

IDAHO OUTDOOR RECREATION FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL
IDFG HQ – Owyhee Conference Room– Boise
600 S Walnut, Boise, ID 83712
Meeting Minutes
 October 19, 2023

Advisory Council Members	Guests
Chair, Skylar Jett, Idaho Business Outdoors – In Person	Darren Damon, Governor’s Office
Susan Buxton, Director IDPR - Present	Steve Arnet, IMD
Jim Fredricks, Director IDFG - Present	Ned Burns, House of Representatives, District 26
Dustin Miller, Director IDL - Present	Dawson James
James Petzke, House Representative, District 21-Zoom	Director Tom Kealy
Gretchen Hyde, Director Rangeland Commission - Zoom	Bailey Woolf, Idaho Sportsmen
Mark Pratt, Past President Idaho Cattle Association - Zoom	Tom Williams, IFPL
Kari Kostka, Nature Conservancy - Present	Mel Leviton, SILC
Benn Brocksome, Founder Idaho Sportsman - Present	Johanna Defoort, CITRA
Senator Lent, Out of the Country-Zoom	Scott Turlington, Tamarack
Laurel Sayer, Mining – zoom	Adam Zaragoza, IDPR
Sandra Mitchell, Motorized Trails – Not Present	Kendra Kendrick, IFPL
Seth Griggs, Idaho Association of Counties – zoom	Hailey Brookins, IDPR
Zoom	
Jonathan Oppenheimer, ICL	
Larry Laxon	
Nathan Ogden	
Lisa Herriot, DFM	
Jamie Neill, Govenor’s Office	
James Dawson	
Ryan McGoldrick, CVI	Nathen Ogden, Chair of Hope
Nikeela Abrams	Ryan MCGoldrich, CVI
Dan Waugh	Aaron Lieberman, IOGA
Dave Bingaman	Phone
Craig Utter	Cindy 208-313-3597
Heather	

Call to Order

Skylar Jett called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Welcome

Skylar Jett welcomed Idaho Outdoor Rec Council to the October meeting and went through the room and on zoom for introductions.

Consent Agenda

Approval of September 15, 2023 Minutes

Benn Brocksome moved to approve the September 15, 2023 Minutes.

Dustin Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, minutes approved.

There were several guests in attendance or on zoom that were asked to talk for 2-3 minutes on how their organization is interested in ORFAC or suggested projects and criteria for the council to consider. The following groups each spoke:

Speakers

- Stephen Arnett LTC, EN, IDARNG - Lt. Col Arnet discussed the programs they can assist with the NEPA process. He mentioned that their biggest challenges are shooting and illegal dumping.
- Tom Williams, ID Parks Foundation- Williams shared a recent newsletter and introduced the new Executive Director, Kendra Kenyon
- Tom Kealy, Director Commerce - Director Kealy shared some tourism statistics that the council asked if he could share and reiterated that IDOC would love to help the council where they can. Tourism is the 3rd largest industry and travel money is increasing every year. "Experiencing the Outdoors" is a key motivator to come to Idaho. 64% of Idahoans recreate outdoors; 16% higher than the national average.
- Nathan Ogden, Chair the Hope - Ogden said he would like to focus on accessibility so that everyone is able to experience Idaho. He mentioned that the docks and sporting access could be improved and be made more accessible rather easily.
- Larry Laxson, Valley County Parks and Rec - Laxson commented the biggest missing link is access to public land. He would like to see a grant match to build parking lots, vault toilets, etc. He also commented that the biggest growing group is UTV and they need to have specific trails like at Moab.
- Mel Leviton, SILC – Director Leviton described Outdoor Recreation benefits and challenges for SILC recipients and wheelchair users. Access passes make a huge difference but highlighted that even those where there are often accessible sites the amenities are accessible. Yurts, cabins, etc. need to be made more accessible.

- Daniel Waugh, Backcountry Horseman- Waugh commented that horsemen are the 4th largest user group, and they are underrepresented. He is working on legislation to address funding for maintenance of non-motorized trails.
- Bill Myers, Holland & Hart LLP - Meyers said that volunteers need to be leveraged and there is a need to prioritize funding for volunteers. He also commented that recreation should be consolidated where it makes sense.
- Scott Turlington, Tamarack- Turlington commented on the 2100-acre lease with IDL and wanted to just introduce himself and what is taking place at Tamarack Resort.
- Nikayla Abrams, Idaho for All- Abrams talked about the need for equipment and Idaho for all is working on getting special equipment that can be reserved for people with special needs free of charge. This includes all-terrain vehicles, e-bikes, etc.
- Johanna Defoort, CITRA- Boulder Road Campground and a partnership between CITRA/IDPR/IDL. CITRA will be putting in an application for a project.
- Aaron Lieberman, IOGA - Lieberman recommended the council focus on under-utilized areas to help disperse over usage. He also commented on promoting less popular activities such as Rock Climbing, kayaking, etc. He also commented on the need to consider feasibility for ongoing maintenance and the need for sustainable solutions. There is also a need to encourage help from federal lands and federal agencies.
- Rep. Burns- Burns would like to see more money invested in intra-state boat checks and wash and increased monetization of recreational lands.
- Craig Utter, Payette Land Trust - Utter just shared that he is open to working with the council and the council should be open to leveraging private lands/dollars.
- Nikeela Abrams Black - Idaho for All is a non-profit supplying access and use of adaptive outdoor recreational equipment to the public to improve everyone's access to the outdoors!
- Rep. Ned Burns – Noted likely need additional clean/drain/dry stations with the quagga mussels.

Project Discussion

Director Buxton presented 4 project applications to be considered by the Council:

- East Fork Rock- IDPR / IDL / IDFG
(Could be complete by next summer and the new site could be part of Massacre Rocks and not a new park.)
- Henrys Lake – IPDR / IDL
- Horsethief Reservoir – IDPR / IDFG
- Ponderosa State Park – IDL parcels -IDPR / IDL

Other Business

Skylar Jett asked if there was any other business to discuss. Director Fredericks discussed the projects and suggested doing a preliminary review in November and making decisions for the council to present to the Governor in December. Mitchell was worried this was not enough time for groups to apply. Buxton commented that groups can apply but the projects need to benefit agencies. Griggs agreed that more time would be necessary and that counties would possibly be interested in applying. Kostra said while she agreed it wasn't a lot of time it was important to start getting projects off the ground. Buxton added that there are other grant applications that groups can apply for through IDPR. Sayer commented that \$5 million is not very much money overall and that it would be best to move forward with projects that meet the criteria. Chair Jett announced that the group would open up applications to other affiliates and the council do an initial review in November at the next meeting.

Adjourned

Skylar Jett adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2023, at the Fish and Game office from 9:00-12:00 p.m.