

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. Gary Spackman is the Interim Director of IDWR replacing David Tuthill who retired on June 30, 2009. Interim Director Spackman was appointed to his position by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter on July 16, 2009, having served as IDWR Water Management Administrator since January of 2007.

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. Staff is located in the State Office, regional offices and satellite office. Staffs in the regional offices conduct 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 FY2009 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 150,754 water rights recommendations have been reported to the Court. Decrees have been issued for 141,911 water rights as of August 18, 2009, with 8,843 still pending. All outstanding issues are settled in 26 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 1,300 water right claims or nearly 34% from 3,884 in January 2008 to 2,561 in August 2009. Despite larger blocks of contentious issues in several areas of the SRBA, IDWR made steady progress to resolve objections and move toward a final decree and completing the SRBA.

SRBA Initial Hearings on contested water right claims remain pending in one area and in parts of only two other 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 all but about 1,200 remaining objections between now 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.

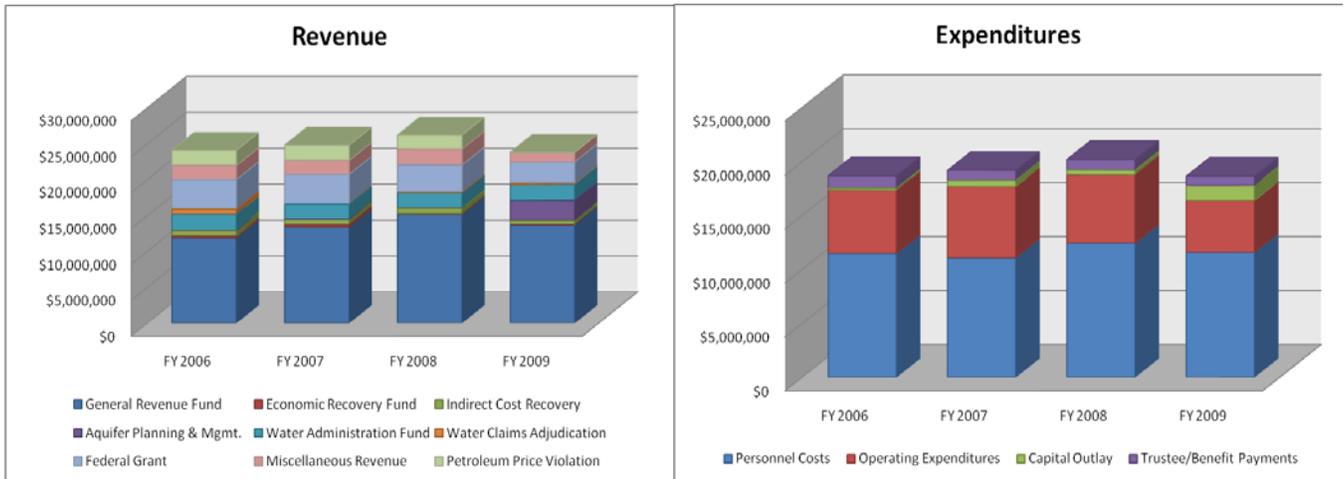
The Hydrology Section provides the detailed scientific information necessary for administration, management, planning and protection of the state's water resources. Most of the functions of the Section are to provide data, expertise, and collaborative studies to the department and numerous organizations 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 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Revenue Fund	\$11,867,300	\$13,354,200	\$15,124,800	\$13,678,000
Economic Recovery Fund	\$247,400	\$310,800	\$49,900	0
Indirect Cost Recovery	\$777,200	\$775,600	\$811,100	\$602,600
Aquifer Planning & Mgmt.	0	0	0	\$2,758,500
Water Administration Fund	\$2,235,600	\$2,120,200	\$2,188,600	\$2,230,200
Water Claims Adjudication	\$703,500	0	0	\$197,000
Federal Grant	\$4,119,900	\$4,120,000	\$3,806,000	\$2,957,500
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,952,000	\$1,943,100	\$2,206,400	\$1,323,400
Petroleum Price Violation	\$2,120,800	\$2,128,000	\$1,958,700	0
Total	\$24,023,700	\$24,751,900	\$26,835,500	\$23,747,200

Expenditure	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personnel Costs	\$11,433,700	\$11,035,500	\$12,403,400	\$11,532,000
Operating Expenditures	\$5,858,200	\$6,596,300	\$6,338,200	\$4,813,600
Capital Outlay	\$200,200	\$601,600	\$431,900	\$1,400,500
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$1,148,600	\$909,300	\$971,300	\$854,500
Total	\$18,640,700	\$19,142,700	\$20,144,800	\$18,600,600



Part II – Performance Measures

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Water Management Director's Report Recommendations Prepared for the Snake River Basin Adjudication	8,485	15,866	Completed in FY 2008	169 late claims reported which were granted by the court
Water Management Northern Idaho Adjudication				Commencement Order issued Nov. 12, 2008 Nearly 2,000 claims filed Nearly 10,000 commencement notices mailed
Water Management Water Right Transfers Approved	194	143	345	338
Water Management New wells constructed	4,501	4,028	3,988	2,584
Planning & Technical Services Annual # amount awards for IWRB loans and grants	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	6 loans for \$2,251,460 9 project Expenditures for \$4,996,780
Planning & Technical Services Number of surface and ground water measurement sites	1,156	1,149	1,159	1,202
1. Managed Recharge	13	13	14	14
2. Geothermal	11	9	13	13
3. Groundwater Quality	407	408	408	386
4. Water Levels (USGS Co-op, IDWR, and private contracts)	607	595	595*	621
			*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	*Note-water levels were collected in approx. 830 ESPA wells in FY2009 as part of ESPA mass measurement. These are not included in the total
5. Surface Water (USGS gages + return flow sites)	118	124	129	168

For More Information Contact

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