

Part 1 – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) actively guides, controls, and plans for the use and conservation of Idaho's water resources. David R. Tuthill, Jr. is the current Director of IDWR. He was appointed to this position by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter on April 17, 2007, having served as Interim Director since January 1, 2007.

The IDWR Energy Division was separated from IDWR in September of 2007 as a result of Governor Otter's executive order 2007-11, which was later replaced with executive order 2007-15 in October of 2007. That same month Paul Kjellander was named as administrator of the new Idaho Office of Energy Resources now within the Office of the Governor.

Besides the state office in Boise, IDWR is comprised of four regional offices that provide services to Idaho citizens: Northern Regional Office, Coeur d'Alene; Western Regional Office, Boise; Southern Regional Office, Twin Falls; and Eastern Regional Office, Idaho Falls. IDWR also maintains a one-person satellite office in Salmon.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

IDWR has two operational divisions, the Water Management Division and the Planning and Technical Services Division. In addition, organizational entities consisting of Public Information Services, Legal Services and Support Services are under the IDWR Director in the organization chart. The attorneys in Legal Services are deputy attorneys general housed at IDWR. Support Services include Human Resources, Information Technology, Financial and Administrative Services.

Primary authority for the Idaho Department of Water Resources and its programs rests in Title 42, Idaho Code. The importance of water to the State of Idaho was recognized even before statehood. Article XV of the Constitution contains seven sections dealing with water including Section 7 that established the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB). In 1974 the Board, although a separate entity, was placed within the Department.

Water Management Division

This is the regulatory division for the Department. Staffs are located in the State Office, regional offices and satellite office. Staff in the regional offices conducts division programs as directed and supported by state office staff.

The Water Allocation Bureau provides two primary functions. The Water Allocation Section provides for recording, processing, changing and storing of all water rights in the state. The Water Distribution Section supervises water distribution via about 70 active water districts throughout the state.

The Adjudication Bureau supervises all water right adjudications in the state. In FY2008 the Bureau was busy assisting the settlement of Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) objections and working on commencing the first phase of the Northern Idaho Adjudication (NIA).

The SRBA is considered to be one of the most successful adjudications and a model for water right adjudication in the western states. All of the Director's Reports have been submitted to the Court in the SRBA, a significant milestone in the process, with the last one being filed on February 21, 2007. A total of 149,722 water rights recommendations have been reported to the Court. Decrees have been issued for 133,624 water rights as of August 11, 2008, with 16,734 still pending. Thousands of those pending have objection deadlines that ran intermittently until March 18, 2008. All outstanding issues are settled in 20 of the 43 SRBA basins with several basins having less than half a dozen remaining.

Overall, IDWR achieved reducing the contested water rights in the SRBA by over 500 water rights or nearly 15% from 3,884 to 3,308. This progress was made in spite of the upsurge in objections in Basin 37 Part 3 in the Big Wood River region. Despite 3,007 objections to 622 water right recommendations in Basin 37 Part 3, IDWR made steady progress to resolve objections and move toward a final decree and completing the SRBA.

SRBA Initial Hearings on each contested water right is still pending in five areas. The initial hearings and the period before and after the hearings are the labor intensive periods for IDWR staff. The process involves the exchange of information with the claimants and other parties to the water right objection and nearly always leads to resolving the objections. IDWR expects to make an increased rate of progress to resolve the remaining objections between the last half of FY2009 and the end of FY2010.

The Resource Protection Bureau is responsible for Safety of Dams, Stream Channel Protection, Ground Water Protection, and Flood Plain Management. Each of these programs is increasing in statewide significance and has been increasing in effectiveness via automation.

Planning and Technical Services Division

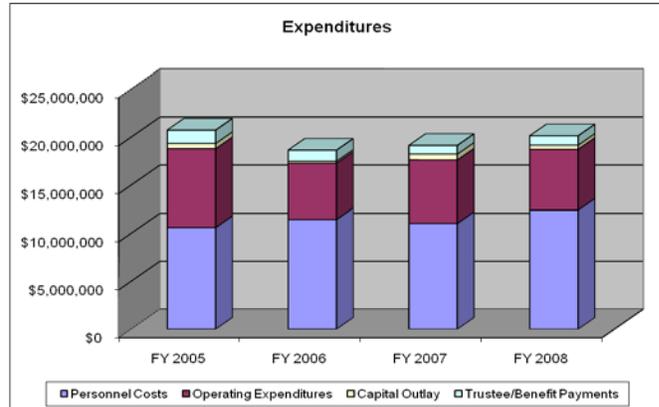
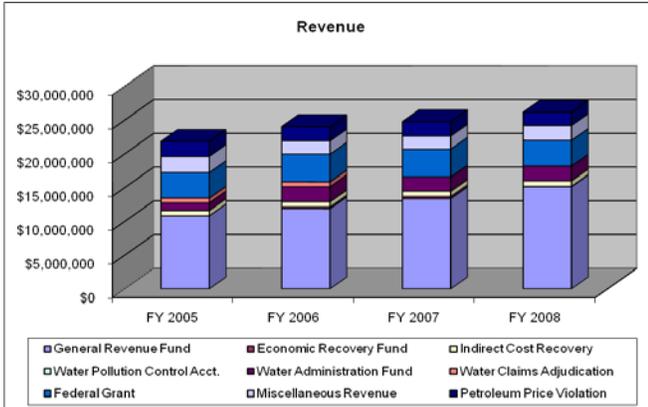
This division provides technical and planning support to IDWR and the IWRB. The Geospatial Technology unit is the designated leader, by Idaho Code 39-120, for natural resource geographic information systems (GIS). The GIS analysts have provided support to the attorney general's office, the legislative redistricting commission and many other state agencies and local governments.

The Hydrology Section provides the detailed scientific information necessary for administration, management, planning and protection of the state's water resources. Most of the functions of the Section are to provide data, expertise, and collaborative studies to the department and numerous organizations and governments. Water right accounting is a vital function that IDWR provides to southern Idaho water users. The accounting program tracks natural flow and storage water used and what remains in reservoirs. Ground water flow models and a system operations model for the Snake River are also the responsibility of the Hydrology Section. These models are used for a variety of purposes including quantification of the effects of drought, recharge and pumping on water levels and river flows.

The Planning Bureau primarily supports IWRB programs, including the State Water Plan, Idaho Water Supply Bank, water project development and funding, minimum stream flows, natural and recreational river designations and comprehensive basin and aquifer planning. The Bureau also is responsible for facilitating water transactions related to improving stream flows for fish.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
General Revenue Fund	\$10,825,800	\$11,867,300	\$13,354,200	\$15,124,800
Economic Recovery Fund	0	\$247,400	\$310,800	\$49,900
Indirect Cost Recovery	\$771,700	\$777,200	\$775,600	\$811,100
Water Pollution Control Acct.	0	0	0	0
Water Administration Fund	\$1,128,800	\$2,235,600	\$2,120,200	\$2,188,600
Water Claims Adjudication	\$703,500	\$703,500	0	0
Federal Grant	\$3,785,500	\$4,119,900	\$4,120,000	\$3,806,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,406,600	\$1,952,000	\$1,943,100	\$2,206,400
Petroleum Price Violation	\$2,195,700	\$2,120,800	\$2,128,000	\$1,958,700
Total	\$21,817,600	\$24,023,700	\$24,751,900	\$26,835,500
Expenditure	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personnel Costs	\$10,603,600	\$11,433,700	\$11,035,500	\$12,403,400
Operating Expenditures	\$8,197,200	\$5,858,200	\$6,596,300	\$6,338,200
Capital Outlay	\$548,900	\$200,200	\$601,600	\$431,900
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$1,391,000	\$1,148,600	\$909,300	\$971,300
Total	\$20,740,700	\$18,640,700	\$19,142,700	\$20,144,800



Part II – Performance Measures

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Water Management Director's Report Recommendations Prepared for the Snake River Basin Adjudication	6,301	8,485	15,866	Completed in FY 2008
Water Management Snake River Basin Adjudication recommendations for which objections were resolved				500* *for the last 6 months of FY2008
Water Management Water Right Transfers Approved	233	194	143	345
Water Management New wells constructed	4,527	4,501	4,028	3,988
Planning & Technical Services Annual # amount awards for IWRB loans and grants	3 grants for \$50,000 8 loans for \$3,326,172 1 revenue bond issuance for \$19,975,000 1 legislatively-funded project for \$24,375,000	10 loans for \$2,559,950 2 revenue bond issuances for \$16,831,698 2 revenue bond refundings for \$8,015,000 1 project expenditure for \$300,000**	10 loans for \$5,655,225 5 projects expenditures for \$1,429,294	15 loans for \$13,614,969 9 project expenditures for \$13,705,653 1 revenue bond issuance for \$10,000,000 for acquisition of Pristine Springs Trout Farm

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Planning & Technical Services	1,134	1,156	1,149	1,159
Number of surface and ground water measurement sites				
1. Managed Recharge	13	13	13	14
2. Geothermal	13	11	9	13
3. Groundwater Quality	420	407	408	408
4. Water Levels (USGS Co-op, IDWR, and private contracts)	572	607	595	595*
				*Note-830 wells were also tested for water levels in FY2008 as part of a mass measurement project. These are not included in the total
5. Surface Water (USGS gages + return flow sites)	116	118	124	129

For More Information Contact

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