



### Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

209 N Idaho Street  
PO Box 580, Cascade, Idaho 83611  
Tel: 208-382-3317  
Email: [Durena.Farr@id.nacdnet.net](mailto:Durena.Farr@id.nacdnet.net)  
Web: <http://www.valleyswcd.org>  
Facebook: @ValleySoilWater  
Monthly Board Meetings - Open to the public in-person & Zoom  
First Thursday of the month, 9 a.m., In-person and Zoom

### Top 5 Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality/Water Quantity
2. Riparian Management
3. Traditional Agriculture:
  - Riparian Pasture and Hayland Mgmt.
  - Irrigated and Non-Irrigated Cropland
4. Woodlands and Wildfire Mitigation
5. Fish and Wildlife

### 2023 Funding Summary

State Base Operating Funds	\$14,500	
State Match Allocation	25,877	
Valley County Cash Contribution	8,500	
IWCF No Till Grant	20,795	
WQPA Admin Funding	13,090	
USBR WaterSMART 2023 CWMP Grant	<u>31,110</u>	
<b>Total District Funding</b>		<b>\$113,872</b>

USBR Cascade Reservoir Modeling Study	\$350,000	
NRCS obligated 9 EQIP contracts in VSWCD	970,000	
<b>Total Additional Watershed Resource</b>	<b><u>\$1,320,000</u></b>	
<b>2023 Total Conservation Investment</b>		<b><u>\$1,433,872</u></b>

### District Outreach & Activity

#### VSWCD Hosts IASCD Division III Spring Meeting

Division III Districts met in February at Kelly's Whitewater Park Welcome Center overlooking the North Fork Payette River below the dam. Associate Supervisor Lenard Long presented on water quality in Lake Cascade followed by a dynamic panel discussion addressing the balance of development, Planning and Zoning and natural resource conservation particularly water quality and water quantity.

#### USBR \$350,000 investment for Cascade Reservoir Operations Modeling Study

to determine what reservoir operating factors may influence water quality and what reservoir operations may be available to sustain and/or improve Cascade Reservoir water quality.

**WQPA 2023 Grant** treated 87 acres for a landowner's pivot conversion from flood irrigation draining to Cascade Reservoir.

#### Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation Grant

with assistance from ISWCC Meghan Brooksher VSWCD received a generous grant to fund a smaller, transportable no till drill to meet the significant increase in Valley County small acreages. This no till drill allows the District to interact with and educate new landowners on soil health and Best Management Practices, another tool to address water quality and water quantity within our changing watershed.





## 2023 VSWCD Grant Activity

- **IDEQ 319 Water Quality Grant** funded Brush Creek Streambank and trail improvements to reduce erosion and vault installation with Valley County to address significantly increased public use of the area.
- **IDEQ State AG BMP Grants** funded five pivot conversion installations from flood irrigation on Willow Creek, Gold Fork River and East side of Cascade reservoir.
- **USBR Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) Phase I Grant** to establish a North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition was funded in May 2023.
- **NRCS obligated nine EQIP contracts** for conservation practices totaling \$970,000 within the District.

Work continued on additional active 319 projects in 2023, mostly consisting of NFPR bank stabilizations to achieve phosphorus reductions

- West Mtn Subwatershed Gibson Creek culvert improvements completed
- City of Cascade Stormwater Improvements
- NFPR Heinrich Lane two bank stabilization work days with IDFG, Trout Unlimited and VSWCD
- NFPR Alzar School bank stabilization workdays with Boston area students and VSWCD.
- Source Water Protection Septic Pump-out Pilot Program concluded with 25 Cascade Reservoir aging septs receiving \$200 reimbursement for pump-outs, partnering with South Lake Recreational Water & Sewer District and Friends of Lake Cascade.
- Heartland High School students (below) plant 168 potted native willows and dogwoods at Brush Creek alongside teacher Cheyenne Jedry and IDFG Volunteer Crews



## 2023 Outreach and Education

- **District Ponderosa Pine Seedling Distribution** over 6,700 seedlings were distributed to local forestry landowners
- **2023 Educational Outreach District Display Days:**  
**Legislative Display Day at the State Capitol**  
**Valley County Noxious Weed Certification Day Display**  
**2023 Valley County Fair Display**  
**Payette Land Trust Conservation Day Display**
- **Annual Spring Forestry Tour** hosted in 2023 by Adams SWCD, assisted by VSWCD Supervisor John Lillehaug. 1000 VSWCD landowners received brochure promoting the tour, forestry practices and stewardship. Supervisor Lillehaug also participates annually in NRCS Local Work Group efforts for EQIP fund allocations.
- Supervisor Planning & Zoning review and comment continues to increase. VSWCD main concerns are unsewered development, septs, well clusters, compromised wetlands, inadequate stormwater drainage plans, and Ag land subdivides.
- VSWCD Chairman Art Troutner spent three weeks on volunteer trail work in the Frank Church Wilderness from Cold Meadows to Black Lake, Flying B to Bear Creek Point, Station Creek Trail and Sawtooth NF Queens River Trail.

### Valley SWCD Board of Supervisors & Staff

Art Troutner	Chair
John Lillehaug	Treasurer
Bill Leaf	Supervisor
Colt Brown	Supervisor
Judy Anderson	Supervisor
Lenard Long	Associate Supervisor
Pamela Pace	Associate Supervisor
Durena Farr	District and Grants Manager
Daina Aguas	NFPR Coalition Grant Admin