

# IDAHO'S OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

The National Park Service requires a public review process for establishing criteria for LWCF grants. That process is called the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP). It is meant to assure that priorities identified in Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP) are included in the LWCF grant process. OPSP also recognizes local priorities. Priorities change over time, so it is important that states go through the OPSP process on a regular basis in conjunction with SCORP so that outdoor recreation grant criteria are in alignment with actual needs.

Review of proposed changes by the LWCF Advisory Committee, SCORP Steering Committee and State and Federal Aid Program staff is a part of that process.

## **Matching Ranking Criteria with Public Need**

The draft criteria for ranking Idaho's LWCF projects were created using a combination of public input and the expertise of a cross-section of outdoor recreation professionals. Our public input started with an opinion leader SWOT analysis to identify outdoor recreation issues and opportunities in Idaho. A facilitator conducted a focus group in six cities across Idaho with recreation professionals to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of outdoor recreation in Idaho.

IDPR then conducted a follow up survey with recreation providers to further understand the issues identified during the focus group sessions. In addition to these exercises, staff also conducted an informal survey of Idaho outdoor recreation participants. This online survey yielded more than 1900 responses, and helped inform the development of this plan.

## **Administering the Program Fairly**

In order to better serve the public and assure that grant money is administered more efficiently, State and Federal Aid Program staff at the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation recommended two changes in the Open Project Selection Process. The changes are:

- 1). Entities with unresolved Land and Water Conservation Fund conversion issues will not be considered for grants until those issues are resolved, unless the National Park Service negotiates a special condition on the original project agreement.
- 2). Projects will only be considered if they are primarily for use by the general public. Property must be readily accessible and open to the public during reasonable hours and times of the year.

# LWCF EVALUATION COMMITTEE PROJECT EVALUATION FORM

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please evaluate the project on the basis of the following criteria:

- 7-8 = Excellent or Extensive
- 5-6 = Good or Considerable
- 3-4 = Fair or Moderate
- 1-2 = Poor or Little
- 0 = None or Missing

A. Degree to which the project aligns with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, particularly Chapters 3 and 4.	
B. Degree to which the project benefits the general public and the facility is open and usable for outdoor recreation during reasonable hours.	
C. Degree to which the costs are reasonable, accurate and relate to an acceptable cost-to-benefit ratio.	
D. Degree to which the property and/or design is well planned and suited for the intended uses.	
E. Degree to which the facility will encourage universal accessibility beyond minimum requirements.	
F. Degree to which the applicant has demonstrated a financial commitment for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the site. (Is there a maintenance budget and/or impact statement for 3-5 years of commitment?)	
G. Degree to which the applicant understands environmental issues and will take action to mitigate any concerns for potential resource damage or health and safety matters.	
H. Degree to which the project creates new or improved recreational opportunities supported by the community.	
I. Degree to which project is reflected as a user need in a current agency plan (this could include a city master plan, local parks and recreation master plan, or county comprehensive plan.)	
J. Degree to which the project brings outdoor recreation activities closer to users and/or underserved demographics.	
K. Degree to which the applicant demonstrates public outreach to sufficiently identify community needs. (Excellent or extensive scores should be reserved for projects that include either statistically valid surveys or public meetings specific to the project.)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Do you feel that this project meets the criteria and general quality necessary to merit approval by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: