

More on District 6

District 6 is part of the Division of Highways of the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), formed by the Legislature in 1974.

The district is the second largest by land area and road miles, covering 18,588 square miles or 23 percent of the state and including 990 highway miles, approximately 20 percent of the state system. The

district maintains a total of 2,302 lane miles (lanes of road, on- and off-ramps, etc.) and 358 bridges.



Designer Jeremy Hunting determines cut and fill quantities.

District 6 is the third largest by population, with 207,000 residents or 13 percent of the state. Terrain includes plains, valleys and mountains, with highlands boasting eight of the 12 highest mountain passes in Idaho.

District headquarters is at 206 North Yellowstone Highway south of Rigby in Jefferson County, where Jason Minzghor is district (head) engineer. Former Idaho legislator Lee Gagner, of Idaho Falls, represents District 6 on the Idaho Transportation Board.

The district includes engineers, designers, drafters, surveyors, inspectors, technicians, operators, mechanics, clerks, buyers, trainers, planners and managers -- 138 people in all -- who plan, design, construct and maintain state roads and bridges in eastern Idaho.

Managers are Minzghor; Karen Hiatt, engineering manager; Ken Hahn, maintenance operations manager; Nancy Luthy, administration manager; and Bill Shaw, planning manager. Design-construction engineers are Wade Allen, Matt Davison and David Alvarez, with Ben Burke as traffic engineer and Paul Steele as materials engineer.

In addition to the district office at 206 North Yellowstone Highway south of Rigby, District 6 has seven field offices for maintenance crews.

Office staff members double as snowplow drivers or roadblock monitors when required by storms. Field staff members double as construction inspectors in the summer. The district has the second fewest employees of any district in the highway division.

Eastern Idaho continues to grow. The Idaho National Laboratory has announced possible new operations, and Brigham Young University-Idaho in Rexburg announced an increase in enrollment from 16,000 to 17,500 students per semester.

Established business employers such as Melaleuca Inc. continue major operations, and the region's agricultural base remains robust.

Commercial vehicles traveled 141 million miles of District 6 highways in 2010 (latest figures), while passenger cars/pickups traveled 868 million miles. The area hosted 202,091 registered vehicles and 133,902 licensed drivers in 2010.

Mountain passes include Willow Creek (elev. 7,178 ft.), Gilmore (elev. 7,186 ft.), Lost Trail (elev. 7,008 ft.), Bannock (elev. 7,684 ft.), Monida (elev. 6,823 ft.), Reynolds (elev. 6,836 ft.), Targhee (elev. 7,077 ft.) and Pine Creek (elev. 6,764 ft.). Galena (elev. 8,743 ft.), the highest mountain pass in the state, lies in District 4.

The countryside of east Idaho includes rivers, streams and lakes, including the 18-mile long Palisades Reservoir, which is located on the South Fork of the Snake River about 60 miles east of Idaho Falls.

Financial and educational underpinnings continue strong, reflecting a diversified economy and modern culture. The area offers numerous recreational opportunities in a family-friendly environment.