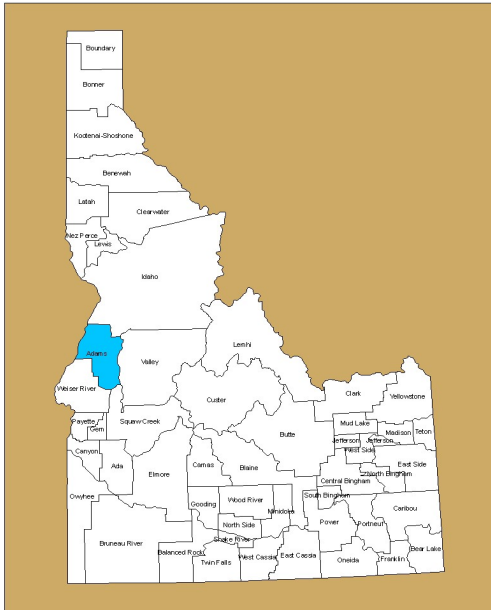


Adams Soil and Water Conservation District



203 S. Galena St.
 P.O. Box 26
 Council, ID 83612
 208-253-4668 aswcdidaho@gmail.com
adamsconservationdistrict.org

Top Five District Priorities:

1. District Operations
2. Public Outreach
3. Water Quality & Quantity
4. Pasture & Hay Land
5. Rangelands

FY 2023 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| State | \$ 23,728 |
| Adams County | \$ 4,000 |
| City of Council | \$ 500 |
| WQPA Grant | \$ 29,159 |
| IWRB Grant | \$ 27,126 |

Board Members & Staff

Wendy Green, Chairman
 Judy Dietch, Vice-chair
 Kris Stone, Supervisor
 Charlie Munden, Supervisor
 Julie Burkhardt, Supervisor
 Holden McKee, Admin. Assistant

Our Mission

To use the educational, fiscal and technical resources at our disposal to assist landowners, especially agricultural producers, in putting voluntary resource conservation into practice.

Restoring the Little Salmon River

The Little Salmon River flows north for 45 miles from its headwaters south of New Meadows to its confluence with the main Salmon River near Riggins. The Upper Little Salmon River in Meadows Valley is a §303(d) listed water body that does not fully support beneficial uses due to temperature, bacteria and nutrients.



ASWCD is working with two Meadows Valley landowners who want to reduce agricultural impacts and restore beneficial uses of the Little Salmon River.

The district was awarded a Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) grant to help build riparian fence along two miles of the Little Salmon River. This proposed fencing project is the necessary first phase of a comprehensive plan that will include planting riparian shrubs whose roots will help stabilize eroded banks. The shrubs will also provide shade to help lower water temperatures.

The riparian fence will create livestock buffer areas along the river while enabling more sustainable grazing management on upland pastures. In addition to protecting the stream banks, the fence will safeguard existing wetlands on both properties.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality estimates that this fencing project will reduce sediment load by 79 tons/year, nitrogen by 254 pounds/year, and phosphorous by 127 pounds/year. Adopting best management grazing practices will allow the streambanks to heal and restore beneficial uses of the river.

Council Education Resource Crew

The Council Ranger District of the Payette National Forest launched the CERC program in 2010. The partnership with the Council School District provides summer jobs for high school students who earn income and gain work experience while completing resource projects both on and off the Payette NF. ASWCD supports the CERC by providing funding each summer. In 2024, the District contributed \$2,583 to employ four Council high school students plus a supervisor. The funds allowed CERC to work for a week in July for both Adams Cooperative Weed Management Area and Adams Soil and Water Conservation District. The crew dug and bagged 987 Mediterranean



sage (*Salvia aethiopis*) plants from about 125 acres of private land.

The 2024 CERC crew pauses at a Bumble Bee Atlas site near Council, Idaho.

The crew also completed Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas surveys at four locations in Adams County. They captured 42 bumble bees at four locations and identified six species out of the 22 native bumble bee species found in Idaho.

The students evaluated water quality at five locations, two on the Little Salmon River and three along the Weiser River near Council. They collected water

samples and measured ten parameters to calculate a Water Quality Index (WQI). The WQI for the Little Salmon River sites ranged from 74 to 76, meaning the water quality was “good” at the time of sampling. The WQI for the Weiser River sites ranged from 78-to 89, indicating water quality was “good” at the time of sampling.



Two-form Bumble Bee (*Bombus bifarius*) on Sticky purple geranium (*Geranium viscosissimum*).

Other Accomplishments in 2024

- Made the District’s Esch no-till drill available for rent by area landowners and promoted no-till practices on our website and in the local newspaper. Using a no-till drill promotes soil health by increasing soil fertility and decreasing soil disturbance while decreasing input costs for farmers.
- Collaborated with the Payette SWCD and other districts to put on the 13th Soil Health Symposium, a valuable one-day educational event on regenerative agriculture for area producers.
- Co-sponsored the weed tour with the Adams CWMA and Adams County Weed Control to educate landowners about noxious weeds.
- Partnered with Adams County to replace a failing culvert on Thorn Creek through a Flood Management Grant from Idaho Water Resource Board.



Looking ahead to 2025

We plan to partner with Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission staff and Adams County to procure grant funds to assist local landowners in implementing best management practices to conserve soil and water resources.

The District remains committed to public information and resource education. We support Idaho Envirothon, the Forestry Contest, Ag in the Classroom, UI Natural Resources Camp, and Land and Soil Evaluation competition.

Other plans for 2025 include:

- Co-hosting the 14th Soil Health Symposium
- Promoting the use of the no-till drill
- Reaching out to landowners to encourage and assist with fuels reduction projects on private timber lands
- Offering two or more \$1000 scholarships to local students who are pursuing post-secondary education in agriculture or natural resources
- Assisting area landowners with technical and cost-share assistance as needed.

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|---|--|
| IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION <u>PERFORMANCE</u> <u>REPORT</u> <u>CERTIFICATION</u> | DISTRICT: <i>Adams</i> |
| | FOR YEAR: <i>2024</i> |
| | DUE : <i>December 20, 2024</i> |

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Performance Report is true and accurate, and further submit said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Performance Report shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

Wendy Green

Board Supervisor Signature

Wendy Green

Printed Name

November 18, 2024

Date

208-253-4668

District Telephone

aswedidaho@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: