

Gem Soil & Water Conservation District



Significant FY 2019 Projects:

319 Lower Payette River Project

Gem SWCD partnered with ISWCC and NRCS to install a center pivot on 32 acres on the Emmett Bench bluff. The estimated reduction in sediment to the Lower Payette River is 69.4 tons. The project also addresses irrigation induced erosion areas along the bluff.

Best Management Practice (BMP) Installed:

- Structure for Water Control
- Pumping Plant
- Irrigation Water Conveyance
- Irrigation System, Pivot



The Gem SWCD also worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide 6 landowners cost-share to install best management practices through EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program). Resulting in \$291,992 funds obligated.

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SWCD Board Meetings: First Monday

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality
2. Irrigated Cropland
3. Urban
4. Information and Education
5. District Operations

FY 2019 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| County Funding | \$ 6,250.00 |
| State Funding | 19,890.00 |
| NRCS Funds | 291,992.00 |
| 319 Grant Funds | 55,000.00 |
| Landowner Match | <u>\$329,466.28</u> |
| Total | \$702,598.28 |

Water Quality Monitoring Results

Gem SWCD partnered with DEQ to monitor five irrigation drains on the Emmett Bench and Bissel Creek from June 12th to October 2nd. Water samples were collected on a bi-weekly basis and analyzed for: Total Suspended Sediment, Nitrogen (Nitrate-Nitrite), Total Phosphorus, and Total Coliform (e. Coli) by the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories. DEQ also measured flow, temperature, conductivity and pH.



Results-

Decreasing trends in general since last testing in 2008.
Total average sediment load-50,710lbs/day (all sites),
Total average phosphorus load (all sites)-101.4lbs/day (51.3lbs/day reduction since 2008)-10% of allocated Total Phosphorus load to Lower Payette River.

Nitrogen low-Drains to watch: Silver Leaf and inputs between Bissel Creek-3 and Bissel Creek-2.

Priority Drains: Mesa and Silver Leaf for bacteria exceedance, sediment load, phosphorus load, and average temperature increase since 2008.

Education/Outreach

2019 Theme “Life in the soil: DIG DEEPER”



2019 Poster Contest Winners

The winners this year came from both, Emmett Middle School and Shadow Butte Elementary. First, Third, and Honorable Mention winners were from Emmett Middle School, and the Second Place winner was from Shadow Butte Elementary.



2019 Speech Contest Winner

First place winner came to us this year from Black Forest Christian Academy—Homeschool. She went on and competed and won Third Place at the Division level.

Gem SWCD actively promotes conservation through education and outreach:

- Sponsored a District Speech Contest.
- Sponsored 268 fifth grade students in the poster contest from 3 schools.
- Distributed 258 Western White Pine tree seedlings to third graders during Arbor Day and explained the importance of planting trees/renewable resources.
- Published a district newsletter to keep farmers and ranchers in the District informed, mailing to 725 subscribers.



Funds awarded to the Gem SWCD by the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission were spent on outreach and education.

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 15 producers on over 300 acres in the Gem Soil & Water Conservation District.

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 the Snake River.

Snake River – Hells Canyon TMDL – 30% for phosphorus .

Bissel Creek – 34% reduction in sediment

87% reduction in bacteria

In 2023 the District will do 5-year monitoring

The Gem SWCD will continue to promote natural resource conservation through outreach and education programs for local youth, landowners, and future farmers and ranchers.

Future workshops to educate landowners are in the planning stages and one should be ready by Spring of 2020. Continue to apply for grant funding to provide local landowners financial assistance for conservation projects.

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.



Board of Supervisors and Staff

Kirk Vickery, Chairman

Tim McFarlane, Vice-Chairman

Jim Hutchison, Treasurer

Cliff Fivecoat, Secretary

Maggie Sisler, Supervisor

Leanne Buck, Administrative Assistant

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.

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION**

DISTRICT: Gem Soil and Water
Conservation District

FOR YEAR:

2019

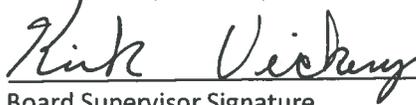
DUE :

December 20, 2019

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

12/02/2019

Date

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Telephone

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District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: