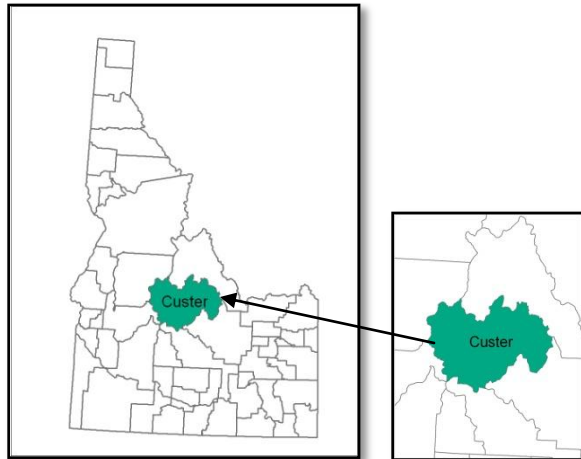


Custer

Soil and Water Conservation District



P. O. Box 305
 Challis, Idaho 83226
 PHONE: (208) 879-4428
 FAX: (208) 879-5903

<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

2015-16 Revenues

Federal Grants to Custer SWCD	\$ 2,040,362
State Funding - SWC	\$ 19,116
County/Local Funding	\$ 6,478
OCS Funding	\$ 616,168
IDFG	\$ 9,730
Total District Administered Funds	\$ 2,691,854
NRCS	\$ 215,252
Landowner Match	\$ 315,000
Total Conservation Funding	\$ 3,222,106

Recent Projects

Anadromous Fisheries Projects:

- Completed consultation and installation of a gravity pipeline near Furey Lane providing a reconnect of the Pahsimeroi River through the upper reach at least seasonally.
- Installed a stock-water system on Pole Creek that provided additional benefits to complement the flow enhancement project installed in 2014/15.
- Installation of three bridges to address passage in the Pahsimeroi area. One bridge was in cooperation with Custer County.
- Removed a passage barrier on Garden Creek which is a complementary project to the project with the City of Challis on Garden Creek in 2014
- *Results:* Increased flows and spawning habitat availability by approximately five miles.



Custer SWCD receives award from SNRA for Excellence in Conservation for Pole Creek. The project will be featured in a Life on the Range Video later this year.





Annual 5th Grade Tour: Students are given an opportunity to discuss rangeland with Jackie Ingram. The tour included a visit to the Parkinson Seed Farm.

Educational Programs

- Sponsored two participants in the local speech contest.
- Nominated two teachers for IASCD Conservation Teacher award. Elementary Teacher was awarded to Pam Wilson.
- Sponsored the poster contest for 55 students with a poster placing third at division meeting and won first at the IASCD State Conference.
- Held an annual 5th grade tour reaching approximately 30 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 (220 students)
- Sponsored Natural Resource Day (180 students)
- Challis Fishing Derby - community support.
- Legislative Display at the State Capitol.
- Sponsored Tour of the Fish Farm, Greenhouse and Soup Kitchen & Garden Creek Project.
- Assisted with the implementation of the Idaho Envirothon at Living Waters Ranch in Challis.
- Sponsored Bread in a Bag for the Challis elementary 4th grade class.
- Engaged Challis FFA and Envirothon students in conservation projects to increase their awareness of natural resource issues.
- Applied for and received IASCD Field Office Partnership Award for Challis FO 2015.

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

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.

As always work will be accomplished on a voluntary basis. Funding from various non traditional sources will be needed to retain the current “action” level. This includes but is not limited to Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bonneville Power Administration and Office of Species Conservation (PCSRF).

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



NRCS staff Rosana Rieth, Mark Olson, DC and Curtis Elke, NRC S State Conservationist discuss Sage Grouse

Board of Supervisors & Staff
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 Jimmie L. Dowton, Treasurer
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 Karma Bragg, Office/Project Manager
 Tammy Rice, Administrative Assistant