

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District Fact Sheet

General Information:

The Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1955 and spent its first five years helping farmer's level land, build irrigation structures, and develop proper crop rotation. This year Steve Bradshaw was awarded 2012 Co-operator of the Year at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Mission (or Function): Deliver natural resource technology and education, to promote wise use of natural resources and to promote management practices to ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations of producers in Minidoka County.

FY 2015 Accomplishments:

- Using funds from the NRCS Conservation innovation Grant (along with East Cassia and West Cassia SWCDs), two no-till drills were purchased and rented to local farmers, who have planted almost 2000 acres with the drills.
- District supervisors are working with the Minidoka School District administration to help students and teachers become more engaged with educational activities relating to agriculture.
- Sponsored cash and gift card prizes to the top entries in the annual poster contest.
- Hosted an Arbor Day even for 2nd grade students at two elementary schools. Students created drawings to show where they would plant a tree, and all participants were given a tree seedling.

Future Plans and Projects:

- The Minidoka board is researching Pollinator Gardens, and looking for a site that can be observed and enjoyed by the public.
- The board recently purchased district signs, which will be installed when weather allows.

- On November 17, 2015 Board Chairman, John Firth, was awarded The Doyle Scott award in recognition of his determination and dedication to conservation practices in Minidoka County. He was instrumental in spearheading the A&B Irrigation AWEF project and also the Mini-Cassia Direct Seed and Cover Crop Project. John is pictured below (speaking at the podium).



Chairman John Firth, receiving the Doyle Scott Award at the annual IASCD Conference in Boise.

FY 2015 District Funding:

State Funding	\$15,445
County Funding	\$5,000
Direct Seed Project Grant	\$91,847
Tree Sales	\$1,330
Grants	\$1,142
Match	\$1,400
Total	\$116,164

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