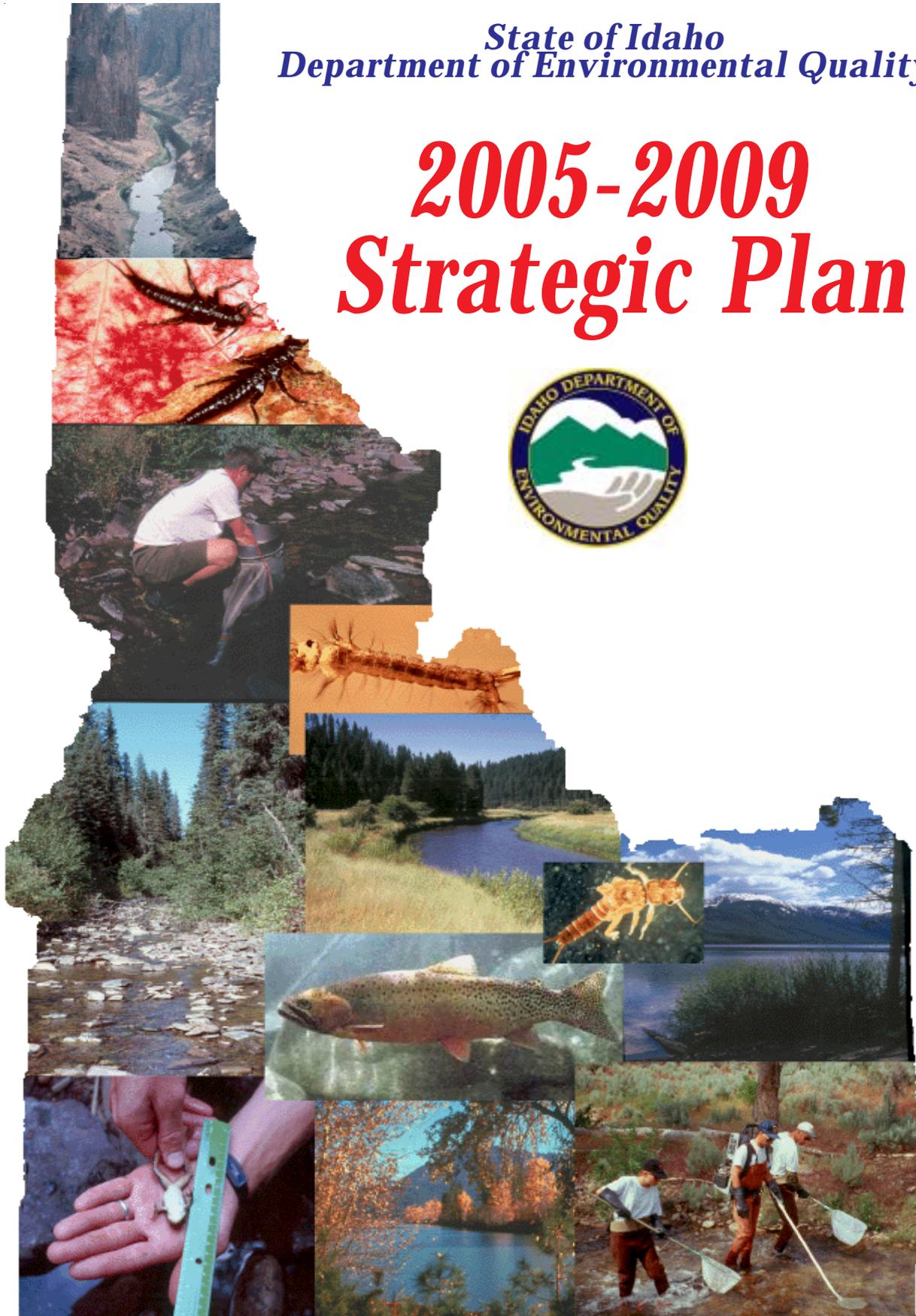


State of Idaho  
Department of Environmental Quality

# 2005-2009 Strategic Plan



# Director's Message

## Dear Reader,

My compliments. Over the past 6 years, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has worked hard to define and cultivate a higher standard of governmental professionalism and function. This legacy is reflected in our predictability, accountability and efficiency. We have developed and implemented real-time cost accounting that has changed administrative processes and enhanced our organization's operations. We have honed our ability to prioritize activities, monitor our levels of effort and adjust them when needed. Through the use of this system we have achieved financial accountability, largely by shifting direct program operational costs from administration back to the programs. It is through this approach that DEQ has tightened resource management and built efficiencies.

By refining our business processes, we have designed and implemented cost-effective solutions across the agency. We are using up-to-date technology and approaches for

environmental monitoring, modeling and analysis. Permitting and certification processes have been streamlined and standardized. Data collection, dissemination, and sharing of information and products are now performed using web-based tools. Collaboration between programs and across divisions has made best use of limited resources and improved the delivery of services to our customers.

I am grateful to the Board of Environmental Quality. Established as a rulemaking and advisory body, this group of professionals provides a breadth of skills, experience and diversity. They are collectively informed on issues relevant to the agency's activities, and act to ensure our customers best interests are being maintained and that we are responsive to their needs.

Our efforts have strengthened DEQ's environmental management role and will help preserve Idaho's precious resources well into the future.



C. Stephen Allred, Director  
Department of Environmental Quality

# **Table of Contents**

<b>Introduction . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Air Quality Division . . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Waste Management &amp;</b>	
<b>Remediation Division . . . .</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Water Quality Division . . . . .</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Administrative Services . . . . .</b>	<b>15</b>

# Introduction

## Focusing on Environmental Outcomes

Environmental change is often difficult and expensive to track and it may take many years for trends to be observed. For these reasons, the method used by many environmental agencies to track performance has been to count the activities those agencies complete. These activities, or strategies, are the things that the agency believes they can do to get the maximum improvement in environmental quality with the available resources. While this is generally an effective method to judge the efficiency and outputs of an agency, it does not always indicate if all of the strategies are effective, or if the available resources are being used for the right activities.

Over the next several years, the effectiveness of our strategies will be judged by looking at the environmental outcomes. We will use the quality of our air and of our water and the cleanliness of our land as the yardsticks to measure DEQ's success. We will continue to track the number of different activities we complete; but, we will rely more on the results or the environmental outcomes we are trying to achieve, as the true indicators of our level of success.

## Improving Compliance with Environmental Regulations

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) envisions Idaho's communities, government agencies, and industry

possessing a thorough understanding of, and maintaining full compliance with, environmental laws and rules. Small businesses sometimes find it difficult to understand complex environmental requirements. Failure to comply with environmental requirements may not be an unwillingness to comply, but an inability to understand the requirements or a lack of awareness that they exist. To help increase knowledge in the regulated community, DEQ has developed a Uniform Compliance Strategy (UCS).

The UCS is designed to improve environmental compliance by helping businesses understand environmental regulations and by increasing DEQ's presence. The strategy focuses on compliance, not enforcement, to ensure protection of Idaho's environment. It will assist companies in better achieving compliance with environmental regulations and providing a uniform direction for all DEQ programs in bringing about compliance.

## Strategy to Improve Compliance Rates

DEQ has made a commitment to increase its presence in the field and increase its interaction with the public. Enhancement of the quality of DEQ's time in the field and DEQ's increased contact with the regulated public will improve knowledge of and compliance with environmental regulations. Some of the actions DEQ will focus on are:

- Providing information at tradeshow and through organizations' meetings.
- Presenting “*Compliance Achievement*” recognition to facilities found to be meeting environmental regulations and issue press releases when facilities are found in compliance.
- Having an inspector and a permit writer present during permit handoffs to address what DEQ will be reviewing during inspections.
- Improving the usability and understandability of DEQ rules and the permits DEQ issues through clearer text, user friendly guidance, timely notice and/or publication of new rules.
- Providing timely information to the regulated community on common compliance problems.
- Providing information on pollution prevention opportunities.
- Providing compliance assistance to help the regulated community identify potential compliance problems before they occur.
- Conducting workshops to provide compliance information to the regulated public. Currently scheduled workshops include:
  - Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) - DEQ hosts H2E teleconferences to help hospitals take a leadership role in reducing their environmental impact while saving money and reducing liabilities. For more information, see the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.state.id.us/waste/h2e.htm>
  - Solvent Solutions - to help organizations and businesses properly manage and minimize the impacts of solvents. For more information, see the DEQ web site at [http://www.deq.state.id.us/assistance/solvent\\_04.htm#agenda](http://www.deq.state.id.us/assistance/solvent_04.htm#agenda)
  - Air Permitting - to increase understanding of air quality regulations, permit requirements, and compliance strategies. For more information, see the DEQ web site at [http://www.deq.state.id.us/air/permits/workshop\\_overview.htm](http://www.deq.state.id.us/air/permits/workshop_overview.htm)



# Air Quality Division

As the state of Idaho continues to grow and develop, air quality in urban regions is deteriorating to the extent that air quality, particularly ozone and particulate matter, is increasingly becoming a public health concern. DEQ's Air Quality Division is responsible for developing and implementing an integrated air quality program to protect public health and keep air pollution levels below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in all regions of the state. To achieve this end, the staff works with local communities, industry, and other local, state, and federal agencies to regulate emission sources and implement plans to maintain and improve air quality.

## Five-Year Strategy

DEQ's operating strategy is to manage air quality at the airshed level. This process focuses on developing an integrated strategy for achieving and maintaining air quality standards. DEQ started with the areas that show significant air quality deterioration, namely the Treasure Valley and the Portneuf Valley airsheds. As strategies and plans are developed for these and other areas, the emphasis of the air program will shift from primary regulation of stationary sources to management of the regional air resource. The contribution of all sources—mobile, area, and stationary—will be evaluated and managed to meet the specific needs of local airsheds.

Efforts to fund, improve, and streamline the permitting, compliance, and enforcement programs will continue, as will efforts to improve air quality monitoring, modeling,

and other data management capabilities. A program management and quality assurance plan will be developed to better focus program activities toward achieving air quality goals and objectives.

DEQ will undertake a major effort to integrate and manage the data collected to ensure that air quality data is readily retrievable for timely assessment and sound decision making, for public understanding of air quality issues and risks, and for businesses to use as they plan for sustainable growth.

## This Year

DEQ will continue the development of a database for integrating information across the Air Quality Division. This database will provide convenient access to information for staff and other users and will provide a tool for airshed management. The first phase will begin with integration of Air Program data systems.

The overall goal for integrating air quality data is to enhance DEQ's capacity to meet its mission: to protect human health and preserve the quality of Idaho's air for use and enjoyment today and in the future. Data integration accomplishes this by providing tools necessary for both efficient information processing and managing Idaho's airsheds.

Other priorities for this year include:

- Completing a management and quality assurance plan for the Air Quality Division.
- Completing the Portneuf Valley Airshed Management Plan.

- Completing a limited maintenance plan for the Sandpoint Non-Attainment area.
- Continuing to advance smoke management plans for agricultural burning as well as forestry and range burning.
- Completing a statewide plan to respond to regional haze requirements.
- Developing diesel emissions reduction projects (anti-idling, engine retrofit) for the Treasure Valley.
- Conducting an ozone study for the Treasure Valley to identify the area(s) with the highest ambient ozone levels.
- Beginning to monitor for ozone in the northern panhandle region of the state.
- Continuing to operate the ambient air quality monitoring network to meet the management objectives and measure environmental outcomes.
- Continuing to develop an airshed model (CMAQ) and gain the capability for demonstrating effective emissions reduction strategies for reducing air pollution.
- Continuing to develop DEQ Web links to “real-time” air quality data and air quality indicators (Air Quality Index - AQI) information.
- Continuing to develop Web-based tools for customers to file information with the agency on-line.
- Continuing to develop air quality forecasting skills to support smoke management programs.

This year DEQ will...

- Issue 55 permits to construct.
- Issue 20 Tier 2 operating permits.
- Complete 44 full compliance evaluation reports.
- Collect data from 78 monitoring sites.
- Conduct 15 permit-by-rule registrations.



# **Waste Management and Remediation Division**

The Waste Management and Remediation Division programs protect surface water, ground water, and public health by ensuring the proper handling of waste and the remediation of contaminated sites.

## **Five-Year Strategy**

### **Brownfields**

DEQ has implemented a new Brownfields Response Program to assist eligible entities (including, but not limited to, tribes, divisions of state government, and non-profit organizations) in applying for EPA Brownfields grants. DEQ will use EPA grant funding to help communities clean up sites and return them to productive use. The program will provide technical assistance, perform site assessments, and develop a site inventory and public database of Brownfields properties. The goal of this DEQ program is to help local governments redevelop Brownfields sites in their communities by funding and conducting site assessments when a lack of environmental information is complicating site redevelopment or reuse. The newly developed contaminated site database will identify potential and confirmed Brownfields sites and notify the public of actions planned for the coming year and actions completed in the past year for all remediation sites. It will offer the public an opportunity to comment on proposed actions and will inform the public of any restrictions or other institutional controls that have been placed on any site.

### **Waste Management**

DEQ will undertake two new waste management initiatives. The first will address the alarming increase in animal waste diseases by updating the animal waste management guidance document. The second will be to develop a strategy to eliminate heavy metals from household and business waste streams.

### **This Year**

Priorities for DEQ will include:

- Completing closure of Hecla's Yellow Pine Mine ore processing facility.
- Developing a composting facility at Stibnite Mine to provide a soil environment for final reclamation, then complete final reclamation and remediation in FY06.
- Achieving complete remediation of all residential yards at the Bunker Hill Superfund Site and complete all capping work within the site by the end of 2005. DEQ will also complete the A-4 Gypsum closure project certification at the end of this calendar year. In addition, DEQ will complete the land transfer process from EPA to DEQ that will create opportunities to use land for improving the tax base and creating jobs.
- Finishing development of a Web-based hazardous waste generator annual reporting program that will allow large and small quantity generators to file their annual reports with DEQ electronically.

This year, DEQ will...

- Conduct 218 inspections of facilities that manage or generate hazardous waste.
- Complete 45 cleanups of properties contaminated from leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs).
- Conduct 13 comprehensive inspections of solid waste management facilities.
- Conduct 263 compliance assistance visits to facilities that operate underground storage tanks (USTs).

## Multi-Year Clean-up Projects

### Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)

DEQ will continue to implement the final remediation strategy for the removal of transuranic waste from the INEEL Subsurface Disposal Area. This will be accomplished by taking interim cleanup actions to achieve immediate risk reduction and complete the final remedial investigation for the final remedial action.

DEQ will continue to implement the strategy for tank farm closure and remediation of contaminated soils at the INEEL Tank Farm. This year, contents will continue to be removed and tank closure completed and contaminated soil will be covered to reduce the threat of contaminating the aquifer. The Remedial Investigation will continue to determine the extent of contamination that will require cleanup.

In the next five years, DEQ will oversee the completion of the Part B permit for Liquid Waste Management Units and will continue to develop a closure plan and review the process for High-Level Waste Tanks.

### Coeur d'Alene Basin

To address past mining and smelting practices that created substantial environmental and human health issues in the Coeur d'Alene Basin (Basin), DEQ will conduct two parallel strategies. The first strategy will be to remediate "high risk" properties - residences where children six years and younger and expectant mothers live. The second strategy will be to perform remedies on an area-wide basis.

Implementing these two strategies will protect the most at-risk populations and balances along with the most efficient way to complete the work. The Big Creek Repository will receive all contaminated yard soil and contaminated soil generated from other excavations. The goal is to finish the equivalent of 300 residential, commercial, and right-of-way properties by November 1, 2004, and to complete all yard remediation in the Basin by 2009, at a rate of 300 yards per year.

Remedial action for Lake Coeur d'Alene was not included in the record of decision (ROD). The ROD relies upon the State and Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Tribe) completing a reevaluation and update of the 1996 lake management plan and concurrence that implementation of the plan would be protective of lake water quality. DEQ and the Tribe have drafted an updated plan but the absence of funding assurances has prevented finalizing a joint plan. DEQ will need to work with others to secure dedicated funding for plan implementation to demonstrate the updated plan will indeed be protective of water quality, hence, the preferred remedial alternative.

DEQ is performing the work for the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC) which is tasked with adopting and implementing a work plan to

carry out the Record of Decision for the Basin. DEQ has worked with local groups and government agencies to develop cleanup plans that meet the environmental and human health objectives in a way that promotes a viable economy in the impacted communities. The BEIPC has received almost \$4 million in Clean Water Act grants to provide baseline information to improve water quality and demonstrate new techniques. Demonstration of 13 new projects will begin in fiscal year 2005.

DEQ will develop the BEIPC organizational division within the agency. EPA will fund the salary and benefits while DEQ will provide fiscal and contracting support to the BEIPC executive director. DEQ will continue to assist in the implementation of projects identified by the commission. An immediate goal will be to implement the Basin Institutional Controls Program in 2005.

## Selenium

In 1996, livestock deaths associated with high selenium levels prompted concerns regarding potential human health and ecological effects from past mining operations. DEQ is currently working with mining companies and other agencies to address individual mine sites. Site operators will conduct site investigations, perform risk assessments, and conduct remedial activities. At the present time five of the 15 suspected source areas are undergoing sampling and characterization that will lead to remedial measures necessary to control contamination. Within the next five years, DEQ will initiate corrective action at mines where DEQ is the lead department, and will demonstrate the effectiveness of modified BMPs that have already been implemented at several sites. An area-wide screening of “orphaned” sites has resulted in seven of the

14 sites requiring improved BMPs. DEQ is in the fourth year of what is expected to be a 10-year investigation. Cleanup and monitoring efforts will include long-term water monitoring under a regional monitoring program that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the remedial activities.

## Blackbird Mine Site

Remediation and restoration of the Blackbird Mine site consists of the removal of metals contaminated –waste rock-tailings, soils from flood plains, the capture and treatment of contaminated ground and surface waters, and intensive monitoring. A Record of Decision has been issued and a Unilateral Action Order has been issued and signed by the parties to implement the final remedies.

This coming year, the State, EPA and the Blackbird Mine Site Group will focus their efforts on the following:

- Developing a toxicity study to determine an appropriate clean up goal for cobalt contamination in surface waters.
- Conducting studies to identify copper contaminated groundwater sources throughout the site.
- Developing and implement construction plans to collect and capture contaminated groundwater on both the Bucktail and Blackbird Creek Sites.
- Conducting bench-pilot test work of various passive surface water treatment systems.
- Determining the nature and extent of waste rock contaminated flood plain sediments in the South Fork and Big Deer Creeks.
- Continuing testing of contaminated sediments to determine how long they will impact surface waters.

- Establishing site-wide institutional controls to protect structures and ensure public safety.

### INL Oversight and Radiation Control

The U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), soon to be renamed the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), is an anchor of eastern Idaho's science and technology sector. To succeed, INEEL activities must protect public health, worker safety and the environment. To ensure that INEEL meets this goal, DEQ's Division of INL Oversight and Radiation Control and Waste Management and Remediation Division provide regulation and independent oversight of the facility. DEQ is responsible for making sure the INEEL complies with several legal agreements

Idaho has in place to address environmental problems created by earlier activities at the site.

To ensure Idahoans have confidence in INEEL activities, DEQ will:

- Continue to operate a network to monitor air, external radiation, water, milk and soil on and around the INEEL.  
Continue to work with other state and local agencies to plan, train and respond to radiological emergencies involving site operations or transportation.
- Continue to evaluate the potential impact of proposed and ongoing activities on health and the environment.
- Continue to provide the public with timely, understandable, and accurate information about INEEL activities.

In the next five years, DEQ expects significant progress in cleanup activities at the INEEL:

- Shipment of more than 15,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste to WIPP.
- Retrieval of transuranic and other radioactively/chemically contaminated waste from several pits at the site's landfill.
- Permitting of facilities to treat the remaining one million gallons of highly radioactive liquid waste stored in eleven tanks and the closure of at least seven of these tanks.
- Continued transfer of spent nuclear fuel from storage in pools to dry storage.

This year DEQ expects the following progress in INEEL cleanup:

- Shipment of more than 3,000 cubic meters of transuranic (plutonium-contaminated) waste from the INEEL to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).
- Start of retrieval of transuranic and other radioactively/chemically contaminated waste from Pit 4 at the site's landfill.
- Removal of highly radioactive liquid waste from all but three of the eleven 300,000-gallon tanks at the tank farm.
- Surface paving of the tank farm as an interim measure to reduce water flow through contaminated soils around tank farm piping while the agencies decide how to make the area safe for the long term.
- Decommissioning the older spent fuel storage basins at the Materials Test Reactor, the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center, Test Area North and Power Burst Facility (spent fuel from these basins was removed earlier).

# Water Quality Division

Water quality is an important aspect of Idaho's natural beauty, environment, and health of our citizens. DEQ is responsible for managing and protecting Idaho's water quality as established by federal and state law, and works to maintain, and improve water quality, and protect public health.

## Five-Year Strategy

Integration of the Water Quality Programs on a watershed level will continue to be a focus for DEQ. The term "watershed" refers to the total land area that contributes water to a river, stream, lake or other water body. In our efforts to achieve sustainable use and management of water resources, we will address all sources of pollution, integrate levels of effort, activities, and resources and involve stakeholders at all levels. The Water Quality Division will promote watershed-based solutions and emphasize coordination, collaboration, and sharing of expertise across programs in recognizing the entire watershed as one system. By bringing together programs under the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts, and aligning them with the interests of communities and other involved entities, we can efficiently use limited resources to improve water quality and to protect public health.

The implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) provides for effective cooperation and planning within a watershed. Surface water quality is influenced by a variety of point and non-point sources that may have effluent contributions to a river, lake or stream. Similar sources or activities also affect ground water quality and drive protection efforts in a watershed. Safe

drinking water is maintained in part by management of the activities that occur in and above the aquifers and surface waters we draw those reserves from. Regardless of sources of impact or water media, changing land use activities or operating practices, constructing or improving wastewater or drinking water infrastructure requires access to planning tools and construction resources like those offered by the Grant and Loan Program.

Efforts to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) primacy are ongoing. DEQ will continue to build in-house NPDES expertise by training and information exchange, working with EPA on permitting activities, performing inspections for EPA to ensure compliance with federal permits, and continuing review and certification of federally issued permits to confirm they are protective of water quality. DEQ will work with the Environmental Common Sense Task Force to evaluate the feasibility of assuming NPDES primacy.

## This Year

### Safe Drinking Water

DEQ assists public water systems in improving their financial, technical, and managerial capabilities, prioritized in accordance with the Capacity Development Strategy for Idaho. Key to this strategy will be training aimed at making small systems and the DEQ staff who provide assistance to them more familiar with the elements of water system capacity and the methods for assessing and improving it. DEQ works to

improve public water systems' (PWSs) ability to respond to contamination events, natural disasters, and terrorist events.

The Source Water Assessment Program has successfully transitioned to the Drinking Water Protection Program. The focus will be on facilitating and implementing local and regional drinking water protection plan development. This prevents or mitigates drinking water contamination by placing an emphasis on performance of the activities identified in the protection plan.

DEQ will continue its involvement in the *Idaho Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP)*. AWOP will improve performance of surface water filtration plants by optimizing in-place technologies. AWOP focuses on maximizing public health protection against microbial contaminants in drinking water from surface water sources. AWOP provides tools for tracking treatment process performance over time. The analysis of trends allows each plant to identify weak points in its process and make improvements. The comparison of performance data allows DEQ to rank the plants so that limited state resources can be spent where they are most needed.

## Ground Water

DEQ will participate in the Idaho Legislature's *Expanded Natural Resources Interim Committee* to examine water supply and management issues. Staff from each DEQ regional office will be involved with the committee's Aquifer Working Group.

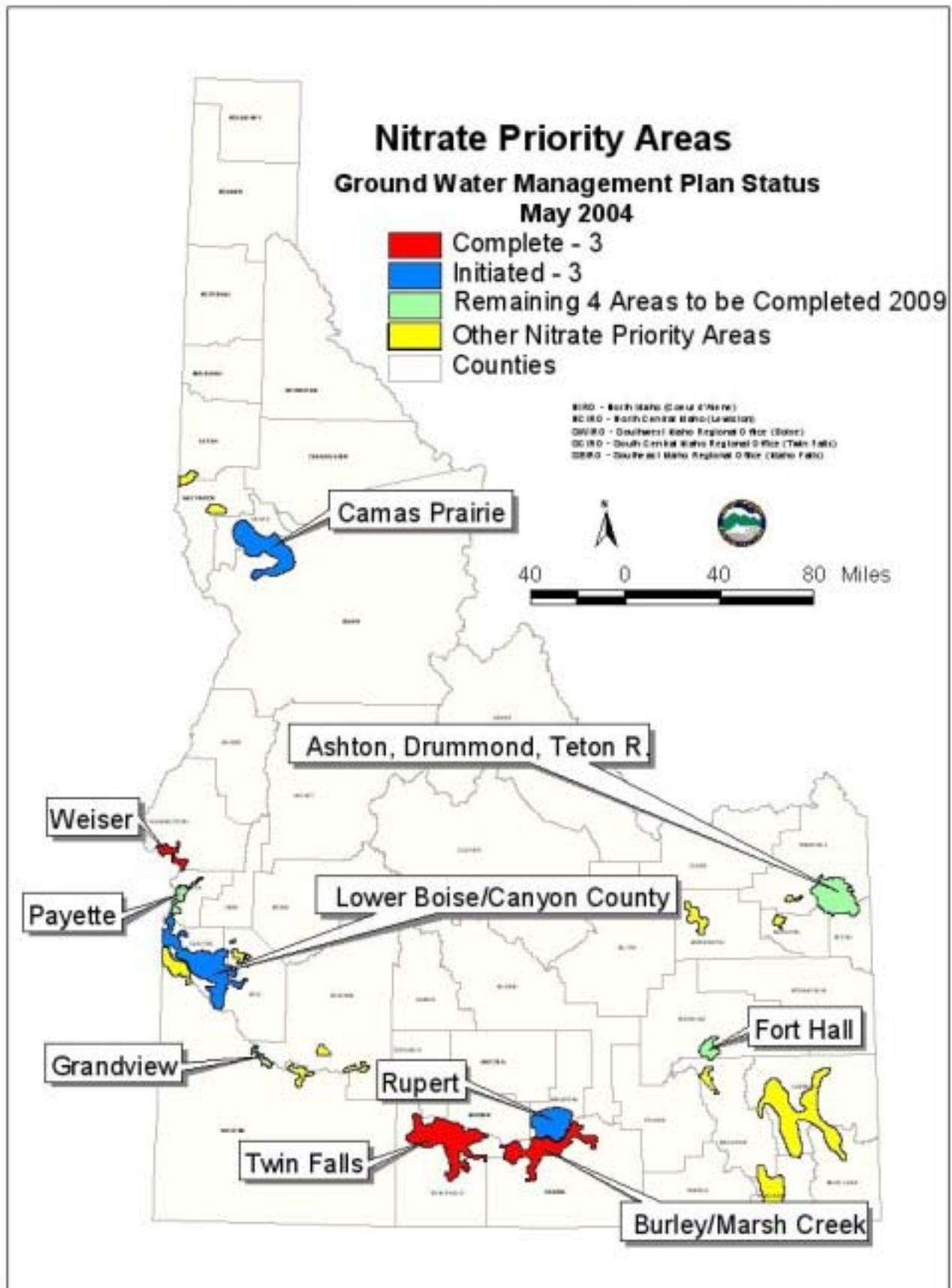
A managed recharge guidance document will be developed and used for managed recharge project review and approval. This will provide assistance to the Idaho Department of Water Resources and other stakeholders in developing ground water

recharge projects intended to create desired improvement in ground water aquifer storage capacity or stream flow and at the same time protect ground water quality.

As part of the efforts occurring in nitrate priority areas in Idaho, DEQ will complete 10 ground water quality management plans by 2009. Development of these plans provide a mechanism to educate the public and introduce a variety of best management practices (BMPs) designed to improve ground water quality. This helps in the identification and implementation of proactive, science-based solutions to this nitrate concern. DEQ facilitates the development of these plans and is committed to having a plan in place for each of the top 10 nitrate priority areas.

Through application of the Ground Water Quality and the Subsurface Sewage Rules, proposed subdivision developments in southwest, central and south central Idaho intending to use on-site wastewater treatment systems (septic tanks and drainfields) conduct nutrient pathogen studies to demonstrate that their projects will have minimal impact on ground and surface water quality. In other parts of the state, DEQ provides comments to local governments regarding environmental impacts of proposed subdivisions. DEQ requires nutrient pathogen studies to be prepared for all community septic systems in nitrate priority areas. DEQ reviews these studies to confirm that a proposed subdivision's community septic system will not have a significant impact on the quality of ground and surface waters.





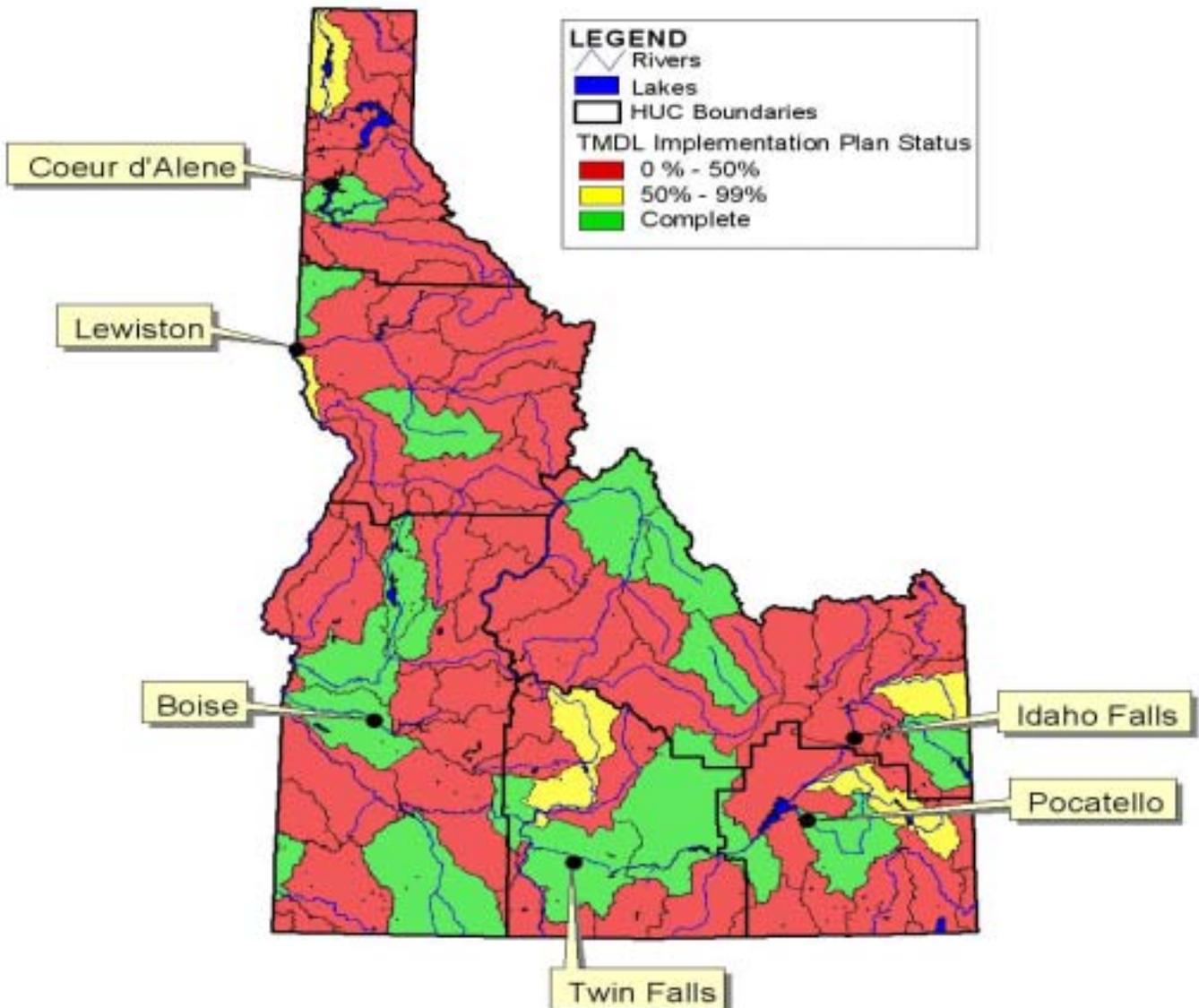
## Surface Water

DEQ will develop an internal TMDL implementation plan guidance document to establish a level of expectation and consistency regarding DEQ roles, responsibilities, and activities in facilitating stakeholders as they develop implementation plans to meet load allocations.

Water quality standards activities will include a negotiated rulemaking for

mercury, the triennial review with EPA and the public which involves an examination of all Idaho water standards, continued consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and EPA to obtain concurrence on our water quality toxics standards, and the development of an enhanced continuing planning process to create a DEQ water repository of information, activities, policies, and authorities.

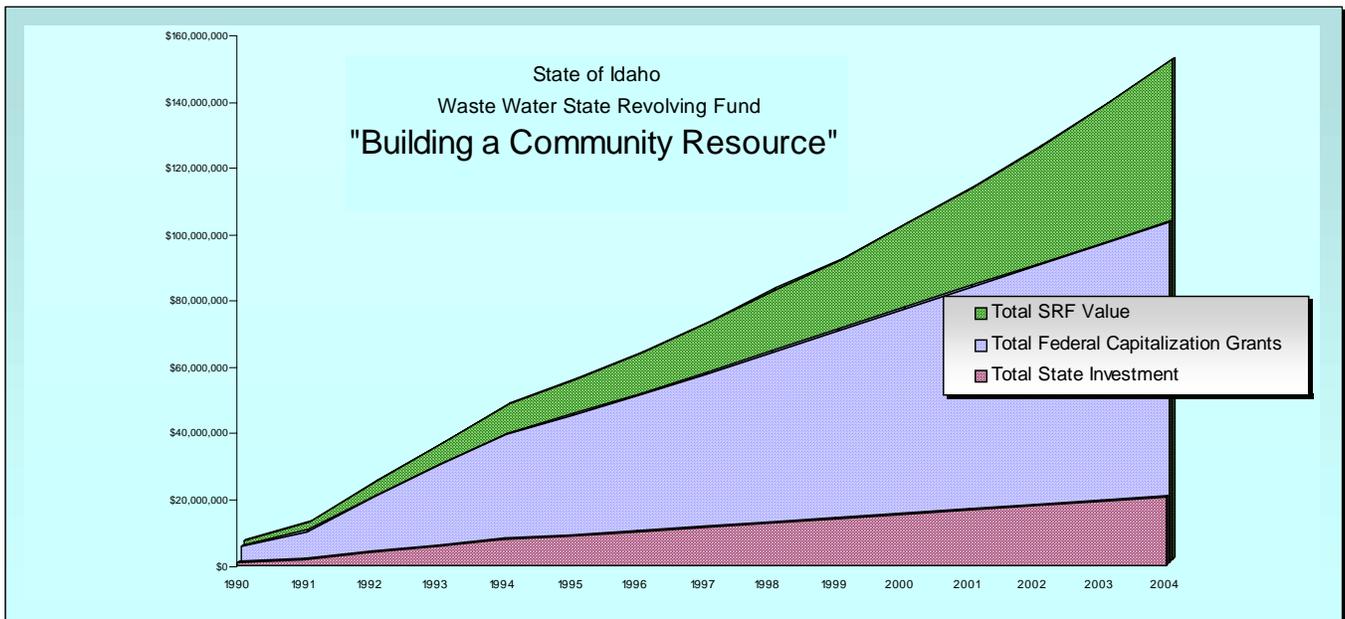
### TMDL Implementation Plan Status



## Grants and Loans

The Wastewater and Drinking Water Planning Grant Program provides assistance to wastewater and drinking water systems to identify cost-effective, environmentally sound methods to achieve and maintain compliance with state and federal standards. Grants cover up to 50% of eligible planning costs, with a matching share funded by local sources. Financial assistance has been requested for 77-wastewater and drinking water projects for SFY 2005.

The Wastewater and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Programs provide below-market-rate loans for planning, design and construction of wastewater and drinking water facilities, and for nonpoint source projects which implement water pollution control projects. DEQ will fund eight wastewater projects, valued at approximately \$28,000,000, and 28 drinking water projects, valued at approximately \$23,000,000, during the next fiscal year.



DEQ will help update the Clean Water Needs Survey, which contains information on publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment facilities, types of sewer overflows, storm water control activities and nonpoint sources. Congress uses the results to determine needs and to serve as a basis for allocating funds for the SRF program.

## Wastewater

The Wastewater Land Application Program is making efforts to identify and evaluate new or improved techniques for treating and disposing of wastewater. The Wastewater Land Application Permit Rules for the reuse of treated wastewater for landscape irrigation and ground water recharge are being revised. The acceptance of new treatment techniques offers industry viable treatment options, and helps prevent the contamination of ground water. The program will continue its work on a database and GIS integration project. The

end product of this effort will provide increased efficiency in tracking program and facility activities, consolidating environmental histories on specific sites, and making data available to other agencies and to the public.

Plan and specification review activities will continue as growth and development is on the rise in most parts of Idaho. Storm water portions of any proposed project will be reviewed to ensure ground water protection.

This year DEQ will...

- Conduct 1090 drinking water, 954 wastewater and 336 stormwater plan and specification reviews.
- Conduct 58 ground water nutrient pathogen evaluations.
- Conduct 417 drinking water system sanitary surveys.
- Complete 245 surface water body assessments.
- Complete 29 permits for, and conduct 59 inspections of, wastewater land application facilities.



# Administrative Services

Administrative Services is composed of three areas: Fiscal Office, Information Technology and Human Resources. The main objective of these groups is to provide high-level support to DEQ's customers and employees.

## Information Management

DEQ will use technology to streamline processes and reduce costs while increasing the quality of the tools it uses to make informed decisions. By listening carefully to the needs of Idaho citizens and DEQ staff, we will effectively meet the growing need for information management.

DEQ recognizes the collection and management of information as a strategic asset in achieving our goals. DEQ is working to preserve and protect the environment by streamlining processes and reducing program delivery costs. Much of DEQ's strategy for information exchange is based on leveraging human and financial resources through coordinated efforts between internal and external partners. DEQ's developing Enterprise Information Management System (EIMS) will continue to drive this information management strategy to ensure accessibility and quality of the data for information DEQ collects, stores, and analyzes. This fundamental shift will allow the Air, Water and Waste Divisions to integrate facility data across DEQ, clearing the path for additional technology and process improvements.

## Five-Year Strategy

Nationally, state environmental agencies have begun modernizing and streamlining

program operations, shifting from program-specific management to comprehensive cross-program management. Over the course of this change, agencies have identified, refined, and documented existing business processes in order to meet agency-wide objectives, including the uniform management of information needed to manage relationships with regulated facilities.

**Coordination within DEQ will provide staff with both technical resources to leverage previous work and guidance to implement future information management projects in accordance with the *EIMS Implementation Plan*.**

## Five-Year Activities

- Implement a document management system, including document imaging.
- Continue integration of environmental data across DEQ.
- Provide the regulated community and the public with interactive Web-based applications.
- Facilitate a state-to-state and state-to-EPA electronic data exchange.
- Develop electronic business capabilities (i.e. online permitting and payment).

## This Year

### Agency-Wide:

- Implement a facility data warehouse.
- Develop and implement a node (portal) for electronic data exchange across the network.

- Implement Web site redesign and develop Web content on air, water, and waste programs.
- Coordinate the development of a Web-based database to track watershed restoration projects and expenditures.

Air Quality Division:

- Implement a permit tracking system.
- Integrate non-permit data.
- Assist with outreach on Treasure Valley’s air partnership on statewide Clean Air Zone Idaho program.

Waste Management and Remediation Division:

- Develop and Implement an UST/LUST database.
- Implement online hazardous waste annual report system, for regulated facilities.
- Develop and implement Web-based remediation land inventory system.

Water Quality Division:

- Link Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) and State Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) data to DEQ Node.
- Upgrade the source water susceptibility program data management system.
- Develop and begin implementation of permit development and tracking system for wastewater land applications.

**Pacific Northwest Water Quality Data Exchange --**

Through a strong partnership, standards base approach and cutting edge technologies, environmental agencies and stakeholders are making water quality monitoring data available over the Web. DEQ is partnering with Oregon, Washington, and Alaska to develop the first “Networked” environmental data exchange using Web services to allow stakeholders to manage data, while making data accessible to interested parties.

**National Environmental Information Exchange Network** – Through a State and EPA partnership environmental agencies are working to implement Web services that will allow secure automation of traditional reporting requirements and access to currently unavailable detailed environmental information. This “network” will allow Idaho to manage our data to meet state-specific requirements while easing the burden of reporting data to EPA for the regulated community.

DEQ is committed to providing information and assistance to the citizens and businesses of Idaho. DEQ provides technical assistance and information on a wide range of air, water, and waste issues to Idaho’s businesses and industry, and works with Idaho’s youth through visits to classrooms and school fairs.

**This year DEQ will...**

- Assist the drinking water systems on pollution prevention .
- Coordinate the implementation of the H2E program throughout Idaho.
- Provide assistance to school science labs to achieve the Safe Schools program goals.
- Expand the piloted customer service measurement project agency-wide.



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