

# Idaho Conservation Districts' Statewide Performance Report

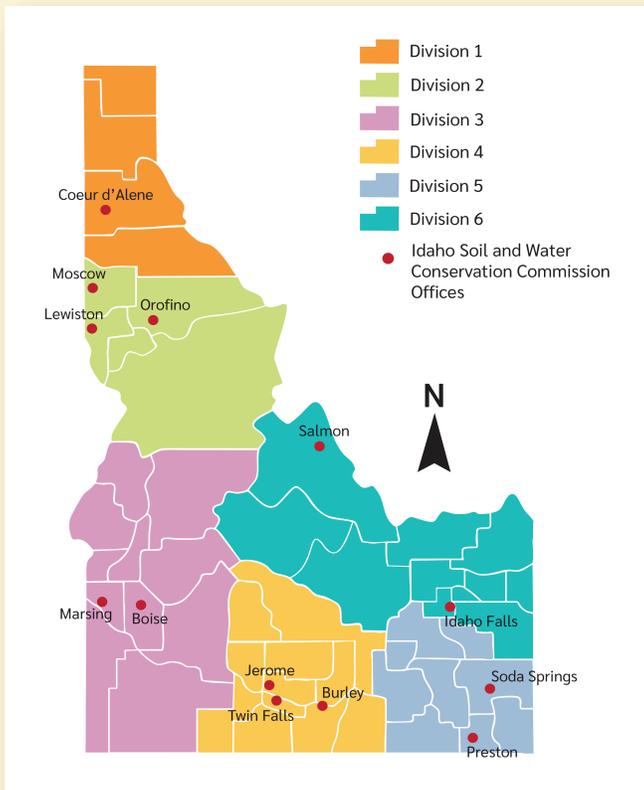


Prepared for the Idaho Association  
of Conservation Districts

This data reflects FY24 District Operational Activity as reported in SWCC Performance Reports and by SWCC and IASCD Surveys. Responses were received from 90% of Conservation Districts. To learn more, visit [www.iascd.org](http://www.iascd.org)



# About Idaho's Conservation Districts



LOCALLY-LED

NON-REGULATORY

VOLUNTARY  
CONSERVATION

## Idaho's Best Return on Conservation Investment

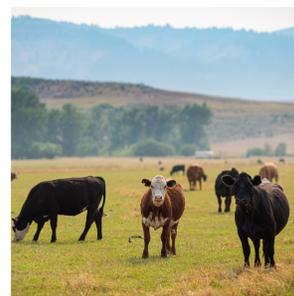
In coordination with federal, state, and private organizations, Districts provide technical assistance, education, and affordable resources to landowners and farmers across the state. They also provide natural resources education and opportunities to students to grow the next generation of farmers & resource managers.



Idaho's **50 conservation districts** provide assistance to landowners to conserve and enhance Idaho's natural resources.



Millions of acres are impacted by Districts through irrigation improvements, fuels mitigation, restoration projects, and more.



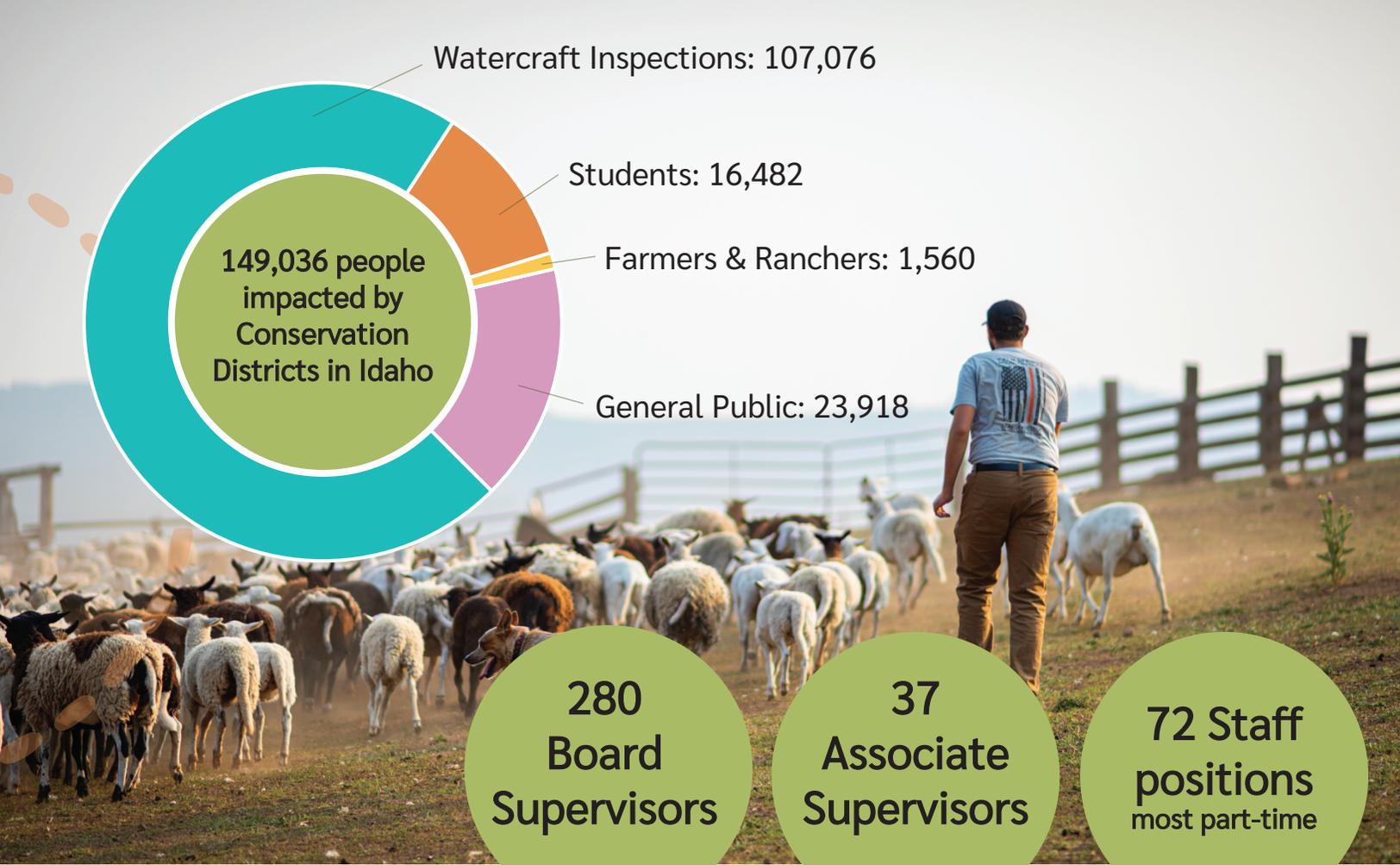
For each dollar districts manage in State Funding and Programs, they manage **\$2.82** from other entities and programs - making a bigger conservation impact.



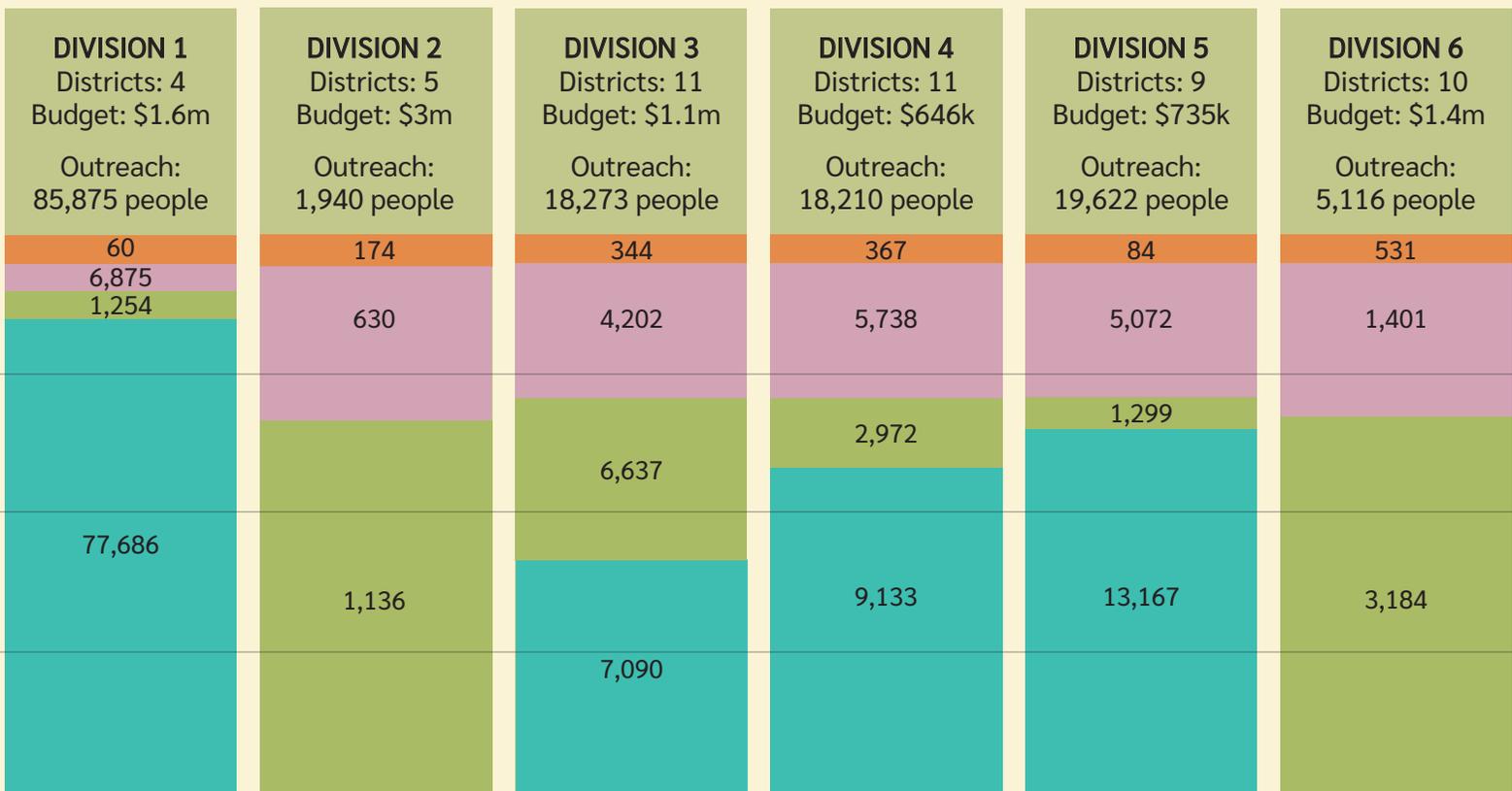
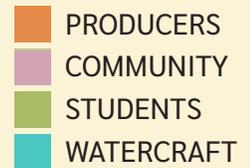
Over **146,000 people**, are impacted by Conservation Districts across the State.

IASCD's mission is to represent Idaho's conservation districts as the primary entities to coordinate voluntary, locally led efforts to sustain and enhance Idaho's natural resources, and strengthen Idaho's conservation districts and thereby the non-regulatory approach to conservation.

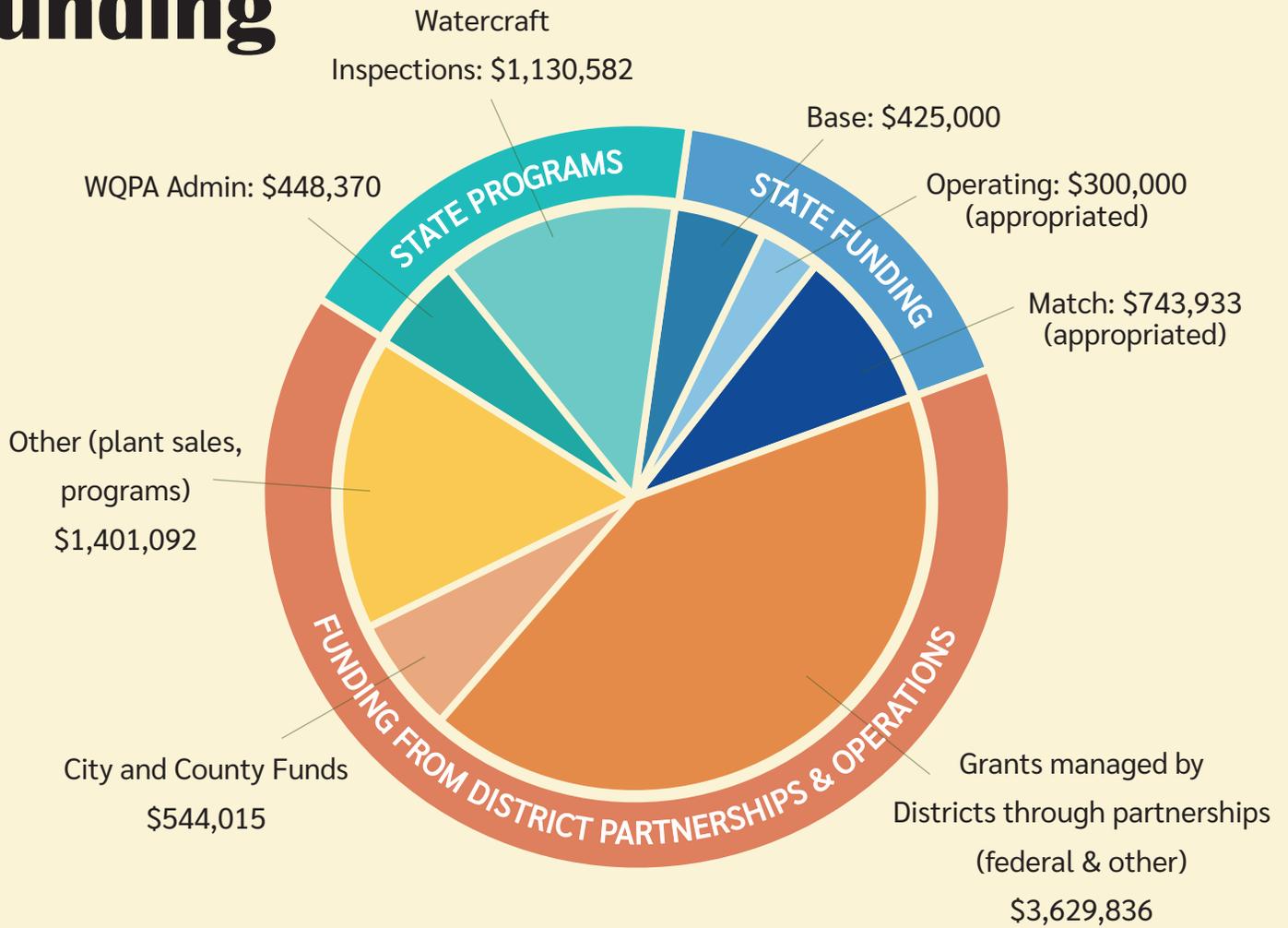
We believe in strong, independently lead conservation districts fully exercising their role to lead non-regulatory conservation efforts throughout the State of Idaho.



# Districts by the Numbers



# Funding



For every dollar of State funding managed by Districts, they bring in \$2.82 more from grants, programs, and federal partnerships

## HOW DISTRICT FUNDING WORKS:

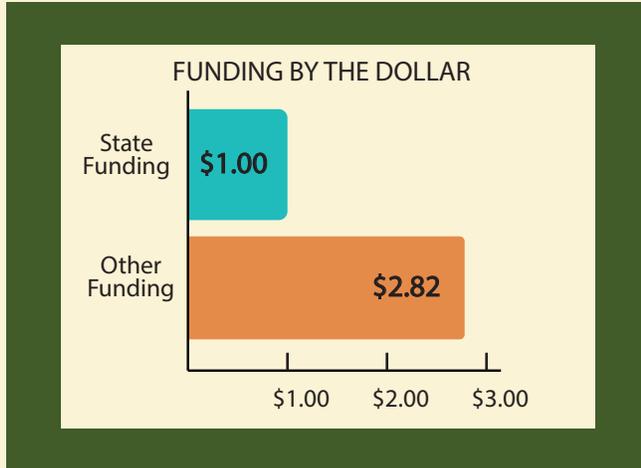
Operating funds - \$6,000 appropriated annually by the Legislature\*\*

State Match funding (appropriations bill) - eligible funds and services may qualify up to 2:1 State Match (dependent on available funds), not to exceed \$50k (I.C. §22-2727).

Base allocations - \$8,500 per year (I.C. §22-2727)

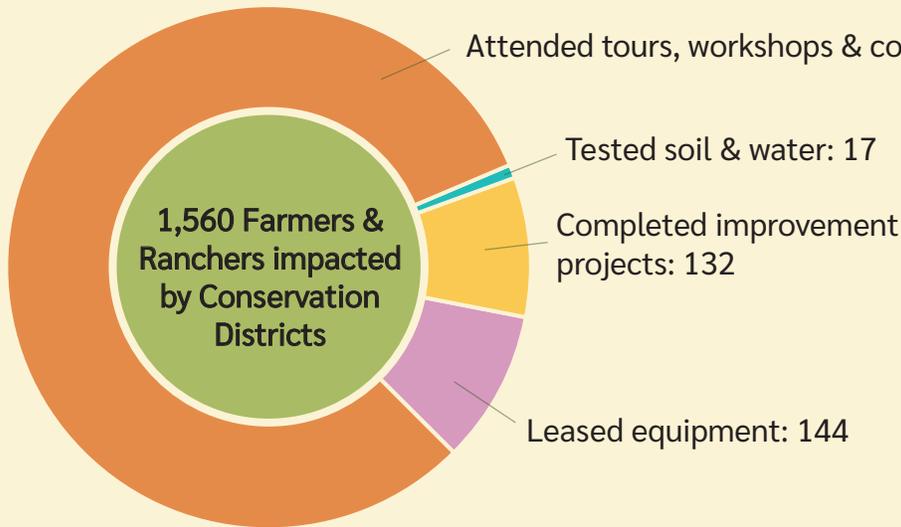
Local governments and organizations provide Districts support through annual contributions and donations.

The remaining funds needed by Districts to operate are acquired by grants, cooperative agreements, partnerships, equipment rentals, plant sales, property leases, individual donations, and other funding sources.



\*\*Note: The legislature, on an annual basis, has included these funds within appropriations bill where it stipulates \$300,000 "shall be" distributed equally among the 50 SWCDs.

# Producer Outreach



No-till Drills Available to Rent: 21  
Acreage Planted: 23,730  
Producers Using Equipment: 144



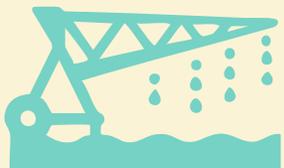
Workshops and Conferences Coordinated Across Idaho Annually: 15  
Attendees: 1,267

## BENEFITS OF NO-TILL AGRICULTURE:

- Saves fuel costs by reducing the number of field passes
- Reduces erosion
- Increases water infiltration
- Improves soil health and increases crop production
- Ensures better seeding success with soil contact

## CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ACROSS IDAHO:

Topics include: Soil Health, Urban Agriculture, Grazing, Forestry, Water Quality, Soil Moisture Probes, Pesticide Certification, Living on the Land



WQPA Projects line canals and replace damaged infrastructure, which saves thousands of acre feet of water per year, and impacts hundreds of farmers



Conservation Districts help get agricultural improvement projects on the ground through funding and technical assistance. These projects include pipelines, bio-control, center pivots, and habitat improvements

# Community Impact



Six Conservation Districts partner with ISDA to manage watercraft inspection stations that inspect vessels & prevent quagga mussels in Idaho.



Districts throughout the state offer free community classes about conservation.

Class topics include:

- Water Wise Practices for Homeowners
- Native Pollinator Gardens
- Hunters Education
- Tree & Shrub Care
- Winter Garden Preparation
- Pest Management

Over 4,200 people talked to their local conservation districts at county fairs

## DISTRICT CONSERVATION EVENTS:

- Volunteer Planting Opportunities
- Arbor Day
- Pollinator Festivals
- Fall Festival
- Banquets & Farmer Appreciation Days
- Community Garden
- Farm & Conservation Tours

Hundreds of people engage in Community Gardens with their Districts - Over 7,000 lbs of fresh produce is donated to the community.

Rural business development grants to support food hub projects

# Restoration Projects & Ecological Impact



176,062  
trees



22,450  
flowering  
plants



1,800  
native shrubs

20 Districts coordinate plant sales. Producers & landowners use these cost-effective materials to create windbreaks, add pollinator habitat, and restore native landscapes.

Fuels reduction on over 5,500 acres

## POLLINATOR & WILDLIFE HABITATS:

- Four monarch butterfly way stations planted to increase native milkweed
- Forb & seed sales
- 44 owl boxes installed
- Replace traditional fencing with more wildlife-friendly fencing options



## RESTORATION PROJECTS:

- 10 Districts completed streambank restoration projects to reduce erosion, provide cooler water temperatures for fish, and stop sediment, phosphorus, nitrogen from entering waterways
- Riparian & Prairie projects improved over 17,000 acres for landowners
- 6 Districts replaced over 17 aging culverts to allow for better salmon passage through creeks, reduce sediment, and mitigate storm water runoff more effectively
- Russian olive removal, mowing, and invasive species management projects help restore native plant communities on over 6,000 acres

## MONITORING & TESTING EFFORTS:

Water testing monitors local drains & protects natural waterways.



10 Arbor Day events  
hosted, with over 1,200  
participants

Districts help producers implement Conservation Practices on their land - many of these projects benefit pollinators and wildlife, promote water conservation, improve soil health, manage weeds, and restore degraded lands.

Classroom Outreach: 10,998

Conservation Competitions: 445

FFA, Camps & Special Events: 2,315

NACD Poster & Speech Contests: 2,724

16,482 students impacted by District Outreach & Educational Programs

Over \$20,000 in 45 scholarships given to students for college programs

Students learn about potential career opportunities in agriculture & natural resources management

# Student Outreach

Almost half of Idaho students receive a free conservation-based lesson from a Conservation District during their K-12 education.

## Conservation Districts provide lessons to students on topics including:

- Agriculture in Idaho
- Land Stewardship
- Pollinators
- Soil Health
- Rivers & Watersheds
- Fish, Streams & Dams
- Riparian Habitats
- Volunteer Habitat Restoration Plantings

Each year, thousands of students across the state participate in poster & speech contests sponsored by their local Districts. The Conservation theme is chosen by the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Conservation Districts host agricultural competitions for students throughout the state, which gives students the chance to put their knowledge to the test. These projects are supported by hundreds of volunteers and local agency partners.

100 Students compete at the Idaho Envirothon

60 students compete in Soil & Range Judging

200 students compete at the State Forestry Contest

85 students compete in the State Land & Soil Evaluation Event