

GOODING

Soil Conservation District

The Gooding Community Garden and how It's stepped up!

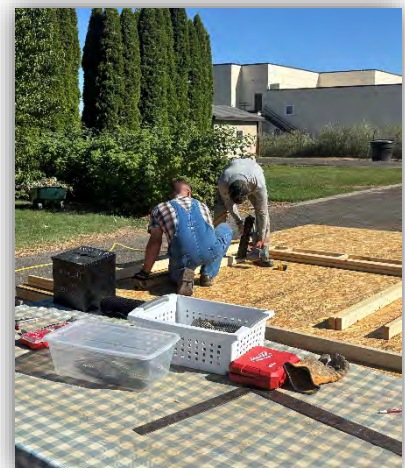
This year, the Gooding Community Garden has gone above and beyond to meet the growing needs of our community. We expanded garden plots to increase food production, ensuring more fresh produce for local families, including those facing food insecurity. Volunteers worked tirelessly to improve infrastructure by building a shed, installing irrigation and maintaining pollinator friendly spaces.

The garden also strengthened its role as an educational hub, hosting hands on learning opportunities for youth programs and community members. We've partnered with local organizations to provide gardening workshops, nutrition education and conservation awareness.

By stepping up with innovation, collaboration, and hard work, the Gooding Community Garden has become more than a place to grow food—it's a space where the community comes together to grow resilience, health and hope.

CHEERS TO ST. LUKES

A HUGE CONTRIBUTOR TO OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN! Below is a new shed going up that will benefit the community members and help store equipment.



DISTRICT PRIORITIES

1. Source Water Depletion
2. Soil Quality Limitations
3. Degraded Plant Condition
4. Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss
5. Livestock Production
6. Pest Pressure
7. Air Quality
8. Insufficient Energy Use



820 Main Street

Gooding, ID 83330

PHONE: (208) 944-3655

<http://www.goodingsoil.org>

SWCD Board Meetings:

2nd Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m.

2025 Revenue:

State Funding	\$26,218.59
County General Services	\$6,000.00
Community Garden	\$20,523.50
Fabric Mulch	\$2,710.00
No-Till Drill	\$15,406.30
TOTAL	<u>\$ 71,111.69</u>

OWL BOXES TAKE OFF!

A recent student alumnus of Gooding High School and advocate for the Gooding Soil Conservation District, Madison Crawford Vargovich, wrote an article on owl boxes and the pros and cons. Madison contacted the Gooding SCD about the success of producers in our area who have begun utilizing owl boxes on their agricultural properties to see if providing owls with nests will help with the overabundance of voles.

Supervisor, Joe Pavkov purchased five owl boxes about three years ago and installed them in the desert surrounding his property, in more secluded areas, hoping less traffic would entice the owls. He explains that voles are abundant near each of the owl boxes, so he is unsure why the owls haven't nested in them yet.

Pavkov also mentions that a producer in the neighboring county has some success with their owl box, with one nesting earlier this year, which gives him hope that it will work. Bill Bitzenburg, a grower in the Filer area, purchased an owl box from the GSCD and has been impressed by the number of rodents the owls have hunted. Bitzenburg shares that the owl box has been occupied for the past two summers, not only by barn owls but by great horned owls as well. He shared pictures of the annual cleaning of the owl box this fall, which showed a pile of owl pellets – the undigestible parts of the rodents the owl's hunt. The presence of owl pellets in the owl boxes proves the owls are doing their job in working to control the rodent population.

When properly maintained annually, owl boxes do have the ability to aid in rodent control in agricultural areas, resulting in fewer damaged crops, pastures and lawns.

GOODING BUG CREW

The Gooding County Bug Crew attended the Gooding SCD board meeting to say thank you for their contribution and to also give a report on the monitoring and releasing they accomplished this summer. This year was a great group of students that really appear to love what they were doing. This year's crew had 1 senior and 4 that will be returning next year.



Poster Contest

The Gooding SCD gave presentations to all of Gooding County 5th grade students on "Home is where the Habitat Is." We had over 250 posters to judge and only a few winners. The judges were members of NRCS and FSA staff.

They did a great job and we appreciate all they contribute.



Locally Led Meeting

The Local Working Group met Thursday, September 11th at the Gooding USDA Office.

This year the attendance was down but still had some great discussion and decisions made.

NRCS talked about EQIP priorities and ranking as well. The meeting included Gooding, Camas and Lincoln Counties as they are TEAM 10.



NRCS Resource Conservationist, Dinah Reaney Helped explain the EQIP process and what was approved last year.

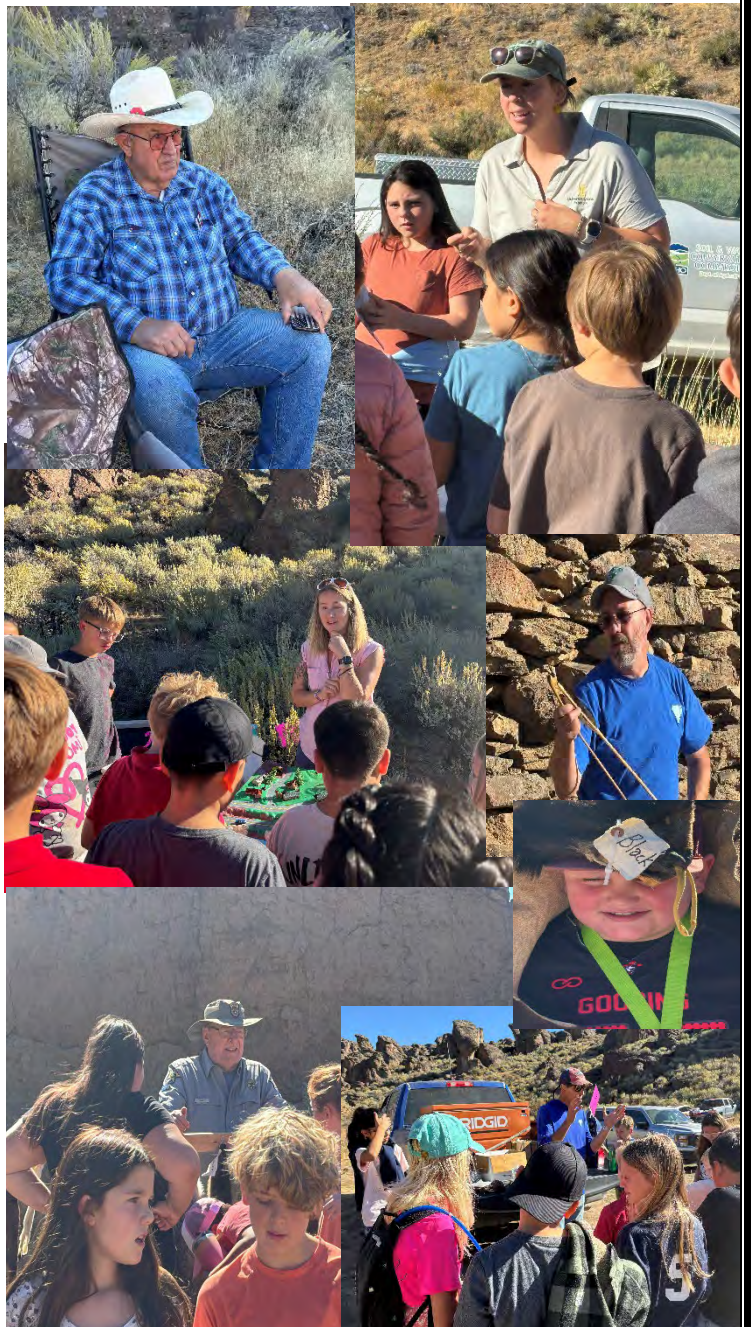
NRCS Resource Conservationist Derek Romer, ran the meeting



Representatives from Tri County Weeds, University of Idaho Gooding Extension , Camas and Gooding Soil Conservation Districts were all in attendance.

Little City of Rocks

We are the luckiest district to have the best presenters in the Magic Valley helping us put on our Little City of the Rocks Workshop. The district entertained 300 5th grade students from Gooding, Bliss, Hagerman, North Valley Academy, Wendell, and Camas. They learned all about Geology, Archeology, Wildlife, Soils, Fire Prevention and Hydrology. Thank you to the wonderful teachers and administration who allow the students to continue to come and participate in this great outdoor adventure. We are super proud of this event!





Gooding Soil Conservation District

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS:



POSTER CONTEST 2025

Poster Presentations were given to local schools by Barbara Messick, Administrative Assistant & Dani Roseman, Soil Water Commission

The topic this year was:

“Home is where the Habitat Is!”

We talked about what home means to you and home is where the heart is." However, we shift focus to environmental awareness and ecological responsibility. It underscores the idea that where we live (our homes) is inherently linked to the broader environment or habitat around us



2025 Speech Contest

The Gooding SCD continues to hold their annual speech contest. This year's theme was “Home is Where the Habitat Is”. The winner receiving \$100 was Conner Barnett and on the left Max Huber placed 2nd. Conner will be representing the District in Division IV Competition November 13th in Kimberly.

ARBOR DAY



The Gooding SCD held their annual Arbor Day Celebration. It was a great day!

KAY HULTS,	CHAIRWOMAN	(208) 539-2144	WENDELL,	IDAHO	83355
JOE PAVKOV,	SEC/TREASURER	(208) 358-1745	GOODING,	IDAHO	83330
DANIEL BUTLER,	VICE CHAIRMAN	(208) 320-2671	BLISS,	IDAHO	83314
BILL PALACIO,	MEMBER	(208) 358-0302	GOODING,	IDAHO	83330
PHIL GOSSI	MEMBER	(208) 539-6611	HAGERMAN,	IDAHO	83332
STEVE THOMPSON	ASSOCIATE MEMBER	(208) 407-8806	TUTTLE,	IDAHO	83332



The Kay Hults, Supervisor for the Gooding SCD started off with a welcome to all. Next, Diane Houser, Mayor of Gooding gave the proclamation while

city employees -Holley Haney & Larry Bybee listened intently. Dacia Yoder, Manager of the garden, talked about the future of the garden and what we need to keep it in operation. We then took all the students to teach them about soil sampling. Dani Roseman, Commission employee, was a big part of that presentation. The Wood River RC&D representative and Gooding SCD Supervisors helped plant 100 seedlings that we grow for the Wood River SWCD's tree sale. Another way to raise money to sustain our garden. North Valley Academy 1st & 5th grade students join the festivities. Gerry Bates, Community Forester from Idaho Falls, presented the city with a banner in honor of being a Tree City USA. We also planted many Rocky Mountain tree seedlings with the North Valley Academy, to sustain our garden.



Garden Manager Dacia Yoder & Dani Roseman, Soil and Water Commission employee discussing what type of workshops we could provide for the community as we move forward.



Vegetables picked and weighed every day of harvest to support our data that is needed to provide to local business and grant opportunities when we need to ask for funding.





The Gooding and Wood River Soil Conservation District continue to follow up on the 14 landowners who utilized the Soil Moisture probe program in 2023.

We combined efforts to help inform landowners of new technology available to them. The project would help landowners manage their water & give them tools that can inform them when to irrigate, how to apply, as well as when to plant or harvest. The district held a workshop after the first season, even though we didn't install the probes until July, so we didn't receive much data. However, the landowners in the project continued to use them and gave great feedback.

The workshop was intended for every landowner to ask questions and learn how to read and retrieve the data applied on their phones & computers. Jarum Eghan and Misty Tucker from Soiltech were there to listen to problems and concerns of each landowner. They even brought new antennas, batteries etc. to get things working if they had issues.



NEW SHED GOING UP FOR THE GOODING GARDEN



The Gooding Soil Conservation District applied for and received funding from St. Luke's CHIF program to continue adding new elements to the garden. We will utilize the shed for storing much of our equipment but also will apply this for outdoor events as we plan to add a canopy / patio.



**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION**

**DISTRICT: GOODING SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

FOR YEAR:

FY-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.

Kay Hults

Board Supervisor Signature

Kay Hults

Printed Name

11-12-2025

Date

208-944-3655

District Telephone

goodingscd1@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: