

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District

85 East Baseline Road Rupert Idaho 83350

2022 Performance report



GENERAL INFORMATION: The Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District was organized on July 1, 1955 spending the first five years helping farmer's level land, build irrigation structures and develop proper crop rotation. The District's efforts have evolved over the years, from equipment leases to producers, to education of the area school children and soil health workshops for the area growers.

MISSION: 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/growers in Minidoka County.

LOCATION: Minidoka County is in central southern Idaho, with the Snake River forming the southern boundary, Power County to the East, Blaine County at the northern end, with Lincoln and Jerome Counties to the west. The county has 267,567 acres in production agriculture, the average size farm is 432 acres. The county has a unique topography and elevation. Its southern portion, which runs along the Snake River, was originally part of the riverbed. Its northern portion runs over a somewhat higher table and is called the North side project. Its extreme northern and eastern boundaries consist of lava flows with large and small areas of arable land. Although the surface structure is varied, there is only 180 feet difference in elevation from the lowest point at the southwest corner, 4180 feet and its highest point in the northeast corner, 4360 feet.

WATER: Water stored in reservoirs created by dams on the Snake River provides the means of irrigation for the diversified farming on the original Minidoka Project. Water was first delivered to the Minidoka Project in 1907 with the completion of Minidoka Dam. The old project consists of 72,221 acres. Deep wells provide the water for the new Governmental Homestead Project consisting of 89,000 acres. Additional acres have been developed by private enterprise since the first Veteran Homestead drawing in 1953. Today there is approximately 160,000 acres of rich sagebrush land under irrigation by pumping. Irrigated farmland covers the southern part of the county, while lava beds cover the northern portion. Minidoka is the largest sugar beet producer in Idaho and in the 2017 census it showed that farmers and ranchers brought in \$354 million in far-gate receipts during that year.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 27

Our REPORT:

It was a busy year getting back into the swing of activities.

February, we participated in the 7th annual Soil Health Workshop in partnership with East Cassia and West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Next, we provided support to the 4-H Ambassador program held on the Albion Campus in March, with Admin teaching Etiquette for dinner, dating, business, theater, and travel.

April found the District with a booth at the Ground Water Awareness fair providing information on abandoned wells, and cover crops.

In May we bagged the baby trees from the tree sales project, while the Direct Seed drill was planting acres of cover and pasture, and reseeding some acres. We had 3 great applications for College Scholarships so they were all 3 awarded.

It was great to have events open again and youth want to participate. We had 2 scholarships to NRC (Natural Resource Camp) this year.

We held our Awards banquet and summer picnic in July together with East Cassia and West Cassia, there we heard from the 2 young men who went to NRC, and our 3 scholarship winners, and we awarded Lance Stevenson the stewardship of the year from Minidoka District.

We had a booth in the Minidoka County fair, the theme being 'Farm Fresh Country Fun'. We handed out info on water retention in the soil. A water comic book and coloring book for the kids, no farm no food sticker, info on plants that repel bugs, the newsletter, pens, magnets, and booklets on conservation. And had registration for a give away of a bundle of 10 trees.

This year's poster contest of 'Healthy Soil Healthy Life', with 7 schools participating I handed out 696 poster boards to the 5 and 6th grades. Our 1st place winner for the District also won first place at Division. With our poster going to the State Conference in November of 2022.

The Land and Soil judging competition was held on some land near the river, the day was beautiful, and calm, no rain or snow, there were 17 teams that participated from around the state, the top two teams were Rigby FFA and Kuna FFA.

The Direct Seed no-till project is in its 8th year, we have had again 24 different renters planting various cover crops, the drill has over 11,280 acres on the counter, and is still holding up to the variety of users.

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District presented 2 projects for WQPA the 1st was to upgrade a 30-year-old wheel lines that had an older oversized pump on the system to a more efficient pivot and pump. The 2nd project was in conjunction with Amalgamated Sugar Company and various local beet growers to plant with their crop's wireless sensors. These will stay with the crops through harvest to the production point when they will be harvested and the data compiled.

LWG – Local Work Group, for NRCS will be held the first part of November with our District hosting the locations. We will provide this event with East Cassia and West Cassia.

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District is part of Division IV in the State of Idaho. IT is Div. IV turn to host the State Conference for The Association of Conservation Districts so we have been busy helping with the planning and organizing of this event to be held mid November 2022



County Fair--- Farm Fresh Country Fun 2022

Finances: FY 2022 funds

State: \$19,238.15

Tree Sales: \$ 470.39

Match \$12,000.00

Total \$31,708.54



Chairman Brian Kossman presents Scholarships: Courtney Beene, Clay Stapleman, and Rylee Ann Nalder



Stewardship of the Land award to Mr, & Mrs. Dean Stevenson – who practices cover crop and other water conservation methods. Presented by Chairman Brian Kossman.