

## Part I – Agency Profile

### Agency Overview

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) actively guides, manages, and plans for the use and conservation of Idaho's water resources. Gary Spackman, the Director of IDWR, was appointed to his position by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter on July 11, 2012, after having served as Interim Director since July 16, 2009.

The eight person Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) was created by constitutional amendment in 1965. The current members of the IWRB are Roger Chase, Chairman; Jeff Raybould; Vice Chairman; Vince Alberdi, Secretary; Peter Van Der Muelen, Charles Cuddy; John "Bert" Stevenson; Albert Barker; and Dale Van Stone;.

The Director and the IWRB interact in a level working relationship. The Board sets long term vision and policy, finances, constructs, and operates water projects on behalf of the state. The Director is charged with water right administrative responsibilities and other regulatory functions.

In addition to the state office in Boise, IDWR is comprised of four regional offices that provide services to Idaho citizens: Northern Regional Office, Coeur d'Alene; Southern Regional Office, Twin Falls; Eastern Regional Office, Idaho Falls and Western Regional Office, Boise.

### Core Functions/Idaho Code

IDWR operates with four bureaus and a stand-alone section: the Water Allocations Bureau, the Water Compliance Bureau, the Planning Bureau, the Information Technology Services Bureau, and the Hydrology Section. In addition, IDWR is supported by two other organizational entities consisting of Legal Services and Support Services. The Legal Services staff are provided by the Office of the Attorney General and housed at IDWR. Support Services include Human Resources, Purchasing, and Fiscal.

Primary authority for the existence of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, the Idaho Water Resource Board, and their programs rest in Title 42, Idaho Code. The importance of water to the State of Idaho was recognized even before statehood. Article XV of Idaho's Constitution contains seven sections dealing with water including Section 7 that established the Idaho Water Resource Board. IDWR provides staff to the Idaho Water Resource Board.

**The Water Allocation Bureau** is one of two regulatory bureaus within the Department. The Water Allocation Bureau personnel are located in the state office and all four regional offices. Staff in the regional offices carry out bureau programs as directed and supported by state office staff. The Water Allocation Bureau is divided into three units: the Water Rights Section, the Adjudication Section, and the Safety of Dams program.

The Water Rights Section processes applications for new water rights and water right changes, also creates, archives, and maintains all water right records in the state.

The Adjudication Section (formerly Adjudication Bureau) was merged into the Water Allocation Bureau during FY2010. The Adjudication Section supervises all water right adjudications in the state.

The Safety of Dams program reviews and approves design plans for construction and repair of dams and mine tailings impoundment structures. Other duties include regularly inspecting new and existing dams for safety, consults with dam owners and county emergency personnel to update emergency action/operation plans, offering engineering services within the scope of program duties, and archiving information related to dams, mine tailings impoundment structures, and other water storage projects.

**The Water Compliance Bureau** is the second regulatory bureau within the Department. Water Compliance personnel are located primarily in the state office, with select positions staffed at various regional offices. Staff in the regional offices carry out bureau programs as directed and supported by state office staff. The Water Compliance Bureau was formed in FY12 by merging the Water Distribution Section and the Resource Protection Bureau, and is divided into two sections and two program units: the Water Distribution Section, the Ground Water Protection Section, the Stream Channel Protection program, and the Floodplain Management program.

The Water Distribution Section supervises water distribution via approximately 100 active water districts throughout the state and assists various water districts each year in areas of Watermaster guidance, water measurement, and water right enforcement.

The Ground Water Protection Section issues permits for new well construction; field verifies proper well construction; archives information about construction, geographic location, and hydrogeology; and licenses well drillers.

The Stream Channel program evaluates potential alterations to stream channels for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic life, recreation, aesthetic beauty and water quality. A bureau staff position coordinates regulatory and enforcement matters for Water Distribution, Ground Water Protection and Stream Channel programs.

The Floodplain Management program administers the National Flood Insurance Program, assists Idaho's RISK Map program with the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS) to map Idaho flood risks, and educates local governments, developers, and individuals planning land uses in flood hazard areas. During FY14, the RISK Map program and one full time position (FTP) was transferred from IDWR to IBHS to enhance assistance to counties for all hazard mitigation planning.

**The Information Technology Services (ITS) Bureau** is responsible for the Department's computer and information system needs, which include traditional information technologies (IT), database administration, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) web development, and computer programming. The ITS bureau is divided into two sections: the GIS Section, and the IT Section, which includes web development and computer programming staff.

Idaho Code 39-120 assigns IDWR as the designated leader for natural resource geographic information systems. The Geospatial Technology Section (GIS Section) provides expertise, applications, data, and analyses that are used throughout the Department to support business processes. The GIS section creates and updates spatial information in both vector and spatial form. The GIS section provides image processing including evapotranspiration estimates over irrigated lands. The section coordinates with other state agencies for imagery acquisition. Data layers that are created by the department are served to the public through our web site and through the GIS geospatial clearinghouse. The GIS Section also provides web based tools and applications that are used by IDWR staff and the public. GIS data layers are used to evaluate well drilling applications, water right applications, compliance issues, and to refine and improve ground water modeling. GIS analysts provide support to the attorney general's office, the legislative redistricting commission, and many other state agencies and local governments.

The IT Section maintains the networks, servers, computers, off-the-shelf software, internet, telecommunication systems, and the Department's webpage. The IT Section provides technical support and assistance for all telephone, network, and computer related hardware and software installation issues. The Department's computer programming group is also included within the IT Section. The programming group is responsible for the majority of the Department's program application development, operation, and maintenance.

**The Hydrology Section** provides detailed scientific data, information, expertise, and technical support for the administration, management, planning, and protection of the state's water resources. Section hydrologists account for the delivery of reservoir storage and natural stream flow according to Idaho's water right priority system. Staff develops and operates ground water models of major aquifers within the state, and maintains and operates a river and reservoir system operations model of the Snake River for planning purposes. The data, models, and programs are used for predicting the water supply for the upcoming irrigation season, planning for improved utilization of water resources, and quantifying the effects of drought, recharge, and pumping on aquifer water levels and river flows. These studies and modeling efforts are often a part of a collaborative process that is important to private industry, agricultural interests, numerous organizations, other government agencies, and the Department in developing an understanding of the hydrology of Idaho.

**The Planning and Projects Bureau** is divided into a Water Projects Section with several adjunct staff reporting directly to the Bureau Chief. The Planning and Projects 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 Planning and Projects Bureau is responsible for overseeing and administering, on behalf of the IWRB, several large-scale initiatives, including implementing the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer-Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (ESPA-CAMP), evaluating new water storage reservoirs throughout the state, and undertaking projects in the Upper Salmon River Basin to provide flows needed for recovery of ESA-listed anadromous fish species, including alleviating water use conflicts between the needs of fish and irrigated agriculture.

**Revenue and Expenditures**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>
General Revenue Fund	11,101,500	11,195,000	11,827,400	12,646,600
Indirect Cost Recovery	587,900	626,100	613,700	627,300
Aquifer Planning & Mgmt.	2,757,400	2,767,100	2,794,300	1,223,200
Water Admin. Fund	1,742,400	1,757,700	1,416,700	1,448,200
Water Claims Adjud.	35,000	35,000	15,900	0
N Idaho Adjudication	105,900	106,800	109,300	112,100
Federal Grant	3,581,100	3,593,700	3,636,000	3,725,400
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>1,222,200</u>	<u>1,230,100</u>	<u>1,253,900</u>	<u>1,385,300</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,133,400</b>	<b>21,311,500</b>	<b>21,667,200</b>	<b>21,168,100</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>
Personnel Costs	9,887,800	9,873,800	9,791,200	10,600,900
Operating Expenditures	5,512,100	5,079,700	4,875,000	5,386,800
Capital Outlay	283,700	229,000	362,700	282,300
Trustee/Benefit Payments	<u>554,000</u>	<u>554,000</u>	<u>570,600</u>	<u>576,900</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,237,600</b>	<b>15,736,500</b>	<b>15,599,500</b>	<b>16,846,900</b>

**Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided**

<b>Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>
<b>Water Allocation Bureau</b>				
<b>Northern Idaho Adjudications</b>				
New Claims Filed	Nearly 250	Approx. 213 plus 364 federal law claims	402	Approx. 60
Notices of Commencements	704 (2nd round)	0	0	0
Director's Report Recommendations	N/A	358 plus 364 federal law claims	1,442 plus 19 federal law claims	1,916 plus 62 federal law claims
<b>Applications for Permit</b>				
Resolved	N/A	397	382	515
Average Processing Time for Resolved Permits	N/A	2.8 yrs	2.3 yrs	1.6 yrs
Median Processing Time for Resolved Permits	N/A	0.4 yrs	0.3 yrs	0.3 yrs
Unresolved Applications in Progress	N/A	594	642	569
Unresolved Applications on Moratorium Hold	N/A	645	645	657

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
<b>Water Right Transfers</b>				
Applications Resolved	249	311	280	261
Average Processing Time for Resolved Transfers	0.5 years	0.7 years	0.4 yrs	0.6 yrs
Median Processing Time for Resolved Transfers	N/A	0.2 years	0.2 yrs	0.2 yrs
Unresolved Transfers	108	115	143	163
<b>Water Right Licenses</b>				
Licenses Issued	967	747	521	499
Permits Needing to be Licensed	2279	1741	1473	1,176
<b>Water Right Ownership Changes</b>				
Owner changes processed	N/A	2232	2607	2,587
Owner changes to be processed	N/A	564	423	362
<b>Safety of Dams program</b>	Calendar Year	Calendar Year	Calendar Year	Year-to-Date
Inspections of Existing Dams	141	146	107	33
Design Review & Approval for New Construction or Repair	9	6	5	4
% of High Hazard Dams with Up-to-Date Emergency Action Plans	41/85=48%	62%	42%	42%
<b>Water Compliance Bureau</b>				
<b>Water Distribution</b>				
Water Districts Created, Expanded, or Modified	3	3	1	2
Measurement Orders Issued (comprehensive orders only)	0	4	3	1
<b>Ground Water Protection</b>				
Well Permits Issued	2,406	2,790	2,746	3,020
Driller Licenses	214	173	237	184
Injection Well Apps Processed	407	408	132	195
Geothermal Well Apps Processed	4	6	12	4
Well Seal Inspections Completed	N/A	189	182	197
Drilling Companies contacted (field site visits)	N/A	54	54	47
<b>Enforcement/Compliance (Water Rights, Well Construction, and Stream Channel)</b>				
Notices of Violation Issued	9	16	41	16
<b>Stream Channel Alterations (SCA) Program</b>				
SCA Apps Received	244	263	340	280
SCA Permits Issued (FY 2013 & FY 2014 do <i>not</i> include State/Federal agency MOU permits)	176	190	246	207
<b>Recreational Mining Letter</b>				
Permits issued	N/A	300	369	435
<b>Flood Plain Management Program</b>				
Community Asst. Visits (CAV's) Opened or Ongoing	N/A	6	8	14

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Closed	N/A	3	4	1
Comm. Asst. Contacts (CAC's)				
Initiated or Opened	N/A	3	1	47
Closed	N/A	1	3	47
Training/Outreach Workshops and Presentations	N/A	13	24	23
<b>Planning and Projects Bureau</b>				
<b>Water Resource Board</b>				
Loans	7 for \$5,635,777	0	6 for \$9,290,000	6 for \$11,302,775
Revenue Bond Issuances	N/A	0	N/A	0
Surface Water Storage Studies in Progress (Weiser-Galloway, Boise River, Henry's Fork-Teton)	3	3	3	3
ESPA Aquifer Management measure – Ground Water-to- Surface Water projects installed (per acre)	5 for 2,434 ac	1 for 3,000 ac	0	0
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer – acre feet recharged into aquifer	20,470 AF	11,556 AF	75,233 AF	66,437 AF
Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plans (CAMPs) completed and approved (Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer CAMP)	0	0	0	0
Upper Salmon River Basin streamflow improvement projects	6 for \$493,483	4 for \$83,164	6 for \$452,037	6 for \$373,694
<b>Water Supply Bank</b>				
Rental applications				
Received	69	82	107	120
Processed	66	91	143	134
Lease applications				
Received	172	313	445	329
Processed	153	258	390	454
Lease Contract Release Requests	N/A	14	32	29
<b>Hydrology Section</b>				
<b>Initiatives</b>				
Surface and Ground Water Investigations				
Initiated	1	N/A	1	1
Ongoing	1	3	2	2
Completed	1	N/A	1	1
Ground Water Model Revision and Recalibration efforts				
Initiated	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Ongoing	N/A	N/A	1	N/A
Completed	2	N/A	N/A	1
Water Rights Accounting Program Modernization efforts				
Initiated	N/A	3	1	N/A
Ongoing	1	1	4	2

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Completed	1	N/A	N/A	3
<b>Surface &amp; Ground Water Measurement Sites</b>				
Number of Measurement Sites:				
Ground Water	1,288	1,328	1427	1,365
Managed Recharge	38	38	41	40
Geothermal	20	39	39	33
Ground Water Quality	232	271	236	273
Water Levels (USGS Co-op, IDWR & Private Contracts)	804 <sup>1</sup>	785	911	816
Surface Water (USGS gages + return flow sites)	194	195	200	203
<b>Information Technology Services Bureau</b>				
GIS Database large development and integration projects				
Initiated	3	2	1 <sup>2</sup>	2 <sup>2</sup>
Ongoing	2	3	2 <sup>3</sup>	2 <sup>3</sup>
Completed	2	2	2 <sup>4</sup>	4 <sup>4</sup>
Target GIS projects and requests completed	N/A	N/A	78 <sup>5</sup>	170 <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Water levels were collected in 1,085 additional wells for ESPA mass measurement/synoptic, 90 additional wells for the Wood River Valley's area synoptic, and 129 wells of the Thousand Springs' area synoptic. These are not included in the total.

<sup>2</sup> WADE (Water Data Exchange)

<sup>3</sup> NHD editing: Weiser, Big Lost, and Lemhi, Interactive Map to Mobile application.

<sup>4</sup> Fully Integrated Geothermal with WrEdit and hydrologic database; Integrated Ground Water Quality Monitoring locations with Hydrologic, updated tools and applications to work with 10.2.2 and integrated new field tool, new check administrative basin layers and pond loss tool.

<sup>5</sup> Most of our work is to support the department, requests for assistance, requests for Water right analysis, NOV analysis tool, interactive maps, hardcopy maps, etc. fall under these target requests status.

**Part II – Performance Measures**

Performance Measure		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Current Year
<b>Goal 1</b>						
<b>Manage and administer water resources as required by statute to optimize economic activity and protect public safety.</b>						
1. <b>Water Right Transfers</b> Unresolved Transfers <sup>6</sup>	actual	108	115	143	163	-----
	benchmark	None	100	100	100	150
2. <b>Water Right Licenses</b> Permits Needing to be Licensed	actual	2279	1741	1473	1,176	-----
	benchmark	No Benchmark for permits needing to be licensed.	No Benchmark for permits needing to be licensed.	No Benchmark for permits needing to be licensed.	1,200	950
3. <b>Ground Water Protection</b> <i>Percent (%) of Well Seal Inspections conducted on newly drilled wells.</i>  <i>Percent (%) of Inspections conducted on Newly Drilled Wells</i>	actual	9.1%	10.5%	9.2%	9.4%	-----
	benchmark	15-20%	15-20%	10-15%	10%	N/A
	benchmark	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25%
4. <b>Water Supply Bank</b> Rental applications: Received Processed <i>Number of applications processed that are received.</i>	actual	69	82	107	120	-----
		66	91	143	134	-----
	benchmark	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	145
5. <b>Ground Water Measurement Sites</b> Installation of continuous monitoring systems (e.g. data loggers) at existing ESPA ground water monitoring wells.	actual	25	7	12	15 <sup>7</sup>	-----
	benchmark	10	50	50	50	25

<sup>6</sup> Unresolved transfers represent the backlog of transfer applications at the end of the FY. The benchmark sets a target number for the backlog by the end of the FY.

<sup>7</sup> Data for FY2016 is provisional and subject to revision.

Performance Measure		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Current Year
<b>Goal 2</b>						
<b>Administer and regulate water rights, protect senior water rights, and conserve Idaho's water for future use.</b>						
6. <b>Northern Idaho Adjudications</b> Director's Report Recommendations <sup>8</sup>	actual	N/A	completed (358 plus 364 federal law claims)	completed (1,442 plus 19 federal law claims)	completed (1,916 plus 62 federal law claims)	-----
	benchmark	N/A	Basin 93	Basins 91 and 92	Basin 94	Basin 95 (FY 18-20)
7. <b>Water Distribution</b> Water Districts - Created, expanded or modified.	actual	3	3	1	2	-----
	benchmark	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1
<b>Goal 3</b>						
<b>Promote and finance projects that will ensure sustainability of water sources into the foreseeable future and that will optimize the use of water of the State of Idaho.</b>						
8. <b>Water Resource Board</b> Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer – acre feet recharged into aquifer	actual	20,470 AF	11,556 AF	75,233 AF	66,437 AF	-----
	benchmark	N/A	N/A	N/A	Average at least 250,000 acre feet of managed recharge per year.	250,000 AF by 2024.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Deborah Gibson**  
 Idaho Department of Water Resources  
 322 East Front Street  
 P. O. Box 83720  
 Boise, ID 83720-0098  
 Phone: (208) 287-4803  
 Email: [deborah.gibson@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:deborah.gibson@idwr.idaho.gov)

<sup>8</sup> Director's Report Recommendations are recommendations to the adjudication court for individual water right claims. The benchmark establishes a milestone for filing the recommendations in an Administrative Basin by the end of the FY.