

Conservation the Idaho Way

Administrator's Update

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 4, 2014

JFAC BUDGET AFFIRMS CONSERVATION THE IDAHO WAY!

The Joint Finance-Appropriation Committee (JFAC) set the Commission's FY 2015 budget this morning. For the most part JFAC followed the Governor's budget recommendation, but also added \$50,000 for Idaho's 50 conservation districts. If approved by the House and Senate, the appropriation bill will be forwarded to the Governor for his signature.

Representative Steve Miller made the motion, Senator Roy Lacey seconded, and committee members voted unanimously to forward the proposed appropriation to the House and Senate with a "do pass" recommendation.

The motion included the Commission's base funding and increased funding for benefit costs, replacement of two vehicles, statewide allocation costs, network billing, updating Idaho's agricultural pollution abatement plan, a 1% salary increase for Commission employees, and the additional \$50,000 for conservation districts. Intent lan-

guage was approved that the additional district funds are to be distributed to all 50 districts equally and in addition to the amounts authorized under Section 22-2727 of Idaho Code. JFAC set the Conservation Commission's FY 2015 budget at \$2,531,000 from the General Fund, and \$347,500 from dedicated funds, for a total of \$2,878,500.

This budget recommended by JFAC affirms not only the good conservation work we do, but speaks to our hard work to strengthen the partnership. It also speaks to the efforts of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts and all of you. This year's joint legislative presentations were very effective – thanks to IASCD Board members and NRCS State Conservationist Jeff Burwell for participating. Together, we told a compelling story and really demonstrated the benefits of doing Conservation the Idaho Way!

Conservation the Idaho Way is a way of life for generations of Idaho-



Photo courtesy of Jake Putnam

ans who take care of and improve our natural resources for future generations while maximizing their benefits to the state and the people. It's good stewardship of the land and its resources. It's voluntary and non-regulatory, focusing on cooperative, collaborative efforts with local people who know and work the land.

Significantly, if signed into law by the Governor, district funding will have increased over the last two years by \$100,000! Thanks to JFAC, the entire legislature, and the Governor for their part in helping sow seeds of voluntary stewardship across this great state!

COMMISSION

H. Norman Wright, Chairman
Roger Stutzman, Vice Chairman
Jerry Trebesch, Secretary
Dave Radford, Commissioner
Leon Slichter, Commissioner
Teri Murrison, Administrator



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing Seeds of Stewardship