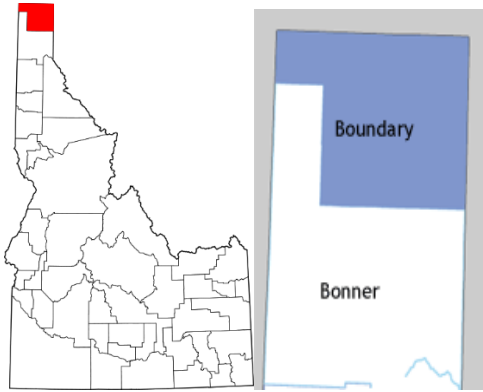


Boundary

Soil Conservation District



6813 El Paso Street, Suite 1
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805
PHONE: (208) 267-3340 x107
Cassie.Olson@usda.gov

SCD Board Meetings: 1st Tuesday of every month

TOP 5 NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS:

1. Degraded Plant Condition
2. Fire Management
3. Wind & Water Erosion
4. Concentrated Erosion
5. Plant Pest Pressure

FY22 Revenue

State of Idaho Funding: \$30,050
County General Funding: \$10,000
Farm Bureau Donation: \$700
Tree Seedling Program: \$31,853
Volunteer hours: \$6,500

Total: \$ 79,073

Boundary Soil Conservation District & Staff

Tom Daniel, Chairman
Erik Olson, Vice Chairman
Tim Dillin, Treasurer

Chuck Roady, Supervisor /Ken Irons, Supervisor
Cassie Olson, Administrative Assistant

2023 Cow Creek WQPA Grant

The Boundary Soil Conservation District applied for funding through ISWCC for a Water Quality Protection for Agriculture Grant. This grant was awarded to the District in the Fall of 2023 and after months of planning and partnering with a landowner, USFWS, and NRCS, the Cow Creek Streambank Stabilization Project started!

Cow Creek drains into the Kootenai River which historically has supported Bull Trout and Kootenai River White Sturgeon. Before Cow Creek was modified through channelization, it would have provided spawning ground for Bull Trout and potentially still does. The historical confluence of Cow Creek and the Kootenai River would have created a complex multi-braided river channel with a mosaic of floodplain habitats. Some of this mosaic of floodplain habitats is still present, albeit in a degraded state. The upstream end of Cow Creek slough is currently disconnected from the Kootenai River by the railroad tracks. This historically would have been an open channel where high water events would flow through, but also provide refugia during the high flows for juvenile trout and sturgeon. The landowner is considering protecting this piece of ground long-term and is in conversations with the Kaniksu Land Trust about a conservation easement.

This first project is the beginning of what could be a 46-acre nature preserve restored back to native riparian habitat. The first phase of this project is now completed and, in the Spring of 2024, final plantings and pest control will take place and the project will be complete.



Annual High School Farm and Forestry Tour & Community Industry Tour

This has finally become an annual event! BSCD partnered with BC Farm Bureau to put together several tours in Boundary County and brought to light several different avenues for Agricultural careers with local high school Ag students. This took place over National Ag Week and featured 2 days of Forestry and Farming. Students visited Idaho Dept. of Lands, USFS, watched logging production from start to finish at Regehr Logging, and had an amazing tour of Alta Forest Products. The students had the opportunity to ask questions about different careers, operate equipment, learn about Ag Economics, and visit Hubbard Agricultural Science, visit a Maggot Farm that was featured on The World's Dirtiest Jobs, and learned about chemical research and herbicides. We had guest speakers talk about their career and educational backgrounds over the course of 2 days. The district also hosted their annual community farm tour in May and had over 50 participants. The tour is a great opportunity for networking with other farmers and community members interested in supporting local businesses. The tour featured 2 local farmstands that produce and sell their products in Boundary County, a manufacturing company that harvests local wood and makes doors and drawers, we played Bingo and had lunch at the only Grange left in Boundary County, and toured a small dairy farm before ending the day with an informational talk and tour with Idaho Fish and Game as they premiere a new Grizzly bear awareness program. This is a well-attended and exciting tour for the county!



A few other highlights from Boundary Soil Conservation District in 2023

District Admin Cassie Olson created and registered a “Little Free (Ag) Library” that premiered during National Ag Literacy Week, presented First Ag Baby of the Year to TWO babies this year born on the same day and helped judge the high school discussion meet. The District had 2 fair booths, one informational and one interactive, and visited over 150 students to teach- Moving Ag to the Classroom: featuring Maggie the Cow and the Big book of Wheat. The students made butter and pancakes and learned about dairy and wheat. Promotion and Educational outreach are a big priority for BSCD!



Capacity Grant Funding Sponsors Arbor Day!

With the capacity grant BSCD received from the ISWCC, the district was able to sponsor their annual community Arbor Day Celebration. The district purchased several varieties of locally sourced tree seedlings and educational materials. On April 28th, district admin Cassie Olson partnered with Idaho Department of Lands, US Forest Service and University of Idaho Extension and handed out trees and educational materials explaining the importance of trees and proper forest health. Over 350 people came to pick up a tree as well as play games, ask forestry questions and enter drawings! It was a great time!

