

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR or Department) serves Idaho's citizens by ensuring their water is conserved and available to sustain Idaho's economy, ecosystems, and resulting quality of life. On September 1, 2023, Governor Brad Little appointed Mathew Weaver as Director of IDWR.

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB or Board) was created by constitutional amendment in 1965. The Director and the Board interact in a level working relationship. The Department administers water rights, performs regulatory functions, and develops tools and resources to record and monitor Idaho's water supply. The Board establishes long-term vision and policy through Idaho's State Water Plan for the use, protection, and development of water resources. The Board also administers several state monetary accounts in trust for the development and funding of water projects and improvements within the state. Current members of the Board are Jeff Raybould, Chair; Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chair; Dean Stevenson, Secretary; Patrick McMahon, Albert Barker, Dale Van Stone, Marcus Gibbs, and Brian Olmstead. Title 42, Idaho Code is the primary authority for the existence of IDWR, IWRB, and their respective programs.

Agency Core Functions

The Department is comprised of the following five bureaus: Water Administration, Water Allocation, Planning & Projects, Resource Protection, and Technical Services. The Bureau summaries below reflect IDWR's FY26 organization structure, consistent with this report.

In Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), with approval from the Governor and Legislature, the Department will merge with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC or Commission). The merger will streamline Idaho government and align the state's water management and voluntary conservation programs within a single agency while preserving the Commission's statutory responsibilities and its longstanding partnerships with Idaho's local soil and water conservation districts. The Department's FY27 Performance Report will reflect these organizational changes.

The Water Administration Bureau is responsible for administering Idaho's water rights in accordance with state law. The Water Administration Bureau establishes, supports and trains water districts and watermasters, develops and enforces water measurement standards, and conducts priority administration. Through these functions, the Bureau helps ensure the fair and equitable distribution of the state's water resources.

The Water Allocation Bureau addresses all administrative water right proposals, recommends elements of water rights during a water right adjudication, and maintains water right records. The Water Allocation Bureau's work represents the Department's primary responsibility to supervise the appropriation and allotment of water for beneficial use. The Bureau is comprised of the Water Rights Section and the Adjudication Section.

The Planning & Projects Bureau implements and manages water sustainability programs, projects, and initiatives assigned by the Board. Programs include managed recharge of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, cloud seeding, water supply bank, and the Board's financial program, which offers grants and loans for water sustainability projects across Idaho. The Bureau also manages Board-owned water rights, infrastructure, and facilities—including the Priest Lake Outlet Dam and the Dworshak Small Hydro Facility—and maintains policy documents such as the Idaho State Water Plan. The Bureau is

comprised of the Water Projects Section. Engineer staff in the Bureau, and staff in the Water Allocation and Technical Services Bureaus also support Board programs.

The Resource Protection Bureau administers programs that safeguard Idaho's water resources and protect public safety. The Resource Protection Bureau comprises the Ground Water Protection Section, Stream Channel Protection Program, Safety of Dams Program, and Floodplain Management Unit. Additionally, the Bureau includes an Enforcement Coordinator who supports multiple regulatory programs of the Department.

The Technical Services Bureau is comprised of the Hydrology and Geospatial Technology Sections. The Hydrology Section collects, stores, and analyzes hydrologic data for IDWR and the state of Idaho. The Geospatial Technology Section supports spatial data creation and analyses, and develops tools, maps, and applications used within IDWR and by the public. The work of both Sections supports the administration, management, planning, and protection of Idaho's water resources.

The Department operates four regional offices located in Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, and Twin Falls, along with two field offices in Salmon and Preston. Regional offices manage the full range of the Department's programs, while field offices are dedicated to specific program areas. For example, the Preston Field Office administers the Bear River Basin Adjudication, and the Salmon Field Office oversees water distribution and water transaction programs. In addition, the Department includes dedicated legal, purchasing, and financial units that support all IDWR staff and programs. Human resources services are provided by the Division of Human Resources, and information technology support is furnished by the Office of Information Technology Services.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
General Revenue Fund	22,521,200 ¹	23,935,400	24,212,000	54,736,400
Indirect Cost Recovery	720,300	544,600	512,000	510,400
Aquifer Planning & Mgmt.	1,534,800	1,588,000	1,615,700	1,674,700
ARPA SLFRF ²	100,030,000	50,000,000	50,000,000	50,000,000
Water Admin. Fund	1,741,400	1,835,300	1,869,500	1,938,300
Technology Infrast. Stab.	0	0	0	0
Adjudications	38,000	47,700	38,700	38,700
Federal Grant	1,774,500	1,838,100	1,847,200	1,866,900
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,624,100	1,680,000	1,704,700	1,759,100
Total	\$129,984,300	\$81,469,100	\$81,800,000	\$112,524,500
Expenditures	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Personnel Costs	13,894,400	14,665,700	14,967,400	16,464,400
Operating Expenditures	7,564,700	46,297,200	34,354,500	58,805,700
Capital Outlay	247,300	483,200	931,100	276,000
Trustee/Benefit Payments	73,779,900	1,020,700	39,344,700	72,730,500
Total	\$95,486,300	\$62,466,800	\$90,313,700	\$148,266,300

¹ \$6 million from the General Revenue Fund is transferred to the IWRB's continuously appropriated funds.

² This revenue source was previously labeled 'Economic Recovery Fund'. In FY23 this revenue source was re-labeled "American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF)" to better describe the funding source.

Profile of Cases Managed & Key Services Provided

Water Administration Bureau

Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Water Distribution Section				
Water Districts Created, Expanded, or Modified	5	3	0	2
Measurement Orders Issued (comprehensive only)	1	2	3	2

Water Allocation Bureau

Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Adjudications – Claims & Recommendations				
New Claims Received	5,938	2,923	3,255	660
Recommendations Completed ³	132	2,133	1,286	2,021
Number of Active Claims Awaiting a Director's Report	8,807	11,743	14,002	13,631
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Applications for Permit				
Number of Applications Received	1,101	627	490	388
Number of Unprotested Applications Pending	410	569	478	455
Number of Protested Applications Pending	145	125	121	114
Total Applications in Progress	555	694	599	569
Total Permits Issued	1,104	510	465	370
Applications on Moratorium Hold	714	721	713	748
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Water Right Transfers				
Number of Applications Received	281	217	183	198
Number of Applications Resolved	267	244	191	176
Number of Unprotested Applications Pending	109	102	97	97
Number of Protested Applications Pending	37	26	19	18
Total Number of Applications Pending	146	128	116	115
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Water Right Licenses				
Number of Licenses Issued	326	417	339	321
Number of Permits Needing Water Right Licensing	623	521	634	611
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Water Right Ownership Changes				
Number of Ownership Changes Processed	2,750	2,210	2,457	2,542
Number of Ownership Changes Pending	278	260	312	742

³ Beginning in FY25, this performance measure was updated from Recommendations Submitted to the Court to Recommendations Completed. The change better reflects IDWR staff's productivity throughout an extended period. A "Director's Report" includes multiple recommendations prepared over multiple fiscal years and is held until IDWR can submit a large group of recommendations to the court in a single report. The Director's Report can contain thousands of recommendations. Reporting only the submittal of Director's Reports does not accurately reflect IDWR's productivity in a single fiscal year.

Planning & Projects Bureau

Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
IWRB Financial Program				
Loans	15 Funded for \$39,265,720	4 Funded for \$1,098,833	0 ⁴	3 Funded for \$11,747,000
Flood Management Grants ⁵	10 Funded for \$1,069,988	10 Funded for \$1,002,151	10 Funded for \$702,304	12 Funded for \$1,020,004
Aging Infrastructure Grants ⁶	29 Funded for \$25,000,000	40 Funded for \$18,761,971	23 Funded for \$11,569,270	38 Funded for \$22,919,008
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Water Management & Sustainability				
Active Regional Water Sustainability Projects ⁷	11	14	15	20
IWRB Supported Stakeholder-Driven Water Management Initiatives ⁸	4	4	4	4
Number of Basins with Cloud Seeding Expenditures	5	5	5	5
IWRB Cloud Seeding Expenditures ⁹	\$3,157,832	\$3,078,464	\$2,457,847	\$2,678,200
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
ESPA Aquifer Management				
Actual Acre-feet (AF) Recharged into Aquifer ¹⁰	146,943 AF	408,982 AF	127,906 AF ¹¹	109,516 AF
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Streamflow Improvement Projects				
Upper Salmon River Basin	4 for \$610,646	2 for \$272,955	1 for \$114,400	4 for \$848,123

⁴ Loan application filings decreased in FY25 due to higher interest rates and the availability of IWRB grant funding.

⁵ The number of projects and dollar funding amount for FY24 and FY25 were updated in FY26 to reflect the actual fiscal year totals. Previously, the FY24 and FY25 metrics reported calendar year totals.

⁶ The number of projects for FY23 and dollar funding amount for FY24 were updated in FY26 to reflect the actual fiscal year totals. Previously, the FY24 and FY25 metrics reported calendar year totals.

⁷ Projects intended to help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or statewide scale. For FY23, 24, and 25, totals represent the number of projects that were under development or completed, and for which funding had been obligated. Funding sources include legislative appropriations to the IWRB's Revolving Development Account, Water Management Account, and ARPA funding. Beginning in FY26, all projects listed on the Regional Water Sustainability List, regardless of whether funded or not, will be included in the fiscal year-end reporting total.

⁸ Includes water management planning and implementation efforts in the Lemhi River, Wood River, and Bear River basins, and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

⁹ Represents all funds committed per fiscal year for operations, maintenance, capital cost, and research and development.

¹⁰ The actual, not averaged, amount of IWRB managed aquifer recharge conducted under the IWRB's natural flow rights.

¹¹ The recharge amount referenced for FY25 is updated in this FY26 report following the final volume calculation completed after the issuance of the FY25 Performance Report.

Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Water Supply Bank				
Rental Applications Received	104	112	77	129
Rental Applications Processed	130	105	94	91
Lease Applications Received	124	188	142	178
Lease Applications Processed	186	137	129	154
Lease Contract Release Requests	13	16	4	7

Resource Protection Bureau

Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Ground Water Protection Section				
Well Permits Issued	4,648	4,342	4,323	4,122
Driller Licenses and Operator Permits Issued ¹²	261	190	208	199
Injection Well Apps Processed	493	668	647	738
Geothermal Well Apps Processed	1	0	0	0
Percentage of Permitted Wells Inspected	29.1%	28.0%	31.4%	26%
Number of IGWA well driller workshops or online course presentations supported by IDWR	3	4	5	7
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Enforcement (Water Rights, Well Construction, and Stream Channel Alterations)				
Notices of Violation Issued	17	12	16	26
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Stream Channel Protection Unit				
Stream Channel Alteration (SCA) Apps Received	329	367	380	319
SCA Permits Issued ¹³	271	222	304	180
Percentage of SCA applications processed within 60 days of receipt (Min. Standard Projects only)	82.3%	80.1%	90.2%	73.8%
Percentage of permitted SCA activities receiving pre or post inspection	31.0%	42.8%	41.1%	27.2%
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Recreational Mining				
Letter Permits Issued	238	228	267	334
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Floodplain Management Program				
NFIP Community Asst. Visits (CAVs) Opened or Ongoing	8	3	2	2
CAVs Closed	15	5	3	1
NFIP Comm. Asst. Contacts (CACs) Initiated	0	7	5	10

¹² Beginning in FY24, in accordance with updated Well Driller Licensing Rules (IDAPA 37.03.10), the Department eliminated licensing requirements for entry level Class I Operators, which significantly reduced the number of licenses issued. Prior to FY24, the annual number of driller licenses issued included Driller Licenses and Class I and II Operator Permits.

¹³ Some permits issued in the current fiscal year were received in the previous fiscal year.

Training, Outreach, & Presentations Given	9	12	21	34
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Safety of Dams Program				
Inspections of Existing Dams	91	122 ¹⁴	124 ¹⁵	110
Percentage of dams inspected each year that are necessary to comply with the annual inspection schedule ¹⁶	80.0%	83.0%	82%	96.5%
Design Review & Approval - New Const. or Repair	8	8	9	6
Percentage of High Hazard Dams with Up-to-Date Operation/Emergency Plans	43.0%	42.4%	44.4%	33.7%
Number of Dam Failures or Uncontrolled Releases of Stored Water	1	0	0	0

Technical Services Bureau

Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Hydrology Section: Surface & Ground Water Investigations				
Initiated	1	1	0	1
Ongoing	4	4	5	4
Completed	0	1	0	1
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Hydrology Section: Ground Water Model Revisions & Recalibration Efforts				
Initiated	1	0	1	0
Ongoing	2	3	3	4
Completed	1	0	0	0
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Hydrology Section: Water Rights Accounting Program Modernization Efforts				
Initiated	0	0	0	0
Ongoing	3	3	2	2
Completed	0	0	1	0
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Hydrology Section: Water Measurement Sites				
Total Water Measurement Sites	1,593	1,663	1,731	1,725
Total Ground Water Measurement Sites	1,328	1,361	1,393	1,456
Managed Recharge	89	83	72	92
Geothermal	42	45	47	33
Ground Water Quality	233	259	239	234

¹⁴ This number includes 95 dams inspected in FY24 and 24 dams inspected in FY23.

¹⁵ This number includes 91 dams inspected in FY25 and 23 dams inspected in FY24.

¹⁶ The percentage of dams inspected is based on an estimated average of 114 dam inspections per fiscal year. An estimate is necessary because inspection schedules are set on a calendar-year basis.

Water Level Monitoring only	964 ¹⁷	974 ¹⁸	1,035	1,097
Total Surface Water Sites	265	302	338	269
Surface Water Quality	6	39	42	4
Surface Water Gaging ¹⁹	259	263	296	265
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Hydrology Section: Equipment Deployment				
New Pressure Transducers Deployed in Wells	26	23	32	27
Telemetry stations and instrumentation upgraded	21	20	27	11
Cases Managed & Key Services Provided	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Geospatial Technology Section: GIS Large Database, Development, & Integration Projects				
Initiated	3	1	2	0
Ongoing	4	5	5	5
Continuous ²⁰	3	3	2	2
Completed	3	2	2	2
Target GIS projects and requests completed	132	204	217	189

Licensing Freedom Act

Agencies who participate in licensure must report on the number of applicants denied licensure or license renewal and the number of disciplinary actions taken against license holders.

Operator Permit²¹ (Formerly Class II Operator Permit)

License or Permit	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total Number of Permits	34	39	56	28
Number of New Applicants Denied Permit	0	0	0	0
Number of Applicants Refused Renewal of a Permit	0	0	0	0
Number of Complaints Against Permittee	0	1	0	0
Number of Final Disciplinary Actions Against Permittee	0	0	1	0

Licensed Driller

License or Permit	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total Number of Licenses	158	151	152	171
Number of New Applicants Denied Licensure	0	0	0	0
Number of Applicants Refused Renewal of a License	0	0	0	0
Number of Complaints Against Licensees	0	1	7	14
Number of Final Disciplinary Actions Against Licensees	1	0	6	5

¹⁷ Plus 1,034 additional wells for FY23 mass measurement events in the Big Lost River Basin (123), Mountain Home Plateau (119) and Eastern Snake River Plain (792).

¹⁸ Plus 139 wells measured in FY24 Mountain Home Plateau mass measurement event.

¹⁹ Includes USGS gages, and IDWR springs and return flow sites. Beginning in FY26, Surface Water Gaging does not include individual surface water measurements.

²⁰ The Department added "Continuous" projects to the FY23 Performance Report to represent GTS projects that do not have an end date. "Ongoing" projects represent GTS projects with a long-term end date.

²¹ Beginning in FY24, in accordance with updated Well Driller Licensing Rules (IDAPA 37.03.10), the Department eliminated licensing requirements for entry level Class I Operators and renamed Class II Operators as Operators.

Part II – Performance Measures

IDWR Goal 1: Manage and allocate the State’s water resources to optimize economic activity and protect public safety and Idaho’s ecosystems.

Performance Measure		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
1. Applications for Permit Number of pending, unprotected Applications for Permit, not subject to a moratorium	actual	623	569	478	455	
	target	575	600	250	325	325
2. Water Right Transfers Number of Pending Water Right Transfer Applications	actual	146	128	116	115	
	target	100	100	100	100	100
3. Water Supply Bank Median number of days to receive, process, and recommend water supply bank leases and rentals	actual	27	120	183	147	
	target	30	30	30	30	30
4. Adjudications – Claims & Recommendations Total number of statewide adjudication claims taken and recommendations completed ²²	actual	6,070	5,056	4,503	2,681	
	target	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	4,000
5. Ground Water Protection Percentage of wells inspected during construction, modification, or decommissioning	actual	29.1%	28.0%	31.4%	26%	
	target	30%	26%	28%	28%	28%

²² Beginning in FY25, Performance Measure #4 is updated from Total number of statewide adjudication claims taken, and recommendations submitted to the Idaho Water Adjudications Court (“court”) to Total number of statewide adjudication claims taken, and recommendations completed. The change better reflects IDWR staff’s productivity throughout an extended period. A “Director’s Report” includes multiple recommendations prepared over multiple fiscal years and is held until IDWR can submit a large group of recommendations to the court in a single report. The Director’s Report can contain thousands of recommendations. Reporting only the submittal of Director’s Reports does not accurately reflect IDWR’s productivity in a single fiscal year.

IDWR Goal 2: Accurately administer water rights and distribute water to protect senior water rights and conserve Idaho's water.

Performance Measure		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
6. Water Distribution Water Districts created or modified	actual	5	3	0	2	
	target	1-2	1-2	≥2	≥2	≥3
NEW Measure: 7. Equipment Deployment Install or upgrade surface water or groundwater monitoring sites ²³	actual	---	---	---	38	
	target	---	---	---	10	10

IDWR Goal 4: Sustain, maintain, and enhance the State's water resources for the benefit of Idaho's economy, ecosystems, and resulting quality of life.

Performance Measure		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
8. Water Resource Board Annual volume of water recharged into the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (acre-feet or AF) ²⁴	actual	146,943 AF	408,982 AF	127,906 ²⁵ AF	109,516 ²⁶ AF	
	target	250,000 AF	250,000 AF	250,000 AF	250,000 AF	350,000 AF

²³ Beginning in FY26, IDWR combined the previous Performance Measures, "Number of additional pressure transducers installed annually into monitoring wells" and "Telemetry stations and instrumentation upgraded" into one Performance Measure, "Install or upgrade surface water or groundwater monitoring sites". The year-end totals for the previous two measures are still reported separately, in this report under the Technical Services Bureau's "Equipment Deployment" section.

²⁴ Beginning in FY27, this metric will be updated to report the 15-year average annual recharge volume for consistency with the State Water Plan. The recharge target will also increase from 250,000 to 350,000 acre-feet in accordance with the 2025 Idaho Legislature's Senate Concurrent Resolution 110, and revisions to the Idaho State Water Plan and ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan. The ability to meet the average annual 350,000 acre-feet recharge goal is dependent on annual water supply.

²⁵ The recharge amount referenced for FY25 is updated in this FY26 report following the final volume calculation completed after the issuance of the FY25 Performance Report.

²⁶ The recharge amount referenced for FY26 is provisional pending the final calculation of volume recharged.

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