



# Idaho Geological Survey (IGS)

2012-2016

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

# IDAHO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

## **VISION**

The Idaho Geological Survey's vision is to provide the state with the best geologic information possible through strong and competitive applied research, effective program accomplishments, and transparent access. We are committed to the advancement of the science and emphasize the practical application of geology to benefit society. We seek to accomplish our responsibilities through *service and outreach, research, and education* activities.

## **MISSION**

The Idaho Geological Survey is designated the lead state agency for the collection, interpretation, and dissemination of geologic and mineral data for Idaho. The agency has served the state since 1919 and prior to 1984 was named the Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Idaho Geological Survey staff acquires geologic information through field and laboratory investigations and through grants and cooperative programs with other governmental and private agencies. The Idaho Geological Survey's geologic mapping program is the primary applied research function of the agency. The Survey's Digital Mapping Laboratory is central to compiling, producing, and delivering new digital geologic maps. These maps are the critical to all geoscience issues and related disciplines. Other main Idaho Geological Survey programs include geologic hazards, hydrology, energy resources, mining, mine safety training, abandoned and inactive mines inventory, and earth science education outreach. As Idaho grows, demand is increasing for geologic information related to population growth, energy- mineral- and water-resource development, landslide hazards and earthquake monitoring.

## **AUTHORITY AND SCOPE**

Idaho Code provides for the creation, purpose, duties, reporting, offices, and advisory board of the Idaho Geological Survey. The Code specifies the authority to conduct investigations and establish cooperative projects and seek research funding. The Idaho Geological Survey publishes an Annual Report as required by its enabling act.

## **GOAL 1: SERVICE AND OUTREACH**

*Achieve excellence in collecting and disseminating geologic information and mineral data to the mining, energy, agriculture, utility, construction, insurance, and banking industries, educational institutions, civic and professional organizations, elected officials, governmental agencies, and the public. Continue to strive for increased efficiency and access to Survey information primarily through publications, Web site products, in-*

*house collections and customer inquiries. Emphasize Web site delivery of digital products and compliance with new revision of state documents requirements (Idaho Code 33-2505). Maintain concentrated effort to collect and preserve valuable geologic data at risk.*

**Objective A: Produce and effectively deliver relevant geologic information to meet societal priorities and requirements**

**Performance Measure:**

- Number of published reports on geology/hydrology/geologic hazards/mineral and energy resources  
**Benchmark:** The number of IGS published reports TBD based on preceding years and staffing.

**Objective B: Build and deliver Web site products**

**Performance Measure:**

- Number of IGS web site viewers and products used/downloads.  
**Benchmark:** The number of website products TBD preceding years and staffing.

**Objective C: Maintain compliance of Idaho State Library Documents Depository Program and Georef Catalog (International)**

**Performance Measure:**

- Percentage of total survey documents available  
**Benchmark:** 100%

**GOAL 2: RESEARCH**

*Advance the knowledge and practical application of geology and earth science in Idaho. Promote, foster, and sustain a climate for research excellence. Develop existing competitive strengths in geological expertise. Maintain national level recognition and research competitiveness in digital geological mapping techniques. Sustain and build a strong research program through interdisciplinary collaboration with academic institutions, and state and federal land management agencies. Pursue opportunities for public and private research partnerships.*

**Objective A: Sustain and enhance geological mapping and related studies**

**Performance Measure:**

- Increase the area of modern digital geologic map coverage for Idaho by mapping in priority areas designated by Idaho Geological Mapping Advisory Committee (IGMAC).  
**Benchmark:** A sustained increase in cumulative percent of Idaho's area covered by modern geologic mapping.

## **Objective B: Sustain and build research funding**

### **Performance Measure:**

- Externally funded grant and contract dollars  
**Benchmark:** The number of externally funded grants and amount of contract dollars compared to five year average.

## **GOAL 3: EDUCATION**

*Support knowledge and understanding of Idaho's geologic setting and resources through earth science education. Achieve excellence in scholarly and creative activities through collaboration and building partnerships that enhance teaching, discovery, and lifelong learning.*

### **Objective A: Develop and deliver earth science education programs and public presentations**

#### **Performance Measure:**

- Educational programs for public audiences  
**Benchmark:** The number of educational reports and presentations TBD based on previous years and staffing.

## **KEY EXTERNAL FACTORS:**

### **Funding:**

*Achievement of strategic goals and objectives is dependent on appropriate state funding and staffing levels. External research support is mostly subject to federal program funding and increasing state competition for federal programs. Many external programs require a state match and are dependent on state funding level.*

### **Demand for services and products:**

*Changes in demand for geologic information due to energy and minerals economics play an important role in achievement of strategic goals and objectives. State population growth and requirements for geologic information by public decision makers and land managers are also key external factors.*