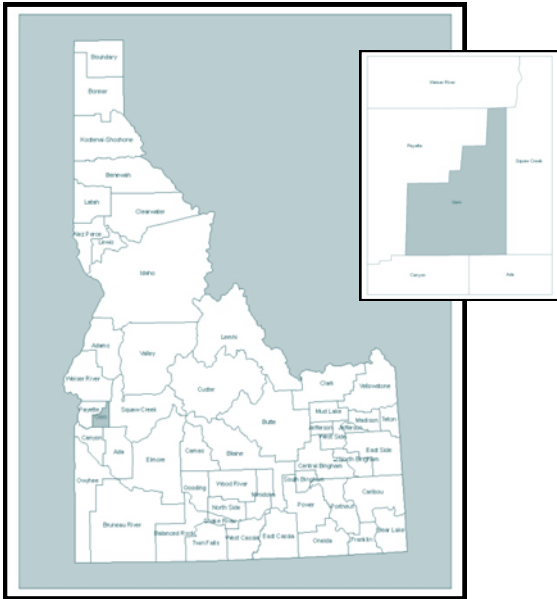


# Gem Soil & Water Conservation District



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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

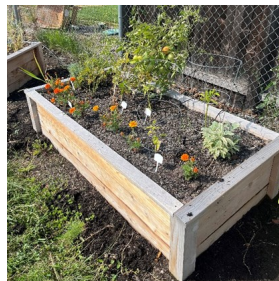
## FY 2023 Revenue

County Funding	\$ 6,500.00
State Funding	<u>24,519.87</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,019.87</b>

## Significant FY 2023 Projects:

### WQPA Irrigation Improvement Grant

The district sponsored an irrigation improvement project: 2 center pivots near County Line Road in Emmett, Idaho through the Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA), 55 Acres irrigated with gated pipe and converted to a pivot system. Estimated reduction of 789 Tons/yr. sediment, 2,525.6 Lbs./yr., nitrogen, and 1,262.8 Lbs./yr. phosphorus. Increased irrigation efficiency 85-90%.



### Carberry Garden Project

Gem SWCD sponsored five garden boxes and plants for Carberry Elementary. One of the boxes is designated for Pollinator Perennial Plants and the other four are for growing vegetables. With a grant from Idaho Women's Charitable

Foundation, we purchased two grow carts and supplies for classes to start seeds indoors.

### Outdoor School

Gem SWCD collaborated with Squaw Creek SCD and Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission to host outdoor school for 120 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. We offered pollinator education and Pollinator seed ball making, Forest Service watershed trailer, Smores and campfire education, fires education by Gem County Fire, Soil Health U of I Ext, Rangeland education, and wildlife conservation with the Safari Club.



### Sensory Garden

Gem SWCD sponsored a pollinator friendly Sensory Garden at Early Words Speech Pathology Center in Emmett, Idaho. The garden consists of two planter boxes and perennial plants that highlight the five senses. The garden is utilized in a variety of hands-on therapies.



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## Education/Outreach

2023 Theme "One Water"

### 2023 Poster 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.



### 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 and donated trees to Emmett City Park, Emmett Cemetery, and Emmett Middle School.
- 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 and partnered with NRCS and FSA to provide a fair display.
- Displayed pollinator plant arrangements at

the Gem/ Boise County Fair to educate the public on importance of planting for pollinators.



### 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 12 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.*

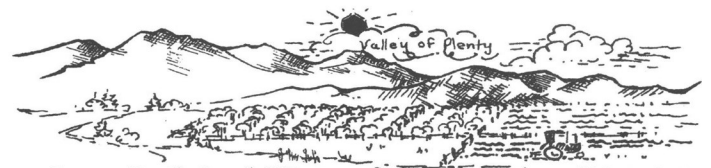
*Snake River – Hells Canyon TMDL 30% for phosphorus .*

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

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 continue 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.**



**Gem Soil And Water Conservation District**

### 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

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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.