



**Idaho Geological Survey
(IGS)
2017-2021
STRATEGIC PLAN**

Idaho Geological Survey

VISION STATEMENT

The Idaho Geological Survey 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, research, outreach, collaboration and educational* activities.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Idaho Geological Survey is 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.

Members of the Idaho Geological Survey staff acquire geologic information through field and laboratory investigations and through cooperative programs with other governmental, academic and private sector alliances. The Idaho Geological Survey provides timely and meaningful information to the public, industry, academia and legislative decision makers by conducting geologic mapping, geohazard assessments that focus on earthquakes and landslides, mineral and energy resource assessments, groundwater and hydrology research and educational and outreach opportunities. The Survey's Digital Mapping Laboratory is central to compiling, producing, and delivering new digital geologic maps and publications for the agency. The Idaho Geological Survey is also engaged in the collection and compilation of data and information pertaining to abandoned and inactive mines in the state, earth science education and a newly added focus of petroleum geology assessments. 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

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.

Service and Outreach

Goal 1: 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, website products, in-house collections and customer inquiries. Emphasize website delivery of

digital products and compliance with new revision of state documents requirements (Idaho Code 33-2505).

Objective 1: Develop and publish survey documents *Performance Measure:* Number of Published Reports on Geology/Hydrology/Geohazards/Mineral & Energy Resources (985 Publications, Maps and Reports cumulative; 15 maps published during 2015).

Benchmark: The number and scope of published reports will be equal to or greater than the number of publications from the preceding year.¹

Objective 2: Build and deliver website products

Performance Measure: Number of website products used or downloaded (For 2015: 155,577 downloads and 432,321 visitors to the IGS website).

Benchmark: The number of website products used or downloaded will be equal to or greater than the preceding year.¹

Objective 3: Sustain Idaho State Documents Depository Program and Georef Catalog (International)

Performance Measure: Percentage total of Survey documents available through these programs (~ 99%).

Benchmark: 100%²

Objective 4: Sustain voluntary compliance with uploads of new geologic mapping published at the Idaho Geologic Survey to the National Geologic Map Database Website managed by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Performance Measure: Number of Geologic Maps that are uploaded to this national website depicting detailed geologic mapping in Idaho (583 maps cumulative have been uploaded).

Benchmark: 100% of all geologic maps that are published at the Idaho Geological Survey each year will be uploaded to this website.²

Research

Goal 2: 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 and applied research activities. Sustain and build a strong research program through interdisciplinary collaboration with academic institutions, state and federal land management agencies and industry partners.

Objective 1: Sustain and enhance geological mapping and related studies

Performance Measure: Increase the geologic map coverage of Idaho by mapping priority areas of socioeconomic importance and areas that are

¹ These benchmarks is set based on existing resources and projected increases for this area. No additional resources were project at the time of setting this benchmark, there for a minimal increase would indicate growth in this area and increase efficiencies.

² This benchmark is set based on current level of performance and maintaining the current high level.

predisposed to geologic hazards as designated by Idaho Geological Mapping Advisory Committee.

Benchmark: Increase the cumulative percentage of Idaho's area covered by modern geologic mapping.³

Objective 2: Sustain and build external research funding Performance

Measure: Externally funded grant and contract dollars.

Benchmark: The number of externally funded grant and contract dollars compared to five year average.³

Education

Goal 3: 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 1: Develop and deliver earth science education programs and public presentations

Performance Measure: Educational programs for public audiences.

Benchmark: The number of educational presentations will be equal to or greater than the previous year.⁴

Key External Factors:

Funding:

Achievement of strategic goals and objectives is dependent on appropriate state funding.

External research support is subject to federal funding and there is increasing state competition for federal programs. Because most federal programs require a state match, the capability to secure these grants is dependent on state funds and the number of full time equivalent employees.

Emerging natural gas and condensate infrastructure and development in southwestern Idaho will necessitate new research tools and personnel at the Survey to maintain research capabilities and to provide pertinent information to the public and the Idaho legislature. Economic partnerships with the energy industry are currently under negotiation.

New partnerships are also being sought through universities, state agencies and natural resource industries.

³ This benchmark is dependent in part on the ability to receive external grants to broaden areas not already covered. Due to the increasingly competitive nature of external grant funding a simple year over year increase and variability in coverage areas project it was determined a simple increase of areas covered was a more meaningful measure rather than a set number of projects.

⁴ This benchmark is based on existing resources (including staff time) to provide presentations and developing educational partnerships to provide new venues for additional presentation above and beyond the current partnerships with public schools and postsecondary institutions.

Demand for services and products:

Changes in demand for geologic information due to energy and mineral economics play an important role in the achievement of strategic goals and objectives. Over the past five years, IGS has experienced a 76% increase in the number of downloaded products from the Survey's website. The number of visitors to the IGS website has increased by 111% over the same five year time frame. State population growth and requirements for geologic information by public decision makers and land managers are also key external factors that are projected to increase over time.

Aspirational Goals for the Idaho Geological Survey:

Provide high quality petroleum assessments and geologic services to evaluate oil gas potential in perspective areas of the state by augmenting the Survey's annual budget with a small percentage (~ 0.25%) of the proceeds from oil and gas severance taxes.

Provide critical mass for primary customer services and state agency collaboration through consolidation of two satellite offices in the southern part of the state at the Boise Water Center.

Provide better agency access for public patrons and growth potential for the IGS by relocation of the Moscow office to a more suitable facility on campus at the University of Idaho.

Increase the number and scope of digital web applications for the Survey's maps and geologic information to accommodate smart phone and tablet technologies for the public.