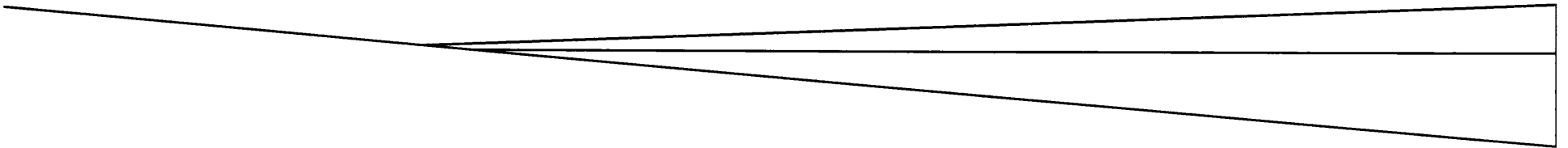


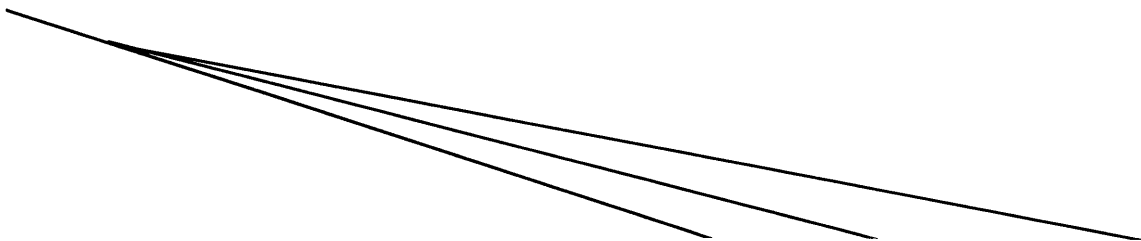
Soil Conservation Commission Interim Committee Meeting

July 27, 2009
Steve Miller, IASCD President
Fairfield, Idaho



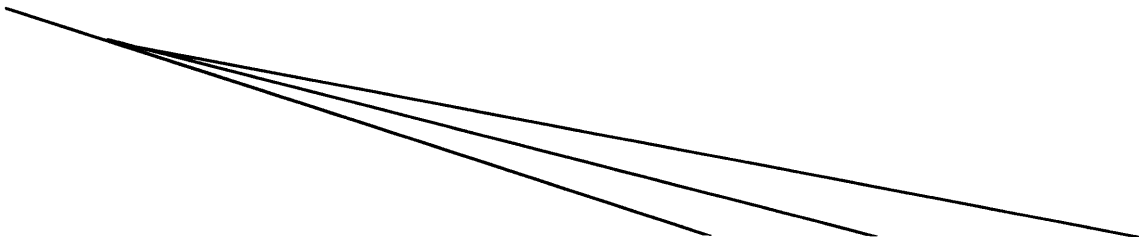
SCC Interim Committee IASCD Presentation Topics

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Brief History of the Conservation Partnership
- ▶ IASCD
- ▶ Responsibilities of the Conservation Partners
- ▶ Issues of Concern
- ▶ Summary and Conclusion
- ▶ Questions?



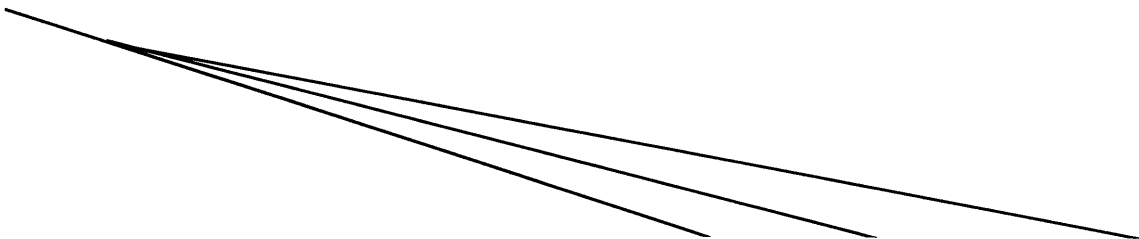
Introduction

- ▶ IASCD's Expectations of the Interim Committee Process
 - Positive outcome for all parties
 - Strengthen the Conservation Partnership
 - Coordinate Idaho's Natural Resource Conservation



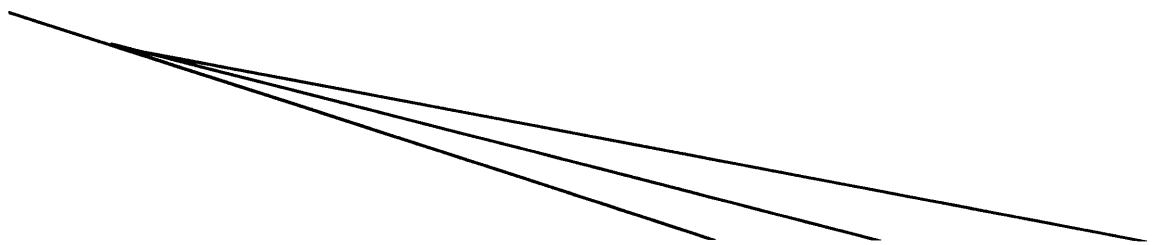
Brief History of the Conservation Partnership

- ▶ Hugh Hammond Bennett – Soil Scientist
- ▶ National Legislation 1935
- ▶ Idaho Legislation signed March 9, 1939
- ▶ 1940 5 Districts formed
- ▶ 1944 11 Districts met and formed IASCD



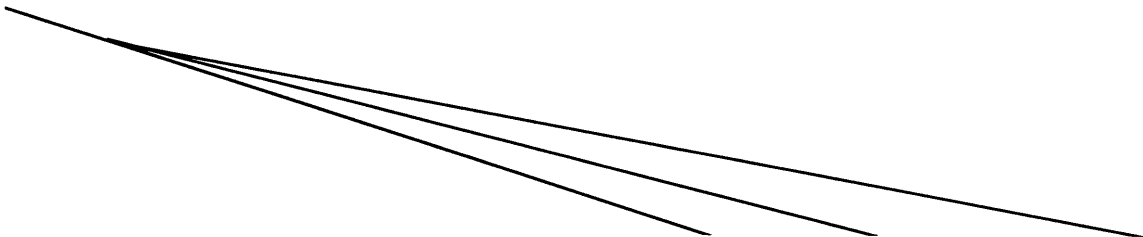
IASCD

- ▶ 6 Divisions with a Director elected by each Division
- ▶ These comprise the Board of Directors for IASCD
- ▶ Representing
 - 51 soil conservation districts
 - 5 to 7 locally elected supervisors per District
 - 283 locally elected supervisors statewide
- ▶ Currently
 - 501-C-3 IRS tax status
 - Staff
 - Executive Director Kent Foster



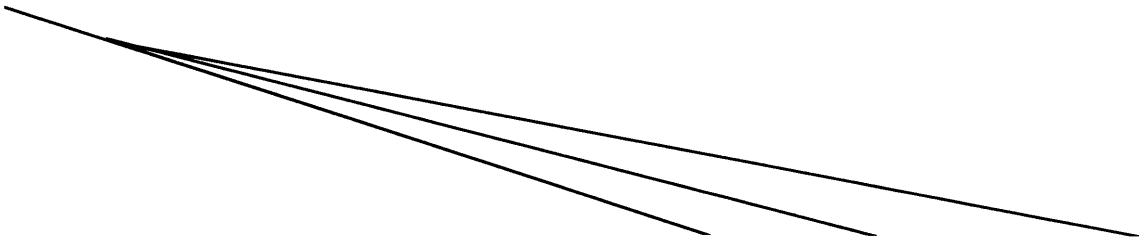
Responsibilities of the Conservation Partners

- ▶ Federal, State and Local Relationships
 - Federal agencies provide T.A. and F.A.
 - State agencies provide statutory authority and assistance
 - Districts provide local leadership, non-regulatory incentive based conservation
 - Accountability, planning, and access to landowners



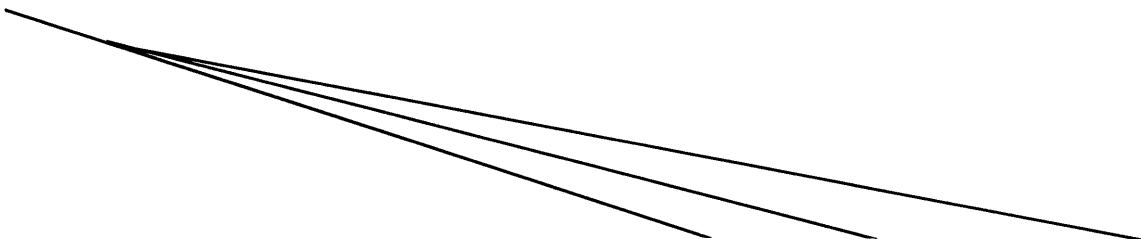
Conservation Districts

- ▶ Statutory Empowerment
- ▶ Support– Capacity Building
- ▶ Capabilities



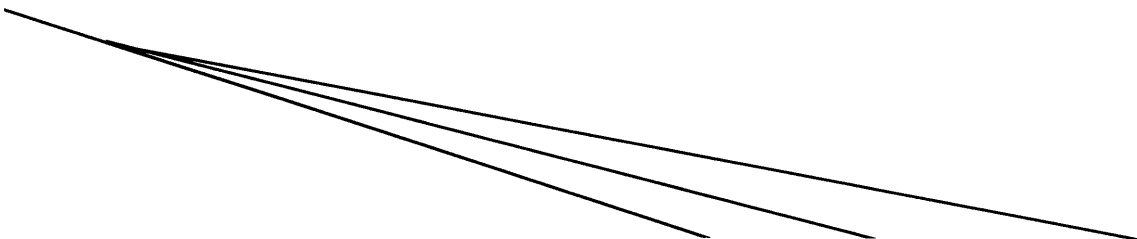
Statutory Empowerment

- ▶ It is essential to the general welfare of all citizens of this state that multiple use conservation improvements be implemented on a broader scale on both public and private lands
- ▶ To carry out preventive and control measures...on lands owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof



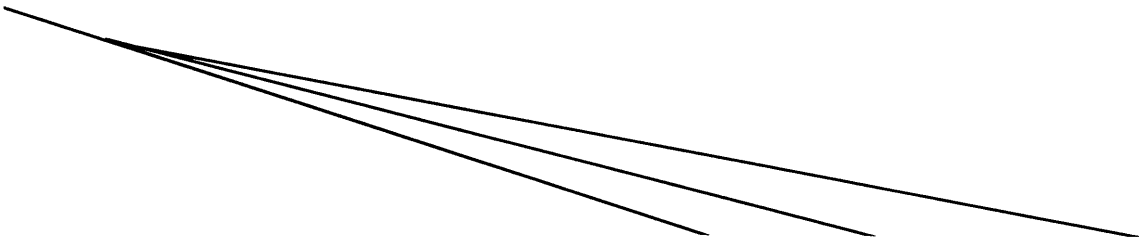
Statutory Empowerment

- ▶ It is in the best interest of the state of Idaho...to emphasize non-regulatory, ...incentive-based... programs at the local level
- ▶ Soil conservation districts, as governmental subdivisions, and the state soil conservation commission, as a state agency, are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources



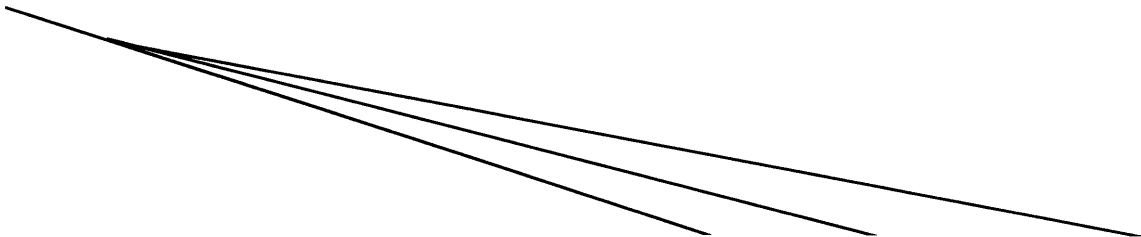
Federal – NRCS

- ▶ To provide technical and financial assistance to local District operators



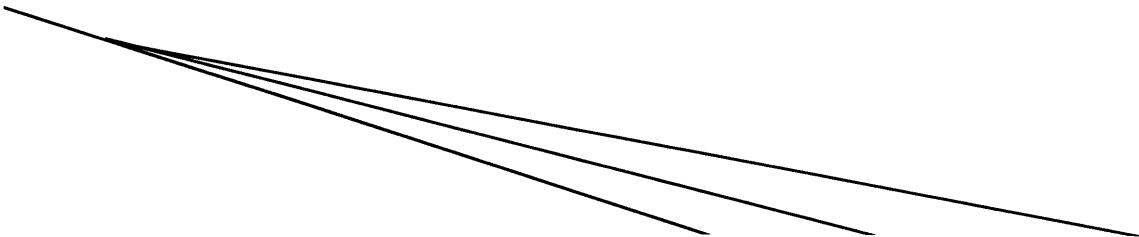
State – SCC

- ▶ ...to provide locally elected officials (supervisors) support
- ▶ To offer such assistance as may be appropriate to the supervisors of soil conservation districts,... in the carrying out of any of their powers and programs



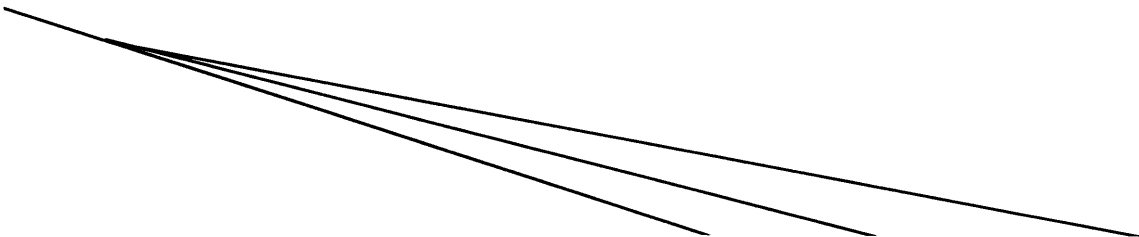
State – SCC

- ▶ To keep the supervisors of each of the several districts organized under the provisions of this chapter... and to facilitate an interchange of advice and experience between such districts and cooperation between them
- ▶ Set up agreements with state and federal agencies



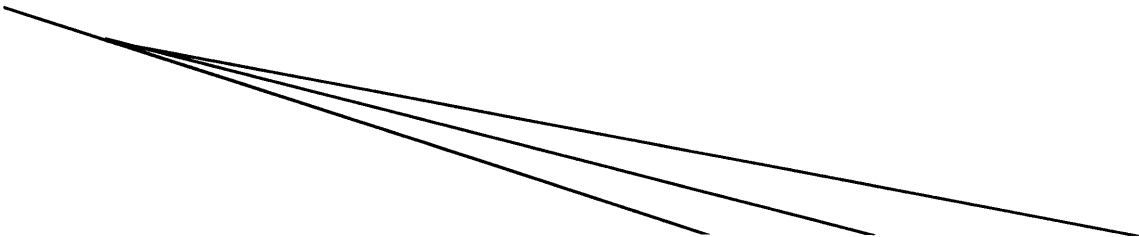
Supervisors through Districts

- ▶ Provide local planning process
- ▶ Local working groups
- ▶ Include stakeholders
 - Landowners
 - City, County
 - Community Organizations Chamber
 - Community Interests
 - State & Federal
 - Organizations & Groups
 - Wildlife, Nature Conservancy



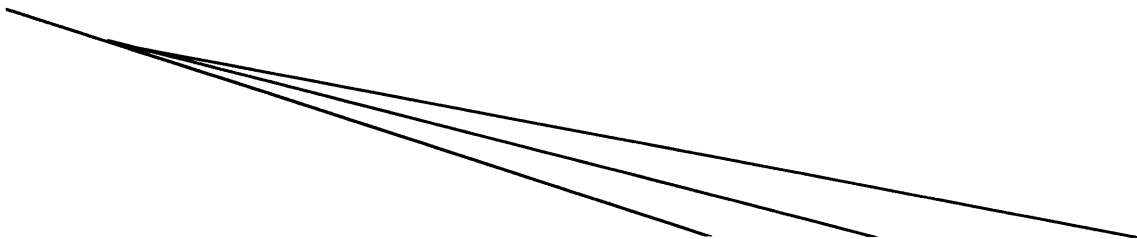
Districts Provide

- ▶ Local planning process
- ▶ Prioritization of non-regulatory, incentive based conservation



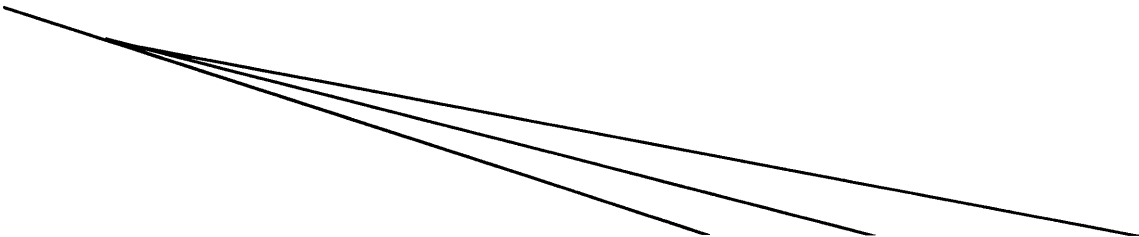
District Capabilities

- ▶ Water quality, quantity
- ▶ Soil conservation
- ▶ ESA
- ▶ Sage grouse
- ▶ Urban
- ▶ County P&Z
- ▶ Public lands
- ▶ Fisheries
- ▶ Traditional agriculture
- ▶ Ranchette
- ▶ Nutrient management
- ▶ Irrigation delivery
- ▶ Energy savings
- ▶ Lake assist
- ▶ Managed TMDL Staff



Issues of Concern

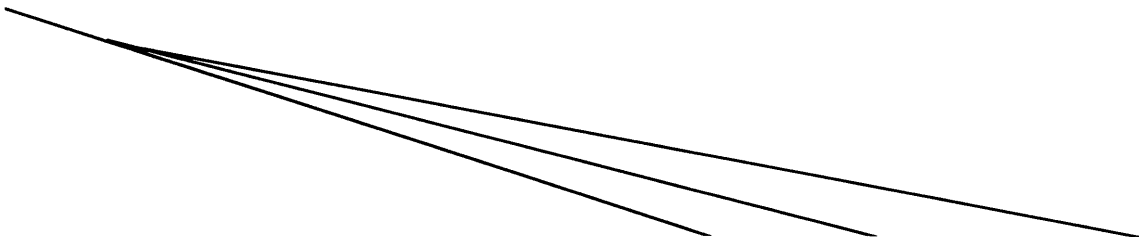
- ▶ SCC Structure
 - Handout of other State's Commission structures
- ▶ SCC Name and Location
- ▶ Budget Process
 - How can Districts be included in the process?
- ▶ District Accountability
- ▶ Rule Making by SCC
- ▶ Taxing Authority
 - Other states do it, let the voters decide



SCC Structure

Suggested Commissioner Selection

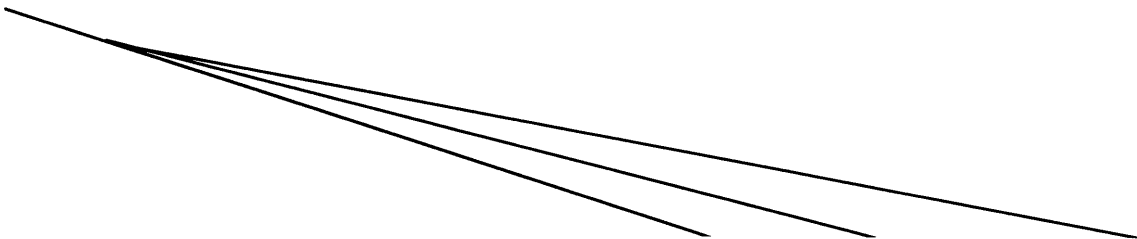
- ▶ Each Division elect 1 representative
 - Provides accountability to Supervisors, districts
 - Increased confidence of Supervisors
 - Encourages ownership of SCC by Supervisors
 - Links supervisors to state, synergistic
- ▶ Governor select 1 at large
- ▶ Eliminate political affiliation requirements



SCC Structure

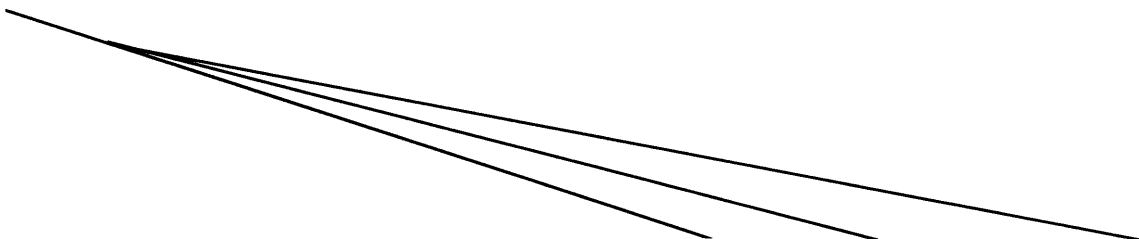
Suggested Commissioner Selection

- ▶ Reason for importance:
 - All issues reflect on make up of Commission
 - More supervisor participation:
 - builds closer relationship between Districts and SCC
 - build common goals
 - understand each entity's problems better
 - increases the ownership in the ISCC by supervisors



SCC Name and Location

- ▶ Confusion from **name**– Commission
 - Many Legislators think about Potato, Dairy
 - Revenue from commodity check off or fee based
- ▶ Other commission–
 - Department of self governing agencies



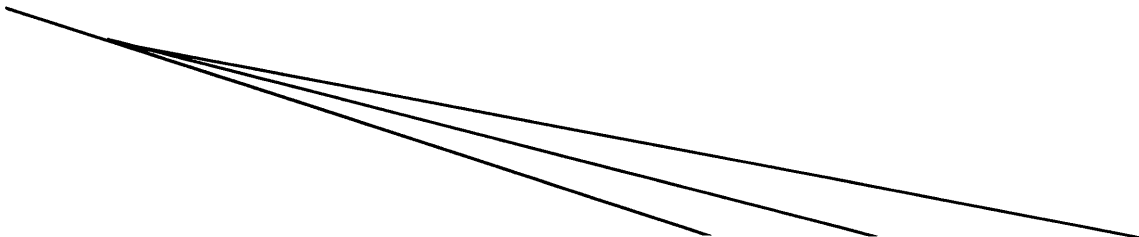
Differences

Relationship very different than other commissions

- Statutory support of Districts
- Cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies
- Powers & Authority go beyond other commissions
- Use of general fund money

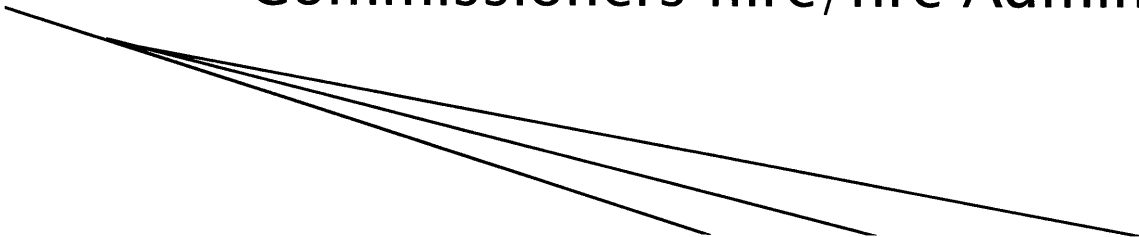
Consider name change

- Office of Natural Resource Conservation
- Department of Natural Resources
- Office of Idaho Natural Resources



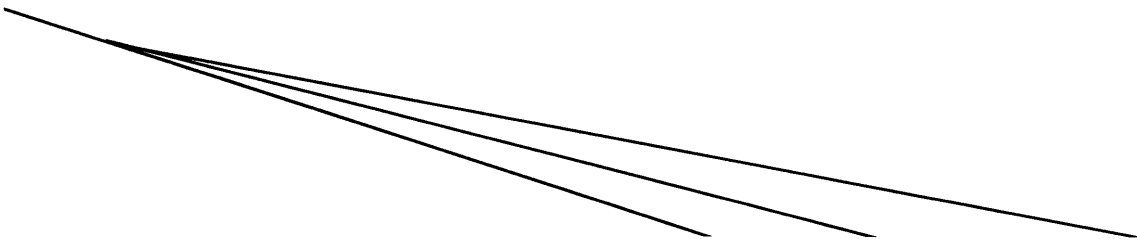
State Organizational Location

- ▶ Dept of Ag is in Economic Development
 - Fee based
 - Regulatory in nature
- ▶ SCC, Districts are locally led, non-regulatory
- ▶ SCC function is a better fit within the Natural Resources group
- ▶ Where ever located:
 - Independent of the parent entity
 - Administration
 - Budget
 - Commissioners hire/fire Administrator



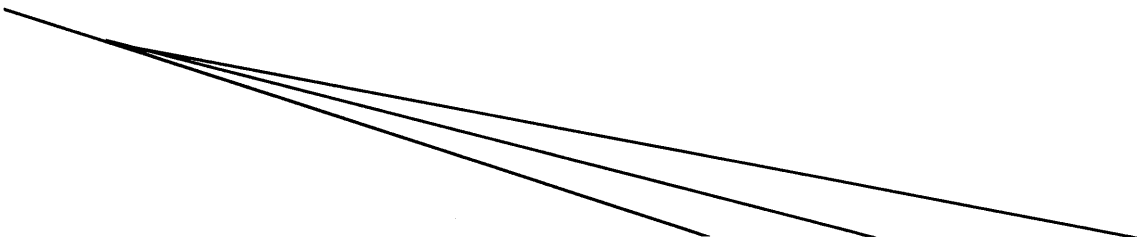
Lands Within Jurisdiction

- ▶ Soil conservation districts...and the state soil conservation commission...are the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation...of Idaho's natural resources
- ▶ On lands owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof...



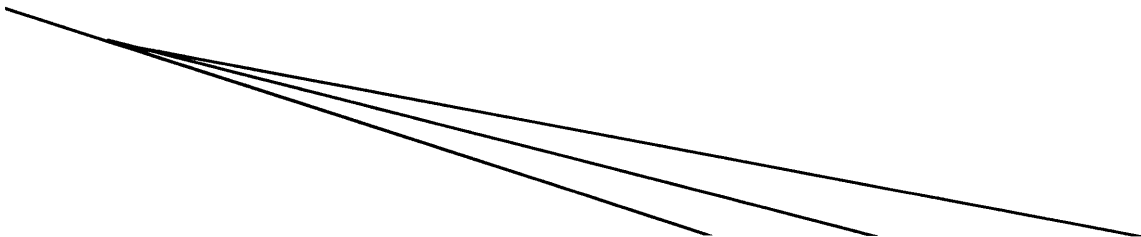
Role of SCC in State

- ▶ More cooperation in planning and implementation between:
 - Districts and SCC
 - F&G
 - DEQ
 - Department of Lands
 - Department of Water Resources
 - Parks & Recreation
- ▶ Coordinate planning, staff, funding, implementation
- ▶ Get locally led conservation on the ground



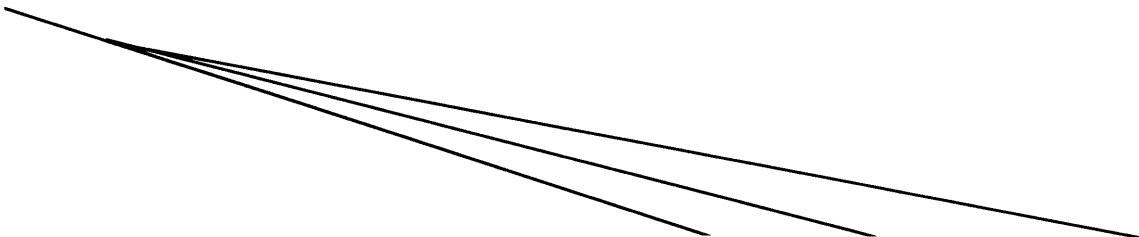
Budget Process

- ▶ May– public budget hearing
- ▶ Commissioners vote on budget
- ▶ Changed without notice or ability to participate
- ▶ Never comes before Legislature



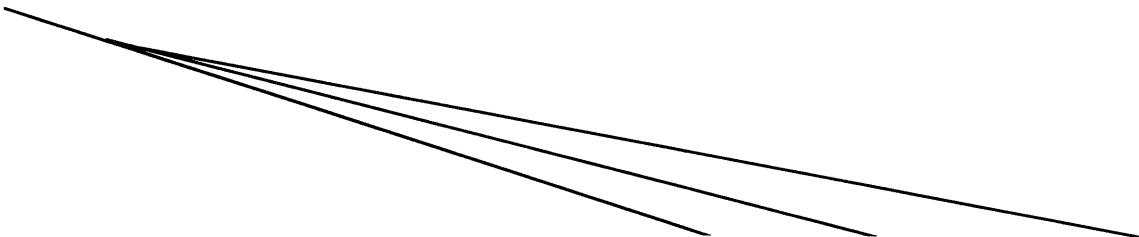
District Allocations

- ▶ Base Allocation– \$5,000 (IC 22–2727)
- ▶ Distribution of 2:1 match allocation
 - Based on District Revenue from City and County
- ▶ Both need to be adjusted
- ▶ Districts and SCC need to work together to set allocations
- ▶ Need mechanism where Districts and SCC set base and allocation schedules



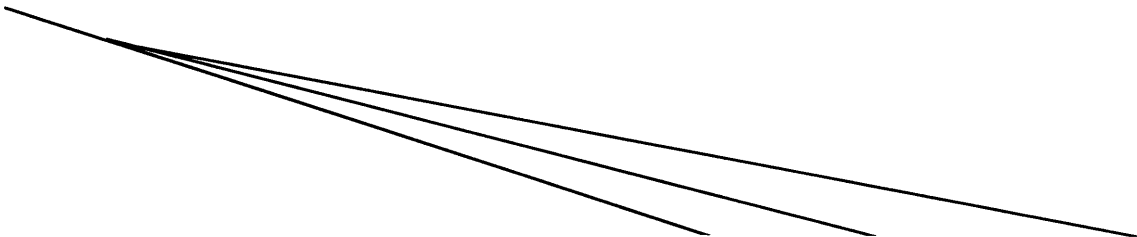
District Accountability

- ▶ Supervisors understand accountability
- ▶ IASCD Financial Policy in Place
- ▶ Review/Governmental Audit
 - Change initiated by IASCD with help of Representative Stevenson
- ▶ Develop Reporting System, not just financial, from District to SCC to used by the State



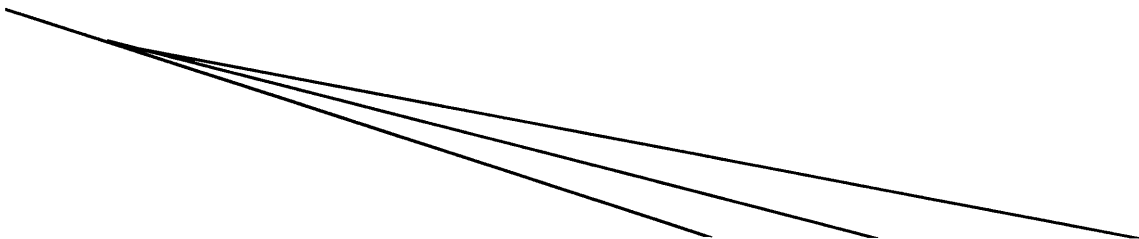
Rule Making

- ▶ Public process
- ▶ District input
- ▶ Consistently followed



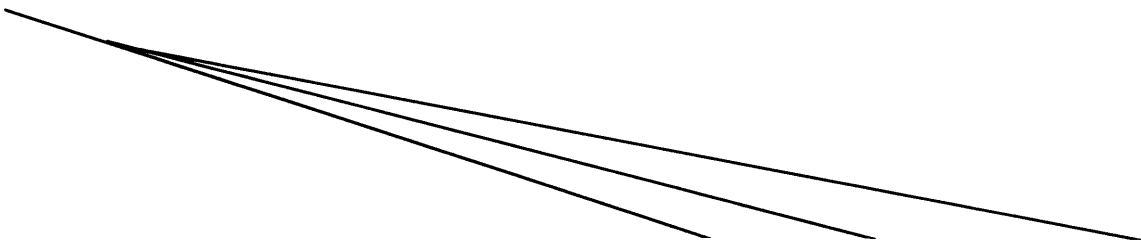
Taxing Authority

- ▶ Nation wide about 1 / 3 states grant taxing authority
- ▶ Washington– about 1 / 3 Districts have taxing authority
- ▶ Wyoming– about ¼ of Districts have taxing authority
- ▶ Ability for Districts to increase local support
- ▶ Consider zero budget impact by converting present county contribution to a levy



Summary and Conclusion

- ▶ Commissioner Selection
- ▶ SCC Autonomy
- ▶ Budget Process
- ▶ District Accountability
- ▶ Rule Making
- ▶ Taxing Authority
- ▶ Improve locally led, non-regulatory conservation of Idaho's natural resources.



- ▶ **On behalf of the 51 districts in the State of Idaho and their 283 Supervisors, thank you for the invitation to present our concerns**

