

Madison Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

General Information: The Madison Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1948, primarily to help farmers modernize irrigation systems, level land, control the spread of noxious weeds, and improve the quality and quantity of forage for their cattle. Strip cropping on dryland farms has gradually been replaced with terraces and debris basins and the District also promotes dryland conservation practices.

Mission (or Function):

- Make technical, financial and educational resources available and coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources.
- Protect and improve the natural resources in Madison County for landowners to use for generations to come.

FY 2013 Accomplishments:

- Assisted 7 landowners, enrolling 1,830 acres in the Idaho Soil Health Initiative which is the largest enrollment in the state.
- 276 Water and Sediment Control Basins were installed on agriculture land benefitting 8 landowners to improve both water quality and reduce soil erosion.
- Assisted 8 landowners with cover crops on 1,701 acres to reduce wind erosion and improve soil quality and crop yield.
- Applied no-till practices on 2,770 acres with 6 landowners which greatly improved both soil quality and crop production.
- Stream bank protection was practiced on 2,390 feet benefitting 4 landowners.



Jaren Raybould explains his cover crop and the benefits it has yielded after potato harvest, including reducing wind and soil erosion.

Future Plans and Projects:

- Continue to seek funding for Rexburg Bench Energy Savings Program that promote energy and water conservation.
- Continue to promote practices as No-Till, Cover Crop, Crop Rotations, Stream Bank Restoration and Wildlife Habitat Improvements.
- Conduct educational conservation tours and workshops for local working groups to gain insight from county leaders and residents to continue conservation plans of action.
- Seek funding from various nontraditional sources to retain the current office level.

FY 2013 District Funding:

Base Allocation	\$	8,500
Local Funding	\$	6,000
Capacity Building	\$	1,000
State Match	\$	<u>8,208</u>
	\$	23,708

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District Documents

Prepared by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission