

BONNER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024 PERFORMANCE REPORT



Our Mission: Promote responsible and sustainable management of our county's abundant natural resources.

Local community leaders dedicated to conservation

Our Board:

- Dale Van Stone, Chair
- Jeff Connolly, Vice Chair
- Rick Watt, Treasurer
- Harry Menser, Member
- Chris Elliott, Member
- Jim Stevens, Associate
- John Gaddess, Associate
- Brad Bluemer, Associate



Board Meetings

First Tuesday of each Month
1:00PM

Office Location: 1224 Washington Ave.,
Suite 101, Sandpoint, ID 83864
208-263-5310 x 100
www.bonnierswcd.org

GRANTS AWARDED THIS YEAR

- **Rural Business Development Grant:** to revitalize the Pend Oreille Specialty Foods Incubator (POSFI) commercial kitchen. This public commercial kitchen is a resource for small food producers in Bonner and Boundary county that can be rented by the hour allowing small businesses to expand their market.
- **NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Development Grant:** an initial grant designed to build capacity in the District and build relationships in our community to create and improve community gardens that address food deserts and engage our community. There will be a secondary NACD-UACG implementation grant that will be drafted through the course of our develop-
- **319 DEQ Upper Pack River Streambank Restoration:** due to a large scour and failing gabion wall and streambank Upper Pack River Road is at risk of complete failure. This road failure would result in 100 homes being cut off from basic needs and services. Ranked 1st at both the local and state BAG.
- The District has meet with 3 additional landowners and are at the beginning stages of grant work for 2 culvert replacement projects and an additional streambank restoration project.

Annual Conifer Tree Seedling Sale

The Panhandle Seedling Program (PSP) had another great year! The PSP Board is made up of professional foresters from throughout the region. Their expertise is the driving force behind sourcing even more region specific high quality seedlings for our local private landowners and timber producers. Bonner SWCD distributed approximately **72,000** seedlings to local timber landowners during our spring 2024 sale.

Top 4 Resource Priorities

- Water Quality & Riparian Zones
- Timber & Woodland
- Fish, Wildlife & Recreation
- Traditional Agriculture, Grazing, and Cropland

BONNER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2024 PERFORMANCE REPORT



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Pend Oreille Water Festival



The May weather was beautiful for both days of the annual Water Festival. Due to adjustments of local school schedules the event was held on Wednesday and Thursday and welcomed approximately 450 students over the course of two days. Minor schedule adjustments to the end of the festival schedule allowed students an opportunity to interact with IDFG's Bear Educator in smaller groups which allowed more hands-on engagement and great teaching moments!

Idaho State Forestry Contest



The Idaho State Forestry Contest welcomed over 200 student contestants from throughout Idaho. The Vandal Jacks timber sports team presented a demonstration of their skills for the approximately 500 total attendees. This year the hands-on equipment demonstrations and job fair doubled in size. We look forward to continued growth for the 42nd annual Idaho State Forestry Contest in May 2025!

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Bonner SWCD staff and Board members participated in 10 public outreach events this year including the Bonner County Fair, Ponderay Days, Selkirk – Pend Oreille Food Summit, Homesteader Conference and the Conservation District Legislative display in Boise. In addition, during this calendar year more than 15 in class presentations were completed in addition to our annual education events. Through these combined events approximately 900 students were reached this year. These events further strengthened and resulted in new community partnerships.



AIS Watercraft Stations

During the 2024 AIS inspection season the three stations the district operates completed 26,436 inspections. Due to the discovery of Quagga Mussels in the Snake River during the fall of 2023, Bonner SWCD partnered with Senator Geoff Schroeder to champion legislation to address PERSI limitations on the district's ability to extend their operating season. We are grateful this bill passed and had impact on Districts throughout the state in this fight against AIS.



BONNER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024 PERFORMANCE REPORT



Who we are: The Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District (Bonner SWCD) is one of 50 Conservation Districts in Idaho. Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout Idaho are charged with carrying out programs for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and other natural resources.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

District Staff:

Sarah Garcia - Executive Director
Julie Lakatos - District Administrator
Tom Fler - AIS Watercraft Inspection Program Manager
Molly McCahon - Executive Director, Lakes Commission
Jessica Erikson - Pack River Watershed Council Coordinator
Gail Bolin - Water Festival Coordinator



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024)

Funding	Amount
County Funding	\$18,000.00
State Funding	\$38,573.55
Watercraft Inspection Stations	\$338,213.63
Water Festival Donations	\$12,172.00
Forestry Contest	\$14,013.50
Fish & Wildlife Projects	\$4,176.23
WQPA Funding	\$82,915.71
Project Funding & Grants	\$139,100.00
Seedling Sale	\$20,000.00
Panhandle Seedling Program	\$86,236.27

OUR FOCUS

Our focus for the future will continue to be on projects that both protect and maintain our county's natural resources, as well as educational outreach programs that provide tools to Bonner County residents on how to protect the health of the lakes, rivers, forests, and soils of the beautiful place we all call home!

LOOKING FORWARD

In the coming year, the Bonner District will continue to:

- identify and apply for 319 and any other applicable grants that will improve and protect the natural resources of Bonner County.
- operate 3 boat inspection stations protecting our waterways.
- administer funding for The Lakes Commission as allocated from state legislature.
- develop community projects and educational outreach programs, such as the Forestry Contest and Pend Oreille Water Festival.
- provide native conifer seedlings as part of our annual tree seedling sale.
- partner with community leaders to provide additional educational opportunities to county residents.

IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION

DISTRICT:

Bonner Soil & Water
Conservation District

FOR YEAR:

2024

DUE :

December 20, 2024

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.

Date Van Stone

Board Supervisor Signature

Date Van Stone

Printed Name

12 / 11 / 2024

Date

208 - 263 - 5310 x 100

District Telephone

info.bswcd@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: