

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) was created in 1939 under Idaho Code § 22-2716, et. seq.) to form local conservation districts to work on reducing soil erosion generated by agricultural land management practices. ISWCC is now also the lead agency for a number of voluntary conservation programs that address water quality and other natural resource issues. ISWCC has no regulatory authority. The ISWCC was led in FY 2019 by five Commissioners appointed by the Governor: Chairman H. Norman Wright, Vice Chairman Cathy Roemer, Secretary Dave Radford (who resigned in March 2019), and members Gerald Trebesch and Erik Olson. The administrator was Teri Murrison. In FY 2019, the agency had 21.75 administrative and technical staff located in offices around the state.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

1. **District Support and Services:** provides technical, financial, and other assistance to Idaho's 50 conservation districts.
2. **Comprehensive Conservation Services:** provides/promotes non-regulatory incentive and science-based programs to support voluntary conservation activities enhancing environmental quality and economic productivity.
3. **Administration:** ensures fiscally responsible operations to support Commissioners, programs, and staff.
4. **Outreach:** engages local, state, and federal partners, non-governmental organizations, and resource and agricultural production groups to promote agricultural stewardship (voluntary conservation).

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
General Fund	\$2,590,700	\$2,730,900	2,759,200	2,659,200
Receipts	29,600	300	33,400	11,100
RCRDP Loan Program	960,800	910,800	889,100	722,600
SRF Loan Program	99,300	86,300	92,300	92,300
Federal Grant Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>170,900</u>	<u>201,800</u>
Total	\$3,680,400	\$3,728,300	3,944,900	3,687,000
Expenditures	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Personnel Costs	\$1,239,400	\$1,331,000	1,368,500	1,620,127
Operating Expenditures	272,100*	290,500	329,800	341,802
Capital Outlay	80,100	74,100	111,200	3,425
Trustee/Benefit Payments	1,253,200	1,353,200	1,253,200	1,253,200
RCRDP Loan Disbursements	415,200	604,200	939,100	305,800
DEQ Loan	<u>86,700</u>	<u>\$73,700</u>	79,700	104,700
Federal Grant Funds			<u>136,600</u>	<u>270,000</u>
Total	\$3,346,700*	\$3,726,700	\$4,218,100	3,899,054

* indicates where numbers have been updated to correct prior year errors.

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Conservation systems implemented on all cropland (acres)	133,586	97,776	99,982	109,144
Conservation implemented on other land uses (acres)	6,348	6,549	8,199	1,300
Grazing/pasture management systems implemented (acres)	506,625	339,356	282,851	339,955
Riparian acres implemented with protection, restoration, enhancement or creation (acres)	3,399	3,981	4,783	2,750

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Private agricultural land removed from tillage-induced erosion through financial incentive for a contractual time period.	568,839	568,729	538,994	542,772

Numbers above include conservation statistics from federal and local partners: NRCS and districts. The reason “other land uses” declined so significantly is unknown, although it is suspected that it may have dropped beginning in FY 2016 due to policy, funding, or programmatic changes by a partner federal agency.

Red Tape Reduction Act

Each agency shall incorporate into its strategic plan a summary of how it will implement the Red Tape Reduction Act, including any associated goals, objectives, tasks, or performance targets. This information may be included as an addendum.

	As of July 1, 2019
Number of Chapters	2
Number of Words	4,662
Number of Restrictions	79

FY 2019 Performance Highlights

In FY 2019 the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission reduced their rules by 50%. ISWCC began the year with four chapters of rule and ended the year with two. ISWCC will continue to work towards further reduction of ineffective or outdated regulations in the new fiscal year.

Part II – Performance Measures

Note: There is a disconnect between some of the actual FY 2017 numbers and FY 2018 targets caused by establishing performance measure targets in the updated Strategic Plan (June 30th deadline) prior to collecting the previous year’s performance data (July 30th deadline).

Performance Measure		FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
District Support & Services						
1. % of Districts Satisfied with Services & Programs - Strongly agree - Somewhat agree - Neutral - Somewhat Disagree - Disagree - N/A		34 of 50	42 of 50	40 of 50	58 of 50*	
	actual	29%	43%	40%	50%	-----
		62%	48%	48%	30%	
		3%	2%	3%	13%	
		3%	7%	5%	7%	
		3%	0%	5%	0%	
		0%	0%	0%	0%	
	target	50 of 50	50 of 50	50 of 50	50 of 50	50 of 50
		34%	36%	34%	47.5%	47.5%
		47%	46%	47%	47.5%	47.5%
7%		8%	7%	0%	0%	
10%		8%	10%	2.5%	2.5%	
2%		2%	2%	2.5%	2.5%	
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
2. District five-year plans updated	actual	50	50	50	50	-----
	target	50	50	50	50	50

Performance Measure		FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
3. Technical Assistance Provided to districts						
# of technical assistance hours requested/awarded (new)	actual	10,751/5,733	7,360/6,071	7,630/6,061	7,654/6,061	-----
	target	-----	-----	7,400/6,100	7,400/6,100	7,400/6,100
# of districts w/projects	actual	38	39	42	40	-----
	target	39	40	40	40	40
# of new projects	actual	34	19	19	29	-----
	target	50	50	50	25	25
# of ongoing projects	actual	101	70	89	64	-----
	target	100	75	100	100	100
# of landowners served	actual	241	316	407	536	-----
	target	300	245	300	350	350
Comprehensive Conservation Programs						
4. CREP Program Deliverables						
Active Contracts	actual	155	168	181	178	-----
	target	175	160	160	201	201
Total Acres Under Contract	actual	16,526	17,257	18,351	18,161	-----
	target	21,000	22,000	17,500	20,000	20,000
Certified Contracts	actual	6 (88 total contracts)	2 (90 total contracts)	5 (95 total contracts)	49** (144 total contracts)	-----
	target	15	10	10	8	8
Certified Acres	actual	647 (9,527 total acres)	131 (9,658 total acres)	1,837 (11,495 total acres)	3,740 (15,235 total acres)	-----
	target	1,500	1,500	800	500	500
Water Conserved (new)	actual	-----	34,514 ac-ft.	36,700 ac-ft.	36,322 ac-ft.	-----
	target	-----	-----	36,000 ac-ft.	40,000 ac-ft.	40,000 ac-ft.
5. Ground Water Quality/Nitrate Priority Areas						
Acres Treated	actual	42,594	42,194	43,778	47,704	-----
	target	37,700	42,000	37,700	43,000	43,000
Nitrates Reduced (lbs.)	actual	145,370	142,000	147,500	152,500	-----
	target	132,100	140,000	132,100	147,000	147,000
Phosphorus Reduced (lbs.)	actual	29,575	28,500	30,100	30,800	-----
	target	26,500	28,000	26,500	29,500	29,500
Sediment Reduced (tons)	actual	150,170	148,500	151,400	155,500	-----
	target	142,600	150,000	142,600	150,500	150,500
6. RCRDP Loan Program						
# of new loans	actual	12	5	12	7***	-----
	target	12	15	12	15	15

Performance Measure		FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Total \$ conservation projects	actual	\$875,049	\$335,784	\$1,017,163	\$391,374	-----
	target	\$850,000	\$900,000	\$850,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Inquiries received	actual	63	36	45	43	-----
	target	50	65	50	55	65
Applications submitted	actual	15	5	17	19	-----
	target	25	28	25	25	25
Pending @ end of FY	actual	0	0	0	0	-----
	target	2	2	2	2	2
Applications denied or withdrawn	actual	3	1	5	3	-----
	target	5	5	5	2	2
Satisfied customers (new)	actual	-----	5	12	7	-----
	target	-----	-----	5	15	15
7. TMDL Ag Implementation Plans (subject to DEQ priorities)						
# of new plans assigned by DEQ (new)	actual	-----	7	3	7	-----
	target	-----	-----	7	5	5
Completed	actual	7	10	5	10	-----
	target	6	7	6	5	5
In Progress	actual	17	22	12	12	-----
	target	12	15	12	12	12
Pending	actual	18	10	10	10	-----
	target	19	18	19	10	10
Outreach						
8. Communications Note: performance measures listed below in gray have been determined not to be meaningful for this report and will no longer be tracked.						
Website (Total Visitors)	actual	-----	19,607****	2635****	3,969	-----
	target	-----	-----	74,000****	5,000****	5,000
(Ave. Page Views) per visitor	actual	26	204.73	N/A †	N/A †	N/A †
	target	-----	26	N/A †	N/A †	N/A †
(Ave. Hits/Day)	actual	31,936	22,000	32,647	N/A †	N/A †
	target	-----	33,000	33,000	N/A †	N/A †
(Total Hits)	actual	1,018,241	669,967	995,051	N/A †	N/A †
	target	-----	1,100,000	1,020,000	N/A †	N/A †
Facebook (impressions/# of posts)*	actual	230	163	N/A †	N/A †	N/A †
	target	275	275	N/A †	N/A †	N/A †
Facebook (Post Reach)	actual	48,046	38,851	31,274	60,431	-----
	target	-----	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
(New Page Likes)	actual	170	72	40	61	-----
	target	-----	200	200	75	75
Twitter (# of tweets)	actual	40	115	35	157	-----
	target	150	75	55	45	100

Performance Measure		FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
(Twitter Impressions)	actual	11,144	19,059	16,332	N/A †	N/A †
	target	-----	12,000	11,200	N/A †	N/A †
(Profile Views)	actual	762	434	559	N/A †	N/A †
	target	-----	800	700	N/A †	N/A †
(New Followers)	actual	111	70	25	28	-----
	target	-----	200	200	50	50
Newsletter subscriptions	actual	591	620	632	744	-----
	target	750	675	700	700	700

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes

* For FY 2019, 40 of the surveys returned were identified as being submitted by districts. Due to the option of submitting surveys anonymously, an additional 18 surveys could not be associated with any districts. This issue will be remedied next FY.

** The increase in numbers of CREP certified contracts in FY 2019 was due to partners performing additional certifications.

*** The decrease in the number of new RCRDP loans is due to low commodity prices making it much more difficult for applicants to qualify.

**** Reporting methodology changed by website host in late FY 2017 leading to discrepancy in numbers the following year. Discrepancy has been accounted for and consistent data should once again be available to address FY 2019 target.

† N/A indicates that these performance measures are no longer to be included in annual reporting.

For More Information Contact

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