

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Update for the
Senate Resources & Environment Committee
Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Susan Buxton, Director



ABOUT IDPR . . .

- IDPR manages 30 state parks and a range of overnight stays and outdoor experiences
- IDPR manages registration programs for boats, snowmobiles and other off-highway vehicles (ATVs, dirt bikes and UTVs)
- IDPR maintains approximately 2,000 miles of motorized trails annually, helps maintain approximately 5,500 miles of snowmobile trails, and manages a small non-motorized trail program that provides groomed ski trails in several parks and outside Idaho City



ABOUT IDPR . . .

- IDPR is a dedicated fund agency, receiving about 95 percent of revenue from camping and entrance fees, annual passport, recreation registrations and grants
- IDPR has 190.80 FTEs – roughly one for every 40,000 visitors – compare to the National Park Service which has roughly one full-time employee for every 15,000 visitors
- IDPR awards an average of \$10 million in recreation grants annually



ADDRESSING DECADES OF DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

The \$160 million in capital investments in FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024 and FY 2025 went exclusively to deferred maintenance and facilities – **none of these funds can be used to pay any employees or operate parks or programs**

- IDPR operates more than 600 structures and facilities
- The State of Idaho has had parks since 1909



NEW RESERVATION AND REGISTRATION SYSTEM

IDPR launched the new system with Brandt on January 6, 2025. Brandt delivers technology to improve outdoor experiences in several states and Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

- The new system resembles modern reservation systems which adjust fees based on demand
- The new contract saves an estimated \$250,000
- Dynamic pricing increases revenue an estimated increase of \$500,000

Get Outdoors!

Reservations are available at 23 state parks in Idaho. Select a park or use the buttons below to find the perfect spot or facility.

Select Your Park ▾

CAMPING

LODGING DAY USE

ALL PARKS >

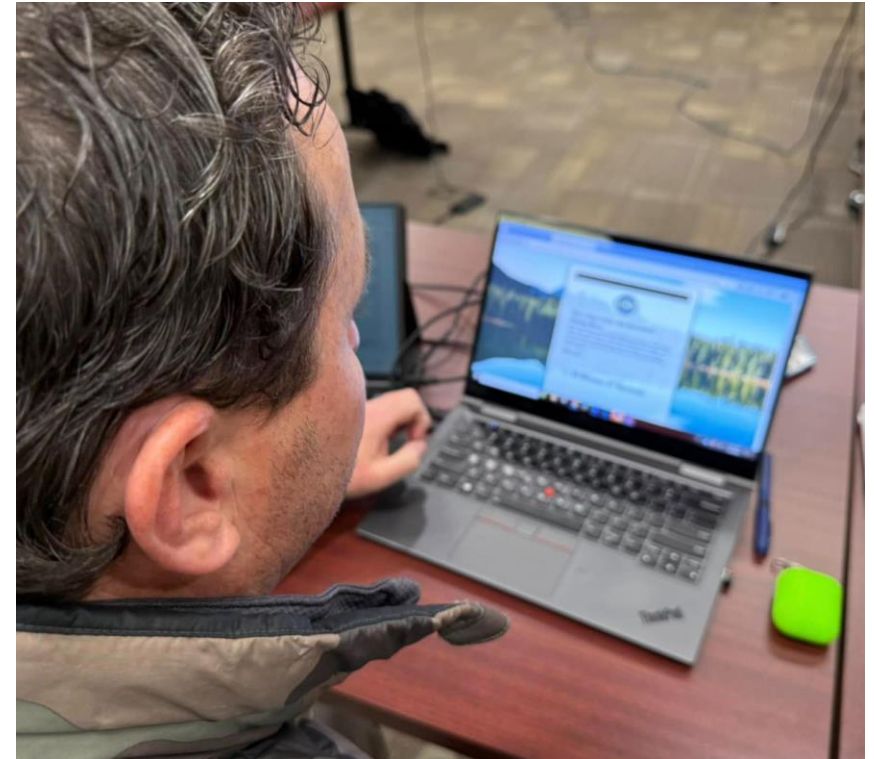
Reservations 1-888-922-6743
Our Reservation Desk is available
Daily 8am to 7pm Mon – Fri and
9am to 5pm Weekends (MST)



NEW RESERVATION AND REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Here are the numbers put through the new system from January 6, 2025 through February 4, 2025:

- Campsite nights reserved: 83,178
(2,480 campsites in system)
- Cabin nights reserved: 6,266
- Day use reservations: 22,828
- Vessel registrations: 45,406
- Permits sold (OHV, Snowmobile, etc.): 100,237



FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Department has a number of line-item requests in the proposed maintenance budget – all supported by dedicated funds or federal grants.

Additional Park Personnel - \$309,100

- Two park rangers for Eagle Island State Park and Harriman/Henrys Lake/Ashton-Tetonia Trail recreation areas
- Two housekeepers for Harriman and Castle Rocks State parks
- Senior maintenance craftsman at Farragut State Park



FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

Responsible OHV Use Campaign - \$100,000

- The number of OHV users in the state has increased along with reports of misuse of public and state lands, including damage caused by off-trail users and litter
- In FY 2024 and FY 2025, the Legislature appropriated one-time funds to develop a public awareness campaign, initial advertising, and airtime
- Funds requested for FY 2026 would provide ongoing support, airtime and social media for the campaign



FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

Bear Lake – Fish Haven Improvements - \$4,000,000

- In calendar year 2023, Bear Lake State Park had over 250,000 visitors. In March 2024, the department purchased 28 acres to expand the park in southeastern Idaho.
- This request is a one-time capital outlay for the development of a new day-use facility at the Bear Lake Fish Haven property. It will provide public access to the west side of the lake to help alleviate congestion created by current users at the north beach and east beach.



FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

Lake Cascade, Federal Grant - \$400,000

- Anticipated repairs include the replacement of two vault toilets, water system repairs, two dock sections on the water, and pavement repair.



FY 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

Replacement Items - \$2,463,000

- 200 vehicles support IDPR programs and on average have a 20-year life cycle which is 2 times the average vehicle life expectancy based on basic accounting standards. Most IDPR vehicles exceed an average of 123,000 miles and have an average age of more than 15 years (one vehicle purchased in 1974).
- Replacement items include 3 snowmobile trail groomers and related equipment, 14 vehicles (trucks, sport utility vehicles, utility terrain vehicles, a trail dozer, backhoe, and a tractor are among the replacement items).



IDPR GOALS

1. Address need for increased outdoor recreation capacity due to increased visitation
IDPR is adding 250 new campsites, 150 boat docks/slips, and 25 day-use areas statewide which will increase participation.
2. Maintain at least 2,000 miles of multiple-use trails annually
IDPR maintained more than 2,000 miles in FY 2024
3. Increase park revenue
In FY 2024, revenue increased 2.9%, meeting the goal of an average of a 3% increase a year



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