

Gem Soil and Water Conservation District

Fact Sheet

General Information: The Gem Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1954 to provide voluntary land and water conservation technical and financial assistance to landowners and users within the District boundary. The major soil and water conservation needs in the district today are soil protection on cropland, animal waste management, irrigation water management, and land reclamation.

Mission (or Function):

- 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.
- Coordinate conservation activities and disseminate natural resources information to organizations and the public in Gem SWCD.

FY 2015 Accomplishments:

- Worked with NRCS to provide cost-share funds through EQIP that helped 16 landowners install best management practices on a total of 2,560 acres.
- Sponsored a District Speech Contest
- Sponsored 281 5th grade students from 3 schools in the poster contest.
- Provided 50% scholarships for two students to attend the Natural Resource Camp in Ketchum.
- Distributed 252 Blue Spruce seedlings to 3rd grade students for Arbor Day, explaining the importance of tree planting and renewable resources.
- Published and mailed a District newsletter to 800 subscribers.



Shelterbelt

Future Plans and Projects:

- Focus on load reductions of 33% bacteria at the confluence of the Lower Payette and Snake Rivers, 30% phosphorus in Hells Canyon and 34% reduction in sediment and 87% reduction of bacteria in Bissel Creek.
- Continue to promote natural resource conservation through outreach and education programs for local youth, landowners, and future farmers and ranchers.

FY 2015 District Funding:

State Funding	\$17,957
County Funding	\$5,300
Total	\$23,257