

Current Story

Post Grant update: Valley Soil & Water Conservation District (2023)

Reported and recapped 2025

CHALLENGE: The 2003 large soil drill owned by Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (VSWCD) is difficult for the new profile of farmers to use and transport. Because of its size and age, transporting the wide drill down the increasingly busy highways is no longer feasible.

SOLUTION: The addition of the no till drill for agriculture is an important tool not previously available to small landowners looking for land management guidance and the tools to implement best management practices. The smaller drill with the transportation option of a trailer, straps and tools allow it to be safely shared, used and returned.

IWCF FUNDING: A 2023 IWCF grant of \$23,746 was given for the project of No-Till Drill Equipment and Education for Small Acreage Landowners in VSWCD and Neighboring Areas.

ACTION: VSWCD shares the tool with the community to use for soil improvements and to create boundary firebreaks for landowners. Newsletters are mailed to agriculture and forestry landowners in Valley County. New related brochures were developed to expand the reach of the conservation program.

SUCCESS: Bruce and Sue Leeper and their family cattle operation had a field that was not producing feed due to many non-feed grasses, invasives and bare ground. They were able to significantly rejuvenate their pasture with the help of the new drill in one season by planting in the spring with enough robust growth to utilize the pasture for light fall grazing of their herd.

COLLABORATION: With this project, VSWCD educates landowners of every size and level of agricultural knowledge with a display at the Valley County Fair, Payette Land Trust Conservation Day, McCall Airport Open House, Legislative Social and District Display Day, PLT Land Tour Display Day, Annual National Ag Day display in McCall, Annual Noxious Weed Seminar and Training Day Cascade, and McCall Public Library displays, as well as through social media and both mailed and emailed newsletter outreach to Valley County landowners and agricultural producers and NFPR Watershed Coalition participants.

INTERESTING NOTE: VSWCD continues to promote and identify uses of the no-till drill: "We also continue to learn and share more and more on how no-till drills can provide for the health of our landscapes. Yesterday we were at a meeting to address fire mitigation efforts from the current fires and NRCS programs to help farmers who suffered losses. We learned no-till drills are an important tool used for post-fire seeding! We do not have any landowners needing to reseed at this time but many of the other

Soil & Water Conservation Districts do and we may be able to help with this no-till drill if the soil conditions are safe for the drill." Durrena Farr