

IDAHO STATE PARKS AND RECREATION



2024 ECONOMIC IMPACT UPDATE



Visitation & Economic Contribution

7.1 million visitors | 2020-2023 (yearly average)

In 2023, IDPR contributed **\$1.2 billion** to Idaho's economy through camping, day use, outdoor recreation programs.



More Recreation

Nine of 10 Idahoans say outdoor recreation is important and that they will recreate more going forward. Hiking and camping are the most popular activities, followed by fishing and snow sports.

Employment

IDPR's operations generate more than **3,000 jobs** statewide.

The Challenges

Despite record visitation at parks in 2020, 2021 and 2022, the department has nearly the same number of employees that it had in 2008, when about half as many visitors came.

- Today, we have **one** staffer for every **38,878** visitors.
- Fourteen years ago, the ratio was **one** for every **26,198**.
- The National Park Service has **one** for every **15,000** (and it is critically understaffed)



DID YOU KNOW...

*IDPR only receives about 7% of its annual operating budget from the General Fund. Everything else is **self-funded** by various programs like the State Parks Passport, camping fees, recreational use stickers, and other sources.*

Rural Impact

When visitors come to Idaho's state parks, they buy gas, food, souvenirs, sporting goods, lodging, and much more in Idaho's rural cities and counties, bringing more than \$216 million to Idaho's economy annually. That is a good return on investment considering taxpayers spend about \$3.5 million of the state's General Fund on IDPR.



A **\$170 MILLION backlog** in maintenance and needed capital improvements means visitors may experience: faulty water wells, closed restrooms, out-of-service bridges, buildings, and facilities. Fortunately, Gov. Brad Little and the Idaho Legislature appropriated more than \$165 million in the last three years, and improvements are being made at every park.

- Number of Parks: **30**
- Number of Acres: **60,000**
- Miles of hiking, biking, multi-use, and motorized trails: **19,500** (about 7,000 motorized)
- Number of Overnight Campsites: **1,976**
- Number of Opportunities for safe, affordable, family fun: **LIMITLESS**

Idahoans want...

- More facilities (day-use shelters, marinas, visitor centers)
- Additional campgrounds
- Access points for boating, fishing, and hunting
- Trail maintenance and expanded trail access

