

Executive Summary



SCORTP Goals and Objectives

Introduction

A SCORTP is meant to reflect the current state of outdoor recreation in Idaho, report the public's perceived needs and give outdoor recreation providers an opportunity to respond to those needs by working toward a set of goals and objectives.

The goals and objectives of the 2013-2017 Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan (SCORTP) 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 visited each of Idaho's six regions and worked with elected officials and local recreation professionals to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of outdoor recreation in Idaho.

Using the ranked results from the SWOT analysis as a starting point IDPR developed a web-based public participation tool to allow any citizen to vote up or down on ideas generated from the SWOT analysis, as well as propose ideas of their own.

Public input continued with the development of a survey to gauge the importance of outdoor recreation issues identified in the SWOT analysis and using the public web tool. That survey was sent to randomly selected Idahoans 18 or over. There were 488 respondents, giving us ranked results which appear in the Open Projects Selection Process section of this plan.

The SCORTP Steering Committee, a group of state, federal and local outdoor recreation professionals, took the rankings and developed goal and objective statements that would address the issues that at least two-thirds of survey respondents listed as important or very important.

And Funding Runs Through It

When the public identified needs, they often mentioned that funding was not adequately meeting those needs. Even when funding was not specifically mentioned, it is an implied component of meeting needs. Without adequate funding all of the goals and objectives of SCORTP will suffer.

For that reason, the SCORTP Steering Committee added the funding goal at the beginning of the list.

Funding for outdoor recreation should align with demand

- Develop new opportunities for public involvement through electronic means to better identify outdoor recreation needs
- Create a funding workgroup consisting of IRTI and IRPA representatives to explore potential funding solutions at all governmental levels
- Work with IRPA, cities, counties, NGOs and interested constituency groups to develop a STORE funding package for presentation to the Idaho Legislature
- Work with Idaho's Congressional Delegation to rebuild funding for community recreation
- Recognizing the success of motorized recreationists, build consensus among non-motorized recreationists to identify funding sources for development, maintenance and management of outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands to meet their needs
- Using the Idaho Department of Commerce Voluntourism website as an example, develop multi-agency volunteer recruitment vehicles to make it easier to volunteer on public lands

Quality water is key to recreation and tourism in Idaho

- Protect water quality
- Educate recreationists in water saving techniques and in how to protect the resource
- Fund the renovation and construction of RV dump stations where needed
- Provide marine pump-out stations and SCAT machines to address waste issues in remote areas
- Design facilities to decrease runoff and leaching throughout their lifecycle
- Implement water saving techniques in planning and design
- Continue to operate outdoor recreation facilities in compliance with state and federal water quality regulations
- Expand the availability of water recreation resources
- Assure that agency consumptive water rights are legally protected
- Encourage minimum stream flows for recreation, aesthetics and species protection
- Encourage the acquisition of wetlands as an alternative in settling LWCF conversions

Coordinated development and delivery of environmental and outdoor recreation education enhances its effectiveness

- Recognize the importance Idahoans place on environmental and outdoor recreation education by focusing agency resources to better provide it
- Utilize IRTI as a coordinating vehicle
- Continue the effective Stay on Trails campaign
- Support the Idaho Environmental Literacy Plan
- Develop appropriate messages to promote outdoor recreation ethics

- Identify funding sources for safety and user ethics education efforts for non-motorized outdoor recreation activities
- Work with NGOs and corporations to develop joint education campaigns for the benefit of public and private land managers
- Work with health care and health information providers to promote awareness of the health benefits of outdoor recreation

Outdoor recreation adds economic, health and social value to local communities

- Develop recreational opportunities for under-served communities such as senior citizens and ethnic minorities
- Develop access to motorized and non-motorized trails in and near communities
- Assure that communities have parks within walking distance of every citizen
- Develop connecting trails between communities
- Develop connecting trails between communities and recreation opportunities
- Develop viable human-powered transportation systems
- Encourage community gardens
- Encourage the inclusion of open space in community planning
- Promote the role of local park and recreation amenities in providing tourism opportunities
- Encourage healthy living when planning and implementing outdoor recreation programs and developing facilities
- Develop stronger partnerships between outdoor recreation providers and public health agencies
- Encourage the rehabilitation and renovation of existing outdoor facilities

Informed recreationists reduce the spread of invasive species on public lands and scenic byways

- Support the invasive species inspection program
- Support the Idaho Weed Awareness Program
- Promote the use of local or approved firewood
- Promote the use of weed-free hay
- Promote the sustainable solutions to weed control such as the use of goats and natural enemies of weeds

Public land managers should work with outdoor recreation interests to develop local solutions that protect endangered species

- There were no further objectives identified for this goal statement. The steering committee felt that it stood well enough on its own.

Assure that outdoor recreation is accessible to every citizen

- Pursue the acquisition, preservation and development of urban open space, parks, trails and corridors
- Encourage community goals that help create close-to-home, everyday recreation opportunities
- Support continued funding for Idaho Fish and Game’s “Access Yes!” program
- Strengthen partnerships with the Idaho Association of Counties and the Association of Idaho Cities so that access issues are considered in comprehensive planning
- Encourage responsible behavior that will assure continued access to public lands and facilities
- Enhance access by providing appropriate signing, maps, websites and other information dissemination methods in keeping with advancing technologies
- Maintain the Trails Idaho internet tool and seek ways to enhance it with the inclusion of additional information on outdoor recreation of all types
- Recognize that there are limits on the number of recreationists and types of recreation our finite public lands can accommodate and still offer a quality experience
- Develop a web-based toolkit for elected officials, planners and community activists.
Resource tools could include:
 - How to form a recreation district
 - How to secure conservation and recreation access easements
 - Best practices for planners
 - Acquisition of development rights
 - Developing planning and zoning ordinances
 - Applying for grants

Implementation

Annual Review and Reporting

Idaho's SCORTP plan is a method of informing outdoor recreation professionals of the needs of recreationists they serve. Those needs are continuously evolving so it is important for providers to keep abreast of the changes. It is also important for outdoor recreation providers to self evaluate in order to gauge how well they are meeting needs.

Rather than creating a new forum for evaluation of outdoor recreation needs and determining ways to meet them, the Idaho SCORTP Steering Committee has chosen to rely on an organization with a 23-year track record of bringing innovation to outdoor recreation in Idaho. The Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative (IRTI) pioneered formalized cooperation between outdoor recreation providers in 1989. Participating agencies and organizations are signatories of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the purpose of which is to document a framework that will allow the parties to work cooperatively in the attainment of recreation and tourism goals (see Appendix D).

During the first quarterly meeting of the IRTI each year, the steering committee will review the SCORTP Goals and Objectives. Prior to the meeting each agency and organization representative will be asked to come prepared to share their agency's SCORTP goal-related accomplishments from the previous year.

The designated SCORTP planner will compile the accomplishments into an annual report that will be posted on the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation website <http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/about-parks-recreation> (select Planning and Statistics from left hand menu) and delivered to the National Park Service office in Seattle.

Approval of Grant Criteria

The LWCF grant criteria and rating form described in the Open Project Selection Process section of this plan has been approved by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board and will be used in rating LWFC grants beginning with the 2013 grant cycle. LWCF grant applications will be partially scored on the projects' alignment with the SCORTP, notably the goals and objectives outlined in this section of the plan, as well as correlation with outdoor recreation demand (for long term national projections see p. 128), Idaho participation rates (p. 153) and trends (p. 287).