

Part 1 – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho State Historical Society is valuable to our state because we

- Foster the importance of place
- Advocate for history, historic preservation, and education
- Bring new resources to our communities statewide

Our history has given Idahoans a sense of direction from the beginning. Eighteen years after the Idaho Territory was established in the midst of civil war and westward expansion, and nine years before statehood in 1890, a roomful of early settlers created the Historical Society of Idaho Pioneers. As technology and time itself accelerated in the late nineteenth century, several of these founders sensed how much of their own heritage was about to be lost and how much native heritage remained to be discovered. Their efforts led to the establishment of the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) as a state agency in 1907.

The society has evolved in its first century into an extraordinary system of cultural and historic resources, comprised of the Idaho State Historical Museum, Idaho Public Archives and Research Library, State Historic Preservation Office, State Historic Sites program, and agency administration. ISHS is governed by a board consisting of seven trustees, who represent the judicial districts of the state and are appointed by the governor for terms of six years. This board of is empowered to appoint a director to serve as the administrative officer of the society. With support from the Foundation for Idaho History, a staff of fifty professionals, 200 volunteers, and facilities statewide, ISHS now serves annually more than 100,000 people on-site and reaches an additional 700,000 via its web site.

The **Idaho State Historical Museum** is accredited by the American Association of Museums and is the largest and most visited museum in the state. Its many interactive programs add value to the state, illuminating Idaho's history through public programs which are authentic, relevant and exciting for children, students, families, adults, tourists, and newcomers.

The **Idaho History Center** in Boise houses the agency's administrative office, and the **Public Archives and Research Library** provides public and scholarly access to holdings in many media dealing with Idaho history, local history, and genealogy. These include manuscripts, state archives, books, periodicals, oral history interviews, films and videos, microfilms, and maps. The Office of the State Historian is located in north Idaho, in Moscow.

This **Historic Sites** program oversees sites at Pierce, Franklin, Rock Creek, and Boise. These include the old federal Assay Office, a national historic landmark, where the State Historic Preservation Office is located and the old federal Bureau of Reclamation building on Broadway Avenue, which we lease to Riverstone International Baccalaureate School.

Under the terms of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the **State Historic Preservation Office** administers the National Register of Historic Places and the state's historic and archaeological site inventories, the certified local government program, and the tax incentive program, and carries out federal project review duties. In 1992 the state legislature established the Archaeological Survey of Idaho with collections repositories in Pocatello, Boise, and Moscow.

Mission Statement

Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) preserves and promotes Idaho's cultural heritage

Vision Statement of Purpose

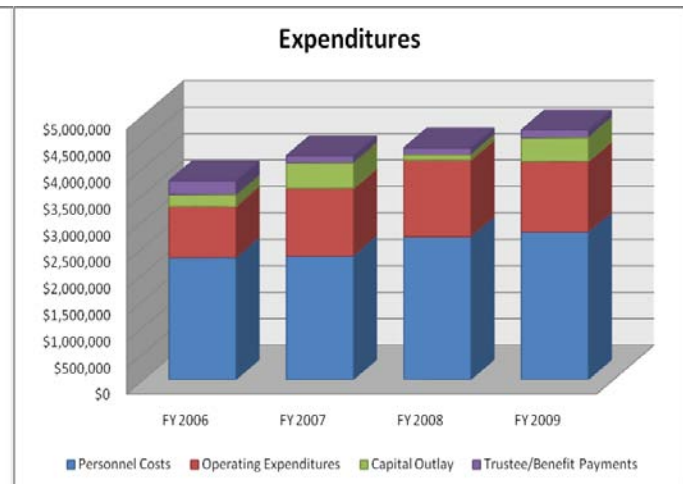
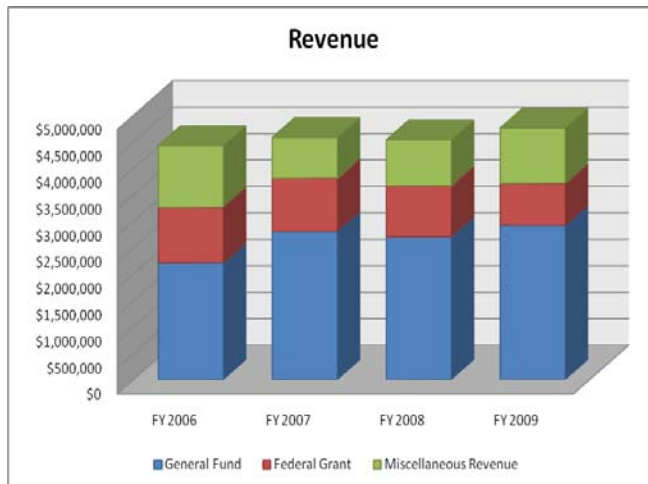
Our vision is to inspire, enrich and engage all Idahoans by leading the state in preserving and sharing our dynamic cultural heritage.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

People have wrested a living from Idaho's remarkable resources for more than 13,000 years. Our state has a rich history and prehistory, and the Idaho State Historical Society is charged with responsibility for its preservation and promotion in accordance with Chapters 41 and 46 of Title 67 of the Idaho Code and other statutory capacity assigned by Titles 9, 14, 27, 31, 33, 50, 49, 58, and 63. The society serves as an agency of the State Board of Education, with oversight provided by a seven member board of trustees.

Revenue and Expenditures:

Revenue	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Fund	\$2,200,000	\$2,797,700	2,696,900	2,913,700
Federal Grant	\$1,047,400	996,900	953,300	787,300
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,175,000	779,600	876,300	1,051,700
Total	\$4,422,400	\$4,574,200	4,526,500	4,752,700
Expenditure	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personnel Costs	\$2,303,206	\$2,329,900	2,697,900	2,783,400
Operating Expenditures	\$956,995	1,278,200	1,443,800	1,334,600
Capital Outlay	\$233,269	488,300	97,900	452,200
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$258,012	132,400	135,700	143,500
Total	\$3,751,482	\$4,228,800	4,375,300	4,713,700



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Number of Public Archives/Research Library Patrons Served	10,828	12,458	15,354	14,964
Number of Paid Visitors to the Historical Museum Per Annum	32,600	26,979	32,735	25,066
Number of Students (K-12) Served by Educational Programs at the Historical Museum	14,758	14,537	15,000	12,082
Number of Students Participating in Idaho History Day Contest	1,213	1,100	1,100	1,100
SHPO federal project reviews	1,152	1,010	1,151	1,240
Number of Paid visitors to the Old Pen Site	21,043	23,852	23,539	28,022

Performance Highlights

For 102 years, the society has deployed its historic resources strategically to benefit Idahoans through public programs in education, preservation, and technical assistance. The Idaho State Historical Society:

- Serves over 100,000 Idahoans annually through educational tours and programs, research use, technical assistance reviews, and its educational events.
- Is the primary keeper of Idaho's stories, with over a quarter million artifacts, a half million images, 3,100 oral histories and 65,000 cubic feet of manuscript and archival materials documenting Idaho's rich history.
- Keeps secure all of Idaho's stories and shares them with residents and visitors to encourage a richer understanding of our past and our present.

FY 2009 presented many challenges due to the current international economic downturn. In concert with all state agencies, ISHS revised our budget multiple times to meet with state requests, and we completed the transformation from an agency of the State Board of Education to a self-governing agency, all the while continuing our work to meet statutory obligations and fulfill our mission. That said, we had an extraordinary year of new accomplishments and successes:

Promoting Responsible Government

- So that it could become more connected with affiliated institutions and colleagues in Idaho, ISHS began a new Community Forum initiative in 2007. The goal of this program was to create a conversation with constituents statewide, provide an ISHS agency update and information about national initiatives, and hear the concerns, needs, and successes of cultural colleagues and their programs. In FY 2008 & 2009, we conducted community forums in Coeur d'Alene, Franklin, Hailey, Jerome, Moscow, Rupert, Salmon, Sandpoint, and Weiser.
- "The Old Idaho Penitentiary is one of the West's most significant prison sites and one of the most-visited historic facilities in Idaho," noted Congressman Mike Simpson when announcing that he had secured \$150,000 through the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures program for critical stabilization work at the Old Pen. The Old Pen is one of only four territorial prisons still standing in the United States. An imaginative interpretive program featuring guided walks and special programs like "Night Stalkers: Detective Stories from the Old Penitentiary" with its flashlight tour, keeps thousands of visitors a year coming to the Old Pen. The Pen was again this year named the "Best Historic Site of the Treasure Valley." But this American Treasure is more than just a treasure for the valley; when the Travel Channel sought a place to conduct an investigation of paranormal activity for its popular "Ghost Adventures" program, it filmed at the Old Pen.
- The stories of the inmates who lived here are now also much more accessible to scholars, journalists, and family historians, thanks to the publication of the massive *Inmates of the Idaho Penitentiary: A Comprehensive Catalog*. This finding aid provides access to the records of more than 7,000 former inmates.
- More than sixty historic structures are maintained statewide by ISHS. Many of them are in the Old Penitentiary, but the society also operates its State Historic Preservation Office from one of only three National Historic Landmark buildings in Idaho, Boise's Old Assay Office. And, in collaboration with partners, it manages sites in Pierce, Hansen, and Franklin. Major improvements this year complemented the interpretive facilities at Franklin, Idaho's oldest community. The Franklin site consists of the 1865 Doney House, 1869 Franklin Cooperative Mercantile Institute Store, 1872 Hatch House, and 1937 Relic Hall. The Hatch House, soon to be opened to the public for the first time, will become the home of a major new exhibit featuring the history of the area.
- This was also the 25th anniversary of the donation to the society of the Rock Creek historic site near Hansen. Rock Creek, once an important hub on the Oregon Trail and Kelton Wagon Road, is today maintained in partnership with The Friends of Stricker Ranch, which also commemorated its 25th anniversary. A gala party, also celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of former owner Lucy Walgamott Stricker, took place at the site in May, with Governor Otter declaring May 16 as "Lucy Walgamott Stricker and The Friends of Stricker Ranch Recognition Day" in Idaho.

- ISHS continued its efforts to assist in the State Capitol Restoration Project. The society is responsible for more than 600 pieces of historic furnishings. Legislative photographs were scanned, reproduced, and reframed to be hung in the restored statehouse. More than 5,000 boxes of records that were in statehouse agencies have been permanently transferred to the Public Archives and Research Library. The ISHS is also responsible for the planning and development of new permanent exhibitions on the governmental history of Idaho and the history of the state capitol's restoration.
- The acquisition of the papers of Governor Dirk Kempthorne spurred the development at the Public Archives and Research Library of a Governor's Room, allowing all governors papers to be stored in a single, climate-controlled area. ISHS is the repository of more Governor's papers than any other facility in the state.

The Governor's Room features compact mobile shelving, which is also coming to the rest of the Public Archives and Research Library (PARL). As the official repository for city, county, and state archives, as well as hundreds of manuscript collections, PARL faces an ongoing challenge of finding adequate storage space for its ever-growing collections. This fiscal year marked the beginning of a large-scale project to install compact mobile shelving that will double usable storage space.

- More than 1,200 people per day access the society's website at www.idahohistory.net. Increasingly, researchers rely on the internet to access materials. ISHS has a unique collection of archives, manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, moving images, and oral histories. To facilitate use of these materials, all units of the society have increased efforts to provide digital access. In the past year, school lesson plans were made available on-line, as was a guide to help students research Idaho history, and a classroom activity session that introduces students to primary and secondary sources. Photograph collections and finding aids were made available on the ISHS site, and the society continued participating in the Idaho Digital Memories Project, a consortium of Idaho libraries, museums, and historical societies.
- Take a look around: the road you drive, courthouse you frequent, school you attend, or park you visit might well be a legacy of the New Deal in Idaho. To commemorate the New Deal's 75th anniversary, the society's largest statewide outreach program, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month, chose "The New Deal: A Legacy of Public Works in Idaho" as this year's theme. In May, every corner of the state participated in commemorating the New Deal with presentations, bike and walking tours, exhibits, open houses, festivals, and even showings of 1930s movies. In its 21st year, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month has brought quality programming to thousands of Idahoans in virtually every community in the state.
- The Idaho State Historical Museum is a lively place no matter what day you visit. But every fall, the Museum truly "comes to life" with a special day devoted to hands-on history. This year, on the 35th anniversary of Museum Comes to Life, more than 8,000 participated, the largest crowd ever. They panned for gold, made paper, and traded with fur trappers. Hat makers, weavers, quilters, re-enactors, and musicians shared their skills. The Museum kept visitors coming all year with an exciting succession of temporary exhibits, including "Brotherhood: Freemasonry's Mark on Idaho," a Lewis Wickes Hine photo exhibit on child labor, "Let Children be Children," and "Darfur: Photojournalists Respond." For the Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Idaho, the Museum not only hosted a special exhibit, but also welcomed the Olympians with hands-on history stations. The Museum Store was well-stocked to provide Idaho keepsakes for the 3,000 international visitors who traveled to Boise, and the Museum enhanced its collections with new donations relating to this significant event in Idaho history.

Enhancing Economic Opportunity

- The Foundation for Idaho History, our 501 (c)(3) partner organization, continued to increase its efforts to enhance private sector funding on our behalf. We are most thankful for the efforts of our ISHS Trustees and Foundation Board as the ISHS seeks to raise non-state funds to support its programs and services.
- More than a decade ago, the community of Rupert gathered together to revision their future and selected the Wilson Theater as a focal point to begin the effort to recreate their downtown. This year, with consultation from our State Historic Preservation Office, the Wilson Theater is nearing completion, but in

addition nearly fifty percent of other buildings in the town square have also been restored and improved. Rupert provides an exciting example of how history can be a pivotal focus for community economic development. Other communities are using history to create events that attract tourist dollars that are vital to local economies. Ketchum's Wagon Days is a premier example, drawing tens of thousands of visitors over Labor Day weekend.

Investment in history is good business. A number of cities have recognized this and are acting on this principle. Nampa's city government has partnered with the Canyon County Historical Society and other groups to create economic incentives for businesses to preserve and restore buildings in the historical business area through grants and planning assistance. The City of Boise has created a Department of Arts and History to represent these values in all city endeavors.

- A partnership with the 2009 World Winter Games/Special Olympics organization, resulting in exhibitions, programs, and a new Idaho Special Olympics collection, drew thousands internationally to Idaho.

Empowering Idahoans

- "For more than 35 years, the Bonner County Historical Society has gathered an extensive archives of photographs, documents, and newspapers holding the history of Bonner County. With funding from the Sister Alfreda Award, we are now able to focus our efforts toward making our collection one of the most accessible in Idaho through digitization, indexing, and improved storage." **Ann Ferguson, Director, Bonner County Historical Museum**
- It is a rare day when someone on the ISHS staff is not on the road, giving workshops, presentations, and offering professional assistance to organizations throughout the state. When smoke damaged artifacts at the Lewis-Clark Center for Arts and History in Lewiston, Society staff assisted in professionally caring for the materials. When the Potlatch Historical Society requested assistance in the design of new exhibit cases, ISHS staff provided ideas. When the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation needed advice on the preservation of historic structures at Harriman State Park, Society personnel provided the help. Society staff worked with historic preservation commissions, museums, historical societies, and other partner organizations, answering questions about artifact care, fundraising, exhibit design, and a wide diversity of other topics. Outreach is one of the most significant activities the society undertakes.
- The society's trustees awarded more than \$68,000 in Community Assistance Grants, the third year of the program. The 21 grantees used the money to digitize collections, construct exhibit cases, sponsor speakers bureaus, conduct oral histories, purchase computers, design websites, purchase storage shelving, and provide climate control in museums. The Community Assistance Grants program is possible because of legislative support. The society also passed through \$70,000 in National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Program funding to 19 cities and counties through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program to assist in preservation planning and projects. In addition to its two grant programs, ISHS also partnered with the State Historic Records Advisory Board in its first grant program. The Records Board awarded \$20,000 to help local organizations better preserve historic records; ISHS provided grant administration services.
- The society partnered with Idaho Heritage Trust and the Idaho Humanities Council to provide a first-ever jointly funded award to one museum in Idaho. The Bonner County Historical Museum received the first Sister Alfreda Elsensohn Award, and \$15,000, which it used to completely renovate its research library. The Bonner County Museum has one of the most significant research collections in north Idaho. The Award will be given annually to a museum in Idaho. Sister Alfreda (1897-1989), an educator, author, and scholar, founded the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude's Monastery in 1931. "A museum is a bridge which links the present with the past," said Sister Alfreda at the 1980 dedication at the new museum at St. Gertrude's, and it is the significant work of bridging past and future that this new award recognizes.
- "The Dry Creek Historical Society was honored to learn that we are the recipients of the Corey Award. We appreciate the technical support by the State Historic Preservation Office. Tricia Canaday offered advice early; Ann Swanson helped us secure grants; and Shelby Day and Suzi Pengilly encouraged and

assisted us with our nomination for the AASLH award.” ***Claudia Druss, Board of Directors, Dry Creek Historical Society***

The awards program of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) represents the highest national recognition for state and local history. And the highest award is the Albert B. Corey Award, which “is reserved for very deserving, small, primarily volunteer-operated organizations that best display vigor, scholarship, and imagination.” Only one Corey Award can be given annually, and some years no award is made. In 2009, for the first time ever, an Idaho organization, the Dry Creek Historical Society, won the Corey Award for their work saving the Schick-Ostolasa Farmstead in Boise’s Hidden Springs from demolition.

Its efforts not only preserved the site, but also transformed it into a vital part of the community.

Also representing the best nationally were four Idaho AASLH Award of Merit winners—the most ever won by Idaho in one year. The winners were:

- Idaho Heritage Trust.
- The Idaho Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.
- Helen Turner Lowell, 104-year-old Parma resident.
- Twin Falls County Historic Preservation Commission.

Society staff members Shelby Day and Suzi Pengilly are AASLH Awards co-chairs for Idaho; Keith Petersen serves as the regional representative for Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.

- The ISHS Board of Trustees honored eleven individuals and organizations with its highest recognition, the Esto Perpetua Award. Named for the state motto, meaning “let it be perpetual,” the Esto Perpetua Award program commemorated its 10th anniversary in 2008. The Award honors significant contributions to the preservation of Idaho history through professional accomplishment, public service, volunteerism, and philanthropy, and is presented at the society’s annual meeting. The 2008 winners were:
 - Teddie Daley, Laura Hall, and the Blaine County Museum/Heritage Court, Hailey
 - Shelley Kuther, Craigmont
 - Ruth Ann Olsen and the South Bannock County Historical Center, Lava Hot Springs
 - Julie Monroe, Moscow
 - Marion Shinn, Lewiston
 - Ketchum Wagon Days Committee, Ketchum
 - Marcia Wall, Coeur d’Alene
 - Madge Wylie, Melba
- Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar presented Idaho with a U.S. Department of the Interior “Partners in Conservation Award,” one of only 22 given nationwide. Suzi Pengilly, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, and Don Watts, Historic Preservation Planner, represented the ISHS part of the partnership that included the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the Bureau of Land Management. Recognition came for the team’s efforts to protect and preserve the distinctive characteristics of the historic Bayhorse town site and nearby mining properties.
- Marissa Lords and Tyler Stephens, eighth graders at Rocky Mountain Middle School in Idaho Falls, made Idaho history. They became the first contestants from Idaho to win a National Gold Medal at National History Day competition, winning for their exhibit, “Fighting for Victory One Stamp at a Time: Buster Hill.” In addition to the medal, Tyler and Marissa received \$1,000. Their teacher, Rona Johnson, received a \$2,500 cash award.
- The Idaho Historic Preservation Council honored Ann Swanson with its “Distinguished Preservationist Award” for 2009. Ann’s work at the State Historic Preservation Office over the past 25 years with the Certified Local Government Program has made her one of the society’s most recognized staff members as she works with communities on preservation issues throughout the state.

- The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation awarded Executive Director Janet Gallimore a Youth Achievement Award for her work on behalf of the Confluence Project in the Schools, a Columbia River Basin educational program. Jan was Chief Operating Officer of the Confluence Project before coming to ISHS.
- Through strong partnerships with affiliate organizations, we have nearly finished a ten-year project to restore and interpret the Franklin Historic Properties.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	Benchmark
Number of Daily Page Views on the Web Site (average time spent 23 minutes per user session)	1,973	2,101	2316	*	Maintain/exceed previous fiscal year
Number of Paid Visitors to Historical Museum and Old Penitentiary	53,643	50,831	56,274	53,088**	Maintain/exceed previous fiscal year
Number of Children Served by Educational Programs at the Museum	14,758	14,537	15,000	13,182**	Maintain/exceed previous fiscal year
Number of Federal Projects Reviewed for Compliance With Section 106 and Done Within 30 day Deadline ***	1,152	1,010	1,151	1,240	100%
Cubic Feet of Material Added to the Public Archives	6020	6,423	4,397	1,514**	Maintain/exceed previous fiscal year
Idaho Historical and Archaeological Sites added to the Archeological Survey of Idaho	1,112	907	908	908	Maintain/exceed previous fiscal year

Performance Measure Notes:

* The state webmaster ceased running a web count application as of August 16, 2008, making continued collection and analysis of these numbers impossible until further notice.

** These numbers may be down as a result of economically motivated reductions in travel by both agency staff and the public.

*** Federal Section 106 compliance reviews determine potential impact to culture properties. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office assists federal agencies (and serves as a “monitor” on behalf of the citizens of Idaho) to insure that federal projects comply with federal law. All Section 106 reviews must be completed within 30 days.

For More Information Contact

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