

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 2020 by five Commissioners appointed by the Governor: Chairman H. Norman Wright, Vice Chairman Cathy Roemer, Secretary Erik Olson and members Gerald Trebesch and Wendy Pratt. The administrator was Teri Murrison. In FY 2020, 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 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
General Fund	\$2,730,900	2,759,200	2,659,200	2,723,600
Receipts	300	33,400	11,100	0
RCRDP Loan Program	910,800	889,100	722,600	937,439
SRF Loan Program	86,300	92,300	92,300	77,282
Federal Grant Funds	0	170,900	201,800	193,144
Total	\$3,728,300	3,944,900	3,687,000	3,931,465
Expenditures	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Personnel Costs	\$1,331,000	1,368,500	1,620,127	1,343,950
Operating Expenditures	290,500	329,800	341,802	317,968
Capital Outlay	74,100	111,200	3,425	0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	1,353,200	1,253,200	1,253,200	1,240,700
RCRDP Loan Disbursements	604,200	939,100	305,800	486,077
DEQ Loan	\$73,700	79,700	104,700	134,800
Federal Grant Funds		136,600	270,000	179,881
Total	\$3,726,700	\$4,218,100	3,899,054	3,703,376

* 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 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Conservation systems implemented on all cropland (acres)	97,776	99,982	109,144	125,369
Conservation implemented on other land uses (acres)	6,549	8,199	1,300	3,460
Grazing/pasture management systems implemented (acres)	339,356	282,851	339,955	217,813
Riparian acres implemented with protection, restoration, enhancement or creation (acres)	3,981	4,783	2,750	10,397
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Private agricultural land removed from tillage-induced erosion through financial incentive for a contractual time period.	568,729	538,994	542,772	538,232

Numbers above include conservation statistics from federal and local partners: NRCS and districts.

Red Tape Reduction Act

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.

	As of July 1, 2019	As of July 1, 2020
Number of Chapters	2	1
Number of Words	4,662	4,626
Number of Restrictions	79	74

FY 2020 Performance Highlights

The Soil & Water Conservation Commission (Commission) launched the **Idaho Conservation Project Tracker** website, to communicate the significant accomplishments of Idaho's broad conservation partnership and "Conservation the Idaho Way", Agricultural and natural resources stewardship that's locally led and voluntary. Project Tracker currently contains Commission projects back to the 80s and will ultimately feature the collaborative conservation accomplishments of multiple partners, as well. It's a central online inventory of dollars invested and performance measures achieved. An Accomplishments Dashboard is featured on the site tracking projects and dollars invested overall and by partner and project type. It doesn't require an account/login to access, sort, and review project info. Partner users create an account and login and can then enter proposed, current, and past projects into a searchable database containing focus areas, project themes, performance measures, watersheds, legislative and congressional districts, divisions and organizations, funding sources, and more. See www.conservation.idaho.gov for more information.

Part II – Performance Measures

Note: ISWCC has reworked its Strategic Plan and Performance Measures Report to more closely reflect DFM requirements. This year and through FY 2023, there will be two sections: New Performance Measures (FY2021 and future) and Old Performance Measures (FY2017-FY2020).

Performance Measure New		FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
District Support & Services						
Percentage of Conservation Districts satisfied with services & programs provided	actual	---	---	---	---	
	target	---	---	---	---	90
Percentage of Conservation Districts satisfied with the effectiveness of the communications received from the Commission	actual	---	---	---	---	
	target	---	---	---	---	90
Percentage of requests submitted by Conservation Districts through the Technical Assistance Allocation Process (TAAP) that receive the requested assistance	actual	---	---	---	---	
	target	---	---	---	---	90
Conservation Programs & Services						
Number of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) enrolled acres over which technical leadership and guidance is provided	actual	---	---	---	---	
	target	---	---	---	---	20,000
Acres improved with implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and facilitated by Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP) funding	actual	---	---	---	---	
	target	---	---	---	---	600
Number of acres with Best Management Practices (BMPs) implemented to maintain and improve Ground Water Quality	actual	---	---	---	---	
	target	---	---	---	---	54,000
Percentage of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plans completed within 18 months of the TMDL having been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	actual	---	---	---	---	
	target	---	---	---	---	100

Performance Measure New		FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY2021
Communication & Outreach						
Increase the number of newsletter subscribers	actual	---	---	---	---	
	target	---	---	---	---	20
Increase annual percentage of social media reach, likes and follows	actual	---	---	---	---	
	target	---	---	---	---	10%
Increase number of additional partner projects in Tracker	actual	---	---	---	---	
	target	---	---	---	---	6

Performance Measure Old		FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
District Support & Services						
1. # of District Surveys on Commission Satisfaction - Strongly agree - Somewhat agree - Neutral - Somewhat Disagree - Disagree N/A		42 of 50	40 of 50	58 of 50*	32 of 50	
	actual	43%	40%	50%	57%	
		48%	48%	30%	31%	
		2%	3%	13%	0%	
		7%	5%	7%	6%	
		0%	5%	0%	9%	
		0%	0%	0%	0%	
	target	50 of 50	50 of 50	50 of 50	50 of 50	---
		36%	34%	47.5%	47.5%	
		46%	47%	47.5%	47.5%	
8%		7%	0%	0%		
8%		10%	2.5%	2.5%		
	2%	2%	2.5%	2.5%		
	0%	0%	0%	0%		
2. District five-year plans updated	actual	50	50	50	50	
	target	50	50	50	50	---
3. Technical Assistance Provided to Districts						
# of technical assistance hours requested/awarded (new)	actual	7,360/6,071	7,630/6,061	7,654/6,061	7,355/5,928	
	target	-----	7,400/6,100	7,400/6,100	7,500/6,000	---
# of districts w/projects	actual	39	42	40	40	
	target	40	40	40	40	---
# of new projects	actual	19	19	29	22	
	target	50	50	25	25	---
# of ongoing projects	actual	70	89	64	71	
	target	75	100	100	75	---
# of landowners served	actual	316	407	536	436	
	target	245	300	350	350	---

Performance Measure Old		FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
4. CREP Program Deliverables						
Total Contracts	actual	168	181	178	187	
	target	160	160	201	201	---
Total Acres	actual	17,257	18,351	18,161	18,484	
	target	22,000	17,500	20,000	20,000	---
Certified Contracts	actual	2 (90 total contracts)	5 (95 total contracts)	49** (144 total contracts)	0 (144 total contracts)	
	target	10	10	8	5	---
Certified Acres	actual	131 (9,658 total acres)	1,837 (11,495 total acres)	3,740 (15,235 total acres)	0 (15,235 total acres)	
	target	1,500	800	500	350	---
Water Conserved (new)	actual	34,514 ac-ft.	36,700 ac-ft.	36,322 ac-ft.	36,968	
	target	-----	36,000 ac-ft.	40,000 ac-ft.	40,000 ac-ft.	---
5. Ground Water Quality/Nitrate Priority Areas						
Acres Treated	actual	42,194	43,778	47,704	53,436	
	target	42,000	37,700	43,000	48,500	---
Nitrates Reduced (lbs.)	actual	142,000	147,500	152,500	170,500	
	target	140,000	132,100	147,000	154,000	---
Phosphorus Reduced (lbs.)	actual	28,500	30,100	30,800	34,500	
	target	28,000	26,500	29,500	31,500	---
Sediment Reduced (tons)	actual	148,500	151,400	155,500	175,000	
	target	150,000	142,600	150,500	157,000	---
6. RCRDP Loan Program						
# of new loans	actual	5	12	7***	6	
	target	15	12	15	15	---
Total \$ conservation projects	actual	\$335,784	\$1,017,163	\$391,374	\$488,626	
	target	\$900,000	\$850,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	---
Inquiries received	actual	36	45	43	17	
	target	65	50	55	55	---
Applications submitted	actual	5	17	19	11	
	target	28	25	25	25	---
Pending @ end of FY	actual	0	0	0	1	
	target	2	2	2	2	---
Applications denied or withdrawn	actual	1	5	3	4	
	target	5	5	2	2	---
Satisfied customers (new)	actual	5	12	7	6	
	target	-----	5	15	15	---

Performance Measure Old		FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
7. TMDL Ag Implementation Plans (subject to DEQ priorities)						
# of new plans assigned by DEQ (<i>new</i>)	actual	7	3	7	2	
	target	-----	7	5	5	---
Completed	actual	10	5	10	11	
	target	7	6	5	7	---
In Progress	actual	22	12	12	7	
	target	15	12	12	12	---
Pending	actual	10	10	10	5	
	target	18	19	10	10	---
8. Communications <i>Note: Performance measures listed below in gray have been determined not to be meaningful for this report and will no longer be tracked.</i>						
Website (Total Visitors)	actual	19,607****	2635****	3,969	30,826	
	target	-----	74,000****	5,000****	5,000	---
(Ave. Page Views) per visitor	actual	204.73	N/A †	N/A †	N/A †	
	target	26	N/A †	N/A †	N/A †	---
(Ave. Hits/Day)	actual	22,000	32,647	N/A †	N/A †	
	target	33,000	33,000	N/A †	N/A †	---
(Total Hits)	actual	669,967	995,051	N/A †	N/A †	
	target	1,100,000	1,020,000	N/A †	N/A †	---
Facebook (impressions/# of posts)*	actual	163	N/A †	N/A †	N/A †	
	target	275	N/A †	N/A †	N/A †	---
Facebook (Post Reach)	actual	38,851	31,274	60,431	27,012	
	target	50,000	50,000	50,000	65,000	---
(New Page Likes)	actual	72	40	61	123	
	target	200	200	75	75	---
Twitter (# of tweets)	actual	115	35	157	220	
	target	75	55	45	160	---
(Twitter Impressions)	actual	19,059	16,332	N/A †	N/A †	
	target	12,000	11,200	N/A †	N/A †	---
(Profile Views)	actual	434	559	N/A †	N/A †	
	target	800	700	N/A †	N/A †	---
(New Followers)	actual	70	25	28	5	
	target	200	200	50	50	---
Newsletter subscriptions	actual	620	632	744	784	
	target	675	700	700	750	---

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 has been remedied in FY 2020.

** 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.

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