

# Payette

## Soil and Water Conservation District Performance Report 2020



**Payette Soil and Water Conservation District** is a political subdivision of the State of Idaho authorities, powers and structure contained in Soil Conservation District Law, Title 22, Chapter 27, and Idaho Code. Payette SWCD was organized in February 26, 1958 in order to make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources. The district serves all of Payette County which is located within legislative district 9 and includes the cities of Payette, Fruitland and New Plymouth.

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payetteswcd@gmail.com  
[www.payetteswcd.org](http://www.payetteswcd.org)

**Board meets:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
of each month

### Our District Priorities

1. Information & Education
2. District Operations
3. Water Quality
4. Irrigated Cropland
5. Fish & Wildlife
6. Grazing Land

### Funding 2020

Local Funding	\$	9,000
State of Idaho		19,440
Soil Health Symposium		<u>14,442</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 42,882</b>

### Board of Supervisors:

Jo Anne Smith, Chairman      Vacancy: 2 positions  
Allen Schmid, Vice-Chairman  
Jennifer Riebe, Supervisor  
Jon Fabricius, Supervisor (until June 2020)

### Employees:

Mary Rosen, District Manager (until October 2020)  
Robyn Warner, Administrative Assistant

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### Mission of the Payette Soil and Water Conservation District

Payette Soil and Water Conservation District will work towards conserving and enhancing all natural resources for the economic and environmental benefit of present and future generations in Payette County using educational, financial, and technical assistance to promote voluntary resource conservation practices.

*2020 Soil Health Symposium  
Four Rivers Cultural Center  
Ontario, Oregon*



*Soil health farming practice example:  
Strip tillage behind green chop triticale.  
New Plymouth, Idaho*



## 2020 District Accomplishments

- **Annual Soil Health Symposium:** Over 150 people attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual 2020 Soil Health Symposium organized by Payette SWCD and partners Ada SWCD, Adams SWCD, Malheur (Oregon) SWCD, University of Idaho Extension, Oregon State University Extension, and USDA NRCS. Featured speakers covered current soil health topics and 3 panels of local producers (10 farmers and ranchers) shared their experience implementing soil health practices.
- **Lower Payette River and Little Willow Creek TMDLs:** Local landowners and an irrigation district, interested in conservation projects to reduce runoff of topsoil from their farms, improve water quality, and improve irrigation water efficiency and delivery, reached out and worked with the district to identify shovel-ready projects for a grant application prepared by the district and submitted to Idaho DEQ in 2020. No funding was awarded to the district due to competition for limited funding. Identified landowners remain interested in implementing conservation projects.
- **Outreach and Education:** Maintained district website [www.payetteswcd.org](http://www.payetteswcd.org). District supervisors have participated as part of the citizen advisory committee for updating of the Payette County Comprehensive Plan to provide input on agriculture and natural resources concerns, and participated in an Ada SWCD Webinar – “How Do We Save Farmland”. Provided input to USDA NRCS in a virtual Local Working Group meeting to identify local natural resource priorities for the federal agency.
- **District Operations:** Maintained independent, viable district office to provide efficient and effective service to the public. Supervisors attended meetings and completed required district reports. With the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on public gatherings, attendance at additional meetings was reduced or were attended virtually. District communicated positive feedback & support for ISWCC to the IASCD.