RECREATION ON IDAHO ENDOWMENT LANDS

Policy Framework and Cooperative Recreation Projects

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Why IDL exists: Idaho's endowment trust

The land was granted at statehood to provide permanent financial support for designated beneficiaries.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE

The State Land Board holds the endowment lands in trust. IDL manages them to maximize long-term financial returns to the designated beneficiaries.

- 2.5 million acres
- Revenue from timber, grazing, farming, minerals, real estate and other leases—*including recreation*.

NINE ENDOWMENT BENEFICIARIES

- **Public School Fund**, K-12 Education *(largest)*
- **Agricultural College Fund**, University of Idaho
- **Charitable Institutions Fund**, Idaho State University, State Juvenile Corrections Center, School for the Deaf and Blind, Idaho Veterans Home, and State Hospital North
- **Normal School Fund**, Idaho State University Department of Education and Lewis-Clark State College
- **Penitentiary Fund**
- **School of Science Fund**, University of Idaho
- **State Hospital South Fund**
- **University Fund**, University of Idaho
- **Capitol Permanent Fund**

The policy starts with the trust mandate

Recreation is a valued public use, one IDL supports. Here's how it remains compatible with the constitutional purpose of endowment land.

96%

of endowment land is accessible to the public

More than 2.5 million acres available for recreation

Restrictions on recreation

CONDITION 1

Degrade the land

Protect soil, vegetation, water, infrastructure and the productive capacity of endowment assets.

CONDITION 2

Interfere with management

Revenue-generating activities and safe land management retain priority.

CONDITION 3

Reduce long-term return

Recreation cannot negatively affect the trust's long-term financial performance.

Bottom line **IDL supports public recreation while protecting the beneficiaries' interests and the long-term value of the land.**

Who governs recreation on endowment land

A layered framework translates the trust mandate into consistent day-to-day management.

1 CONSTITUTION

Article IX, §8
Maximum long-term financial return to beneficiaries

2 LAND BOARD

Recreation Policy (2018)
Public access where consistent with fiduciary obligations

3 IDL POLICY 2205

Revised Nov. 10, 2025
Uniform management approach for recreational use

4 RULES + CODE

IDAPA 20.05.01 + Idaho Code §58-156
Closures, restrictions, notice and enforcement

Supporting mechanisms

PARTNERSHIP

IDFG Access Agreement

DEDICATED FUNDING

OHV / OSV funds

IMPLEMENTATION

Local agreements

What is ORFAC?

Outdoor Recreation Fund Advisory Council — a statewide initiative to expand recreation access.

PURPOSE & FUNDING

Created in 2023 by Governor Brad Little and the Legislature.

Recommends projects that expand outdoor recreation opportunities and access.

In 2023, the Legislature provided $5 million in initial funding for the council's work. In the 2024 session, the Legislature provided a second $5 million installment for distribution. Funding comes from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

GOOD FOR IDAHO

IDL, Idaho Parks and Recreation, and Idaho Fish and Game collaborate on projects.

Projects may include facilities, trails and access agreements.

The agencies are tasked to manage underused resources and explore long-term financial sustainability.

On endowment land, ORFAC projects must also support the trust mandate.

Fish and Game Access Agreement

A partnership that supports public wildlife-related recreation and compensates the endowment trust.

WHAT THE AGREEMENT DOES

IDL and Idaho Fish and Game partner to maintain access to approximately 2.5 million acres of accessible endowment land.

Funds from hunting and fishing licenses allow IDL to provide better access and to remediate areas damaged by unmanaged recreation.

Applies to hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife viewing and other allowed noncommercial recreation.

Posted closures and management restrictions still apply.

WHY IT MATTERS

Fish and Game provides financial support for recreation access, helping meet the trust's financial obligation.

Conservation-officer services also help with enforcement and protection of endowment lands.

License-related and federal funding help support the partnership.

A practical model: maintain public access while safeguarding trust assets.

How IDL’s recreation policy works on the ground

The policy gives IDL a consistent toolkit for managing access, impacts and partnerships.

OUTREACH

Community & stakeholder coordination

Advance notice, public communication and collaboration with local communities, user groups and adjacent landowners.

TRAILS + SIGNS

Guide use to the right places

Trail planning, standardized signs and consistent travel maps help users understand where and how recreation is allowed.

RESTRICTIONS

Use targeted closures when needed

Restrictions can protect public safety, land productivity, active management or areas suffering resource damage.

AUTHORIZATION

Permits and agreements

Organized, developed or commercial recreation is managed through leases, land-use permits or other agreements.

CAMPING

Designate where intensity requires it

The 2025 revision adds guidance for designated camping and campground/campsite development under authorization.

MITIGATION

Repair impacts and expand opportunity

OHV/OSV funds and project partnerships can address damage while creating more durable, managed recreation.

Current IDL–IDPR cooperative recreation portfolio

PROJECT	SCOPE	STATUS	TARGET	
Round Lake	2 modular cabins + site improvements	Construction	**Oct. 2026**	May 2027 public opening
Henrys Lake	Up to 5 full-service cabins + roads, utilities & trail	Design	**Oct. 2027**	State park expansion
East Fork Rock Creek	Designated hardened campsites	Design	**Oct. 2027**	Resource-damage mitigation
Rock Springs OHV	Managed OHV challenge course	Early planning	**TBD**	Public input underway

Projects: Expanding state park capacity

ENDOWMENT LAND ADJACENT TO ROUND LAKE

Round Lake State Park

CONSTRUCTION

Target: end of Oct. 2026

- 2 modular cabins
- Outhouse + hand-pump well
- Electricity and access improvements
- Cabins scheduled for public use in May 2027

ENDOWMENT LAND ADJACENT TO HENRYS LAKE

Henrys Lake State Park

DESIGN

Target: Oct. 2027

- Up to 5 full-service cabins
- Associated roads and parking
- Utility installation + hiking trail development
- Relocation of the park entrance kiosk

Projects: Managing impacts through partnership

NEAR ROCKLAND • MASSACRE ROCKS STATE PARK UNIT

East Fork Rock Creek

DESIGN

Target: Oct. 2027

- Area is currently closed to dispersed camping because of resource damage
- Project creates designated, hardened campsites
- Maintains camping opportunity while reducing future impacts
- Will be managed as a unit of Massacre Rocks State Park

ENDOWMENT LAND NEAR ATHOL

Rock Springs OHV Area

EARLY PLANNING

Timeline: TBD

- IDL, IDPR and user groups are developing terms for a temporary permit
- Proposed OHV challenge course responds to extensive unauthorized use
- Goal: reduce resource damage while providing a new managed recreation opportunity
- Public input is being gathered to identify issues before development

Eastern Idaho Grazing Association

An access-management approach for a working rangeland landscape in the Blackfoot Mountains.

THE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Recreation pressure creates challenges for travel management, habitat and working livestock operations.

The association sought ORFAC funding for travel management.

Project seeks to balance motorized access with the needs of lease paying livestock associations.

A COLLABORATIVE ACCESS MODEL

The association has worked with Idaho Fish and Game and Idaho Parks and Recreation to address impacts while keeping recreation accessible.

Its members also helped enroll 27,000 acres of private land in Access Yes! for hunting and angling access.

The goal: responsible public access compatible with grazing, habitat and land stewardship.

Expanding access while benefiting the trust

Managed recreation can create more opportunities for Idahoans and financial value for beneficiaries.

EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES

Partner on trails, campsites, cabins and other facilities where compatible with endowment management.

Responsibly grow the program: New Recreation Section Manager onboarding this month.

MANAGE IMPACTS

Direct use to appropriate areas, improve signage and access, and reduce resource damage and conflicts.

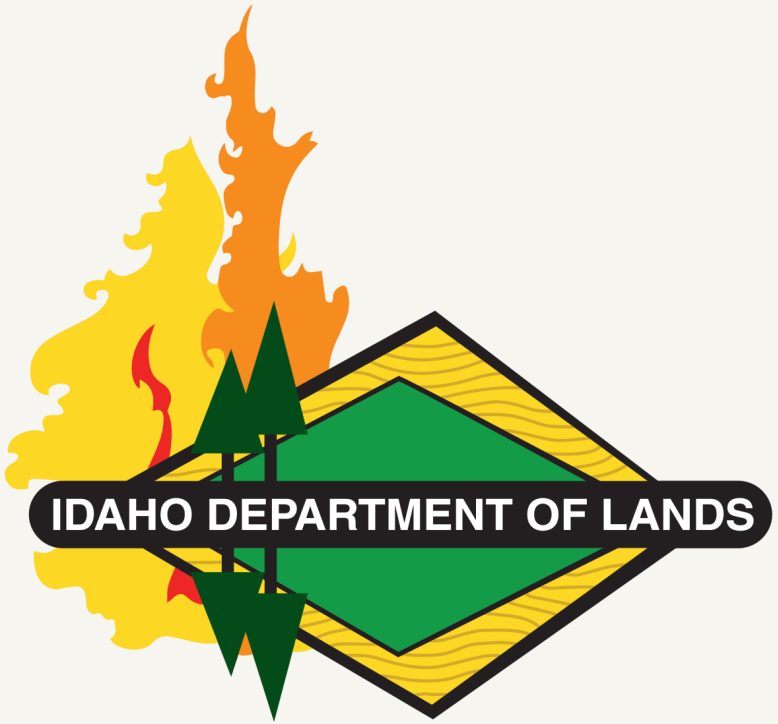
GENERATE RETURNS

Use authorized recreation leases, permits and partnerships to pursue long-term revenue for beneficiaries.

Example: OHV and snowmobile registrations generate dedicated funding to IDL. In FY2025:

- **$215,000** to OHV Fund
- **$71,000** went to Over Snow Vehicle Fund

The objective: more sustainable recreation access + stronger endowment performance.



Thank you!