

BONNER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2025 PERFORMANCE REPORT



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



Local community leaders dedicated to conservation

BSWCD Board:

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



Board Meetings

First Tuesday of each Month
1:00PM

Office Location: 130 McGhee Rd., Suite 220
Sandpoint, ID 83864
208-255-9911
info.bswcd@gmail.com
www.bonnerswcd.org

GRANTS COMPLETED THIS YEAR

319 DEQ Upper Pack River Streambank Restoration: Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District (BSWCD) and the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission successfully restored 350 feet of eroding streambank due to a large scour and failing gabion wall under the Upper Pack River Road in Sandpoint, ID. The road failure would have resulted in 100 homes being cut off from basic needs and services. This streambank restoration project not only protected the road from further encroachment and failure, but protected the critical fish habitat and reduced introduction of sediment to the Pack River. Ranked 1st at both the local and state Basin Area Group meeting, BSWCD successfully secured grant funding along with community support from the county and landowner to fund this 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 **30,960** seedlings to local timber landowners during our spring 2025 sale.

Top Resource Priorities:

- Information and Education/District Operations
- Water Resources – Water Quality and Riparian Buffers
- Timber and Woodland
- Community/Small agriculture
- Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation

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PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Pend Oreille Water Festival



The May weather was beautiful for both days of the annual Water Festival event, which hosted **462** fifth graders from 15 schools over the course of two days. The Superintendent of Education, Debbie Critchfield, attended and toured the event noting she was very impressed with the engagement and hopes to see a similar event take place in southern Idaho. The event was featured in the Bonner County Daily Bee news!

Idaho State Forestry Contest



The Idaho State Forestry Contest welcomed 220 student contestants from throughout Idaho. A new feature was the use of a drone to capture video footage of the event by Bonner County Farm Bureau. The hands-on equipment demonstrations and job fair grew in size. We look forward to continued growth for the 43rd annual Idaho State Forestry Contest in May 2026!



Bonner SWCD Fair Display



AIS Watercraft Stations

During the 2025 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspection season, the three stations BSWCD operates completed **25,200** inspections and sold 5,674 invasive species stickers. No live mussels were detected. Increased number of days of training and updated handout materials assisted inspectors to inform recreators with their inspection and any questions they had.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Bonner SWCD staff and board members participated in public outreach events this year including the Bonner County Fair, Ponderay Days, Timber Days, Selkirk – Pend Oreille Food Summit, Homesteader Conference, Girl Scouts tree planting event, and the Conservation District Legislative display in Boise. Bonner SWCD received first place in their display at the Bonner County Fair. These events further strengthened and resulted in new community partnerships.



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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 Fleer - 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 (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)

Funding	Amount
County Funding	\$ 18,500
State Funding	\$ 29,000
Watercraft Inspection Stations	\$399,960
Water Festival Donations	\$ 17,322
Forestry Contest	\$ 9,800
Seedling Sale	\$ 34,050

LOOKING FORWARD

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

- 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.

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!

IDaho SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION

DISTRICT:

Bonner SWCD

FOR YEAR:

2025

DUE :

December 20, 2025

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.

Dale Van Stone

Board Supervisor Signature

DALE Van STONE

Printed Name

12/02/25

Date

208-255-9911

District Telephone

info.bswcd@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: