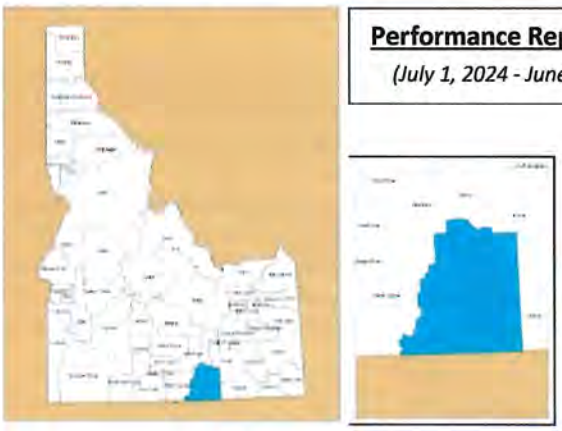
East Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District



Performance Report FY25
(July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

1361 East 16th Street
Burley, ID 83318
PHONE: (208) 572-3375
ewcswcd@gmail.com
www.minicassiaswcd.com

Board Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month @ 12:00pm

Top Priorities and Resource Concerns

1. Water Resource
   Encourage conservation practices which save water and reduce soil erosion, upgrade from conversion to sprinkler systems, promote benefits of crop residue, using conservation tillage and cross slope farming practices, and planting windbreaks.

2. Rangeland
   Support and encourage projects which include brush control, range seeding, pest control, fire control practices, stock water improvements, planned grazing systems, and address drought concerns.

3. Direct Seed and Cover Crops
   Encourage farmers and landowners to implement new and innovative farm practices such as reduced tilling and planting cover crops. Educate landowners on the benefits of such practices.

4. Education
   Education for both youth and adults is a huge focal point for the district. Education is provided through community conservation classes, workshops, newsletters, website and social media, and youth programs.

Mission Statement

To encourage responsible natural resource management and to implement conservation goals which improve air, soil, and water quality while improving wildlife habitat.

To educate both youth and adults about our local conservation practices and needs.

FY2025 Revenue *7/1/24 - 6/30/25*

$ 27,520.66	State Funding
$ 9,000.00	County Appropriations
$ 1,700.41	Tree Sale Profits
$ 3,878.00	Admin Fees Tri-District Project
$ 450.00	Admin Fees LSEE
$ 2000.00	Pivot Trac Filler Income
$ 44,549.07	**TOTAL**

District Operations/Accomplishments

Board/Business Meetings

East Cassia SWCD holds monthly board meetings with agendas posted at the office and on the website. East Cassia SWCD is an active member of Division IV and hosted the Fall 2024 Division IV meeting for 11 Soil Districts in South/Central Idaho. Supervisors attended the Spring 2025 Division IV meeting which was hosted by North Side SWCD. East Cassia board members also attended the 80th Annual IASCD Conference held in Idaho Falls, Idaho in November. All district financial information and documents are available for public review.

Operations

In February, board supervisors met with elected Cassia County Commissioners to review the proposed budget and activities as a basis for requesting county funding. The district requested a $1,000.00 increase for the upcoming fiscal year. This funding helps the district with employee payroll, scholarships, awards, and daily district operations. The district reviewed and updated their Annual Plan and their 5 Year Plan along with their proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

Seedling Tree Sale

East Cassia manages the Mini-Cassia Annual Seedling Tree Sale. East Cassia, Minidoka, and West Cassia Soil Districts worked together to sell over 3,300 seedlings, offering 12 different varieties of trees and shrubs. As always, we talked on the phone to many great landowners that are dedicated to implementing good conservation practices. This year each of the three districts profited $1700.41. Income from the tree sale is used to help conduct district educational activities such as: college scholarships, Know Your Government scholarships, Natural Resources Camp scholarships, and speech and poster contest supplies and awards.

Pivot Trac Filler Project

East Cassia rents a Pivot Trac Filler to local growers. The Ag-Vantage Trac Filler is a simple but cost-effective tool to eliminate pivot tracks. Trac Fillers help cut down maintenance costs by reducing fatigue on field equipment and stress on pivot systems.

Awards Picnic

East Cassia hosted the annual awards picnic for Supervisors, their families, and special guests. Rob Cottle and Hannah Sanders were awarded their 5-year service pins. Jason & Brooke Webb were presented The Conservation Farmer of the Year Award. East Cassia officially welcomed their new Supervisor Brogan Higley. Minidoka and West Cassia SWCD also participated in the picnic.

Education and Outreach

The following donations were given in FY2025:

- $1,000 College Scholarship to Reigan Esquivel
- $1,000 College Scholarship to Naomi Campbell
- $50 to Envirothon
- $50 to Idaho State Forestry Contest

The district held their annual poster contest for all 5th & 6th grade students. East Cassia SWCD supported the Idaho State FFA and 4-H Land & Soil Evaluation Event CDE where students from regional contest around the state come to Cassia County to compete in the state soil judging event. The Conservation Update Newsletters were written and distributed 3 times during FY25 to approximately 1,200 landowners. The district assists with maintaining a living website which provides information to the public on conservation activities.

Tri-District Projects

Direct Seed Drills

The Direct Seed Drills are owned by the 3 Soil Districts in Cassia and Minidoka Counties. Supervisors from each district oversee the tri-district projects by serving on the Project Committee. 2024 was the 10th year to rent out the seed drills to landowners. Districts continued promoting good soil health practices which benefit landowners in many ways. Some benefits include improved water infiltration and increased water holding capacity of the soil, reducing the loss of top soil from blowing winds, and improving air quality and individual health.

Community Conservation Classes

East Cassia, Minidoka & West Cassia districts organized Community Conservation Classes which were offered free to the public. Class topics in FY25 included Preparing Your Yard for Winter, Trees for Yards & Windbreaks, and Designing Your Yard for All Seasons.

Moisture Monitoring Project

Soil District Supervisors held a grower forum where landowners who have been participating in the project could share their successes and their challenges. They also learned more about how to work with the moisture monitors. Thirteen growers are participating in the project and all were represented at the forum.

East Cassia SWCD Board of Supervisors

Rob Cottle	Chairman	1750 S. 190 E, Malta, ID 83342	cottleranch@gmail.com
Kurt Heward	Vice-Chairman	55 N Yale, Declo, ID 83323	kurt@raftriver.com
Ken Woodworth	Treasurer	51 N 3350 E, American Falls, ID 83211	ctrfarms@hotmail.com
Hannah Sanders	Member	348 S 2750 E, Declo, ID 83323	hannahsanders722@gmail.com
Brogan Higley	Member	PO Box 145 Malta, ID 83342	higley117@gmail.com
Mark Webb	Assoc. Member	479 Riverside Drive, Burley, ID 83318	mark@heglarcreek.com
Steve Ward	Assoc. Member	2900 S Narrows Road, Malta, ID 83342	steveward64@live.com

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PERFORMANCE REPORT CERTIFICATION

DISTRICT: East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District

FOR YEAR:

FY2025 (7/1/24 to 6/30/25)

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.

Rob Cottle

Board Supervisor Signature

Rob Cottle

Printed Name

10/7/2025

Date

208-572-3375

District Telephone

ewcswcd@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: