

IDAHO OUTDOOR RECREATION FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL
ID Parks and Recreation HQ
Meeting Minutes
December 22,2023

Advisory Council Members	Guests
Chair, Skylar Jett, Idaho Business Outdoors	Adam Zaragoza
Susan Buxton, Director IDPR	Darren Damon
Jim Fredericks, Director	Ann Yribar
Dustin Miller, Director IDL	Tara Malek
Rep. James Petzke	Robert Follet
Gretchen Hyde, Director Rangeland Commission -zoom	
Mark Pratt, Past President Idaho Cattle Association - Zoom	
Kari Kostka, Nature Conservancy	
Benn Brocksome, Founder Idaho Sportsman	
Senator Lent - Zoom	
Laurel Sayer, Mining	
Sandra Mitchell, Motorized Trails -zoom	
Seth Griggs-Not Present	

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 December 14, 2023 Minutes

Pratt moved to approve the minutes, Petzke seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Projects that were reviewed and discussed average scores.

Organization	Project Title	Amount	FINAL SCORE
Idaho Parks and Recreation	East Fork Rock	\$1,000,000	83.14
Idaho Parks and Recreation	Henry's Lake	\$750,000	75.36
Idaho Parks and Recreation	Horsethief Reservoir	\$2,000,000	74.57
Idaho For All	Idaho For All	\$192,500	72.86
Valley County Parks and Rec	Boulder Lake Road	\$348,000	72.86
Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation	Trail Restoration	\$40,994	69.43
Payette Land Trust	White Pine Heights	\$200,000	68.50
Eastern Idaho Grazing Association	Cooperative Management Recreation Area	\$300,000	67.54
ID Dept. of Agriculture	Aquatic invasive species prevention campaign	\$200,000	61.86
Donnelly Snowmobile Club	Tamarack Falls Parking Lot	\$815,000	60.07
SWIMBA	Avimor Development	\$250,000	59.86

Skylar went over average scores, and discussed that the goal was to leave the meeting with project recommendations to deliver to the Governor. Buxton said that one thing to keep in mind is that there will be administration costs. One of those is an unknown cost is the attorney general's office to help with any legal issues. Buxton recommended \$2500 available in case something comes up. Pratt said that we need to keep in mind Miller's comments about Henry's Lake. Miller just explained the leasing process that IDL has to go through for all projects involving IDL land. Petzke asked for an explanation for the change in the budget. Zaragoza with IDPR explained the scale back was to do tentpads instead of cabins. Kosta said considering the leasing process with IDL how likely it is that IDPR can win the bids. Miller said that he doesn't think that there will be a lot of interest at East Fork Rock but could be more competitive at Henry's Lake and some other areas where there is a lot of demand and interest. Kostra also said she would like to consider not using all \$5 million today and keeping money in the fund and opening up another round of applications. She mentioned that she would like to see something from N. Idaho. Fredericks said he felt like he would have liked to see something from N. Idaho too. Noting that due diligence has been done to make people aware and we already have more projects than the council has money for. Peteze commented that the council should fund the projects today that were worth funding. Sayer said she looks at it as fairness to the people that were aware and all the applications are good with strong public support and noted that the

council had done an extension and fairness to those that paid attention and turned in applications should be considered. Miller said we should fund what we can today.

East Fork Rock:

Sen. Lent moved to fund E. Fork Rock at \$1 mil and Fredericks seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor, motion carried.

Idaho For All

Petzke brought up concerns about staffing in the application and Buxton said it makes sense to focus on capital improvements. \$112,500 is the total when removing the staffing. Sayer made a motion to recommend Idaho For All at the funding level of \$112,500 and Kostra seconded. Kostra said that this was one of her highest ranked applications and the council agreed that this was a priority.

Selway-Bitterroot

Petzke moved to recommend funding the Selway-Bitterroot project at the \$40,994. Sayer seconded the motion. Miller asked about the total cost and Jett said the project had a 50% match. Buxton commented that there is a large increase in equestrian use and this creates a loop and this is really important. Buxton said this is a great use of funding for a different area. Kostra commented that while initially the group wasn't looking at a project on federal land, this felt like a great well supported project with matching funding. All favor and no opposition. Motion carried.

White Pine Heights

Petzke moved to recommend funding the White Pine Heights project at \$200,000. Kostra seconded the motion. Miller commented that he wanted to add that IDL needs to look at the benefit to the endowments or can it cause a negative impact. He said they had their "Right Away" staff take a look at this project and based on their analysis (still would need to do an appraisal for the easement) IDL is slated to possibly to sell this ground depending on that the Land Board decides to do because it is hard to manage and in the path of development. If they do sell it then he can see the benefit of having this easement for the public. IDL staff looked at this and it was around \$220-280K if this easement moved forward with this project. This is higher than estimated but it needs an actual appraisal done. The council discussed funding this at a higher level to account for the actual estimated costs. There was some concern that this could drive up the cost but Buxton commented that it wouldn't be the case that appraisals are based on actual values. Petzke amended his motion to fund the project at \$300,000 and Kostra seconded the motion. Kostra said that amount made sense too because of due diligence costs. Sayer said that you can't underestimate the value of the right away. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Horsethief Reservoir

Sayer made a motion to approve Horsethief Reservoir at \$2 million. Petzke seconded the motion. Miller asked about ARPA funds and if you can acquire land. Buxton said you can and said ARPA funds were used to purchase the Challis Hot Springs. Buxton said this has been on the list of projects that the agencies have been working on for a while and the issues are maintenance and personnel. Fredericks commented that with IDFG running it that they have less than 50% occupancy which is unusual for state parks and getting under the parks system will draw more attention and make it operate more efficiently. Miller asked if there will be additional

campsites added? Zaragoza said there won't be more added. There are currently 122 so it is for acquisition, infrastructures, and capital improvements. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Cooperative Management Area

Hyde made a motion to approve the Cooperative Management Area for \$300,000. She said that it an Idaho pilot and feels it is the original intent of this group. Fredericks seconded the motion. Kostra said she feels like this is a fantastic project idea and there are a lot of areas that are feeling a lot of pressure from recreational use. Kostra said this would be a good pilot and then be able to fund other projects similar to this. Hyde said there is a lack of knowledge on how to manage multi-use land and recreation and she would love to incorporate research into this project too. Fredericks stated that it is important and that we can't take the private lands with access for granted. Miller said a lot of these areas are mixed with grazing land and IDL land and the grazing lands are keeping the lands open for recreational use and a lot of people don't realize that. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Quagga Mussel

Pratt made a motion to approve the Quagga Mussel project for \$200,000. Mitchell seconded the motion. Petzke said there is a desire to do something with this but he did share his opinion last time and he thinks there will be a lot of other funding for quagga. Lent said that he agreed with Petzke and Kostra also stated this. Buxton asked about a smaller funding level to show support. Petzke asked about whether we are trying to send a message or to fund a project. Sayer asked if this project could be a contingency project. We support the project and we have money in contingency. Kostra said she would also like to hold this and see what the legislature does. Buxton said that shows support to ISDA and that is important. Petzke made a substitute motion to hold the \$200,000 based on the quagga mussel funding. Kostra seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Henry's Lake

Fredericks made a motion to fund the Henry's Lake project at \$750,000. Lent seconded. Kostra asked about tent sites vs camper cabins and asked if there was a way to fund less sites but make them RV sites or something along those lines or if there are phases. She said she wanted to make sure if we were funding this to make sure it is what parks needs and not half of what they need to do this project. Buxton explained the situation and that there has to be matching funds that just aren't listed. This will be maintained more as a state park facility and look for other existing funds where it makes sense. Miller spoke about the leasing and what that will look like. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Boulder Lake Road

Miller liked this project because this is a site on IDL land that is used heavily. This is going to be another lease opportunity. This won't be used as a land use permit because they are too challenging to manage. Sayer said we don't have enough money to fund this project but would the county take \$250,000 to fund this project. Buxton said there is probably a significant amount of match in this project that isn't outlined in the application. Fredericks recommended the council fund at \$250,000 and depending on the ISDA quagga mussel funding. Miller made a motion to fund at \$250,000. Seconded by [Sandra Mitchell](#). All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Funding 4,953,494 with \$200,000 held for ISDA Quagga and legal fees.

Miller said there is a need for other projects like the Donnelly parking lot. Sayer said we can look at some of these projects to use ARPA funds for. Buxton said that there might be ARPA funds with the county.

Jett adjourned the meeting at 10:27am.