

Benewah

Soil and Water Conservation District



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BSWCD Board Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month except August and November

Top 3 Natural Resource Concerns

Soil Erosion

Degraded Plant Condition

Water Quality

CY 2023 Gross Revenue

State Funding	\$21,187
Shoshone County Funding	\$1,000
Benewah County Funding	\$4,000
Tree Seedling Sales	\$15,385
IDEQ 319 Grant	<u>\$61,265</u>
Total District Funding	\$102,387

Conservation Assistance

◆ **Moses Mountain Road Sediment Reduction Project (\$195,464.00)**

This project will replace 4 undersized and failing culverts, install 3 new culverts and add rock (in Upper Hangman Creek Watershed) on Moses Mountain Road near Tensed, ID. Installing new structures in strategic locations will reduce the input of sediment, to Hangman Creek and reduce delivery of nitrogen and phosphorus as well. Additional benefits to the community is reduced road erosion during periods of heavy precipitation.

Partners are Benewah County Roads, ID Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Funding is provided by ID Dept. of Env. Quality—\$319 Grant Program



◆ **Additional Culvert Replacement Planning**

The District is also looking into an additional \$319 project for next year to replace aging, undersized culverts on Sheep Creek and a tributary to Hangman.

Partners in the planning are ID Soil & Water Commission, County Roads and the CDA Tribe. Potential funding source from IDEQ as well.



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Information, Education & Outreach

- ◆ Participate in **Benewah County Fair** each August with display of district activity. Supplying conservation education for the public. We won 3rd place for our fair display.

- ◆ **Field Crop Signs** This year, with the help of Board members Leann Daman and Dave Crabtree, FSA Staff Tami Gauthier and Nichole Swallows, and NRCS Staff Keith Swallows we posted approximately two dozen signs throughout the county.



Partners are Idaho Wheat Commission, Farm Service Agency and participating farmers. Funding was provided by NACD TA Grant.

- ◆ **Weather Stations** Our District was able to buy four weather stations and place them around the county capturing a variety of microclimates. In the diverse landscape of Benewah County, it is important for farmers to be able to access site-specific weather info, such as precipitation and wind, on a daily basis.

- ◆ The District Manager and ISWCC staff presented the NRCS Rainfall Simulator and a demonstration of freshwater availability for growing food on the earth.



The **Student Camp** was held at Board member Larry Cooke's property and was organized by Benewah County Extension

- ◆ **St. Joe River Streambank Stabilization and Revegetation \$319 Project**

The final property in the stabilization project was completed this fall. The project restored 150 linear feet of streambank on the St. Joe river. Landowners contributed to the project with a cash match of 40% to the project.



Before



After

The project was so successful that the adjacent landowners have contacted the District for a potential project next year to stabilize their bank of approximately 400 feet.

The Benewah SWCD participates in the **Panhandle Seedling Program** which includes the four Districts in the Idaho Panhandle. The seeds are locally sourced and grown on contract for each District to sell. The program allows us to provide seedlings of diverse species to landowners and planting contractors. Seedlings are offered at an affordable cost for very small purchases or large scale revegetation. This year the District provided 19,660 seedlings for local landowners.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS & STAFF

Tim Schaffer, Board Chair
Larry Cooke, Vice-Chair
Sherry Klaus, Treasurer
David Crabtree, Board Supervisor
Leann Daman, Board Supervisor
Ree Brannon, District Manager