

PART I – AGENCY PROFILE

Agency Overview

The Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission was established under Title 22 Chapter 27, Idaho Code in 1939 to address soil erosion concerns associated with the Dust Bowl Catastrophe of the 1930's. Since then, the Commission has evolved into a leader for voluntary, non-regulatory natural resource conservation in Idaho with the responsibility to promote locally-led conservation planning and implementation activities statewide. The Commission and Idaho's 50 local conservation districts are the primary entities throughout the state to lead coordinated conservation efforts to provide landowners and land-users with assistance and solutions for natural resource concerns and issues.

The Commission is a non-regulatory agency with five board members appointed by the Governor to staggered five-year terms. The Commission members are chosen with due regard to their demonstrated expertise or knowledge in water quality, natural resource concerns, production agriculture, financial expertise, and other related experience such as county commissioner.

The Commission is led by an administrator, who is appointed by the board and has delegated authority to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Commission. There are currently 16 full-time staff members employed by the Commission that are responsible for technical and administrative program delivery. The agency headquarters in Boise focuses on developing and administering programs and policies, guiding the district support and technical services statewide, and providing agency administrative support. The on-the-ground services are provided by the Commission technical staff, most of whom are co-located with local conservation districts within U.S. Department of Agriculture field offices in order to provide a comprehensive suite of services to landowners and land users across the state.

Vision

Conservation in Idaho reflects locally-led natural resource conservation leadership and priorities, is voluntary and incentive-based, non-regulatory, and demonstrates scientifically sound stewardship. The Commission and local conservation districts are the primary entities to lead coordinated conservation efforts to provide landowners and land-users with assistance and solutions for natural resource concerns and issues.

Mission

To facilitate coordinated non-regulatory, voluntary, and locally-led conservation by federal, state, and local governments including Idaho's conservation districts and other partners to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

Philosophy

The Commission is dedicated to guiding principles for each goal and related activity.

- Satisfy legislative intent and statute
- Benefit the environment
- Benefit conservation districts' locally led, voluntary, non-regulatory priorities and projects
- Benefit the Commission's ability to serve
- Promote fiscal responsibility
- Strengthen existing and build new conservation partnerships
- Incorporate valid scientific data and practices

Core Functions/Idaho Code

District Support and Services

The Commission provides leadership and assistance to Idaho's 50 local conservation districts as established in Title 22 Chapter 27, Idaho Code. Traditionally, the Commission has provided technical assistance to the districts in addition to disbursing annual legislative appropriations and ensuring state reporting requirements (Title 22 Chapter 27, Idaho Code; Title 39 Chapter 36, Idaho Code).

Comprehensive Conservation Services

The Commission is required to provide and promote non-regulatory, science-based incentive programs to develop and accelerate the development of voluntary conservation projects around the state. The flagship program is the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program, which provides low-interest loans to eligible applicants to implement resource management projects (Title 22 Chapter 27, Idaho Code).

The Commission also provides policy and program mechanisms that enhance the environmental quality and economic productivity of the state including programs that improve water quality and quantity within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, leading TMDL plan development related to agricultural and grazing components, assist with planning and implementation efforts in Nitrate Priority Areas, and promote computer-based conservation planning and reporting tools (Title 22 Chapter 27, Idaho Code; Title 39 Chapter 36, Idaho Code).

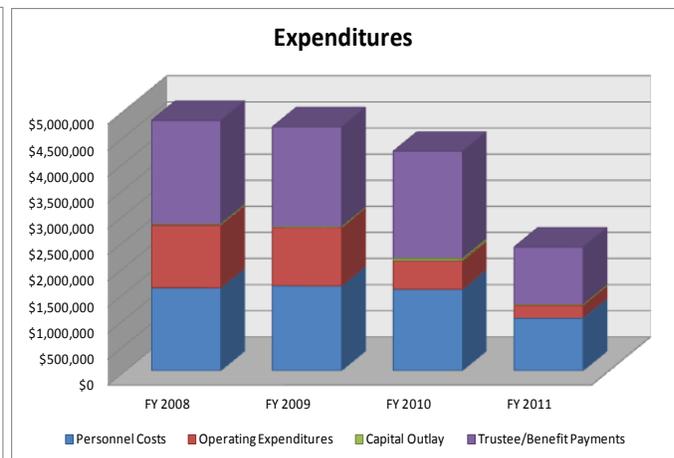
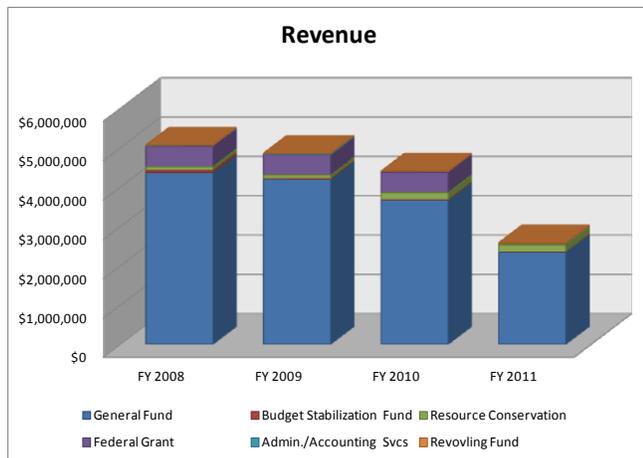
Administration

The Commission is responsible to carry out and adopt measures as are necessary and proper to ensure continuity of operations and establishing protocols to assist Commissioners and staff in the performance of duties. This includes the annual strategic planning process and performance reporting, along with the yearly budget that is prepared to support the annual activities of the Commission. Idaho Code authorizes the Commission to engage in rulemaking as necessary to carry out the purposes of Title 22 Chapter 27 (Title 67 Chapter 19, Idaho Code).

The Commission is actively engaged in external relations with local, state, and federal partners, non-governmental organizations, and resource and agricultural production groups to coordinate, collaborate, and cooperate in Idaho's non-regulatory conservation efforts. Developing intergovernmental and other relationships to maximize scarce resources and harmonize non-regulatory conservation delivery with regulatory efforts is critical to meeting statewide conservation goals (Title 22 Chapter 27, Idaho Code).

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
General Fund	\$4,368,800	\$4,203,100	\$3,670,200	\$2,342,200
Budget Stabilization Fund	\$44,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Resource Conservation	\$101,600	\$101,600	\$186,600	\$185,200
Federal Grant	\$519,800	\$522,000	\$515,600	\$0
Admin./Accounting Svcs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,000
Revolving Fund	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Total	\$5,064,200	\$4,856,700	\$4,402,400	\$2,581,400
Expenditure	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personnel Costs	\$1,588,900	\$1,626,700	\$1,559,600	\$1,000,810
Operating Expenditures	\$1,196,200	\$1,118,900	\$545,700	\$254,052
Capital Outlay	\$17,100	\$3,500	\$38,800	\$6,340
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$1,991,400	\$1,920,300	\$2,057,900	\$1,105,190
Total	\$4,793,600	\$4,669,400	\$4,202,000	\$2,366,392



District Allocations Breakdown

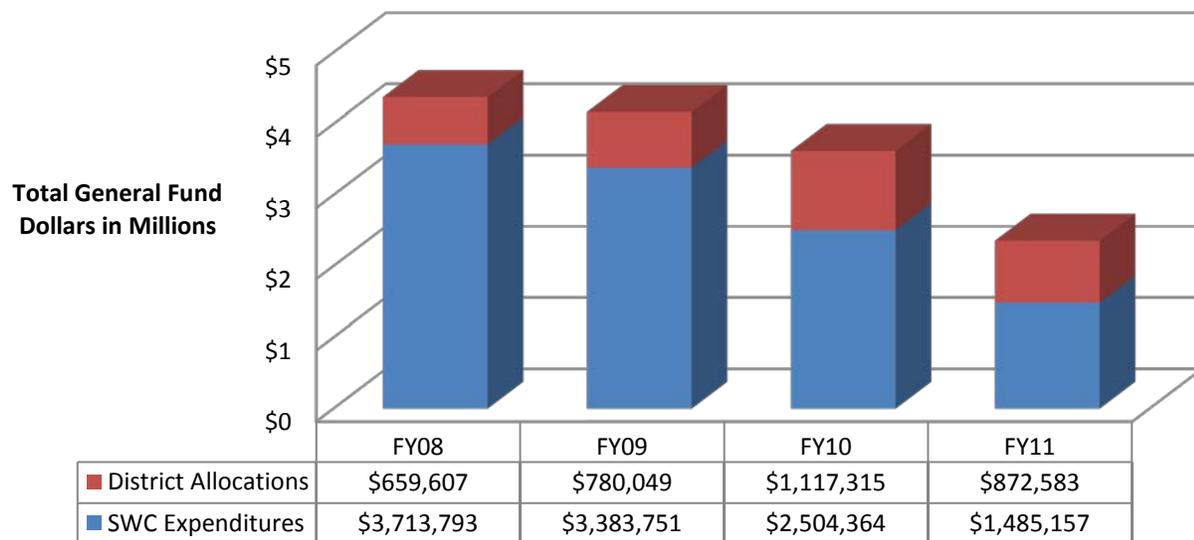
District	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Ada	\$10,379.14	\$53,664.61	\$95,187.11	\$52,196.04
Adams	9,404.90	10,199.85	12,876.47	12,364.67
Balanced Rock	13,587.01	14,381.96	19,977.15	16,122.53
Bear Lake	17,745.36	24,684.39	34,285.82	17,676.17
Benewah	10,022.71	10,817.66	13,806.54	12,869.60
Blaine	17,745.36	18,540.31	29,724.93	21,705.91
Bonner	19,527.51	20,322.46	29,903.79	15,054.41
Boundary	14,775.11	15,570.06	21,855.17	17,239.21
Bruneau River	8,121.75	8,916.70	11,284.55	10,830.46
Butte	11,094.37	11,992.75	15,309.91	14,811.65
Camas	9,428.66	10,223.61	12,912.25	12,384.09
Canyon	13,587.01	14,381.96	19,172.29	15,782.67
Caribou	15,369.16	16,164.11	23,757.91	19,379.10
Central Bingham	8,240.56	9,035.51	11,123.66	11,413.07
Clark	10,616.76	11,411.71	19,172.29	15,782.67
Clearwater	13,587.01	14,381.96	20,960.87	16,753.70
Custer	8,653.41	9,448.36	12,458.27	12,578.30
East Cassia	7,646.51	8,441.46	10,229.37	10,927.56
East Side	11,804.86	12,599.81	16,489.41	14,326.14
Elmore	11,804.86	12,599.81	17,383.71	14,811.65
Franklin	27,731.34	28,526.29	48,257.92	29,031.51
Gem	16,557.26	19,621.29	23,643.75	13,355.12
Gooding	9,428.66	10,223.61	13,006.16	12,384.09
Idaho	11,804.86	12,599.81	18,278.00	15,297.16
Jefferson	10,616.76	11,411.71	14,700.83	13,355.12
Kootenai-Shoshone	11,507.84	13,883.11	21,408.02	16,996.45
Latah	29,626.36	30,421.31	43,318.17	28,891.48
Lemhi	7,646.51	11,649.48	14,700.83	13,355.12
Lewis	14,181.06	14,976.01	20,960.87	16,753.70
Madison	11,804.86	12,599.81	16,489.41	14,326.14
Minidoka	8,834.61	9,629.56	12,017.95	11,413.07
Mud Lake	10,022.71	10,817.66	13,806.54	12,869.60
Nez Perce	31,709.10	32,504.05	53,633.30	41,344.86
North Bingham	7,290.08	8,085.03	9,692.79	10,636.25
North Side	10,616.76	11,411.71	18,757.91	27,920.46
Oneida	18,339.41	19,134.36	25,208.27	23,987.82
Owyhee	7,646.51	8,441.46	11,123.66	10,927.56
Payette	14,478.09	15,273.04	20,066.58	14,811.65
Portneuf	18,577.03	25,694.16	35,627.26	24,567.52
Power	11,876.15	12,671.10	25,015.59	14,568.89
Snake River	12,992.96	13,787.91	18,904.00	16,996.45
South Bingham	7,052.46	7,847.41	9,335.08	10,442.05
Squaw Creek	11,350.42	12,145.36	16,131.70	13,913.45
Teton	10,854.38	11,649.33	15,720.32	14,070.76
Twin Falls	12,992.96	13,787.91	18,904.00	15,637.02
Valley	14,220.46	32,797.51	50,114.79	28,934.21

Soil & Water Conservation Commission

Performance Measurement Report

District	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Weiser River	15,369.16	16,164.11	23,643.75	18,210.23
West Cassia	7,646.51	8,441.46	10,229.37	10,927.56
West Side	10,319.74	11,114.69	14,253.68	13,112.36
Wood River	8,240.56	9,035.51	12,134.95	12,384.09
Yellowstone	15,129.16	15,924.11	20,357.88	16,151.66
TOTAL	\$659,606.75	\$780,048.92	\$1,117,314.80	\$872,583.00

% of SWC Budget Allocated to District Funding



Profile of Key Services Provided by the Conservation Partnership

Key Services Provided by the Conservation Partnership ¹	FEDERAL FY2008	FEDERAL FY2009	STATE FY2010	STATE FY2011
Conservation systems implemented on all cropland (acres)	224,962	210,000	186,527	178,080
Conservation systems implemented on other land uses (acres)	405,880	410,000	291,162	15,687
Grazing/pasture management systems implemented (acres)	202,103	205,000	257,358	269,295
Riparian acres implemented with protection, restoration, enhancement or creation (acres)	57	58	72	705

The premise of the partnership, going back many years in the conservation movement, was that the locally led districts would identify the resource needs and make contact with landowners. Then the federal and state agencies would provide both financial and technical assistance to accomplish the district's mission. The Idaho Conservation Partnership has provided key services to benefit private land and natural resources in Idaho, which is evidenced in the table above.

Profile of Key Service Provided by the Commission

Key Services Provided by the Commission	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011
District Support & Services				
District Allocations	\$659,607	\$780,049	\$1,117,315	\$872,583
Assisted with five-year plans	51	51	51	50
Technical Assistance:				
- # of districts assisted with active projects			37	31
- # of new conservation projects	N/A	N/A	59	42
- # of ongoing conservation projects			62	50
- # of landowners served			942	812
Comprehensive Conservation Programs				
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)				
- Water Savings (acre ft)		35,288	36,665	34,914
- Power Savings (kilowatt hrs)	N/A	71,845,000	72,413,375	68,955,150
- Soil Savings (tons)		36,377	146,660	139,656
Groundwater/Nitrate Priority Areas				
- Acres Treated			39,855	49,320
- Nitrates Reduced (lbs)	N/A	N/A	115,910	254,105
- Phosphorus Reduced (lbs)			20,167	24,200
- Sediment Reduced (tons)			121,865	128,367
Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP)				
- Number of new loans approved	48	13	12	17
- Total funds for conservation projects	\$3,163,067	\$924,701	\$790,864	\$1,116,908
TMDL Ag Implementation Plans	N/A	6 Completed 17 In Progress Pending N/A	10 Completed 15 in Progress 35 Pending	4 Completed 16 In Progress 38 Pending

¹ Prior to state FY 2010, conservation data had been reported by federal fiscal year.

Fiscal Year 2011 Performance Highlights

District Support and Services

Technical Assistance

The Commission utilizes unique, field-based experience to provide technical and engineering assistance to Idaho's conservation districts and private landowners to address local resource issues, and assist the state of Idaho in meeting statewide and national mandates. On the ground, the Commission field staff work to identify problems, determine the landowners objectives, inventory resources, formulate alternatives, and assist with implementation activities. These technical assistance efforts are site specific and typically begin with a request or referral from the local conservation districts. Many times, this technical assistance and assessment is leveraged with other state and federal funding opportunities for implementation.

The Commission staff assisted and interacted with all 50 local conservation districts in fiscal year 2011. There were 31 districts that received direct technical support for new and ongoing projects totaling over \$18 million. These technical assistance efforts benefitted at least 812 private landowners. The combined leveraging of landowners, local districts, and the Commission yielded approximately \$60 million of resource conservation dollars to be put on the ground over the next several years.

District Allocations

In FY 2011, the Commission continued to seek savings within our budget in order to increase the amount of financial assistance available to the districts. Despite the success of the districts to leverage volunteer hours and Commission technical staff to implement conservation projects, they are limited in the funds they can capture from the grants they receive to pay for their administrative and overhead costs, which is why the state allocations they receive are so critical to their operations. The Commission budgeted an additional \$169,000 for district allocations during FY2011 for a total of \$869,000.

The Commission utilized a workgroup consisting of district supervisors and staff to perform a peer review of the match funding worksheets submitted in FY 2011. This process was so effective in building consensus of consistent policies that the Commission has adopted this annual process prior to funding district match allocations.

District Reporting Guidelines

In FY 2011, the Commission adopted a temporary rule governing the allocation of funds to districts. This rule was thoroughly vetted with district representatives to identify protocols, adopt policy, and ensure consistent, equitable reporting requirements for all districts. After utilizing the rule and policy for one reporting cycle, the Commission led additional efforts to identify additional efficiencies and simplify the reports for FY 2012. As a result, a comprehensive Reference Manual for District Reports was adopted by the Commission, which provides additional support to district personnel in the development and submission of annual reports that is consistent with state agency reporting guidelines and the natural resource planning cycle.

The Commission also provided additional contributions to the finalization of the District Supervisor's Handbook, which was delayed in distribution to ensure that any updates incorporated into the Commission's strategic plan were adequately reflected in the handbook. The handbook is scheduled to be distributed in Fall 2011.

Five-Year Plans

The Commission is the lead agency for coordinating implementation of the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan and local conservation districts are directly responsible for preparing a five-year plan that

addresses the state's antidegradation plan. At a minimum, the plan contains components such as physical characteristics, economic condition and outlook, assessment of resource conditions, and identification and prioritization of objectives. Districts specifically look at water quality in stream segments of concern and work closely with Basin and Watershed Advisory Groups. Implementation of the five-year plan by individual districts is accomplished by annual work plans based upon available technical and financial assistance as well as public support for proposed project(s).

All 50 districts successfully completed the requirement to update their individual five-year plans this year. In many cases, districts chose to supplement the required components of the plan with other local priorities including energy, public outreach, youth education, and urban growth. Local districts consider the plan in their regular public meetings and incorporate any local feedback. In almost all cases, Commission technical field staff assists the local districts with requests to inventory and assess the resource concerns required in the plan.

District Survey

The Commission conducted an annual survey of all district to gauge the level of satisfaction of services provided to the districts. There were 48 out of 50 districts that responded to the survey, which queried level of satisfaction on the Commission's ability to 1) supply adequate technical assistance; 2) assist district with making connections to other state and federal agencies; 3) provide opportunities to share information on activities and programs; 4) offer districts the opportunity to comment or be involved in Commission activities or decisions, and 5) provide adequate staff and resources to provide technical assistance, program support, and district support.

Overall satisfaction increased with highest ratings in sharing information (46% strongly agree) and district involvement in Commission activities (52% strongly agree). While districts were mostly satisfied with the quality of the technical assistance provided (73% strongly or somewhat agree), most districts did not believe that Commission staff and resources were adequate to support the needed technical assistance, program delivery, or district support (57% disagree, somewhat disagree, or neutral).

District Training

The Commission sponsored Excel 2007 training for all district supervisors and staff. This training utilized live webinar and teleconferencing technology to promote the participation of districts that could not attend in person. There were three regional locations set up to provide group discussion and in-person collaboration, with each location supervised by a moderator. A needs assessment was conducted prior to the training to determine the level of the participant's knowledge.

Afterward, a survey was conducted with 100% of the respondents stating that they learned a lot to a little more than they had before and 100% of the participants reported that they would be willing to participate in another web-based training. Based on this feedback, the Commission will consider this option for future training sessions instead of in-person trainings to reduce overall costs.

District Consolidation

The Commission assisted the Jefferson and Mud Lake Soil and Water Conservation Districts to consolidate in August 2010. Consolidating districts are able to serve their constituency more effectively and will save money by pooling their resources, staff, and funding. The newly combined district, Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, will receive the base funding of \$8,500 per district for the next three years as an incentive for their efforts.

Comprehensive Conservation Programs

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Idaho is designed to address water shortages within the Eastern Snake River Plain. This area extends from King Hill to Ashton and is approximately 130 miles long and 70 miles wide. Factors such as increased use of groundwater, drought, and changing irrigation practices have resulted in decreased spring flows in tributaries to the Snake River. The Idaho CREP goal is to retire up to 100,000 acres of groundwater-irrigated land. This reduction will provide a water savings of approximately 200,000 acre-feet annually. The CREP area includes 26 local soil conservation districts, 20 Farm Service Agency county committees, and seven groundwater districts. Commission staff works closely with Farm Service Agency, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Pheasants Forever, and Idaho Groundwater Users.

Based on current acreage enrolled, there is an estimated water savings of 34,914 acre feet per year, which is equivalent to average annual water consumption of 315,000 people or the amount of water used by 145 pivots covering 120 acres each for 15 years. The estimated annual power savings is 68,955,150 kilowatt hours. In addition, an estimated 139,656 tons of soil are saved due to decreased wind and water erosion. Fifty three contracts have wildlife enhancement plantings on 9,243 acres.

The Commission is designated as the technical lead for CREP. Staff checks all enrolled fields at a minimum of once per year with many fields being checked multiple times. Enrolled acres are seeded to a permanent cover of native grasses and then are certified as established in a subsequent year depending on weather patterns and vegetative growth. In fiscal year 2011, 10 complete contracts of 725 acres were certified as established. To date, a total of 5,698 acres on 37 contracts have been certified.

Groundwater/Nitrate Priority Areas

By working with local soil conservation districts, individual landowners, and other state and federal agencies, the Commission supports voluntary implementation and outreach activities that will benefit groundwater. Implementation efforts in FY 2011 were focused on Idaho's Nitrate Priority Areas (NPAs) as designated in 2008 by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

The Commission was directly involved in treating 49,320 acres with best management practices (BMPs) through state funded programs such as WQPA and DEQ 319 grants during fiscal year 2011 that will have a direct, positive impact on ground water quality. Additional acres were treated through other agencies and organizations and through independent efforts by agricultural producers.

The estimated total reductions to pollutants that can be expected as an outcome of state-funded BMP implementation are:

- 254,105 pounds of nitrates
- 24,200 pounds of phosphorus
- 128,367 tons of sediment

In addition to BMP implementation, there were efforts in public outreach, monitoring, and planning activities that took place in various locations throughout the state. These activities will help to raise awareness of ground water quality issues and may help initiate BMP implementation projects in other NPAs.

Idaho OnePlan

Idaho OnePlan coordinates the various conservation requirements of numerous agencies with regulatory and technical oversight. Farmers and agencies can both benefit from reducing duplication of effort, regulatory red tape and cross-agency bottlenecks. Anyone can use Idaho OnePlan software and develop a farm plan regardless of how they choose to use the results. It is private information and is entirely up to the individual whether or not to share such information. For example, a landowner may decide to share it with state or federal agencies to aid in cost share or grant applications.

This year, OnePlan completed a web based pesticide recordkeeping application that allows interested farmers to meet the requirements and stay in compliance with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In FY 2010, OnePlan received a grant from EPA to include soil fumigation recordkeeping within the integrated pest management component. This new application was completed in FY 2011 and an update is in progress for the 2012 buffer calculations pending EPA final decision.

Expansion of the mapping component is currently underway to improve the functionality of OnePlan which is supported by a grant through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. However, continued funding remains an issue as both of the grants are scheduled to expire in September 2012. Efforts to seek funding opportunities continue to be a priority for the executive team.

Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP)

This program provides long-term, low-interest loans to farmers and ranchers for conservation improvements. Loans are available up to \$200,000 for terms of up to 15 years. Projects address environmental issues, including, but not limited to: soil and water resource conservation; efficient and beneficial use of water resources; riparian area improvement; fish and wildlife habitat restoration and preservation; and the increased agricultural productivity of croplands, pasture and hay land, rangeland, and woodland.

RCRDP Loan Program Accomplishments	FY2011 Totals	Cumulative Program Totals
Loans Approved	17	594
Total Loan Commitments	\$1,116,907	\$31,238,802

Current Active RCRDP Loans: 181
 Total RCRDP Principal Balance: \$6,995,621

The most significant change to the RCRDP loan program was decreasing interest rates on loans to 2% APR for terms 1-7 years, 3% APR for terms 8-12 years, and 4% APR for terms 13-15 years.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Watershed Planning and Implementation

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that states restore and maintain the integrity of the nation's waters. Pursuant to section 303 of the CWA, states are to adopt water quality standards necessary to protect fish, shellfish, and wildlife while providing for recreation in and on the waters whenever possible. Section 303(d) of the CWA establishes the requirements for states to identify and prioritize water bodies whose quality is at risk. For waters identified on this list, states must establish a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the pollutants, which is the maximum level of pollutants that may exist in a water body to maintain optimal water quality standards.

The state of Idaho has adopted a non-regulatory approach to control agricultural non-point sources of pollution that are identified in a TMDL plan. A non-point source pollutant is pollution that cannot be directly tied to its source, unlike point source pollution, which could be identified coming directly out of a pipe. One example of an agricultural non-point source pollutant is sediment, which is very difficult to identify where it came from once it enters a water body.

For agricultural and grazing activities on private land, the Commission is the designated agency that can assist landowners in developing and implementing conservation plans that incorporate best management practices (BMPs) that will help meet water quality standards. The Commission is responsible for drafting TMDL agricultural implementation plans that outline an adaptive management approach on agricultural lands to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Four TMDL agricultural implementation plans or addendums were completed in FY 2011, which brings the total number of agricultural implementation plans that have been completed by the Commission to 82 plans. In addition, there are 16 plans or addendums in progress and another 38 plans or addendums that are scheduled to begin upon approval from Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Water Quality Cost-Share Program for Idaho (WQPA)

The Commission assisted nine local conservation districts as part of 13 different WQPA priority areas in fiscal year 2011. Local efforts included initiation of conservation planning and implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that improve their agricultural operations and resource conditions.

There was a total of \$207,665 in funds distributed to 45 landowners to assist with their cost-share of other federal and state programs to address water quality and other natural resource conservation issues. Combined with the landowner contributions of \$192,000 and federal contributions of \$106,600, there was a total of \$507,027 in conservation dollars implemented on the ground.

Effective FY 2012, the Commission will wrap up remaining WQPA commitments and defund the program due to budget cuts over the past two years. The districts and other partners have provided feedback on the importance of this cost-share program in order to assist landowners in meeting their required match for grants and project funding. Pursuing alternative funding sources for cost share will continue to be a priority for Commission staff.

Administration

Strategic Plan 2012-2015

When the Commission developed its first strategic plan in March 2008, which was adopted January 2009 and implemented for fiscal year 2010, it had a total of five core functions. One of the external factors affecting results in the Commission's strategic plan is "required budget cuts." Since the strategic plan was adopted, the Commission has experienced a 50% decrease in available state general funds and permanent full-time staff. As a result, the Commission began the process of revising the strategic plan to determine the best and most effective use the available staff and resources. Significant district and partner input was received and incorporated into the revision and several drafts were formally considered during several work group and open meetings in fiscal year 2011.

The updated strategic plan was adopted in August 2011, resulting in a reduced and more focused delivery of services to the districts coupled with a plan to actively seek additional partners to share and maximize resources and available funding to ensure continued conservation delivery. Within the strategic plan, the Commission

identified three core functions: District Support and Services; Comprehensive Conservation Programs; and Administration.

Rulemaking

The Commission engaged in rulemaking during FY 2011 for Rules Governing Allocation of Funds to Conservation Districts (IDAPA 60.05.04). This temporary rule was in effect during the fiscal year, modified, and the updated rule was adopted by the Commission in June 2011. There was significant district involvement to identify protocols, adopt policy, and ensure consistent, equitable reporting requirements for all districts. After utilizing the rule and policy for one reporting cycle, the Commission led efforts to identify additional efficiencies and simplify the reporting process for FY 2012. As a result, a comprehensive Reference Manual for District Reports was adopted by the Commission, which provides additional support to district personnel in the development and submission of annual reports that is consistent with state agency reporting guidelines and the natural resource planning cycle.

Communications

In FY 2011, the Commission shifted to a quarterly newsletter that combined district, partner, and Commission news of interest. The *Conservation Conversation* was distributed to all 50 districts and other interested partners.

The Commission also partnered with Access Idaho to complete a complete upgrade on the agency website, <http://swc.idaho.gov>. The new site added enhanced capabilities, including an embedded calendar, important updates side bar, and improved navigation. The new website was active in January 2011.

Staffing and Operations

The Commission partnered with the Department of Administration, Office of Species Conservation, and Office of Energy Resources to share resources for fiscal, IT, human resource, loan servicing, and technical assistance.

Three staff received certificates in Applied Leadership through Boise State Extended Studies program. This program provides tools and skills to assist in the development of statewide natural resource leadership.

PART II – PERFORMANCE MEASURES

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	Benchmarks 2012
District Support & Services					
Number of Surveys Received			51 of 51	49 of 50	50 of 50
Survey Results					
- Satisfied			22%	22%	25%
- Somewhat Satisfied	N/A	N/A	37%	57%	60%
- Neutral			20%	10%	8%
- Somewhat Dissatisfied			20%	8%	7%
- Dissatisfied			2%	2%	0%
Assist with five-year plans	N/A	N/A	51	50	50
Technical Assistance ² :					
- # of districts w/projects			37	31	35
- # of new projects	N/A	N/A	59	42	42
- # of ongoing projects			62	50	60
- # of landowners served			942	812	850
Comprehensive Conservation Programs					
CREP					
- Total Contracts	70	159	158	161	175
- Total Acres	7,724	18,189	17,422	17,457	18,500
- Certified Contracts	N/A	7	23	10	9
- Certified Acres	N/A	685	4,239	725	1,000
Groundwater/Nitrate Priority Areas					
- Acres Treated			39,855 ³	49,320	49,300
- Nitrates Reduced (lbs)	N/A	N/A	115,910	254,105	255,100
- Phosphorus Reduced (lbs)			20,167	24,200	25,000
- Sediment Reduced (tons)			121,865	128,367	128,300
RCRDP Loan Program					
- # of new loans	48	13	12	17	21
- Total \$ conservation projects	\$3,163,067	\$924,701	\$790,864	\$1,116,908	\$1,300,000
TMDL Ag Implementation Plans (subject to DEQ priorities)	N/A	N/A	10 Completed 15 in Progress 35 Pending	4 Completed 16 In Progress 38 Pending	Complete 8 13 In Progress Initiate ⁴ 5 Pending
WQPA					
- Ongoing Priority Areas	N/A	N/A	19	13	6
- Completed Priority Areas			3	5	6
- Acres Treated			18,337	6,400	4,000
Administration					
Communications ⁵					
- Website (Total Visitor Hits)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	320,000
- Facebook (Total impressions)					10,000
- Twitter (# of tweets)					75

² The Commission will be conducting a district assessment and ranking along with a workload analysis of Commission staff that may affect these projected numbers for FY 2012.

³ FY 2010 NPA measures were inaccurate and corrected in FY 2011 PMR.

⁴ Pending plans and addendums are subject to DEQ priorities and may affect projected numbers for FY 2012.

⁵ New benchmark for FY 2012.

For More Information Contact

Teri A. Murrison, Administrator
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
650 West State Street, Room 145
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: (208) 332-1790
Fax: (208) 332-1799
E-mail: Teri.Murrison@swc.idaho.gov