



IDAHO BUSINESS FOR
THE OUTDOORS

Director Susan Buxton
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
5657 E. Warm Springs Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83716

Dear Director Buxton,

Idaho Business for the Outdoors and the members we represent support the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation proposed 2024 budget request and the additional \$100 million proposed by Governor Brad Little. This money will be used to increase overall recreation capacity and will address a critical deferred maintenance backlog.

As a nonpartisan, business member-based organization, Idaho Business for the Outdoors supports and advocates for the valuable role our outdoors and public lands play in sustaining Idaho's state economy, our public health, and a strong and diverse business community. We believe your proposed budget directs critical funds and resources to our state parks and outdoors.

As you know, our state parks, trails, forests and waters are significant economic drivers for our urban and rural communities in Idaho. The outdoor economy is a strong driver of business activity all across our country. Nationally, the recreation economy drives \$887 billion in consumer spending every year. In 2021, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that outdoor recreation accounts for \$2.8 billion dollars towards Idaho's GDP. It is clear that there is a continuing need for employees, maintenance and infrastructure to support these valuable resources.

Businesses leverage the quality of life represented by Idaho's outdoors in their marketing and recruitment, individuals and families love the unrivaled recreation opportunities, and our health care systems advocate for the health benefits of time outside. Our business members believe a healthy, sustainable economy goes hand in hand with access to state parks, public lands and the outdoors. Please share our support for your proposed budget as you work with the legislature this legislative season.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Skylar Jett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Skylar Jett
Executive Director, Idaho Business for the Outdoors
(Business Members are attached on the following page)

Visit our website: idahobo.org
IBO, P.O. Box 1965, Boise, ID 83701
skylarjett@idahobo.org
208-599-3264



Idaho Trails Association | PO Box 165 | Boise, Idaho 83701
www.idahotrailsassociation.org

Dear Idaho Legislature,

Idaho Trails Association was founded in 2010 with one goal: help keep Idaho's 10,000 plus miles of public land hiking trails open for all to enjoy. Generations have enjoyed the breathtaking landscapes and sense of adventure getting out on Idaho's trails provides. Going on our 13th year, we are a volunteer-based group dedicated to the care and maintenance of Idaho's hiking trails, and we are proud of the progress we have made, from clearing 6 miles in 2010 to clearing 280 miles with over 10,000 hours of volunteer time in 2022.

I am writing in support of the Governor's proposal to increase funding for Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation in FY24 by 100 million dollars through state surplus funds. IDPR has been a partner of ITA in clearing and maintaining sections of the Idaho Centennial Trail, and in funding Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grants that fund work on public trails, but they are in need of increased funding to maintain recreation opportunities for Idaho's growing population of recreationists, as well as the growing outdoor recreation tourist population flocking to Idaho's public lands.

IDPR funds the vast majority of their regular budget through self-generated revenue, but with a 27 percent increase in 2020, 2021, and 2022 state park visitation over previous years' visitation, and one full-time employee per 41,000 visitors, it is clear that outside funds are needed to ensure Idaho continues to attract both resident and out of state park visitors- visitors who bring their dollars to communities across the state to parks and trails that are part of what makes Idaho so special.

Please support this proposed increase and help IDPR eliminate their deferred maintenance backlog while creating new opportunities for recreationists of all ages and interests to explore our great state.

Thank you so much,

Melanie Vining

Executive Director
775-762-8183 or melanie@idahotrailsassociation.org

*ITA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Perpetua Resources

405 S. 8th Street, Ste. #201
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 901-3060

PerpetuaResources.com

January 30, 2023

Director Susan Buxton
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
5657 E. Warm Springs Ave.
Boise Idaho 83716

Dear Director Buxton,

Perpetua Resources supports the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation proposed 2024 budget request and the additional \$100 million proposed by Governor Brad Little. This money will be used to increase overall recreation capacity and will address a critical deferred maintenance backlog.

As a local company, composed primarily of Idahoans, we recognize the vital role public lands, parks and the outdoors at large play in our daily lives as well as in sustaining Idaho's economy. We believe that the proposed 2024 budget directs critical funds and resources to these spaces.

On a daily basis, we witness the value of public parks and recreation areas in Valley County. These spaces provide opportunities for children to grow and play, for families to spend time together, for our animals to roam and receive enrichment and so much more. As we reach out to build a sustainable workforce it is important to be able to demonstrate that Idaho has healthy and accessible public parks and recreation opportunities.

As a company with a commitment to restoring an abandoned mine site, we know how important maintenance and investment in our public lands is. For these reasons, and many more, we ask that you please share our support for your proposed budget during this legislative season.

Best,

Laurel Sayer
CEO & President,
Perpetua Resources



Treasure Valley Disc Golf Club supports allocating additional funding to the Idaho State Parks and Recreation budget to preserve, maintain, and expand the wonderful outdoor spaces our state has to offer.

-Treasure Valley Disc Golf Club