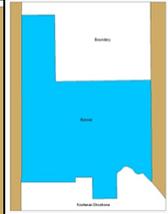


Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

2023 Performance Report

Our Mission:

To take available technical, financial, and educational resources and focus and coordinate them to meet the needs of the land user.



1224 Washington Ave.,
Suite 101
Sandpoint, ID 83864
208.263.5310 x 100
www.bonnernswcd.org

Recent Projects



Hard crossing, ATV bridge

Top 4 Resource Priorities

1. Water Quality & Riparian Zones
2. Timber & Woodland
3. Fish, Wildlife & Recreation
4. Traditional Agriculture, Grazing, and Cropland

Annual Conifer Tree Seedling Sale

The Panhandle Seedling Program (PSP) had another great year! The PSP Board is made up of professional foresters from throughout the region. Their expertise is the driving force behind sourcing even more region specific high quality seedlings for our local private landowners and timber producers. Bonner SWCD distributed approximately 74,000 seedlings to local timber landowners during our spring 2023 sale.

Watercraft Inspection Stations

Bonner SWCD manages three Aquatic Invasive Species Watercraft inspection stations in Bonner County. The District has managed these stations on ISDA's behalf since the initial introduction of Idaho's AIS program. The District has faced challenges throughout the years of administering these 3 stations but staffing challenges were nearly insurmountable and resulted in the District relying on Legislators to approve a wage increase to secure additional inspectors for the season. Once the season was underway it was busy! The discovery of mussels in the Snake River emphasized the importance of these stations throughout the state of Idaho. We look forward to partnering with ISDA to once again manage these stations in our community for the 2024 boating season.



Colburn Creek Riparian Area 319 Grant
BSWCD partnered with a local producer to secure an Agricultural 319 grant. These funds were utilized to complete over 4000 feet of three strand fencing, weed control measures, riparian willow plantings. This fencing excluded cattle from fragile stream banks that were eroding. Adding an ATV bridge allows access during high water as well as provides a removable crossing barrier that can be lifted during high water when cattle are not in the area. The hard crossing extended approximately 500' to allow stable ingress & egress in an ever changing stream bed.

Fiscal Year 2023

7/1/22-6/30/23

County Funding	\$ 16,500
State Funding	\$ 36,603
Watercraft Inspection Stations	\$ 356,621
Water Festival Donations:	\$ 11,680
Forestry Contest Donations:	\$ 5,215
Fish & Wildlife Projects:	\$ 13,898
Idaho Dept. Of Env. Quality	\$ 6,715
Project Funding & Grants	\$ 184,743
Seedling Sale	\$ 20,793
Panhandle Seedling Program	\$ 97,552

YOUTH EDUCATION EVENTS

Idaho State Forestry Contest

The Idaho State Forestry Contest celebrated our 40th anniversary this year with our best event to date! The contest requires over 500 hours of prep work to manage registration, volunteer coordination as well as to prepare and set up the courses. The University of Idaho college of Natural Resources began offering scholarships to top 3 individual and team winners in the Senior category. This year we had 4 new teams attend for the first time from throughout the state as well as a resurgence of FFA teams. The Job Fair included both state entities and private industry members and was a big hit this year with the heavy equipment booth being a favorite. We look forward to this aspect of the event continuing to grow in the coming years. This year the Forestry Contest received a much needed update to our registration and scoring system. The new program spent several months in development and although there were a few challenges resulted in all teams still being present for the awards ceremony. The new scoring program has continued to be fine tuned in the off period and we anticipate an even greater impact due to its efficiencies for the 2024 contest. The Bonner SWCD & Idaho Dept. of Lands invites all to join us for the 2024 Forestry Contest. If you would like to be a volunteer or a donor please contact at the address on this form.



2022 First Place Team - Careywood Eager Beavers

Pend Oreille Water Festival

The Pend Oreille Water Festival had beautiful weather for the annual May event. This year's lunch time show was presented by Idaho Fish & Game and focused on "Bear Aware" safety and education as well as a demonstration of the bear which was a big hit! Once again the pre and post festival tests of the approximately 400 fifth grade students from throughout our community showed a significant knowledge gain by students across the board. Our High School chaperones were phenomenal this year and contributed to another great event!



Water Festival - Bear Aware Presentation

Our focus for the future will continue to be on projects that both protect and maintain our county's natural resources, as well as educational outreach programs that provide tools to Bonner County residents on how to protect the health of the lakes, rivers, forests, and soils of the beautiful place we all call home!

Looking Forward:

- Continue to identify and apply for 319 and grants that will improve and protect the natural resources of Bonner County.
- Continue to operate 3 boat inspection stations to protect our waterways.
- Administer funding for The Lakes Commission through state legislature
- Continue to fund and prioritize projects and educational outreach.
- Continue annual Tree seedling sale, Forestry Contest and Pend Oreille Water Festival.
- Partner with community leaders to provide additional educational opportunities to County Residents.

Board of Supervisors and District Staff:

Dale Van Stone — Chair
Harry Menser — Vice Chair
Brad Bluemer — Treasurer
Rick Watt — Supervisor
Jeff Connolly — Supervisor
John Gaddess — Associate
Jim Stevens - Associate
Sarah Garcia — District Administrator
Glenn Kibbey - A.I.S Program Coordinator
Molly McCahon — The Lakes Commission Coordinator
Jessica Erikson — Pack River Watershed Council Coordinator