

Dale Olson

Dale Olson was born and raised in Salmon Idaho. He attended Eastern Idaho Vo-Tech for farm diesel and hydraulics and has put these skills to work on his farm and businesses. His family owned and operated several businesses in Salmon including Salmon Tractor and Subway/Fiesta Ole'.

Dale and his family purchased a ranch in the Challis area in about 2001 and moved to Challis in about 2006 where he continues to farm. Dale was elected to the board in 2012. As a board member he has served as the Secretary & Treasurer.

Dale currently manages the District's equipment program for scheduling the equipment and providing billing informaton. He is the Districts representative on the NRCS Local Work Group and this is Dale's third term on the board.

Jessi Farr

Jessi has grown up in Challis and is a 2019 graduate of Challis High School. She attended the University of Montana Western on a Rodeo scholarship. She graduated in the summer of 2022 with an Associates of Applied Science and a Small Business Management degree.

Jessi returned to Challis in 2022 with the goal of running the family ranch that was purchased in late 2021. The ranch is the historic Westergard Ranch that was known as the Salmon River Hereford Ranch. Jessi and her family have been working hard to make upgrades to the ranch this summer, with many more to come. The property also has a grazing allotment that Jessi has helped managed this summer.

Jessi enjoys roping and working horses. She also shares a love for the outdoors and spends time with her dad in the White Cloud Mountains running their outfitting business.

Ryan Hughes

Ryan Hughes is a native of the Challis area and was raised on the family ranch he runs today. He is a graduate of Challis High School. He has worked on his family ranch from a young age. Ryan's son Tyler now works on the ranch with him. This represents the fifth generation of the Hughes family ranching operation. This multi-generational ranch has been in the Hughes family now for over 100 years.

Ryan is no stranger to Soil Conservation Districts. Ryan's father Delbert served on the Custer SWCD board in 1974 through 1980 and remained an associate member for many years after. Ryan and his wife Susana have also assisted the Custer SWCD with many youth education programs.

Ryan is a member of the Morgan Creek Association, active on Farm Bureau for over 30 years, has served on the FSA Board for 12 years and is a supporter of the local FFA.

2022 Board of Supervisor Elections

Today, Idaho's 50 conservation districts are local led by over 270 publicly elected officials recognized as conservation district supervisors. Individual districts are governed by either 5 or 7 board supervisors. Each Conservation District is unique according to geographic boundaries, but all districts are unified in their effort to provide non-regulatory, incentive-based assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. This effort is successfully executed through the dedicated work of conservation district supervisors, district staff and partnerships at the local regional, state and federal level.

Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors are duly elected supervisors of their local Soil Conservation Districts. Soil Conservation District supervisors are elected to fulfill the roles and responsibilities inherent to the position.

During this year's November 2022 election, you will see three candidates on the ballot to fill two open positions. Positions are for a four-year term. Each candidate is listed on this page with a short bio of their background.

Among other responsibilities, district supervisors are entrusted with the power to administer conservation programs, spend public funds, and educate the public on natural resource conservation issues. Attendance to meetings is critical to the success of the board.

The Custer Soil and Water Conservation District administers funds from the State of Idaho and Custer County. They apply for funds from Bonneville Power Administration, Office of Species Conservation; Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds, Bureau of Reclamation Funding and funding from the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission's Water Quality Program for Agriculture.

The Custer SWCD also administers one of the largest youth education programs in the state. The Board is actively involved in the decision-making process for how these programs are implemented.

The district works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the University of Idaho, Custer County Extension Service and many other partners to provide information, technical support and funding to local landowners within the boundaries of Custer SWCD.

