

July 1st, 2021
Volume 1, Issue 1

THE LUCKY POST

Your leader in park updates and ponderings

PARK UPDATES

2021 has presented some real challenges for water managers at Lucky Peak State Park. Snow pack levels in February were near 100% of normal, but warm weather and lack of precipitation resulted in severe drought conditions. The extremely hot summer has put even more strain on the water system.

US Army Corps of Engineers hydrologists project lake levels to be near full by July 3, 2021. Lake levels will then start dropping at approximately 1.5 vertical feet per day by July 20, 2021. That drop rate will continue through the summer.

Information on lake levels can be found at: [Hydromet Pacific Northwest Region | Bureau of Reclamation](#). Below are **PROJECTED** impacts, elevations and dates. *These are estimates only and subject to change.*

Elevation 3055': full pool for the lake.

Elevation 3045': all lake docks are out of the water. Expected date: July 26, 2021.

Elevation 3040': last day for Spring Shores Pump Out Dock. Expected date: July 29, 2021

Elevation 3035': last day to push marina Docks at Spring Shores. **Docks will start going a ground below this elevation. Expected date is August 1, 2021.**

Elevation 3030': last day for Barclay Bay boat ramp. Expected date: August 5, 2021.

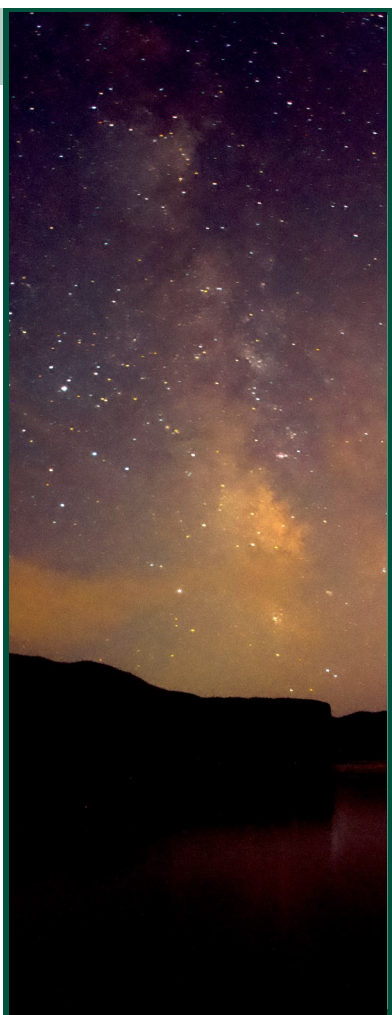
Elevation 3020': last day for Spring Shores East boat ramp. Expected date: August 14, 2021.

Park staff will update information as it becomes available. We will also provide as much assistance as possible; however, boat owners are solely responsible for the safety of their vessels.

ASTRONOMY IS BACK!

Join us every Friday and Saturday night from sundown to midnight at the "Blacktop Observatory". Located in the east parking lot of Spring Shores Marina, Park Interpreter Odo Siahaya will guide you through constellations, nebulae and galaxies. The Blacktop Observatory is family friendly. Bring chairs and the kids for some planet viewing fun through the telescope. We hope to see you out there! Note: There will be no program if there is rain or overcast skies. Scattered clouds are not a problem.

Looking for some galaxy fun during the daytime? Sandy Point beach has a solar system walk on the bike path and is working towards a sun viewing program through the solar scope. Be sure to follow us on Facebook or Instagram for program announcements @LuckyPeakStatePark.



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BAT STUDY BEGINS AT SANDY POINT

Many people are afraid of bats, and society has conditioned us to feel that way with pop culture surrounding vampires like Dracula. However, these enigmatic sky puppies are huge contributors to the pollination of fruits (bananas, mangoes, avocados, etc.) and controlling all those pesky insects like mosquitos that are trying to eat you while camping. Bats can eat up to 1,200 mosquito sized insects per hour, which adds up to about 6,000-8,000 insects per night! Bats are the only mammals that can fly, can live up to or even past 20 years and have about 1 pup (baby bat) per year. They have been found in the fossil record as far back as 50 million years ago and are not that different from the bats we know today!

There are 14 species of bats found in Idaho and thanks to research being done by local bat biologist Bill Doering, 7 of those species have been recorded at Sandy Point and Discovery Parks. Bats have dynamic social structures. Doering shared with us that he banded some bats (elsewhere in Idaho) 15 years ago, and when

he caught the same bats again they were hanging out with the same group of bats when he first banded them! How has Doering been studying these bats at Lucky Peak, you ask? He uses a bat detector! This machine converts and records the echolocation signals bats emit to audible sound. He then analyzes the data recorded to see which species were present, as each species emits slightly different signals.

Doering is hoping to help support a bat education and viewing program in the future at Lucky Peak like he did with the [Idaho Falls Zoo in 2019](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

- When Arrowrock Dam was completed in 1915, it was the highest concrete dam in the world until 1932. Learn more by visiting [Arrowrock Dam: Historical Presentation](#)
- The Lucky Peak Reservoir actually lies in 3 different counties: Ada, Boise and Elmore.
- Remnants of the Call Ranch homestead foundation is visible on the beach east of the "F" dock at Spring Shores Marina when the water drops.
- There is a hot spring at the mouth of Moore's creek, accessible in low water.
- There was once a paddlewheel boat that moored at Spring Shores Marina in the 1980's!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT : CHANNING

Hi! My name is Channing. I am a third-generation boater and now staff member at Lucky Peak State Park. From my first boat ride at 6-weeks-old, to fishing with my grandpa, and now working hard at the marina, I love every minute I get to spend in this beautiful park.

This is my second season working at the park. My favorite part is meeting new people and their furry friends, saving animals, and finding innovative solutions to all kinds of problems. I am currently a senior studying physics at Idaho State University, and I hope to pursue a career as an author, teacher, and entrepreneur. My favorite things to do when I'm not working or in school are: performing in community theater, waterskiing, building things, and spending time outside. I am so grateful for the staff at Lucky Peak for creating a place where I can grow and flourish as a person and pursue my passion for the great outdoors.



Park employee, Channing, recently catching a fish out on the reservoir (left) and fishing with her grandpa as a child (right) at Lucky Peak.

POLLINATOR PROJECT

What do bees, hummingbirds and Idaho State Parks have in common? They are doing their best to enhance our environment. The role of Honey Bees (who by the way, are not native and came from Europe) as pollinators are pretty well known. But there are so many other pollinators that get overlooked like native bees, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies, and hummingbirds. There are 6 different types of hummingbirds that call the Treasure Valley home (at least for majority of the year): Black chinned, Ruby Throated, Calliope, Broad tailed, Rufous, and most recently Anna's. There are approximately 3,600 species of bees that are native to the United States and more than 90% of those species do not live in hives but are rather solitary bees. Idaho State Parks recognizes their importance and have been busy establishing pollinator gardens for our busy little friends.



Swallowtail butterfly on Showy Milkweed in one of the pollinator gardens at Spring Shores Marina

Over the last 3 years, staff have been planting and maintaining gardens specifically designed to attract pollinators at all 3 units of Lucky Peak State Park. The latest effort included volunteers from Mother Earth Brewing Company who volunteered to plant over 20 pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs at Spring Shores Marina. Funding from the project came for IDPR's very own Public Relations department, headed by Craig Quintana and organized by Chelsea Chambers.

"This is a great opportunity for us to accomplish several goals at the same time" said Assistant Manager Surat Nicol.

Park staff have developed a plan to slowly reduce turf areas that are very steep and dangerous to mow, and replace the area with plants that will provide flowers for pollinators and food for local wildlife. This will reduce mowing time for the park, increase overall health of the environment, improve aesthetics, reduce our carbon footprint and provide educational opportunities for children and adults.

"It has been so fulfilling to watch wildflowers and other plants crucial to pollinators gradually make their way into nearby areas of the park after building the gardens" commented Seasonal Park Ranger Bri Ford. It makes us wonder if *Field of Dreams* had it right with 'if you build it, they will come'.

"We [humans] often go about our day not really noticing all the insects and birds that contribute to earth's health and biodiversity. But if you take a moment to look a little bit closer there are so many different individuals contributing. My favorite place to look is the garden nearest the patio at Springs Shores, all kinds of different bumble bees climb into the penstemon flowers. Best part is, the only plant we had actually planted in the garden (until 2021) was the Showy Milkweed, nature provided the rest" Ford continued.

We love the opportunity to work with our community on this important project. Anyone who is interested in donating plants or helping with planting should contact the park at luc@idpr.idaho.gov. You can also view some of our preferred plant list at [Ranger Bri's Wishlist](#).

Want to contribute to some citizen science? You can join us in contributing observations to our [project on iNaturalist](#). New to iNaturalist? Visit their [getting started page](#) to sign up and make your first observation! Another way to contribute to citizen science is to participate with the [PNW Bumble Bee Atlas](#) projects.

EVENTS

ASTRONOMY @ SPRING SHORES

Friday Nights, sundown-midnight
Saturday Nights, sundown-midnight

LIVE MUSIC @ SPRING SHORES

July 2nd : Three Musicians	2pm
July 3rd: RedDot Window	5-8pm
July 4th: Spencer Batt	5-8pm
July 10th: DMG	5-8pm
July 11th: Spencer Batt	5-8pm
July 17th: Rylee Amick	5-8pm
July 18th: Spencer Batt	5-8pm
July 24th: Tangent D	5-8pm
July 25th: Spencer Batt	5-8pm

PARK HOURS

SPRING SHORES

6:00 AM-Midnight
Gates closed from Midnight-6:00AM
Fuel Dock Hours:
Monday-Friday 2:00PM-7:00PM
Saturday & Sunday 10:00AM-7:00PM

SANDY POINT BEACH

8:00 AM-9:00 PM
All vehicles must be outside the gate
by 9:00PM

DISCOVERY PARK

Sunrise—Sunset year round

RENTALS & CLASSES

REDLINE RECREATION TOYS:

Spring Shores Marina
Boats, Jet Skis, Paddleboards, Kayaks
General Store, Bar & Grill
208.695.2288

PADDLEBOARD IDAHO:

Sandy Point & Discovery Parks
Paddleboards, Kayaks, Tubes
Gourmet Shaved Ice
Paddleboardidaho@gmail.com

PARK SHELTERS:

Discovery Park & Sandy Point
208.334.2432

YOUTH SAILING CLASSES:

Spring Shores Marina
[Class Information](#)
[Registration Page](#)

BOAT SAFETY:

Idaho Boating Program
[In person & online classes](#)
208.514.2412

MARINA MOORAGE:

Spring Shores
[Waitlist Interest Form](#)
Email to: luc@idpr.idaho.gov

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS:

Spring Shores & Sandy Point
[Program Calendar/Events](#)
Follow us on Facebook for announcements

YOUTH SAILORS TAKE OVER SPRING SHORES

If you visit Spring Shores in the morning, you will have noticed a small fleet of sailboats maneuvering in front of the marina. The bright neon sails are truly a sight, as are the young sailors piloting them. These are the participants of Boise City Parks and Recreation Youth Sailing Program.

In 2017, a group of local sailors formed Southern Idaho Sailing Outreach (SISO) to promote youth sailing in our community. The focus would be on teaching young boys and girls to sail and create sailors of the future. The group contacted Lucky Peak State Park with a proposal and from there the program took off.

There were few resources available for such a program, so SISO sought out partnerships with public and private sectors. Boise City Parks and Recreation was very interested in a sailing program and offered to make it part of the City's summer camps and class offerings. They would handle the logistics such as scheduling classes, registering participants, hiring instructors and providing transportation. Ada County Parks and

Waterways, with help from SISO, applied for a grant to pay for docks needed for the boats. Idaho State Parks provided the site, installation and maintenance of the docks. Private entities donated much needed funds to get the program started.

"This is a remarkable project" said Lucky Peak Assistant Manager Surat Nicol. "I cannot say enough good things about our partners. Marie Hattaway and Clay Lee of Boise City Parks have been amazing in handling the logistics of the program and Ada County Parks Director Scott Koberg has been an absolute rock star. Without Scott's efforts we would not have secured the 2 grants to pay for all the docks."

The US Army Corps of Engineers and Boise County commissioners also supported the incredible job done by SISO. Core members of the group recruited experienced sailors to participate in intense training to become US Sailing certified instructors. Nine certified trainers now teach classes of ten students how to sail.

Youth ranging from 12 to 17 years old make up classes and most have never been on a sailboat before. Within a few hours, they are on the water, piloting their own vessel. The program has been very popular with all classes filling up within a couple of days. In addition to the basic sailing class, intermediate, all female and adaptive sailing classes will be offered this summer.

Classes cover all the aspects of sailing including safety, terminology, and piloting skills. The end results are fun, new friendships, and future sailors.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or providing support, please contact visit the link to SISO's web page below:

[Class Information](#).



DUDE, WHAT'S UP WITH THE HAIR?

Some of you may not recognize Lucky Peak Assistant Manager Surat Nicol these days. The long time Spring Shores employee is now sporting long, flowing locks. What is the reason for the change?



Assistant Manager Surat Nicol with a retro-fitted soap dispenser along side Seasonal Park Ranger Bri Ford.

“Well, it started off as COVID hair, turned into a bad decision and now it’s a full commitment” said Nicol.

The truth is a little more nuanced. Nicol thought it was not worth the risk to get a haircut during the pandemic so instead he decided to grow his hair out and donate it to cancer patients as a wig. What he didn’t take into account is how long it takes to grow hair.

“I keep referring to my hair like a toddler. It’s now 17 months old and starting to curl. How adorable!”

Despite the inconvenience of constantly clearing out the shower drain, asking staff members for hair care tips and the constant annoyance of hair flopping into his eyes at the worst possible times, Nicol will continue to grow out the mostly salt and slightly pepper locks.

“I was inspired by my friend’s teenage daughter who donated her hair. She didn’t tell anyone until it was time to be cut. I also lost a friend a month ago, and had other friends diagnosed with cancer as well. My sister went through Chemo last year while I was growing my hair out. We exchanged pictures and laughed as she shaved her beautiful long hair and I was growing mine out. She’s doing great right now.”

So if you see Nicol walking around, he isn’t having a mid life crisis or going full hippie, he’s just trying to get to the next haircut.

“Well, it started off as COVID hair, turned into a bad decision and now it’s a full commitment”

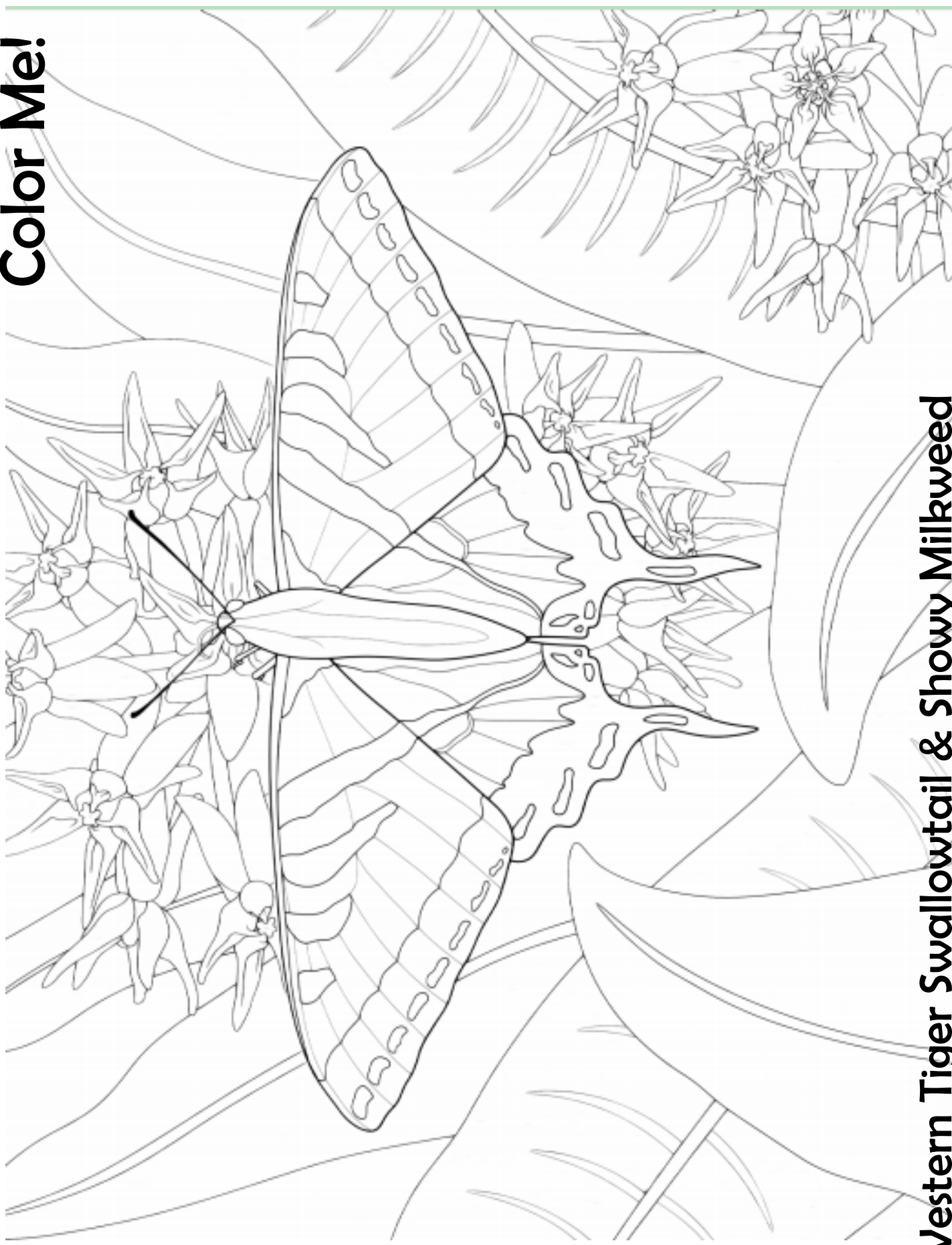
TAZ’S TIPS FOR A SAFE 4TH OF JULY

We are feeling the heat these days with temperatures in the high 90’s and over 100 degrees for the last 5 days. Unfortunately, temps are not expected to drop in the next 10 days either. Bark Ranger Taz has some tips for having a safe Independence Day weekend to keep you, your furry friends and the environment out of trouble:

- If possible leave your pets at home. Dock and walkway surfaces in high temperature conditions can easily burn the pads of their feet– remember if it feels too hot for you, its too hot for us! And never leave us in the car, even with the windows down. The temperature, even in a vented car can reach 20 degrees higher in a matter of minutes.
- Fireworks are strictly prohibited on and around Lucky Peak Recreation area. No one wants a wildfire out here!
- Remember to put your campfires and grills ‘dead out’ before walking away. The coals should be not be giving off anymore heat. The tiniest of embers can turn into a flame in a hurry with the right conditions.
- Don’t forget life jackets for everyone including us doggos! Sun protection, snacks and lots of water (minimum 1 gallon/person/day) are a must. Many of you like to celebrate with an ice cool beer, but please remember it is not a substitute for water. Alcoholic beverages, coffee, tea, and soft drinks can dehydrate you quickly in high temperatures.



Color Me!



Western Tiger Swallowtail & Showy Milkweed