ONE OF IDAHO’S BEST INVESTMENTS

STATE PARKS AND RECREATION CREATE VITALITY

7.5 MILLION VISITORS IN 2021 & 2020 (yearly average)

$1.2 BILLION IMPACT EACH YEAR

IN 2020, STATE PARKS & RECREATION CONTRIBUTED $1.2 BILLION TO IDAHO’S ECONOMY THROUGH CAMPING AND DAY USE (7.7 MILLION GUESTS) AND THROUGH RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS OVERSEEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.

STATE PARKS AND RECREATION CREATE VITALITY

Our recreational programs boost Idaho’s economy

The economic benefit generated by the boat, snowmobile, off-highway vehicle, and motorbike programs run by the department. EVERY YEAR!

$1 BILLION

IDaho state parks create employment

3,435 JOBS

The impact of the state parks largely benefits rural areas in Idaho, according to a Boise State University Study.

$200 MILLION

STATE PARKS ARE AN INCREDIBLE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

1 INVESTED = 61 RETURNED

For every $1 in tax money going to Idaho parks & rec... ...$61 in economic activity results

Parks and rec receives about $3.5 million in taxpayer support each year.

BUT... our parks face significant challenges...

- Despite a record number of visitors to parks in 2020 AND 2021, the department has three fewer employees than it did in 2008, when nearly half as many guests came.
  - Today, one staffer for every 48,435 guests
  - Fourteen years ago, the ratio was one for every 26,198 visitors.
- A $75 million backlog in maintenance means visitors can experience:
  - Faulty water wells,
  - Closed restrooms,
  - And out-of-service bridges, buildings and facilities.
When visitors come to Idaho's state parks, they buy gas, food, souvenirs, sporting goods, lodging, and much more in Idaho's rural cities and counties, bringing more than $184 million to Idaho's economy annually. That's a pretty incredible investment considering taxpayers only spend $3.5 million of the state's general fund on their state parks.

Provide an invaluable economic return on a modest investment, especially in rural cities.

And offer affordable, close by, and healthy opportunities for family fun in the most beautiful landscapes that our great state has to offer.