



IRTI STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 2, 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Summit Room, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Headquarters
5657 Warm Springs Avenue, Boise, ID

In Attendance, Matt Volle, Ken Knoch, Jennifer Okerlund, Danelle Highfill, Robin Fehlau, Andy Brunelle, Anne Chambers, Rick Just

FY 2015 Budget

Rick passed out draft budgets for 2015 and encouraged all who attended to check with their agencies to see what level of participation they would support for next year. Early indications are that we'll see a level of support similar to last year. **Danelle** reported that Forest Service support would be slightly reduced because the Nez Perce/Clearwater has been participating as two forests. They are now combined and will participate as a single forest. She also said the Forest Service was eager to hear **Jake Howard's** plans regarding the O & G GIS project.

OHV Travel Management and *Stay on Trails* campaign

Jennifer reported that the OHV grant IDPR applied for is at the top of the list of recommendations of the OHV Advisory Committee. The Idaho Park and Recreation Board will review and approve grants for the coming year in May. It's likely this one will be approved, which is especially good news. The grant request was not approved the past two years. Meanwhile, the focus of the campaign will be freshened up with some new messages, probably this fall. **Andy** wanted to make all agencies aware of an OHV training opportunity in May. See attached.

Idaho Campground Directory

Anne distributed some terrific information about the impact RVers have on the economy. That info is attached.

Be Outside Idaho

Jennifer reported that UnPlug and Be Outside Week is April 19 through 26th in Treasure Valley, and May 3-10 in Idaho Falls. The group has had great success in getting flyers into student backpacks the last couple of years. That leads to increased participation. REI has donated a couple of \$100 backpacks this year for a drawing.

The Be Outside group is putting together a plan to hire a part-time coordinator for the initiative. They are hoping to work with BSU to find a grad student who might have 10 hours a week to manage the program and receive internship credits. Ideally, the position would turn over about every two years.

New and Continuing Business

Friends of Idaho State Parks

Rick reported that the Friends of Idaho State Parks now has six board members and will be seeking about three more, preferably with business connections. The group has requested a Governor's Task Force on State Parks Funding. Stephen Goodson, special assistant for natural resources in the governor's office, says they will be discussing it now that the legislative session is over.

Foote House Project

As an FYI, **Rick** reported that he is involved in a local working group that is trying to improve interpretation of the Arthur Foote and Mary Hallock Foote home site. Arthur was the engineer that designed the canal system in the Boise valley and Mary was a well-known writer and illustrator in the late 19th century. Their story, fictionalized, was told in the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Angle of Repose*, by Wallace Stegner. The home site is on Army Corp of Engineers property across from the Discovery Unit of Lucky Peak State Park. The group is working closely with Corps and will likely approach IDPR about some ancillary interpretive materials in the park.

REI

Rick contacted REI regarding an opportunity to supply agency material for their information center in Boise. REI is happy to display relevant information about outdoor recreation opportunities. They were particularly interested in the RV Campground Directory. **Anne** will make sure they have plenty of those.

SORP Conference

IRTI Steering Committee members **Robin Fehlau** and **Krystal Clair** will be attending the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals conference in San Francisco in May. **Rick** will be doing a session on the success of IRTI at that conference.

Agency Updates and Upcoming Events

Agriculture

Matt reported that Ag is ramping up boat inspections for the season, with 8 already open with the remainder to open in May. There is confirmation that Lake Powell has quagga mussels. This is of special concern because many southern Idaho boaters recreate there. In response, southern Idaho inspection stations will be open all daylight hours this year in an order to inspect boaters who may be headed home

after a full day of recreation. The stations have found three infected boats already this year.

Kayakers and rafters have been resistant to or unaware of inspection requirements for their boats. They are required to stop for inspections, and in fact their craft may harbor veligers (microscopic larva) in a variety of challenging spaces, often requiring more intensive decontamination.

Matt passed out a five-year program review that also contains information about recreation patterns that will be of interest to many. It can be found at [here](#).

Parks and Recreation

According to **Jenn**, the Idaho State Parks Passport brought in an additional \$1.3 million last year. While that is good, most of it was eaten up by increase salary and benefit costs. The program is seeing between a 13% and 17% increase in sales so far this year.

Forest Service

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the Forest Service is working with the Boise airport to provide messages for their digital displays throughout the facility, and a centrally located physical display, according to **Andy**.

BLM

Robin reported that the BLM is working on improvements to the Bruneau Canyon Overlook to celebrate the Wilderness Act anniversary. The overlook itself is not in wilderness, but provides breathtaking views of the canyon. They are hoping to make the new overlook ADA accessible.

As you may have heard in the news, there are a couple of people trying to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Evil Knievel's attempt to jump the Snake River Canyon. One potential jumper has applied for a special use permit with BLM for staging on one side of the canyon. They are likely to issue that permit.

The city of Ketchum is proposing a whitewater park and will be seeking an RP&P agreement with BLM. It will probably be at least a couple of years before anything is open to the public.

IRPA

The IRPA conference will be held at the Canyon Springs Inn, Twin Falls, from September 21-24. **Ken** encouraged IRTI members to participate. **Rick** indicated he would be happy to attend, make materials available, and present, if the conference committee like. Meanwhile, **Ken** has been encouraging communities around the state to post activities and events to the tourism database, which flows into a variety of websites.

Transportation

Maureen Greshom has left ITD to take a position with the Ada County Highway District. **Ted Vanegas** will be the new IRTI representative for the agency.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the IRTI Steering Committee will take place from 1:30 to 4:30, Wednesday, August 20 at IDPR HQ.

4:00 **Set date/location for next meeting**

4:30 **Adjourn**