



9173 W. Barnes Dr., Suite C
Boise, Idaho 83709

<http://www.adaswcd.org>

District Priorities

1. Maintain District Operations
2. Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Health
3. Urban/Rural Interface
4. Protect Water Quality and Quantity
5. Provide Community Information, Education and Outreach
6. Agricultural Land Preservation

FY 2023 Revenue

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| State Funding | \$ 64,500 |
| County Funding | \$ 60,000 |
| NACD Grant | \$ 25,000 |
| WQPA Funding – New York Canal | \$ 20,000 |
| Treasure Valley Pollinator Project | \$ 23,845 |
| Harvest & Hearth | \$ 18,999 |
| No-Till Drill Rental | \$ 5,557 |
| Avimor Easement Management | \$ 5,000 |
| <u>Other Programs</u> | <u>\$ 1,399</u> |
| TOTAL | \$ 224,300 |

Soil Outreach Education

For the second year, the District received the National Association of Conservation District’s (NACD) Urban Agriculture Grant to continue funding the position of our Soil Education and Outreach Coordinator.

This Coordinator is responsible for outreach to schools in Ada County to provide soil health education to classrooms at no cost, as well as coordinating soil presentations for community outreach events with partner organizations such as Idaho Botanical Garden, the MK Nature Center, homeowners’ associations, and local nurseries.

Ada Soil & Water Conservation District is a key partner with the Boise School District in their week-long field trip program for 6th grade students in the district. This field trip experience provides hands-on lessons that include science and environmental components. The District’s goal is to help grow the program to reach every 6th grade student in the Boise School District.

This year, the Coordinator has reached over 2,500 students in 97 classrooms and 167 adults at 9 community outreach events.



Treasure Valley Pollinator Project

The Treasure Valley Pollinator Project (TVPP) is a regional effort to educate the community about the importance of pollinators and to increase pollinator habitat. This year the Pollinator Project focused on beetles, which are often overlooked as pollinators. Beetles represent the largest insect order and are among the first flower-visiting insects in history. This year’s flower mixes also contained grasses that provide beetle habitat.



This year marked the third annual Pollinator Project and participants attended free pollinator events and classes, as well as purchased pollinator attracting flower mixes. Participants were also invited to be a part of a community-wide “science project” to track and report the insects in their gardens. **In total, there were 300 participants and over 25,000 flower plants to the community.**

New York Canal Relining Project

This year the District received Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) funding and was a key partner with the Boise Project Board of Control in administering a portion of funds for the New York Canal Relining Project. The purpose of the project was to reline a portion of the six mile stretch of the New York Canal that runs through central Boise to ensure the long-term durability and safety of the canal.

No-Till Drill Rentals

No-till farming reduces erosion, energy use and particulate emissions, and increases soil quality organic matter content, and plant available moisture. It can also provide habitat for beneficial insects and wildlife and improve soil biological activity and diversity. Increased soil diversity has been shown to reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides, improving farm profitability.

Ada SWCD leases two no-till drills to producers. In 2023, **11 producers** used the drills on over **350 acres** throughout the Treasure Valley.

Conferences and Workshops

This year Ada SWCD organized Harvest and Hearth and the annual Grant Writing Workshop.

- Harvest and Hearth is a two-day conference with a conservation focus, that **brought together over 140 local producers** for agricultural education and connection, with panels, presentations, and hands-on workshops.
- The Grant Writing Workshop is a day-long workshop on writing grants to fund conservations projects. Tom Bicak, a national award-winning historic preservationist presented this **sold out workshop to over 30 participants.**



Ada Soil & Water Conservation District

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|----------------|---------------|--------------|---|
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| Lynn McKee | Vice-Chairman | 208-685-6981 | 9173 W Barnes Dr. Ste C, Boise ID 83709 |
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