



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 W. State St., Room 145 • Boise Idaho 83720

Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

www.swc.idaho.gov

ITEM #3A

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Date and Time:

Thursday, October 12, 2011

From 9 am to 4 pm MDT

Location:

Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 West State St, Rm 145, Boise Idaho

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dick Bronson

Roger Stutzman

Dave Radford

Norman Wright

ADVISORS PRESENT:

None

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Teri Murrison

Kristin Magruder

Terry Hoebelheinrich

Erin Seaman

Chuck Pentzer

PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Harriet Hensley, Deputy Attorney General

Terry Halbert, North Side SWCD

Bret Rumblebeck, Executive Director, IASCD

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ITEM #1: WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dick Bronson, Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWC) member at 9:03 a.m. Roll call: Dick Bronson, Roger Stutzman, Dave Radford, and Norman Wright present. A quorum being reached, the meeting began. Chairman Bronson announced that Governor Otter has appointed two new Commissioners: Norman Wright and Gerald (Jerry) Trebesch. Commissioner Wright was introduced. Due to an out of state family emergency, Commissioner Trebesch was not in attendance.

ITEM #2: REVIEW AGENDA

Chairman Bronson reviewed the agenda. No items were added to the published agenda.

ITEM #3: CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bronson reviewed the consent agenda items:

- Amended June 7, 2011 meeting minutes
- August 17, 2011 meeting minutes
- August 24, 2011 meeting minutes
- August 30, 2011 meeting minutes
- September 15, 2011 teleconference meeting minutes

Vice Chair Radford moved to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Stutzman seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

ITEM #4: ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Teri Murrison, Administrator, provided the report on agency activities over the last month. Commissioner Bill Flory resigned and the two new commissioners, Norman Wright and Gerald Trebesch, were appointed.

Ms. Murrison provided a report of the August 2011 financials. She noted that the Commission is trending high on operating expenses, however this is typical of expenditure trends at the beginning of each fiscal year. The Trustee and Benefits fund has expended \$433,500 and match funding will be dispersed by the end of October. Fund balances were as follows:

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191 **RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

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193 **ITEM #8: PENDING LOAN BUSINESS**

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208 Loan No. 659

209 Amount: \$32,306

210 Term: 7 years

211 Rate: 3%

212 Conservation Benefit: Water efficiency increased from 35% to 85% annually; slight soil savings
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226 kept secret in Idaho and has asked staff to work with the new Commissioners to review best
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230 care of reservations and registration for all Commission members.

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232 Commissioners discussed the coverage of the IASCD division meetings in eastern Idaho. Staff
233 will forward information to the new commissioners and coordinate partner reports.

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235 **At 11:44 am, Chairman Bronson adjourned the meeting.**

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237 Respectfully submitted,

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ITEM #2: REVIEW AGENDA

Chairman Bronson reviewed the agenda. There are no other items to add at this time.

ITEM #3: ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Teri Murrison, Administrator, provided the report on agency activities over the last month. She thanked everyone for their kind words and support after the passing of her mother. Kristin Magruder, Policy & Operations Specialist, attended in her place at the Division V and VI meetings; Ms. Murrison met with Lt. Governor Brad Little, Senator Bert Brackett, Division of Financial Management Budget Analyst Shelby, and Legislative Services Office Budget Analyst Ray Houston. Ms. Murrison met with Commissioner Trebesch and Ms. Magruder met with Commissioner Wright for orientation. She also attended the dedication of the Ag Pavilion at Julia Davis Park with staff and commended the agricultural community for supporting this great project.

Ms. Murrison announced that Erin Seaman was hired as the Loan Assistant for the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program and Delwyne Trefz was hired as the District Support and Services Specialist (DSSS). The interview panel also recommended Ms. Murrison consider removing the staff supervision duties from this position so Mr Trefz could concentrate on district support and that Chuck Pentzer, SWC Ag Program Specialist, be tasked with the supervision of staff. Ms. Murrison concurred and Chuck Pentzer agreed to take on those tasks within his current job description.

Vice Chair Radford requested Ms. Murrison to expound on her meetings with Ms. Kerns and Mr. Houston. Ms. Murrison advised that they have been following the Commission's strategic planning process and have expressed they are pleased with the direction of the partnership. Her meeting with Lt. Governor Little went well and he is also pleased with reports on the progression of the Commission and districts.

Ms. Murrison discussed the draft Conservation Partnership Agreement. She has been advised that this agreement is still in draft form and proposed two options. First, that the board authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement in concept at the conference or that they defer this to a later date if there are concerns or modifications to consider. Randy Purser, President, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), advised that this document is still being

45 reviewed and IASCD may not be ready to move forward with the signing at conference. Vice
46 Chair Radford commented that he doesn't have concerns with the concepts as presented in this
47 draft and it appears to capture the intent of our mission and values. Discussion followed.
48 Chairman Bronson suggested deferring this matter to a later date when the agreement is
49 finalized. There was consensus among all Commissioners and they requested that IASCD keep
50 the Commission informed on the status. Mr. Purser asked if the Commission could review it at
51 their business meeting during the conference and Ms. Murrison advised that it would be
52 included on the agenda in the event the agreement is ready.

53

54 Ms. Murrison advised that the match allocations were distributed to the districts on October
55 26th and commended the Chair, the working group, and staff for the time and dedication to this
56 process. She further advised the Commission that as a result of a recommendation Ms.
57 Magruder made last year, there was a savings of \$5,500 in SWCAP expenses for the agency and
58 additional savings are expected for next year.

59

60 Discussion followed about the IASCD conference schedule.

61

62 **ITEM #4: OTHER BUSINESS**

63

64 There were no other business items for discussion.

65

66 **RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

67

68 **ITEM #5: PENDING LOAN BUSINESS**

69

70 **Commissioner Wright moved to enter into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-**
71 **2345(1)(d) for the purpose of considering pending RCRDP loan business as records that are**
72 **exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 3, title 9, Idaho Code. Vice Chair Radford**
73 **seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote was taken with all voting in the affirmative. Motion**
74 **carried.**

75

76 The Commission moved into executive session at 7:24 am. Teri Murrison, Terry Hoebelheinrich,
77 Kristin Magruder, Harriet Hensley, and Erin Seaman were invited to stay.

78

79 **Executive session ended at 7:54 am.**

80

81 Commissioners discussed the disposition of pending RCRDP loan business.

82

83 Loan No. 644

84 **Vice Chair Radford moved to approve Loan A-644 pursuant to the loan officer**
85 **recommendation to allow borrower to apply for an additional \$5,000 with the stipulation**
86 **that any funds reimbursed to the borrower by NRCS as a result of the borrower prevailing on**
87 **the outcome of their appeal be assigned to the Commission as repayment of his loan, up to**

88 **the amount of the additional funds. Commissioner Wright seconded. Further discussion**
89 **followed. Motion carried.**

90

91 Chairman Bronson thanked Commissioners and staff for their time.

92

93 **At 8:02 am, Chairman Bronson adjourned the meeting.**

94

95 Respectfully submitted,

96

97 Roger Stutzman

98 Commissioner and Secretary,

99 Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

DRAFT



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 W. State St., Room 145 • Boise Idaho 83720

Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

www.swc.idaho.gov

ITEM #3B

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Date and Time:

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

From 7 am to 9 am MDT

Location:

Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 West State St, Rm 145, Boise Idaho

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dick Bronson, Chairman
Dave Radford, Vice Chair
Roger Stutzman, Secretary

Norman Wright, Commissioner
Jerry Trebesch, Commissioner

ADVISORS PRESENT:

Randy Purser, President, IASCD

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Teri Murrison
Kristin Magruder

Erin Seaman
Loretta Strickland

PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Harriet Hensley, Deputy Attorney General
Pegi Long, Power SCD

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62 **ITEM #4: OTHER BUSINESS**

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67

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ITEM #3C

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMISSION MEETING

Date and Time:

Tuesday, November 15, 2011
From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm MDT

Location:

The Riverside Hotel, Liberty Room
2900 W Chinden Blvd, Boise Idaho

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dick Bronson
Dave Radford
Roger Stutzman

Norman Wright
Jerry Trebesch

ADVISORS PRESENT:

Randy Purser, President, IASCD

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Teri Murrison
Kristin Magruder
Erin Seaman
Chuck Pentzer
Bill Lillibridge
Carolyn Firth
Delwyne Trefz

Eileen Rowan
Loretta Strickland
Steven Smith
Allan Johnson
Brian Reed
Mason LeFevre

PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Harriet Hensley, Deputy Attorney General

See attached Attendance List

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dick Bronson, Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWC) member at 10:36 a.m. Roll call: Dave Radford, Roger Stutzman, Norman Wright, Jerry Trebesch, and Dick Bronson present. A quorum was present.

ITEM #2: REVIEW AGENDA

Chairman Bronson reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any items to add. Chair advised that the Conservation Partnership Report would be addressed during the Administrator’s Report.

ITEM #3: ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Teri Murrison, Administrator, advised what items would be discussed today including the district supervisor’s handbook and the intent of the listening session.

District Supervisors Handbook

Ms. Murrison advised that there were concerns regarding the development and finalization of the handbook. Subsequently, the Commission has reviewed the scope of the agreement with counsel.

Harriet Hensley, Deputy Attorney General, discussed the understanding and history of the handbook and agreement. Scott Koberg, Ada Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Sara Schmidt, former Administrator, began drafting the handbook and Ms. Hensley provided legal review. Jeff Burwell, State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, committed to provide desktop publishing services and to print the handbook for distribution.

Ms. Hensley recommended not including sections in the handbook with guidelines related to such topics as personnel issues and specific directives under the open meeting law. There could be legal ramifications if the Commission were to provide legal advice on these matters. Ms. Hensley is assigned to provide legal advice to the Commission. Individual districts may contract with the Attorney General’s Office for legal services and a different Deputy Attorney General is assigned to work with contracting districts. Districts may also contract with private counsel and Ms. Hensley also recommended that the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) may provide legal services and/or general guidance on legal issues as well.

Ms. Hensley further observed that during her assignment with the Commission, there has been ongoing discussion about defining the roles and responsibilities between the districts, IASCD,

44 and the Commission, especially in support of the district’s local control. The current handbook
45 can be modified by individual districts to address their own unique concerns and policies.

46
47 Ms. Murrison advised that the handbook, as edited, was delivered via email to IASCD just prior
48 to conference. Ms. Hensley further advised that the contract did not require that the
49 Commission publish the handbook – it was flexible in its terms and deliverables.

50
51 The Commission was asked if the project was put out for bid. Ms. Hensley advised that the
52 Commission was not required to issue a Request For Proposal for the services provided. Mr.
53 Koberg concurred that it had not gone out for bid and there had been discussion about this
54 issue. Kit Tillotson, IASCD Division V Director, stated that there was an IASCD resolution last
55 year in support of revising the handbook and this arrangement met the intent of this resolution.

56
57 There was a question about the ownership of the handbook and what that meant. Ms. Hensley
58 responded that in the past, the Commission published the handbook as a Commission
59 document for use by the districts. After working with the Commission and districts over the
60 past couple of years, her recommendation was that the handbook be a document that could be
61 modified to suit an individual district’s needs and preferences.

62
63
64 There was discussion about the deliverables under the \$10,000 contract. Ms. Murrison
65 responded that the contract covered all of Mr. Koberg’s time and expenses for researching and
66 creating the handbook. Ms. Hensley commended Mr. Koberg for the quality of the product and
67 the amount of time he spent working on it.

68
69 There was discussion about whether the Commission is sidestepping its responsibility to assist
70 districts with the roles and responsibilities. Ms. Murrison clarified that the handbook does
71 address many related issues, but does not address district administration and operations.

72
73 There was interest in the draft sections on personnel issues and district operations drafted by
74 Mr. Koberg and deleted from the final handbook. Mr. Koberg advised that a template that is
75 available to any district that would like a copy. That template can then be modified by each
76 district to fit their individual needs.

77
78 Further discussion continued about personnel matters and labor laws that apply to everyone
79 and whether the Commission could provide an outline of those specific statutes and rules to
80 the districts. Ms. Hensley responded that the state statute and rules as promulgated by the
81 Division of Human Resources governing personnel matters applies to state employees only and
82 she is not aware of any statute that would require districts to comply with those specific
83 statutes and rules. Further discussion from the audience ensued on federal employment and
84 labor laws. Mr. Koberg spoke in support of districts developing their own employment policies
85 and procedures.

86
87 Conservation Partnership Agreement

88 Ms. Murrison presented the proposed Conservation Partnership Agreement with a minor edit
89 and recommended authorizing the Chair to sign the agreement at a ceremony during the
90 banquet that evening. She stated that the IASCD board, the Idaho District Employees
91 Association (IDEA), and NRCS have reviewed and edited the agreement. Mr. Tillotsen clarified
92 that it would be addressed once more at the IASCD Business Meeting during the afternoon for
93 membership approval of the final draft.

94
95 Vice Chair Radford suggested an edit to the IASCD role to read “IASCD will be the unifying voice
96 of member district to local, state, and federal officials...” He spoke in support of the board
97 supervisors that work with their local counties and wanted that local component to be included
98 in that role instead of just state or federal. There was further discussion on the intent and
99 whether the language adequately addresses the needs of the districts. IASCD will discuss this
100 further at the business meeting this afternoon.

101
102 Chairman Bronson thanked the districts, IASCD, IDEA, and NRCS for their commitment to
103 include a statement that was far reaching and emphasized the local role of the districts.

104
105 **Vice Chair Radford moved to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement with minor
106 modifications, as needed. Commissioner Wright seconded. No further discussion. Motion
107 carried.**

108
109 FY 2013 Budget Request
110 Ms. Murrison presented a highlight of the FY13 budget request. The maintenance base for
111 personnel, operations, and trustee and benefits will be the same as FY 2012 including an
112 increase to benefit costs of \$32,200. The Division of Financial Management is currently
113 recommending a 1% CEC increase of \$9,400. She noted that as an executive agency, the
114 Commission will only present the Governor’s recommended budget request to the Joint
115 Finance and Appropriations Committee during the Legislative Session. She encouraged districts
116 and individuals that want to encourage funding of the SWC request to contact Division of
117 Financial Management analyst Shelby Kerns or their legislators.

118
119 **ITEM #4: OTHER BUSINESS**
120
121 There were no items to address as other business.

122
123 **ITEM #5: LISTENING SESSION**
124
125 Ms. Murrison advised the partners and districts on the intent of the listening session, which is
126 hear from districts and individuals on any issues of concern, including the Commission’s
127 strategic plan and FY 2013 budget request.

128
129 Ms. Murrison announced the process for the listening session would be as follows: staff would
130 present on a topic, Commissioners would have an opportunity to ask questions, then then
131 districts and partners could ask question or make statements. Statements would be

132 summarized and recorded on flip charts prior to moving on to next subject. She stated that
133 comments would be incorporated into the Nov. 15th meeting minutes and presented to
134 Commissioners for review at their next meeting.

135

136 FY 2013 Budget Request

137 Ms. Murrison noted that the budget request submitted for FY 2013 was conservative in
138 response to current economic conditions. Five line item enhancement requests were made in
139 addition to the base maintenance.

140

141 Line Item Enhancement Requests:

142 1. RCRDP Request. The loan program operates exclusively on interest earned on the fund.
143 Additional spending authority was requested to support reestablishing a full time loan
144 officer and operating costs to support the program. There has been a bottleneck of
145 work related to applications and servicing requests.

146 2. NRCS CTA Grant. SWC is providing technical assistance on three CCPI grants. Spending
147 authority is being requested for NRCS reimbursement of ½ SWC related personnel costs.

148 3. NRCS Office Space. NRCS has advised that due to anticipated federal budget reductions,
149 they will need to charge the Commission actual expenses related to field office and IT
150 support.

151 4. District Match Request. Additional \$174,256 was requested to bring districts to the full
152 2:1 match.

153 5. TA Cost Recovery. Requested spending authority for funds to be received to recover
154 indirect costs for professional services provided to other state agencies.

155

156 There were clarifying questions from the Commissioners regarding the two to one match and
157 the importance of the districts supporting that request with their legislators. There was a
158 question about the interest on the loan program. Ms. Murrison stated that all the line item
159 enhancements have direct and indirect benefits to districts.

160

161 Kyle Hawley, Nez Perce SWCD, asked about the protocol of contacting either the Governor's
162 office or legislators to voice support for the Commission's budget requests. Shelby Kerns, DFM
163 Budget Analyst, advised that districts can contact her, Bonnie Butler, or the Governor directly in
164 support of this issue. Ms. Kern's email address is Shelby.Kerns@dfm.idaho.gov.

165

166 Aaron Andrews, Blaine SWCD, asked about the districts receiving compensation for the work
167 they do on the loan program. Ms. Murrison advised that this is one of the program priorities
168 and staff is actively researching the appropriate way to implement this.

169

170 Steve Miller, NACD Secretary and Camas SWCD, thanked the Commission for the transparency
171 of the district allocation process and the feedback sought from the districts and working with
172 DFM on the line item requests.

173

174 Vice Chair Radford spoke in support of the enhancement to the loan program to process
175 applications faster and compensate districts for their time.

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Strategic Plan (FY 2012-2015)

Chairman Bronson discussed the process for the plan as it occurred this year and the process for moving forward in receiving district input.

Ms. Murrison briefly discussed the process the Commission, the districts, IASCD, and other partners went through to finalize a collaborative strategic plan. The Commission will form a workgroup to begin the process for the next strategic plan update, due July 1, 2012. IASCD and the Commission want all districts to have an opportunity to provide feedback and input for next year's strategic plan update, considering all of the changes that have occurred over the past year.

Ms. Murrison highlighted the priorities of the current strategic plan and emphasized the Commission's commitment to locally led conservation and planning.

The three major elements include (1) District Support Services; (2) Programs, Projects, and Conservation Planning; and (3) Administration. Ms. Murrison described the elements of the Commission functions and how the current staff is allocated to each element.

There was discussion on the recent staffing changes. Mason LeFevre and Loretta Strickland filled vacant technical positions in Arco and Emmett, Erin Seaman was hired as a full-time loan assistant and Delwyne Trefz was hired as the district support services specialist. The updated organization chart was reviewed.

Commissioner Stutzman commented that the strategic plan is a fluid document that can be updated and improved at any time. Chairman Bronson noted the importance of the coordination workshop being sponsored by the Commission, stating it is the first step of the districts bringing additional partners and resources to the conservation table.

Steve Becker, IASCD Division II Director and Nez Perce SWCD, stated that he would like to see the Commission to provide a method for districts to request the time of a technical field staff. Ms. Murrison advised that the workgroup that will convene to rank and prioritize district requests for assistance will do just that and the process and timeline are being fleshed out at present.

FY 2012 District Support Services Work Plan

Teri introduced Delwyne Trefz, the new Ag Program Specialist working in the District Support Services position.

Mr. Trefz spoke on the Commission's vision for this position to support the locally led work being done by the districts. He presented an overview of the accomplishments to be performed in the near future.

219 Mr. Trefz spoke in support of intergovernmental coordination as a way to expand district
220 financial, technical, and other resources. He urged districts to attend the upcoming training to
221 understand the concept and language and how it applies to their district and unique situations.
222

223 Ms. Murrison discussed the process for partner involvement in the entire strategic planning
224 process and the Commission's response to district input and feedback. She highlighted the
225 changes made to the draft Strategic Plan that resulted from district and other feedback and
226 stated intent to continue to make adjustments if necessary.
227

228 Ms. Murrison introduced Chuck Pentzer as the Technical Assistance Field Staff Supervisor and
229 summarized his responsibilities to oversee the Commission's provision of technical assistance
230 to districts. His work plan is still being drafted.
231

232 Kyle Hawley, Nez Perce SWCD, thanked the Commission for taking his proposal from last year
233 into reality and the transparency in activities.
234

235 Comments, Feedback, and Ideas: the following bullets reflect comments made and questions
236 asked:

- 237 - How is the Commission going to assist the weak districts to link them into the process
238 and build capacity? *This will be part of the district needs assessment and inventory,*
239 *along with the ranking and prioritization process. Once staff has a good idea of what*
240 *needs exist, what additional resources are available to meet those needs, and*
241 *ranks/prioritizes requests, the districts that need most help and have least resources*
242 *upon which to draw will be focused on.*
- 243 - Need to devise a plan to address the land that will be coming out of CRP and other
244 federal programs with partners across the state. *Noted.*
- 245 - Determine district roles on flood prevention and flood control activities in Idaho. *Harriet*
246 *Hensley will address statutory authority at the Jan. 18th meeting.*
- 247 - Assist districts to identify resources to address flood control and prevention activities in
248 Idaho. *This may be an item districts request the Commission to add to the Strategic Plan*
249 *in this year's update. It is not currently included.*
- 250 - Find other pools of funding other than taxpayer dollars. *Noted.*
- 251 - Assist Bear Lake and all districts to clarify and understand potential of CRP program. *The*
252 *Commission has developed an outreach strategy that includes districts in the upcoming*
253 *year. Enrollments in the CREP are primarily within the Eastern Snake River Plain area. CREP staff*
254 *visit districts in that area several times a year and encourage new sign ups, promote the*
255 *program, and give supervisors updates (number of contracts, acres enrolled, challenges, etc.) on*
256 *progress.*
- 257 - Assist districts to develop better annual and 5 year plans. *Included in the current*
258 *Strategic Plan.*
- 259 - Assist districts to understand the entire local planning process and how to integrate
260 other local partners and working groups. Educate districts on role in local planning
261 processes. *Included in the current Strategic Plan.*
262

263 Vice Chair Radford commented on the importance of communicating with the legislature as a
264 unified voice and asked districts how the Commission can encourage more participation in the
265 overall process. A suggestion was made to encourage the consolidation of districts.

266
267 Latah District supervisors Cody Anderson and Nez Perce Kyle Wilson spoke favorably about the
268 Listening Session and thanked the Commission. Chairman Bronson thanked everyone for their
269 participation and feedback and adjourned the meeting at 12:37 pm.

270
271 Respectfully submitted,

272
273 Roger Stutzman
274 Commissioner and Secretary,
275 Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

DRAFT



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

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ITEM #3C

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMISSION MEETING

Date and Time:

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm MDT

Location:

The Riverside Hotel, Liberty Room

2900 W Chinden Blvd, Boise Idaho

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dick Bronson

Dave Radford

Roger Stutzman

Norman Wright

Jerry Trebesch

ADVISORS PRESENT:

Randy Purser, President, IASCD

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Teri Murrison

Kristin Magruder

Erin Seaman

Chuck Pentzer

Bill Lillibridge

Carolyn Firth

Delwyne Trefz

Eileen Rowan

Loretta Strickland

Steven Smith

Allan Johnson

Brian Reed

Mason LeFevre

PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Harriet Hensley, Deputy Attorney General

See attached Attendance List

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ITEM #2: REVIEW AGENDA

Chairman Bronson reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any items to add. Chair advised that the Conservation Partnership Report would be addressed during the Administrator’s Report.

ITEM #3: ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Teri Murrison, Administrator, advised what items would be discussed today including the district supervisor’s handbook and the intent of the listening session.

District Supervisors Handbook

Ms. Murrison advised that there were concerns regarding the development and finalization of the handbook. Subsequently, the Commission has reviewed the scope of the agreement with counsel.

Harriet Hensley, Deputy Attorney General, discussed the understanding and history of the handbook and agreement. Scott Koberg, Ada Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Sara Schmidt, former Administrator, began drafting the handbook and Ms. Hensley provided legal review. Jeff Burwell, State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, committed to provide desktop publishing services and to print the handbook for distribution.

Ms. Hensley recommended not including sections in the handbook with guidelines related to such topics as personnel issues and specific directives under the open meeting law. There could be legal ramifications if the Commission were to provide legal advice on these matters. Ms. Hensley is assigned to provide legal advice to the Commission. Individual districts may contract with the Attorney General’s Office for legal services and a different Deputy Attorney General is assigned to work with contracting districts. Districts may also contract with private counsel and Ms. Hensley also recommended that the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) may provide legal services and/or general guidance on legal issues as well.

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Strategic Plan (FY 2012-2015)

Chairman Bronson discussed the process for the plan as it occurred this year and the process for moving forward in receiving district input.

Ms. Murrison briefly discussed the process the Commission, the districts, IASCD, and other partners went through to finalize a collaborative strategic plan. The Commission will form a workgroup to begin the process for the next strategic plan update, due July 1, 2012. IASCD and the Commission want all districts to have an opportunity to provide feedback and input for next year's strategic plan update, considering all of the changes that have occurred over the past year.

Ms. Murrison highlighted the priorities of the current strategic plan and emphasized the Commission's commitment to locally led conservation and planning.

The three major elements include (1) District Support Services; (2) Programs, Projects, and Conservation Planning; and (3) Administration. Ms. Murrison described the elements of the Commission functions and how the current staff is allocated to each element.

There was discussion on the recent staffing changes. Mason LeFevre and Loretta Strickland filled vacant technical positions in Arco and Emmett, Erin Seaman was hired as a full-time loan assistant and Delwyne Trefz was hired as the district support services specialist. The updated organization chart was reviewed.

Commissioner Stutzman commented that the strategic plan is a fluid document that can be updated and improved at any time. Chairman Bronson noted the importance of the coordination workshop being sponsored by the Commission, stating it is the first step of the districts bringing additional partners and resources to the conservation table.

Steve Becker, IASCD Division II Director and Nez Perce SWCD, stated that he would like to see the Commission to provide a method for districts to request the time of a technical field staff. Ms. Murrison advised that the workgroup that will convene to rank and prioritize district requests for assistance will do just that and the process and timeline are being fleshed out at present.

FY 2012 District Support Services Work Plan

Teri introduced Delwyne Trefz, the new Ag Program Specialist working in the District Support Services position.

Mr. Trefz spoke on the Commission's vision for this position to support the locally led work being done by the districts. He presented an overview of the accomplishments to be performed in the near future.

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254 *visit districts in that area several times a year and encourage new sign ups, promote the*
255 *program, and give supervisors updates (number of contracts, acres enrolled, challenges, etc.) on*
256 *progress.*
- 257 - Assist districts to develop better annual and 5 year plans. *Included in the current*
258 *Strategic Plan.*
- 259 - Assist districts to understand the entire local planning process and how to integrate
260 other local partners and working groups. Educate districts on role in local planning
261 processes. *Included in the current Strategic Plan.*
262

263 Vice Chair Radford commented on the importance of communicating with the legislature as a
264 unified voice and asked districts how the Commission can encourage more participation in the
265 overall process. A suggestion was made to encourage the consolidation of districts.

266
267 Latah District supervisors Cody Anderson and Nez Perce Kyle Wilson spoke favorably about the
268 Listening Session and thanked the Commission. Chairman Bronson thanked everyone for their
269 participation and feedback and adjourned the meeting at 12:37 pm.

270
271 Respectfully submitted,

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273 Roger Stutzman
274 Commissioner and Secretary,
275 Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

DRAFT



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 W. State St., Room 145 • Boise Idaho 83720

Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

www.swc.idaho.gov

ITEM #3C

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMISSION MEETING

Date and Time:

Tuesday, November 15, 2011
From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm MDT

Location:

The Riverside Hotel, Liberty Room
2900 W Chinden Blvd, Boise Idaho

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dick Bronson
Dave Radford
Roger Stutzman

Norman Wright
Jerry Trebesch

ADVISORS PRESENT:

Randy Purser, President, IASCD

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Teri Murrison
Kristin Magruder
Erin Seaman
Chuck Pentzer
Bill Lillibridge
Carolyn Firth
Delwyne Trefz

Eileen Rowan
Loretta Strickland
Steven Smith
Allan Johnson
Brian Reed
Mason LeFevre

PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Harriet Hensley, Deputy Attorney General

See attached Attendance List

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ITEM #1: WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dick Bronson, Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWC) member at 10:36 a.m. Roll call: Dave Radford, Roger Stutzman, Norman Wright, Jerry Trebesch, and Dick Bronson present. A quorum was present.

ITEM #2: REVIEW AGENDA

Chairman Bronson reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any items to add. Chair advised that the Conservation Partnership Report would be addressed during the Administrator’s Report.

ITEM #3: ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Teri Murrison, Administrator, advised what items would be discussed today including the district supervisor’s handbook and the intent of the listening session.

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- 257 - Assist districts to develop better annual and 5 year plans. *Included in the current*
258 *Strategic Plan.*
- 259 - Assist districts to understand the entire local planning process and how to integrate
260 other local partners and working groups. Educate districts on role in local planning
261 processes. *Included in the current Strategic Plan.*
262

263 Vice Chair Radford commented on the importance of communicating with the legislature as a
264 unified voice and asked districts how the Commission can encourage more participation in the
265 overall process. A suggestion was made to encourage the consolidation of districts.

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268 Listening Session and thanked the Commission. Chairman Bronson thanked everyone for their
269 participation and feedback and adjourned the meeting at 12:37 pm.

270
271 Respectfully submitted,

272
273 Roger Stutzman
274 Commissioner and Secretary,
275 Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

DRAFT



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ITEM #3C

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMISSION MEETING

Date and Time:

Tuesday, November 15, 2011
From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm MDT

Location:

The Riverside Hotel, Liberty Room
2900 W Chinden Blvd, Boise Idaho

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dick Bronson
Dave Radford
Roger Stutzman

Norman Wright
Jerry Trebesch

ADVISORS PRESENT:

Randy Purser, President, IASCD

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Teri Murrison
Kristin Magruder
Erin Seaman
Chuck Pentzer
Bill Lillibridge
Carolyn Firth
Delwyne Trefz

Eileen Rowan
Loretta Strickland
Steven Smith
Allan Johnson
Brian Reed
Mason LeFevre

PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Harriet Hensley, Deputy Attorney General

See attached Attendance List

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ITEM #1: WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dick Bronson, Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWC) member at 10:36 a.m. Roll call: Dave Radford, Roger Stutzman, Norman Wright, Jerry Trebesch, and Dick Bronson present. A quorum was present.

ITEM #2: REVIEW AGENDA

Chairman Bronson reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any items to add. Chair advised that the Conservation Partnership Report would be addressed during the Administrator’s Report.

ITEM #3: ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Teri Murrison, Administrator, advised what items would be discussed today including the district supervisor’s handbook and the intent of the listening session.

District Supervisors Handbook

Ms. Murrison advised that there were concerns regarding the development and finalization of the handbook. Subsequently, the Commission has reviewed the scope of the agreement with counsel.

Harriet Hensley, Deputy Attorney General, discussed the understanding and history of the handbook and agreement. Scott Koberg, Ada Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Sara Schmidt, former Administrator, began drafting the handbook and Ms. Hensley provided legal review. Jeff Burwell, State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, committed to provide desktop publishing services and to print the handbook for distribution.

Ms. Hensley recommended not including sections in the handbook with guidelines related to such topics as personnel issues and specific directives under the open meeting law. There could be legal ramifications if the Commission were to provide legal advice on these matters. Ms. Hensley is assigned to provide legal advice to the Commission. Individual districts may contract with the Attorney General’s Office for legal services and a different Deputy Attorney General is assigned to work with contracting districts. Districts may also contract with private counsel and Ms. Hensley also recommended that the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) may provide legal services and/or general guidance on legal issues as well.

Ms. Hensley further observed that during her assignment with the Commission, there has been ongoing discussion about defining the roles and responsibilities between the districts, IASCD,

44 and the Commission, especially in support of the district’s local control. The current handbook
45 can be modified by individual districts to address their own unique concerns and policies.

46
47 Ms. Murrison advised that the handbook, as edited, was delivered via email to IASCD just prior
48 to conference. Ms. Hensley further advised that the contract did not require that the
49 Commission publish the handbook – it was flexible in its terms and deliverables.

50
51 The Commission was asked if the project was put out for bid. Ms. Hensley advised that the
52 Commission was not required to issue a Request For Proposal for the services provided. Mr.
53 Koberg concurred that it had not gone out for bid and there had been discussion about this
54 issue. Kit Tillotson, IASCD Division V Director, stated that there was an IASCD resolution last
55 year in support of revising the handbook and this arrangement met the intent of this resolution.

56
57 There was a question about the ownership of the handbook and what that meant. Ms. Hensley
58 responded that in the past, the Commission published the handbook as a Commission
59 document for use by the districts. After working with the Commission and districts over the
60 past couple of years, her recommendation was that the handbook be a document that could be
61 modified to suit an individual district’s needs and preferences.

62
63
64 There was discussion about the deliverables under the \$10,000 contract. Ms. Murrison
65 responded that the contract covered all of Mr. Koberg’s time and expenses for researching and
66 creating the handbook. Ms. Hensley commended Mr. Koberg for the quality of the product and
67 the amount of time he spent working on it.

68
69 There was discussion about whether the Commission is sidestepping its responsibility to assist
70 districts with the roles and responsibilities. Ms. Murrison clarified that the handbook does
71 address many related issues, but does not address district administration and operations.

72
73 There was interest in the draft sections on personnel issues and district operations drafted by
74 Mr. Koberg and deleted from the final handbook. Mr. Koberg advised that a template that is
75 available to any district that would like a copy. That template can then be modified by each
76 district to fit their individual needs.

77
78 Further discussion continued about personnel matters and labor laws that apply to everyone
79 and whether the Commission could provide an outline of those specific statutes and rules to
80 the districts. Ms. Hensley responded that the state statute and rules as promulgated by the
81 Division of Human Resources governing personnel matters applies to state employees only and
82 she is not aware of any statute that would require districts to comply with those specific
83 statutes and rules. Further discussion from the audience ensued on federal employment and
84 labor laws. Mr. Koberg spoke in support of districts developing their own employment policies
85 and procedures.

86
87 Conservation Partnership Agreement

88 Ms. Murrison presented the proposed Conservation Partnership Agreement with a minor edit
89 and recommended authorizing the Chair to sign the agreement at a ceremony during the
90 banquet that evening. She stated that the IASCD board, the Idaho District Employees
91 Association (IDEA), and NRCS have reviewed and edited the agreement. Mr. Tillotsen clarified
92 that it would be addressed once more at the IASCD Business Meeting during the afternoon for
93 membership approval of the final draft.

94
95 Vice Chair Radford suggested an edit to the IASCD role to read "IASCD will be the unifying voice
96 of member district to local, state, and federal officials..." He spoke in support of the board
97 supervisors that work with their local counties and wanted that local component to be included
98 in that role instead of just state or federal. There was further discussion on the intent and
99 whether the language adequately addresses the needs of the districts. IASCD will discuss this
100 further at the business meeting this afternoon.

101
102 Chairman Bronson thanked the districts, IASCD, IDEA, and NRCS for their commitment to
103 include a statement that was far reaching and emphasized the local role of the districts.

104
105 **Vice Chair Radford moved to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement with minor
106 modifications, as needed. Commissioner Wright seconded. No further discussion. Motion
107 carried.**

108
109 FY 2013 Budget Request
110 Ms. Murrison presented a highlight of the FY13 budget request. The maintenance base for
111 personnel, operations, and trustee and benefits will be the same as FY 2012 including an
112 increase to benefit costs of \$32,200. The Division of Financial Management is currently
113 recommending a 1% CEC increase of \$9,400. She noted that as an executive agency, the
114 Commission will only present the Governor's recommended budget request to the Joint
115 Finance and Appropriations Committee during the Legislative Session. She encouraged districts
116 and individuals that want to encourage funding of the SWC request to contact Division of
117 Financial Management analyst Shelby Kerns or their legislators.

118
119 **ITEM #4: OTHER BUSINESS**
120
121 There were no items to address as other business.

122
123 **ITEM #5: LISTENING SESSION**
124
125 Ms. Murrison advised the partners and districts on the intent of the listening session, which is
126 hear from districts and individuals on any issues of concern, including the Commission's
127 strategic plan and FY 2013 budget request.

128
129 Ms. Murrison announced the process for the listening session would be as follows: staff would
130 present on a topic, Commissioners would have an opportunity to ask questions, then then
131 districts and partners could ask question or make statements. Statements would be

132 summarized and recorded on flip charts prior to moving on to next subject. She stated that
133 comments would be incorporated into the Nov. 15th meeting minutes and presented to
134 Commissioners for review at their next meeting.

135

136 FY 2013 Budget Request

137 Ms. Murrison noted that the budget request submitted for FY 2013 was conservative in
138 response to current economic conditions. Five line item enhancement requests were made in
139 addition to the base maintenance.

140

141 Line Item Enhancement Requests:

142 1. RCRDP Request. The loan program operates exclusively on interest earned on the fund.
143 Additional spending authority was requested to support reestablishing a full time loan
144 officer and operating costs to support the program. There has been a bottleneck of
145 work related to applications and servicing requests.

146 2. NRCS CTA Grant. SWC is providing technical assistance on three CCPI grants. Spending
147 authority is being requested for NRCS reimbursement of ½ SWC related personnel costs.

148 3. NRCS Office Space. NRCS has advised that due to anticipated federal budget reductions,
149 they will need to charge the Commission actual expenses related to field office and IT
150 support.

151 4. District Match Request. Additional \$174,256 was requested to bring districts to the full
152 2:1 match.

153 5. TA Cost Recovery. Requested spending authority for funds to be received to recover
154 indirect costs for professional services provided to other state agencies.

155

156 There were clarifying questions from the Commissioners regarding the two to one match and
157 the importance of the districts supporting that request with their legislators. There was a
158 question about the interest on the loan program. Ms. Murrison stated that all the line item
159 enhancements have direct and indirect benefits to districts.

160

161 Kyle Hawley, Nez Perce SWCD, asked about the protocol of contacting either the Governor's
162 office or legislators to voice support for the Commission's budget requests. Shelby Kerns, DFM
163 Budget Analyst, advised that districts can contact her, Bonnie Butler, or the Governor directly in
164 support of this issue. Ms. Kern's email address is Shelby.Kerns@dfm.idaho.gov.

165

166 Aaron Andrews, Blaine SWCD, asked about the districts receiving compensation for the work
167 they do on the loan program. Ms. Murrison advised that this is one of the program priorities
168 and staff is actively researching the appropriate way to implement this.

169

170 Steve Miller, NACD Secretary and Camas SWCD, thanked the Commission for the transparency
171 of the district allocation process and the feedback sought from the districts and working with
172 DFM on the line item requests.

173

174 Vice Chair Radford spoke in support of the enhancement to the loan program to process
175 applications faster and compensate districts for their time.

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Strategic Plan (FY 2012-2015)

Chairman Bronson discussed the process for the plan as it occurred this year and the process for moving forward in receiving district input.

Ms. Murrison briefly discussed the process the Commission, the districts, IASCD, and other partners went through to finalize a collaborative strategic plan. The Commission will form a workgroup to begin the process for the next strategic plan update, due July 1, 2012. IASCD and the Commission want all districts to have an opportunity to provide feedback and input for next year's strategic plan update, considering all of the changes that have occurred over the past year.

Ms. Murrison highlighted the priorities of the current strategic plan and emphasized the Commission's commitment to locally led conservation and planning.

The three major elements include (1) District Support Services; (2) Programs, Projects, and Conservation Planning; and (3) Administration. Ms. Murrison described the elements of the Commission functions and how the current staff is allocated to each element.

There was discussion on the recent staffing changes. Mason LeFevre and Loretta Strickland filled vacant technical positions in Arco and Emmett, Erin Seaman was hired as a full-time loan assistant and Delwyne Trefz was hired as the district support services specialist. The updated organization chart was reviewed.

Commissioner Stutzman commented that the strategic plan is a fluid document that can be updated and improved at any time. Chairman Bronson noted the importance of the coordination workshop being sponsored by the Commission, stating it is the first step of the districts bringing additional partners and resources to the conservation table.

Steve Becker, IASCD Division II Director and Nez Perce SWCD, stated that he would like to see the Commission to provide a method for districts to request the time of a technical field staff. Ms. Murrison advised that the workgroup that will convene to rank and prioritize district requests for assistance will do just that and the process and timeline are being fleshed out at present.

FY 2012 District Support Services Work Plan

Teri introduced Delwyne Trefz, the new Ag Program Specialist working in the District Support Services position.

Mr. Trefz spoke on the Commission's vision for this position to support the locally led work being done by the districts. He presented an overview of the accomplishments to be performed in the near future.

219 Mr. Trefz spoke in support of intergovernmental coordination as a way to expand district
220 financial, technical, and other resources. He urged districts to attend the upcoming training to
221 understand the concept and language and how it applies to their district and unique situations.
222

223 Ms. Murrison discussed the process for partner involvement in the entire strategic planning
224 process and the Commission's response to district input and feedback. She highlighted the
225 changes made to the draft Strategic Plan that resulted from district and other feedback and
226 stated intent to continue to make adjustments if necessary.
227

228 Ms. Murrison introduced Chuck Pentzer as the Technical Assistance Field Staff Supervisor and
229 summarized his responsibilities to oversee the Commission's provision of technical assistance
230 to districts. His work plan is still being drafted.
231

232 Kyle Hawley, Nez Perce SWCD, thanked the Commission for taking his proposal from last year
233 into reality and the transparency in activities.
234

235 Comments, Feedback, and Ideas: the following bullets reflect comments made and questions
236 asked:

- 237 - How is the Commission going to assist the weak districts to link them into the process
238 and build capacity? *This will be part of the district needs assessment and inventory,*
239 *along with the ranking and prioritization process. Once staff has a good idea of what*
240 *needs exist, what additional resources are available to meet those needs, and*
241 *ranks/prioritizes requests, the districts that need most help and have least resources*
242 *upon which to draw will be focused on.*
- 243 - Need to devise a plan to address the land that will be coming out of CRP and other
244 federal programs with partners across the state. *Noted.*
- 245 - Determine district roles on flood prevention and flood control activities in Idaho. **Harriet**
246 **Hensley will address statutory authority at the Jan. 18th meeting. OK, Harriet?**
- 247 - Assist districts to identify resources to address flood control and prevention activities in
248 Idaho. *This may be an item districts request the Commission to add to the Strategic Plan*
249 *in this year's update. It is not currently included.*
- 250 - Find other pools of funding other than taxpayer dollars. *Noted.*
- 251 - Assist Bear Lake and all districts to clarify and understand potential of CRP program. **The**
252 **Commission has developed an outreach strategy that includes districts in the**
253 **upcoming year. Confirm with Chuck**
- 254 - Assist districts to develop better annual and 5 year plans. *Included in the current*
255 *Strategic Plan.*
- 256 - Assist districts to understand the entire local planning process and how to integrate
257 other local partners and working groups. Educate districts on role in local planning
258 processes. *Included in the current Strategic Plan.*

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261 unified voice and asked districts how the Commission can encourage more participation in the
262 overall process. A suggestion was made to encourage the consolidation of districts.

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ITEM #4

TO: Chairman Bronson and Commissioners Radford, Stutzman, Wright, and Trebesch
FROM: Teri Murrison, Administrator
DATE: Jan. 12, 2011
RE: Administrator's Report

Activities Update

Happy New Year! Since your last meeting, on top of our day to day responsibilities, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, staff have been preparing for legislative presentations, updating marketing materials for the RCRDP program (attached –thanks to Commissioners Wright and Trebesch for reviewing them!) and making presentations to groups in Northern and Eastern Idaho, preparing and moving into the adjacent office space to accommodate RCRDP expansion, interviewing candidates for Erin Seaman's replacement, updating employee evaluations and performance plans, drafting an overall work plan (OWP) to guide Commission activities over the next 18 months, and more.

Delwyne Trefz, District Support Services Specialist, has sought participants for a workgroup to rank and prioritize district requests for Commission technical assistance. We will update you on DSSS progress and upcoming tasks during a later agenda item.

Governor Otter's FY 2013 Budget Recommendations for SWC

As I shared in an email earlier this week, Commission is on sound footing and under the Governor's Recommended Budget will remain so in FY 2013. His Recommended Budget for the Commission in FY 2013 is \$ 2,650,100: \$145,100 over our FY 2012 appropriation (\$2,505,000).

Governor Otter's Recommended Budget includes the following line item enhancements to our FY 2012 base funding amount (\$2,505,000):

1. an increase of \$100,900 in spending authority (out of dedicated RCRDP funds) to support improvements and expansion of the RCRDP loan program,
2. increasing the Commission's spending authority for grant funds we will receive from NRCS to match up to 50% of our actual personnel expenses related to three existing Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) projects in Marsing, Burley, and Twin Falls, and
3. increasing one-time spending authority for the Commission to recover costs for providing technical, field-based engineering and water quality expertise to other state and federal agencies.

Staff will present the Governor's Recommended Budget at a JFAC hearing on Feb. 1st (see item 7 for specifics). We have advised districts, IASCD and IDEA leadership, and others and look forward to their presence and support at any of our scheduled presentations.



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Office Update

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We've created a file and copy room where Terry H's office was (we'll also have a desk there for any of you when you are in Boise), Terry and Erin are sharing what was my office, Kristin is in her same space, I moved over into the new office space, and we now have a small conference room! We can't wait for you to see and use our new office! I'm particularly excited that we don't have to use Commission vehicles for storage space anymore!!

Speaking of RCRDP, some of you have seen our updated marketing materials (attached). Brian Reed, Water Quality Resource Conservationist presented them to an Irrigators conference in Idaho Falls this week and Terry H. presented them to a group in Northern Idaho last month. Thanks, guys!

We will be looking at our policies and procedures next to make sure that when we get an increase in business, we can handle it expeditiously. We'll also be coming up with a proposal for Commission consideration to compensate districts for participating.

A major enhancement that our new conference room will make possible is the utilization of Dept. of Admin.'s portable state video conferencing technology system (at no cost beyond a \$1,200 annual fee and the purchase of inexpensive video cameras for our staff) to link applicants with loan staff for online meetings. There are also state "end point" video conferencing units all over. We're looking into the possibility of utilizing these for loan meetings.

IASCD Update

On December 25, the Idaho Statesman ran an excellent article entitled, "Rural Idaho – 10 years later: Farms are helping rural areas in Idaho Persevere" (attached). The only problem was the absence of any mention of Idaho's 50 conservation districts. Fortunately, IASCD wrote a letter to the editor on the existence and efficacy of districts (attached). We have prepared for your consideration a draft letter (attached) from the Commission to the editor echoing the opinions expressed by IASCD.

Also attached is a copy of IASCD's letter welcoming legislators back to the Capitol for the 2012 Legislative Session. IASCD is doing a great job of raising the profile of Idaho's 50 conservation districts!

USDA offices proposed to be closed

USDA recently announced that due to budget cuts, the Farm Service Agency is proposing to close offices in Marsing (Owyhee County), Payette (Payette County), Orofino (Clearwater County) and Shoshone



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(Lincoln County). NRCS, as State Conservationist Jeff Burwell has been talking about for some time, will close the Boise (Ada County) office. No proposed closure dates were listed.

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Yesterday we interviewed several candidates (part time, temp position) to take over the duties Erin still has to juggle with her new job. Stay tuned. We hope to have someone hired and in attendance at your meeting.

Finally, our Orofino Water Quality Resource Conservationist Eileen Rowan was involved in a head-on collision just before Christmas. Fortunately, her injuries were not major. She saw the oncoming vehicle hit a car in front of her and was slowed almost to a stop when it hit her. The Commission truck was totaled. We have an extra truck so we shuffled vehicles so she's back up and running. We are very thankful Eileen was not hurt. She's working on limited duty and expects to fully return to her duties soon.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the Chair to sign a letter to the Editor of the Idaho Statesman

Attachments:

- RCRDP flyer
- RCRDP presentation
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- IASCD Letter to Editor
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Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program

Low-interest loan program for conservation practices and improvements



PROVIDING RESOURCES CONSERVING IDAHO

The Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program provides low-interest loans for projects that conserve and benefit the state's natural resources. Qualified applicants can use loan funds to meet federal conservation program cost-share requirements, purchase equipment that increases agricultural productivity, or install conservation practices. Our goal is to provide a final disposition on completed applications within 30 days of receipt. Due to seasonal loan volumes, early planning is recommended. Some restrictions may apply.

CURRENT LOAN RATES:

1 to 4 years	2% APR
5 to 10 years	3% APR
11 to 15 years	4% APR

HOW TO APPLY

START AT YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Develop a conservation plan with your local conservation district or appropriate technical agency to enhance natural resources, such as soil and water.

Submit application materials to your local conservation district for review and ranking. Loan applications must be originated and approved at the local conservation district.

SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION TO THE COMMISSION

The Commission evaluates the application and completes underwriting process for board review and disposition. Projects that refinance or reimburse third party payers are ineligible.

Application, forms and instructions are available on the Commission website at swc.idaho.gov/programs_services/rcrdp.html.

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission



650 West State Street, Room 145

Boise, Idaho 83702

208.332.1790 ph

208.332.1799 fax

info@swc.idaho.gov

<http://swc.idaho.gov>

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (RCRDP)



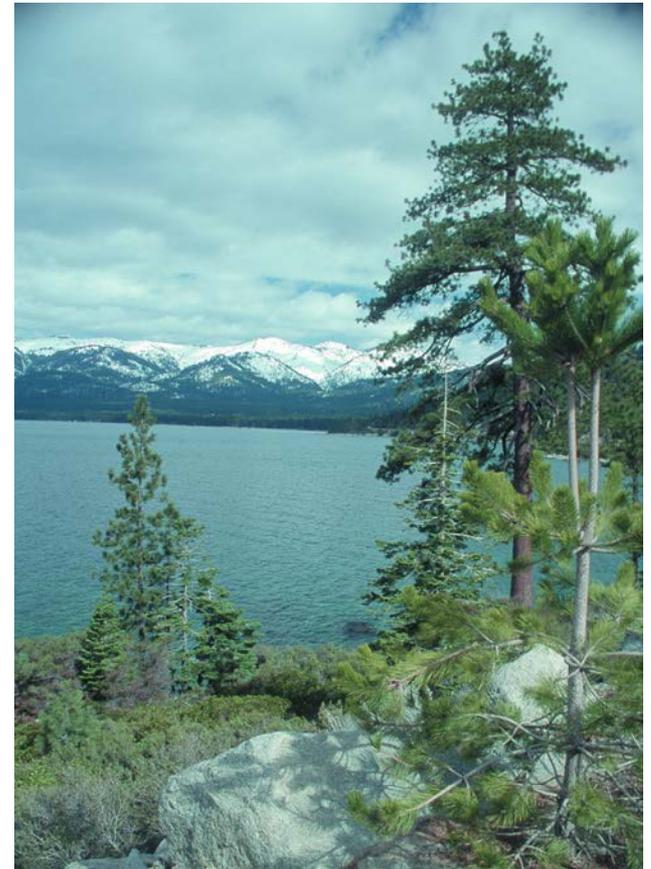
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

Low-interest loan program for conservation practices and improvements

- **Enhance Soil and Water Resources**
- **Improve Riparian Areas, Fish and Wildlife Habitat**
- **Increase Agricultural Productivity**

Project Types

- No-Till Drills
- Irrigation Equipment
- Livestock Fencing to Reduce Impact to Streams
- Plant Trees, Tree Thinning, Brush Clearing
- Petroleum Storage Containment
- Stream Bank Protection

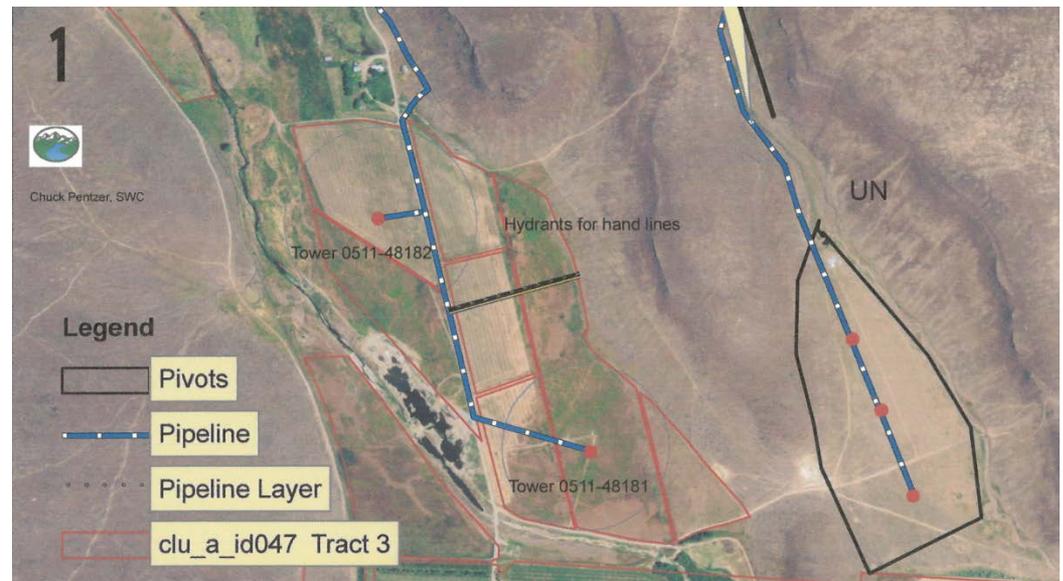


Loan Application Process

1. Conservation Planning
2. Loan Application
3. Commission Decision
4. Project Installation
5. Loan Closing

1. Conservation Planning

- Develop a Conservation Plan
- Local Conservation District to Rank Project
- Conservation Data Sheet
- NRCS Release Form



2. Loan Application

- RCRDP Application
 - Bid(s)
 - 5% Down Payment or Work-in-Kind, Sweat Equity
 - Cost Share (NRCS or other)
 - Balance Sheet
 - Tax Returns (federal and state)
 - Tax Assessment of Property Where Project is Located
 - Drivers License Photocopy

http://swc.idaho.gov

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the website swc.idaho.gov/programs_services/rcrdp.html. The page title is "Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission - Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Loan Program (RCRDP)". The browser's address bar shows the URL, and the search bar contains the text "conservation plan".

The website header includes the text "Providing leadership and assistance for natural resource conservation programs throughout the state." and navigation links for "Home", "Idaho.gov", and "Contact Us". The main header features the "IDAHO Soil and Water Conservation Commission" logo, a search bar, and contact information: "650 W. State St. Room 145, Boise, ID 83702, Phone: 208.332.1790, Fax: 208.332.1799".

The navigation menu includes "Home", "District Services", "Programs & Services", "News & Publications", and "About Us". The main content area is titled "Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Loan Program (RCRDP)".

Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Loan Program (RCRDP)

The SWC provides low-interest loans to agricultural operators to install practices for the enhancement of soil and water resources, improvement of riparian areas and fish and wildlife habitat, and to increase agricultural productivity. Loan applications must be originated and approved at the local conservation district and accompanied by conservation plans designed and approved by an appropriate technical agency.

[» RCRDP Policy](#)
[» Loan Fact Sheet](#)
[» Loan Application Process](#)

Required Forms and Documentation

- [» Loan Application](#)
- [» District Ranking Form](#)
- [» Conservation Plan](#) (To be completed by NRCS or by using Idaho OnePlan)
- [» Conservation Data Sheet](#)
- [» NRCS Release Form](#)
- [» Balance Sheet](#)
- [» Itemized Project Bid or Quote](#)
- [» Last three years of filed Federal and State Income Tax Records including schedules](#)
- [» Proof or verification of water rights \(if applicable\)](#)
- [» Photocopy of applicant's driver's license](#)

Important Updates

- [» District Performance Reports are due by December 20, 2011. Click here to access templates and instructions.](#)
- [» The next meeting is scheduled for December 21-22, 2011 in Boise or via teleconference. Notice and agenda coming soon.](#)
- [» The Commission's FY 2012-2015 Strategic Plan and FY 2011 Performance Report can be found here.](#)
- [» Listen to the archived meetings on the Idaho Legislative Live website: click here. Please note there is a significant delay on the August 17, 2011 audio.](#)
- [» Follow the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission on Twitter](#)
- [» Share this website:](#)

Calendar

[View Full Calendar](#)

To submit an event, email event details to the Commission staff including date, time and contact information

- [» SWC Public Meeting](#)
When: Wed Dec 21, 2011 9am to Thu Dec 22, 2011 4pm MST Where: Capitol Building, Ag Affairs Committee Rm...
- [» SWC Public Teleconference](#)

Loan Limits, Interest Rates

- \$200,000 Maximum Loan
- \$300,000 Maximum Per Borrower

- 2% Interest, up to 4 Year Term
- 3% Interest, 5 to 10 Year Term
- 4% Interest, 11 to 15 Year Term

Collateral

- Equipment Secures Loans up to 7 Year Term
- Real Estate Secures Loans up to 15 Year Term
- Maximum 80% Loan to Collateral Value
- Mostly New Equipment
- Some Used Equipment
- Real Estate Valued at Assessed Value

Equipment



Mortgage



3. Commission Decision

- Review and Decision
- Five Commissioners
 - Dick Bronson, Chairman
 - Dave Radford, Vice Chair
 - Roger Stutzman, Secretary
 - H. Norman Wright, Member
 - Jerry Trebesch, Member
- Monthly Meeting – in person or teleconference



4. Project Installation

- Install Project According to Conservation Plan and Bid(s)
- Project Inspection by NRCS or SWC
- Project Completion Certification by NRCS or SWC
- 6 Months to Install and Request Funds
- 6 Month Extension Available – **must be received in writing prior to end of commitment**

Streambank Restoration Project



Before

Conservation benefit:

- reduced sediment
- preserve streambank
- reduce pollutants
- reduce temperature



After

Drip irrigation system for 50 acres



Conservation benefit:

- 248 tons of sediment
- 248 lbs. total phosphorus
- 1.9 tons nitrate
- 95 annual feet water

5. Loan Closing

- Project Completion Certification
- Invoices
- NRCS EQIP Payment Request
- Title Insurance (Borrower pays)
- Equipment Insurance (Borrower pays)
- Sign Documents
- Record Liens
- Disburse Two-Party Checks

Important Policy Highlights

- Cannot begin application review until entire completed packet is received
- Work may begin on a project or practice during the loan review process **HOWEVER:**
 - *Cannot finance if the project is completed PRIOR to Commission Decision and participant uses a third party payer to satisfy vendor accounts*
- Changes to the original Conservation Plan may result in delays to the Commission Decision
- Always maintain frequent communication with SWC staff regarding the current status of project

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (RCRDP)

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

<http://swc.idaho.gov>

info@swc.idaho.gov

208-332-1790

Terry Hoebelheinrich, Loan Officer

Erin Seaman, Loan Assistant

[Click Here to Print This Article](#)

December 25, 2011

Rural Idaho - 10 years later: Farms are helping rural areas in Idaho persevere

A decade after a collaborative journalism project, ag communities show what it takes to survive.

BY ROCKY BARKER - rbarker@idahostatesman.com

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A decade after a collaborative journalism project, ag communities show what it takes to survive.

Chris Florence and his two partners did exactly the opposite of what most young Idahoans were doing a decade ago.

They started a farm.

Florence, 33, left his career as a chef and joined two friends to start Sweet Valley Organics on 27 acres near Sweet. There they raise 10 varieties of specialty crops, including tomatoes and cucumbers, for wholesale.

They add value to increase their profits by canning tomatoes, making tomato sauce and pickles, and gathering and cultivating mushrooms.

"You can't just do one thing and feed three families," Florence said. "The season is too short and the audience is too small."

Florence is one of thousands of rural Idahoans who have changed the way they live and work to adjust to the dramatic changes taking place in the past few decades. Ten years ago, the Idaho Statesman joined partners like the Spokesman Review in Spokane, the Post Register in Idaho Falls, the Lewiston Tribune and Idaho Public Television in a yearlong examination of Idaho's troubled rural landscape.

The series found that fewer people in rural Idaho had jobs, and they were paid less, were growing older and were attracting lower commodity prices. A third of farm income came in the mail in the form of government checks. Young adults were forced to leave their small communities to find work.

Some of the trends continue. The rural population is getting older, and unemployment is far higher in rural Idaho than in urban Idaho, which also has suffered during the recession.

But farm income is up. Rural Idaho's 24-to-35 population actually grew by a higher percentage than did urban areas. Federal farm subsidies dropped by more than half and in 2010 represented just 1 percent of net Idaho farm income of \$1.4 billion.

Silver and gold prices also are up, helping North Idaho's Silver Valley. But the housing crash struck another blow to the state's once-thriving timber and building-products industries, and forest communities continue to struggle the most.

Still, people willing to change have found ways to survive and even grow in the face of hard times.

Mark Mahon was a 30-year-old logging company owner in Council in 2010. "I'm scared to death of the future," he told us then. With timber supplies down, he worried he'd have to follow private timber harvests to the Oregon coast — and take his 15 jobs with him.

But in 2011, Mahon is still in Idaho and still has 15 people on the payroll. Today he not only logs but also builds roads and has 12 independent truckers working with him. With three mills still operating in the area and the Idaho Department of Lands still offering timber, he has been able to stay alive despite the recession and the collapse of the building economy.

"We were really doing good until this recession hit," he says today.

A NEW DOMINANT FARM PRODUCT

Dairy has replaced potatoes as the driving force of Idaho agriculture, with revenues of \$1.95 billion. Potatoes, at \$690 million, are now third, behind No. 2 cattle.

That change, along with a national ethanol-subsidy program, has transformed the landscape. Thousands of acres of corn and hay grown to feed thousands of dairy cattle have displaced other crops. The economic effects have spread to larger communities as makers of dairy products have followed the herds. Greek-yogurt maker Chobani, for instance, formally broke ground Monday on a Twin Falls plant that will employ 400 people.

"The impact it will have on the whole Magic Valley is tremendous," said Celia Gould, Idaho Department of Agriculture director.

A decade ago, ethanol used 5 percent of the national farm crop. Today it consumes 40 percent, driving the price of corn from \$1.50 a bushel in 2000 to more than \$7 in 2011.

Increased competition for all feed crops has driven the cost for dairy-grade hay, for example, from \$50 a ton to \$250.

But Gould said the income figures are deceiving. The costs of fuel, fertilizer, property taxes and energy are also up, she said.

"I don't know how much of that translates to Main Street," Gould said.

The dairy industry has been bitten by the bounty it spawned. Feed prices are high, but dairy prices remain below costs, said Bob Naerebout, director of the Idaho Dairy Association. Farmers get from \$14.40 to \$17.25 a hundred weight for milk, depending on where it's being shipped. But they need more than \$18 to break even.

At least one cheese producer is paying farmers more for milk if they sign a one-year contract to ensure they have supply. Demand for milk for Chobani's yogurt is the catalyst.

"As we increase the amount of processors in the state of Idaho," Naerebout said, "that increases the pay price to producers and that spreads through the community."

SOME COMMUNITIES STILL HURTING

Idaho's rural communities are not bouncing back, even if the farm economy is. The trends that set them on a downward path at the end of the past century continue.

A fourth-generation timber worker, Mahon, now 39, is saddened that there aren't enough kids in his son's junior high classes for a basketball team.

Efforts to replace the Boise Cascade mill in Council with a call center a decade ago failed.

"The dilemma for a lot of rural communities," said Gould, "is that even when people have money to spend, the car dealer went out of business or the implement dealer went away."

Paul Romrell of St. Anthony told the Statesman in 2001 that his family farm in eastern Idaho's Fremont County was getting \$2 for a bushel of wheat and 90 cents for a sack of potatoes in 2001, the same prices his grandfather got during the Depression.

Today, at 72, Romrell has quit most of his irrigated farming and rents out his 200 acres.

But wheat has been going for as much as \$9 a bushel and potatoes up to \$9 a bag. He plans to sell off his cattle in 2012 and live off his pensions, his Social Security and his rent.

His daughter is married to a farmer near Idaho Falls. His son is an economics professor at Utah State. With farmland prices strong, his land is now a good investment.

"The farms keep getting bigger up here," he said.

Meanwhile, St. Anthony, the county seat, continues its shift from an agricultural town to a bedroom community to Rexburg, the home of BYU-Idaho and its growing student body 10 miles to the south.

St. Anthony has found new people to fill its homes and shop in its remaining stores.

"We have students now that come here to rent apartments, young couples," said Romrell, a former county commissioner.

CHALLENGED TO COLLABORATE

Ultimately, the Idahoans and communities who stepped up to meet the challenge to change are the ones who are holding on.

Bob Cope, a Lemhi County commissioner from Salmon, stood up and challenged speakers at a Rural Idaho conference co-sponsored by the newspapers and the Andrus Center for Public Policy at the College of Idaho in November 2001.

He expressed anger over restrictions on timber and threats to ranching from endangered species like wolves. During the conference, he made connections with other community leaders who were moving past the resource wars of the 1980s and 1990s.

Over the course of the past decade, Cope has worked with the Sonoran Institute on planning, and with the Salmon Valley Stewardship group and the North Fork Collaborative to get some timber contracts moving.

"Once you get on the ground with people and they can see what we're up against," he said, "it makes a big difference."

LEARNING TO ADAPT

~~Council's Mahon also sits on a collaborative panel with environmentalists, planning for the future. Through the stewardship contracting program, the federal government is providing more timber.~~

~~Working together has required both sides to compromise, Mahon said. But he remains frustrated that more can't be done with all the timber available in the national forests — for timber or biomass energy.~~

~~Instead of cutting more wood for timber products, the driving force behind the federal logging is improving wildlife habitat.~~

~~The habitat and forest restoration work, which has grown in the past decade, fits one of the recommendations experts made a decade ago: That to survive, rural industries must adapt to provide services that urban America wants.~~

~~Organic farmer Florence and partners Chance Morgan and Geoff Neyman are doing just that in Sweet. They started raising 40 varieties of crops, but that's down to eight or 10, Florence said.~~

~~If conditions change, however, these self-described "new age" farmers are prepared to adapt, he said.~~

~~That's good advice for all rural residents today, said Gould.~~

~~"They need to look at every option and take opportunity as it comes," she said.~~

Rocky Barker: 377-6484

"The tax which will be paid for the purpose of education is not more than the thousandth part of what will be paid to kings, priests and nobles who will rise up among us if we leave the people in ignorance."

Based on the thinking of our founding fathers, the state of Idaho adopted a constitutional obligation to provide a proper education to all of its citizens and yet it persists in forcing local school districts to find their own sources of revenue whenever it chooses to underfund education.

We were promised property tax relief on the basis of having the state accept its responsibility to fully fund education. But when revenues got tight, the state reneged and many schools had to seek funding through property taxes again. When will Idaho politicians realize that their constitutional requirement to properly fund education should be their top priority?

Perhaps these same politicians are the kings, priests and nobles who Jefferson warned us about.

JAMES PAULS, Eagle

POSTAL SERVICE

To ensure programs, resolve pension funding

Much has already been said about the financial crisis with the U.S. Postal Service. A temporary solution not to close any more mail processing centers or post offices until May 15 has been issued.

Until the real problem of the annual \$5.5 billion pre-funding of future retiree health benefits is solved, the Postal Service will continue to have financial challenges in the future.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars. The solution is to recalculate the pre-funding formula and for the Postal Service to use its own massively overfunded retirement funds (\$50 billion to \$125 billion) to pay its debts. The closing of mail processing centers and post offices only delays the mail which many Americans depend on for checks, medicine and other important correspondence. Many Americans also depend on six-day delivery of mail. The Postal Service is a nonprofit organization that makes sure that all Americans receive mail service no matter where they live — which makes a difference, especially if you live in rural areas such as Idaho.

The employees of the Postal Service want to continue to give you the best value with the best possible service that you deserve.

JOHN PAIGE, Pocatello, president, Idaho State Association of Letter Carriers

RURAL IDAHO

Conservation districts play an integral role

We read with great interest Mr. Rocky Barker's Christmas Day article on rural Idaho. The only missing piece was the work Idaho's 50 individual soil and water conservation districts do to improve rural economies and preserve Idaho's natural resources.

For example, Mr. Barker pointed out the rising cost of fuel, fertilizer and energy. Districts work each day with farmers, ranchers and private landowners to help save each of these resources. A district can work with a landowner to install a pivot irrigation system, cutting a farmer's energy bill dramatically. Buying the pivot from a local business can inject \$80,000 into the local economy.

Local governments have been working with districts for years to improve wildlife habitat, restore forests and rebuild streambanks. Local entities know that districts are best suited to work with the land and private landowners, as districts are codified in state statute to be the primary entities for natural resource protection.

Idaho's soil and water conservation districts are an integral part of Idaho's rural landscape and vital players in helping our farmers and ranchers protect our precious natural resources.

RANDY PURSER, Moore

DRIVING

Why won't the police enforce headlight laws?

This is short and simple. When will the police enforce the law for turning on your headlights at the proper time? Countless times I have encountered cars without their headlights on way past the time of dusk. It is hard enough to drive and watch all the traffic you can see, let alone the ones you can't see.

CHRISTEEN DEAL, Boise

IASCD letter to Editor



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

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Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

www.swc.idaho.gov

January 18, 2012

Letters to the Editor
The Idaho Statesman
PO Box 40
Boise, ID 83707

Editor:

Rocky Barker's recent article about rural Idaho and the fact that farms are helping rural areas persevere was interesting, timely, and true. Rural Idahoans are nothing if not resilient. We applaud the resourcefulness of agricultural producers in stepping up to deal with economic conditions and changing values.

We do regret, however, that Idaho's conservation districts' significant contributions to rural economies and the protection of Idaho's natural resources were not included in Mr. Barker's article.

Since 1940, Idaho's 50 conservation districts have been working to enhance rural economies by providing assistance to private landowners and land users in the locally led conservation, sustainment, improvement, and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources.

In addition to efforts to aid the environment, most districts' locally elected supervisors are active farmers and ranchers. They share a love for the land and agriculture.

Together with the Conservation Commission, long-time federal partner the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and others, districts are fully engaged in ensuring rural Idaho and our incredible natural resources not only persevere, but thrive.

For more information on the efforts of Idaho's conservation districts and the Conservation Commission, contact Teri Murrison at 208-332-1970.

Sincerely,

Dick Bronson, Chairman
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

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Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

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January 11, 2012

Letters to the Editor
The Idaho Statesman
PO Box 40
Boise, ID 83707

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Dick Bronson, Chairman
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission



Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

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Executive Assistant

Nancy Weatherstone

January 9, 2012

Senator/Representative

State Capitol

700 West Jefferson Street

Boise, ID 83720-0081

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Welcome back to the 2012 legislative session! We hope you have had an enjoyable holiday season, and are ready for an eventful few months in the state capitol. While we know your first few weeks in Boise will be hectic, we would like to give you a brief background on the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) and the fifty individual soil conservation districts in Idaho.

Idaho saw its first soil conservation district law passed on March 1, 1939, and the first conservation districts were formed in 1940. These were Latah, Bear Lake, Portneuf, Squaw Creek, and Mayfield (later Elmore). Today, Idaho has 50 conservation districts and state statute identifies the districts, along with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, as the primary entities to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement, and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources. IASCD is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit and we are the unified voice for the districts.

The fifty soil conservation districts we represent have a remarkable track record in working with farmers, ranchers, private land owners, rural and city residents, and communities to protect and preserve our state's natural resources. We all serve on local conservation district boards, and we have assisted willing land owners to develop common sense solutions to environmental challenges they face. These solutions are crafted by people with significant knowledge of the local land and expertise in natural resource management, not an overreaching federal agency.

The work accomplished by our districts, in partnership with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, is an example of good public policy and good government. This partnership provides useful information about land use change, soil erosion and health, water quality and quantity, and wildlife habitat.

Locally-led, non-regulatory conservation is the most effective way to help individual land owners and communities preserve natural resources using a voluntary approach to land stewardship. The state dollars invested in these programs ripple out into our communities and impact all facets of our economy; less sediment in rivers means a pristine river for fishing or rafting; healthy soil means a more plentiful crop; responsible land management means a balance between species habitat and grazing.

Our districts and IASCD will be in touch with you during this session to share successful conservation projects that have had positive impacts to their local environment and provide background to you on any natural resources issues that come before you. Districts and IASCD will also share their support for a fully funded 2-to-1 state fund match to districts. This would be consistent with the provision in Idaho Code 22-2727.

We are hopeful you will reach out to your local soil conservation districts or IASCD if you have any questions, or if we can be of assistance to you.

Thank you for your time and your support.

Sincerely,

Randy Purser
President

Kit Tillotson
Vice President

Steve Becker
Treasurer

Rick Rodgers
Director

Billie Brown
Secretary

SWC REPORT SUMMARY for DEC 2011 (50%)

GENERAL FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			TRUSTEE & BENEFITS			CASH			
	EXPENSE thru End of Current Month			EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			BEG CASH AT 7/1/11	PLUS TOTAL REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	CASH BALANCE End of Current
FY11	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE				
INDEX																
7101					(215)											
7111 MANAGEMENT BOARD	1,692	2,012	(320)	3,957	3,569	388	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,649	(55)	5,581	215
7201 ADMIN & FIELD STAFF	877,599	357,945	519,654	155,056	124,330	30,726	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,032,655	0	482,275	550,380
7202 TEMPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7310 DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,053,200	1,053,200	(0)	1,053,200	0	1,053,200	(0)
7315 GRANTS/AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7320 WOPA WATER QUALITY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50,000	40,579	9,421	50,000	0	40,579	9,421
7350 CREP	89,308	31,182	58,126	18,987	5,916	13,071	0	0	0	0	0	0	108,295	0	37,097	71,198
TOTAL GENERAL FUND 0001	968,599	391,139	577,460	178,000	133,599	44,186	0	0	0	1,103,200	1,093,780	9,420	2,249,799	(55)	1,618,518	631,226
			40.38%			75.06%						99.15%				71.94%
7315 SWC TECH ASSISTANCE	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FUND 0348	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7325 SWC PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,450	2,845	0	4,295
TOTAL FUND 0450	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,450	2,845	0	4,295

DEDICATED FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			CASH						
	EXPENSE thru End of Current Month			EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			BEG CASH AT 7/1/11	PLUS TOTAL REC TO DATE	PLUS TOTAL LOAN INTEREST TO DATE	PLUS TOTAL CASH INTEREST TO DATE	LESS LOAN DISBURSE- MENTS	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	CASH BALANCE End of Current
FY11	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE							
7351 RCRDP LOAN ADMINISTRATION	83,600	20,031	63,569	101,600	34,499	67,101	0	0	0	2,984,699	928,430	156,704	13,875	218,534	54,530	3,810,642
TOTAL RCRDP ADMIN 0522-01	83,600	20,031	63,569	101,600	34,499	67,101	0	0	0	2,984,699	928,430	156,704	13,875	218,534	54,530	3,810,642
			23.96%			33.96%										
7361 REVOLVING LOAN - DEQ	0	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	0	0	0	13,208	44,972	10,298	129	42,693	0	25,914
TOTAL DEQ LOAN 0529-16	0	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	0	0	0	13,208	44,972	10,298	129	42,693	0	25,914
						0.00%										

LOAN PROGRAMS	CASH BALANCE			
	BEG LOAN BALANCE AT 7/1/10	LESS TOTAL PRINCIPAL REC'D TO DATE	PLUS TOTAL LOANS DISBURSED / PYMNTS MADE TO DATE	ACTUAL LOAN BALANCE End of Current Month
FY11				
7351 RCRDP LOAN ADMINISTRATION	6,995,621	928,195	218,534	6,285,960
TOTAL RCRDP ADMIN 0522-01	6,995,621	928,195	218,534	6,285,960
7361 REVOLVING LOAN - DEQ	803,146	44,972	0	758,174
TOTAL DEQ LOAN 0529-16	803,146	44,972	0	758,174

SWC REPORT SUMMARY for DEC 2011 (50%)

GENERAL FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			TRUSTEE & BENEFITS			CASH			
	EXPENSE thru End of Current Month			EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			BEG CASH AT 7/1/11	PLUS TOTAL REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	CASH BALANCE End of Current
FY11	BUDGET		BALANCE	BUDGET		BALANCE	BUDGET		BALANCE				
INDEX													
7101					(215)					0	0	(215)	215
7111 MANAGEMENT BOARD	1,692	2,012	(320)	3,957	3,569	388	0	0	0	5,649	(55)	5,581	13
7201 ADMIN & FIELD STAFF	877,599	357,945	519,654	155,056	124,330	30,726	0	0	0	1,032,655	0	482,275	550,380
7202 TEMPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7310 DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,053,200	1,053,200	(0)	1,053,200	0	1,053,200	(0)
7315 GRANTS/AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7320 WQPA WATER QUALITY	0	0	0	0	0	0	50,000	40,579	9,421	50,000	0	40,579	9,421
7350 CREP	89,308	31,182	58,126	18,987	5,916	13,071	0	0	0	108,295	0	37,097	71,198
TOTAL GENERAL FUND 0001	968,599	391,139	577,460	178,000	133,599	44,186	1,103,200	1,093,780	9,420	2,249,799	(55)	1,618,518	631,226
			40.38%			75.06%			99.15%				71.94%
7315 SWC TECH ASSISTANCE	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FUND 0348	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7325 SWC PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	0	0	1,450	2,845	0	4,295
TOTAL FUND 0450	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	0	0	1,450	2,845	0	4,295

DEDICATED FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CASH						
	ACTUAL EXPENSE thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			BEG CASH AT 7/1/11	PLUS TOTAL REC TO DATE	PLUS TOTAL LOAN INTEREST TO DATE	PLUS TOTAL CASH INTEREST TO DATE	LESS LOAN DISBURSE- MENTS	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	ACTUAL CASH BALANCE End of Current
FY11	BUDGET		BALANCE	BUDGET		BALANCE							
7351 RCRDP LOAN ADMINISTRATION	83,600	20,031	63,569	101,600	34,499	67,101	2,984,699	928,430	156,704	13,875	218,534	54,530	3,810,642
TOTAL RCRDP ADMIN 0522-01	83,600	20,031	63,569	101,600	34,499	67,101	2,984,699	928,430	156,704	13,875	218,534	54,530	3,810,642
			23.96%			33.96%							
7361 REVOLVING LOAN - DEQ**	0	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	13,208	44,972	10,298	129	42,693	0	25,914
TOTAL DEQ LOAN 0529-16	0	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	13,208	44,972	10,298	129	42,693	0	25,914
						0.00%							

LOAN PROGRAMS	CASH BALANCE			
	BEG LOAN BALANCE AT 7/1/10	LESS TOTAL PRINCIPAL REC'D TO DATE	PLUS TOTAL LOANS DISBURSED / PYMNTS MADE TO DATE	ACTUAL LOAN BALANCE End of Current Month
7351 RCRDP LOAN ADMINISTRATION	6,995,621	928,195	218,534	6,285,960
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ITEM #5

**7361 Revolving Loan is service for one loan and has one annual payment

SWC REPORT SUMMARY for DEC 2011 (50%)

GENERAL FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			TRUSTEE & BENEFITS			CASH			
	EXPENSE thru End of Current Month			EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			PLUS TOTAL			CASH BALANCE
FY11	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BEG CASH AT 7/1/11	REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	End of Current
INDEX													
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7202 TEMPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7310 DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,053,200	1,053,200	(0)	1,053,200	0	1,053,200	(0)
7315 GRANTS/AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7320 WQPA WATER QUALITY	0	0	0	0	0	0	50,000	40,579	9,421	50,000	0	40,579	9,421
7350 CREP	89,308	31,182	58,126	18,987	5,916	13,071	0	0	0	108,295	0	37,097	71,198
TOTAL GENERAL FUND 0001	968,599	391,139	577,460	178,000	133,599	44,186	1,103,200	1,093,780	9,420	2,249,799	(55)	1,618,518	631,226
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7315 SWC TECH ASSISTANCE	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FUND 0348	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7325 SWC PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	0	0	1,450	2,845	0	4,295
TOTAL FUND 0450	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	0	0	1,450	2,845	0	4,295

DEDICATED FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CASH							
	ACTUAL EXPENSE thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			PLUS TOTAL LOAN INTEREST TO DATE			PLUS TOTAL CASH INTEREST TO DATE		LESS LOAN DISBURSE- MENTS	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	ACTUAL CASH BALANCE
FY11	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BEG CASH AT 7/1/11	PLUS TOTAL REC TO DATE	INTEREST TO DATE	INTEREST TO DATE	INTEREST TO DATE	INTEREST TO DATE	INTEREST TO DATE	End of Current
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	BEG LOAN BALANCE AT 7/1/10	LESS TOTAL PRINCIPAL REC'D TO DATE	PLUS TOTAL LOANS DISBURSED / PYMNTS MADE TO DATE	ACTUAL LOAN BALANCE End of Current Month
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Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

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MEMO

TO: IDWR Water Plan Subcommittee
FROM: Dick Bronson, Chairman
DATE: January 9, 2012
RE: Comments re Conservation element of Draft Water Plan

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the Subcommittee in its important work to update the Idaho Water Plan. To provide context for our specific comments below, it will be helpful to refer to Idaho Code § 22-27.

Within that Section, the Legislature states it's in the best interest of the state of Idaho:

“(3)(c) That soil conservation districts, as governmental subdivisions, and the state soil and water 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; ... and

(e) That soil conservation districts and the state soil and water conservation commission lead nonregulatory efforts to conserve, sustain, improve and enhance Idaho's private and state lands and to provide assistance to private landowners and land users to plan, develop and implement conservation plans addressing soil, water, air, plant and animal resources...”

The Commission and Idaho's 50 locally led conservation districts are nonregulatory and work closely with regulatory agencies to coordinate voluntary conservation of multiple resources, including water. Upon review, it appears that portions of the Draft should be made consistent with Idaho Code § 22-27.

We have highlighted some of the sections of the Draft where the roles of the Commission and local conservation districts should be referenced. We encourage the Subcommittee and IDWR to consider revising the Draft's policies and implementation strategies as specified and as is otherwise necessary to attain consistency with statute.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to weigh in. Please let me know if we can help further.

The following are specific comments:

POLICY 2A – WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Insert the following statement as second paragraph of the Discussion section:

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts are the primary entities authorized to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation of Idaho's natural resources, including the state's water resources. Idaho Code §§ 22-2716. It is in the best interest of the state of Idaho to establish policies for cooperative working relationships between the Board, local soil conservation districts, the state Soil and Water Conservation Commission, local, state and federal agencies and public and private groups to plan, develop and implement conservation goals and initiatives. Idaho Code § 22-2716(3).



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POLICY 2B – FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES AND STATE SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

Include the following bullet item in list of Implementation Strategies:

“Coordinate with the Office of Species Conservation, Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts in providing assistance to private landowners and land users to develop and implement integrated water, soil, habitat, and species conservation plans.”

POLICY 2D – STATE PROTECTED RIVER SYSTEM

Revise first sentence of second paragraph to read:

“Although rivers can be protected under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it is the policy of the Idaho Water Resource Board to protect streams and rivers through the Comprehensive State Water Planning process...”

POLICY 2E – RIPARIAN HABITAT AND WETLANDS

Insert the following statements after the last sentence of the second paragraph of the Discussion section:

“The Soil and Water Conservation Commission is the designated agency for the planning and implementation of treatments to protect and improve water quality in watersheds impacted by agricultural and grazing activities (Idaho Code § 39-3601 et. seq.). The Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts are the State entities with authority to develop and implement comprehensive, non-regulatory, locally-led conservation strategies to maintain, improve, and enhance Idaho’s riparian habitats and wetlands (Idaho Code § 22-2716).”

2F – STREAM CHANNEL REHABILITATION

Add the following statement to the Discussion section:

“The Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts are the primary entities for planning and implementing voluntary, non-regulatory practices to remediate past stream channel damage and to prevent further damage caused by agricultural or grazing activities (Idaho Code § 22-2716).”

Add the following bullet to Implementation Strategies:

- Coordinate planning (including inventory and analyses), prioritization, and implementation activities with soil conservation districts and the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



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2H – FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

Insert the following statement after the fifth sentence of the Discussion section:

“Watershed Improvement Districts have authority to develop comprehensive plans, levy assessments and construct, operate, and maintain structures for the prevention of flood damage and the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water in the watersheds of this state (Idaho Code § 42-3701, et. seq.). The Soil and Water Conservation Commission is the designated agency to oversee creation of Watershed Improvement Districts throughout the state (Idaho Code § 42-3705).”

2I- FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION LEVEE REGULATION

Add the following statement to the list of Implementation Strategies (see Code sections below):

“Coordinate with the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts during development of a state levee safety program in order to provide that local economic, social and environmental concerns are addressed during safety program development. See Idaho Code §§ 22-2722 et al.

6A – HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS

Add the following to the list of Implementation Strategies:

“Coordinate with the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts during the development and implementation of habitat conservation projects and plans.”

PAGE 45 – PACIFIC COAST SALMON RESTORATION FUND

Add the following to the list of Implementation Strategies:

“Coordinate with local conservation districts during the development and implementation of projects to improve instream flows, increase the quantity and quality of fish habitat, and contribute to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the state and its citizens.”



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ITEM #6

TO: Chairman Bronson and Commissioners Radford, Stutzman, Wright, and Trebesch
FROM: Teri Murrison, Administrator
DATE: Nov. 3, 2011
RE: LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS

At present, the following Legislative presentations have been scheduled or are pending. They are, of course, subject to change depending on the workload of the Committees.

Committee/Presentation	Appointment
House Ag Committee, District Allocation Rule	Thurs., Jan. 12, 1:30 pm
Senate Ag Committee, District Allocation Rule	Tues., Jan. 24, 8:00 am
Senate Ag Committee, new Commissioners' confirmation	Tuesday, Jan. 24, 8:00 am
House Ag Committee, Annual Report	Tues., Jan 24, 1:30 pm
Senate Ag Committee, Annual Report	Tues., Jan. 31 (tentative)
Senate Environment, Resources Committee	Weds., Jan. 25th Feb. 10, 1:30 pm
House Environment, Resources Committee	TBA
Joint Finance & Appropriation Committee (JFAC)	Weds., Feb. 1, 8:55 am

Here's the order of JFAC appointments on the 1st:

Wed, February 1:

8:00 a.m. to 8:55 a.m.	Department of Agriculture
8:55 a.m. to 9:25 a.m.	Soil & Water Conservation Commission
<i>9:25 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.</i>	<i>Break</i>
9:35 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Office of Species Conservation
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Department of Environmental Quality

We'll provide an update on the pending appointments as we confirm them with the individual committees.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For information only



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

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ITEM #7

TO: Chairman Bronson and Commissioners Radford, Stutzman, Wright, and Trebesch
FROM: Teri Murrison, Administrator
DATE: Nov. 3, 2011
RE: Commission Memo on Draft Water Plan

Harriet Hensley, our counsel in the Attorney General's office, has been working with the Idaho Water Resource Board to revise the State Water Plan. She suggested staff review and comment in light of SWC responsibilities for coordination, CREP, and other non-regulatory conservation programs.

Attached is a copy of the Draft Water Plan. The subcommittee will be working on the draft for several months.

A memo expressing the Commission's (and districts') statutory role in water conservation is attached. It has been reviewed by counsel and is presented for consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Memo and Authorize Chairman to Send on Behalf of Commission

Attachments:

- Draft Idaho State Water Plan
- Memo to Subcommittee



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Attachments:

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DRAFT WATER PLAN

IDAHO STATE WATER PLAN - Status Comm Mtg 1-12					
1996 SWP Policy Number	2010 Revisions		Ready for Committee Review Mtg 1-12	2-11 Mtg Revisions for Comm Review 1-12	Comm Approved Final
OPTIMUM USE POLICIES					
1A	1A	State Sovereignty		✓	
1C	1B	Beneficial Use of Water		✓	
1D	1C	Transferability of Use			✓ 2-11
1I	1D	Water Supply Bank			✓ 2-11
1F	1E	Conjunctive Management			✓ 2-11
1H	1F	Ground Water Withdrawal			✓ 2-11
NEW	1G	Interstate Aquifers			✓ 2-11
1E	1H	Quantification & Measurement of Water Resources			✓ 2-11
1J	1I	Aquifer Recharge			✓ 2-11
1L	1J	Water Quality			✓ 2-11
	1K	CAMP			✓ 2-11
3B	1L	Surface Water Supply Enhancement		✓	
NEW	1M	Weather Modification			✓ 2-11
4D	1N	Hydropower	✓ For discussion		
CONSERVATION					
1G	2A	Water Use Efficiency	✓		
2A & 2B	2B	Federally Listed Species and State Species of Greatest Conservation Need	✓		
3A	2C	Instream Flow	✓		
3C	2D	State Protected River System	✓		
3D	2E	Riparian Habitat and Wetlands	✓		
3E	2F	Stream Channel Rehabilitation	✓		
3H	2G	Safety Measures Program	✓		
3I	2H	Flood Hazard Areas	✓		
3J	2I	Flood Damage Reduction Levee Regulation	✓		
MANAGEMENT					
4B	3A	Review of Federal Reservoir Water Allocation	✓ Policy direction		
4E	3B	Hydropower Siting	✓ Energy Off. Rev.		
4G	3C	Research Program	✓		
4H	3D	Funding Program	✓		
4I	3E	Water Resource Planning Program	✓		
4J & 44K	3F	Water Rights Adjudication	✓		
2D	3G	Climate Variability	✓		
SNAKE RIVER BASIN - pending revision					

BEAR RIVER BASIN					
6A	5A	Bear River Compact	✓		
	5B	Bear River Basin Water Management	✓		
6B	5C	Interstate Water Delivery	✓		
6C	5D	Bear Lake	✓		
SALMON-CLEARWATER BASINS					
	6A	Habitat Conservation Plans	✓		
	6B	Instream Flow	✓		
PANHANDLE BASINS					
	7A	Interstate Aquifers	✓		
7B	7B	Minimum Flows	✓		
7E+	7C	Navigation, Fisheries, and Recreation	✓		

DRAFT

1. Optimum Use

Water is essential to the vitality and prosperity of the state. It is in the public interest to establish policies, initiatives, and programs that lead to optimum use of Idaho's water resources. All the waters of the state, when flowing in their natural channels, including the waters of all natural springs and lakes within the boundaries of the state are the property of the state. Idaho Code § 42-101. The state, through the Department of Water Resources, supervises the appropriation and allocation of the right to use state waters for beneficial purposes.

1A - STATE SOVEREIGNTY

All waters, whether surface or ground water, are owned by the state as public property and the state asserts its sovereign right to regulate all waters within the state of Idaho for the benefit of its citizens. Thus, the state opposes any attempt by the federal government or other states, or any other entity to usurp the state's control over Idaho's water resources.

Discussion:

The Idaho Water Resource Board is responsible for the formulation of state water policy through the State Water Plan. The state's position on existing and proposed federal policies and actions affecting Idaho's waters shall be coordinated by the Board to ensure the state retains its sovereign right to control its water resources. Idaho Code § 42-1734B(4). The State Water Plan shall be submitted filed to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council, and other federal agencies as Idaho's plan for the conservation, development, management and optimum use of the state's water resources. Idaho Code § 42-1734C.

Implementation Strategies:

- Take legal action when necessary to protect the state's sovereignty over its water resources.
- Implement and maintain cooperative water resource agreements and partnerships with neighboring states, the federal government, and Indian tribes for the benefit of Idaho's citizens.
- Work with the office of the Governor, state agencies, and the legislature to ensure the development and implementation of a unified state position on water resource issues.

Milestones:

- Partnerships established with neighboring states, federal agencies, and Indian tribes to anticipate and plan for water resource conflicts that may occur.
- Protocols established ensuring coordination of the state's position on water resource issues.

1B - BENEFICIAL USE OF WATER

The concept of beneficial use must necessarily evolve with changing conditions.

Discussion:

Idaho Code section 42-104 provides that an appropriation of water must be for “some useful or beneficial purpose” but does not define beneficial purpose. Except for the constitutionally protected beneficial uses which are domestic, agricultural, manufacturing and mining, the concept of what constitutes a beneficial use of water has evolved over time based upon societal needs. For example, use of water for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic life, recreation, aesthetics, municipalities, navigation, water quality, and managed ground water recharge are recognized as beneficial uses. A broad definition of beneficial use has and will continue to allow for the optimum use of the state’s water resources.

Implementation Strategies:

- Review existing state policies and programs to ensure that traditional and emerging water use needs are recognized as beneficial uses of water.
- Establish or participate in local and regional advisory groups to formulate recommendations regarding traditional and emerging water use needs and priorities.

Milestones:

- Policies and rules revised to accommodate emerging water use needs.
- Reports submitted on advisory group recommendations.
- Statutory and/or regulatory changes made to accommodate emerging beneficial uses of water.

1L – SURFACE WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT

Surface water development will continue to play an important role in meeting Idaho's future water needs.

Discussion:

Future economic development, population growth, and evolving priorities will bring additional demands on Idaho's water resources, and surface water development will continue to play an important role in the state's future. The construction of new reservoirs, enlargement of existing reservoirs, and development of off-stream storage sites could increase water supplies necessary to meet increased demand. These strategies are also important for flood management, hydropower generation, and recreation use.

Engineering, economic, legal, political, and environmental issues associated with water development projects affect decisions concerning the construction of reservoir facilities. In addition, changes in climate conditions will likely be an important factor in determining the costs and benefits of additional storage facilities. As required by Idaho Code § 42-1736B(c), the Idaho Water Resource Board maintains an inventory of potential storage sites. An inventory of reservoir sites with apparent high potential for development is set forth in Table 1.

Table 1. Reservoir Sites with Apparent High Potential for Development

Potential Reservoir	Stream	Reservoir Capacity	Potential Purpose	Status of Study
<i>Upper Snake Minidoka (enlargement)</i>	Snake River	50,000-67,000 AF	Irrigation, Power, Flood Control, Flow Augmentation, Recharge, Recreation	<i>Minidoka Dam Raise Special Study completed by USBOR (Dec. 2009). Raise determined to be feasible. No action by the IWRB at this time.</i>
Teton (or alternative)	Teton River	300,000 AF	Irrigation, Power, Flood Control, Flow Augmentation, Recreation	<i>Henrys Fork Basin Study ongoing. Multiple on and offstream sites within basin under consideration.</i>
<i>Southwest Idaho Twin Springs (or alternative)</i>	Boise River	70,000 to 300,000-400,000 AF	Irrigation, Power, Flood Control, Flow Augmentation, Recreation	<i>Lower Boise Interim Feasibility Study ongoing. Three sites identified/prioritized for further analysis: (1) replacement of existing Arrowrock Dam. (2) new dam at Alexander Flats site, and (3) new dam at Twin Springs site.</i>

Lost Valley (enlargement)	Lost Valley Creek	20,000 AF (increase)	Irrigation, Recreation	<u>Not currently under investigation.</u>
Galloway	Weiser River	900,000 AF	Irrigation, Power, Flood Control, Flow Augmentation, Recreation	<u>Weiser-Galloway Studies currently ongoing: <i>Geologic Investigation and Analysis Project and Snake River Operational Analysis Project.</i></u>
<i>Bear</i> Caribou	Bear River	48,000 AF	Irrigation, Power, Flood Control, Recreation	<u>Last study update completed in 1996. Not currently under investigation.</u>

Implementation Strategies:

- Concentrate assessment and evaluation of potential storage facilities on projects with the highest potential for development. Major considerations in defining high-potential projects are: cost per unit of storage, extent of public support, environmental considerations, adequacy of existing information and studies, extent and availability of funding sources for evaluation and assessment, and expected benefits that would accrue from the construction and operation of the facility.
- Review inventory and prioritize potential projects annually.
- Initiate feasibility/construction design studies for sites determined to be high priority.
- Identify potential funding sources for project evaluation and construction.
- Develop partnerships with private entities, local governments, and federal agencies to evaluate, design, and construct water storage projects.
- Provide recommendations regarding potential storage sites to private and public entities to ensure that land and resource development associated with these sites is consistent with the State Water Plan.

Milestones:

- Complete annual review of potential storage site inventory and revise as appropriate.
- Initiate studies of Committee discussion needed
- Initiate construction of additional storage facility for approximately 600 thousand acre-feet by 2025.

1N – HYDROPOWER

Appropriation of water for hydropower should be subordinated to subsequent upstream beneficial uses to assure an adequate supply of water for all future beneficial uses and minimum stream flows for hydropower projects should be established through the Board's minimum stream flow program.

Discussion:

The relationship of hydropower water rights to future upstream uses was the subject of an ongoing debate from statehood until 1985, when the Idaho legislature enacted Idaho Code § 42-203B to resolve the debate. Pursuant to section 3 of article XV of the Idaho Constitution, the legislature determined that it was in the public interest to specifically implement the state's power to regulate and limit the use of water for power purposes. Through enactment of Idaho Code § 42-203B, the Legislature sought to avoid future Swan Falls-like controversies by creating a framework for balancing the use of water for hydropower and other beneficial uses. This framework provides for the subordination of appropriations of water for hydropower purposes to assure an adequate supply of water for all future upstream beneficial uses. The framework also provides for protection of base flows for hydropower and other instream uses through the Board's minimum stream flow program. Establishment of a minimum flow water right through the Board's minimum stream flow program ensures an open and transparent public process for establishing a balance between sustaining economic growth, maintaining reasonable electric rates, protecting and preserving existing water rights, and protecting water quality and other environmental values.

Implementation Strategies:

- Ensure that all future applications, permits and licenses for use of water for hydropower purposes contain a subordination clause.
- Establish minimum stream flows to protect base flows for hydropower users.
- Define, through agreements with the holders of existing hydropower water rights, the relationship between such rights and existing and future depletionary water rights.

Milestones:

- Execution of subordination agreements and/or implementation of minimum stream flows for existing hydropower facilities.

2. Conservation

The Conservation policies focus on careful planning and prudent management of Idaho's water. The purpose of the policies is to encourage water conservation practices and manage the use of water resources for the benefit of Idaho citizens, consistent with the prior appropriation doctrine, as established by law. Conservation and water efficiency practices should be implemented through voluntary, market based programs, when economically feasible.

2A - WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Water conservation and water use efficiency ~~The efficient use of water should be promoted in accordance with state water law.~~

Discussion:

The Legislature, in Idaho Code § 42-250(1) determined that voluntary water conservation practices and projects can advance the policy of the State to promote and encourage conservation, development, augmentation and utilization of Idaho's water resources. "Water conservation practice" means any practice, improvement, project, or management program that results in the diversion of less than the authorized quantity of water while maintaining the full beneficial use(s) of the water right. Idaho Code § 42-250(2). Water conservation practices include, but are not limited to, practices that reduce consumptive use as defined in Idaho Code § 42-220B, reductions in conveyance losses, and reductions in surface and seepage losses occurring at the place of use. Idaho Code § 42-223 encourages conservation of water resources by providing that no portion of any water right shall be lost or forfeited for nonuse if the nonuse results from a water conservation practice which maintains the full beneficial use(s) authorized by a water right. ~~Water conservation focuses on the reduction in water demand, and water efficiency focuses on reducing waste.~~ As water efficiencies increase, conserved water may be available to supply existing uses, new demands, or improve instream flows. Conservation and water efficiency practices may offset the need for new water supply enhancement projects. Policies that promote water conservation and efficiency should be encouraged, where such practices do not result in adverse consequences to other users of the resource.

Implementation Strategies:

- Review existing laws and regulations and identify inconsistencies or constraints to implementing water efficiency practices.
- Develop partnerships with local, state, and federal governments and non-governmental organizations to coordinate and support water conservation programs.
- Establish a public information program and conservation guidelines for a range of water uses.
- Evaluate opportunities for conservation and water efficiency practices in conjunction with the evaluation of new water supply enhancement facilities.
- Identify localized opportunities for water conservation.

Milestones:

- Number of conservation guidelines implemented.

- Number of partnerships developed to coordinate water conservation.
- Number of water use efficiency practices implemented.
- Effects of conservation efforts quantified.

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2B - FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES AND STATE SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED.

Voluntary community-based conservation programs that benefit species listed under the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”) and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (“SGCN”) and resolve water resource issues should be the primary strategy for achieving species protection and recovery.

Discussion:

The intersection between state water rights and the ESA requires development of integrated solutions to water allocation conflicts. In enacting the ESA, Congress contemplated a state-federal alliance to advance the recovery of listed species and provided for the development of state-led recovery efforts. Congress has directed federal agencies to “cooperate with State and local agencies to resolve water resource issues in concert with conservation of endangered species.” 16 U.S.C. § 1531(c)(2). Cooperative community-based conservation programs are more effective in providing on-the-ground habitat benefits than enforcement actions. With site-specific information about water and land use practices and habitat requirements, targeted and effective conservation strategies can be developed and implemented that protect private property rights and assure state primacy over water resources while, at the same time, providing natural resource protection.

The Idaho Water Resource Board holds minimum stream flow water rights for 205 river reaches important to ESA-listed species and established as part of the Snake River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2004 (“2004 Water Rights Agreement”). The minimum stream flow water rights provide significant protection for ESA-listed species in the Salmon and Clearwater River Basins. The water rights for streams in watersheds with substantial private land ownership and private water use were established after consultation with local communities. Where the minimum stream flow water rights are higher than existing flows, the state works with water users on a voluntary basis to rent or otherwise acquire water to return to the streams. The Water Supply Bank and Idaho Water Transactions Program are used to achieve these objectives. In conjunction with the minimum stream flows, the state agreed to work with local stakeholders and communities to address habitat concerns on a limited number of streams with degraded habitat. The work plans include measures to remove barriers to fish passage, revegetate stream banks, and restore wetlands to proper functioning.

The 2004 Water Rights Agreement also provides for the development of long-term habitat conservation plans to assist in the recovery of ESA-listed species, under section 6 of the ESA. The plans are to be developed in collaboration with local landowners and water users, affected Indian tribes, and state and federal natural resource agencies. Section 6 agreements will provide incentives for conservation through the granting of incidental take coverage to participants in the program. Such agreements would provide participating water users with protection against uncertainty and regulatory delays while contributing to the recovery of listed species. Section 6 of the ESA may also provide opportunities for the implementation of voluntary conservation plans developed in collaboration with local water users and stakeholders in other regions of the

state. It is in the interest of the public for the Idaho Water Resource Board to take a leadership role in the development of local and regional conservation strategies that contribute to the recovery of ESA-listed species and SGCN.

Implementation Strategies:

- Participate in the development and implementation of habitat conservation plans pursuant to section 6 of the ESA.
- Collaborate with the Office of Species Conservation, state and federal agencies, affected Indian tribes, and local stakeholders to develop and implement habitat conservation programs that preclude the need for listing of species and contribute to listed species' recovery.
- Coordinate with the Office of Species Conservation to integrate water resource programs with species protection and recovery, including the establishment of minimum stream flows, and state designation of protected rivers.

Milestones:

- Number of section 6 agreements implemented.
- Number of voluntary conservation agreements and measures implemented.
- Number of strategies implemented that preclude the need for listing under the ESA and result in listed species' recovery.

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2C - INSTREAM FLOW

The Idaho Water Resource Board will exercise its authority to establish and to protect minimum stream flow water rights on those water bodies where it is in the public interest to protect and support instream uses.

Discussion:

Instream flows protect and support many nonconsumptive, beneficial uses of water such as fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic life, recreation and aesthetic values, transportation, navigation, hydropower generation, and water quality. These uses contribute to Idaho's economy and the well being of its citizens.

In 1971, the legislature authorized the first formal appropriation of minimum stream flows by directing the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to appropriate a specific reach of Niagara Springs in the Malad Canyon area for instream flow purposes. The 1976 State Water Plan called for, and eventually legislation was enacted, creating a state-wide minimum stream flow program. The ability to obtain state-based minimum stream flow water rights in Idaho lies exclusively with the Idaho Water Resource Board. Chapter 15, title 42, authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board to appropriate the minimum flow of water required to protect designated uses if the appropriation is in the public interest and will not interfere with any vested water right, permit, or water right application with a senior priority. Idaho currently has 297 licensed or permitted water rights for minimum stream flow purposes, including 3 minimum lake level water rights. At the legislature's direction, 205 of the minimum stream flow water rights were adopted pursuant to the Snake River Water Rights Agreement which, as discussed more fully in Policy 6B, provided a programmatic approach to addressing the needs of species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Similarly, the legislature has authorized the Idaho Water Resource Board to appropriate minimum stream flow water rights in the Lemhi and Wood River basins where the rights are maintained through operation of a Water Supply Bank. These locally managed programs are used to maintain or enhance instream flow in a manner that respects water use practices and addresses community concerns.

The Idaho Water Resource Board supports efforts to obtain storage and natural flow rights to improve and maintain instream flows when in the public interest. The Water Supply Bank and local rental pools are tools that can be used to improve instream flows through voluntary cooperation and to meet local needs. To facilitate their use throughout the state for use in improving and sustaining minimum stream flows, statutory changes are needed authorizing the Idaho Water Resource Board to establish local rental pools at the request and in cooperation with local communities. As recognized in the 1996 State Water Plan, statutory changes are also needed to authorize the Idaho Water Resource Board to apply for a change in the nature of use of an acquired right, where it has been determined that a minimum stream flow water right is in the best interest of the state. By law, Idaho Code §§ 42-108 and 42-222, provision is made to protect other water users, the agricultural base of an area, and the local public interest. Priority dates are retained only if other water rights holders are not injured.

2D- STATE PROTECTED RIVER SYSTEM

The Idaho Water Resource Board will exercise its authority to protect the unique features of rivers where it is in the public interest to protect recreational, scenic, and natural values.

Discussion:

Idaho Code § 42-1734A(1) authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board to protect highly-valued waterways as state protected rivers. The authority to designate “protected rivers” derives from the state’s ownership of the beds of navigable streams and the state’s right to regulate all waters within the state. The Idaho Water Resource Board has consistently recognized the value of free-flowing waterways by designating specific streams and rivers as natural or recreational rivers.

Although rivers can be protected under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Idaho Water Resource Board encourages federal officials to seek protection of streams and rivers through the Comprehensive State Water Planning process. The state planning process ensures coordinated and efficient water planning for Idaho rivers and streams and avoids potential state/federal sovereignty conflicts.

Implementation Strategies:

- Coordinate with local governments and federal agencies to identify specific waterways for consideration as protected rivers.
- Develop priority list of potential rivers for consideration in comprehensive basin planning
- Establish agency policy and procedures to ensure requirements of the protected rivers program are addressed when the Department of Water Resources reviews water right permit applications and stream channel alteration permits.
- Ensure that permits issued include provisions for the protection, restoration or enhancement of designated river reaches.

Milestones:

- Ongoing review of state rivers and streams for determination of whether they should be designated as part of the protected river system.
- Number of state/federal agreements to coordinate river planning implemented.
- Designation of streams or rivers determined to warrant protected status.

Implementation Strategies:

- Establish local rental pools to meet instream flow needs as requested.
- Submit applications for minimum stream flow water rights that are in the public interest.
- Coordinate with state and federal agencies and stakeholders to identify potential minimum stream flow needs.
- Revise chapter 15, title 42 to authorize the Idaho Water Resource Board to establish local natural flow rental pools.
- Revise chapter 15, title 42 to authorize the Idaho Water Resource Board to transfer acquired water rights to minimum stream flow water rights.

Milestones:

- Minimum stream flow water rights established.
- Annual inventories of instream flow water rights completed.
- Statutory changes authorize the Idaho Water Resource Board to establish local natural flow rental pools.
- Statutory changes authorize the Idaho Water Resource Board to transfer acquired water rights to minimum stream flow water rights.

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2E- RIPARIAN HABITAT AND WETLANDS

Protecting the ecological viability of riparian habitat and wetlands within the state is a critical component of watershed planning.

Discussion:

Functional riparian zones and wetlands contribute to water quality protection, storm water control, and ground water protection and provide important habitat for fish and wildlife. Riparian and wetlands areas cover approximately 20% of the state and support 80% of the species in the state. Riparian zones and wetlands should be protected to preserve their ecological values.

The integration of water resource and land use planning activities that affect riparian zones and wetlands requires coordination among various local, regional, and state authorities. The Idaho Department of Water Resources has exclusive authority over the appropriation of the public surface waters and ground waters of the state. The Department of Water Resources also regulates the alteration of stream channels and stream beds below the mean high watermark. Idaho Code §§ 42-3801 thru 42-3812. Local governments are authorized to regulate land use and development. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality administers the state's Nonpoint Source Management Program which is based upon strong working partnerships and collaboration with state, tribal, regional, and local entities, private sector groups, citizens' groups, and federal agencies and the recognition that a successful program must be driven by local wisdom and experience.

In 2008, the Idaho Wetlands Working Group developed a Draft Wetlands Conservation Strategy that sets out a framework for protecting, restoring, and enhancing wetlands through collaborative, voluntary approaches. The Idaho Water Resource Board supports voluntary watershed-based conservation strategies for the protection of riparian and wetland areas above the mean high watermark developed and implemented through collaboration with water users, land managers, local governments, and state and federal agencies.

Implementation Strategies:

- Support collaborative watershed planning and the implementation of voluntary strategies to protect Idaho's wetlands and riparian areas.
- Support the development of guidelines and strategies to assist in the implementation of projects that protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and riparian areas.
- Evaluate whether the Stream Channel Protection Act, Idaho Code §§ 42-3801 thru 42-3812 adequately assists in the protection of wetlands and riparian areas and propose statutory changes as appropriate.
- Assist state and federal agencies and stakeholders in the acquisition of funding for project implementation.

Milestones:

- Project and funding proposals submitted.
- Projects implemented.

2F- STREAM CHANNEL REHABILITATION

The Idaho Water Resource Board will support cost effective stream channel rehabilitation where past activities adversely affect or could affect the ecological goods and services of the state's watersheds.

Discussion:

Functional stream channels provide ecological goods and services desired by the public. Ecological goods are those qualities that have economic value, such as timber resources, habitat that supports fishing and hunting, and aesthetic qualities of landscapes that would attract tourists. Ecological services include systems that best manage water resources, such as the regulation of runoff and flood waters, or the stabilization of landscapes to prevent erosion. Damage and destruction of stream channels can result from natural and human-caused changes and disturbances. Where current practices, legacy effects of past activities, or natural disturbances threaten public safety, private property, or the overall quality and quantity of water produced in the affected watershed, it is in the state's interest to take remedial action in a cost-effective manner. In many instances, historical targets for restoration are not practical and therefore restoration efforts should be designed to be sustainable in a rapidly-changing environment. Preventing damage to a stream channel and adjacent property is more cost effective than restoration. It is in the state's interest to ensure that the stream channels of the state and their environments be protected.

Implementation Strategies:

- Conduct a statewide inventory of streams where natural events or human activities have altered channels and the disturbances threaten the public safety, private property, or other water resource values.
- Conduct cost/benefit analyses for rehabilitation of affected streams.
- Prioritize projects.
- Obtain funding for restoration of prioritized streams.

Milestones:

- Inventory conducted.
- Cost/benefit analyses conducted and priorities established.
- Funding obtained.
- Projects implemented.

2G - SAFETY MEASURES PROGRAM

Owners of water distribution and storage facilities are encouraged to establish or continue safety initiatives including construction and maintenance of safety features and development of public awareness programs to educate residents about hazards associated with these facilities.

Discussion:

Fatal accidents occur in waterways at or near water distribution and storage facilities in Idaho because of the inherent dangers of these facilities. Canals and irrigation distribution structures are increasingly located near or in residential areas and as a result, there has been a greater effort to provide public awareness programs and, where feasible, implement measures designed to prevent such occurrences.

The Idaho Water Resource Board supports these voluntary initiatives.

Implementation Strategies:

- Secure and provide funding for the construction and maintenance of safety features at water distribution and storage facilities.
- Encourage the implementation of public safety awareness programs.

Milestones:

- Reduced number of accidents associated with water distribution and storage facilities.

2H - FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

Protection of floodplains through effective floodplain management and pre-disaster mitigation is essential to reducing and preventing flood damages.

Discussion:

Floods are the most frequent and costly disasters in Idaho and can occur in most any area of the state. With population growth, there will be increased interest in the development of lands subject to periodic flooding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which many 166 Idaho communities have joined by adopting and enforcing flood damage prevention ordinances. Although FEMA has prepared Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) for some of the waterways within Idaho, the majority of FIRMs are more than 20 years old and required updating. In order to create safer communities and reduce the loss of life and property due to flood events, local governments are encouraged to use land use controls, building practices, and other tools to protect the natural function of floodplains. ~~The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Map Modernization Program provides updated maps and data for local decision making and enables the end user to more accurately assess the level of flood risk within a community and take appropriate measures to mitigate their physical and financial vulnerability to flooding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has prepared Flood Insurance Rate Maps for some, but not all of the waterways within Idaho. Over 160 communities have adopted the National Flood Insurance Program.~~ Communities can use this information to develop a more comprehensive approach to flood disaster mitigation planning.

In order to provide maximum opportunity for the citizens of Idaho to obtain improved and more reliable flood insurance, the National Flood Insurance Program should be adopted.

Implementation Strategies:

- ~~Coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive overview of flood prone areas across the state.~~
- Assist local governments, state, and federal agencies in securing funding to update or develop Digital and complete Flood Insurance Rate Maps, for all regions of the state.
- Provide technical information on flood plain management and flood risk to elected officials, to public and private organizations, and land developers, involved in land development.

2I - FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION LEVEE REGULATION

Levees should be designed, constructed and maintained to meet the intended purpose of reducing flood damage for the useful life of the levee.

Discussion:

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1717, the Department of Water Resources regulates nearly 600 water storage dams and more than 20 mine tailing impoundment structures throughout the state. Levees are not regulated as dams, however, and the construction, maintenance, and safety of levees is, for the most part, left to local entities.

The Idaho Water Resource Board supports the development of a comprehensive state program governing the construction and maintenance of new flood reduction levees. A state flood reduction levee program should focus on the use of sound technical practices in levee design, construction, and operation and include safety programs that ensure public awareness of the capacities and limitations of levees during flood events. ~~risks involved in levees.~~

Implementation Strategies:

- Develop a state safety program to regulate the construction and maintenance of new flood reduction levees.
- Propose legislation authorizing the Department to implement a state levee safety program.
- Identify and incorporate components of the Draft National Levee Safety Program in a state program that would benefit Idaho citizens.
- Participate in the development of a National Levee Safety Program with other state and federal agencies.
- In the event a National Levee Safety Program is adopted, obtain certification as a state levee safety program and assist with development of levee criteria for use by the states and the federal government.

Milestones:

- State levee safety program established.
- ~~Trends in~~ Levee failures in Idaho decreased.

3A - REVIEW OF FEDERAL RESERVOIR WATER ALLOCATION

It is in the state's and the federal government's interest that proposed federal reservoir allocations be consistent with the Comprehensive State Water Plan.

Discussion:

Historically, the Idaho Water Resource Board has reviewed federal water allocations proposed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation to determine whether the proposed allocations are consistent with state water resource planning and management objectives. In 1988, this cooperative arrangement was formalized through an agreement providing for Idaho Water Resource Board review of proposed water allocations from federal reservoirs in excess of 500 acre-feet allocations of water in excess of 500 acre-feet annually, within an existing approved water right not otherwise reviewable by the Idaho Department of Water Resources. This state and federal partnership ensures that water resource and management issues are addressed in a comprehensive way, thereby providing for optimal use of the state's resources. It will become even more important to coordinate state and federal management strategies as demands on the state's water supply increase. ~~The Idaho Water Resource Board will pursue additional opportunities for review of proposed allocations to determine if they would be consistent with the Comprehensive State Water Plan.~~

Implementation Strategies:

- Review status of existing cooperative agreements related to review of proposed allocations and revise accordingly.
- Identify opportunities for additional agreements providing for review of proposed allocations.
- Work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to determine if cooperative agreements addressing allocations at the Albeni Falls and Dworshak facilities would be in the state's interest.

Milestones:

- Existing agreements maintained and revised accordingly.
- Additional cooperative agreements executed that promote optimal use of the state's water resources.

3B - HYDROPOWER SITING

The expansion of hydropower capacity and generation consistent with the state water plan can help meet the need for affordable and renewable energy resources.

Discussion:

Hydropower provides a clean, efficient, and renewable energy source and has contributed significantly to the state's energy supply. The state and region's power demand is expected to increase substantially over the next several decades as the population continues to grow. Although most cost effective and flexible sites have been developed, there will be opportunities for increasing hydroelectric generating capacity, while preserving environmental protection. These include enhancing incremental capacity at existing sites through new technologies that yield greater energy efficiency, adding generation capacity at existing dams, and the development of generation capacity in conjunction with the construction of new water storage projects.

The 2007 Idaho Energy Plan recommends that conservation, including energy efficiency and demand management, should be the highest priority resource. The 2007 Idaho Energy Plan also recommends development of in-state renewable resources that will contribute to a secure, reliable energy system for the state. The Idaho Water Resource Board supports the promotion of a more efficient use of energy throughout Idaho's economy, implementation of efficiency improvements at existing sites, and retrofitting existing dams. Hydropower development should be considered when planning new water storage projects. Feasibility studies for new storage projects should include evaluation of the costs, benefits, and adverse consequences of hydropower generation.

Under 16 U.S.C. §803, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission must determine that proposed projects are consistent with Idaho's comprehensive water plans when making licensing decisions. The Idaho Water Resource Board will review hydropower development proposals to determine whether they are consistent with the comprehensive state water plan, including the comprehensive basin and river plans, which address region-specific siting issues. The Idaho Water Resource Board agrees with the 2007 Idaho Energy Plan recommendation to establish an Energy Facility Site Advisory Team that would provide technical expertise and assistance upon request from local officials considering energy facility siting proposals.

Through As provided by Idaho Code § 42-203B, the Legislature sought to avoid future water management crises like the Snake River water rights controversy ultimately resolved through the Swan Falls Agreement by creating a framework for balancing the use of water for hydropower and other beneficial uses. Consistent with this framework, appropriations of water for hydropower uses should be subordinated to subsequent upstream beneficial uses to assure an adequate supply of water for all future beneficial uses and any protected base flows for hydropower purposes should be established through the Idaho Water Resource Board's minimum stream flow program. All applications, permits, and licenses for the use of water for hydropower production shall be subordinated to future depletionary beneficial uses. Any base flows for hydropower generation must be established by the Idaho Water Resource Board pursuant to the requirements set forth in chapter 15, title 42 of the Idaho Code.

Implementation Strategies:

- Provide information and technical assistance to local communities through participation in an Energy Facility Site Advisory Team.
- Include evaluation of hydropower generation potential in feasibility studies for water storage projects.
- Provide information and technical assistance to proponents of projects that increase energy efficiency, increase generation capacity, or retrofit existing dams for hydroelectric generation.

Milestones:

- Hydropower siting proposals and projects comply with the Comprehensive State Water Plan.
- Efficiency improvements implemented at existing hydropower facilities.
- Generation capacity increased at existing hydropower projects, while protecting the environment.
- Existing dams retrofitted with generation capacity, while protecting the environment.

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3C - RESEARCH PROGRAM

Focused research is necessary to support water resource planning and collaborative solutions that address the increasing demands on the state's water supplies.

Discussion:

Research and data gathering are essential to the state's efforts to meet future water challenges in a sustainable way. Adequate data on water availability, use and efficiencies, surface and ground water interaction and relationships, and emerging water management technologies is needed to help water managers and end-users make sound decisions and develop adaptive strategies for responding to the impacts of climate variability. Data collection and research is conducted by numerous public and private entities. A cooperative exchange of information contributes to more efficient use of limited financial resources for research and monitoring necessary to further the state's water supply objectives. Research priorities include: water use efficiency; water use monitoring; ground and surface water relationships, specifically the timing and spatial distribution of pumping and recharge efforts; ground water flow models; and system operation modeling methods for Idaho river basins. Environmental considerations should be addressed as studies are designed and implemented.

Implementation Strategies:

- Facilitate coordination and dissemination of research and data among state and federal agencies, universities, and private entities.
- Identify and prioritize research needs.
- Identify dedicated funding sources for basic and applied research.

Milestones:

- Cooperative research activities implemented.
- Completed research projects.
- Application of research results to planning and management

3D - FUNDING PROGRAM

Funding mechanisms to support the development, preservation, conservation, and restoration of the water resources of the state should be based on flexible strategies that provide equitable benefits.

Discussion:

The water resources of the state are essential to Idaho's economy and its citizens. There is no single strategy for successfully financing water resource projects. Instead, funding mechanisms for water planning and management should be based on flexible strategies that are broad-based and provide equitable benefits. Strategies for financing water resource programs include state appropriations, the establishment of water management improvement or conservancy districts, targeted user fees, the development of a state water fund supported by power franchise fees, targeted sales, property, or special product and services taxes, and revenue bonds. While the existing institutional and legal framework may be adequate for some projects, it is important to develop innovative approaches that are responsive to future needs. Transparency and clarity about the intent and limitations of any particular funding strategy will help ensure that a strategy is used and evaluated appropriately. Projects proposed for funding must be in the public interest and in compliance with the State Water Plan.

The Idaho Water Resource Board's Revolving Development Fund and the Water Management Account are supported by the appropriation of moneys from the state's general fund, federal funds, and other revenue sources. These programs have and will continue to provide financial assistance to project sponsors for water development and conservation, system rehabilitation, and treatment projects. The Idaho Water Resource Board is also authorized to finance water projects with revenue bonds. The issuance of revenue bonds does not constitute a general obligation of the State of Idaho or the Idaho Water Resource Board.

Sources of funding for programs focused on the protection and restoration of species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act include Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 appropriations, the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program, the Pacific Coast Salmon Restoration Fund, and the 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords.

The Eastern Snake River Aquifer Comprehensive Management Plan calls for a water-user fee in conjunction with state appropriations. Implementation of strategies for addressing regional water use issues on the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer will assist in the development of comprehensive aquifer management implementation plans in other areas of the state.

The Idaho Water Resource Board will continue to pursue opportunities for partnerships with the federal government and private entities to determine the feasibility of increasing water supplies through development of additional storage capacity. At the direction of the legislature, the Idaho Water Resource Board has entered into agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation for studies in the Boise River and Snake River basins. As demands increase

on Idaho's water storage and delivery systems, the need for additional water storage feasibility studies and funding partnerships will be assessed.

Implementation Strategies:

- Review existing authorities and identify changes needed to optimize financing for water resource projects.
- Evaluate Idaho Water Resource Board financial program procedures to determine whether revisions are needed to improve efficiency and accessibility.
- Pursue opportunities for private funding partnerships.
- Pursue opportunities for local, federal, and intra-state funding partnerships and projects.

Milestones:

- Financial programs and funding strategies meet the future water resource needs of the state.

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3E – WATER RESOURCE PLANNING PROGRAM

Comprehensive water planning will help ensure sufficient water supplies to satisfy Idaho's future water needs.

Discussion:

Idaho Code § 42-1734A(1) directs the Idaho Water Resource Board to formulate and adopt a comprehensive state water plan for conservation, development, management and optimum use of all unappropriated water resources and waterways of the state. The legislature also authorized the Idaho Water Resource Board to develop plans for specific geographical areas. Comprehensive plans for individual hydrologic river basins include state protected river designations and basin-specific recommendations concerning water use and resource values. Basin plans also assure that the state's interests will be considered in federal management agency decisions. Public review and comment ensures that the state water plan serves the public interest. Article XV, section 7 of the Idaho Constitution authorizes the legislature to amend or reject the state water plan, as provided by law.

Adoption of The State Water Plan - Part One, The Objectives, in 1974, and The State Water Plan - Part Two in 1976, provided a comprehensive water plan, based upon an initial resource inventory, and provided a basis for more detailed planning for the hydrologic river basin plan areas. Implementing the policies in Part Two required the combined efforts of government agencies, the legislature, private concerns and the public. Consequently, the Plan delineated those areas where legislative action was required, identified the programs to be implemented by the Idaho Water Resource Board, and described programs requiring the cooperation of public and private interests. The Plan was revised and re-adopted in 1982, 1985, 1986, 1992, and 1996.

In 2008, the Idaho Legislature adopted Idaho Code Section 42-1779 and 42-1780, establishing the Comprehensive Aquifer Planning and Management Program (CAMP) and Aquifer Planning and Management Fund, which authorize the development of aquifer management plans throughout the state for hydraulically connected ground and surface water resources. As funding allows, the Idaho Water Resource Board will undertake comprehensive aquifer management planning in prioritized basins. CAMP development provides opportunities for addressing existing and future water-use disputes through a public process involving affected water users, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders.

In exercising its responsibilities for water resource planning, the Idaho Water Resource Board will focus on the coordination of local, state and federal planning activities to minimize duplication and to promote the optimum use of Idaho's water resources.

Implementation Strategies:

- Review and update existing agreements for coordinated water resource planning.
- Develop new cooperative planning agreements.
- Secure funding to complete CAMPs for priority aquifers consistent with the schedule established by the Idaho Water Resource Board.

3F - WATER RIGHTS ADJUDICATION

Adjudication of water rights through the state courts should be completed to fully define and quantify all state, tribal and federal water rights.

Discussion:

The purpose of a general stream adjudication is to provide certainty and predictability in the administration and distribution of water diverting from hydraulically connected water sources. The need for a general adjudication of water rights in the Snake River Basin became apparent as the spring flows in the Thousand Springs reach began to decline and disputes arose over the availability of water supplies on the Snake River Plain. As part of the 1984 Swan Falls Agreement, the State agreed to commence the Snake River Basin Adjudication ("SRBA"), the largest legal proceeding in the history of the state. The SRBA is the cornerstone for the long-term management of the Snake River Basin within Idaho. At the conclusion of the SRBA, the state will have a listing of all water rights within the basin, which is the predicate for establishing water districts to administer all water rights in accordance with the prior appropriation doctrine, as established by law.

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1734(3), the Idaho Water Resource Board is authorized to represent the state, when requested to do so by the Governor, in proceedings, negotiations, and hearings involving the federal government. In the SRBA, the Idaho Water Resource Board coordinated state participation in the negotiation of federal reserved water rights, including tribal claims. The Idaho Water Resource Board successfully negotiated agreements resolving federal reserved right claims including those filed by the Shoshone-Bannock, Nez Perce, and Shoshone-Paiute tribes as well as the claims of numerous federal agencies. The final settlement of the Nez Perce Tribe's claims reflected the tribe's and the state's shared interest in addressing environmental concerns and addressed the conflicting demands for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses. Consistent with state law, the Idaho Water Resource Board should serve as the lead agency for coordinating state participation in all general stream adjudications.

On November 12, 2008, the district court ordered the commencement of an adjudication in the Coeur d'Alene Spokane River water system. Like the SRBA, the determination of all existing water rights from the water basins in Northern Idaho will provide the basis for administration of water rights in accordance with the prior appropriation doctrine, as established by law.

Implementation Strategies:

- As requested by the Governor, provide coordination and negotiation adjudication activities
- As determined by state and local support, encourage general adjudications in unadjudicated basins in northern and eastern Idaho

Milestones:

- Issuance of final unified decree in SRBP
- Complete Coeur d'Alene Spoken River Basin adjudication

Milestones:

- Cooperative planning agreements executed and implemented.
- Adoption of Treasure Valley and Rathdrum Prairie CAMP.
- Completion and adoption of CAMPs for remaining priority aquifers.

DRAFT

3G - CLIMATE VARIABILITY

Preparedness strategies should be developed to account for the impact of climate variability on the state's water supplies.

Discussion:

Evidence suggests that currently the Earth's climate is warming and that warming may continue into the foreseeable future. While recognizing the uncertainties inherent in climate prediction, it is important to anticipate how a warming climate can potentially affect water supplies and plan accordingly.

Climate experts are less confident about how continued warming will affect the overall amount of precipitation Idaho receives, but changes in seasonal stream flows and increased annual variability have been documented. It is expected that seasonal flows in snowmelt-fed rivers will occur earlier, summer and fall stream flows will be reduced, and water temperatures will increase. Increased precipitation in the form of rain and fewer, but more intense, storm events are expected to result in more severe droughts and greater flooding. Potential impacts could also include more evaporation, reduced ground water recharge, water quality challenges, reduced productivity of hydropower facilities, and irreversible impacts on natural ecosystems. Water resource managers must evaluate and plan for these possibilities.

Planning for the potential impacts of climate variability requires increased flexibility in water administration and the identification of existing tools that can be adapted to address climate-induced changes in water supplies. Increased monitoring and data collection as well as conducting an initial vulnerability analysis for watersheds will help managers develop adaptive approaches to changes in the hydrologic regime that may accompany an increase in climate variability. Increasing public awareness and strengthening community and regional partnerships to manage shared water resources are proactive steps that should be taken now to provide for the optimum use of Idaho's water resources.

Implementation Strategies:

- Evaluate existing legal and institutional tools and constraints that can be adapted to provide flexibility for water resource managers.
- Implement a collaborative approach to the analysis of reservoir operation rule curves that adequately considers past and current ~~more recent~~ hydrologic data.
- Pursue expansion and diversification of water supplies, including increased surface and ground water storage.
- Develop and update flood-risk assessments and environmental impact mitigation measures.
- Identify and implement adaptive mechanisms to address the impact of climate variability on water supplies.
- Establish stakeholder forums involving state and local water supply managers, scientists, state and federal agencies, and water users to enhance understanding about the science of climate variability, to share information about existing and potential tools for ameliorating the impact

of climate variability, and to increase understanding of the challenges facing water users and managers.

Milestones:

- Completion and implementation of updated flood control rule curves.
- Construction or expansion of water supply projects.
- Finalization of risk assessment studies.
- Documentation of legal and institutional framework and water management tools that anticipate and respond to climate variability.
- Establishment of regional forums that encourage the development of collaborative programs and decision making.
- Funding mechanisms in place for climate variability preparedness and risk assessment.

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5A - BEAR RIVER COMPACT

Water use and management in the Bear River Basin shall conform to the allocations agreed to in the Bear River Compact.

Discussion:

The original Bear River Compact was signed into law on March 17, 1958, and amended on February 8, 1980. Idaho Code § 42-3402. The Compact was negotiated to provide for the efficient use of water for multiple purposes, to permit additional development, to promote interstate comity, and to accomplish the equitable apportionment of the waters of the Bear River among Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. Water allocations for the Bear River Basin were adopted in 1978. The Compact is administered by an interstate administrative agency, the Bear River Commission, which is comprised of three members from each state and a non-voting federal chairman. The Bear River Commission must review the Compact at intervals of not less than twenty years and may propose amendments.

The Compact divides the Bear River into three divisions and treats allocation differently in each. The Upper Division of the river extends from its source in the Uinta Mountains, to and including Pixley Dam Wyoming. The Central Division includes the portion of the Bear River from Pixley Dam to, and including Stewart Dam. The Lower Division of the Bear River includes the flow from Stewart Dam to the Great Salt Lake and encompasses Bear Lake and its tributary drainage. The Compact makes allocations for the diversions of surface water, the storage of water above Bear Lake, ground water depletion, and future development. The allocation provisions for the three divisions of the Bear River apply only during times of shortage.

Idaho and Utah are implementing conjunctive management of surface and ground water. Idaho's Bear River Conjunctive Management Plan guides the development of ground water in the Bear River Ground Water Management Area. Although initial estimates of ground water depletions in the Lower Division indicate equal depletions in Idaho and Utah, the Idaho Water Resource Board encourages the Bear River Commission to prioritize additional studies to determine the effects of ground water use on the Bear River system.

Implementation Strategies:

- Encourage and assist the Bear River Commission to initiate further study and consideration of the effects of ground water use on Bear River surface flow.
- Ongoing review of Bear River Compact implementation and related issues, including depletion calculation procedures.

Milestones:

- Studies completed on the interaction between ground water and surface water in the Bear River Basin.

5B - BEAR RIVER BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT

The Idaho Water Resource Board supports enhancing water supplies, increasing water use efficiency, and implementing water supply bank mechanisms to help meet future water needs in the Bear River Basin.

Discussion:

The Bear River Compact designates how the undeveloped water supplies of the Bear River are to be allocated among Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. The Compact allocates a first right to development and depletion of water not currently allocated in the Lower Division to Idaho, in the amount of 125,000 acre feet. In addition to the efficient use of existing developed water supplies, the state should move forward with the development of Idaho's depletion allocations as provided for in the Compact.

Ground water is available for development, but its development cannot injure existing senior water rights. In 2001, the Department of Water Resources established the Bear River Ground Water Management Area and created an advisory committee to provide guidance in the preparation of a ground water management plan. The Bear River Ground Water Management Plan, adopted in 2003, provides for managing the effects of ground water withdrawals to accommodate projected growth and water demand in the Bear River Basin, while protecting senior priority surface and ground water rights from injury. In addition to the use of mitigation plans that protect existing rights, the plan encourages flexible strategies for making water available for new development including new surface storage, ground water recharge projects, and transfers of existing rights through water banking and other marketing mechanisms. The ground water management plan encourages the wise use of available water supplies and continues the involvement of a local advisory committee in the development of management policies for the area. To address declining ground water levels, the Bear River Basin has been designated as a priority basin for the development and implementation of a comprehensive aquifer management plan.

Idaho Code § 42-1765 authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board to create a local rental pool to facilitate marketing of stored water. A Bear River rental pool would provide the advantage of being locally managed and controlled, with the flexibility to develop specific procedures designed to address special conditions existing in the basin. Use of water supply banks also provides protection from forfeiture for unused water rights in Idaho and a source of funding for improving water management. Cooperation between Idaho, Utah, and PacifiCorp will be required to establish a storage rental pool for Bear Lake.

Implementation Strategies:

- Initiate further discussion concerning the development of a Bear River storage water rental pool with the Bear River Commission, Utah, and PacifiCorp.
- Develop strategies to improve water supplies and reduce demand through the implementation of a comprehensive aquifer management plan, in coordination with Utah, Wyoming, and PacifiCorp.

Milestones:

- Bear River Basin comprehensive aquifer management planning underway.

- Strategies developed to meet future water needs.
- Local storage rental pool established.
- Development of Idaho's depletion allocation.

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5C - INTERSTATE WATER DELIVERY

Idaho water users in the Lower Division of the Bear River Basin must be protected from inequitable water allocation in the event of a water emergency and the scheduling of interstate water deliveries.

Discussion:

The Bear River Compact authorizes the Bear River Commission to implement a water delivery schedule in the Lower Division without regard to state boundaries if the Bear River Commission finds that a “water emergency” exists. Idaho Code ~~§-section~~ 42-3402. This provision was intended to apply only to true emergency conditions which must be determined using comprehensive accounting processes. Idaho and Utah have developed separate, but similar water accounting models that incorporate the rights identified in the Commission Approved Lower Division Water Delivery Schedule. Absent a water emergency, Idaho water users are not required to accept delivery based upon interstate accounting allocation. Both states, however, have worked to reconcile their respective accounting models to reduce conflict over water delivery.

The “Bear Lake Settlement Agreement” was signed and voluntarily adopted by Lower Division water users and PacifiCorp in 1995 and amended in 2003. The agreement established, among other things, an “Irrigation Water Allocation and Lake Recovery Proposal” for Bear Lake. The proposal provides for an “Annual Allocation” which represents the total, estimated quantity of water available to be delivered to storage contract holders. This agreement and the state water accounting models have resulted in a process by which Lower Division water users have voluntarily agreed to water delivery by water right priority without regard to state boundaries.

Implementation Strategies:

- Continue work with Utah and Lower Division water users to improve water right accounting models.
- Facilitate and promote improved water delivery and measurement, including gage and diversion automation.

Milestones:

- Continued cooperation in interstate water administration.
- Completion of technical upgrades to water delivery and measurement infrastructure.

5D - BEAR LAKE

The outstanding recreational, aesthetic, and fish and wildlife resource values of Bear Lake should be preserved, while recognizing the existing storage allocations for irrigation and hydroelectric power generation.

Discussion:

Bear Lake, noted for its unique coloration and endemic fish species, provides an abundance of recreational opportunities. To protect these values, the Idaho Water Resource Board obtained a minimum lake level water right for Bear Lake of 5902 feet.

The 2003 Bear Lake Settlement Agreement between Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and PacifiCorp confirmed that Bear Lake must be operated primarily as a storage reservoir to satisfy contracts for existing irrigation uses and flood control needs in the three states, with the use of water for hydropower generation being incidental to other purposes. Bear Lake storage is allocated based on lake elevation with reduced allocations occurring when Bear Lake falls below the irrigation reserve of 5914.7 feet. The settlement agreement also provides for a portion of the active storage in Bear Lake to be voluntarily retained to enhance recreation and water quality values.

Pursuant to the 2002 Settlement Agreement Resolving the Relicensing of the Bear River Hydroelectric Projects and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licenses issued for PacifiCorp's Bear River projects, protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures are being implemented to benefit fish and wildlife and recreational resources in the Bear River Basin. The settlement agreement established a committee to guide implementation of these measures, with a primary focus on protecting and improving habitat for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. The settlement agreement confirms that PacifiCorp's ability to regulate Bear Lake reservoir levels and provide instream flows at the projects for these purposes is restricted by and subject to historic practices, water rights, and flood control responsibilities that are memorialized in water contracts, water agreements, and judicial decrees and opinions.

The Bear River Compact provides for cooperation with state and federal agencies in matters relating to water pollution of interstate significance. The Idaho Water Resource Board supports the Bear River Commission's efforts to develop opportunities for more integrated watershed management throughout the basin.

Implementation Strategies:

- Cooperate with the Bear River Commission to address interstate issues of concern related to Bear Lake, including water quality, threatened or endangered species and species of special concern, and recreation.

Milestones:

- Bear Lake operations are consistent with 2003 Bear Lake Settlement Agreement.
- Cooperative programs addressing interstate issues of concern related to water quality, recreation, and sensitive species implemented.

SALMON/CLEARWATER RIVER BASINS

6A - HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS

Voluntary, community-based conservation plans and strategies for the benefit of ESA-listed species and other species of concern are key components of water planning and management in the Salmon and Clearwater River Basins.

Discussion:

The Salmon and Clearwater River basins support a thriving agricultural industry and significant tourism. Because a number of fish species in the Salmon and Clearwater River basins have been listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, numerous programs are being implemented to improve fish habitat, while protecting existing water rights. A significant portion of freshwater habitat important to ESA-listed fish is located on private lands. As a consequence, local support is key to implementing conservation measures that advance species' recovery. Federal agencies are encouraged to cooperate with state and local landowners to develop voluntary, incentive-based conservation plans. Any water required for instream uses must be obtained in compliance with state law.

In the Snake River Basin Adjudication, the state entered into two agreements that provide for water management within the basin that supports agricultural-based communities, while encouraging the voluntary implementation of flow-related conservation measures that improve instream conditions for ESA-listed fish. The agreements are based upon improving instream flow conditions pursuant to state law.

- **Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004**

The Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004 resolved all of the issues related to the Nez Perce Tribe's water right claims in the Snake River Basin Adjudication. In the Salmon and Clearwater basins, the primary goal of the settlement agreement provisions is to conserve and enhance fish habitat in order to address ESA concerns. There are three cornerstones to such efforts: the establishment of state minimum flows, the establishment of a voluntary forestry program with standards to improve fish habitat, and the establishment of voluntary programs by irrigators and other water users to improve instream flow.

The state and local water users are working with the federal agencies, tribes, and other stakeholders to advance the recovery of listed species through the development of conservation agreements under Section 6 of the ESA. In coordination with the Office of Species Conservation, the state has begun early implementation of voluntary conservation measures that provide immediate benefits to ESA-listed fish and provide the foundation for implementation of long-range plans.

As a result of the Snake River Water Rights Agreement, the Idaho Water Resource Board holds minimum stream flow water rights on 205 streams that provide significant protection for steelhead, salmon, and bull trout. Most of the streams flow through federal public lands and have minimal use. Twenty-four streams, however, are in basins with substantial private ownership and significant private water use. The flows for those streams were established after consultation with local communities. Where the minimum stream flow water rights are higher than existing flows, the Idaho Water Resource Board works with water users on a voluntary basis to rent or otherwise acquire water to return to streams, in accordance with state law.

- **Wild and Scenic Rivers Agreement**

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Agreement resolved issues related to federal reserved water right claims filed by the federal government under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The agreement provides for the quantification of the wild and scenic federal reserved water rights and state administration of those rights. To protect existing rights and allow for some future development, the United States agreed to subordinate the federal rights to certain junior priority state and private rights and to a sum certain of future junior rights.

Implementation Strategies

- Ensure that the water right application review process considers basin conservation plans and limiting factors for ESA-listed fish.
- Ensure that the stream channel alteration permit process considers basin conservation plans and limiting factors for ESA-listed fish.
- Develop flow-limited reach GIS maps for use in water administration.
- Continue early implementation of conservation measures.
- Develop and implement conservation projects and plans based on local problem-solving and support.

Milestones

- Conservation measures implemented.
- Conservation plans approved pursuant to Section 6 of the ESA and implemented.
- Approved water right transfers address limiting factors for ESA-listed fish.
- Water right permits address limiting factors for ESA-listed fish.
- Flow-limited reach GIS maps completed and in use.

6B - INSTREAM FLOW

The Idaho Water Resource Board will promote, provide, and where possible, expand opportunities for voluntary, market-based transactions to improve instream flow for the benefit of ESA-listed aquatic species.

Discussion:

The Idaho Water Resource Board administers and participates in a variety of programs to improve instream flows throughout the Salmon and Clearwater River basins. This programmatic approach to addressing the needs of ESA-listed and other sensitive species includes a suite of water supply acquisition tools including short and long-term leases, permanent purchases, partial season leases, diversion reduction agreements, and water use efficiency measures, all of which are market-based and voluntary. The Idaho Water Resource Board works collaboratively with organizations committed to voluntary, market-based conservation strategies, such as conservation easements, to maximize instream flow programs. These partnerships benefit targeted fish species and support local economies.

- **Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program**

The Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program was initiated in 2002 to support innovative, voluntary, grassroots strategies to improve flows in the Columbia River Basin's streams and rivers. The majority of funding is provided by the Bonneville Power Administration in cooperation with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. It is in the public interest to continue implementation of the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program in the Salmon and Clearwater basins to keep agriculture productive and improve instream flows for ESA-listed and other sensitive fish species.

- **Section 6 Habitat Conservation Fund**

Section 6 of the ESA directs "that Federal agencies shall cooperate with State and local agencies to resolve water resource issues in concert with conservation of endangered species." 16 U.S.C.A. § 1531(C)(2). Pursuant to the Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004, in addition to the establishment of minimum stream flow water rights, the state agreed to work with local stakeholders and communities to develop work plans for addressing limiting factors for fish on streams with degraded habitat. The state also agreed to develop cooperative agreements under Section 6 of the ESA with the assistance of local land owners, federal agencies, and tribes to establish long-term conservation goals and conservation measures that will contribute to the recovery of anadromous and resident fish in the Upper Salmon River Basin. The Idaho Water Resource Board's instream flow programs are central to the development and implementation of Section 6 Conservation Plans.

PANHANDLE RIVER BASINS

7A - INTERSTATE AQUIFERS

Completion of comprehensive aquifer management plans and the Northern Idaho Adjudication and implementation of interstate agreements are central to the optimum use of the Panhandle Basin's water resources.

Discussion:

The Panhandle's rivers and lakes are key to continued economic development and provide for multiple uses of water including irrigation, domestic supplies, mining, and commercial uses. These lakes and rivers also provide significant recreation, fish and wildlife, and aesthetic resources important for the region's economy. In average water years, Idaho's Panhandle region has an abundant water supply. A growing population and the urbanization of agricultural lands, however, have resulted in increased ground water use which has resulted in conflicts over water quantity and quality within the region and across state boundaries.

- **Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer**

The Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer (RPA) extends south from Bonner County through Kootenai County toward the cities of Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls and west to the Idaho-Washington state line. The aquifer extends into Washington and becomes part of the larger Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer. The area includes the rapidly growing cities of Spokane, Washington and Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls, Idaho. The SVRP Aquifer was designated a "Sole Source Aquifer" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1978 and a sensitive source aquifer by the state of Idaho.

In 2002, the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-233b, designated the Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Management Area and created the Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee, composed of members representing the interests of citizen groups, municipalities, counties, and other irrigation, commercial, and industrial water users within the designated area. On September 15, 2005, the Director issued a final order adopting the Ground Water Management Plan for the Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Management Area. The plan, based in large part on the recommendations of the advisory committee, sets forth goals, strategies, and actions for managing the ground water resources of the SVRP Aquifer. Goals include obtaining adequate technical data and quantification of water availability and water use, managing the ground water resource efficiently and fairly for all users, and encouraging planning and water conservation efforts.

Although the states of Idaho and Washington have primary responsibility for water allocation and water quality, local governments are increasingly being called upon to consider water supply and water quality implications in land use planning. To address these challenges, a study of the SVRP Aquifer was conducted jointly by the Idaho Department of Water Resources, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the United States Geological Service. Begun in 2003 with broad community support, the purpose of the project is to provide a scientific foundation to assist the states

in water administration. The SVRP Aquifer study established a collaborative modeling committee of experts from both states. Significant new information from the study refined earlier estimates of hydrologic information. The data, computer model, water budget, and other information are available to the public and provide a detailed, up-to-date basis for assessing all aspects of ground water use, including water development, establishing well head protection zones, and local and regional land use planning. A 2007 agreement between the Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Washington State Department of Ecology establishes a collaborative framework to maintain and enhance the model to inform state management decisions.

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1779, which established the Statewide Comprehensive Aquifer Planning and Management Program, a comprehensive aquifer management plan ~~is~~ was adopted in 2011 ~~being developed for the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The Idaho Water Resource Board has appointed an advisory committee to develop and recommend an aquifer management plan that addresses future water supplies and demands. Once adopted,~~ †The Idaho Water Resource Board will be responsible for implementing the plan to obtain sustainable water supplies and optimum use of the region's water resources.

- **Palouse Basin Aquifers**

The development of a comprehensive aquifer management plan for the Palouse Basin is also a priority. The Grande Ronde and Wanapum aquifers underlie the Palouse Basin. The Pullman-Moscow area of eastern Washington and northern Idaho relies almost entirely on ground water for its supply of municipal, institutional, and domestic water. The Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee consists of representatives from the cities of Moscow, Pullman, Colfax, Latah, and Whitman counties, the University of Idaho and Washington State University and was formed to address concerns about declining ground water levels and coordinate studies to further inform water management decisions. In 1992, with the assistance of the states and pursuant to several intergovernmental agreements, a Pullman-Moscow Ground Water Management Plan was completed. The plan provides technical information about the general response of the Wanapum and Grande Ronde aquifers to pumping withdrawals and recommendations for future use that limit ground water depletion and protect water quality through conservation practices and other measures. Additional studies are needed to better understand the hydrology of the aquifers.

Managing cross-boundary conflicts requires an accounting of the state's water resources. Adjudication of water rights in the Panhandle region should therefore be completed to fully define and quantify existing water rights. The determination of all existing water rights from the river basins in northern Idaho will provide the basis for administration of water rights in accordance with the prior appropriation doctrine, as established by law, and for interstate cooperation. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1406B, the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources filed a petition in the district court to commence an adjudication for northern Idaho. On November 12, 2008, the district court ordered the commencement of adjudication in the Coeur d'Alene Spokane River water system. The estimated date for completion of the adjudication is 2012.

Idaho Code § 42-1734(3) authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board to appear on behalf of the state in negotiations with the federal government. Consistent with state law, the Idaho Water Resource

Board should serve as the lead agency for coordinating state participation in the Northern Idaho Adjudication.

Implementation Strategies:

- Complete and implement the comprehensive aquifer management plans for the Rathdrum Prairie, and
- Evaluate timing for developing a comprehensive aquifer management plan for the Palouse River basins that establish goals, objectives, and strategies to address the increasing demand on water supplies, reduce cross-boundary conflicts, and provide for effective conjunctive management of hydraulically connected water resources.
- Complete the Northern Idaho Adjudication.
- Implement and maintain the cooperative agreement between Idaho and Washington for maintenance of the SVRP Aquifer ground water model.
- Advise and provide technical support to Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee and other stakeholders to promote the wise use of the region's water supply.
- Provide technical support for the completion of aquifer studies that will assist in water management.

Milestones:

- Cooperative agreements approved and implemented by Idaho and Washington.
- Implementation of Rathdrum Prairie comprehensive aquifer management plan action items, and
- Development and implementation of Palouse comprehensive aquifer management plans completed and implemented.
- Northern Idaho Adjudication completed.
- Aquifer studies completed.

7B - MINIMUM STREAM FLOWS

The Idaho Water Resource Board will establish and protect minimum stream flow and lake level water rights to preserve the scenic and recreational water bodies in the Panhandle river basins.

Discussion:

The Panhandle contains some of the most significant scenic and recreational water bodies in the state. The Idaho Water Resource Board holds 19 minimum stream flow water rights on reaches of the Pend Oreille, St. Maries, Pack, Moyie, St. Joe, Coeur d'Alene, and Spokane rivers that protect approximately 17,600 cfs total flow. In 1927, the state established minimum lake levels for Priest, Pend Oreille and Coeur d'Alene lakes. These water rights protect and support many beneficial uses of water such as fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic life, recreation and aesthetic values, and navigation in the Panhandle basins and make a significant contribution to the economy of the region and the state.

Population growth and new water demands may increase the need to obtain additional minimum stream flows in the Panhandle region. The establishment and use of local water supply banks and rental pools should be considered as a strategy for addressing the need for meeting minimum stream flow water rights or new rights in the Panhandle region, including minimum lake levels for the protection of navigation and transportation, fish and aquatic resources, and aesthetic and recreational values.

Implementation Strategies:

- Coordinate with state and federal agencies and stakeholders to identify potential minimum stream flow needs.
- Submit applications for minimum stream flow water rights that are in the public interest.
- Monitor activities that could impair minimum stream flows.
- Evaluate the need for establishment of local water supply banks.

Milestones:

- Minimum stream flow water rights established.

7C - NAVIGATION, FISHERIES, AND RECREATION

Water management decisions in the Panhandle Region should minimize, where feasible, adverse effects on navigation, fisheries, and recreation.

Discussion:

The Panhandle's lakes and rivers provide for commercial and recreational navigation and important habitat for numerous fish and wildlife species. These resources are also affected by the operation of private and federal hydropower projects. Avista's Clark Fork projects, located in Montana and Idaho, are operated pursuant to a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license based upon a comprehensive settlement agreement executed by Idaho, Montana, federal agencies and Indian tribes, and other stakeholders. The Post Falls project license is also based, in part, upon a settlement agreement between Avista, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. The Post Falls license requires a summer full-pool elevation and fall draw-down protocol for Lake Couer d'Alene that is protective of fishery needs, while providing adequate lake levels for summer recreation activities and navigation.

On the Pend Oreille River, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers operates Albeni Falls Dam, which controls the level of Lake Pend Oreille. Lake Pend Oreille has been designated a Special Resource Water, a special body of water recognized by the state as needing intensive protection. Since 1996, consistent with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion on the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System, winter lake levels have been managed for the protection of the lake's kokanee population, an important forage base for ESA-listed bull trout. Winter lake level management also directly affects the amount of erosion and sedimentation that occurs, waterfowl habitat, water quality, navigation, and shoreline infrastructure. Cooperation between the state and federal government and community stakeholders is essential for making sound management decisions regarding the operation of Albeni Falls Dam.

In 2003, the Idaho legislature created the Lake Pend Oreille, Pend Oreille River, Priest Lake and Priest River Commission (Lakes Commission) to address water quantity and water quality issues affecting the state's and local communities' interests, while recognizing existing authorities. The Idaho Water Resource Board supports the Lakes Commission's participation in regional water management decisions and efforts to minimize adverse effects on navigation, water quality, and fish, wildlife, and recreational resources.

Implementation Strategies:

- Identify proposed actions that may affect navigation, water quality, and fish, wildlife, and recreation resources, in coordination with state and federal agencies and stakeholders.
- Provide technical assistance to assist the Lake Commission's participation in regional water management decisions.

Milestones:

- Collaborative water management decisions made that minimize adverse effects on navigation, water quality, and fish, wildlife, and recreational resources.

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- **Pacific Coast Salmon Restoration Fund**

The Pacific Coast Salmon Restoration Fund provides grants to state agencies and treaty Indian tribes for salmon recovery efforts. The Idaho Water Resource Board works with agencies, tribes, and stakeholders to use Pacific Coast Salmon Restoration Fund monies for early implementation of conservation measures in the basins.

- **2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords**

The Columbia Basin Fish Accords are designed to supplement biological opinions for listed salmon and steelhead and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's fish and wildlife program. The agreement between the State of Idaho, the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation addresses issues associated with the direct and indirect effects of construction, inundation, operation and maintenance of the Federal Columbia River Power System, and Reclamation's Upper Snake River Project on the fish and wildlife resources in the Columbia River Basin.

Under the agreement, the Bonneville Power Administration committed to funding a suite of habitat quality improvement projects designed to address limiting factors within the basins affecting ESA-listed salmon and steelhead. The Idaho Water Resource Board uses these funds to develop projects that improve instream flow and freshwater survival of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead. The program targets flow-related projects that reconnect tributaries and increase flow in the mainstem Lemhi and Pashimeroi Rivers to improve fish passage conditions and increase the quantity and quality of fish habitat.

Implementation Strategies:

- Continue implementation of programs to improve instream flows in the Salmon and Clearwater River basins.
- Pursue opportunities for partnerships with local water users and other stakeholders to implement programs that improve instream flows and support local economies.

Milestones:

- Number and scope of instream flow improvement projects implemented.
- Number of participants in instream flow improvement projects.
- Degree of habitat improvement resulting from instream flow programs.



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MEMO

TO: IDWR Water Plan Subcommittee
FROM: Dick Bronson, Chairman
DATE: January 9, 2012
RE: Comments re Conservation element of Draft Water Plan

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the Subcommittee in its important work to update the Idaho Water Plan. To provide context for our specific comments below, it will be helpful to refer to Idaho Code § 22-27.

Within that Section, the Legislature states it's in the best interest of the state of Idaho:

“(3)(c) That soil conservation districts, as governmental subdivisions, and the state soil and water 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; ... and

(e) That soil conservation districts and the state soil and water conservation commission lead nonregulatory efforts to conserve, sustain, improve and enhance Idaho's private and state lands and to provide assistance to private landowners and land users to plan, develop and implement conservation plans addressing soil, water, air, plant and animal resources...”

The Commission and Idaho's 50 locally led conservation districts are nonregulatory and work closely with regulatory agencies to coordinate voluntary conservation of multiple resources, including water. Upon review, it appears that portions of the Draft should be made consistent with Idaho Code § 22-27.

We have highlighted some of the sections of the Draft where the roles of the Commission and local conservation districts should be referenced. We encourage the Subcommittee and IDWR to consider revising the Draft's policies and implementation strategies as specified and as is otherwise necessary to attain consistency with statute.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to weigh in. Please let me know if we can help further.

The following are specific comments:

POLICY 2A – WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Insert the following statement as second paragraph of the Discussion section:

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts are the primary entities authorized to provide assistance to private landowners and land users in the conservation of Idaho's natural resources, including the state's water resources. Idaho Code §§ 22-2716. It is in the best interest of the state of Idaho to establish policies for cooperative working relationships between the Board, local soil conservation districts, the state Soil and Water Conservation Commission, local, state and federal agencies and public and private groups to plan, develop and implement conservation goals and initiatives. Idaho Code § 22-2716(3).



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POLICY 2B – FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES AND STATE SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

Include the following bullet item in list of Implementation Strategies:

“Coordinate with the Office of Species Conservation, Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts in providing assistance to private landowners and land users to develop and implement integrated water, soil, habitat, and species conservation plans.”

POLICY 2D – STATE PROTECTED RIVER SYSTEM

Revise first sentence of second paragraph to read:

“Although rivers can be protected under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it is the policy of the Idaho Water Resource Board to protect streams and rivers through the Comprehensive State Water Planning process...”

POLICY 2E – RIPARIAN HABITAT AND WETLANDS

Insert the following statements after the last sentence of the second paragraph of the Discussion section:

“The Soil and Water Conservation Commission is the designated agency for the planning and implementation of treatments to protect and improve water quality in watersheds impacted by agricultural and grazing activities (Idaho Code § 39-3601 et. seq.). The Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts are the State entities with authority to develop and implement comprehensive, non-regulatory, locally-led conservation strategies to maintain, improve, and enhance Idaho’s riparian habitats and wetlands (Idaho Code § 22-2716).”

2F – STREAM CHANNEL REHABILITATION

Add the following statement to the Discussion section:

“The Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts are the primary entities for planning and implementing voluntary, non-regulatory practices to remediate past stream channel damage and to prevent further damage caused by agricultural or grazing activities (Idaho Code § 22-2716).”

Add the following bullet to Implementation Strategies:

- Coordinate planning (including inventory and analyses), prioritization, and implementation activities with soil conservation districts and the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



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2H – FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

Insert the following statement after the fifth sentence of the Discussion section:

“Watershed Improvement Districts have authority to develop comprehensive plans, levy assessments and construct, operate, and maintain structures for the prevention of flood damage and the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water in the watersheds of this state (Idaho Code § 42-3701, et. seq.). The Soil and Water Conservation Commission is the designated agency to oversee creation of Watershed Improvement Districts throughout the state (Idaho Code § 42-3705).”

2I- FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION LEVEE REGULATION

Add the following statement to the list of Implementation Strategies (see Code sections below):

“Coordinate with the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts during development of a state levee safety program in order to provide that local economic, social and environmental concerns are addressed during safety program development. See Idaho Code §§ 22-2722 et al.

6A – HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS

Add the following to the list of Implementation Strategies:

“Coordinate with the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and local conservation districts during the development and implementation of habitat conservation projects and plans.”

PAGE 45 – PACIFIC COAST SALMON RESTORATION FUND

Add the following to the list of Implementation Strategies:

“Coordinate with local conservation districts during the development and implementation of projects to improve instream flows, increase the quantity and quality of fish habitat, and contribute to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the state and its citizens.”



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MEMO

TO: IDWR Water Plan Subcommittee
FROM: Dick Bronson, Chairman
DATE: January 9, 2012
RE: Comments re Conservation element of Draft Water Plan

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the Subcommittee in its important work to update the Idaho Water Plan. To provide context for our specific comments below, it will be helpful to refer to Idaho Code § 22-27.

Within that Section, the Legislature states it's in the best interest of the state of Idaho:

“(3)(c) That soil conservation districts, as governmental subdivisions, and the state soil and water 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; ... and

(e) That soil conservation districts and the state soil and water conservation commission lead nonregulatory efforts to conserve, sustain, improve and enhance Idaho's private and state lands and to provide assistance to private landowners and land users to plan, develop and implement conservation plans addressing soil, water, air, plant and animal resources...”

The Commission and Idaho's 50 locally led conservation districts are nonregulatory and work closely with regulatory agencies to coordinate voluntary conservation of multiple resources, including water. Upon review, it appears that portions of the Draft should be made consistent with Idaho Code § 22-27.

We have highlighted some of the sections of the Draft where the roles of the Commission and local conservation districts should be referenced. We encourage the Subcommittee and IDWR to consider revising the Draft's policies and implementation strategies as specified and as is otherwise necessary to attain consistency with statute.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to weigh in. Please let me know if we can help further.

The following are specific comments:

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ITEM #8

TO: Chairman Bronson and Commissioners Radford, Stutzman, Wright, and Trebesch
FROM: Teri Murrison, Administrator
DATE: Jan. 9, 2011
RE: Strategic Plan Update

As mentioned in Item 4, staff has been in the process of developing an 18 month overall work plan (OWP) to guide the accomplishment of the goals and objectives in the FY 2012-2015 Strategic Plan.

Delwyne Trefz, District Support Services Specialist, will be at your meeting to bring you up to date on his progress toward assessing district needs, inventorying resources, and forming a workgroup to develop ranking criteria for district requests for technical assistance. He's working closely with other Commission staff to estimate workload and delivery schedules.

For the OWP, we're working on detailing work elements and we've created a number of spreadsheets to schedule deliverables/allocate staff time to Strategic Plan objectives and tasks. I've attached drafts of the spreadsheets (without deliverable dates or hours) to give you an idea of the scope of this effort.

Technical Assistance Field Staff Supervisor Chuck Pentzer will redo all field staff performance plans to focus them on deliverables, as will Kristin Magruder for the Boise office staff, and Bill Lillibridge for the engineers.

We had hoped to present a draft of the OWP at this meeting, but due to the press of legislative presentations and other tasks, we'll try to present it next month instead.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For information only

Attachments:

OWP Deliverables spreadsheet
Staff Hours Allocation spreadsheet



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Distribution of Hours Per Employee by Work Element for FY 2012 (1880 hours per employee - Jan-Jun only)

Work Elements	Chuck Pentzer	Mark Hogen	Eileen Rowan	Brian Reed	Carolyn Firth	Loretta Strickland	Mason LeFevre	Steven Smith	Karie Pappani	Delwyne Trefz	Bill Lillibridge	Allan Johnson	Kristin Magruder	Erin Seaman	Terry Hobelheinrich	Teri Murrison	Temp Help	Total Hours per Element	PERSON MONTHS	
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1.0 District Support Services																				
1.1 Support																			0	0
1.2 Allocations																			0	0
1.3 Capacity																			0	0
2.1 Incentive Programs																			0	0
2.1.1 RCRDP																			0	0
2.1.2 SRF																			0	0
2.1.3 WQPA																			0	0
2.1.4 CIG																			0	0
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2.2.2 TMDL																			0	0
2.2.3 GQ																			0	0
2.2.4 AgPA Plan																			0	0
2.2.5 OnePlan																			0	0
2.2.6 CS																			0	0
2.2.7 WIG																			0	0
3.0 Administration																				
Total Hours Per Employee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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