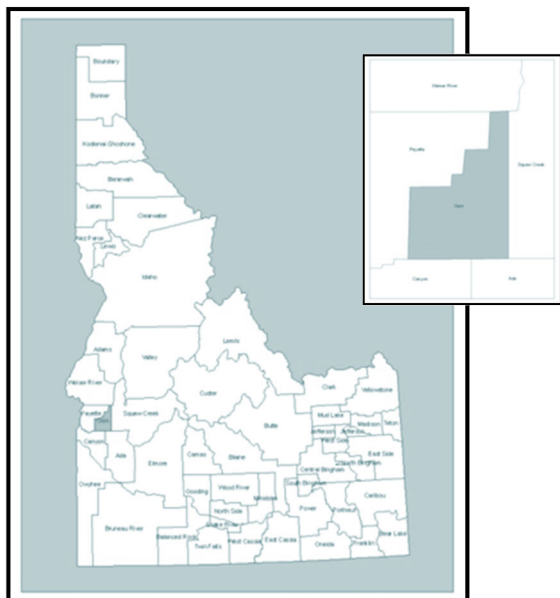


Gem Soil & Water Conservation District



1857 Highway 16, Suite B
Emmett, Idaho 83617
Phone: (208) 963-4693
www.facebook.com/GemSWCD
Leanne.buck@id.nacdnet.net

SWCD Board Meetings: First Monday

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality
2. Irrigated Cropland
3. Public Outreach/ Information & Education
4. Rangeland
5. Urban

FY 2022 Revenue

County Funding	\$ 6,250.00
State Funding	<u>22,872.19</u>
Total	\$ 29,122.19

Significant FY 2022 Projects:

Biological Control

On June 18, 2022, the Gem SWCD partnered with the Nez Perce Biological Control Center in Lapwai, Idaho to learn and release biological control insects for Poison Hemlock. With the Help of Paul Brusven, with the Nez Perce Biological Center, the district released European Palearctic Moth larvae on a large patch of Poison Hemlock along the Payette River and on the Emmett Bench.



Paul, Brusven releasing larvae

The District will monitor the release sites for three years to allow time for the agent to become well established. If all goes to plan, we hope the site can become an insectary, in which the larvae can be relocated to other infestations.

Outdoor School

On May 24, 2022, Gem SWCD partnered with the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and Squaw Creek SCD to sponsor and organize Outdoor School for 120 local fifth grade students at Black Canyon Dam Wild Rose Park.

Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission offered rangeland education through the hands-on I-Room trailer. The US Forest Service participated with their Watershed trailer and matchstick forest fire education. The Safari Club attended with a STEM trailer display on wildlife conservation, Courtney Cosdon with U of I offered soil health education, and Gem and Squaw Creek SWCDs provided smores and a habitat game. Students also toured Black Canyon Dam.



US Forest Service Watershed Trailer

Conservation Project Financial Assistance

The USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is helping producers in the Gem Soil and Water District to get conservation projects on the ground. This year 4 EQIP contracts were funded for \$160,000.00. Projects included sprinkler systems, pasture seeding, cross fencing, and streambank protection. EQIP also helps private forestland owners address forest health and wildfire concerns. EQIP pays about half the cost of conservation practices and most contracts are completed in 3 years or less.

Education/Outreach

2022 Theme “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life”

2022 Poster & Speech Contest Winners

The winning posters this year came from Carberry Elementary School and Shadow Butte Elementary. Prizes were awarded for First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention posters. They went on to compete at Division level.

We also had one Speech contestant this year, who won 1st place and went on to win 1st place at Division Level and tied for 4th place at State.



Gem SWCD actively promotes conservation through education and outreach:

- Distributed 250 Ponderosa Pine tree seedlings to students in Gem County during Arbor Day and explained the importance of planting trees/renewable resources.
- Sponsored 250 fifth grade students in the poster contest.
- Hands-on gardening, soil health, and pollinator education at Shadow Butte garden as we grew produce, harvested, and enjoyed the harvest at a harvest party.
- Published a district newsletter to keep farmers and ranchers in the District informed, mailing to 500 subscribers twice a year.
- Promoted education and conservation through a District Facebook page.
- Sponsored a pollinator flower entry for the local Gem/Boise County Fair.
- Displayed pollinator plant arrangements at the Gem/Boise County Fair to educate the public on importance of planting for pollinators.
- Organized tree plantings and Arbor Day ceremony at the Emmett Cemetery with Baxter Nursery and Mayor.



No-Till Drill



The Gem SWCD educates and promotes the use of reduce-till farming practices to conserve and protect organic matter in the soil, reduce erosion, promote biodiversity in and around the soil, and increase water absorption. This year our No-till Drill was rented out and used by 8 producers on over 153 acres in the Gem and Squaw Creek Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Future Plans/Projects

The 5-Year Plan of Work continues to be the focus and guiding document for the Gem SWCD. Some of the information for statutory requirements are:

Load reductions-

Lower Payette River - 33% for bacteria at the confluence of the Lower Payette River and Snake River.

S Snake River – Hells Canyon TMDL 30% for phosphorus .

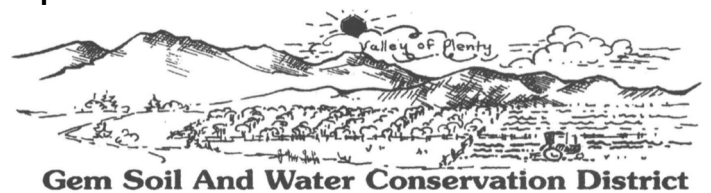
*Bissel Creek – 34% reduction in sediment
87% reduction in bacteria*

*In 2023 the District will do 5-year monitoring.
Gem SWCD has members on the Lower Payette Watershed Advisory Group.*

The Gem SWCD will continue to promote natural resource conservation through outreach and education programs for local youth, landowners, and future farmers and ranchers.

Education to landowners, students, and the general public is a priority with the Gem SWCD and one that requires continued commitment and participation in activities such as National Stewardship Week with the Poster and Speech Contests. Arbor Day, Ag Day and other means of education or information on natural resources. The District plans to install two new pollinator garden projects in the District to benefit and educate the youth. They also continues to apply for grant funding to provide local landowners financial assistance for conservation projects.

Funds awarded to the Gem SWCD by the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission were spent on outreach and education.



Board of Supervisors and Staff

Kirk Vickery, Chairman

Maggie Sisler, Vice-Chairman

Jim Hutchison, Treasurer

Cliff Fivecoat, Secretary

Jamie McCann, Supervisor

John Shane, Associate

Leanne Buck, Administrative Assistant

The District's mission is to 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.

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION**

DISTRICT:

Gem Soil and Water
Conservation District

FOR YEAR:

FY 2022

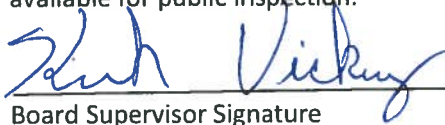
DUE :

December 20, 2022

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

Kirk Vickery

Printed Name

December 5, 2022

Date

(208)963-4693

District Telephone

Leanne.Buck@id.nacdnet.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: