

Gem Soil & Water Conservation District



**1857 Highway 16, Suite B
Emmett, Idaho 83617
Phone: (208) 963-4693
www.facebook.com/GemSWCD
Leanne.buck@id.nacdnet.net**

SWCD Board Meetings: First Monday at 12:00PM at 1857 Hwy 16, Ste B or via Zoom.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality
2. Irrigated Cropland
3. Public Outreach/ Information & Education
4. Rangeland
5. Urban

FY 2025 Revenue

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

Significant FY 2025 Projects:

WQPA Irrigation Improvement Grant

Mesa Drain Pivot Project with Corner-Arm.

This district sponsored project included a Corner-Arm Pivot on a 40-acre corn field (14 acres watered by the corner-arm of the pivot). The new technology uses GPS mapping and precision performance sprinklers to customize and accurately water the field with no waste. Field production is up by 20% and uses 30% less water. The Corner-Arm Pivot also decreases sediment loss by 52.8 tons per year, phosphorus by 85 lbs per year, and nitrogen by 169 lbs per year.



Emmett Drain Water Testing

Last Summer, Gem Soil and Water Conservation District worked with the Department of Water Quality (DEQ) to sponsor lab testing fees for water quality testing on the Emmett Bench irrigation drains. The District sponsors testing every five to six years for continued monitoring on the nine priority drains on the Emmett Bench. Meghan Cline, a Water Quality Analyst with DEQ, completed the testing and preliminary report. In her preliminary report, she notes that nutrient, sediment, and bacteria load in 2024 are



trending down when compared to the 2018 sampling. However, there are still significant amounts of nutrient, sediment and bacteria inputs in the Lower Payette River and suggests concentrating water quality projects in the Silver Leaf drain.

Outdoor School

Gem SWCD is active in the community at our local elementary schools with outreach and education. The district has sponsored four garden projects, Shadow Butte Elementary, Carberry Elementary, Early Words Speech Therapy Clinic and Gem Prep and co-sponsors outdoor school for local 5th grade students each year along with pollinator outreach and education at Smart Start Academy Preschool and at the Gem/Boise County Fair.



Education/Outreach

2025 Theme "Home is Where the Habitat is."

2025 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Taught Pollinator education to Kindergartners at Butte View Elementary and Preschoolers at Smart Start Academy.



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 9 producers in the Gem and Squaw Creek Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

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.

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 .

*Bissell 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. 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
Cliff Fivecoat, Secretary
Jamie McCann, Treasurer
Clayton Ayers, Supervisor
Zeke Ortiz, Associate

Leanne Buck, District Manager

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**
**PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION**

DISTRICT:
Gem SWCD

FOR YEAR:
FY2025

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.



Board Supervisor Signature

Kirk Vickery

Printed Name

12/1/2025

Date

208-963-4693

District Telephone

Leanne.buck@id.nacdnet.net

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION:
