

Gem Soil and Water Conservation District



**1805 Highway 16
Emmett, Idaho 83617
Phone: 208/365-4212**

SWCD Board Meetings: First Monday
sheryl.stelling@id.nacdn.net

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

2015 Revenue

County Funding	\$ 5,300.00
State Funding	17,957.60
NRCS Funds	199,244.16
Landowner Match	<u>\$ 129,508.70</u>
Total	\$ 352,010.46

Significant 2015 Projects

The Gem SWCD worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide 16 landowners cost-share to install best management practices through EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program).



Shelterbelt / Windbreak

Shelterbelts are single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs in linear configurations to provide shelter for structures, animals, and people. They enhance wildlife habitat while improving air quality by reducing and intercepting air borne particulate matter, chemicals and odors.

2560 acres were contracted to install Best Management Practices and address natural resource concerns.

Some of the practices were:

- ◇ Shelterbelt / Windbreak
- ◇ Forage & Biomass Planting
- ◇ Prescribed Grazing
- ◇ Mulch Tillage
- ◇ Water Control Structure

Funds awarded to the Gem SWCD by the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission were spent on outreach and education material, and a Soil Health workshop in September co-sponsored by the U of I Extension Service.

Education/ Outreach

2015 Theme “Local Heroes— Your Hardworking Pollinators “



2015 Poster Contest Winners

All winners this year came from Emmett Middle School. First, Second, & Honorable Mention place winners were from Ms. Gurney and Third place was from Ms. Hoppers class.



**First , Second Third Place Speech Contest winners
at Division Level**

- Sponsored a District Speech Contest.
- Sponsored 281 fifth grade students in the poster contest from 3 schools
- Sent two students to the Natural Resource Camp in Ketchum, sponsoring each half of the registration.
- Distributed 252 Blue Spruce tree seedlings to third graders during Arbor Day and explained the importance of planting a tree/renewable resources.
- Published a district newsletter to keep farmers and ranchers in the District informed, mailing to 800 subscribers.

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*

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 2016.

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.



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 & Water
Conservation District

FOR YEAR:

2015

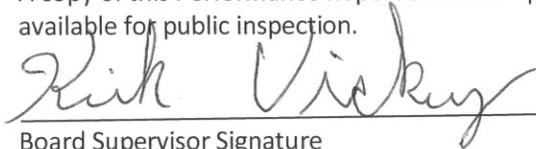
DUE :

December 18, 2015

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

12/18/2015

Date

208.365.4212

District Telephone

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District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: