

Minutes of the 8/14/07 Boise Meeting of the Idaho Recreation and
Tourism Initiative Steering Group

Attendance: Mike Keckler, IDFG
Carl Wilgus, IDOC
Megan Laxalt, F&WS
Jack Lavin, IRTI
Steve Frost, IDPR
Anne Chambers, IRVCA
Troy Elmore, IDPR
Ron Gardner, IDOC
Larry Ridenour, BLM
Dave Olson, USFS
Andy Brunelle, USFS
Jim Keller, USFS
Garry Young, ITD
Jeremy Chase, ES Drake
Rick Just, IDPR
Sara Focht, IDFG
Vicki Lawson
Dean Sangrey, IDPR
Terry Heslin, BLM
Jenn Wernex, IDPR

Progress on IRTI Operating Plan projects:

- Outfitter & Guide Data Base. The project will move from the development mode to the maintenance mode by late fall 2007. The site address is:
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/ioglb/start.aspx>
- OHV Work Group. The fall public outreach campaign will be 9/10 - 10/10/07. The theme is "Stay on the Trail". Numerous radio PSAs and 57 billboards will be used. The OHV website is <http://www.idahoohv.org>
- The 2007 Governor's Conference on Recreation & Tourism was held at the Casino Resort in Worley on 5/9-10/07. 265 people registered. The 2008 conference will be 5/7-8/07 in Pocatello. The theme is Geo-Tourism in cooperation with National Geographic. The first planning meeting will be held 11am - 12:30pm, 9/5/07 at the Pocatello Chamber of Commerce Office. Agency reps are invited to participate on the planning committee.
- Free Fishing Day. There were about 25 events held around the State on 6/9/07. The 2008 date is June 7th.
- Public Information Systems. The new www.visitid.org website was launched on 4/6/07. The new Scenic Byway website is up and running and work on the feasibility study for an online Idaho Access Guide was completed.
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Rec/Tourism Plan. The most recent update is still in the Seattle Office of the National Park Service awaiting approval.

- Watchable Wildlife. Sara reported that 12 viewing sites received about \$28000 to improve existing features. The Committee is working on a "Connecting Children with Nature" initiative.
- Scenic Byways. 50,000 additional copies of the new brochure will be printed. The next meeting of the SB Committee will be 9/13/07.
- Campground Directory. Anne Chambers said 155,000 copies of the directories would be mailed out by mid October 2007.
- Updating the Idaho Access Guide. E.S. Drake completed a feasibility study of a website replacing the hard copy. Steve Frost expressed his interest in having maps showing all trails where motorized use is permitted. Steve will follow up in more detail with the OHV committee.

Public Information on the status of large wildfires - Dave Olson & Ron Gardner. Dave discussed the current wildfire situation in SW Idaho and of the FS effort to keep the public informed. Information for the Boise, Payette, Sawtooth & Challis National Forests can be found on <http://www.fs.fed.us/idahofires> Info for all Idaho fires can be found on www.inciweb.org

FY08 IRTI Budget. The budget was distributed and a copy given to all IRTI partners.

FY 2007 IRTI Accomplishment Report. Lavin requested that reports be sent to him by 9/1/07.

Lavin replacement. Vicky Lawson will replace Lavin as IRTI Program Coordinator on October 1, 2007. Welcome aboard Vicky Jo.

Next Meeting: 12/4/07, 9am - 1pm, Summit Room, State Parks Headquarters, Boise.