

IDAPA RULE IDAPA FEE BOARD ACTION REQUIRED
 BOARD POLICY INFO ONLY, NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM
Idaho Park and Recreation Quarterly Meeting
December 12, 2024
Boise, ID 83716

AGENDA ITEM: Outdoor Recreation Fund Advisory Council (ORFAC)

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval of Proposed Projects

PRESENTER: Susan E. Buxton, Director

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Executive Order 2023-03 was signed by Governor Little to establish an Outdoor Recreation Fund Advisory Council, otherwise known as ORFAC.

Senate Bill 1383 (FY2025) added \$5 million to ORFAC utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, currently appropriated in IDPR’s budget. ARPA funds are required to be obligated by December 31, 2024, and, all work associated with the grant must be expended by December 31, 2026.¹ Time is of the essence for awarding projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends the following grant projects be funded and obligated by December 31, 2024.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Winchester Lake Dam | <i>Proposed Capital Funding:</i> \$500,000 |
| Staff recommends approval of this grant to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. | |
| 2. Ponderosa State Park, Kokanee Cove | <i>Proposed Capital Funding:</i> \$1,200,000 |
| Staff recommends approval of this grant to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. | |
| 3. Round Lake State Park | <i>Proposed Capital Funding:</i> \$850,000 |
| Staff recommends approval of this grant to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. | |
| 4. Horsethief Reservoir Supplemental | <i>Proposed Capital Funding:</i> \$1,500,000 |
| Staff recommends approval of this supplemental grant to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. | |
| 5. Falls Creek Road | <i>Proposed Capital Funding:</i> \$50,000 |
| Staff recommends approval of this grant to Boundary County. | |
| 6. Sawtooth Wilderness Trails | <i>Proposed Capital Funding:</i> \$8,500 |
| Staff recommends approval of this grant to Idaho Trails Association. | |
| 7. Frank Church River of No Return Trails | <i>Proposed Capital Funding:</i> \$17,000 |
| Staff recommends approval of this grant to Idaho Trails Association | |
| 8. Rinker Rock Creek Ranch | <i>Proposed Capital Funding:</i> \$88,000 |
| Staff recommends approval of this grant to the Wood River Land Trust | |

¹ The US Department of Treasury Compliance and Reporting Guidance, October 15, 2024, Part 1 Section 2.

9. **Canal Dredging at Twin Lakes** *Proposed Capital Funding:* \$74,000
Staff recommends approval of this grant to Phase II Canal Twin Lakes Inc.
10. **Wood River Community Trail Infrastructure** *Proposed Capital Funding:* \$20,000
Staff recommends approval of this grant to Wood River Trails Coalition.
11. **Pine Street Sled Hill** *Proposed Capital Funding:* \$234,296
Staff recommends approval of this grant to Kaniksu Land Trust.
12. **Pend Oreille Lake and River Story Mapping** *Proposed Capital Funding:* \$60,350
Staff recommends approval of this grant to Bonner County Historical Society, Inc.
13. **University of Idaho Experimental Forest** *Proposed Capital Funding:* \$357,000
Staff recommends approval of this grant to the University of Idaho Experimental Forest.
14. **ADA Kayak and Canoe Launch** *Proposed Capital Funding:* \$8,152
Staff recommends approval of this grant to the City of Glens Ferry.

Staff further recommends that any projects that do not meet the eligible timeframe conditions by any of the applicants, the IDPR Director, shall have the authority to reclassify any and all unused amount of funding to eligible projects that have incurred obligations by December 31, 2024.²

SUMMARY TABLES

#	State Agency Projects	Recommended Amount
1	Winchester Lake Dam	\$500,000
2	Ponderosa State Park, Kokanee Cove	\$1,200,000
3	Round Lake State Park	\$850,000
4	Horsethief Reservoir, Supplemental	\$1,500,000
	State Agency Projects Summary	\$4,050,000

#	Non State Agency Projects	Recommended Amount
5	Falls Creek Road	\$50,000
6	Sawtooth Wilderness Trails	\$8,500
7	Frank Church River of No Return Trails	\$17,000
8	Rinker Rock Creek Ranch	\$88,000
9	Canal Dredging at Twin Lakes	\$74,000
10	Wood River Valley Trail Infrastructure	\$20,000
11	Pine Street Sled Hill	\$234,296
12	Pend Oreille Lake and River Story Mapping	\$60,350
13	Experimental Forest, University of Idaho	\$357,000
14	ADA Kayak and Canoe Launch at Eddie Bostic Recreation Area	\$8,152
	Non State Agency Projects Summary	\$917,298

Remaining Balance if all projects were awarded: \$32,702

Attachments:
December 2, 2024 Governor Little Letter
Example Notification Letter (To be issued contingent on Board approval)
ORFAC Application Instructions
Applications

² US Department of Treasury FAQ, March 29, 2024, Section 17.19.

DECEMBER 2, 2024 GOVERNOR LITTLE LETTER



Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-2100 :: gov.idaho.gov

December 2, 2024

Idaho Parks and Recreation Board
5657 Warm Springs Avenue
Boise, ID 93716

RE: Outdoor Recreation Fund Advisory Council Recommendations

Dear Chairman Beckley,

The Idaho Outdoor Recreation Fund Advisory Council (ORFAC) has submitted another round of project recommendations to fulfill the mission laid out in Executive Order 2023-03, which largely focuses on expanding and enhancing Idaho's outdoor recreational opportunities and long-term success. Per Executive Order 2023-03, I am providing my comments on the following projects that have been recommended by ORFAC for the board's consideration.

Out of 40 projects submitted from across the state, ORFAC has recommended 14 applications for full or partial funding. The Parks and Recreation Board has \$10 million allocated for ORFAC projects, \$5 million of which is federal funding with certain restrictions on expenditures, an allocation deadline of December 31, 2024, as well as a completion deadline of December 31, 2026. Given the time sensitivity surrounding the approval process, I concur with the following ORFAC recommendations:

- Winchester Lake Dam
- Kokanee Cove
- Sawtooth Wilderness trail work
- Salmon Challis trail work
- UI Rinker Rock Ranch
- Phase II Canal Twin Lakes
- Wood River Trails Coalition
- Pine Street Sled Hill
- Priest Lake and Lake Pend Oreille dock and light repairs
- UI Experimental Forest
- Glens Ferry Boat Docks



Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-2100 :: gov.idaho.gov

With my approval, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation must ensure any projects receiving federal funding fall within the necessary guidelines, and sufficient outreach has been conducted with any stakeholders who will be impacted by the projects.

I further concur with the following project proposals on state endowment land, so long as the projects are reviewed by Land Board staff.

- Falls Creek Road
- Round Lake State Park tree houses

I abstain from any recommendation regarding the Horsethief Reservoir project as my family is an adjacent landowner to the recommended property.

I am pleased the overall number of proposed projects doubled and ORFAC was able to recommend eight projects in north Idaho, which had no proposals submitted during the initial application process. The enhanced outreach and collaboration among all agencies involved will help expand outdoor recreation opportunities for all Idahoans as our state continues to grow.

Sincerely,

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

EXAMPLE AWARD LETTER



State of Idaho

Department of Parks and Recreation

BRAD LITTLE
Governor

SUSAN E. BUXTON
Director

Idaho Park and Recreation Board

Brian Beckley, Chair - District 3 | Chuck Roady - District 1 | Hugh Cooke - District 2 | Jim Keating - District 4 | Amy Manning - District 5 | Cortney Liddiard - District 6

December 13, 2024

APPLICANT NAME & ADDRESS HERE

Dear APPLICANT,

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Idaho Park and Recreation Board has approved funding for the **[Insert Project Name]** in the amount of **[\$Insert Amount]**. This latest round of funding comes from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which carries firm obligation deadlines by December 31, 2024. Please submit a copy of your written, fully executed contract for the above project to:

Kathy Muir, Grant Manager
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
5657 Warm Springs Ave.
Boise, ID 83716-8700

A copy of the written contract must be received by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation no later than 4:00pm January 17th, 2025. If a copy of a contract is not received by that date and time, the grant will be considered unobligated and not in compliance with the ARPA deadlines.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan E. Buxton".

Susan E. Buxton
Director

ORFAC APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

What is the Recreation Fund Council?

The Idaho Outdoor Recreation Fund Advisory Council was  **created** by Gov. Brad Little and the Idaho Legislature to recommend projects to expand outdoor recreation or access to it in Idaho. Examples could include expansion of recreational facilities (parks, trails, boating, etc.) or agreements to gain entry to new areas for public recreation.

The Legislature in early 2023 **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.

The Council will meet on Oct. 25, 2024 to consider the latest round of project applications.

Funding for this round of projects comes from the American Rescue Plan Act, which carries firm timelines for any funds to be obligated and spent. **Projects must be under contract by the end of 2024 and completed before the end of 2026.**

Gov. Little's executive order creating the council targets "opportunities for camping, fishing, hunting, accessing trails and other outdoor pursuits" for potential projects. IDPR, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Idaho Department of Lands are charged to work cooperatively to propose projects, manage under-utilized resources and monetize outdoor recreation for long-term sustainability.

About the Council

Council members are:

- Tom Schultz, Council Chair
- Susan Buxton, Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
- Jim Fredericks, Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Dustin Miller, Director, Idaho Department of Lands
- James Petzke, Representative, Idaho Legislature, District 21, Seat A
- Gretchen Hyde, Director, Rangeland Resources Commission
- Mark Pratt, Idaho Cattle Association
- Kari Kostka, The Nature Conservancy
- Benn Brocksome, Idaho Sportsmen
- Dave Lent, Senator, Idaho Legislature, District 33
- Laurel Sayer, President, Perpetua Resources
- Sandra Mitchell, Idaho State Snowmobile Association
- Seth Griggs, Idaho Association of Counties

For more information about the Council and its work, contact ORFAC Coordinator Skylar Jett at skylarjett13@gmail.com or at 208-599-3264.