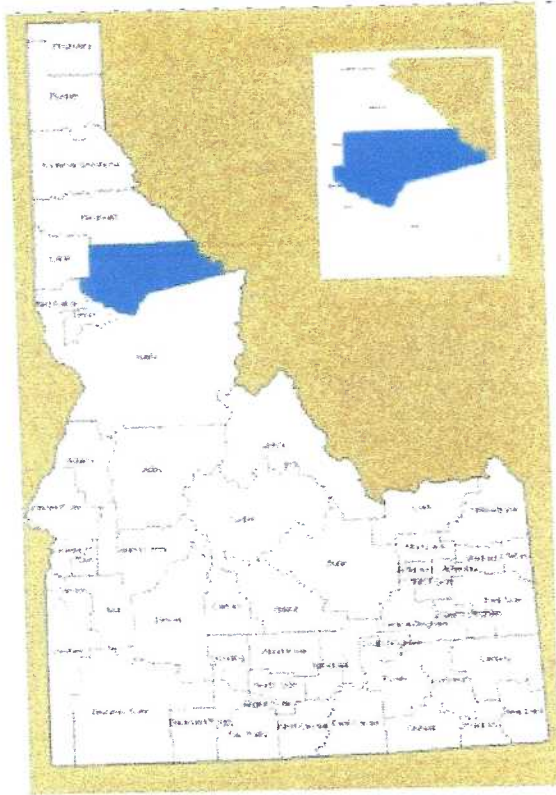


Clearwater

Soil and Water Conservation District Performance Report for FY- 2023



Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District

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Legislative District-One

Clearwater County:

Private Lands	479,959
Federal Lands	864,088
State Lands	252,078
Tribal Lands	<u>11,078</u>
Total	1,607,201 acres

<u>FY 2023 Revenue:</u>	State (ISWCC)	\$46,563.59
	County Gov't	10,000.00
	Corporate Donation	10,000.00
	Grants	<u>519,306.26</u>
		\$585,869.85

Clearwater County is 94% forestlands. In our grants we will continue to focus, along with our partners, Idaho Department of Lands, ID Department of Environmental Quality, PotlatchDeltic, and private landowners, on Forestry and Cropland Best Management Practices (BMP's), to improve habitat, water quality, fish passage, and sediment and temperature reduction in Class I & II Clearwater River tributaries.

Mission:

To provide local leadership to educate and assist the public on the wise stewardship and management of soil, water, air, plant and animal resources, and to promote strong conservation partnerships to find practical, economical solutions to natural resource problems and coordinate their implementation.

Contact Info:

Chairman of Board	Terry White	(208) 476-7343
Vice Chair	Joyce Simonsen	(208) 476-4758
Treasurer	Michael Hoffman	(208) 827-0030
Secretary	Linda Jackson	(208) 827-0738
Business Manager	Tim Roehr	(208) 476-5700
Project Manager	Annie Connor	(208) 476-5700

Major Projects

The District completed our Garden Creek Project. This was a complicated project partially funded by an IWRB Flood Management Grant with our partner PotlatchDeltic. It repaired two major road slides and constructed a large 8'x15'x60' bottomless arch culvert on a difficult 8% slope stream site that had been washed out in a previous flood event. Many smaller culverts were also replaced and this project reopened a long-detoured 1.3 mile segment of the main road from Elk River to Grandad Bridge (Diamond Camp Rd)

Our Rhodes Creek Headwaters Project, also with our partner PotlatchDeltic, replaced 29 various sized culverts that were undersized and/or failing. A couple of these were wooden culverts from the early logging days. The construction sites were rocked and three miles of road was resurfaced to protect the Rhodes Creek headwaters streams.

The Clearwater District worked on important fuels reduction in and around the Lolo Creek drainage. With funds from a WSFM grant we worked with six private landowners to complete much needed fuels reduction on their properties, in an area with a recent history of destructive wildfires.

We are continuing work on projects on the East Fork of Potlatch River, aided by PCSRF, PCEI, AmeriCorps, and IDL, grants and assistance. We are working on the East Fork to help increase stream diversity and to re-water the riparian areas by adding large wood, installing PALS (Post Assisted Log Structures), and BDAs (Beaver Dam Analogs. These projects are aiding and expanding on to several other efforts of other organizations, particularly the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District to reverse the past effects of, among other things, road and railroad construction.

We will be continuing with our CIG Manure Management project near Weippe evaluating the results of using composted manure to fertilize various cover crop seed mixes/ treatments.

In the Elk River area we will be continuing our effort to replace undersized and failing culverts where Partridge Creek enters Elk River. We have completed the survey, design, and cultural survey and are continuing with our Forest Service partner to complete funding and implementation of a replacement structure.

We are also working with PotlatchDeltic on replacing the fish passage structures on the East Fork of Beaver Creek – Brown's Rock Rd, an IDEQ/ EPA 319 project scheduled for completion Summer/Fall of 2024.

These projects, along with several others in progress, are among the continuing efforts of CSWCD's to promote conservation in Clearwater Co.

Goal #1: Watershed Health- Improve Water Resources and Water Quality in Clearwater County

Objective: Address priority stream resource concerns.

Action Plan:

Continue partnerships with PotlatchDeltic, Idaho Department of Lands, NRCS, public agencies and private landowners for implementing BMP's to improve water quality and fisheries habitat and sediment reduction; with major culvert replacement, forestry, cropland and other projects in the Clearwater drainage.

Value: By maintaining a strong bond with our partners, we are able to collaborate with multiple agencies and focus our grants on specific BMP's for water quality and agriculture production.

Measurable Results (2023):

- Worked with PotlatchDeltic to complete the **Garden Creek Culvert Replacement and Road Reroute Project** that closed a problematic detour route and reopened a shorter and more stable segment of the Grandad Bridge Road, partly funded by an IWRB Flood Management Grant.
- Replaced 8 undersized headwater stream crossings and 20 deteriorated cross drain culverts with new structures and surfaced almost 3 miles of road in the **Headwaters of Rhodes Creek** with a WQPA grant.
- Worked with producers in the Weippe area on using cover crops and manure to improve soils and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers in field trials with a Conservation Innovation Grant from the NRCS.
- Secured funding for several additional projects in various stages of planning with our partners, including replacing undersized stream crossings with bridges on **Jim Ford Creek** and the **East Fork of the Potlatch River**.

Goal #2: Continue to address Hazard Mitigation issues with the Community Hazard Mitigation Team.

Objective: Focus on strengthening the Fire Wise Community on forested lands. Decrease the effects of flooding by replacing undersized and failing stream crossings.

Action Plan:

- Further develop a continuous workable Fire Wise program in conjunction with the Community Hazard Mitigation Team and the State Fire Wise program manager.
- Work with City and State entities to educate landowners on available programs that assist with the cost associated in fuel load reduction.
- Maintain an active presence on the Community Hazard Mitigation Board for input on fuel reduction measures, and restorative actions.
- Continue to work with private landowners on the Lolo Creek Fuels Reduction project to reduce fire risk on their properties.

Value: By partnering with the Hazard Mitigation Team in communications and planning efforts, the District will be more prepared and better informed regarding our valuable contributions towards soil and water conservation issues on forest, farm and rural/urban interface lands.

Measurable Results (2023):

- Worked with 6 landowners in the Lolo Creek area to reduce fuels on 120 acres through a WSFM grant from IDL and the USFS.
- Assisted PotlatchDeltic in the replacement of problematic stream crossings on their lands.

Goal #3: Community Outreach

Objective: Actively promote youth education in natural resources and encourage landowner participation in managing private resources using educational, hands-on forums.

Action Plan:

- Actively work with the U of I Extension and others, to conduct a variety of workshops and educational opportunities addressing issues of concern to local landowners in Clearwater County
- Co-Sponsor and participate in the Sixth Grade Forestry and Nature Resource Tour
- Participate in the Fourth grade - Earth Day Outdoor Classroom
- Participate and collaborate with groups on local natural resource issues as requested
- Assume responsibility for ownership, management, and monitoring use of a watershed trailer constructed as a senior project last year by two OHS students . This project is funded through the US Forest Service and the Clearwater Economic Development Association. The intent is to have the watershed trailer available for multiple agencies and organizations, including the CSWCD and other area Conservation Districts, to work with schools and educational programs across North Central Idaho.

Value: By taking an active part in the community we show a strong support for conservation initiatives as well as education of the public and our youth.

Measurable Results:

- Increased involvement in natural resource programs of community youth and home school groups.
- Continued work on the "watershed trailer". The watershed Trailer will be a tool to teach all ages about erosion, water-road interaction, floodplains, and best management practices.
- Increased participation in District sponsored/partnered workshops i.e.: weed clinics, soil clinics, pasture management, and forest management, etc.
- Increased outreach to youth and others through the use of the watershed trailer. The Clearwater SWCD will schedule and track use of the trailer, as well as tracking the number and age group of students reached.