

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

During Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) the Department was comprised of four bureaus: the Water Allocation Bureau, the Water Compliance Bureau, the Planning and Projects Bureau, and the Technical Services Bureau. The Bureau summaries below reflect IDWR's FY25 organization structure, consistent with this report. In Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), with approval from the Governor and Legislature, the Department will establish a fifth bureau—the Water Administration Bureau—to support and train water districts and watermasters, develop and enforce water measurement standards, and conduct priority administration. Additionally, the Water Compliance Bureau will be renamed the Resource Protection Bureau and restructured to include groundwater protection, stream channel protection, flood management, and the Safety of Dams programs. The Department's FY26 Performance Report will reflect these organizational changes.

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 Water Compliance Bureau administers programs that protect state water resources and ensures the distribution and use of the state's water resources are fair and equitable in accordance with vested water rights and Idaho law. The Compliance Bureau comprises the Water Distribution Section, Ground Water Protection Section, Stream Channel Protection Program, and Floodplain Management Unit. Additionally, the Bureau includes an Enforcement Coordinator who supports multiple regulatory programs of the Department.

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, 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 and the Water Supply Bank.

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 provide support to 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.

Agency Metrics

Revenue and Expenditures				
Revenue	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Revenue Fund	20,564,800	22,521,200 ¹	23,935,400	24,212,000
Indirect Cost Recovery	639,700	720,300	544,600	512,000
Aquifer Planning & Mgmt.	1,474,700	1,534,800	1,588,000	1,615,700
ARPA SLFRF ²	0	100,030,000	50,000,000	50,000,000
Water Admin. Fund	1,641,200	1,741,400	1,835,300	1,869,500
Technology Infrast. Stab.	0	0	0	0
Adjudications	38,000	38,000	47,700	38,700
Federal Grant	1,561,400	1,774,500	1,838,100	1,847,200
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>1,737,100</u>	<u>1,624,100</u>	<u>1,680,000</u>	<u>1,704,700</u>
Total	\$27,656,900	\$129,984,300	\$81,469,100	\$81,800,000
Expenditures	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Personnel Costs	12,886,400	13,894,400	14,665,700	14,967,400
Operating Expenditures	5,701,200	7,564,700	46,297,200	34,354,500
Capital Outlay	89,900	247,300	483,200	931,100
Trustee/Benefit Payments	<u>408,500</u>	<u>73,779,900</u>	<u>1,020,700</u>	<u>39,344,700</u>
Total	\$19,086,000	\$95,486,300	\$62,466,800	\$90,313,700

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.

Planning and Projects Bureau				
Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
IWRB Financial Program				
Loans	8 for \$4,871,615	15 for \$39,265,720	4 for \$1,098,833	0 ³
Flood Management Grants	10 Funded for \$980,936	10 Funded for \$1,069,988	10 Funded for \$702,304	8 Funded for \$460,646
Aging Infrastructure Grants	*	30 Funded for \$25,000,000	40 Funded for \$18,856,039	23 Funded for \$11,569,270
Water Management & Sustainability				
Active Regional Water Sustainability Projects ⁴	2	11	14	15
IWRB Supported Stakeholder-Driven Water Management Initiatives ⁵	4	4	4	4
Number of Basins with Cloud Seeding Expenditures	5	5	5	5
IWRB Cloud Seeding Expenditures ⁶	\$2,736,286	\$3,157,832	\$3,078,464	\$2,457,847
ESPA Aquifer Management				
Acre-feet (AF) Recharged into Aquifer ⁷	157,586 AF	146,943 AF	408,982 AF	127,852 AF ⁸
Streamflow Improvement Projects				
Upper Salmon River Basin	1 for \$27,000	4 for \$610,646	2 for \$272,955	1 for \$114,400
Water Supply Bank				
Rental Applications Received	129	104	112	77
Rental Applications Processed	59	130	105	94
Lease Applications Received	170	124	188	142
Lease Applications Processed	103	186	137	129
Lease Contract Release Requests	12	13	16	4

³ Loan application filings decreased in FY25 due to the availability of IWRB grant funding.

⁴ Projects intended to help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional, basin, or statewide scale. Reflects the number of projects currently under development or completed for which funding has been obligated. Funding sources include legislative appropriations to the IWRB's Revolving Development Account, Water Management Account, and ARPA funding.

⁵ These include water management planning and implementation efforts in the Lemhi River, Wood River, and Bear River basins, and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

⁶ IWRB Cloud Seeding Expenditures represent all funds committed for operations and maintenance, capital cost, and research and development per fiscal year. Expenditures are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

⁷ IWRB managed aquifer recharge conducted under the IWRB's natural flow rights.

⁸ The recharge amount referenced for FY25 is provisional pending the final calculation of volume recharged.

Water Allocation Bureau				
Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Adjudications – Claims & Recommendations				
New Claims Received	3,035	5,938	2,923	3,255
Recommendations Completed ⁹	2,303	132	2,133	1,286
Number of Active Claims Awaiting a Director's Report	3,010	8,807	11,743	14,002
Applications for Permit				
Number of Applications Received	982	1,101	627	490
Number of Unprotested Applications Pending	452	410	569	478
Number of Protested Applications Pending	144	145	125	121
Total Applications in Progress	596	555	694	599
Total Permits Issued	717	1,104	510	465
Applications on Moratorium Hold	701	714	721	713
Water Right Transfers				
Number of Applications Received	260	281	217	183
Number of Applications Resolved	253	267	244	191
Number of Unprotested Applications Pending	85	109	102	97
Number of Protested Applications Pending	28	37	26	19
Total Number of Applications Pending	113	146	128	116
Water Right Licenses				
Number of Licenses Issued	241	326	417	339
Number of Permits Needing Water Right Licensing	604	623	521	634
Water Right Ownership Changes				
Number of Ownership Changes Processed	3,224	2,750	2,210	2,457
Number of Ownership Changes Pending	473	278	260	312

⁹ 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.

Water Compliance Bureau				
Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Water Distribution Section				
Water Districts Created, Expanded, or Modified	3	5	3	0
Measurement Orders Issued (comprehensive only)	1	1	2	3
Ground Water Protection Section				
Well Permits Issued	4,938	4,648	4,342	4,323
Driller Licenses Issued ¹⁰	264	261	190	208
Injection Well Apps Processed	932	493	668	647
Geothermal Well Apps Processed	0	1	0	0
Percentage of Permitted Wells Inspected	26.5%	29.1%	28.0%	31.4%
Number of IGWA well driller workshops or online course presentations supported by IDWR	2	3	4	5
Enforcement (Water Rights, Well Construction, and Stream Channel Alterations)				
Notices of Violation Issued	20	17	12	16
Stream Channel Protection Unit				
Stream Channel Alteration (SCA) Apps Received	333	329	367	380
SCA Permits Issued ¹¹	250	271	222	304
Percentage of SCA applications processed within 60 days of receipt (Min. Standard Projects only)	85.8%	82.3%	80.1%	90.2%
Percentage of permitted SCA activities receiving pre or post inspection	38.0%	31.0%	42.8%	41.1%
Recreational Mining				
Letter Permits Issued	237	238	228	267
Flood Plain Management Program				
NFIP Community Asst. Visits (CAVs) Opened or Ongoing	21	8	3	2
CAVs Closed	9	15	5	3
NFIP Comm. Asst. Contacts (CACs) Initiated	6	0	7	5
Training, Outreach, & Presentations Given	9	9	12	21

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Some permits issued in the current fiscal year were received in the previous fiscal year.

Safety of Dams Program

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Inspections of Existing Dams	87	91	122 ¹²	124 ¹³
Percentage of dams inspected each year that are necessary to comply with the annual inspection schedule	76.3%	80.0%	83.0%	82%
Design Review & Approval - New Const. or Repair	13	8	8	9
Percentage of High Hazard Dams with Up-to-Date Operation/Emergency Plans	58.7%	43.0%	42.4%	44.4%
Number of Dam Failures or Uncontrolled Releases of Stored Water	0	1	0	0

Technical Services Bureau

Hydrology Section: Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Surface and Ground Water Investigations				
Initiated	1	1	1	0
Ongoing	4	4	4	5
Completed	1	0	1	0
Ground Water Model Revisions and Recalibration efforts				
Initiated	0	1	0	1
Ongoing	1	2	3	3
Completed	0	1	0	0
Water Rights Accounting Program Modernization efforts				
Initiated	2	0	0	0
Ongoing	1	3	3	2
Completed	2	0	0	1
Water Measurement Sites				
Total Water Measurement Sites	1,593	1,593	1,663	1,731
Total Ground Water Measurement Sites	1,353	1,328	1,361	1,393
Managed Recharge	85	89	83	72
Geothermal	42	42	45	47
Ground Water Quality	256	233	259	239
Water Level Monitoring only	970	964 ¹⁴	974 ¹⁵	1,035
Total Surface Water Sites	240	265	302	338
Surface Water Quality	16	6	39	42
Surface Water Gaging ¹⁶	224	259	263	296

¹² IDWR staff inspected 95 dams due for inspection in FY24 and inspected an additional 24 dams that were due for inspection in FY23.

¹³ IDWR staff inspected 91 dams due for inspection in FY25 and inspected an additional 23 dams that were carried over from FY24.

¹⁴ 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).

¹⁵ Plus 139 wells measured in FY24 Mountain Home Plateau mass measurement event.

¹⁶ Includes USGS gages and return flow sites.

Technical Services Bureau (cont.)				
Hydrology Section: Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Equipment Deployment				
New Pressure Transducers Deployed in Wells	15	26	23	32
Telemetry stations and instrumentation upgraded	10	21	20	27
Geospatial Technology Section: Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
GIS Large Database, Development, & Integration Projects				
Initiated	4	3	1	2
Ongoing	6	4	5	5
Continuous ¹⁷	0	3	3	2
Completed	3	3	2	2
Target GIS projects and requests completed	193	132	204	217

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.

License or Permit	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Operator Permit¹⁸ (Formerly Class II Operator Permit)				
Total Number of Licenses	33	34	39	56
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	0	1	0
Number of Final Disciplinary Actions Against Licensees	0	0	0	1
Licensed Driller				
Total Number of Licenses	136	158	151	152
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	9	0	1	7
Number of Final Disciplinary Actions Against Licensees	1	1	0	6

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
1. Applications for Permit Number of pending, unprotested Applications for Permit, not subject to a moratorium ¹⁹	actual	604	623	569	478	
	<i>target</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>575</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>325</i>
2. Water Right Transfers Number of Pending Water Right Transfer Applications	actual	113	146	128	116	
	<i>target</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
3. Water Supply Bank Median number of days to receive, process, and recommend water supply bank leases and rentals	actual	52	27	120	183	
	<i>target</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>
4. Adjudications – Claims & Recommendations Total number of statewide adjudication claims taken and recommendations completed ²⁰	actual	5,338	6,070	5,056	4,503	
	<i>target</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>3,000</i>
5. Ground Water Protection Percentage of wells inspected during construction, modification, or decommissioning	actual	26.5%	29.1%	28.0%	31.4%	
	<i>target</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>28%</i>

¹⁹ Beginning in FY25, IDWR will report the number of *Pending, unprotested Applications for Permit, which are not subject to a moratorium*, as the first of nine performance measure in the Department’s annual Performance Report. The previous reported performance measure was the *Number of permits needing Water Right Licensing*, which is still reported in the Water Allocation Bureau table on pg. 4 of this Performance Report.

²⁰ 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 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
6. Water Distribution Water Districts created or modified	actual	3	5	3	0	
	<i>target</i>	<i>1-2</i>	<i>1-2</i>	<i>1-2</i>	<i>≥2</i>	<i>≥2</i>
7. Ground Water Measurement Sites Number of additional pressure transducers installed annually into monitoring wells	actual	15	26	23	32	
	<i>target</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>10</i>
8. Telemetry stations and instrumentation upgraded	actual	10	21²¹	20	27	
	<i>target</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>

IDWR Goal 3: 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 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
9. Water Resource Board Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer acre-feet (AF) recharged into aquifer	actual	157,586 AF	146,943 AF	408,982 AF	127,852 AF	
	<i>target</i>	<i>250,000 AF</i>	<i>250,000 AF</i>	<i>250,000 AF</i>	<i>250,000 AF</i>	<i>250,000 AF</i>

²¹ The actual FY20, FY21, and FY22 totals for performance measure #8 represent new telemetry systems installed at stream gage stations. Beginning with FY23, the Department updated this measure to include both upgraded and newly installed telemetry stations. The actual FY23 total, 21, accounts for seven upgrades and 14 newly installed telemetry stations. Because IDWR is in the maintenance stage of telemetry installation, there is more opportunity for upgrades than new installations, and thus the benchmark is increased to '10'.

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