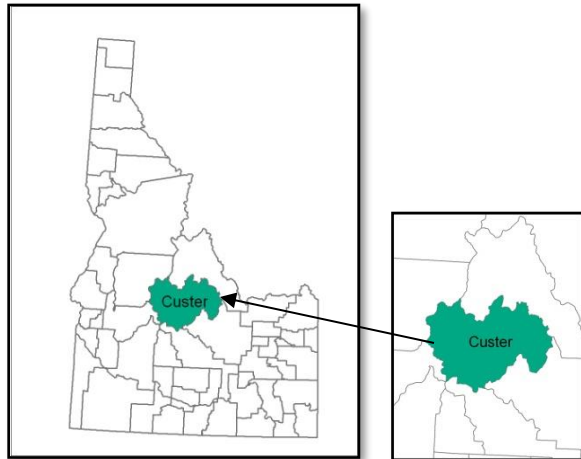


# Custer

Soil and Water Conservation District



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<http://www.custerdistrict.org>

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

## 2020-2021 Revenues (based on audit)

Federal Grants to Custer SWCD	\$ 729,287
State Funding - SWC	\$ 18,084
County/Local Funding	\$ 6,000
<b>Total District Administered Funds</b>	<b>\$ 753,371</b>
NRCS	\$ 178,713
Landowner Match	\$ 99,194
<b>Total Conservation Funding</b>	<b>\$ 1,031,278</b>

## Recent Projects

### Anadromous Fisheries Projects:

- Completed the stock-water system and fencing component of the wetland mitigation project under an MOA with Custer County. A vegetative management plan has been developed by NRCS and will be implemented in the next year.
- Coordination of a fish passage and barrier project on a remote property in Loon Creek, a private holding within the Frank Church Wilderness area. The Hydro is fully functional and fish screen has been installed and the screen will be operational in the next season. 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.
- Worked with landowners to improve passage and water management on Morgan Creek.
- *Results:* Improved spawning and habitat availability and removal of two passage barriers.





Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Tour: Tim Dodds, Surveying.

## Educational Programs

- Sponsored the 5<sup>th</sup> grade poster contest for 42 students
- Sponsored High School Speech contest. Four students participated from the speech contest.
- Held an annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade tour reaching approximately 24 students. This included a tour of a seed potato and grain farm to increase student’s knowledge about agriculture.
- Co-sponsored Ag Week for Challis including a farm tour and hands on activities for each class. Sponsored a day for Home School also.
- Sponsored Natural Resource Awareness Day one ages K-3<sup>rd</sup> and the second day for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades. Logging, mining, road and bridge maintenance, range management, agriculture and public lands management were all components of this year’s event.
- Sponsored 4<sup>th</sup> grade class Bread in a Bag
- Encouraged Challis FFA students in conservation projects to increase their awareness of natural resource issues.
- Played an active role with the NRCS’s Local Working Group prioritization process.



5<sup>th</sup> Grade Tour at Parkinson Seed Farm  
Farm Equipment

## 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 completing a proposal for the Independent Scientific Review Committee to continued funding from BPA starting in 2023/2024 and continuing to 2027. The district received assistance from the High Country RC&D in preparing this proposal along with numerous partners that assist the District in Conservation projects.

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

Wayne Baker, Chairman

Julia Piva, Vice Chairman

Dale Olson, Secretary

Jimmie L. Dowton, Treasurer

Tori O’Neal, 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.*