

IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

MISSION STATEMENT

The soil conservation district is to be the leading organization for providing action at the local level to promote wise and beneficial conservation of natural resources with emphasis on soil and water.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts is a voluntary, non-profit association of Idaho's 50 soil conservation districts cooperating in the management of Idaho's natural resources. In conjunction with districts from other states, they form part of a national network, the National Association of Conservation Districts, comprising approximately 3,000 districts and over 15,000 individual directors.

The Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts was organized in 1944 to provide a unified voice for conservation in Idaho. Its members work closely with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission on problems of policy and natural resource concerns. It also provides a forum for discussion of common problems, including erosion and sediment control, water quality, forestry, research, conservation and environmental education, resource planning, wildlife and pasture and range. In order to pursue its goals of wise resource management, the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts informs the State Legislature and the Congress of its views on natural resource concerns.

VISION STATEMENT

CONSERVATION - DEVELOPMENT - SELF-GOVERNMENT

I. BASIC POLICIES

All Americans share in the responsibility for stewardship of the resources upon which we all depend. Effective work for conservation, development of natural resources and for the improvement of the environment can be done best by those who live on the land and use it.

1. IASCD encourages citizens to organize conservation districts so that all the land in the State of Idaho, public and private, lays within the boundaries of self-governing conservation districts. (51)
2. IASCD seeks effective technical, financial and/or political support for conservation districts wherever that support may be found. Specifically we seek a broader base match for matching funds. (90, 95) IASCD supports giving Districts county tax initiative. (94) In kind funding be considered for state matching funds. (95)
3. To support these policies IASCD shall have a Executive Director. (91)
4. IASCD supports the presence of a resident District Conservationist to each District. (88)
5. IASCD recognizes and supports the partnership with the IASCD Auxiliary and the Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA). (88)
6. IASCD supports the development of Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) areas in Idaho. (97)
7. IASCD urges Congress to ensure that legislation and regulatory requirements are based on sound scientific evidence, including cost-benefit analysis and risk assessments. (90)
8. IASCD encourages the ISWCC to set District allocations immediately following the deadline and allocate all matching funds to those districts who complied with the ISWCC's requirements. (01)
9. IASCD supports the Idaho Conservation Partnership Statement of Cooperation signed by all core partners at the 2003 annual conference as a way to reaffirm and strengthen our conservation partnership. (03)
10. IASCD encourages the Idaho Legislature to move swiftly and decisively to ensure that the public uses for which the right of eminent domain may be exercised in Idaho are defined strictly and narrowly. (05)

II. IASCD OPERATIONS

A. IASCD BY-LAWS AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

All IASCD business shall be conducted in accordance with the by-laws (See Appendix I) and bound by the Articles of Incorporation (See Appendix II).

B. BUSINESS YEAR

The IASCD fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30. (93)

C. RESOLUTION PROCESS (Board Policy 95) (To give direction to IASCD and set IASCD Policy)

1. Resolutions must meet one of two classifications to be considered at the IASCD's business meeting held at the annual conference:
 - a. **REGULAR:** a resolution submitted on the proper form to the IASCD office on or before **September 30**.
 - OR**
 - b. **EMERGENCY:** a resolution developed and having state-wide impact.
2. IASCD encourages all districts to get an early start in developing resolutions and would suggest, if possible, that resolutions be submitted and reviewed at spring Division meetings.
3. Resolutions are due in the IASCD Office by **September 30**. The Executive Director will compare submitted resolutions to existing policy. Any similar policy will be attached to the purposed resolution to assist in clarifying the issue.
4. The executive director will provide resolution packets prior to each division meeting. Directors will present resolution packet at fall division meeting.
5. The Resolutions Committee will recommend any resolution changes. Each resolution will indicate the committee's recommendation. (14)
6. All **EMERGENCY** resolutions must be presented on the floor of the business meeting and receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the district delegates in attendance to be considered as part of the resolution package. (95)
7. Resolutions will be voted and passed on by a simple majority of the district delegates in attendance at the IASCD annual business meeting. (95)
8. Upon passage the IASCD president, or designee, will be responsible for presenting each resolution to the proper state or federal agency as well as distributing resolutions to the appropriate state and federal congressional delegation. The president will also assure resolutions going to NACD will be represented at the NACD conference. (91, 88)
9. IASCD will publish a report listing the resolutions passed at the conference and the action taken on each of them. (88)

10. The IASCD president, or designee, will report on the previous year's resolutions and their status at each state conference. (88, 94)
11. The IASCD Executive Director will add all applicable passed resolutions to the IASCD Policy Manual and take appropriate steps to implement each resolution. (Board Policy 95)

D. PURPOSE OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Conservation districts serve as the foundation for larger and more comprehensive efforts that will be required to meet the conservation and resource development needs of tomorrow. Local, state and federal resource programs should be authorized and conducted in such a manner as to maximize:

1. Voluntary action
2. Local participation and decision making.
3. Private enterprise.
4. Partnership between private and public interests at all levels of government. (89)
5. Protect private property rights. (92)

E. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

1. Conservation districts are subdivisions of state government and district officials are officials of local government. (Idaho Code)
2. Leadership training should include sessions on grant management and administration. (92)
3. Conservation programs should be delivered to cooperators without regard to race, religion, creed or sex. We are committed to maintain an environment free of all harassment and discrimination. (87, 92)
4. IASCD policy is that District Supervisors be protected by some form of liability insurance while performing district business. (95)
5. IASCD policy is to pursue a group health coverage for district supervisors and staff. (96)
6. IASCD encourages the Commission to institute needed policy and rule requiring all districts to participate in the state employee unemployment insurance program. (00)
7. IASCD encourages all districts to submit required budget information to the ISCC by established deadlines and also encourages the ISCC to set district allocations immediately following the deadlines. (01)
8. IASCD requests the ISCC to establish a system or process whereby each district

would be reviewed on a regular occurring schedule at a minimum of every three years to ensure district compliance with appropriate laws and established protocols, policies, and procedures. (01)

9. IASCD encourages the ISCC to explore various alternative district audits procedures that would be cost effective and comply with the spirit of the District Financial Accountability Policy. (05)

F. DISTRICT FIVE YEAR PLANS

Each conservation district has a five-year resource conservation plan setting forth objectives and goals for resource conservation and environmental improvement. These plans should be used as a basis for securing technical assistance. (88, 92)

G. DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

1. Districts and appropriate state conservation and natural resource agencies should cooperate to constantly review personnel needs and to provide for those needs. (88)
2. Districts support the Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA). (88)

H. IASCD COMMITTEE GUIDELINES (90)

1. Committees will consist of at least five members from various backgrounds and geographic areas. The Committee will carry out the directions of the IASCD Directors, as assigned. (90) If you are a committee member and cannot attend, give written authority to someone to serve in your stead. (IASCD Board 98)
2. Meetings will be called as needed by chairperson or upon request of a majority of the committee members. A committee meeting will be held annually at the IASCD annual conference. (Board 95)
3. An annual work plan will be developed, identifying activities and responsibilities of committee members and technical advisors. Annually review the adequacy of the educational, financial, and technical assistance available to districts and cooperators under this committee expertise. (95)
4. An annual budget will be developed based upon the work plans, but should not include any IASCD conference expenses of supervisors. (Board 95)
5. An annual report will be presented at the IASCD annual conference. (Board 90)
6. The committee's official authority will include responsibilities developed by the committee and approved by the IASCD Directors. Additional responsibilities will be forwarded to the directors in the form of recommendations. The Committee may develop resolutions to be passed on by the IASCD business session. (95)

7. Committees are given authority to deal with situations requiring immediate or emergency action. Such actions must be approved as soon as possible by the directors. (Board 95)
8. No Division Director may serve on an IASCD State committee as a member or chairman. They may serve as an advisor. (91)
9. Committee Meeting Guidelines. (Board 95)
 - a. Call to order.
 - b. Call roll for quorum for official action.
 - c. Read minutes of last meeting
 - d. Act on resolutions assigned.
 - 1) Read resolution (need sponsor present)
 - 2) Discuss, amend, clarify wording, etc.
 - 3) Ask for a seconded motion to recommend **PASS**
 - 4) If no quorum report no recommendation. Need a majority of committee to have official vote.
 - 5) A committee generated resolution (**EMERGENCY**) is handled the same way requiring a two thirds affirmative vote from districts at the business meeting to be discussed on the floor.
 - 6) If amended, it will be the amended form considered at the business session.
 - 7) **Report changes ASAP to the resolutions committee.**
 - 8) Other Business, to include committee member recommendations, possible chairpersons, annual plan and reports.

I. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. The IASCD Education Committee is to establish (within IASCD) an educational endowment that will provide funding for IASCD endorsed educational programs. (92)
2. The State Envirothon Committee is a subcommittee of the Education Committee. The Envirothon program is driven and administered by the IASCD Board. (92)
3. IASCD supports the state and national Envirothon programs. (93)
4. The state Envirothon Committee will be chaired by the Education Committee Chairperson or their representative IASCD_Executive Director. (94)

J. FISCAL POLICY

1. IASCD supports giving Districts a county tax initiative. (94)
2. In kind funding be considered for state matching funds. (95)
3. IASCD policy is that no district is to receive less state funding than they received the previous year (if their match is the same). (96)

4. ISCC allocate available funds to districts in a manner allowing the first \$2,500 of county funding be strictly matched 2:1. (96) However, IASCD supports the full funding of the 2:1 match. (96,97)

K. BOARD OPERATIONS POLICY

1. Requires two board member signatures on all checks. (92)
2. Requires pre approval on all out of state travel. (84)
3. **Travel expense reimbursement** (Board 98)
IASCD directors and staff, district supervisors and staff or any others traveling at IASCD expense will adhere to the following schedule.

a. Per diem: \$30/day in state; \$39/day out of state.

Travel Expense Reimbursement for Less than a Full Day

<u>Rate</u>	<u>In state</u>	<u>Out of state</u>
Breakfast	\$ 7.50	\$ 9.75
Lunch	\$10.50	\$13.65
Dinner	\$16.50	\$21.45

The actual cost of each meal need not be listed on the expense voucher when a full day per diem is being claimed. When less than a full day per diem is being claimed, meals must be itemized on the voucher, classified as either per diem or cost of meal. When attending a meeting or conference where meals are included in the registration, the claimant's per diem should be adjusted to reflect this.

- b. Lodging
The actual cost of lodging plus tax will be reimbursed, with receipt (director only, no spouse expenses).
- c. Transportation and associated expenses

Private Vehicle	\$ 0.585 per mile
Airlines or public vehicle	Actual Cost
Parking	Actual Cost
- d. Miscellaneous reimbursable expenses
 - Taxi or bus fares to and from airports, depots, hotels and as otherwise required.
 - Recited charges for handling and storage of baggage, including tips.
 - Official telephone calls, FAX and telegraph messages.
 - Registration fees required for official participation in conferences, conventions or other meetings.

NOTE: Travel vouchers for IASCD directors and staff, district supervisors, committee members and the executive director are to be submitted to the IASCD office.

L. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

IASCD should adopt cooperative working agreements between themselves and any public agencies, public officials, organizations and individuals who can help carry out comprehensive and balanced district programs. (89, 92)
See Appendix IV for a list of active MOUs, agreements, and contracts.

III. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. IASCD urges NRCS and Congress to provide more funds for Conservation Technical Assistance. Any increase in funding should be directed toward an increase in NRCS technical staff at the field level. (91, 92)
2. IASCD believes NRCS should ensure that adequate funding and personnel be devoted to technical assistance programs not associated with the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills, such as rangeland treatment, irrigation water management, water quality, forest management and others. (92)
3. IASCD supports studies of NRCS program effectiveness, including technical capability to assess and address water resource problems on a watershed basis. IASCD should be involved from the onset, since these issues have an impact on district operations. (90, 94) We recognize the "Best Management Guidelines" of the NRCS as guidelines only. (92)
4. Conservation districts should continue to accept only those conservation plans that are in accord with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. (87)
5. IASCD supports the concept of one official map for planning and acreage. (88)
6. IASCD supports establishment of a review committee on FmHA inventory lands and that members of local SCD's be on that committee for all conservation easements and land transfers. (89)
7. IASCD recognizes the invaluable service provided to conservation districts by the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission. We support the need of a full time I&E Specialist. (91, 93, 94)
8. When federal funding is appropriated by Congress for programs related to conservation districts, IASCD supports federal legislation, which would directly allocate such funds to districts. (92)
9. IASCD urges state agencies to place a high priority on financial and

technical assistance to districts, developing training programs, providing background information to district officials and improving arrangements for financial oversight of conservation districts. (88, 93)

10. Information imparted into a conservation plan developed by a certified planner be considered “proprietary information” exempt from disclosure in accordance with the Idaho Public Records Law, section 9-340(d) Idaho Code. (00)

IV. INFORMATION & EDUCATION

1. IASCD believes that a program of conservation education should become a required part of every elementary and secondary school curriculum. (91)
2. IASCD will cooperate and promote speech contests, poster contests and Envirothon at local, state and national levels. All winning posters become the property of IASCD. (92)
3. IASCD Education Committee funds a contestant and chaperone's travel and lodging, from each division, to the IASCD sponsored speech contest. (92)
4. IASCD supports annually a National Resources Week to compliment Soil Stewardship Week in Idaho. (93)

V. ENVIRONMENT

A. PESTICIDES

1. IASCD supports the proper use of registered pesticides and herbicides for agricultural production and discourages restrictions of agricultural pesticide and herbicide use without local citizen and user input. (89)
2. IASCD believes that the county commissioners should implement the Idaho Noxious Weed Law. (84)
3. IASCD believes that government agencies with the assignment of registration of labels for insecticides and herbicides should accept input of public research agencies to expedite the granting of labels for agricultural use. IASCD requests that EPA and FDA eliminate duplication and streamline procedures to facilitate re-registration or registration for new uses of old environmentally benign chemicals. Federal funding should be available to effect such registration. (92)
4. Users and local citizens should be consulted before state or federal

actions are taken to restrict use of currently available pesticides. (90)
Proper consideration should be given to the impacts reduced usage would have on total agricultural production. (89)

5. IASCD urges EPA to require full public involvement with the development of any program to reliable pesticides to protect the endangered species. (88, 89)

B. WATER QUALITY

1. IASCD opposes blanket legislation or regulation prohibiting the sale or use of fertilizer or manure by farmers. In areas of demonstrated adverse water quality impacts from fertilizers, farmers should be provided technical and financial assistance to implement BMP's. (90)
2. IASCD believes that the Corps of Engineers should implement a general permit for the Section 404 requirements that would allow wetlands to be utilized for production of crops in these areas. The general permit should stipulate that such production is allowed only if a management plan is developed by the NRCS and/or CES. (88)
3. IASCD believes that the Corps of Engineers and EPA, in consultation with NRCS, should develop a single guidance document on handling agricultural activities requiring 404 permits. (90, 88)

C. AQUATIC FLUSH

1. IASCD believes that priority be given to: 1) manage the state's irrigation storage system for irrigation, 2) power development, and 3) flood control, in this order. Other beneficial uses, including recreation and the support of anadromous fish are to be optimized only as long as these secondary uses do not infringe upon established water rights of storage. (92, 94)
2. IASCD supports a salmon recovery based on hard facts with no adverse economic impacts. (92)

D. WEED CONTROL

1. IASCD believes in a coordinated weed effort, weed identification and control and management by landowners, county, state and federal land managers. (90)
2. That Idaho develop, similar to Montana Weed Trust, a \$1.50 fee on all vehicles for the expressed purpose of noxious weed control. (97)
3. That the perennial weed control position at the U of I be filled. (97)
4. IASCD supports funding to the Idaho Department of Agriculture to a sufficient level for effective weed control so long as the legislation

equitably proportions the cost to all citizens of the state. (98)

5. IASCD supports increased funding to CES to be used for increased activities and research in biological weed control. (87, 92)
6. IASCD requests CES to disseminate literature on control and management of noxious weeds and the rehabilitation of lands affected. (87)
7. IASCD supports revision of the USDA CRD application ranking process so that the planting of native species may be eliminated, or at least not play such a significant role in areas where noxious weeds or invasive weeds are a problem. (00)

E. AQUIFER RECHARGE

1. IASCD supports managed recharge projects within the state of Idaho and encourages state officials to put the infrastructure in place to utilize future flood waters for managed recharge projects. (04)

F. WATER QUANTITY

1. IASCD supports a statewide cloud seeding effort implemented on a watershed basis as deemed necessary. (04)

VI. ECONOMIC ISSUES

A. WATER POLLUTION ACCOUNT

IASCD believes that the Idaho Legislature should restore the Water Pollution Control Account for the service to grants and contracts. (91)

B. CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

1. IASCD encourages the use of property and income tax incentives, cost share programs, reduced interest loans and reduced crop insurance premiums as part of a packet of federal, state and local incentives. Those options should provide support for farmers and ranchers who adopt and fully implement resource conservation plans. (91)
2. Conservation districts should be given the authority to determine which farmers and ranchers are eligible to receive these extra benefits. (91)
3. IASCD supports the Idaho Water Quality Program for Agriculture with a stable funding source to address Idaho's TMDL and other natural resource concerns. (98)
4. IASCD supports an Agriculture and Forestland Impact Tax (AFLIT) to

provide funds to counties from future developments to fund the protection of agricultural land, wildlife habitat and other important open space and natural areas through the purchase of conservation easements. (05)

C. TAX INCENTIVES

1. Districts should work with county governments to insure that property assessments encourage the implementation and maintenance of BMP's. (91)
2. IASCD urges congress to adopt amendments to the federal tax code that provide an appropriate tax credit to the landowner who protects wetlands in accordance with a plan approved by a conservation district. (90)
3. IASCD supports removing the disincentives to voluntarily idle lands covered by a conservation plan for water quality and/or wildlife habitat improvements. (96)
4. IASCD supports re-opening and re-examining the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the possible results for eliminating the agreement. (98)
5. IASCD supports the current CAFO limit of 1,000 AU before EPA permits are required. (98)
6. IASCD encourages the SCC to draft new legislation that would call for the re-authorization of 63-3024B Idaho Code during the 56th Idaho Legislature, 2nd Regular Session 2002. (01)

VII. FEDERAL AGENCY OPERATIONS

1. IASCD favors the continued consolidation of office space for USDA agencies where it is determined to have no adverse effect on district programs and here local districts have a voice in the determinations. (92)
2. It is policy to ask for 2/3 of NRCS staff time be spent in the field. (90)
3. That NRCS staff be trained for the area they are to serve. (90)
4. Because of the cooperative agreement and unique relationship with NRCS as the technical agency, which assists conservation districts, NRCS should remain an independent agency within USDA. (93)
5. IASCD believes that all wildlife management agencies should expend more efforts on managing wildlife populations to comply with a herd management plan developed in cooperation with conservation districts. (89)

6. IASCD urges USDA and other federal and state agencies to develop strong programs to assist landowners in managing wildlife populations properly. (90, 91)
7. IASCD opposes the reintroduction of the grizzly bear into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, in North-Central Idaho. (00)
8. IASCD supports Governor Batt's Bull Trout Conservation Plan. (97)
9. IASCD urges congress to re-authorize the Endangered Species Act but add language that allows for a reasonable consideration of human social and economic consequences of a listing. (90, 92, 95)
10. Soil conservation districts are severely burdened from the work load caused by the explosion of commercial and residential growth in Idaho. Water quality, erosion and land use problems associated with this accelerated and unchecked growth need to be addressed in a knowledgeable and reasonable approach, to minimize adverse impacts to our natural resources while maintaining economic growth. IASCD requests technical assistance from NRCS and further seeks legislative funding for urban planning and implementation of sound BMP's during urban development. (92)
11. IASCD supports the de-listing of the grey wolf as an endangered species in the state of Idaho. (00)
12. IASCD requests the USDA-NRCS, if physically and economically possible, provide an additional 100 square feet of space for district support activities in all USDA service centers. (00)
13. IASCD requests that NMFS be relieved of their responsibilities for anadromous fish on inland waters and that the responsibility be directed to the USFWS. (02)

VIII. FORESTRY

1. IASCD urges the inclusion of non-industrial private forestlands in the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan, giving better planning opportunities.(91)
2. IASCD supports the Forest Incentives Program and similar state programs. It should be authorized as a sustained program for at least ten years, the upper limit of ownership for participation should be increased to 1,000 acres and the hardwood tree planting should continue as part of that program. Cost-share for rodent control should be added to the program. (82)
3. IASCD urges funding levels for the Forest Incentives Program that will ensure full participation of landowners. IASCD believes that 75% cost-share is needed. IASCD further advocates the service and facilities of conservation districts be utilized in the incentives program and that soil-woodland interpretations be used for land determinations, species adaptability and the determination of cost effectiveness of forest measures. (82)

4. Districts should promote woodland soil and water conservation through an educational program and continue to provide technical assistance in development of woodland erosion sedimentation control plans. (87)
5. IASCD supports expansion of CES forestry educational programs and asks CES to sponsor short courses on the costs and returns from timber production. (80)
6. Districts should support the American Tree Farm Program and promote candidates for Tree Farmer of the Year. (87)
7. IASCD supports legislation that will allow the US Forest Service to distribute surplus seedlings to state or local agencies to make them available to the private sector for conservation purposes. (91)

IX. PROGRAM FUNDING

1. Significant conservation accomplishments have been made using funds provided by the state legislature. Both urban and rural people have benefited by the accelerated installation of conservation measures and we urge an increase in state funding for the work of conservation districts. (90) Specifically we support the allocation of a 2:1 match. (92)
2. IASCD supports research in residue management and burning options. (89) Further, IASCD supports the natural practice of thermal management to stimulate seed production. (97)
3. IASCD supports continued PNW STEEP II research. (89, 91)
4. IASCD support more realistic research of farming in a variety of soils and a variety of crops and slopes. (89)
5. IASCD supports the continuation of full use of plant material centers. (90)
6. IASCD supports the dedication of at least \$2,000,000/year to the pollution control account for water quality projects. (92)
7. IASCD supports the funding effort of the Bear River Heritage Initiative. (98)
8. IASCD encourages the NRCS to allow EQIP funding on a county basis where conservation districts and the local working groups are responsible to identify their resource concerns and those practices needed to address them. (03)

X. RESOURCE DATA

1. Accurate soil surveys, properly interpreted, are needed to provide facts required for all types of land use planning, including not only agricultural and watershed uses, but urban development. Planning and zoning authorities need this basic data to help prevent the misuse of land and to help regulate

development in a planned and orderly way. IASCD supports the Soil Survey Program and recommends continued federal funding for soil research, digitalization and computerization of soils information. (85)

2. IASCD urges the Secretary of Agriculture to immediately require that a common set of definitions for types of land and vegetative cover be adopted by all USDA agencies to assure compatibility. (80)
3. IASCD urges NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) to develop uniform Computer capabilities and GIS tools to advance project decision making at the local, state and federal levels and coordinate such development with existing state systems. (92)
4. IASCD supports language under the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 for the accused to maintain legal right regarding the accuser and the accusation. (96)
5. IASCD supports a state-wide effort to pursue research opportunities and promote the development of bio-fuels and further supports the idea of a State Bio-fuels Board. (01)
6. IASCD affirms the need to the State of Idaho to formally commit to the consistent use of commercially available bio-fuel blends in state owned and leased vehicles. (02)

XI. PASTURE & RANGELAND

1. IASCD supports the National Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), as a means of obtaining needed technical assistance toward the improvement of Idaho's privately owned grazing lands. (93)
2. IASCD supports the concept of the local permittee being included in allotment management decisions. (91) Further, that if wildlife are part of the management decision, cattle numbers be maintained. (91)
3. IASCD urges federal and state land management agencies to cooperate in coordinated noxious weed control efforts. IASCD believes that USDA agencies should assist such efforts by cost share programs for noxious weed control on private range lands and other grazing lands which are part of the state, federal and private weed control project areas. (87, 92)
4. IASCD believes that agency programs and programs of landowners and operators should give more attention to the water quality aspects and benefits from sound management systems, EPA should encourage and support the development of regional publications outlining management/water quality relationships for pastureland and rangeland. (92)

XII. PLANT MATERIALS

IASCD supports adequate funding for Plant Materials Centers and for the Plant Materials Program as it deals with:

1. Plants, and methods for using them, that keep nutrients, pesticides and hazardous chemicals out of surface and ground water. (90)
2. Alternative crops for highly erodible land that supports sustainable agriculture production and that will meet or exceed the users' production needs. (90)
3. IASCD recognizes that vegetation is a significant component of more than two-thirds of the conservation practices that landowners find essential to their erosion and land use problems. IASCD supports a strong Plant Materials Program and will strongly oppose any move by USDA to reduce this program or to turn leadership of it over to state, local or other federal agencies. (90)
4. IASCD supports the need for:
 - a. Continued research into the economically feasible and practical alternatives to residue burning,
 - b. Improve management programs to reduce off site problems from burning and,
 - c. Increase educational efforts to inform the general public of the Substantial conservation benefits of grass in cropland rotations. (89)

XIII. PUBLIC LANDS

1. IASCD supports the concept of coordinated resource management planning. (84)
2. IASCD believes that federal and state agencies should place language in their leases of land for agricultural purposes which would require implementation of conservation plans approved by local conservation districts. If necessary, urge Congress to pass legislation requiring implementation of conservation plans and coordinated resource plans, approved by the local conservation district, as an integral part of leases of federal lands used for agricultural purposes. (84)
3. IASCD supports a program of education and instruction to assist livestock operators in the use of good livestock management practices in riparian areas. (87)
4. IASCD supports the proper use of our renewable resources, utilizing good practices such as; fire suppression, commercial timber management, proper

grazing use and management, and cease the elimination of trails and roads on our public lands. (00)

XIV. RESOURCE PLANNING

1. IASCD supports the application of the existing backup regulatory concept as described in the Idaho Ag. Pollution Abatement Plan. (96)
2. IASCD believes that prime and unique farmland should be afforded the same protection as wetlands and urge all federal agencies having responsibilities for developing mitigation plans, to adopt policies recognizing the value of prime and unique farmland for agriculture production and promote its utilization as wetlands mitigation sites only as a last resort. (91)
3. IASCD believes that the USDA, states and districts should return to the former practice of developing a single farm plan that will address soils, water, wildlife and erosion as part of a holistic approach to resource management. (One Farm Plan) (94)
4. IASCD believes in a bottoms up coordinated resource management approach involving all parties. (97)
5. IASCD supports the Home*A*Syst project. (A well head water quality assessment program). (97)
6. IASCD supports the development of ground water recharge systems with the precautions to protect ground water quality. (97)

XV. WATER QUALITY

1. IASCD fully supports the present Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan and the present Water Quality Standards for Idaho. (82)
2. IASCD supports the Home*A*Syst project. (A well head water quality assessment program). (97)
3. IASCD believes all Water Quality Act, Section 319, NonPoint Source Pollution funding should be administered through state and local agencies. Any USDA water quality initiative must be based on local district and state development priorities. This is to preserve a locally administered voluntary approach addressing Ag non-point pollution. (89)
4. IASCD believes in a State Sediment Standard for each stream segment, that a uniform biological and/or sampling method be used, and monitoring be continuous; i.e. before, during, and after projects. (98) IASCD supports staffing to do this for agriculture. (91)

5. IASCD supports a state funded program of cloud seeding to be used as a management tool in water shortage conditions. (90)
6. IASCD believes the State of Idaho should control the waters of the State. (90)
7. IASCD supports the rebuilding of the Teton Dam for the benefit of agriculture and recreation for the citizens of the State of Idaho. (91)
8. IASCD supports the IDEQ watershed approach as long as districts have input before the completion of the framework watershed document. (94)
9. IASCD recognizes polyacrylamide (PAM) as an effective water quality tool and supports its use as a Best Management Practice and as a cost share item. (95)
10. IASCD does **not** support the American Heritage Rivers Program. (97)
11. IASCD supports the development of environmentally responsible, technologically attainable, and economically sustainable water quality standards for the State of Idaho. (97)
12. IASCD supports the development of ground-water recharge systems with precautions to protect ground-water quality. (97)