



Modernizing Idaho's Water Infrastructure

Introducing the Idaho Water Resource Board's Aging Infrastructure Grant Program

IWRB Aging Infrastructure Grant Program

In the 2022 session, Governor Brad Little and the Idaho Legislature created a new grant program to modernize aging and crumbling water infrastructure statewide.

The Idaho Legislature allocated state surplus funds and federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Idaho Water Resource Board for the creation of a new Aging Infrastructure Grant (AIG) Program.

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) worked with water users, public stakeholder groups, Idaho Power Co. officials and communities to adopt grant criteria and solicit applications for projects.

In the last two years, the IWRB has awarded \$25 million in Aging Infrastructure Grants to 30 entities statewide.

The IWRB will be awarding more AIG projects in the future.

In the first round in September 2022, IWRB awarded 12 grants statewide for a total of \$12.5 million. The successful projects ranged from irrigation efficiency projects (open ditch to enclosed pipeline), new headgates equipped with automation, and canal-lining projects.

In the second round, IWRB awarded 18 grants statewide for a total of \$12.5 million. The successful projects ranged from new pump stations to headgate modernization to canal lining projects.

The purpose of the AIG program



The Hat Butte Mutual Canal Co. converted a leaky old concrete open irrigation ditch to an enclosed pipeline with a \$78,965 AIG, funded in 2022.

- **Grant award limit per project:** \$2 million
- **IWRB grant portion cannot exceed 1/3rd (33%) of total project costs.**
- **Aging Infrastructure Grant Projects defined:** "Any new project, or new phase of an improvement project intended to repair, maintain, replace, or improve existing infrastructure that supports irrigation water delivery, storage, drainage, treatment, and use of water for irrigation."

is to replace and modernize aging and crumbling water infrastructure statewide on a cost-share basis.

Eligible entities include: Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 42, chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties and Water Districts.

For purposes of the AIG program, the term 'aging water infrastructure' does not include municipal drinking or wastewater systems.