

East Cassia

Soil and Water Conservation District



Performance Report FY24

(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)



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Board Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month @ 12:00pm

District Operations/Accomplishments

Board/Business Meetings

East Cassia SWCD holds monthly board meetings with agendas posted at the office and on the website. Supervisors and district employees attended the Fall 2023 Division IV meeting hosted by Camas SCD and the Spring 2024 which was hosted by Wood River SWCD. All district financial information and documents are available for public review. East Cassia board members also attended the 79th Annual IASCD Conference in Boise, Idaho.

Operations

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 a \$1,000.00 increase for the upcoming fiscal year. This funding helps the district with employee payroll, scholarships and awards, and daily district operations. The district completed and reviewed their Annual Plan and their 5 Year Plan along with their proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

Seedling Tree Sale

East Cassia manages the Mini-Cassia Annual Seedling Tree Sale. East Cassia, Minidoka, and West Cassia District worked together to sell over 3,021 seedlings of the 14 different varieties offered. As always, we talked on the phone to many great landowners that are dedicated in promoting good conservation practices. This year each of the three districts profited \$1,899.60. Income from the tree sale is used to help conduct district educational activities such as: college scholarships, Know Your Government scholarships, Natural Resources Camp scholarships, and speech and poster contest supplies and awards.



Top Priorities and Resource Concerns

1. Water Resource

Encouraging good conservation practices which save water and reduce soil erosion, conversion to sprinkler systems, promote benefits of crop residue, conservation tillage, and cross slope farming practices.

2. Rangeland

Education and encouragement of brush control, range seeding, and pest control, fire control practices, drought concerns, stock water improvements, and planned grazing systems.

3. Direct Seed and Cover Crops

Encouraging farmers and landowners to implement new and innovative farm practices such as reduced tilling and planting cover crops. Educate landowners on the benefits of such practices.

4. Education

Education is a huge benefactor to the district. The by-product of educating children is that information is then passed on to their parents.

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.

FY2024 Revenue 7/1/23 - 6/30/24

\$ 23,861.94	State – Base & Match Funding
\$ 8,000.00	County Appropriations
\$ 1,899.21	Tree Sale Profits
\$ 2,279.25	Admin Fees Tri-District Project
\$ 450.00	Admin Fees LSEE
\$ 250.00	Pivot Trac Filler Income

\$ 36,740.40 TOTAL

Pivot Trac Filler Project

East Cassia invested in a Pivot Trac Filler to rent to local growers. The Ag-Vantage Trac Fillers are simple but cost-effective tools to eliminate pivot tracks. Trac Fillers help cut down maintenance costs by reducing fatigue on field equipment and stress on pivot systems.



Awards Banquet

East Cassia along with Minidoka and West Cassia SWCD participated in their annual awards banquet in June 2024.

Education and Outreach

The following donations were given in FY2024:

- \$500 College Scholarship to Taylor Miller
- \$500 College Scholarship to Allie Black
- \$1,000 to Kathy Poulton Memorial Scholarship
- \$50 to Envirothon
- \$50 to Idaho State Forestry Contest

The district held their annual poster contest for all 5th & 6th grade students. They distributed three Conservation Update Newsletters to approximately 1,000 landowners. East Cassia SWCD supported the Idaho State FFA and 4-H Land & Soil Evaluation Event CDE where students from regional contest around the state come to Cassia County to compete in the state event. They celebrated 53 Years of land judging and received T-shirts. Preston FFA placed 1st and Troy FFA placed 2nd. NRCS workers, District employees, and SWCD Supervisors provided the equipment and labor. Over 20 volunteers assisted, including County Commissioners and Soil Scientists.



Tri-District Projects

Direct Seed Drills

The Direct Seed Drills are owned by the 3 Soil Districts in Cassia and Minidoka Counties. Supervisors from each district oversee the tri-district projects by serving on the Project Committee. 2023 was the 9th 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.

Community Conservation Classes

East Cassia, Minidoka & West Cassia districts organized free Community Conservation Classes. The first class was held in June 2024 and the topic covered pollinators.

Class #1
Was held June 2024

POLLINATORS

MEET THE BEETLES
Jason Thomas
U of I Extension Educator

HONEY BEES
Heidi Tubbs
Tubbs Berry Farms

**Build Your Own
POLLINATOR SEED MIX**

Moisture Monitoring Project

Soil District Supervisors welcomed growers to the Grower-Forum who are participating in their Moisture Monitoring Cost/Share Project. Growers learned about the moisture monitoring sensors and how to use the online technology to collect information about moisture levels and patterns in their soil. 13 Growers are participating in the project.



East Cassia SWCD Board of Supervisors

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