

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 Meulen, 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. IDWR administers water rights and performs other regulatory functions.

IDWR's main staff office is located in Boise. In addition, there are 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 one 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, Legal Services and Support Services support IDWR operations. The Legal Services staff are employees of the Office of the Attorney General 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 contains 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, and also creates, archives, and maintains all water right records in the state.

The Adjudication Section (formerly Adjudication Bureau) merged with 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; consulting 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. There are two sections and two program units in the Compliance Bureau: 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. There are two sections within the ITS Bureau: 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 IT Section also includes the Department's computer programming group. 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. Staff use the data, models, and programs 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 contains 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

Revenue	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
General Revenue Fund	11,195,000	11,827,400	12,646,600	18,530,400
Indirect Cost Recovery	626,100	613,700	627,300	661,500
Aquifer Planning & Mgmt.	2,767,100	2,794,300	1,223,200	1,276,300
Economic Recovery Fun	0	0	0	2,500,000
Water Admin. Fund	1,757,700	1,416,700	1,448,200	1,536,900
Water Claims Adjud.	35,000	15,900	0	0
N Idaho Adjudication	106,800	109,300	112,100	36,100
Federal Grant	3,593,700	3,636,000	3,725,400	2,278,300
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,230,100	1,253,900	1,385,300	1,454,800
Total	21,311,500	21,667,200	21,168,100	28,274,300
Expenditures	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Personnel Costs	9,873,800	9,791,200	10,600,900	11,966,300
Operating Expenditures	5,079,700	4,875,000	5,386,800	11,391,200
Capital Outlay	229,000	362,700	282,300	801,300
Trustee/Benefit Payments	554,000	570,600	576,900	582,000
Total	15,736,500	15,599,500	16,846,900	24,740,800

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Water Allocation Bureau				
Northern Idaho Adjudications				
New Claims Filed	Approx. 213 plus 364 federal law claims	402	Approx. 60	80
Notices of Commencements	0	0	0	0
Director's Report Recommendations	358 plus 364 federal law claims	1,442 plus 19 federal law claims	1,916 plus 62 federal law claims	15
Applications for Permit				
Resolved	397	382	515	444
Average Processing Time for Resolved Permits	2.8 yrs	2.3 yrs	1.6 yrs	1.5 yrs
Median Processing Time for Resolved Permits	0.4 yrs	0.3 yrs	0.3 yrs	0.3 yrs
Unresolved Applications in Progress	594	642	569	542
Unresolved Applications on Moratorium Hold	645	645	657	657
Water Right Transfers				
Applications Resolved	311	280	261	278
Average Processing Time for Resolved Transfers	0.7 years	0.4 yrs	0.6 yrs	0.7 yrs

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Median Processing Time for Resolved Transfers	0.2 years	0.2 yrs	0.2 yrs	0.3 yrs
Pending Applications ¹	115	143	163	149
Water Right Licenses				
Licenses Issued	747	521	499	420
Size of the Backlog ²	1741	1473	1,176	992
Water Right Ownership Changes				
Owner changes processed	2232	2607	2,587	2660
Pending owner changes ³	564	423	362	485
Safety of Dams program				
	Calendar Year	Calendar Year	Calendar Year	Year-to-Date
Inspections of Existing Dams	146	107	129	22
Design Review & Approval for New Construction or Repair	6	5	4	4
% of High Hazard Dams with Up-to-Date Operation/Emergency Plans ⁴	62%	42%	42%	54%
Water Compliance Bureau				
Water Distribution				
Water Districts Created, Expanded, or Modified	3	1	2	2 (plus 1 district activated)
Measurement Orders Issued (comprehensive orders only)	4	3	1	3
Ground Water Protection				
Well Permits Issued	2,790	2,746	3,020	2,959
Driller Licenses	173	237	184	224
Injection Well Apps Processed	408	132	195	204
Geothermal Well Apps Processed	6	12	4	0
Well Seal Inspections Completed	189	182	197	114
Drilling Companies contacted (field site visits)	54	54	47	42
Enforcement/Compliance (Water Rights, Well Construction, and Stream Channel)				
Notices of Violation Issued	16	41	16	21
Stream Channel Alterations (SCA) Program				
SCA Apps Received	263	340	280	394
SCA Permits Issued (FY 2013 & FY 2014 do not include State/Federal agency MOU permits)	190	246	207	272
Recreational Mining Letter				
Permits issued	300	369	435	410
Flood Plain Management Program				
Community Asst. Visits (CAV's)				
Opened or Ongoing	6	8	14	21
Closed	3	4	1	4
Comm. Asst. Contacts (CAC's)				
Initiated or Opened	3	1	47	98
Closed	1	3	47	98

¹ Listed in previous reports as "Unresolved Transfers"

² Listed in previous reports as "Permits Needing to be Licensed"

³ Listed in previous reports as "Owner changes to be processed"

⁴ Listed in previous reports as "% of High Hazard Dams with Up-to-Date Emergency Action Plans"

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Training/Outreach Workshops and Presentations	13	24	23	19
Planning and Projects Bureau				
Water Resource Board				
Loans	0	6 for \$9,290,000	6 for \$11,302,775	3 for \$11,038,099
Revenue Bond Issuances	0	N/A	0	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)	1 for 3,000 ac	0	0	0
Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer – acre feet recharged into aquifer	11,556 AF	75,233 AF	66,437 AF	317,7144 AF
Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plans (CAMPs) completed and approved (Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer CAMP)	0	0	0	0
Upper Salmon River Basin streamflow improvement projects	4 for \$83,164	6 for \$452,037	6 for \$373,694	3 for \$1,658,312
Water Supply Bank				
Rental applications				
Received	82	107	120	103
Processed	91	143	134	118
Lease applications				
Received	313	445	329	246
Processed	258	390	454	283
Lease Contract Release Requests	14	32	29	37
Hydrology Section				
Initiatives				
Surface and Ground Water Investigations				
Initiated	N/A	1	1	2
Ongoing	3	2	2	3
Completed	N/A	1	1	N/A
Ground Water Model Revision and Recalibration efforts				
Initiated	N/A	N/A	1	N/A
Ongoing	N/A	1	N/A	3
Completed	N/A	N/A	1	N/A
Water Rights Accounting Program Modernization efforts				
Initiated	3	1	N/A	4
Ongoing	1	4	2	N/A
Completed	N/A	N/A	3	2
Surface & Ground Water Measurement Sites⁵	1,251	1,347	1,294	1,376
Ground Water Sites	1,056	1,147	1,089	1,149
Managed Recharge	38	41	40	42
Geothermal	39	39	33	35
Ground Water Quality	271	236	273	227
Water Level Monitoring only	708	831	743	845

⁵ This category and its subcategories vary slightly from previous reports. Prior categorization was difficult to count and led to reporting errors. The new categories are a more accurate reflection of services provided. As such, numbers for previous years have been updated.

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Surface Water Sites	195	200	205	227
Surface Water Quality	N/A	N/A	2	2
Surface Water Gaging (USGS gages + return flow sites)	195	200	203	225
Information Technology Services Bureau				
GIS Database large development and integration projects				
Initiated	2	1	2	2 ⁶
Ongoing	3	2	2	2 ⁷
Completed	2	2	4	3 ⁸
Target GIS projects and requests completed	N/A	78	170	198 ⁹

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure		FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Goal 1						
Manage and administer water resources as required by statute to optimize economic activity and protect public safety.						
1. Water Right Transfers Number of Pending Transfer Applications ¹⁰	actual	115	143	163	149	-----
	target	100	100	100	150	130
2. Water Right Licenses Size of the Water Right Licensing Backlog ¹¹	actual	1741	1473	1,176	992	-----
	target	No Target for permits needing to be licensed.	No Target for permits needing to be licensed.	1,200	950	750
3. Ground Water Protection Percent (%) of Well Seal Inspections conducted on newly drilled wells. Percent (%) of Inspections conducted on Newly Drilled Wells. Percentage of wells inspected during construction.	actual	10.5%	9.2%	9.4%	33%	-----
		15-20%	10-15%	10%	N/A	N/A
	target	N/A	N/A	N/A	25%	N/A
4. Water Supply Bank Rental applications: Received Processed Number of applications processed that are received	actual	82	107	120	103	-----
		91	143	134	118	
	target	N/A	N/A	N/A	145	145

⁶ ESPA and Treasure Valley irrigated land digitizing, field mapping tools (Survey 123).

⁷ WADE (Water Data Exchange), Hydrology Model Support including METRIC

⁸ USGS contract for NHD editing, Map to Mobile, Parcel Update

⁹ Most of the GIS work is to support the department, requests for assistance, requests for water right analysis, NOV analysis tool, interactive maps, hardcopy maps, etc.

¹⁰ Pending transfer applications represent the backlog of incomplete transfer applications at the end of the FY. Previously listed as "Unresolved Transfers"

¹¹ Listed in previous reports as "Permits Needing to be Licensed"

Performance Measure		FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
5. Ground Water Measurement Sites Installation of continuous monitoring systems (e.g. data loggers) at existing ESPA ground water monitoring wells	actual	7	12	15	69	-----
	target	50	50	50	25	N/A
6. Ground Water Measurement Sites Number of monitoring sites instrumented each year with automated data collection systems: New pressure transducers in monitoring wells. New telemetry systems deployed at stream gages.	actual	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	-----
	target	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	25 10
Goal 2 Administer and regulate water rights, protect senior water rights, and conserve Idaho's water for future use.						
7. Northern Idaho Adjudications ¹² Director's Report Recommendations Percentage of Director's Report Recommendations filed in the Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Basin Adjudication	actual	completed (358 plus 364 federal law claims)	completed (1,442 plus 19 federal law claims)	completed (1,916 plus 62 federal law claims)	15 completed (35%)	-----
	target	Basin 93 N/A	Basins 91 and 92 N/A	Basin 94 N/A	Basin 95 (FY 18-20) N/A	NA 80%
8. Water Distribution Water Districts – Created, expanded or modified.	actual	3	1	2	2	-----
	target	1-2	1-2	1-2	1	1-2
Goal 3 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.						
9. Water Resource Board Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer – acre-feet recharged into aquifer ¹³	actual	11,556 AF	75,233 AF	66,437 AF	317,714	-----
	target	N/A	N/A	Average at least 250,000 acre-feet of managed recharge per year.	250,000	250,000

¹² Director's Report Recommendations are recommendations to the adjudication court for individual water right claims. The targets establish milestones for completing an adjudication by the end of the FY. Beginning in FY18, we will track the percentage complete for specific basins within the Northern Idaho Adjudication area.

¹³ The target is an average of 250,000 acre-feet annually by 2024.

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