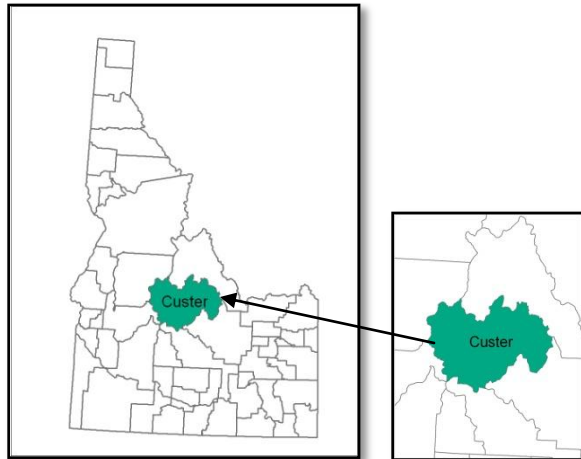


# Custer

Soil and Water Conservation District



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<http://www.custerdistrict.org>

SWCD Board Meetings: Second Wednesday

## Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality
2. Water Quantity
3. Endangered Species Act Mandates
4. Urban Development
5. Recreation use impacts

## 2017-18 Revenues

Federal Grants to Custer SWCD	\$ 312,991
State Funding - SWC	\$ 17,778
County/Local Funding	\$ 6,625
<b>Total District Administered Funds</b>	<b>\$ 337,394</b>
NRCS	\$ 49,410
Landowner Match	\$ 22,000
<b>Total Conservation Funding</b>	<b>\$ 408,804</b>

## Recent Projects

### Anadromous Fisheries Projects:

- Completed consultation for a water conservation project in the Upper Pahsimeroi.
- Assisted water users with flood damage from the 2016/17 high water event.
- Installed head-gate to address flows in Patterson Big Springs Creek resulting in approximately 15 cfs increase to the flow that will remain in Patterson/Big Springs Creek through most of the summer and all winter when irrigation is shut down.
- Removed two passage barriers on Meadow Creek near Stanley Idaho and installed a water conservation project to enhance a flow agreement with IDWR on Meadow Creek and Goat Falls of approximately 6 cfs.
- Worked with IDFG and IDL to complete riparian fencing and install stock-water on State Lands.
- *Results:* Increased flows and spawning habitat availability and removed two passage barriers.



Custer SWCD Board





**Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Tour: Students are given an opportunity to use survey equipment.**

### **Educational Programs**

- Sponsored the poster contest for 60 students
- Held an annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade tour reaching approximately 32 students. This included a tour of a seed potato and grain farm to increase student’s knowledge about agriculture.
- Sponsored one team to the State Envirothon.
- Co-sponsored Ag Week (180 students)
- Sponsored Natural Resource Day (160 students)
- Assisted with the Challis Fishing Derby - community support.
- Legislative Display at the State Capitol.
- Assisted with the implementation of the Idaho Envirothon at Living Waters Ranch in Challis. Served as a judge at the NCF Envirothon.
- Sponsored 4<sup>th</sup> grade class Bread in a Bag
- Encouraged Challis FFA and Envirothon students in conservation projects to increase their awareness of natural resource issues.
- Assisted with the Idaho Skillathon hosted by the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission.



**Tour of the Parkinson Seed Farm. Student are on the top of a “mountain” of freshly harvested potatoes.**

### **Future Projects**

Custer Soil and Water Conservation District continues to focus on the statutory requirement in their annual and 5-Year Plan. Water Quality and Water Quantity are the top resource concern in addition to the Endangered Species Act implications.

Continued efforts will be made to address Energy Conservation within Agriculture sector in cooperation with the Salmon River Electric Cooperative with BPA funding.

The Custer SWCD will continue to work with willing landowners to address agricultural projects related to fish recovery by addressing flows, fish barriers and stream restoration projects. Funding has been allocated to address three to four additional projects over the next year.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bonneville Power Administration and Office of Species Conservation (PCSRF) are important funding sources for the District.

Custer SWCD has applied for a large Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund Grant to assist a remote ranch on Look Creek address fish passage and fish habitat at a back country facility. The district is also working to assist with installation of two bridges on Garden Creek. One for the county and the second to provide access to a small local ski hill and other residents. The District is working with private landowners and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area to address habitat and passage in the Sawtooth Valley on both public land and will seek funding to complete these projects.

An active information, education and outreach program will continue to be a focus of the Custer SWCD.

#### **Board of Supervisors & Staff**

- Ben O’Neal, Chairman
- Wayne Baker, Vice Chairman
- Dale Olson, Secretary
- Jimmie L. Dowton, Treasurer
- Julia Piva Moss, Member
- Karma Bragg, Office/Project Manager

*Providing action and information at the local level for promoting wise and beneficial conservation of natural resources with an emphasis on soil and water.*