

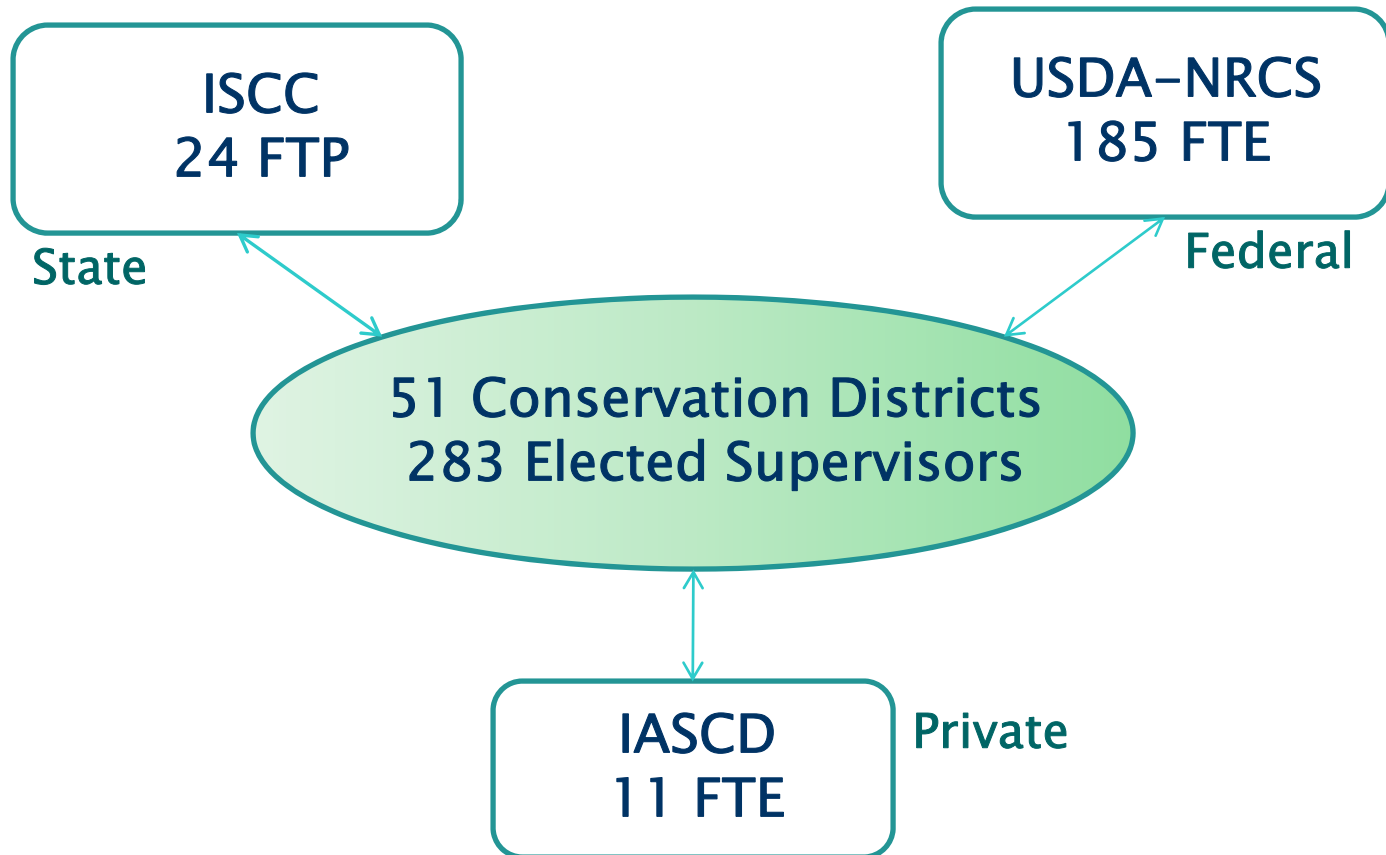
Soil Conservation Commission Interim Committee

September 23, 2009

Jerome, Idaho

IASCD Presentation on the
Conservation Partnership

Idaho's Core Conservation Partnership



Idaho's Core Conservation Partnership

Idaho's Conservation Districts

- 51 Independent Conservation Districts
 - Districts roughly follow county boundaries
 - Some counties have more than one District
- 283 locally elected District Supervisors
 - 5 or 7 Supervisors per District Board

Idaho's Core Conservation Partnership Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

- Established 1940
- State agency
- 24 FTPs
- Provide technical & financial support (WQPA)

Idaho's Core Conservation Partnership **ISCC**

ISCC Mission Statement:

The commission provides leadership and assistance for natural resource conservation programs through state statutes and agreements with other local, state, and federal agencies. The commission provides support and service to Idaho conservation districts and via the conservation districts, to private landowners and land users to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance Idaho's natural resources through non-regulatory and science-based technical assistance, financial incentive programs, and educational programs at the district level.

Idaho's Core Conservation Partnership **USDA-NRCS**

- Started assisting districts in Idaho in 1940
- Federal USDA agency
- 38 field offices
- 185 FTEs
- Technical assistance & financial programs (EQIP)

Idaho's Core Conservation Partnership **USDA/NRCS**

- **USDA-NRCS Mission Statement:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

Idaho's Core Conservation Partnership

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

- Established in 1944
- Private non-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) IRS tax status
- Currently 11 FPEs
- Support to districts
- Collectively assists Districts to accomplish what they cannot individually

Idaho's Core Conservation Partnership

IASCD

- Established 1944 by first 11 districts
- Articles for private non-profit corporation status Dec. 10, 1952
- Articles amended on May 10, 1993
- Obtained IRS 501(c)(3) tax status Dec. 13, 1993
- State divided into 6 Divisions
- Board of 6 Directors (staggered 2 yr. terms) 11 FTPs
 - 10 full-time employees
 - 2 part-time employees
- Annual Budget (\$140,000)
 - District dues - \$20,400
 - ISCC – \$60,000 (JFAC authorization 1992)
 - Project admin. fees – \$56,600
 - Conference – \$3,000

Idaho's Core Conservation Partnership

IASCD

- Have a Policy Manual
- Have a Personnel Policy Manual
- Have a 5 yr. strategic plan
- District Accountability Policy (approved by Districts)
- Conservation Partnership Committee (working to implement)
- NACD Involvement
 - Steve Miller on NACD's Executive Board
 - Kyle Hawley represents Idaho on NACD's Board of Directors

Idaho's Core Conservation Partnership

IASCD

- **IASCD Mission Statement:**

Provide administrative, technical, financial and educational outreach support to Idaho's 51 conservation districts as they seek to protect and fully exercise their rights and responsibilities, as provided in Idaho Code, as primary entities for the implementation of voluntary conservation efforts on private lands throughout the State of Idaho.

IASCD Implementation Projects

- TMDL Implementation Planning Effort
 - To develop TMDL implementation plans for TMDL having agriculture & grazing components
 - 1998 Legislature approved funding to hire first 6 employees
 - State could not hire full-time state employees (no FTPs)
 - ISCC asked IASCD to administer this program (5% Admin.)
 - IASCD hired, provided health insurance, vehicles etc.
 - Leveraged funding and employed 13 field staff
 - January 2009 lost ISCC funding for all TMDL field staff due to state holdbacks

IASCD Implementation Projects

- Since 1998:
 - ❑ Hired 40 field staff
 - ❑ Terminated 3 employees (performance based)
 - ❑ 16 employees now working for other agencies
 - ❑ 9 field staff currently working on other than ISCC funds
 - ❑ Total of 87 TMDL implementation plans having agriculture and/or grazing components
 - 69 plans completed
 - 15 in progress
 - 3 not yet started
 - Some completed TMDL being revisited to evaluate temperature criteria

IASCD Div. I TMDL Implementation Project

- Started project in 2006
- Administration handled by Bonner SWCD
- Funding source: ISCC (WQPA funds)
- Total WQPA funds - \$480,000
- Funds obligated (\$964,400):
 - ❑ Operator share - \$291,200 (30%)
 - ❑ State share (WQPA) - \$122,900 (13%)
 - ❑ Federal share (EQIP) - \$550,300 (57%)
- Accomplishments: (Examples)
 - ❑ Fencing – 13,000 ft.
 - ❑ Streambank & shoreline protection – 7,900 ft.
 - ❑ Sediment control basins – 23
 - ❑ Underground outlets – 13,300 ft.

IASCD Div. II AFO Implementation Project

- Started project in 2001
- Administered by Latah SWCD
- 50 individual projects in 5 Districts
- Funding source: DEQ (319) & ISCC (WQPA)
- Total cost share approved - \$998,800
- Cost share paid - \$692,400
- Landowners contribution - \$230,800 (25%)
- Ave. project cost - \$19,960
- Accomplishments: (Examples)
 - Cattle impacted – 8,200 head
 - Riparian area protected – 104,900 ft.

Examples of Other District Projects

- Cedar Mesa Canal Project (Roseworth)
 - Gravity pressure sprinkler system (5,000 acres)
 - Potential to also generate power
 - Both water and energy conservation potential
- Franklin SWCD Bear River Water Project
 - Partners with Bear Lake SWCD
 - \$8 M project - \$3.8 M grant from BOR (Stimulus funding)
 - Involves installation of 12 pipelines
 - Project administered by the Conservation Districts
 - Project within Water District 11

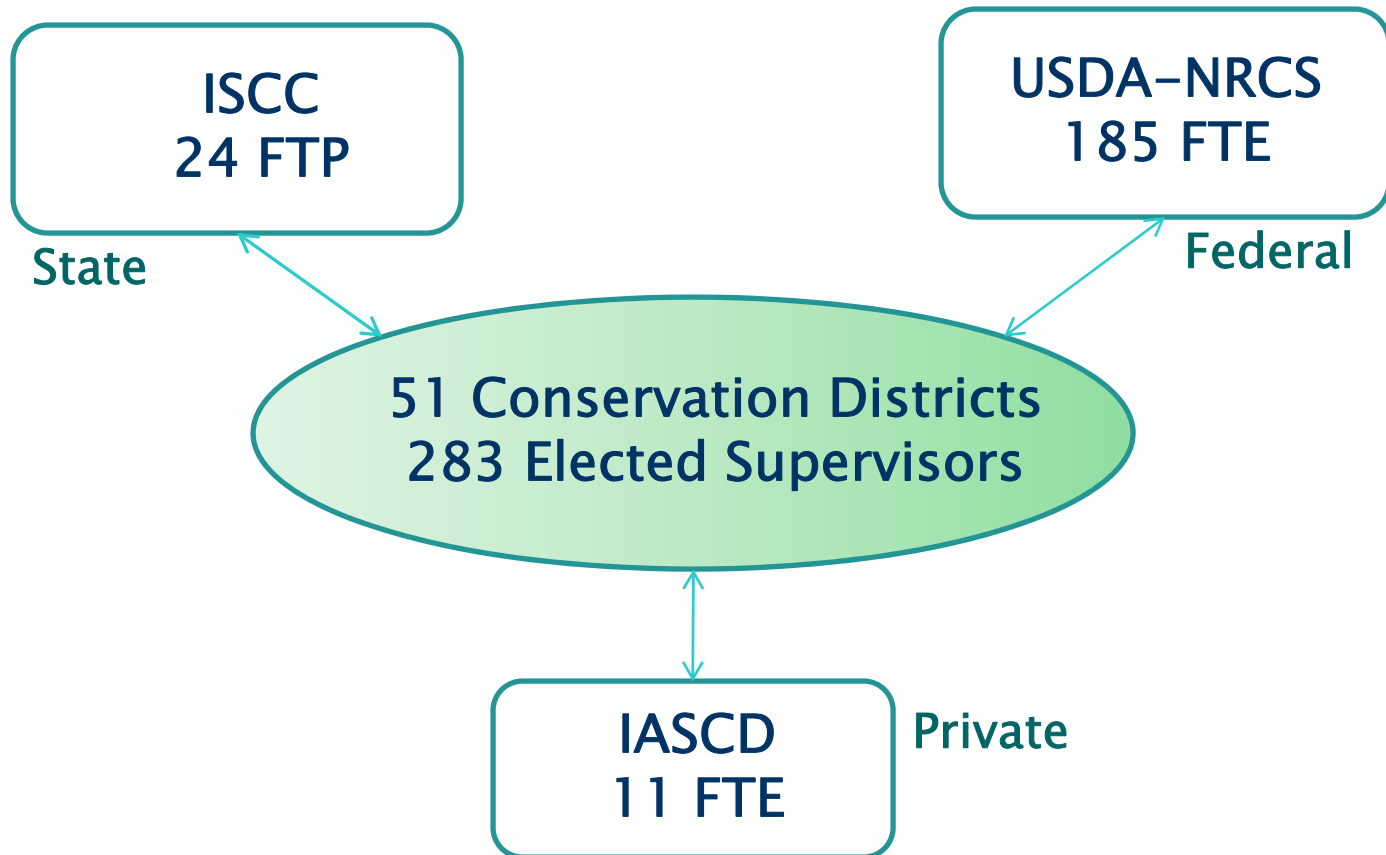
Examples of Other District Projects

- Lake*A*Syst Program (Pend Oreille Lake)
 - Campaign to educate homeowners to reduce pollutants to the Lake
 - Assisted with education effort on the Eurasian Watermilfoil infestation issue
 - Manned boat wash station for Zebra/Quagga Mussels at City Beach; purchased station & manned every day using 4 people, 7a-7p, 7/15-10/10/09 (ISDA Grant - \$106,000)

ISCC's move to ISDA in 1997

- ISCC housed at the Idaho Dept. of Lands (IDL)
- Told changes were being made at IDL and ISCC would need to move to either DEQ or ISDA
- Legislation to move ISCC to ISDA
 - Loss of autonomy
 - Become part of ISDA
 - Loss of staff
 - Loss of budget
 - Commission would become an advisory board to the Director of ISDA
 - IASCD developed a position statement to oppose the takeover, but not the move to ISDA
 - Districts organized & testified
 - Gov. Batt called for a re-write of the Bill
 - ISCC moved to ISDA in 1997, but kept their autonomy
 - ISDA Director appoints the ISCC administrator

Summary



Summary

- Districts are where the “Rubber Meets the Road” and conservation is put on the ground
- The partnership exists to support the Districts
- We have had a strong partnership and it has worked effectively since 1940
- The IASCD provides the catalyst that helps balance the partnership and helps it focus on the Districts
- The partnership has a very unique delivery system
- Existing law has served us well for nearly 70 years
- I know of no other state agency that accomplishes more from their state budget than the ISCC and the conservation partnership

Summary

- Some issues have recently been identified that may need to be addressed to strengthen the partnership in the future
- In addressing these issues, the Committee must decide what and how this will be done (Law changes, writing rules or developing policy)

Questions?

