

IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION

DISTRICT:

Minidoka

FOR YEAR:

2021

DUE :

December 20,

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Performance Report is true and accurate, and further submit said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.


A copy of this Performance Report shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.



Board Supervisor Signature

Brian Rossman

Printed Name

 11 Nov. 2021

Date

208 436 4202

District Telephone

minidokaswd@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District

2021 Performance report

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District was organized on July 1, 1955 spending the first five years helping farmer's level land, build irrigation structures and develop proper crop rotation. The District's efforts have evolved over the years, from equipment leases to producers, to education of the area school children and soil health workshops for the area growers.

MISSION: Deliver natural resource technology and education, to promote wise use of natural resources and to promote management practices to ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations of producers/growers in Minidoka County.

LOCATION: Minidoka County is in central southern Idaho, with the Snake River forming the southern boundary, Power county to the East, Blaine County at the northern end, with Lincoln and Jerome Counties to the west. The county contains approximately 480,000 acres, of which 42% is in production agriculture. The county has a unique topography and elevation. Its southern portion, which runs along the Snake River, was originally part of the riverbed. Its northern portion runs over a somewhat higher table and is called the North side project. Its extreme northern and eastern boundaries consist of lava flows with large and small areas of arable land. Although the surface structure is varied, there is only 180 feet difference in elevation from the lowest point at the southwest corner, 4180 feet and its highest point in the northeast corner, 4360 feet.

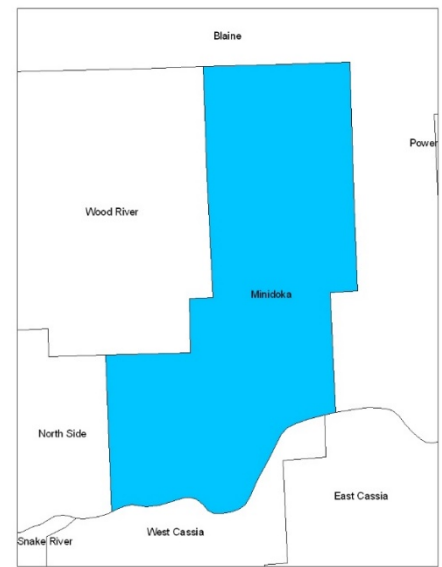
WATER: Water stored in reservoirs created by dams on the Snake River provides the means of irrigation for the diversified farming on the original Minidoka Project. Water was first delivered to the Minidoka Project in 1907 with the completion of Minidoka Dam. The old project consists of 72,221 acres. Deep wells provide the water for the new Governmental Homestead Project consisting of 89,000 acres. Additional acres have been developed by private enterprise since the first Veteran Homestead drawing in 1953. Today there is approximately 160,000 acres of rich sagebrush land under irrigation by pumping. Irrigated farmland covers the southern part of the county, while lava beds cover the northern portion.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 27

Our Report:

Sadly, due to many shut downs throughout the state and country being attributed to the Covid -19 pandemic we had to cancel the Soil Health Workshop that many area farmers have enjoyed as a format to learn from others about different ways to incorporate no-till and cover crop practices.

This year is a year for change. The Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District did just that. Boxes and files were sorted through and reorganized and moved to a new location. Our office is now at the Minidoka Fair Grounds in the back of the McGregor Building. The No-Till drill is parked (when not in use) just inside the fence, making for easy access for the renters. Our new address is ***85 East Baseline Road Rupert Idaho 83350***



Blue Jeans and Country Dreams was the theme for the Minidoka County Fair, our booth had handouts about trees, farming, and rural life. There was great attendance at the fair this year, with more food booths and a lot more people.

The Idaho History Days presentation on the importance of Farmers was successful with over 250 4th grade students participating. Even though this was in Cassia County, we still assist with opportunities to present information about where our food comes from and our farmers. Each child received an apple while one apple was cut and sliced as an example of the apple being the world and what part is useable land, and what part is farmable land.



For the poster and speech contest, this year there were 720 students that are 5/6 grade, again we had a school (different from last year) that choose not to participate. The theme was Healthy Forest Healthy Community. Our 1st place District winner also won first place at Division. And will be shown at state in January. The speech contest of the same theme had 14 students participate this year with the event being held in the Library at Minico High School.



The Minidoka and Cassia County Commissioners support the Land and Soil Judging competition in helping to monitor the site pits. Wayne Schenk, Kent Searle, Bob Kunau, and Leonard Beck.

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation district is a supporter of the State Land and Soil Judging competition. There were 16 schools from around the state that sent 4 and 5 person teams to this event. 2 schools sent 2 teams. The youth want to learn, want to be involved in skills that will help them in their adult lives. 1st place - Troy FFA 2nd place - American Falls FFA 3rd place Cambridge FFA

The Direct Seed no-till project is in its 7th year of operation. The No-Till Drill has been used this year by 24 renters planting crops such as oats, pasture mix, cover crops, teff, barley, triticale, alfalfa, turnips and CRP. The acreage has been as small as 1.9 acres to 100.5 acres per rental. There are 10,188.4 acres on the meter. This has been a great project for area farmers, both beginners and those who have been at it for generations.



Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District has provided support and participation in the NRCS Local Work Group (LWG) discussion. There have been projects such and end gun removal along with other types of irrigation conversions to help conserve water, along with some high tunnel project.

The big concern that the Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District has and is working on addressing is the concentration of nitrates found in the water here in Minidoka County. We are working on addressing this issue trying to find the cause and effect and how to mitigate before there is government intervention. We feel this will be a rather large project, that will take many years to change and correct. There will need to be many agencies involved in this project. In part we feel that locating and capping abandoned wells would be a good first step, thus preventing infiltration into the aquifer during flooding or high-water years.

Finances: FY 2021 funds

State:	\$17,664.48
Tree Sales	\$ 1,999.48
Match	\$12,000.00

Total	\$31,663.96
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Admin Assist Sharon Hardy