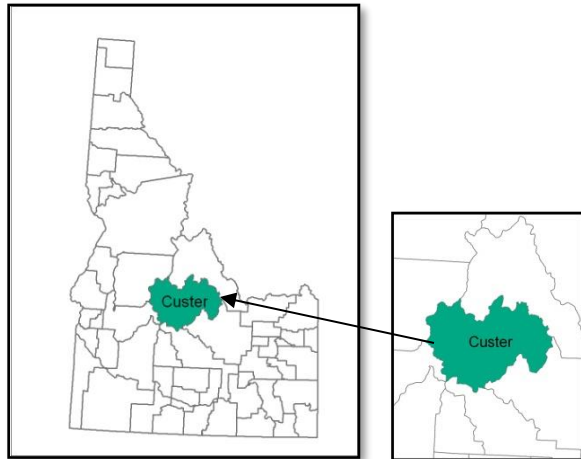


# Custer

Soil and Water Conservation District



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SWCD Board Meetings: Second Tuesday

## Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

## 2019-2020 Revenues (based on audit)

Federal Grants to Custer SWCD	\$ 593,160
State Funding - SWC	\$ 18,753
County/Local Funding	\$ 7,475
<b>Total District Administered Funds</b>	<b>\$ 619,388</b>
NRCS	\$ 383,490
Landowner Match	\$ 73,692
<b>Total Conservation Funding</b>	<b>\$ 1,076,570</b>

## Recent Projects

### Anadromous Fisheries Projects:

- Removed a passage-barriers on Garden Creek below Challis by replacing undersized culverts and installing steel bridges. The project also included a riparian component that is part of a wetland mitigation project with Custer County. The MOA for this project has been signed and the project is moving forward.
- Coordination of a fish passage and barrier project on a remote property in Loon Creek, a private holding within the Frank Church Wilderness area. This project included the installation of a new Hydro facility that reduced water needs by approximately 8 cfs. The fish screen has been installed and the screen will be operational in 2021. This is year two of a three year project with Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funding.
- The district also worked with SNRA to complete a reconnect of Cabin Creek. Installation was done in fall 2020.
- A riparian fence is being installed on Stanley Lake Creek with the local grazing association in cooperation with SNRA and NRCS.
- Assisted ISWCC with the Pahsimeroi TMDL report by providing project list and review.
- *Results:* Improved spawning and habitat availability and removal of two passage barriers.





**Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Tour: Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission Range Activity Tent with Jackie Ingram**

**Educational Programs**

- Sponsored the 5<sup>th</sup> grade poster contest for 20 students
- Held an annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade tour reaching approximately 20 students. This included a tour of a seed potato and grain farm to increase student’s knowledge about agriculture.
- Assisted the Idaho Envirothon Committee hold its first every “on line” competition with approximately 11 teams participating.
- Co-sponsored Ag Week in Mackay for about 115. The Challis event was canceled due to school closure. Education supplies were delivered to the school prior to shut-down.
- Legislative Display at the State Capitol.
- 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.



**Tour of the Parkinson Seed Farm. Student are allowed to climb on the harvest equipment during the tour of the seed farm which included discussion about wheat and potato production.**

**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 which are often intertwined with water quality and quantity.

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, Bureau of Reclamation and Office of Species Conservation (PCSRF) continue to be important funding sources for the District’s projects.

Custer SWCD is currently administering a large Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund Grant to assist a remote ranch on Loon Creek address fish passage and fish habitat at a back country facility. The district is continues work on Garden Creek with through a wetland mitigation project. The stream reconnect is complete with a campground modification near Stanley under the direction of the SNRA. The District continues work with a private grazing association and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area to address habitat on a small fencing project.

An active youth 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.*