

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR or Department) serves the citizens of Idaho by ensuring their water is conserved and available to sustain Idaho's economy, ecosystems, and resulting quality of life. Governor Brad Little appointed Mathew Weaver the Director of IDWR on September 1, 2023, following the retirement of former IDWR Director Gary Spackman at the end of August 2023.

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 organized into four bureaus at the central office in Boise. The Department also has regional offices in Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, and Twin Falls. The regional offices work with the public in their respective geographic areas carrying out all core agency duties. The Department also has field offices in Salmon and Preston. The field offices specialize in core duties in the region. For example, water administration in Salmon and adjudication work in Preston.

The Water Allocation Bureau addresses all administrative water right proposals and recommends elements of water rights during a water right adjudication. 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 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 is comprised of the Water Distribution Section, Ground Water Protection Section, and Stream Channel Protection Section. Additionally, the Bureau includes a National Floodplain Insurance Program Manager and 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 Planning & Projects Bureau is comprised of the Water Projects Section and the Water Supply Bank.

The Technical Services Bureau was formed in 2023 and combines the previous stand-alone Hydrology Section and Geospatial Technology Section. 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.

Additionally, the Safety of Dams program is a stand-alone regulatory unit overseen by the Director. Finally, Legal Services, fiscal and purchasing Support Services, and one HR Specialist, Sr. support IDWR operations. The Legal Services and HR staff are employees of the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Human Resources, respectively, and housed at IDWR.

Revenue and Expenditures				
Revenue	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
General Revenue Fund	18,957,600	20,564,800	22,521,200 ¹	23,935,400
Indirect Cost Recovery	609,800	639,700	720,300	544,600
Aquifer Planning & Mgmt.	1,453,400	1,474,700	1,534,800	1,588,000
ARPA SLFRF ²	0	0	100,030,000	50,000,000
Water Admin. Fund	1,612,500	1,641,200	1,741,400	1,835,300
Technology Infrast. Stab.	0	0	0	0
Adjudications ³	38,000	38,000	38,000	47,700
Federal Grant	1,725,600	1,561,400	1,774,500	1,838,100
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>1,542,400</u>	<u>1,737,100</u>	<u>1,624,100</u>	<u>1,680,000</u>
Total	\$25,939,300	\$27,656,900	\$129,984,300	\$81,469,100
Expenditures	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Personnel Costs	11,794,300	12,886,400	13,894,400	14,665,700
Operating Expenditures	5,147,000	5,701,200	7,564,700	46,297,200
Capital Outlay	140,000	89,900	247,300	483,200
Trustee/Benefit Payments	<u>408,500</u>	<u>408,500</u>	<u>73,779,900</u>	<u>1,020,700</u>
Total	\$17,459,800	\$19,086,000	\$95,486,300	\$62,466,800

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.

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 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
IWRB Financial Program				
Loans	3 for \$171,000	8 for \$4,871,615	15 for \$39,265,720	4 for \$1,098,833
Flood Management Grants	12 Funded for \$860,945	10 Funded for \$980,936	10 Funded for \$1,069,988	10 Funded for \$702,304
Aging Infrastructure Grants	*	*	30 Funded for \$25,000,000	40 Funded for \$18,856,039
Water Management & Sustainability				
Active Regional Water Sustainability Projects ⁴	2	2	11	14
IWRB Supported Stakeholder-Driven Water Management Initiatives ⁵	2	4	4	4
Number of Basins with Cloud Seeding Expenditures	5	5	5	5
IWRB Cloud Seeding Expenditures ⁶	\$1,723,498	\$2,736,286	\$3,157,832	\$3,078,464
ESPA Aquifer Management				
Acre-feet (AF) Recharged into Aquifer ⁷	130,463 AF	157,586 AF	146,943 AF	408,982 AF
Streamflow Improvement Projects				
Upper Salmon River Basin	6 for \$1,058,261	1 for \$27,000	4 for \$610,646	2 for \$272,955
Water Supply Bank				
Rental Applications Received	124	129	104	112
Rental Applications Processed	127	59	130	105
Lease Applications Received	219	170	124	188
Lease Applications Processed	235	103	186	137
Lease Contract Release Requests	2	12	13	16

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.

Water Allocation Bureau				
Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Adjudications – Claims & Recommendations				
New Claims Received	322	3,035	5,938	2,923
Recommendations Completed ⁸	112	2,303	132	2,133
Number of Active Claims Awaiting a Director's Report	2,135	3,010	8,807	11,743
Applications for Permit				
Number of Applications Received	523	982	1,101	627
Number of Unprotested Applications Pending	208	452	410	569
Number of Protested Applications Pending	155	144	145	125
Total Applications in Progress	363	596	555	694
Total Permits Issued ⁹	509	717	1,104	510
Applications on Moratorium Hold	705	701	714	721
Water Right Transfers				
Number of Applications Received	279	260	281	217
Number of Applications Resolved	291	253	267	244
Number of Unprotested Applications Pending	90	85	109	102
Number of Protested Applications Pending	27	28	37	26
Total Number Applications Pending	117	113	146	128
Water Right Licenses				
Number of Licenses Issued	412	241	326	417
Number of Permits Needing Water Right Licensing ¹⁰	581	604	623	521
Water Right Ownership Changes				
Number of Ownership Changes Processed	2,581	3,224	2,750	2,210
Number of Ownership Changes Pending	645	473	278	260

⁸ Beginning in FY25, this performance measure is updated from Recommendations Submitted to the Court to Recommendations Completed. The updated language reflects a distinction between recommendations completed and recommendations submitted to the court. The purpose of this change is to better reflect IDWR staff's productivity throughout an extended period. A "Director's Report" includes multiple recommendations that are typically prepared over multiple fiscal years and held until a large group of recommendations can be submitted to the court in a single report. The Director's Report can contain hundreds to thousands of recommendations. Reporting the submittal of Director's Reports, which include multiple recommendations prepared over several years does not accurately reflect IDWR's productivity in a single fiscal year.

⁹ 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."

¹⁰ 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.

Water Compliance Bureau				
Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Water Distribution Section				
Water Districts Created, Expanded, or Modified	0	3	5	3
Measurement Orders Issued (comprehensive only)	0	1	1	2
Ground Water Protection Section				
Well Permits Issued	4,739	4,938	4,648	4,342
Driller Licenses Issued ¹¹	283	264	261	190
Injection Well Apps Processed	525	932	493	668
Geothermal Well Apps Processed	0	0	1	0
Percentage of Permitted Wells Inspected	23.4%	26.5%	29.1%	28.0%
Number of IGWA well driller workshops or online course presentations supported by IDWR	1	2	3	4
Enforcement (Water Rights, Well Construction, and Stream Channel Alterations)				
Notices of Violation Issued	12	20	17	12
Stream Channel Protection Unit				
Stream Channel Alteration (SCA) Apps Received	324	333	329	367
SCA Permits Issued ¹²	234	250	271	222
Percentage of SCA applications processed within 60 days of receipt (Min. Standard Projects only)	88.6%	85.8%	82.3%	80.1%
Percentage of permitted SCA activities receiving pre or post inspection	42.7%	38.0%	31.0%	42.8%
Recreational Mining				
Letter Permits Issued	343	237	238	228
Flood Plain Management Program				
NFIP Community Asst. Visits (CAVs) Opened or Ongoing	24	21	8	3
CAVs Closed	4	9	15	5
NFIP Comm. Asst. Contacts (CACs) Initiated ¹³	25	6	0	7
Training, Outreach, & Presentations Given	13	9	9	12

¹¹ 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.

¹² Some permits issued in the current fiscal year were received in the previous fiscal year.

¹³ This metric was incorrectly labeled 'CACs Completed' and has been corrected to 'CACs Initiated', consistent with IDWR's Strategic Plan.

Safety of Dams Program				
Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Inspections of Existing Dams	93	87	91	122 ¹⁴
Percentage of dams inspected each year that are necessary to comply with the annual inspection schedule	81.6%	76.3%	80.0%	83.0%
Design Review & Approval - New Const. or Repair	11	13	8	8
Percentage of High Hazard Dams with Up-to-Date Operation/Emergency Plans	63.0%	58.7%	43.0%	42.4%
Number of Dam Failures or Uncontrolled Releases of Stored Water ¹⁵	0	0	1	0

Technical Services Bureau				
Hydrology Section: Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Surface and Ground Water Investigations				
Initiated	1	1	1	1
Ongoing	5	4	4	4
Completed	0	1	0	1
Ground Water Model Revisions and Recalibration efforts				
Initiated	0	0	1	0
Ongoing	1	1	2	3
Completed	1	0	1	0
Water Rights Accounting Program Modernization efforts				
Initiated	2	2	0	0
Ongoing	1	1	3	3
Completed	0	2	0	0
Water Measurement Sites				
Total Water Measurement Sites	1,508	1,593	1,593	1,663
Total Ground Water Measurement Sites	1,256	1,353	1,328	1,361
Managed Recharge	87	85	89	83
Geothermal	37	42	42	45
Ground Water Quality	303	256	233	259
Water Level Monitoring only	829	970	964 ¹⁶	974 ¹⁷
Total Surface Water Sites	252	240	265	302
Surface Water Quality	16	16	6	39
Surface Water Gaging ¹⁸	236	224	259	263

¹⁴ IDWR staff inspected 95 dams due for inspection in FY24 and inspected an additional 24 dams that were due for inspection in FY23.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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).

¹⁷ Plus 139 wells measured in FY24 Mountain Home Plateau mass measurement event.

¹⁸ Includes USGS gages and return flow sites.

Technical Services Bureau (cont.)				
Hydrology Section: Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Water Measurement Sites				
Total Water Measurement Sites	1,508	1,593	1,593	1,663
Total Ground Water Measurement Sites	1,256	1,353	1,328	1,361
Managed Recharge	87	85	89	83
Geothermal	37	42	42	45
Ground Water Quality	303	256	233	259
Water Level Monitoring only	829	970	964 ¹⁹	974 ²⁰
Total Surface Water Sites	252	240	265	302
Surface Water Quality	16	16	6	39
Surface Water Gaging ²¹	236	224	259	263
Equipment Deployment				
New Pressure Transducers Deployed in Wells	25	15	26	23
Telemetry stations and instrumentation upgraded	1	10	21	20
Geospatial Technology Section: Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
GIS Large Database, Development, & Integration Projects				
Initiated	2	4	3	1
Ongoing	6	6	4	5
Continuous ²²	0	0	3	3
Completed	1	3	3	2
Target GIS projects and requests completed	89	193	132	204

¹⁹ 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).

²⁰ Plus 139 wells measured in FY24 Mountain Home Plateau mass measurement event.

²¹ Includes USGS gages and return flow sites.

²² 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.

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 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Operator Permit²³ (Formerly Class II Operator Permit)				
Total Number of Licenses	33	33	34	39
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	1
Number of Final Disciplinary Actions Against Licensees	0	0	0	0
Licensed Driller				
Total Number of Licenses	165	136	158	151
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	3	9	0	1
Number of Final Disciplinary Actions Against Licensees	2	1	1	0

²³ 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 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
1. Applications for Permit Number of pending, unprotested Applications for Permit, not subject to a moratorium ²⁴	actual	581	604	623	569	
	<i>target</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>575</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>250</i>
2. Water Right Transfers Number of Pending Water Right Transfer Applications ²⁵	actual	117	113	146	128	
	<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	48	52	27	120	
	<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 ²⁶	actual	434	5,338	6,070	5,056	
	<i>target</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>4,000</i>
5. Ground Water Protection Percentage of wells inspected during construction, modification, or decommissioning	actual	23.4%	26.5%	29.1%	28.0%	
	<i>target</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>28%</i>

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ Pending transfer applications represent the backlog of unprocessed transfer applications at the end of the fiscal year.

²⁶ 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 updated performance measure reflects a distinction between recommendations completed and recommendations submitted to the court. The purpose of this change is to better reflect IDWR staff’s productivity throughout an extended period. A “Director’s Report” includes multiple recommendations that are typically prepared over multiple fiscal years and held until a large group of recommendations can be submitted to the court in a single report. The Director’s Report can contain hundreds to thousands of recommendations. Reporting the submittal of Director’s Reports, which include multiple recommendations prepared over several years 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 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
6. Water Distribution Water Districts created or modified	<i>actual</i>	0	3	5	3	
	<i>target</i>	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	≥2
7. Ground Water Measurement Sites Number of additional pressure transducers installed annually into existing monitoring wells	<i>actual</i>	25	15	26	23	
	<i>target</i>	25	25	25	25	25
8. Telemetry stations and instrumentation upgraded	<i>actual</i>	1	10	21 ²⁷	20	
	<i>target</i>	5 ²⁸	5	5	10	10

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 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
9. Water Resource Board Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer acre-feet (AF) recharged into aquifer	<i>actual</i>	130,463 AF	157,586 AF	146,943 AF	408,982 AF	
	<i>target</i>	250,000 AF	250,000 AF	250,000 AF	250,000 AF	250,000 AF

²⁷ 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’.

²⁸ 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’.

For more information contact:

Megan Jenkins
Executive Assistant
Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 East Front Street
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 287-4803
Email: megan.jenkins@idwr.idaho.gov
Website: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/>