

Idaho's Soil and Water Conservation Districts



Presented by The Idaho
Association of Soil Conservation
Districts

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IELDING



Four Simple Questions

1. Who are we?
2. What are we up to?
3. Where do we go from here?
4. Why do we do it?

Who Are Idaho's Soil & Water Conservation Districts?

Locally Accountable

Districts are governed by **locally elected officials**

Focused on **voluntary, locally led, non-regulatory conservation**

Statewide Coverage

50 districts serve communities across Idaho

Provide local access points for soil and water conservation

How Districts Are Funded

\$8,500 base allocation per district

2:1 match for local contributions (up to \$50,000)

Grants, industry, and private partnerships

Local Delivery = Efficient Conservation

Districts are Idaho's local conservation **delivery system**

Districts leverage state funds with local and partner dollars

Projects are targeted to real on-the-ground needs

Voluntary approach builds producer participation and trust

State Investment Multiplied

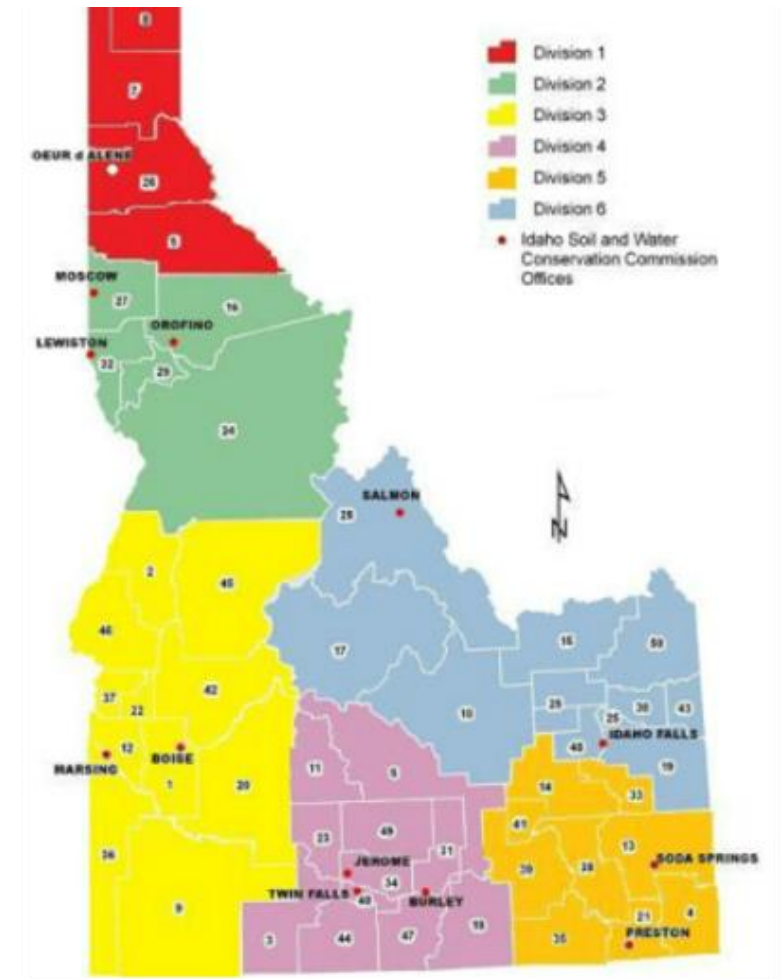
For every \$1 of state funding, districts bring in \$2.82 from federal, local, and partner sources.



IASCD

Statewide Coordination Locally Accountable Leadership

- **Mission**
- IASCD supports and coordinates **locally led, voluntary conservation** across Idaho.
- **Regional Representation**
- The Board includes representatives from **six geographic divisions**, ensuring every region of Idaho has a voice.
- **Local Accountability**
- All IASCD Directors are **locally elected conservation district supervisors**
- Directors are chosen at the division level and serve while remaining accountable to their local communities



The IASCD Board of Directors

Tori O'Neal
President - Division VI



Clint Zenner
Vice President - Division I



Wendy Green
Secretary- Division III



Devin Fielding
Treasurer- Division V



Richard Kunau
Director - Division IV



Jeff Connolly
Director - Division I







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Locally delivered upgrades that improve efficiency, extend system life, and reduce long-term costs.



District-Led Conservation Delivery (*NEW lead column*)

Conservation districts coordinate voluntary projects that help producers — especially small and beginning operations — maintain viable, productive land while improving soil and water management.



Infrastructure Maintenance & Upgrades

WQPA supports canal lining, culvert replacement, and irrigation system improvements that keep Idaho's water delivery systems functioning and reliable.



Water Efficiency & Land Productivity

Projects reduce leakage, erosion, and water loss while helping producers maintain productive working lands and stable operations.



Shared Investment Model

Approximately one-third of project funding comes from landowners or other non-state sources, ensuring local commitment and stretching state dollars further.



Preparing Idaho's Future Producers and Land Managers



Hands-on learning builds understanding.

Programs like Natural Resource Day and the Fifth Grade Tour give students direct exposure to agriculture and conservation, helping them see how healthy soil, clean water, and food production are connected.

6,482 Students Reached in 2025



Students contribute to real conservation work.

Local students gain practical experience through projects such as:

Wetland plantings that improve water filtration and wildlife habitat

Bird ladders for stock water troughs that provide livestock access to clean water while protecting riparian areas and reducing erosion



Early exposure builds long-term capacity.

When young people understand land and water management, communities gain future producers, land managers, and conservation partners who are better prepared to sustain working landscapes.



December 19 - Canyon Tour
January 18 - Starks Spring Tour

Group 1	Group 2
Kamden	Haggie
Maddi	Tarni
Melissa	Tenales
Karsen	Tucker
Wendy	Tyson
Benny	Gabby



Locally Elected Means Locally Responsive



Because districts are **locally elected and trusted**, we work with landowners, counties, and partners to support projects and align soil and water goals with infrastructure needs and funding opportunities.



Practical upgrades like **irrigation efficiency, fencing, fuels reduction and fire preparedness, and water access** protect soil and water, reduce erosion, and can support wildlife and fisheries without sacrificing agricultural productivity.



Districts bring landowners, public land users, local governments, and conservation partners to one table so **projects are locally appropriate, fiscally responsible, and built to last.**



Where Do We Go From Here?

The reality is this:

- **The systems and resources we maintain today determine whether Idaho's working lands remain viable tomorrow.**
- **We must make the most of the systems, infrastructure, and knowledge we already have.**
- **Thoughtful decisions today will protect opportunities for future generations.**
- **This is work Idaho knows how to do through practical collaboration, local leadership, and clear communication.**

Why Do We Serve?

- **We know that without healthy land and reliable water, Idaho communities cannot endure.**
- **We serve out of respect for those who built the systems and working lands we depend on today.**
- **We serve because the responsibility to pass those resources forward now rests with us.**





In Conclusion

- **We deliver voluntary, locally led, non-regulatory conservation that works on the ground in Idaho communities.**
- **We do this through practical partnerships with landowners, industry, and government, aligning resources with local needs.**
- **We do this because the strength of Idaho's communities, agriculture, and economy depends on healthy soil, reliable water, and working lands.**
- **Conservation districts stand ready to continue providing efficient, locally accountable solutions that protect Idaho's land, water, and future.**

Questions?

