



BUTTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Youth Activities Kick-off District's New Year

The Butte Soil and Water Conservation District participated in several youth educational activities during the Spring. Outreach Coordinator Mindy Hawley and NACD technical assistant Samantha Spaulding assisted IU Extension and Custer SWCD with Mackay Ag Days to provide agricultural educational activities for the elementary school students. Staff also teamed up with the Butte County UI Extension Educator David Callister to host the 2022 Ag Bowl at Mackay High School. The Seniors won this year's event, followed by the Junior class.

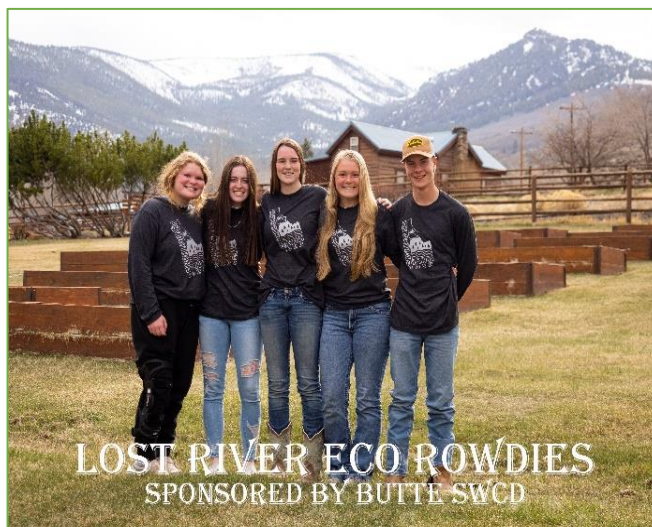


UI Extension Educator David Callister with junior and senior Mackay High School Students during the 2022 Ag Bowl



Students completed ag related crafts and activities at the Mackay Ag Days

Envirothon was held in-person after a two-year COVID hiatus at Living Waters Ranch in Challis. The District sponsored a team from Butte County to attend the event. Students were quizzed on their knowledge of soil, water, wildlife, and



2022 Envirothon Team

agriculture. Coach Anne MacConnell along with Samantha Spaulding and Mindy Hawley assisted with the two-day event. The team also spent a day at the fish hatchery in Mackay learning about its operation and helping with daily tasks.

Invasive Species Spotlight

A study¹ published in 2022 investigated cheatgrass suppression with herbicide and subsequent seeding success on arid rangelands in Nevada. They found that the pre-emergent herbicide Imazapic reduced cheatgrass densities by over 95%. This reduced the competition for resources and helped seedings become established at a significantly higher rate than un-treated plots. They also found that seed mix composition, seeding rate, seeding methods, and precipitation amounts all played a role in successful re-seeding establishment.

¹Clements, et al. 2022. Seed Mix Performance and Cheatgrass Suppression on Arid Rangelands. *Rangelands* 44: 129-135.

The Butte SWCD monthly board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the District's office at 260 W. Grand Ave. in Arco. Meeting information can be found at www.butteswcd.org.

NRCS Snow Survey

The Arco NRCS office staff collected snow survey data from January – April. This data helps farmers and ranchers make water and irrigation decisions for the coming growing season. Thank you for your hard work Berett and Jesse!



NRCS' Berett Rosenkrance



NRCS Team Lead Jesse Fullmer

New Office Location

The Butte SWCD recently moved to a new office location in Arco. Our new physical address is 260 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 5, and our new phone number is 208-423-8911. Our e-mail address will remain the same: butteswcd@outlook.com.

Idaho Forest Products Commission Grant

A \$250 grant was received from the Idaho Forest Products Commission to fund



Trista Hawley plants her blue spruce seedling

Arbor Day activities and forest education

for the District’s 6th grade natural resources tour. Trees and educational material were handed out to 7th grade students at Arco and Mackay schools for Arbor Day. Trees were also provided to the public at the NRCS office on Arbor Day.

2022 Poster Contest

The District sponsored their annual 6th Grade Poster Contest at both Butte Middle School and Mackay

Elementary in April. A 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner were chosen overall. 1st received \$25, 2nd - \$15 and 3rd - \$10. Each participant also received a certificate of appreciation for entering the 2022 Poster Contest. The theme this year was “Healthy Soil: Healthy Life”. The Butte SWCD overall winners will be entered in the Division VI contest this fall, with the potential of advancing to an Idaho State contest and then a national contest.

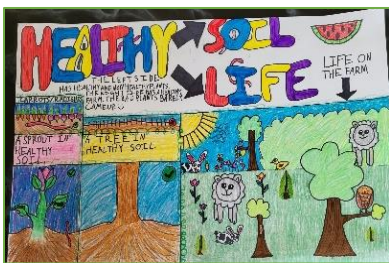
Butte SWCD overall winners were- 1st: Breyan Barger, 2nd: Raven Williams and

3rd: Jerzi Gonzolez.

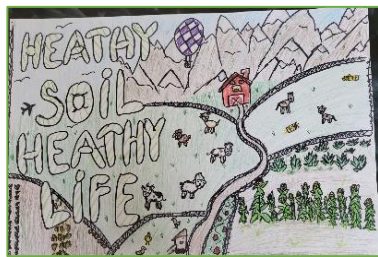
Congratulations and thank you to each student who entered our contest and to Mrs. Kimball and Mrs. Wood for letting us visit their classrooms.

WQPA Reinstated

The 2022 legislature session reinstated the State’s Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) by allocating \$5 million to be spent toward water quality and quantity projects. The funds will be administered by the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and eligible entities and individuals can submit an application for consideration. More information can be found on the Commission’s website at www.swc.idaho.gov.



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place

Butte SWCD
P.O. Box 819
Arco, ID 83213

Butte SWCD Board of Directors

Randy Purser	Chairman
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Mindy Hawley	Outreach Coordinator
Stephanie Barnes	Admin. Assistant
Samantha Spaulding	NACD Technician

NRCS Staff

Jesse Fullmer	Team Lead
Berett Erb	Range Mgm't Specialist
Jennifer Weathered	Soil Conservationist

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