

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR or Department) serves the citizens of Idaho by ensuring that water is conserved and available to sustain Idaho's economy, ecosystems, and the resulting quality of life. Gary Spackman, the Director of IDWR, was appointed to his position by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter on July 11, 2012, after serving as Interim Director since July 16, 2009.

The eight-person Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB or Board) was created by constitutional amendment in 1965. The 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.

The Director and the Board interact in a level working relationship. The Board sets long-term vision and policy, and finances, constructs, and operates water projects on behalf of the state. The Department administers water rights, performs regulatory functions, and develops tools and resources to record and monitor Idaho's water supply. Title 42, Idaho Code is the primary authority for the existence of IDWR, IWRB, and their respective programs.

The Department's central office is located in Boise. Four regional offices serve Idaho citizens: Northern Regional Office in Coeur d'Alene, Eastern Regional Office in Idaho Falls, Southern Regional Office in Twin Falls, and Western Regional Office in Boise. The Department operates two field offices, one in Salmon and the other in Preston. The Salmon office houses staff necessary for implementing Board projects and water administration in the Salmon River basin. The Preston field office coordinates the Bear River Basin Adjudication.

Agency Core Functions

The Department is comprised of four bureaus:

- Water Allocation Bureau: One of two regulatory bureaus within the Department. Water Allocation Bureau personnel work in the state office and in all four regional offices. The Water Allocation Bureau contains two units: the Water Rights Section and the Adjudication Section.
- Water Compliance Bureau: The other regulatory bureau within the Department. The Compliance Bureau is comprised of the Water Distribution Section, Ground Water Protection Section, Stream Channel Protection Unit, and the Floodplain Management Unit.
- Planning and Projects Bureau: The Planning and Projects Bureau primarily supports Board 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 Bureau contains a Water Projects Section. Several adjunct staff report directly to the Planning Bureau Chief.
- Technical Services Bureau: The Technical Services Bureau was created in FY23 and comprises the formerly stand-alone Geospatial Technology and Hydrology Sections. The Geospatial Technology Section develops spatial data, analysis, and tools in support of IDWR operations. These products include Evapotranspiration data and analysis, interactive maps, and field and desktop tools that allow IDWR staff to collect spatial components of IDWR data. The Hydrology Section gathers and archives scientific data, analyzes and models hydrologic data, and technically supports administrative decisions for the management, planning, and protection of the state's water resources.

In addition, the Safety of Dams program is a stand-alone unit overseen by the Deputy Director. Finally, Legal Services, Support Services, and one HR Specialist, Sr. support IDWR operations. The Legal Services staff are employees of the Office of the Attorney General and housed at IDWR. Support Services include Fiscal and Purchasing.

Revenue and Expenditures				
Revenue	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Revenue Fund	19,658,700	18,957,600	20,564,800	22,521,200 ¹
Indirect Cost Recovery	714,600	609,800	639,700	720,300
Aquifer Planning & Mgmt.	1,440,800	1,453,400	1,474,700	1,534,800
ARPA SLFRF ²	0	0	0	100,030,000
Water Admin. Fund	1,605,900	1,612,500	1,641,200	1,741,400
Technology Infrast. Stab.	322,800	0	0	0
Adjudications ³	38,000	38,000	38,000	38,000
Federal Grant	1,719,800	1,725,600	1,561,400	1,774,500
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>1,531,400</u>	<u>1,542,400</u>	<u>1,737,100</u>	<u>1,624,100</u>
Total	\$27,032,000	\$25,939,300	\$27,656,900	\$129,984,300
Expenditures	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Personnel Costs	12,662,700	11,794,300	12,886,400	13,894,400
Operating Expenditures	5,264,100	5,147,000	5,701,200	7,564,700
Capital Outlay	59,000	140,000	89,900	247,300
Trustee/Benefit Payments	<u>908,500</u>	<u>408,500</u>	<u>408,500</u>	<u>73,779,900</u>
Total	\$18,894,300	\$17,459,800	\$19,086,000	\$95,486,300

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'. Beginning with this FY23 report, this revenue is re-labeled 'American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF)' to better describe the funding source. The Department will continue to receive ARPA funds until December 31, 2026.

³ This revenue source was previously called 'N. Idaho Adjudication'. In FY22, IDWR renamed the revenue source 'Adjudications' to reflect all adjudication activity in the State.

Planning and Projects Bureau				
Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Water Resource Board				
Loans	2 for \$2,190,000	3 for \$171,000	8 for \$4,871,615	15 for \$39,265,720
Revenue Bond Issuances	0	0	0	0
Research and Project Development				
Surface Water Storage Studies in Progress	3	3	1	1
ESPA Aquifer Management				
Acre-feet (AF) Recharged into Aquifer	447,956 AF	130,463 AF	157,586 AF	146,943 AF
Streamflow Improvement Projects				
Upper Salmon River Basin	1 for \$13,404	6 for \$1,058,261	1 for \$27,000	4 for \$610,646
Water Supply Bank				
Rental Applications Received	94	124	129	104
Rental Applications Processed	57	127	59	130
Lease Applications Received	175	219	170	124
Lease Applications Processed	227	235	103	186
Lease Contract Release Requests	4	2	12	13

Water Allocation Bureau				
Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Adjudications (State Law Based Claims)				
New Claims Filed	1,085	322	3,035	5,938
Recommendations Submitted to the Court	51	112	2,303	132
Number of Active Claims Awaiting the Director's Report	1,931	2,135	3,010	8,807
Applications for Permit				
Number of Applications Received	468	523	982	1,101
Number of Unprotested Applications Pending	194	208	452	410
Number of Protested Applications Pending	179	155	144	145
Total Applications in Progress	373	363	596	555
Total Permits Issued ⁴	487	509	717	1,104
Applications on Moratorium Hold	782	705	701	714

⁴ The label for this metric was previously "Total Applications Completed" and represented the total number of water right permits issued by IDWR in a fiscal year. For clarity, in FY22 IDWR relabeled this metric as "Total Permits Issued."

Water Allocation Bureau (Cont.)				
Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Water Right Transfers				
Number of Applications Received	245	279	260	281
Number of Applications Resolved	262	291	253	267
Number of Unprotested Applications Pending	80	90	85	109
Number of Protested Applications Pending	46	27	28	37
Total Number Applications Pending	126	117	113	146
Water Right Licenses				
Number of Licenses Issued	421	412	241	326
Number of Permits Needing Water Right Licensing ⁵	650	581	604	623
Water Right Ownership Changes				
Number of Ownership Changes Processed	2,545	2,581	3,224	2,750
Number of Ownership Changes Pending	412	645	473	278
Safety of Dams Program				
Inspections of Existing Dams	60	93	87	91
Percentage of dams inspected each year that are necessary to comply with the annual inspection schedule ⁶	52.6%	81.6%	76.3%	80%
Design Review & Approval - New Const. or Repair	2	11	13	8
Percentage of High Hazard Dams with Up-to-Date Operation/Emergency Plans	42%	63%	58.7%	43%
Number of Dam Failures or Uncontrolled Releases of Stored Water ⁷	0	0	0	1

⁵ The label for this metric was previously "Number of Licenses Pending" and represented the total number of permits with proof of beneficial use filed still needing licensing as of the end of the fiscal year. Starting in FY23, IDWR relabeled this metric to more accurately reflect the values reported.

⁶ This performance measure was newly added to IDWR's FY24-27 Strategic Plan and is the percentage of total dams inspected that required inspection in the reporting fiscal year.

⁷ The "Number of Dam Failures or Uncontrolled Releases of Stored Water" metric was added to the Performance Report in FY21. The prevention of dam failures and uncontrolled releases of water is a primary indicator of the level of success of the State's dam safety program.

Water Compliance Bureau				
Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Water Distribution Section				
Water Districts Created, Expanded, or Modified	0	0	3	5
Measurement Orders Issued (comprehensive only)	0	0	1	1
Ground Water Protection Section				
Well Permits Issued	4,096	4,739	4,938	4,648
Driller Licenses Issued ⁸	223	283	264	261
Injection Well Apps Processed	260	525	932	493
Geothermal Well Apps Processed	0	0	0	1
Percentage of Permitted Wells Inspected	23.5%	23.4%	26.5%	29.1%
Number of IGWA well driller workshops or online course presentations supported by IDWR	3	1	2	3
Enforcement (Water Rights, Well Construction, and Stream Channel Alteration)				
Notices of Violation Issued	13	12	20	17
Stream Channel Protection Unit				
Stream Channel Alteration (SCA) Apps Received	402	324	333	329
SCA Permits Issued ⁹	288	234	250	271
Percentage of SCA applications processed within 60 days of receipt (Min. Standard Projects only)	71.3%	88.6%	85.8%	82.3%
Percentage of permitted SCA activities receiving pre or post inspection	29.8%	42.7%	38%	31%
Recreational Mining				
Letter Permits Issued	376	343	237	238
Flood Plain Management Program				
NFIP Community Asst. Visits (CAVs) Opened or Ongoing	23	24	21	8
CAVs Closed	10	4	9	15
NFIP Comm. Asst. Contacts (CACs) Initiated ¹⁰	25	25	6	0
Training, Outreach, & Presentations Given	13	13	9	9

⁸ The annual number of driller licenses issued includes Driller Licenses and Class I and II Operator Permits.

⁹ Some permits issued in the current fiscal year were received in the previous fiscal year.

¹⁰ This metric was incorrectly labeled 'CACs Completed' and has been corrected to 'CACs Initiated', consistent with IDWR's Strategic Plan.

Technical Services Bureau ¹¹				
Hydrology Section: Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Surface and Ground Water Investigations				
Initiated	2	1	1	1
Ongoing	3	5	4	4
Completed	0	0	1	0
Ground Water Model Revisions and Recalibration efforts				
Initiated	0	0	0	1
Ongoing	2	1	1	2
Completed	0	1	0	1
Water Rights Accounting Program Modernization efforts				
Initiated	1	2	2	0
Ongoing	0	1	1	3
Completed	0	0	2	0
Water Measurement Sites				
Total Water Measurement Sites	1,522	1,508	1,593	1,593
Total Ground Water Measurement Sites	1,288	1,256	1,353	1,328
Managed Recharge	93	87	85	89
Geothermal	37	37	42	42
Ground Water Quality	255	303	256	233
Water Level Monitoring only	903	829	970	964 ¹²
Total Surface Water Sites	234	252	240	265
Surface Water Quality	8	16	16	6
Surface Water Gaging ¹³	226	236	224	259
Equipment Deployment				
New Pressure Transducers Deployed in Wells	37	25	15	26
Telemetry stations and instrumentation upgraded ¹⁴	5	1	10	21

¹¹ In FY23, IDWR combined its Hydrology and Geospatial Services Sections under the new Technical Services Bureau.

¹² 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).

¹³ Includes USGS gages and return flow sites.

¹⁴ The Department updated this metric in FY23 from “New telemetry systems installed at stream gage stations” to “Telemetry stations and instrumentation upgraded”. The Department is now in the maintenance stage for telemetry development and is not installing as many new telemetry stations as done previously. However, newly installed telemetry stations will still be included in the fiscal year-end total of this metric.

Technical Services Bureau				
Geospatial Technology Section: Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
GIS Large Database, Development, & Integration Projects				
Initiated	4	2	4	3
Ongoing	2	6	6	4
Continuous ¹⁵	0	0	0	3
Completed	2	1	3	3
Target GIS projects and requests completed	156	89	193	132

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 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Class I Operator Permit				
Total Number of Licenses	76	85	95	69
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	0	0
Number of Final Disciplinary Actions Against Licensees	0	0	0	0
Class II Operator Permit				
Total Number of Licenses	29	33	33	34
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	0	0
Number of Final Disciplinary Actions Against Licensees	0	0	0	0
Licensed Driller				
Total Number of Licenses	118	165	136	158
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	5	3	9	0
Number of Final Disciplinary Actions Against Licensees	2	2	1	1

¹⁵ 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.

Part II – Performance Measures

IDWR Goal 1: Manage and allocate water resources as required by statute to optimize economic activity and protect public safety.

Performance Measure		FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
1. Water Right Licenses Number of Permits Needing Water Right Licensing	actual	650	581	604	623	
	<i>target</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>575</i>	<i>600</i>
2. Water Right Transfers Number of Pending Water Right Transfer Applications ¹⁶	actual	126	117	113	146	
	<i>target</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
3. Water Supply Bank¹⁷ Median number of days to receive, process, and recommend water supply bank leases and rentals	actual	35	48	52	27	
	<i>target</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>
4. Adjudications (State Based Claims) Total Claims Taken and Recommendations Submitted to the Idaho Water Adjudications Court ¹⁸	actual	970	434	5,338	6,070	
	<i>target</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>4,000</i>
5. Ground Water Protection Percentage of wells inspected during construction, modification, or decommissioning	actual	23.5%	23.4%	26.5%	29.1%	
	<i>target</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>26%</i>

¹⁶ Pending transfer applications represent the backlog of unprocessed transfer applications at the end of the fiscal year.

¹⁷ Effective FY20, IDWR changed the Water Supply Bank performance measure. The previous measure tracked the number of applications received, over which IDWR has no control. The new measure tracks the median number of days to process applications. Number of applications received and processed are still available in Part I of this report.

¹⁸ The previous adjudication performance measure, “Percent of Recommendations filed in the CSRBA and the PRBA by basin”, does not account for early years of basin-wide adjudication when IDWR is taking claims rather than completing recommendations. In FY21, IDWR began reporting on the sum of claims-taking and recommendation activities.

IDWR Goal 2: Administer and regulate water rights, protect senior water rights, and conserve Idaho’s water for future use.

Performance Measure		FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
6. Water Distribution Water Districts created or modified	actual	0	0	3	5	
	<i>target</i>	<i>1-2</i>	<i>1-2</i>	<i>1-2</i>	<i>1-2</i>	<i>1-2</i>
7. Ground Water Measurement Sites New Pressure transducers in monitoring wells	actual	37	25	15	26	
	<i>target</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>
8. Telemetry stations and instrumentation upgraded	actual	5	1	10	21¹⁹	
	<i>target</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5²⁰</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>

IDWR Goal 3: Promote and finance projects that will advance the sustainability of water resources into the foreseeable future and that will optimize the use of water of the State of Idaho.

Performance Measure		FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
9. Water Resource Board Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer acre-feet (AF) recharged into aquifer	actual	447,956 AF	130,463 AF	157,586 AF	146,943 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>

¹⁹ 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’.

²⁰ In FY21, the benchmark for this performance measure was reduced from ‘10’ telemetry systems deployed to ‘5’ telemetry systems deployed. IDWR’s Strategic Plans FY22-25 and FY23-26 incorrectly list the benchmark for this performance measure as ‘10’.

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Director Attestation for Performance Report

In accordance with *Idaho Code* 67-1904, I certify the data provided in the Performance Report has been internally assessed for accuracy, and, to the best of my knowledge, is deemed to be accurate.

Department: Idaho Department of Water Resources


Director's Signature

8/30/2023
Date

Please return to:

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