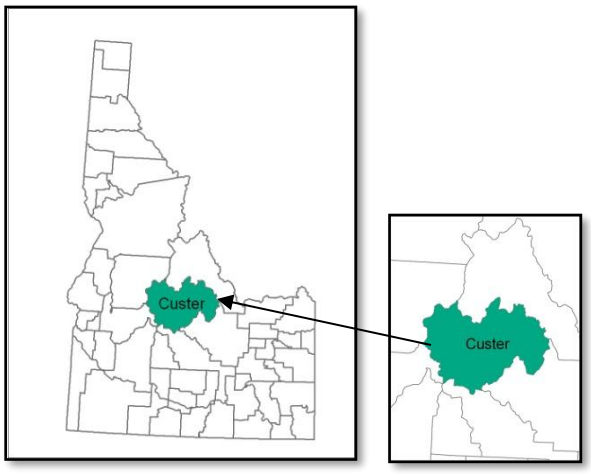
Custer Soil and Water Conservation District



P. O. Box 305
Challis, Idaho 83226
PHONE: (208) 879-4428
FAX: (208) 879-5903
http://www.custerdistrict.org
SWCD Board Meetings: Second Thursday

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

2024-2025 Revenues (not based on audit)

Federal Grants to Custer SWCD	$	514,528
ISWCC - WQPA	$	33,250
State Funding - SWC	$	25,893
Local Funds For Programs	$	3,848
County/Local Funding	$	7,000
Federal Grants to Custer SWCD	$	534,910
Total Conservation Funding	**$**	**614,221**
Landowner Match	$	255,000
NRCS Funding	$	397,750
Total Conservation Funding	**$**	**1,266,971**

Recent Projects

Conservation and Anadromous Fisheries Projects:

- Secured funding from ISWCC and completed a fourth WQPA project to purchase a no-till drill to rent to landowners within in the Custer SWCD.
- Completed Phase II and III design and consultation on Pole Creek Habitat Complexity Project. Secured funding from both BPA and PCSRF to allow full implementation on both Phase II and II of the Habitat Complexity project in the Upper Stanley Basin on Pole Creek to address approximately .8 miles of stream complementing past projects.
- Completed a Monitoring of the County Wetland Mitigation for 2025 with the project showing great recovery of the vegetation.
- Implemented a passage barrier removal on Road Creek in October 2024.
- Completed implementation and removed two fish passage barriers on Warm Springs.
- Continued work on design for a passage barrier removal on a diversion on Knapp Creek. The project is on schedule to be implemented in July/August of 2026.

Results: *Improved spawning, in-stream habitat and flow and removal of two passage barriers.*

Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an American to encourage fiscal responsibility and wise use of our natural resources and to faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country, its soil and minerals, water and wildlife.

Annual 5th Grade Tour: Tim Dodds presents survey equipment to 5th Grade students.

Educational Programs

- Sponsored the 5th and 6th grade poster contest for 52 students from Challis Elementary.
- Two High School Students participated at the District and advanced to the Division Level receiving second and third place.
- Held our annual 5th grade tour reaching approximately 27 students and three parents. This included a tour of a seed potato and grain farm to increase student's knowledge about agriculture. IDFG, NRCS and the U of I Participated.
- Co-sponsored Ag Week with the U of I for Challis including a farm tour and hands on activities for each class.
- Sponsored 4th grade class Bread in a Bag.
- Hosted a local working group meeting in cooperation with NRCS and played an active role with the NRCS's Local Working Group prioritization process.
- Assisted IASCD Division host the State IASCD 80th Conference in Idaho Falls.
- Presented Rosana Rieth, NRCS, the R.N. Irving Award at the awards banquet.

5th Grade Students during the Conservation tour.

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.

Wrote and received four grants from Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery for passage barrier removals and stream complexity projects to utilize BPA cost share for the projects. Three of four have been completed. Two more grants are being submitted this fall.

Custer SWCD applied for, and received funding from the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission from their Water Quality for Agriculture program for a No-Till Drill that that will be purchased and ready for use early in the spring of 2025.

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.

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.

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

Pole Creek placement of coir logs to narrow channel

Board of Supervisors & Staff
Wayne Baker, Chairman
Julia Piva, Vice Chairman
Dale Olson, Secretary
Tori O'Neal, Treasurer
Ryan Hughes, 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.