

IDAHO OUTDOOR RECREATION FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL
IDFG HQ – Owyhee Conference Room– Boise
600 S Walnut, Boise, ID 83712
Meeting Minutes
December 14,2023

Advisory Council Members	Guests	Guests Continued
Chair, Skylar Jett, Idaho Business Outdoors	Troy Elmore	Nikeela Abrams Black
Susan Buxton, Director IDPR	Darren Damon	Ryan Glefi
Ellary Tucker Williams, (Proxy for Director Fredricks IDFG)	Dave Bingham	John Palumbo
Dustin Miller, Director IDL	Johanna Defroot	Jeremy Maxand
Rep. James Petzke	Larry Laxon	Raymond
Gretchen Hyde, Director Rangeland Commission	Kenzie Castor	
Mark Pratt, Past President Idaho Cattle Association - Zoom	Adam Zaragoza	
Kari Kostka, Nature Conservancy - Not Present	Ann Yribar	
Benn Brocksome, Founder Idaho Sportsman	Tara Malek	
Senator Lent - Zoom	Alli Olson	
Laurel Sayer, Mining – zoom	Raymond	
Sandra Mitchell, Motorized Trails	Jason Wright	
Seth Griggs-Not Present	Robert Follet	

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 roll call.

Consent Agenda

Approval of November 7, 2023 Minutes

**Laurel Sayer moved to approve the November 7, 2023 Minutes.
Susan Buxton seconded the motion. All in favor, minutes approved.**

Project Discussion: Jett went over the process where all advisory council members were asked to do initial scoring and the meeting was to ask clarifying questions and discuss each project submission. The next steps are for the council to finalize scores and make final project recommendations. The applicants were told they are not allowed to present but can answer questions from the council.

Projects that were reviewed and discussed:

Organization	Project Title	Amount
Idaho Parks and Recreation	Horsethief Reservoir	\$2,000,000
Idaho Parks and Recreation	East Fork Rock	\$1,000,000
		\$750,000
Idaho Parks and Recreation	Henry's Lake	
Idaho Parks and Recreation	Ponderosa	\$9,600,000
SWIMBA	Avimor Development	\$250,000
Valley County Parks and Rec	Boulder Lake Road	\$348,000
Payette Land Trust	White Pine Heights	\$200,000
	Boise River- Plantation island	
Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands	Greenbelt Corridor Acquisition	\$500,000
Donnelly Snowmobile Club	Tamarack Falls Parking Lot	\$815,000
Idaho For All	Idaho For All	\$192,500
	Aquatic invasive species	
ID Dept. of Agriculture	prevention campaign	\$200,000
	Cooperative Management	
Eastern Idaho Grazing Association	Recreation Area	\$300,000
Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation	Trail Restoration	\$40,994

Horsethief Questions:

Rep. Petzke asked about the current financial operations of Horsethief and about the employees. Discussion of current operation by Tucker and finances. Tucker stated it is currently making a profit. Buxton commented that more employees are needed since they would be adding services and amenities would be improved.

East Fork Rock:

Pratt & Hyde asked about grazing and fencing for this project. Miller stated that they have discussed grazing and the current grazing lease. Miller stated that this area had to be closed last year due to being "loved to death" and overuse. If the project was approved the hope is to keep

grazing in that area. Adam Zaragoza stated that the project would be kept small to minimize impact on grazing. Buxton mentioned that we have to make money from this endowment land.

Henry's Fork:

Buxton discussed how to do this the right way to do this and help with dispersed camping. The biggest concern was asking if this project could be covered by other funds from IDPR. Buxton clarified that IDPR doesn't have this funding. They are currently focused on deferred maintenance.

Ponderosa:

The discussion is that this project is needed but that the funding doesn't allow for this project at this time.

Avimor Development:

SWIMBA discussed that they have an easement in this area, and this would be open to all. Buxton said we can't use public funds for a memorial project. Pratt asked to clarify that all trails are open to the public.

Boulder Lake Road;

Buxton asked about how reasonable the budget is. Laxon said the budget is very reasonable. Buxton said that she is also concerned about the permit that is not in place from IDL and how the project doesn't include any monetization for the endowment lands. Laxon wants to add this parcel to the existing permit that the county already holds. Miller mentioned that it will have to be a competitive lease program for this project and a competitive bidding project. Sayer thinks that the county should increase the fee for this project.

White Pine Heights:

Utter added a budget of \$200,000. Petzke asked why PLT didn't do a fundraising process for this project instead of coming to the council. Utter explained that they are a non-profit with a lot of projects and he felt that this project met the criteria of the council. Buxton asked about who would hold the easement. Utter said that they would like to transfer the easement to IDPR. Buxton said she thinks this project meets all the requirements of the executive order and is what the council is trying to do. Kostra asked if there was any funding for building up the trails for this project. Utter explained that they are in the mindset to establish the corridor before trail work. Lent asked about the Right of Way currently with this road. Utter said there is not a right of way now and that is what they are trying to establish.

Plantation Island:

The Council decided that this project would be better if it was purchased by the city or the county and IDPR doesn't have a way to manage this project. Buxton said it would be too hard to manage. Kostra said from a user perspective that this adds anything.

Tamarack Falls:

Buxton asked about the management of this lot. Wright explained that he would just like to get it out of private domain. The commissioners have pledged to help with this project. Valley County will help maintain this parking lot. Laxon commented that this project would get people off the road, and it is addressing a safety issue. Lent asked about asking IDT about this project. Wright explained that this is not off an ITD highway, so they don't have an interest in this project. Hyde

asked about asking the Forest Service. Wright didn't think that was an option. Buxton said there are some parcels that could be used near Tamarack Falls. Wright said that he didn't think this was a safe option because it is too far from the trailhead.

Idaho For All:

The Council recommended that Idaho For All look into doing a pilot project for this.

Aquatic Species:

Sayer stated that she thinks this is an important project given the timeliness of the issue. Petze stated that this is at the forefront of legislators' minds and that he thinks there will be other funding opportunities and he didn't feel like this fit in this particular \$5 million budget. Miller asked if there are other funding sources available right now. Buxton said this is being pushed out by agencies and that ISDA did a fantastic job and that we want to support them from all agencies. Buxton also said this is a big priority for the Governor. Hyde mentions the part of the proclamation that talks about outreach.

Cooperative Management Rec. Area:

Petzke asked if this is on private land. Pratt said this project is half on private land. Miller mentioned that this is another area that is being loved to death and this area is a concern and unmanaged recreation has caused a lot of problems. There is no travel management in place in this area. Petzke is concerned about using state general fund dollars to work on private land and usage doubles and private landowners close this land. He asked if there is a way to guarantee that that private land stays open. Pratt said he can't guarantee that, but the rest of the land is piecemeal ownership. Miller stated that the cost estimate is \$300,000 but it might not take all of that. IDL is already working on trail inventory.

Trail Restoration:

Buxton says she liked this project and the impact and what they are trying to do is part of the executive order and it isn't a lot of money. She said a lot of the projects that they do are on federal lands and if it scores well let the Governor take a look at it. Petzke said he agreed, and it is worth looking at. Kostra said there is a justification for the need for this and also that she appreciated that they are bringing in matching funds. Sayer said their grant application was sophisticated.

Other Business:

Miller was wondering why there were no projects from N. Idaho. He said he understood why there were so many projects from Valley County. Buxton said there were some projects that they had for N. Idaho, but they weren't ready yet. There is a project from Priest Lake that will eventually be brought to the group.

Petzke said that he has top projects. Wernex said he had additional projects that he thought that the council could eventually consider. Sayer said that she thinks that the current applications should be considered first since they submitted applications and attended the meetings. Petzke agreed, saying the council should fund the project that deserves to be funded. Buxton mentioned doing partial funding. Brocksome said that conversations had today gave him more information to score the applicants and he wanted to have more dialogue instead of the scoring being the only metric. He said stretching funding to as many applicants as possible would be his preference even if some projects are just partially funded to get them started. Kostra wanted to

go back through her numbers. Petzke said he would like ranking information and recommendations at another meeting. Buxton thought another meeting was necessary and that it could be done in an hour. Brocksome asked if we could cross out projects that we are not going to fund. Jett said we should take off the Ponderosa project and the Plantation Project. The Council agreed to remove those two projects. Petzke asked about removing the ISDA project. Buxton said that we need to be aware that this is the Governor's priority. Brocksome said if there is a deficiency not funded by the legislature and holds this project in reserve.

Buxton makes a motion to provide Jett with the final scores' sheets by end of day on Friday and then set a meeting December 22, 2023 at 9am to final determinations to send to the Governor. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Adjourned

Skylar Jett adjourned the meeting at 12:18pm

The next meeting is scheduled for December 22, 2023, at the IDPR HQ from 9:00-10:30 a.m.