Natural Resources Awareness Day – Challis, Stanley Elementary Schools – All day event
	*	Start of Stewardship Week
	25-26	State Envirothon
<u>May 2021</u>	10	CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m. Review Final
Budget/Plan		
	30	Memorial Day office closed
<u>June 2021</u>	14	CSWCD Board Meeting – 1:30 p.m.
	30	FY2021 Fiscal Year ends

** Indicates do not know date or dates have not been set.



FY2022 (7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023) Annual Plan of Work Custer Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 1: Natural Resource Education Program related to Water Quality& Quantity, Range, Pasture and Hay-land and Recreation. (IDAPA 60.05.051.02.03)

Objective: The Custer Soil and Water Conservation District will provide leadership and management of the highest quality standards to meet goals and of objectives established by the District.

Goal(s): Maintain district operations and information and education programs effectively and efficiently with an emphasis on agriculture and the local economy.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Maintain administrative policies and procedures for district operations: Update District Policy and Procedures Manual, open meeting law; conduct annual elections; complete annual plan of work, provide administrative assistance to NRCS.	6/30	Board of Supervisors, District Employee
Assist landowners with USDA/Farm Bill programs and applications including LWG meetings to help set priorities.	6/30	Supervisors, District Employee & NRCS
Schedule and hold 10 Board Meetings and two conference calls to conduct district business.	Monthly	Chairman Karma Bragg, Office Mgr.
Develop and submit Conservation District Budget; request of funds from Lemhi and Custer Counties.	11/1	Board of Supervisors District Employee
Develop and submit Conservation District Annual Plan of Work	1/1	District Employee
Maintain financial management system using QuickBooks software including annual audit. Submittal of financial match reports and performance reports to the ISWCC.	Annually	Jimmie Dowton, Treasurer Karma Bragg, Office Mgr.
Identify, secure and administer alternative funding to assist in meeting Conservation District goals and actions.	9/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee
Develop and maintain employee and staff development program to include attendance at IASCD Division Meetings, IASCD Annual Conference, IDEA Workshops and other local, state and regional meetings.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee
Work with NRCS to develop and participate in local working group meetings	9/30	Board of Supervisors/NRCS
Work closely with Custer County Extension office to maintain joint offices	7/1	Board of Supervisors/Staff

Actions: Priority 1: Natural Resource Education Program related to Water Quality& Quantity, Range, Pasture and Hayland and Recreation. (Continued)	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<p>Use comprehensive and effective youth information and education program to promote and enhance District programs and increase public awareness of conservation and agricultural issues and opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sponsor Annual Natural Resource Awareness Day in the Elementary School (4/13) ➤ Sponsor Annual Bread in a Bag program for fourth grade (Feb) ➤ Sponsor 5th Grade Tour (fall) ➤ Sponsor Annual 5th and 6th Grade Poster Contest (Fall) ➤ Sponsor Local Envirothon Team (s) ➤ Sponsor Annual Speech Contest (Fall) ➤ Provide financial assistance to the State Forestry and Idaho Land judging contests. ➤ Provide educational and financial assistance to local FFA ➤ Develop Power Point and District Display for youth education opportunities. ➤ Assist Custer County Extension office with observance of Agricultural Week 	Annually 7/1 to 6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee Lead Person: I&E Specialist, Custer County Weed Supervisor, Custer County Agent
<p>Use comprehensive and effective community information and education program to promote and enhance District programs and increase public awareness of conservation issues and opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sponsor District tour to target 25-30% of landowners to offer assistance ➤ Develop outreach plan to encourage Energy Conservation Program ➤ Maintain District website ➤ Appoint SWCD board member to Custer County CWMA ➤ Develop Power Point and District Display for County Fairs and Legislative outreach ➤ Appoint District Supervisors to local civic and community groups to promote District Awareness ➤ Develop District Brochures for District outreach and district policy information ➤ Recruit school teacher as alternate member to advise education programs ➤ Sponsor Teacher of the year ➤ Develop quarterly news articles for the local media about district activities ➤ Develop an Annual Report to be inserted in the local paper for the District ➤ Request attendance and an overview of the programs from RC&D ➤ Sponsor Open House in one outlying area during the year. 	Annually 7/1 to 6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee Custer County Weed Supervisor FSA NRCS ISWC RC&D EC Project Lead County R&B



2022 (7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023) Annual Plan of Work Custer Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 2: Water Quality and Water Quantity

Objective: Address conditions of water quantity and water quality as it affects fisheries and wildlife resources within the district while maintaining multiple use and meet regulations of the Clean Water Act, Anti-degradation and Endangered Species Act.

Goal(s): Maintain and improve resource conditions on wetlands and riparian pastures and implement programs to enhance anadromous fish, resident fish and bull trout within the District.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
<p>Coordinate conservation programs and projects within the boundaries of the Custer SWCD between interested landowners and agencies (NRCS, IDWR, IDFG, US BoR).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assist OSC BPA and IDFG prioritize and utilize project funding for ACCORD money in the Pahsimeroi and participate in Pahsimeroi Work group. ➤ Assist in identification of priority areas and generate local support for stream enhancements within the watershed of the Upper Salmon Basin. ➤ Seek funding and assistance to implement projects that are identified to enhance fisheries in priority areas within the District including but not limited to BPA and PCSRF. ➤ Work with local agencies willing to assist landowners to be in compliance with ESA by providing information and potential funding opportunities related to in-stream diversions, fish screens, culverts and riparian fencing opportunities. ➤ Administer project funding according to policies and procedures established by the District and in compliance with state and federal laws and funding source requirements. ➤ Meet reporting requirements as identified by funding entities. ➤ Develop and/or maintain riparian management areas within the District to protect waterways from noxious weeds ➤ Assist SREC while pursuing projects for implementation under the Energy Conservation Program. ➤ Work with Custer County and R&B to develop joint to determine priority list for mutually beneficial projects. ➤ 	<p>7/30 Through 6/30</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS, IDWR, BoR, TNC, Custer County Weed Supervisor, RC&D, ISWC – WQ staff Custer County R&B</p>

Actions: (Priority #2 Water Quality and Water Quantity Continued)	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Assist landowners to comply with Idaho Department of Water Resources and Corps of Engineers permit process for irrigation and projects on wetlands and stream-banks.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS
Evaluate water conservation opportunities of sprinkler irrigation versus flood irrigation and address irrigation diversions where appropriate (address 2 this FY).	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS
Work with ISWC/FSA/NRCS to promote water quality and water quantity opportunities through EQIP and CStP programs within District Priority areas to assist cooperators to develop BMP's and multiple uses on riparian areas and wetlands.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS ISWC
Coordinate with interested landowners and groups to establish willows plantings on streams and utilize youth groups such as FFA or Envirothon whenever possible.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS, IDFG.
Seek non-traditional funding to assist cooperators with implementation of BMP's identified by NRCS technical staff and BOR staff.	1/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS, BOR
Assist cooperators with technical assistance and funding on irrigation measuring devices and head-gates.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS, BOR, IDWR
Work with NRCS/ISWC/IDA to seek EQIP and 319 funding to implement AFO projects within the District. Assist landowners to comply with AFO regulations.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS, IDA
Consider land use effects on water quality (i.e.; urban interface and recreation)	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee
Assist the Custer County Weed Supervisor with public awareness of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee Custer County Weed Supervisor
Work with Custer County and Custer County Road and Bridge to address needs of the county related to water Quality and culvert replacements.	6/30	District Employee, R&B Supervisor, Board of Supervisors.



FY2022 (7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023) Annual Plan of Work Custer Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 3: Range Land

Objective: Maintain an economic stability of the ranching industry and multiple uses by assisting cooperators to improve forage quality and quantity of rangeland within the district.

Goal(s): Improve rangeland within the Custer SWCD

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Identify local ranchers willing to develop comprehensive grazing and resource management systems.	6/30	Board of Supervisors Dist. Employee, NRCS
Maintain an active role in the Challis Experimental Stewardship program	6/30	Board of Supervisors
Promote the development of coordinated resource management plans under EQIP.	6/30	Board of Supervisors NRCS
Develop relationships with BLM, USFS, USFWS, NMFS, NRCS and IDFG to assist with public land grazing issues and enhancements.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS
Promote and provide information to improve control of noxious weeds on both public and private lands in cooperation with county weed supervisor.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS, Extension Agent, County Weed Supervisor
Provide public comment on grazing management, wilderness and fire management issues that impact grazing management on Public Land.	6/30	Board of Supervisors
Assist NRCS and encourage local grazing associations to work in cooperation with BLM/USFS and environmental interests to develop sound economic use of public grazing lands with emphasis on multiple use.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee, NRCS
Assist and encourage cooperators to address Wolf Depredation issues in the District	6/30	Board of Supervisors

Assist and encourage cooperators to address Sage Grouse issues in the District	6/30	Board of Supervisors NRCS
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FY2022 (7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023) Annual Plan of Work Custer Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 4: Pasture/Hay/Cropland

Objective: Maintain an economic stability of the ranching industry and multiple uses by assisting cooperators to improve forage quality and quantity of their pasture, hay and rangeland within the district.

Goal(s): Improve pasture, hay and rangeland within the Custer SWCD

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Identify local ranchers willing to develop comprehensive resource management systems.	6/30	Board of Supervisors Dist. Employee, NRCS
Promote the development of coordinated resource management plans under EQIP.	6/30	Board of Supervisors NRCS
Provide administrative assistance to NRCS on USDA/Farm Bill programs.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee, NRCS
Promote water conservation and energy conservation including but not limited to improved irrigation management, conversion from flood to sprinkler where appropriate or evaluate viability of flood versus sprinkler	6/30	Board of Supervisors NRCS
Promote and provide information to improve control of noxious weeds on both public and private lands in cooperation with county weed supervisor.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS, Extension Agent, County Weed Supervisor
Evaluate water conservation opportunities of sprinkler irrigation versus flood irrigation.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee, NRCS
Assist cooperators with available loan programs where appropriate	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee, ISWC



FY2022 (7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023) Annual Plan of Work Custer Soil and Water Conservation District



Conservation District Priority Number 5: Recreation

Objective: Seek partnerships with recreational entities to enhance the resources and economics of Custer Soil and Water Conservation District.

Goal(s): Enhance the aesthetics of the recreational resources within the district by encouraging a partnership between recreational entities, grazing associations and ranchers.

Actions	Target Date	Individual(s) Responsible
Assist local grazing associations and coordinate with local recreational entities to enhance the resource and aesthetics in areas with high recreational impact. This includes request for funding when appropriate.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS
Provide a forum for recreational entities to express input into resource planning associated with the District.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee NRCS
Seek cooperation from landowners interested in assisting the district to address recreational interests to include recreational properties.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee
Develop cooperative working relationships with public land management agencies to assist with the enhancement of recreational opportunities.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee
Work with SNRA to develop riparian projects in the Stanley area that complement the scenic value of the basin and still maintain agricultural stability in the area.	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee SNRA
Assist the Custer County Weed Supervisor with public awareness about certified weed free hay	6/30	Board of Supervisors District Employee County Weed Supervisor
Provide public comment on wilderness and wildfire management on public land.	6/30	Board of Supervisors

Acronym	Defined
AFO	Animal Feedlot Operation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
USBoR	U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CStP	Conservation Stewardship Program
Custer County CWMA	Custer County Cooperative Weed Management Area
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FSA	Farm Service Agency
IDA	Idaho Department of Agriculture
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
ISWCC	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
LWG	Local Working Group
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PCSRF	Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund
OSC	Idaho Governors Office of Species Conservation
RC&D	Resource Conservation and Development
SNRA	Sawtooth National Recreation Area
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
WQPA	Water Quality Program for Agriculture

Comments:
