



203 S. Galena St., P.O. Box 26
 Council, ID 83612
 208-253-4668 aswd@ctcweb.net
adamsconservationdistrict.org

Top Five District Priorities:

1. District Operations
2. Public Outreach
3. Water Quality & Quantity
4. Pasture & Hay Land
5. Rangelands

FY 2022 Revenue

State	\$ 23,743
Adams County	\$ 4,000
City of Council	\$ 500
CWMA Cost-share	\$ 1,475

BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

Wendy Green, Chairman
 Judy Dietch, Vice-chair
 Kris Stone, Supervisor
 Charlie Munden, Supervisor
 Julie Burkhardt, Supervisor
 Holden McKee, Admin. Assistant
 Pam Madlen, Bookkeeper

From the Chair

Each of the last few years, ASWCD has engaged in a new conservation project, from conducting native bee surveys, to helping launch a pollinator garden, to providing college scholarships to local students. This year, the District served as cooperator for the Highway 95 Corridor Shared Stewardship project. Working with Idaho Department of Lands and other partners, we facilitated fuels reduction demonstration sites on private land in Meadows Valley. See page 2 for details. In addition to these and other ongoing projects, ASWCD will partner with other conservation districts in southwest Idaho to present the Soil Health Symposium in February 2023 after a two-year Covid hiatus.

Council Education Resource Crew

ASWCD invested \$3,391 to employ the Council Education Resource Crew (CERC) for one week in June 2022. The crew consisted of four Council high school students plus a supervisor. They worked hard for 4 ten-hour days, pulling weeds (Mediterranean Sage) for the Adams Cooperative Weed Management Area, conducting native bee surveys for the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas, and testing water quality at four different locations in the Weiser River Watershed.



The CERC conducted four water quality surveys using nine water measurements, including pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, total coliform, and phosphate. They caught and identified macroinvertebrates living in the water. The water tests are summarized into one value, the Water Quality Index (WQI) represented by a score out of 100. All four sites had a rating of excellent according to the WQI value, ranging between 90 and 93.



Rad Mulching of Cottonwood removes fuels as part of the Highway 95 Corridor Shared Stewardship Project.

Highway 95 Corridor Shared Stewardship

As part of the Highway 95 Corridor Shared Stewardship Project, ASWCD partnered with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), homeowners, and the U.S. Forest Service to demonstrate how landowners can thin fuels to make their property safer and more resilient to wildfire. The Highway 95 Corridor project is part of the #NOBOUNDARIESFORESTRY effort to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire across private, state and federal ownerships.

Utilizing a \$38,000 grant from IDL, Adams SWCD contracted with Rad Mulching & Fire Reduction of Cottonwood, Idaho to treat a total of 19 acres on three separate properties along Smokey Boulder Road near Highway 95 north of New Meadows. We chose Smokey Boulder Road because of its proximity to federal and state fuels reduction projects, location in the wildland-urban interface, and high visibility.

The demonstration project removed hazardous fuels to show what thinning the threat looks like. The objective is to encourage other landowners to reduce fuels to protect their property in conjunction with fuels reduction being done on nearby IDL, Payette National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands.

“You can’t beat an opportunity to show the results of work done on the ground,” said Doug Gober, a participating landowner. “Now people can see for themselves how nice an open forest stand looks while still retaining the big, healthy trees.”

Other Accomplishments in 2022

- Launched a Weed Awareness Campaign in the schools and the community, inviting students and citizens to compete in weed identification.
- Awarded \$1000 scholarships to Kensie Nunn and Hannah Berger, both of Council, to pursue degrees in agriculture science.
- Cosponsored the weed tour with the Adams CWMA and Adams County Weed Control to educate landowners about noxious weeds.
- Participated in the Payette Forest Coalition and Adams CWMA, including helping with community spray days to combat noxious weeds.
- Maintained a website about District activities and services: adamsconservationdistrict.org.

Looking ahead to 2023

The popular Soil Health Symposium returns to the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario on February 9, 2023. We work with the Payette SWCD and other Districts to put on this valuable one-day symposium for agriculture producers.

We plan to partner with Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission staff and Adams County to procure grant funds to replace another county road culvert to reduce erosion and sediment delivery in Weiser River watershed.

The District remains committed to public information and education. The board supports 4-H by contributing to the local add-on fund. We support Idaho Envirothon, the Forestry Contest, Ag in the Classroom, UI Natural Resources Camp, and Land and Soil Evaluation competition.

Other plans for 2023 include:

- Participating in Little Salmon River Watershed Collaborative
- Reaching out to landowners to encourage and assist with fuels reduction projects
- Offering two \$1000 scholarships to local students who are pursuing post-secondary education in agriculture or natural resources
- Assisting area landowners with technical and cost-share resources as needed.