



78TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Keynote Presentations | November 9-12, Riverside Hotel, Boise

NRCS Chief Terry Cosby - In May, President Biden announced the appointment of Terry Cosby to be Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Cosby began his career with the agency in 1979 as a student trainee in Iowa. He was raised on a cotton farm with his eight siblings in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. The farm, now in his family for three generations, was purchased by his great-grandfather in the late 1800s. Over Terry's 40+ years with the agency, he has served in numerous capacities, including the State Conservationist for Ohio. He has served in this position since 2005. Prior to serving as Ohio State Conservationist, he has served in leadership positions in Iowa as an Area Resource Conservationist, in Missouri as an Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations and Idaho as a Deputy State Conservationist. He leads the NRCS Hiring Strategy initiative which will shape, guide and solidify NRCS as the premiere technical service agency for USDA conservation. Terry and his wife Brenda are the proud parents of four wonderful children (one of whom was lovingly "adopted"). Today he continues to hunt and fish as much as possible and greatly enjoys spending time with his seven young grandchildren.



Drought & Water Panel: Governor Brad Little - Speaker Scott Bedke - Water Board Member Brian Olmstead



Governor Brad Little – was elected by the people of Idaho as the state's 33rd Governor in November 2018. He became Governor on January 7, 2019. Governor Little is an Emmett native who was raised on his family's sheep and cattle ranching operation. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness and has worked in the ranching industry for his entire professional life. In 1978, Brad had good fortune and married Teresa Soulen of Weiser. Teresa and Brad are the proud parents of two sons who have wonderful wives - Adam and Angela, and David and Kelsey. They have six beautiful grandchildren.

Water Resource Board Member Brian Olmstead - was born and raised in Twin Falls on a family farm and received his Bachelor of Science degree in animal science from Utah State University in 1975. After graduating, he returned to the farm and married his wife, Stephanie, and had three daughters. Olmstead farmed on the family farm south of Twin Falls for about 25 years until 2000, when he started with the Twin Falls Canal Company. He proudly serves as a supervisor on the Snake River SWCD and recently retired. After his retirement, he was appointed to the Idaho Water Resource Board.



Speaker Scott Bedke - is a member of the Idaho House of Representatives and a fourth-generation rancher from Oakley representing District 27A. He assumed office in 2002 and his current term ends on November 30, 2022. He is a ninth-term state representative and has been House Speaker since December 2012. Bedke previously served in public office on the Oakley City Council and is a former president of the Idaho Cattle Association and former director of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Speaker Bedke has made significant strides in negotiating and resolving the considerable differences between various water users, particularly in the Magic Valley and Treasure Valley. Largely because of his tireless, ongoing efforts, agreements have been reached between groundwater and surface water users which allow the interests and rights of all parties to be respected.