

# Clearwater

## Soil and Water Conservation District Performance Report for FY- 2024



### Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District

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208 476-5700

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Legislative District-One

#### Clearwater County:

Private Lands	479,959
Federal Lands	864,088
State Lands	252,078
Tribal Lands	<u>11,078</u>
Total	1,607,201 acres

<u>FY 2024 Revenue:</u>	State (ISWCC)	\$46,563.59
	County Gov't	10,000.00
	Corporate Donation	10,000.00
	Grants	<u>467,331.84</u>
		\$533,895.43

Clearwater County is 94% forestlands. In our grants we will continue to focus, along with our partners, Idaho Department of Lands, ID Department of Environmental Quality, PotlatchDeltic, and private landowners, on Forestry and Cropland Best Management Practices (BMP's), to improve habitat, water quality, fish passage, and sediment and temperature reduction in Class I & II Clearwater River tributaries.

#### Mission:

To provide local leadership to educate and assist the public on the wise stewardship and management of soil, water, air, plant and animal resources, and to promote strong conservation partnerships to find practical, economical solutions to natural resource problems and coordinate their implementation.

#### Contact Info:

Chairman of Board	Terry White	(208) 476-7343
Vice Chair	Joyce Simonsen	(208) 476-4758
Treasurer	Michael Hoffman	(208) 827-0030
Secretary	Linda Jackson	(208) 827-0738
Business Manager	Tim Roehr	(208) 476-5700
Project Manager	Annie Connor	(208) 476-5700

#### Major Projects

The Clearwater SWCD had a successful construction season, completing multiple projects. Nine large fish passage crossings on East Fork Beaver Creek along with smaller culverts were replaced (319 grant), Lolo Fuel Reduction contracts I & II were wrapped up and 30+ small wood structures ( PALS and BDAs) were built in the East Fork of the Potlatch River (Bob's PALS Project) with lots of volunteers and partners (PCSRF Grant).

We are continuing our efforts to pave the last few miles of the Musselshell Road. We have a RAC Grant to work on the components like Cultural Studies (complete) and easements across State lands that will make the application for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funds more likely to succeed.

Clearwater SWCD worked on important fuels reduction in and around the Lolo Creek drainage. With funds from a WSFM grant we worked with six private landowners to complete much needed fuels reduction on their properties, in an area with a recent history of destructive wildfires. We hope to continue this process with more grants and additional landowners. In addition, we hope to include follow-up weed/brush control with intensive goat grazing for landowners that don't like to use herbicides.

We are continuing work on projects on the East Fork of Potlatch River, aided by PCSRF, PCEI, AmeriCorps, and IDL, grants and assistance. We are working on the East Fork to enhance steelhead habitat by increasing stream diversity and re-watering riparian areas. We will also continue our CIG Manure Management project near Weippe, evaluating the results of using composted manure to fertilize various cover crop seed mixes/treatments.

In the Elk River area, we plan to replace an undersized and failing stream crossing on Partridge Creek near its confluence with Elk Creek. We have completed the survey, design, and cultural survey and are continuing with our Forest Service partner to complete funding and implementation of a replacement structure.

On Silver Creek Road, we will be working with PotlatchDeltic and the Idaho Department of Lands to replace 3 large, complicated fish passage crossings on Alder and Casey creeks. These involve large (10 foot plus) culverts in deep fills and construction of two extensive and difficult to build detours.

We will be installing two new bridges: one on a failing crossing on Jim Ford Creek near Weippe. This is a partnership with the Clearwater Highway District. The other is in the northwest corner of Clearwater County on the East Fork of the Potlatch River – a Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Grant with partner PotlatchDeltic Palouse Division.

These projects, and others in progress, are among the efforts of CSWCD's to promote conservation in Clearwater County.

## **Goal #1: Watershed Health- Improve Water Resources and Water Quality in Clearwater County**

**Objective:** Address priority stream resource concerns.

### **Action Plan:**

Continue partnerships with PotlatchDeltic, Idaho Department of Lands, NRCS, public agencies and private landowners for implementing BMP's to improve water quality and fisheries habitat and sediment reduction; with major culvert replacement, forestry, cropland and other projects in the Clearwater drainage.

**Value:** By maintaining a strong bond with our partners, we are able to collaborate with multiple agencies and focus our grants on specific BMP's for water quality and agriculture production.

### **Measurable Results (2024):**

- Worked with PotlatchDeltic to complete the **East Fork Beaver Creek Stream Crossings Project** that replaced nine undersized crossings with fish passage culverts and reduced erosion and risk of culvert failure under an IDEQ / EPA 319 grant.
- Completed a Habitat Improvement Project for Steelhead (**Bobs PALS I**) on 0.6 miles of the East Fork Potlatch River by constructing Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS) and Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) in partnership with Idaho Dept of Lands and PCEI and many volunteers using Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery funds (PCSRF).
- Worked with producers in the Weippe area, using **cover crops and manure management** to improve soils and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers in field trials with a Conservation Innovation Grant from the NRCS.
- Secured funding for several additional projects in various stages of planning with our partners, including replacing undersized stream crossings with bridges on **Jim Ford Creek, East Fork of the Potlatch River, and Partridge Creek** (funded by IWRB Flood grant, PCSRF , and the USDA Forest Service, respectively).
- Continue to work on culvert replacements on **Alder Creek and Casey Creek** on and adjacent to the Silver Creek Road with PotlatchDeltic and Idaho Department of Lands under a 319 grant and an IWRB Flood grant.

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## **Goal #2: Continue to address Hazard Mitigation issues with the Community Hazard Mitigation Team.**

**Objective: Focus on strengthening the Fire Wise Community on forested lands. Decrease the effects of flooding by replacing undersized and failing stream crossings.**

### **Action Plan:**

- Further develop a continuous workable Fire Wise program in conjunction with the Community Hazard Mitigation Team and the State Fire Wise program manager.
- Work with City and State entities to educate landowners on available programs that assist with the cost associated in fuel load reduction.
- Maintain an active presence on the Community Hazard Mitigation Board for input on fuel reduction measures, and restorative actions.
- Continue to work with private landowners on the Lolo Creek Fuels Reduction project to reduce fire risk on their properties.

**Value:** By partnering with the Hazard Mitigation Team in communications and planning efforts, the District will be more prepared and better informed regarding our valuable contributions towards soil and water conservation issues on forest, farm and rural/urban interface lands.

### **Measurable Results (2023):**

- Worked with 6 landowners in the Lolo Creek area to reduce fuels on 120 acres through a WSFM grant from IDL and the USFS.
- Assisted PotlatchDeltic in the replacement of problematic stream crossings on their lands.

### **Goal #3: Community Outreach**

**Objective:** Actively promote youth education in natural resources and encourage landowner participation in managing private resources using educational, hands-on forums.

#### **Action Plan:**

- Actively work with the U of I Extension and others, to conduct a variety of workshops and educational opportunities addressing issues of concern to local landowners in Clearwater County
- Co-Sponsor and participate in the Sixth Grade Forestry and Nature Resource Tour
- Participate in the Fourth grade - Earth Day Outdoor Classroom
- Participate and collaborate with groups on local natural resource issues as requested
- Assume responsibility for ownership, management, and monitoring use of a watershed trailer. The intent is to have the watershed trailer available for multiple agencies and organizations, including the CSWCD and other area Conservation Districts, to work with schools and educational programs across North Central Idaho.

**Value:** By taking an active part in the community we show a strong support for conservation initiatives as well as education of the public and our youth.

#### **Measurable Results:**

- Increased involvement in natural resource programs of community youth and home school groups.
- Continued work on the "watershed trailer". The watershed Trailer will be a tool to teach all ages about erosion, water-road interaction, floodplains, and best management practices.
- Increased participation in District sponsored/partnered workshops i.e.: weed clinics, soil clinics, pasture management, and forest management, etc.
- Increased outreach to youth and others through the use of the watershed trailer. The Clearwater SWCD will schedule and track use of the trailer, as well as tracking the number and age group of students reached.

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**PERFORMANCE  
REPORT  
CERTIFICATION**

**DISTRICT:** Clearwater

**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

**Michael Hoffman - Supervisor**

Printed Name

**12/20/2024**

Date

**208 476-5700**

District Telephone

**clearwater.swcd@gmail.com**

District Email Address

**FOR SWC USE ONLY:**

**DATE OF CONFIRMATION:**