

2. Conservation

The Conservation policies focus on careful planning and wise use of Idaho's water. The purpose of the policies is to encourage water conservation practices and manage the use of water resources for the benefit of all Idaho citizens consistent with the [Prior Appropriation Doctrine, as established by law](#). Conservation should be implemented through voluntary, market based programs, when economically feasible. Conservation practices should be given priority consideration for increasing water supplies.

2A - WATER USE EFFICIENCY

The efficient use of water should be promoted in accordance with state water law.

Discussion:

Conservation may provide opportunities to improve water availability and offset the need for new water projects. As water use efficiencies increase, conserved water could be made available to supply existing uses, new demands, or help efforts to improve stream flows. State and local planning officials should consider policies that promote water efficiency techniques that may help conserve water for drought periods and other ~~needed~~ uses. [The impacts of conservation from agricultural uses should be carefully examined on a site-specific basis. For example, surface-water conservation measures implemented in an area hydraulically connected to a spring water source can, in some instances, reduce spring flows.](#)

Implementation Strategies:

- Review existing laws and regulations and identify inconsistencies or constraints to implementing water efficiency
- Develop partnerships with local, state, and the federal government and non-governmental bodies to coordinate and support water conservation programs
- Establish a public information program [and Conservation Guidelines for a range of water uses](#)
- Evaluate conservation opportunities simultaneously with evaluation of new water supplies
- Identify localized opportunities for water conservation

Milestones

- Number of Conservation Guidelines implemented
- Number of partnerships developed to coordinate water conservation
- Number of water conservation educational materials developed and distributed
- Quantify water saved through ~~IWRB~~ [the Board's programs \(what kind of programs?\)](#) ~~programs~~

Recommendations

- ~~Obtain~~ ~~Seek~~ resources necessary to establish and implement a statewide water conservation program
- Make information available about water conservation practices appropriate for Idaho