

Soil and Water Conservation Commission **Performance Report**

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) was created in 1939 under Idaho Code § 22-2716, et. seq.) to assist local conservation districts in their efforts to reduce soil erosion generated by agricultural land management practices. ISWCC is now also the lead agency for a number of voluntary conservation programs that address water quality and other natural resource issues. ISWCC has no regulatory authority. The ISWCC was led in FY 2024 by seven Commissioners appointed by the Governor: Chairman Erik Olson, Vice Chair Wendy Pratt, Secretary/ Treasurer Blake Hollingsworth and members Joan Cloonan PhD, JD, Karen Sharpnack, Mitchell Silvers, and Richard Savage. The administrator was Delwyne Trefz from July 1, 2024 to May 16, 2025 and Mathew Weaver as acting administrator from May 19, 2025 to June 30, 2025. In FY 2025, the agency had 17.75 administrative and technical FTPs located in offices around the state.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

1. **District Support and Services:** provides technical, financial, and other assistance to Idaho's 50 conservation districts.
2. **Comprehensive Conservation Services:** provides and promotes non-regulatory incentive and science-based programs to support voluntary conservation activities enhancing the environmental quality and economic productivity of the state.
3. **Administration:** ensures fiscally responsible operations to support Commissioners, programs, and staff.
4. **Outreach:** engages local, state, and federal partners, non-governmental organizations, and resource and agricultural production groups to promote agricultural stewardship and voluntary conservation.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Fund	2,967,200	3,370,200	3,519,800	3,697,000
Receipts (Idle Fund Interest)	10,900	2,200	3,700	4,100
RCRDP Loan Program	554,300	715,500	431,500	308,800
SRF Loan Program (Inactive)	139,400			
Federal Grant (Inactive)	12,100			
Total	3,683,900	4,087,900	3,955,000	4,009,900
Expenditures	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Personnel Costs	1,268,000	1,453,900	1,524,700	1,600,200
Operating Costs	294,900	252,400	279,100	237,600
Capital Outlay		20,500	45,700	12,600
Trustee & Benefit				
50 Soil & Water Districts	1,428,100	1,508,400	1,508,400	1,583,800
CREP		190,000	257,600	253,900
FY23 WQPA		4,729,900	155,400	
FY24 WQPA			3,451,800	1,268,700
FY25 WQPA				608,700
RCRDP Loan- Disbursements	785,300	2,057,800	706,600	465,500
DEQ Loan (Inactive)	93,500			
Total	3,869,800	10,212,900	7,929,300	6,031,000

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Landowners assisted in their conservation efforts (number) ¹	973	1,053	1,031	2980
Administrative, technical & engineering assistance provided to Conservation Districts (staff hours)	11,697	10,476	11,986	13,489
Technical assistance provided to landowners enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (staff hours)	4,279	2,923	2,771	2,791
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Agricultural Implementation Plans developed (number) ²	5	2	2	1

¹ The large increase in the number of assisted landowners is due to ongoing and increased funding related to the WQPA program and the quantification of "number of participants served" as part of the changing project ranking process.

² The number of Implementation Plans ISWCC completes each year depends in part upon the number of Total Maximum Daily Loads completed and approved by IDEQ and EPA.

FY 2025 Performance Highlights

During FY 2025 ISWCC field staff expended 13,489 hours in support of conservation projects administered by the 50 Conservation Districts across the state. Staff provided a wide range of administrative, technical, and engineering services as requested by Districts. The Commission published monthly issues of our newsletter **Conservation the Idaho Way** to a distribution list of 801 subscribers. Each newsletter includes an in-depth story which highlights either the activities of one Conservation District or an issue of interest to the conservation community.

The 2022 Legislature provided a \$5M supplemental appropriation for ISWCC's Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA), to be expended before the end of FY 2024. WQPA funds were available to conservation districts and others in need of financial assistance to implement projects designed to conserve water quality and water quantity. ISWCC approved 47 projects sponsored by 32 different conservation districts. Of the \$5M appropriation, \$4,729,900 was disbursed in FY 2024 and \$156,092 was encumbered into FY 2025. These funds, when leveraged with landowner and other funds, enabled implementation of conservation projects with a total cost of \$17.3M. The balance of the appropriation, \$114,008 reverted to the general fund.

Following on the success of the FY 2023-2025 WPA program, the 2025 Legislature appropriated an additional \$1M to fund WQPA through the end of FY 2026.

Part II – Performance Measures

Note: ISWCC has reworked its Strategic Plan and Performance Measures Report to more closely reflect DFM requirements. The new performance measures were implemented beginning in FY 2025.

Performance Measure		FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
District Support & Services						
Percentage of those Conservation Districts who responded to the ISWCC annual survey and expressed satisfaction with the services & programs provided	actual	78	82	95	97.5	97.5
	target	90	90	90	95	95
Percentage of those Conservation Districts who responded to the ISWCC annual survey and expressed satisfaction with the effectiveness of the communications received from the Commission	actual	89	87	97.5	95	97.5
	target	90	90	90	95	95
Percentage of requests submitted by Conservation Districts that receive the requested assistance	actual	93	90	92	96	95
	target	90	90	90	90	90
Conservation Programs & Services						
Number of acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) over which technical leadership and guidance is provided	actual	18,432	18,262	11,442*	9,705	9,770
	target	20,000	15,000	11,288	12,000	12,000
Acres improved with implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) funded by Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP)	actual	331	1,482	2,853**	8,221	371
	target	600	600	1,000	1,000	2,000
Number of acres with Best Management Practices (BMPs) implemented to conserve Ground Water Quality & Quantity .	actual	47,264	48,813	55,029	63,075	43,854
	target	54,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Percentage of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plans completed within 18 months of the TMDL having been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	actual	90%	90%	0	33%	50%
	target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Communication & Outreach						

Performance Measure		FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Annual increase in the number of newsletter subscribers	actual	22	25	26	33	46
	<i>target</i>	20	20	25	25	25
Annual increase in the percentage of social media reach, likes, and follows	actual	6%	9.5%	2.7%***	6.8%	5.9%****
	<i>target</i>	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes

* The decrease in CREP acreage is due to contracts expiring and not being renewed, largely driven by high commodity prices.

** The increase in the number of acres that were improved with assistance of RCRDP loan funds is largely due to two individual loans which together accounted for greater than 50% of the total acreage treated using the program.

*** The decrease in the growth of our social media reach is due to a change in the methodology used to estimate this metric.

**** The percent increase only reflects an increase in social media followers.

For More Information Contact

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission
 322 East Front Street, Suite 560
 Boise, ID 83702
 Phone: (208) 332-1790
 Fax: (208) 332-1799
 E-mail: info@swc.idaho.gov