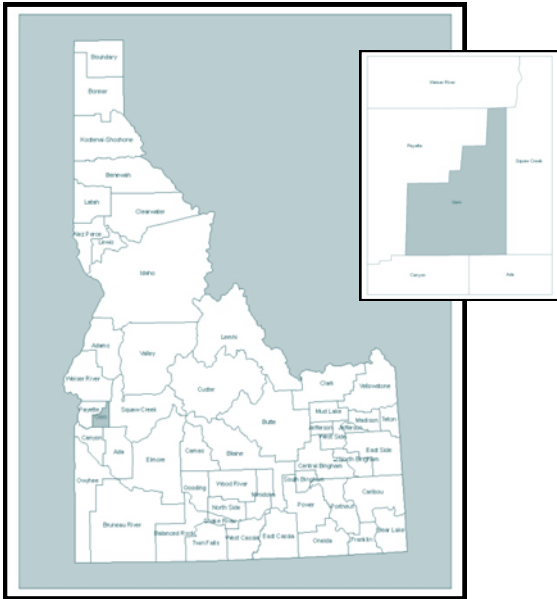


Gem Soil & Water Conservation District



Significant FY 2024 Projects:

WQPA Irrigation Improvement Grant

The Silverleaf Drain Irrigation Improvement project converted 42 acres of surface irrigated cropland to a center pivot, increasing irrigation efficiency and improving water quality through the Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) Grant. This irrigation improvement project decreased sediment load by 504 tons per year, nitrogen load by 1613 lbs per year, phosphorus load by 806lbs per year, and increased irrigation efficiency by 45-55%.



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 Emmett, Idaho 83617
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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 2024 Revenue

County Funding	\$ 6,500.00
State Funding	<u>25,079.28</u>
Total	\$ 31,579.28

Garden Projects

The District continues to work with local elementary schools to teach students conservation through hands-on planting and pollinator education in district sponsored garden boxes. (Left: Gem Prep Academy Below: Carberry Elementary)



Outdoor School

Gem SWCD collaborated with Squaw Creek SCD and Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission to host outdoor school for 120 5th 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.



Education/Outreach

2024 Theme “ May the Forest be with You Always”

2024 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 the Gem/Boise Country Fair Grounds.
- Sponsored 250 fifth grade students in the poster contest.
- Hands-on gardening, soil health, and pollinator education at Shadow Butte and Carberry gardens 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.



Board of Supervisors and Staff

Kirk Vickery, Chairman
Maggie Sisler, Vice-Chairman
Jim Hutchison, Treasurer
Cliff Fivecoat, Secretary
Jamie McCann, Supervisor
Leanne Buck, Administrative Assistant

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.

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION**

DISTRICT: Gem

FOR YEAR:

2024

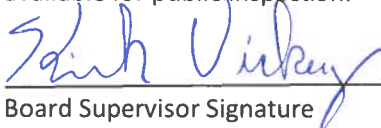
DUE :

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.



Board Supervisor Signature

Kirk Vickery

Printed Name

12/2/2024

Date

208-963-4693

District Telephone

Leanne.buck@id.nacdnet.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: