

Gem Soil and Water Conservation District

Fact Sheet

General Information: The Gem Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1954 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and users within the District boundary. The major soil and water conservation needs in the district today are soil protection on cropland, animal waste management, irrigation water management, and land reclamation.

Mission (or Function):

- Set high standards for conservation of soil, water and related natural resources and encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations and elected officials, through education, technical support and financial assistance.
- Coordinate conservation activities and disseminate natural resources information to organizations and the public in Gem SWCD.

FY 2014 Accomplishments:

- Worked with NRCS to help 7 landowners with cost-sharing on installation of best management practices.
- Used 319 funds to install an irrigation system.
- District producers are participating in a pilot program called the Haney/Soil Health Test, which is an integrated approach to soil testing. Results of the tests will be used to build soil nutrients, reduce compaction, erosion and the need for commercial fertilizers.
- 343 acres were contracted to install Best Management Practices and address natural resource concerns. These practices include forage and biomass planting, prescribed grazing, mulch tillage, and water control structure.



Cover crops in the Haney/Soil Health Test pilot program.

Future Plans and Projects:

- Focus on load reductions of 33% bacteria at the confluence of the Lower Payette and Snake Rivers, 30% phosphorus in Hells Canyon and 34% reduction in sediment and 87% reduction of bacteria in Bissel Creek.
- Continue to promote natural resource conservation through outreach and education programs for local youth, landowners, and future farmers and ranchers.

FY 2014 District Funding:

State Funding	\$ 15,538
County Funding	\$ 5,000
Federal Grants	\$ 18,116
Landowners contribution	\$ 76,794
Total	\$ 115,448

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District Documents

Prepared by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission