



**30 YEARS OF RECREATION
IN THE STATE OF IDAHO**

*Created in 1988-1989,
IRTI is an enduring coalition
of state and federal agencies
and non-profit organizations
working together to provide
Idaho citizens and visitors
with statewide recreation
opportunities.*

IRTI STATUS UPDATE - 5/08/2019

The Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative (IRTI) is a coalition of state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations that work together to provide Idaho citizens and visitors with statewide recreation opportunities. IRTI develops partnerships and collaborates with interested agencies, organizations, groups, and individuals to improve public information, services and projects associated with recreation and tourism opportunities in Idaho through partnerships and collaboration. IRTI is a coordinating body for Idaho recreation and tourism projects, with the end goal of effective and enhanced opportunities for citizens and visitors to use and enjoy outdoor recreation in the State of Idaho. The IRTI Steering Committee for IRTI meets quarterly regarding projects that are funded on an annual basis by IRTI partners. The IRTI Steering Committee is comprised of the following signatories to an MOU that expires in 2022: BLM, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Commerce (Tourism), and the Idaho Transportation Department; and Idaho Recreation and Parks Association, and the Idaho RV Campground Owners Association. There are other IRTI partners that contribute, but are not included in the MOU, that participate in and assist with projects as needed.

IRTI objectives and performance goals benefit and enhance public use and enjoyment through planning, coordination, and execution of projects. The following collaborative IRTI projects have been successfully completed and are in progress, totaling \$253,190 in collective funds through July, 2019:

- Signatory agencies on the IRTI MOU: Budget signed and approved
- Steering Committee meetings held as scheduled for FY2018-2019
- Steering Committee minutes and agendas disseminated
- Annual work plan coordination, communication, organization and promotion
- IRTI communications conducted (partners, grantors, grantees, administrators)
- Annual SF425 financial report completed (IDPR)
- Publication of the Idaho RV Campground Directory
- Idaho State Watchable Wildlife Program activities, including progress on four new Idaho Statewide Birding Trail map/guides, interpretive signage, and a wildlife viewing blind; as well as successful operation again of Bird by Bird Idaho program in over 14 schools statewide
- Be Outside Idaho: administration of grants program for Idaho schools, government agencies, and non-profit organizations that encourage youth and families to get outdoors, through projects that focus on outdoor recreation and natural resource education. A revised grant cycle was publicly disseminated (see poster)
- Administration of Free Fishing Day in Idaho
- Annual Idaho Conference on Recreation and Tourism - assistance for ICORT/GCORT coordination among Idaho Department of Commerce and IRTI
- Administration of non-motorized trail maintenance and annual support for responsible trails use and OHV rider behavior
- Compilation of historic information about IRTI since its inception in 1988-89
- IRTI history report to be combined with annual reports: in progress; IRTI partners contributed information and historic documents
- Assistance to statewide visitor centers, event support, and public education efforts on behalf of all IRTI partners

We anticipate IRTI will continue to operate throughout the fiscal year 2019 with strong commitments from all partners to the projects and ancillary endeavors.



BE OUTSIDE

IDAHO CHILDREN IN NATURE

Be Outside, Idaho is a coalition of over 100 diverse organizations that collaborate and share resources to help address ‘nature deficit disorder’ and connect Idaho’s youth to the outdoors.

The Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative (IRTI), a coalition of state and federal agencies working with non-profit groups to promote recreation and tourism opportunities, is changing its Be Outside Idaho grant cycle for 2019-2020.

Be Outside Idaho grants, funded by IRTI partners, are awarded to Idaho schools, government entities, and non-profit organizations that encourage youth and their families to get outdoors, including projects that focus on outdoor recreation and natural resource education.

Key dates will be:

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| • August 26, 2019 | Grant application period announcement |
| • September 30, 2019 | Application deadline |
| • October 10, 2019 | Grant award notification |
| • Nov 2019-July 2020 | Project implementation |
| • July 17, 2020 | Grant Reports due |

Be Outside Idaho grant recipients completed impressive projects statewide for the 2018-2019 period, such as the **Wood River Middle School Outdoor Program** to ensure outdoor learning and adventure programs for students of diversity and low-income families; **Duck Valley Reservation’s “American Conservation Experience”** outdoor equipment and first aid kits; **Lewiston’s Idaho State Juvenile Corrections trail construction project**; Meridian Parks and Recreation’s annual **“Unplug and Be Outside”** week; Meridian Middle School **Ambassador youth leader training at the YMCA Horsethief Reservoir camp**; and a Friends of Idaho State Parks naturalist for the week-long **“Writers at Harriman”** writing camp at Harriman State Park. IRTI looks forward to supporting more outdoor and natural resource education projects.

For more information about IRTI, contact meggan@studiompublications.com
www.beoutsideidaho.gov