

75th Conference
IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS
2017

CELEBRATING 75 STATEWIDE MEETINGS OF IDAHO SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

During the last 75 years the Idaho Conservation Districts, The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has forged what is widely recognized as a unique and effective partnership. The history covered in this conservation timeline provides the background on how that partnership was formed and what it has accomplished. The information following comes from a lot of sources researched by Art Beal; Sweet, Idaho. One of the most important being the "Serving People and the Land" published in 1985 by the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts. We are the passion for the wise use of soil, water and related resources.

- 1900-1910 The most rapid and extensive development and increase in population in Idaho's history occurs as a result of the Cary Act, giving birth to the American Falls Project, Milner Dam, and Magic Valley.
- 1917 During World War I, many farmers grew more and more crops with less attention to conservation. Agriculture continues to expand. Mechanization arrives and farms increased in size.
- 1928 Hugh Hammond Bennett begins his crusade against soil erosion with publication of his bulletin, "*Soil Erosion, a National Menace*".
- 1930 An Erosion research station is established at Washington State College at Pullman. It will have significant impact on conservation activities in Idaho as it researches ways to control soil erosion in the South Palouse Basin.
- 1933 The Soil Erosion Service (SES), headed by Hugh Hammond Bennet, is established as an emergency agency of the Department of Interior on September 19th.
- 1934 Severe drought hits Idaho during the Great Depression Years. By 1934 the average water supply is only about 56% of normal. Crop losses are estimated at \$22.4 million.
Reconnaissance erosion survey reveals condition in Idaho: 51% of the State of Idaho affected by sheet erosion and about 25% has lost more than three-fourths of the topsoil.
The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) establishes a camp at Moscow—the first erosion control demonstration project in the Pacific Northwest. Soil Erosion Service (SES) technicians fan out into the project area to explain the new program. There were 163 CCC camps in the 1930's in Idaho that did various projects from road and trail building, buildings, forestry work, and other numerous conservation activities.
- 1935 President Roosevelt signs Soil and Water Conservation Act (PL 74-46) on April 27, changing the name of the Soil Erosion Service to the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). SCS moves to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- 1936 SCS supervises nine CCC camps in Bannock, Boise, Gem, Kootenai, Latah, Nez Perce, Valley, and Washington Counties. Al together there were over 163 camps in Idaho.
- 1937 President Roosevelt sends the Standard State Soil Conservation District Law to state governors on February 27 with a letter urging them to adopt legislation that would enable USDA to provide assistance to local conservation districts.
- 1938 Idaho's first Soil Conservation Service (SCS) State Conservationist R. Neil Irving works with state legislators in Boise to convince them that a law authorizing the formation of conservation districts is in the best interest of Idaho's soil and water resources. He served seventeen years.
- 1939 Governor Bottolfsen signs Idaho's Soil Conservation District Law on March 9th. The law included provisions for creation of a State Soil Conservation Commission (SCC) to help form and coordinate conservation districts. SCS establishes a nursery unit in Aberdeen, Idaho, which later is converted to a plant materials center.



1933 CCC Camp, Third Fork, Ola, ID H. Beal, General

- 1940 Not surprisingly, many of the demonstration and CCC work areas in Idaho are the first to organize districts partly because they saw the good work of the CCC projects in conservation. Idaho's first five districts were formed, Latah SWCD, Bear Lake SWCD, Portneuf SWCD, Mayfield (which later became Elmore SWCD), & Squaw Creek SCD.
- 1944 Latah SCD sponsors a meeting in Boise to organize the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts. It is attended by supervisors of Idaho's 11 conservation districts. Clay Sutton, Midvale, was chosen as IASCD's first president and Frank Goodwin, Sweet, as secretary on March 25. During that year and the next year IASCD held a total of four statewide meetings making 2017 the 75th statewide conference.
- 1946 The National Association of Conservation Districts is established.
- 1947 Thirteen women representing Idaho's 26 conservation districts organized the first auxiliary of any state association of soil conservation districts in the U. S. The idea was put forth by R. N. Irving, State Conservationist of the SCS. Mrs. Glenn Henderson of Nez Perce was the first Auxiliary President for Idaho.
- 1949 The Idaho Association Auxiliary President, Mrs. Henderson, receives an invitation to organize the National Association Auxiliary.
- 1951 58 women representing 24 states met to form the NACD Auxiliary. They elected Mrs. Don Frederickson, Gooding, as president. Idaho now has 31 districts.
- 1952 IASCD signs the Articles of Incorporation on Dec. 10th.
- 1953 IASCD is incorporated under state law as a private non-profit organization.
- 1956 R. Neil Irving (who was originally a member of the commission and not an advisor) submits a budget request to the Idaho Legislature on behalf of the State Soil Conservation Commission that results in an appropriation of \$2,000 for the 1957-1959 bienniums, the first funding ever received by the Commission.
- 1958 Idaho now has 48 conservation districts
- 1962 Conservation districts now at 55
- 1959 Idaho Legislature approves \$32,160 to the State Soil Conservation Commission (SCC). SCC hires its first full time employee—Jack Fry—and sets up office in the Statehouse

IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

FIRST PRESIDENT and SECRETARY



CLAY SUTTON



FRANK GOODWIN

The Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts was organized in 1944 by a group of soil conservation district supervisors who were interested in bringing about an exchange of information encouraging uniformity of basic policies, coordinating assistance from all available sources on local, state, and national levels, developing active farmer participation and leadership in conservation, and encouraging the closest cooperation possible between soil conservation districts. Clay Sutton, Midvale, was chosen as first President, with Frank Goodwin of Sweet, as Secretary.



IASCD 1954 Directors

G B Wilson

Don Fredericksen

Donald J Jensen

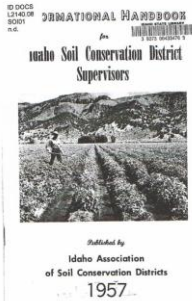
Thure Anderson

Frank Goodwin

Wilfrid Jensen

Jesse Basil

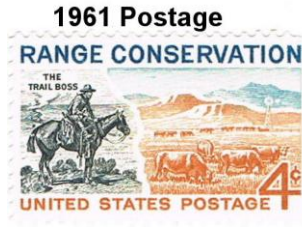
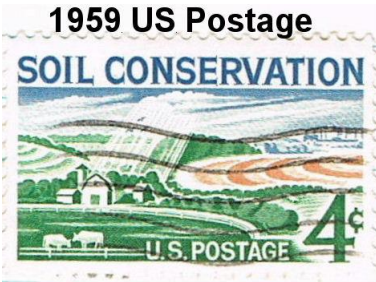
E U Buehler



I believe this was the first supervisor handbook



Jack Fry was the first Commission Employee



1962

Conservation districts now at 55

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BOISE, IDAHO
Room 354, Statehouse
December 28, 1961

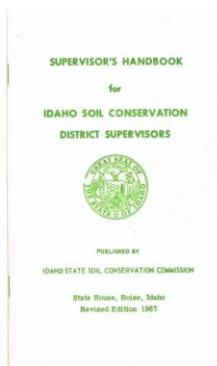
To: EACH IDAHO SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
From: JACK FRY, Administrative Officer
Subject: PURCHASE OF BOOK BY S.C.D.

The book "Land, Water and People" is a good history of the growth and development of the District movement in the United States. You will want to buy a copy for your information and files. The cost is \$3.00. I asked for one copy for each district in Idaho. We are forwarding it to you and ask that you decide at your next board meeting to send \$3.00 (check or cash) to Alice Hanley, Room 354, Statehouse. She will consolidate the return money and forward it to the Soil Conservation Districts' Foundation.



1963

Governor Smiley signs law authorizing (but not requiring) county government to appropriate up to \$1,500 per district for clerical help. Doyle Scott succeeds Jack Fry as SCC administrator of the SCC.



Our roles and responsibilities under Idaho law 1967



1968 MOU

1967

1968

Districts sign MOU with Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for technical support to districts at a local level

1969

First state matching funds authorized by legislation. Counties could continue to provide up to \$1,500 per district, State is authorized to allocate 2:1 match up to maximum of \$3,000 per district.

1972

US Congress passes and is signed into law the Clean Water Act with no funding for non-point source pollution.

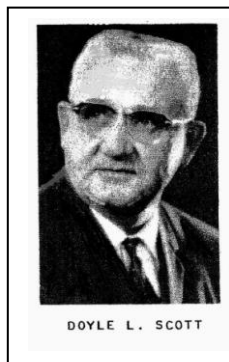
1973

SCC becomes an agency under the Idaho Department of Lands. The State By-laws only allow so many departments.

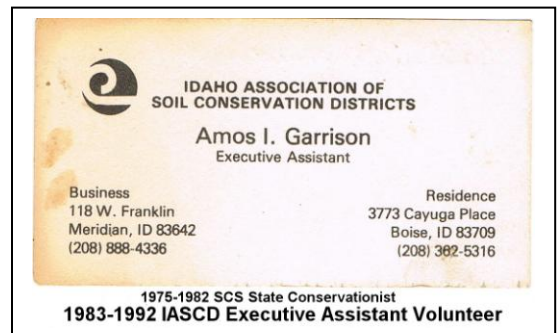
- 1974 As a result of the 1972 Clean Water Act, the commission sponsors a Governor’s conference on Erosion and Sediment Control to discuss a model law for state water quality regulations. Districts combine to 51 districts and cover the state although there are areas that opted out of the districts. One of the areas is the Idaho National Environmental Engineering Laboratory. Governor Andrus signs Senate Bill 1924 authorizing the SCC to hire 10 soil scientists to facilitate Idaho’s soil survey program. Scientists are assigned to the SCS soil survey areas and SCS provides office space, vehicles, equipment, training and supervision.
- 1975 Two water quality projects are funded with 208 monies to demonstrate Best Management Practice effectiveness on irrigated and non-irrigated cropland. Snake River SCD sponsors the LQ Drain Irrigation Return Flow Project. Latah SCD sponsors the Cow Creek Palouse Erosion Control Project.
- 1976 Legislation increases maximum county funding to \$2,500. State remains capped at \$3,000. There were 65 people at the annual banquet in Twin Falls.
- 1977 Betty Laverty is Director from Division IV and served as treasurer to IASCD. Women are also involved in agriculture. Betty is the first Woman to serve on the IASCD board.
- 1979 Wayne Faude becomes SCC administrator, succeeding Doyle Scott. IASCD honors Doyle Scott with an award recognizing his service beyond his position with the creation of the “Doyle Scott” Award.
- Governor Evans approves the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan developed by SCC, conservation districts and about 55 other agencies and people. The plan identifies the SCC and districts as the water quality management agencies for a new voluntary State Agricultural Water Quality Program (SAWQP). The final draft was in 1985.
- The Idaho Legislature modifies the Idaho Code to allow use of funds from the Water Pollution Control Account for SAWQP.
- The first SAWQP planning project is funded. IASCD Hires Irval Kear to investigate funding needs and sources for districts under a two year agreement.



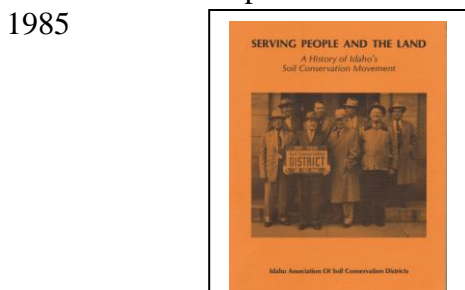
1980 M Irvil Kear



DOYLE L. SCOTT



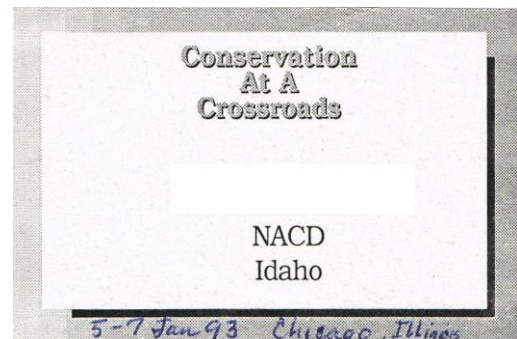
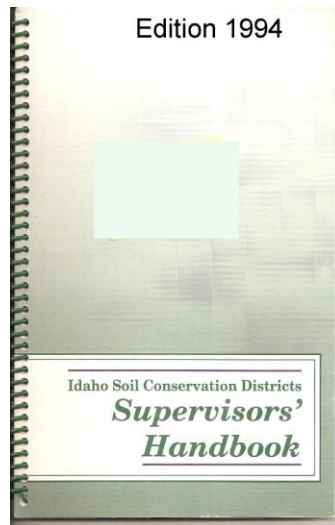
- 1983 IASCD establishes an office in Meridian and hires retired SCS State Conservationist Amos Garrison as a part-time executive assistant.
- 1984 Legislation increases county maximum funding to \$5,000 per district and State funding to \$5,000 per district subject to 2:1 match.
- 1985 Idaho Legislature amends Chapter 27, Title 22 of the Idaho Code to provide long-term, low interest loans to farmers and ranchers for conservation improvements under the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP). SCC administers the program in cooperation with local conservation districts.



- 1986 Idaho Legislature provides funding for Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development (RCRDP) from inheritance tax collection.
- 1987 Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA) is formed with Kathy Hasselstrom as president. Sandy Hata, VP; Mary Kay Bennett, Sec; Linda Daniels, Treas., and Miki Wemhoff, Daphne Benton and Midge Taylor members of the board. IDEA is thirty years young and a valuable partner in delivering our message. IASCD participates in the revision of "Forest Practices Water Quality Management Plan" prepared by DEQ. Stan Hobson NRCS retires.
- 1988 IASCD increases dues to \$400 (Delbert Winterfeld, president). Luana Kiger NRCS moves to new post.
- 1989 Margaret Yenni and Opal McKay serve on the IASCD Board.
- 1990 IASCD sponsors "Idaho Water Quality Conference—Building on Idaho's Agricultural Water Quality Program" February 26-28 to review and examine agricultural nonpoint source pollution efforts and gather input for revisions of the State Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan. Legislators debate funding caps placed on county and State allocation to districts. State is authorized to fund each district up to \$5,000. Additional State funding is subject to county funding at 2:1 match level. IASCD hosts the Pacific Region meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in Sun Valley in September.
- 1991 IASCD receives one of the 10 District Capacity Building Grants awarded by USDA. We were notified at the first Urban Symposium in Kansas City, Kansas in December 1990. IASCD on behalf of districts participate in the completion of the first update of Idaho Agriculture Pollution Abatement Plan.
- 1992 IASCD receives funding (\$49,000) from the Idaho Legislature through the SCC to maintain an office and hire a full-time Executive Director. IASCD sponsors "Envirothon" for Idaho for the first time, thanks to the efforts of Tamra Cikaitoga.



- 1992 A grant component is added to the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP).



- 1993 Congress talks about doing away with the SCS, NACD calls a meeting in Chicago to develop the case for keeping the SCS. The Idaho Partnership attends.
IASCD hires Bob Jackson as their first full-time Executive Director and sets up their office in the Hoff Building, downtown Boise.
Nov 15 1993 IASCD Amends Article 3, 4, & 5 and adds Article 7, 8, & 9 to their Articles of Incorporation with the state of Idaho. IASCD files for 501c (3) tax status with IRS. IASCD has as one year membership with the Idaho Water Users Association.
- 1994 IASCD sponsors the development of the third “Supervisors Handbook” and develops a “Policy Manuel” and an “Awards Manuel”. Sheila Pollock is hired as IASCD Executive Director. IASCD introduced the Agroforestry imitative. “Idaho One Plan” initiative is created and IASCD is one of the original sponsors. Jim Wood is the first coordinator.
- 1994 The Soil Conservation Service experiences a major downsizing in personnel and location closures. Paul Calverley SCS retires.
The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) becomes the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).
In response to the Idaho Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative the 1994 Legislature appropriates \$70,000 in one time funding to the SCC to help conservation districts provide technical assistance to livestock producers for improving private grazing lands management.
- 1995 Because of the scope of material being presented we called the annual meetings “conferences” on soil and water issues. The business meeting is only part of the conference.
IASCD takes on the responsibility of establishing the Idaho Home*A*Syst project state-wide and hires Kent Foster as project coordinator. IASCD helps to establish the first Ag Summit.
Idaho hosts the **National Envirothon** at Rick’s College and Harriman State Park.

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2010

The First

IDAHO AG SUMMIT *Coming Together Working For You*

February 7 & 8, 1995

Boise Convention Center

Boise, Idaho

Idaho Agroforestry Coalition

1994

Idaho Agroforestry Coalition

The Idaho Agroforestry Coalition is a collaborative public/private partnership that serves to help landowners enhance natural resource conservation while sustaining agricultural production through the establishment of working trees.

Goals

- Increase pilot and demonstration projects to promote landowner adoption
- Training**
 - Enhance new technology transfer through increased training opportunities for landowners
 - Provide training to private and public sector technical personnel

APPRECIATION TO IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS FROM USDA - ARS COLUMBIA PLATEAU CONSERVATION RESEARCH CENTER 1970 - 1995

1995

Because of the scope of material being presented we called the annual meetings “conferences” on soil and water issues. The business meeting is only part of the conference. IASCD takes on the responsibility of establishing the Idaho Home*A*Syst project state-wide and hires Kent Foster as project coordinator. IASCD helps to establish the first Ag Summit. Idaho hosts the National Envirothon at Rick’s College and Harriman State Park IASCD receives recognition from USDA-ARS Columbia Plateau Conservation Research center for our One Plan efforts. The Idaho Legislature passes Idaho’s Water Quality Law 39-3601 which led to the establishment of Basin Advisory Groups (BAG’s) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAG’s). While the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has the overall responsibility for water quality the law gave the responsibility to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Districts for meeting the total maximum daily load determination and planning for agriculture and grazing.

1996

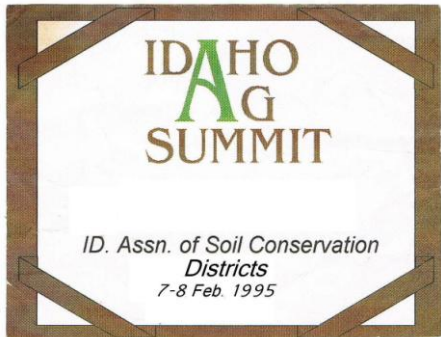
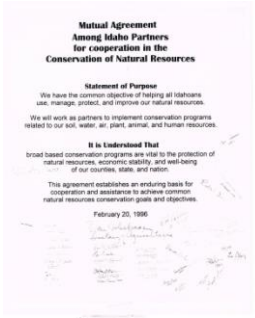
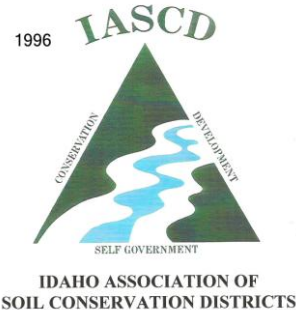
DEQ’s 303(d) draft list came out. The list was generated by people having some concern-not by any science. Secretary of Agriculture signs first new Mutual Agreement in Idaho with the Ada Soil Conservation District in Boise on February 20th. The new agreement replaces the Memorandum of Understanding that existed between the Secretary of Agriculture and each conservation district for more than five decades, better reflecting the changing scope and requirements of conservation programs. Governor Batt signs the new Mutual Agreement with the Madison Soil Conservation District in Boise on March 19th. Sheila Pollock resigns and Kent Foster is hired as Executive director. Lance Holloway is hired as project coordinator to continue Home*A*Syst project. IASCD adopts their new “Logo” to represent them. Idaho Hosts the Pacific Region at Sun Valley, Idaho



1995 National Ag Day
Luana Kiger NRCS
Rod Robison IASCD
Sheila Pollock Ex



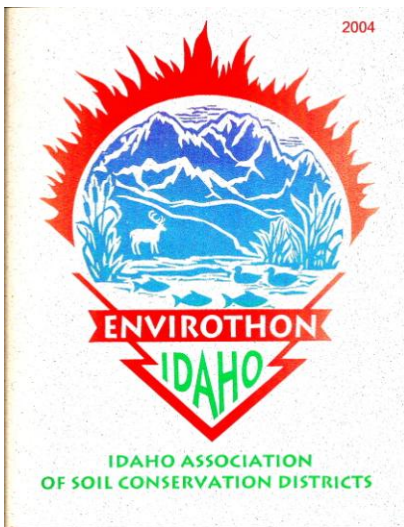
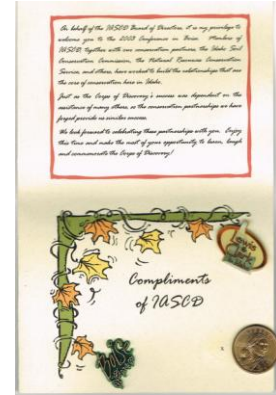
Kent Foster Lee Eldredge Phil Batt Edwin Morkin
Don Heikkli Robert Hull Rod Robison Wayne Faude
Lowell Grim Luana Kiger 1996





**PACIFIC REGION PARTNERSHIP February 1996 Boise Idaho
NACD 50TH Annual Meeting**

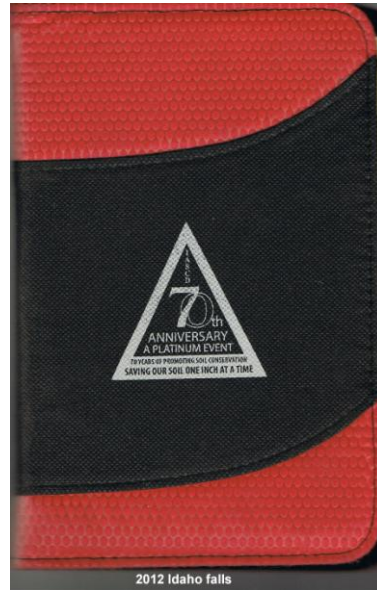
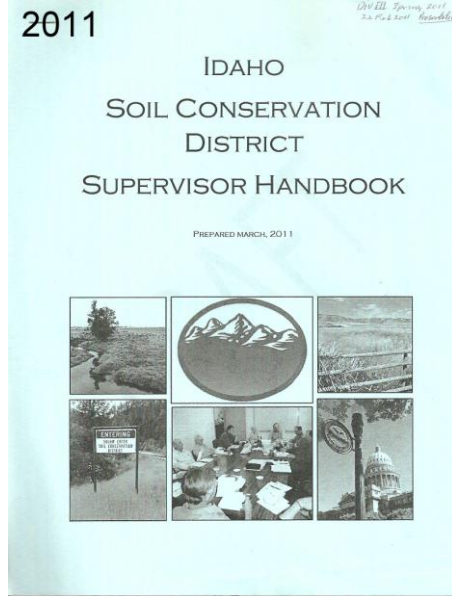
- 1997 IASCD develops a position paper and fights legislation to dismantle the ISCC and officially make them part of Idaho Department of Agriculture although the budget now is submitted with IDA's budget. We are a voluntary independent group making conservation happen voluntarily. Idaho Soil Conservation Commission recognizes and thanks IASCD for their support of the Commission as a standalone. Wayne Faude retires. Thanks to the NRCS Jim Wood along with Tom Christensen for the last five years support on the "One Plan".
- 1998 A moratorium on new SAWQP project goes into effect in February. At the Governors request IASCD enters in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Idaho Dept. of Ag., (ISDA) and the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) to put staff in the field to carryout Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) activities with local districts. The new staff will work with the ISCC who has the authority and responsibility for the development of implementation plans for TMDL's covering agriculture and grazing on private lands. October IASCD hires their first six TMDL employees (3 water quality analysts and 3 water quality resource conservationists). Idaho Legislature passes Senate Bill 1186 which provides for limited income tax credits for conservation of natural resources. DEQ revised draft 303(d) list came out with 728 segments.
- 1999 IASCD hires Janette Wood as a part-time administrative assistant to the executive director.
- 2000 IASCD hosted Idaho's 2nd Water Quality Conference to measure our progress. IASCD moves office to 15th and Idaho as we needed more space. Alice Wallace is first woman president.
- 2001 IASCD recognizes Idaho's Conservation Partnership Capacity Building Team.
- 2002 IASCD passes a resolution to hold the annual conference in Boise every other year and rotate within the six divisions the other year. Div III turn will fall in the six rotations and will replace IASCD hosting in Boise that year. Following Tom Christensen moving to Illinois as State Conservationist and Jim Wood to Vermont Wayne Newbill is hired as the Idaho One Plan
- 2003 Moved IASCD office to Overland Road, Boise. Teri Grubbs hired as part time Administrative Assistant. Bronze Medal for Commendable Service is awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency at the AG Summit to the Idaho One Plan Team. There are 20 agencies supporting the "One Plan". The award recognizes those working on the plan itself. Those recognized were Jim Wood with the SCS, EPA, IASCD, ISCC, and the University of Idaho.



- 2004 Idaho Envirothon gets a new logo. IASCD receives Distinguished Service Award from Idaho FFA Association.
- 2005 Marlene Able hired as IASCD part time Administrative Assistant.
- 2006 Moved IASCD office to W. Pine Ave in Meridian.
- 2008 IASCD loses state funding support due to zero based budgeting. Rich Sims NRCS retires.
- 2009 IASCD loses TMDL staff funding support from the ISCC due to zero based budgeting. Jerry Nicolescu ISWCC moves to Oregon. Nancy Weatherstone hired as IASCD part time Administrative Assistant.

2010 Kent Foster retires as IASCD's Executive director after serving for more than 13 years. Wayne Newbill becomes acting executive director for approx. six months. Soil Conservation District Law (title 22, Chapter 27 of Idaho Code) is revised and there is now no mention of the IASCD within the law. There are major changes in the funding structure and match. IASCD moved the office in with NRCS in Meridian (economic decision). IASCD hires Bret Rumbeck as Executive Director. Dues are \$ 1100.

2011 IASCD raises membership dues to \$ 1,500.



2012 IASCD moves office to Overland Road, Boise; also does away with standing Committees. IASCD hosts the Pacific Region NACD meeting in Boise. At Conference by-laws were revised and raised dues to \$2,000.

2013 Contract with Benjamin Kelly of Association Management Group to be IASCD Executive Director. Dues set at \$ 1800.

2014 Nancy Weatherstone IASCD retires and is recognized for her excellent contributions to districts. Jeff Burwell NRCS retires with recognition to the partnership. ISWCC is 75 years Old.

2015 IASCD is a partner in rewriting the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan. IASCD recognizes Rep. Steve Miller for his contribution to Agriculture at the AG Summit. (IASCD Past President.)



Due to conservation efforts by all partners statewide the sage grouse was not listed. Thanks Partners for Voluntary Conservation.

2016 The Idaho Legislature awards Northern Idaho Districts \$100,000 for fire mitigation work. IASCD starts a Legislative Appreciation Social to strengthen the partnership between Districts and the Legislature.

CONSERVATION IS A PROCESS OF LEARNING TO LIVE WITHIN OUR ENVIRONMENT. WE FIND IN HISTORY A BEGINNING—WE WILL ALWAYS BE LEARNING HOW TO FIT IN BETTER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE IN THE FUTURE. IASCD AND DISTRICTS WILL BE LEADERS IN THIS.