

# West Cassia

Soil and Water Conservation District



## Performance Report FY2022

(July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022)



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 Burley, ID 83318  
 PHONE: (208) 572-3375  
 ewcswcd@gmail.com  
 www.minicassiaswcd.com  
 SWCD Board Meetings:  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am

### Mission Statement

*To encourage responsible natural resource management and to implement conservation goals which improve air, soil, and water quality while improving wildlife habitat.*

*To educate both youth and adults about our local conservation practices and needs.*

### Top Priorities and Resource Concerns

#### 1. Water Resource

Encouraging good conservation practices which conserve water and reduce soil erosion such as conversion from flood irrigation to sprinkler systems, promoting benefits of crop residue, conservation tillage, and cross slope farming practices. Make efforts to improve the groundwater within the Marsh Creek Nitrate Priority Area. Manage the Invasive Species Watercraft Inspection Station.

#### 2. Rangeland

Education and encouragement of practices such as brush control, range seeding, pest and noxious weed control, and fire control practices. Address drought concerns through stock water improvements and planned grazing systems.

#### 3. Direct Seed and Cover Crops

Encouraging farmers and landowners to implement new and innovative conservation farm practices such as the use of cover crops to improve soil health. Encourage direct seeding and cover crop plantings by renting a Direct Seed drill to landowners. Organize and provide a Soil Health & Water Conservation workshop.

#### 4. Education

Education is a main focus for the districts. By educating students, while young, it helps them to understand the importance of being good stewards of the land. Education is encouraged by providing scholarships, poster and speech contests, Land & Soil Evaluation Event, and more. Education to the general public includes press releases, newsletters, active website, workshops and Local Work Group Input Meeting.

### FY2022 Revenue 7/1/21 - 6/30/22

\$ 22,537.30	State- Base & Match Funding
\$ 6,000.00	County Appropriations
\$ 470.39	Tree Sale Profits
\$ 18,381.78	Administrative Funds from Boat Station
\$ 2,064.12	Admin Fees Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project
\$ 375.00	Admin Fees for LSEE
<b>\$ 49,828.59</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

### District Operations Accomplishments

#### Awards Banquet

In the summer of 2022 Cassia Soil and Water Conservation Districts held their annual Awards Banquet and honored Paul and Michelle Marchant for their high-tunnel gardening project. West Cassia welcomed a new associate board member, Kyle Bowers. The banquet was a success.

#### Seedling Tree Sale

In early spring, the 3 Districts in the Mini-Cassia area held their annual Seedling Tree Sale. The three districts managed to sell over 3,010 seedlings of the 11 different varieties offered. We worked with landowners who are dedicated to implementing good conservation practices. This year each of the three districts profited \$470.39. Income from the tree sale is used to help encourage good conservation practices in the community and help with student awards such as: college scholarships, Know Your Government (KYG) scholarships, Natural Resources Camp (NRC) scholarships, as well as prizes for speech and poster contest winners.



**Board/Business Meetings**

West Cassia SWCD holds monthly board meetings with agendas posted at offices and on the website. Supervisors and district employees attended the Fall 2021 Division IV meeting hosted by Blaine SCD. West Cassia hosted the Spring 2022 Division IV meeting providing training for all Supervisors. Supervisors and employees are planning the 78<sup>th</sup> annual IASCD conference set for November 15<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to be held in Burley. Richard Kunau, chairman of West Cassia SWCD, also serves as Division IV Director, and Treasurer on the IASCD Board. The districts published a Conservation Update Newsletter 3 times a year to approximately 1,000 landowners. All district financial information and documents are available for public review.

**Operations**

The district continues to run out of a temporary office in the Cassia County Court House. In February, board supervisors met with elected Cassia County Commissioners to review the proposed budget and activities as a basis for requesting county funding. The district requested \$1,000.00 increase for the upcoming fiscal year. The districts completed yearly reports due to ISWCC and completed a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022. West Cassia SWCD has an official financial audit conducted each year. The audit review and findings are available for public review.

**Education and Outreach**

West Cassia awarded a college scholarship of \$1,000.00 to Kaylee Whiteley. West Cassia contributed to Idaho Ag in the Classroom, Envirothon, Idaho State Forestry Contest, Know Your Government and Natural Resource Camp. West Cassia hosts the Idaho State Land & Soil Evaluation CDE providing contest planning, fundraising and volunteers. Troy FFA placed 1st and American Falls FFA placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over 20 volunteers assisted, including SWCD District Supervisors, County Commissioners and soil scientists.

**Projects**

The Mini-Cassia Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project is managed by the 3 Soil Districts in Cassia and Minidoka Counties. 2021 was the 7th year to rent out the seed drills to landowners. Districts continued promoting good soil health practices which benefit landowners in many ways. Some benefits include improved water infiltration and increased water holding capacity of the soil, reducing the loss of top soil from blowing winds, and improving air quality and individual health. An annual Soil Health workshop is held in the first quarter of each year to help inform and educate those interested in how cover crop planting aids soil health. The 7<sup>th</sup> Soil Health Workshop was held in February 2022 with the theme of “Making a Difference on My Farm”.



West Cassia partnered with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture for the fifth year to run The Cottarel Invasive Species Watercraft Inspection Station. The station runs on a calendar year, they opened at the end of February 2022 and closed October 31, 2022. They inspected a total of 6,063 boats, of which 505 came from infested waters. They hot washed 295 water craft. The Idaho State Police and Cassia County law enforcement returned 313 drive-by boats and assisted in keeping our employees safe. The district was responsible for day-to-day operations at the station, managing employees, finances and payroll. The district received \$19,550.70 in administrative funds from the project.



**West Cassia SWCD Board of Supervisors**

Richard Kunau	Chairman	137 N Hwy 77 Declo, ID 83323	richardkunau@gmail.com
Jordan Searle	Vice-Chairman	635 South 450 East Burley, ID 83318	jordansearle@gmail.com
Kathy Poulton	Treasurer	2200 S 605 W Oakley, ID 83346	poukathy@pmt.org
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Kyle Bowers	Associate Member	296 S 200 W Burley, ID 83318	kylebowers23@gmail.com