

IDAPA RULE IDAPA FEE BOARD ACTION REQUIRED
 BOARD POLICY INFO ONLY, NO ACTION REQUIRED

AGENDA ITEM
Idaho Park and Recreation Quarterly Meeting
December 1, 2021
IDPR Headquarters
5657 Warm Springs Ave.
Boise, ID 83716

AGENDA ITEM: **FARRAGUT ARCHERY TURKEY HUNTING**
ACTION REQUIRED: **Board Action Required**
PRESENTER: **David E. White, North Region Manager**

PRESENTATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Idaho Parks and Recreation and Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) partnered in the mid-sixties and agreed that although ownership of the lands bisecting throughout Farragut State Park were complicated it would be more efficient and economical to manage the units as a whole. The attached map shows property ownership. This idea was set down into a formal MOU agreement and helps govern the working relationship to this day. The earliest MOU established a coordination between the agencies for the purpose of managing natural resources including hunting. Later MOU's fine-tuned hunting methods as well as establishing hunting safety zones with the most recent MOU finalized in July 2006.

The current MOU states the following:

III. Farragut Wildlife Management Area and Farragut State Park are adjoining properties. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation deem that it will be more efficient and economical to manage their respective properties as one unit. Both parties desire to cooperatively manage Farragut Wildlife Management Area and Farragut State Park, realizing each Department has its own specific legislative direction and mission. The parties therefore agree as follows:

D. Management of Farragut State Park

3. IDPR will determine what recreational activities and related facilities will be allowed in the Park. Recreational activities and related facilities will not interfere with the purpose for which the lands were acquired or developed, or are managed.

a. Archery-only hunting for white-tailed deer within the Park will be perpetuated while this agreement is in force.

b. IDPR shall maintain privilege to establish no-hunting safety zones around residences, administrative buildings, and active high density recreational developments within the Park.

As approved by the Board, for the last 15 years there has been a regular archery only deer hunting season at Farragut that lasts from November 1 thru December 1. There is a small population of local hunters who utilize this hunting season. In 2019 IDFG asked for public input regarding adding a

turkey hunt as well as upland game birds to the opportunities in the North Idaho region that includes Farragut. The public's responses were positive so IDFG approached park management to discuss whether we thought it would be appropriate and how we could add these opportunities to Farragut.

The public scoped by IDFG are folks from throughout the North Idaho region and a sufficient pool; hence, it was decided to explore these new opportunities. One of the questions asked was would the park consider a Fall as well as a Spring turkey season at Farragut. There was no problem including turkey into the current deer season. Originally it was requested that the Spring opportunity to be from April 1- May 31. This time period does not work for Farragut. The park's camping reservation period opens the first Friday of May with the park experiencing full campgrounds through most weekends in May. The park suggested shortening the hunting season allowed at Farragut to April 1 – April 30, IDFG agreed.

The hunting population is a small off-season user group at Farragut and they are present in the park during a period of time when there is not much competition from other user groups like hikers and bikers. As a courtesy, the park provides safety zone maps (see attached) to the winter recreation folks who come out to use the park. These are the same maps given to hunters so that they know the areas within the park that are closed to hunting. As the park grows and as the area's population grows, the park has fine tuned the safety zones.

It is important to both IDFG and the Department to ensure that users have a quality and safe experience and to make sure the areas that are off limits to hunters are clearly defined. To date, the park has not had any significant conflict between hunters and non-hunters. This additional hunting opportunity requires very little from the park and helps the Department continue to fulfil its mission to improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship by providing access to all resources when applicable.

The Board is required to approve hunting in parks as stated in the Department's Management of State Parks Policy #6010:

4.5.Hunting Wildlife

The Board may approve exceptions to the IDAPA 26.01.20.575, "Rule on Protection of Wildlife in State Parks," in order to expand recreational opportunities in parks where it is appropriate, as well as assist wildlife managers in achieving population objectives. A 300-foot safety zone may be designated around trailheads and park facilities by the park manager during established hunting seasons.

Although the parks listed below are approved for hunting by the Board, hunting might only be allowed in limited circumstances by park rule. For example, hunting at a park overrun by geese might be allowed one day to thin the resident population. Interested persons must contact the park manager prior to arrival to ensure that hunting is currently allowed by park rule. Subject to Idaho Fish and Game rules, the Board-approved exceptions are:

- *Farragut State Park. Approved for archery deer hunting.*
- *Hells Gate State Park. Approved for Canada Goose waterfowl hunting.*
- *Heyburn State Park. Approved for waterfowl hunting.*
- *Billingsley Creek. Approved for all hunting. Hunting is limited to short range weapons only for safety reasons.*
- *Castle Rock State Park. Approved for all hunting.*
- *City of Rocks National Reserve*. Approved for all hunting.*

** The Department owns 640 acres within the City of Rocks National Reserve; the approved exception is specific to that property.*

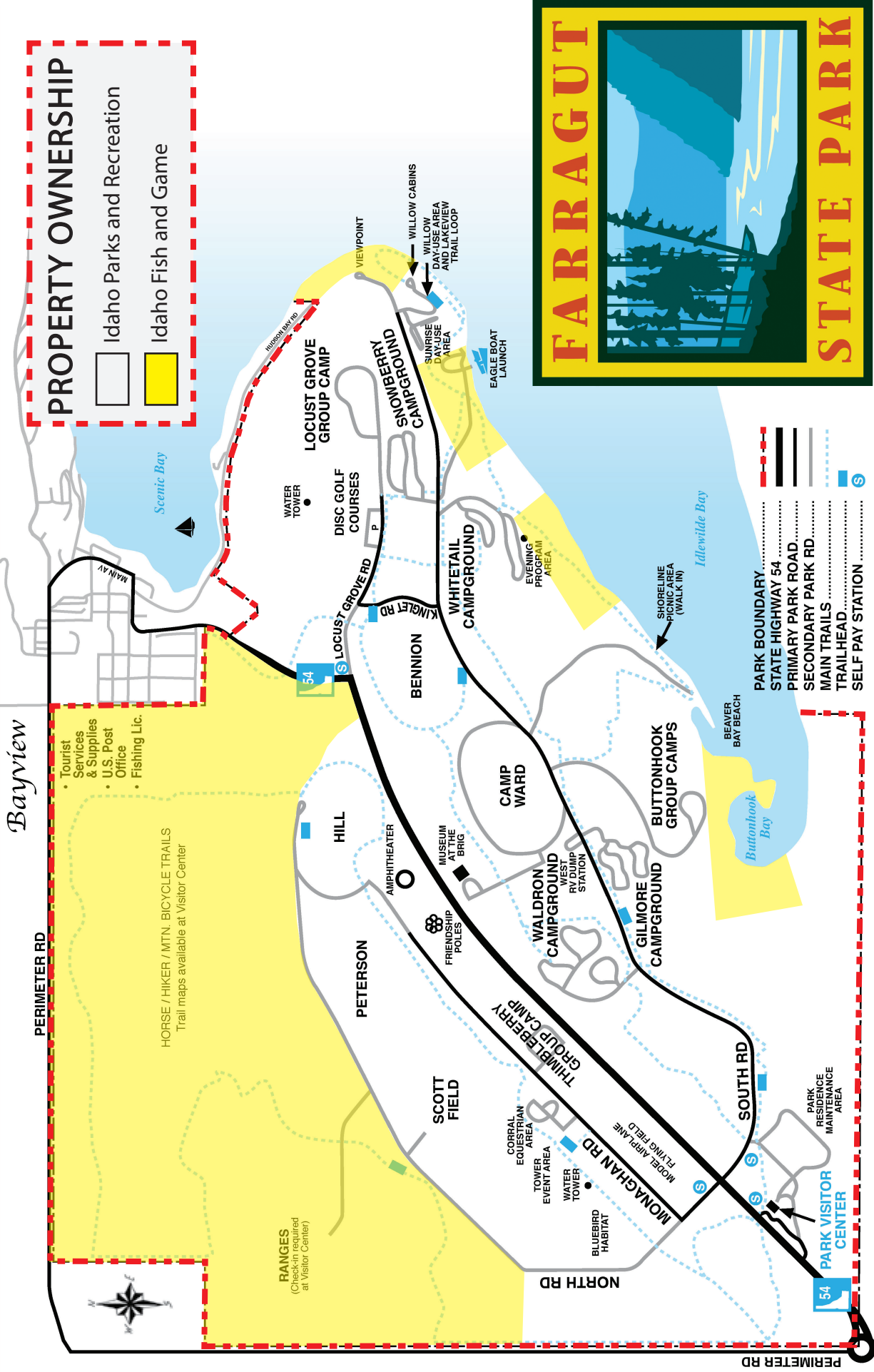
STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends the Board approve Turkey Archery hunting within Farragut State Park subject to Idaho Fish and Game rules and with safety zones and seasons as established by park management in conjunction with IDFG managers providing an additional quality, safe recreational opportunity and experience.



STATE PARK

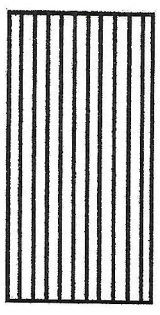
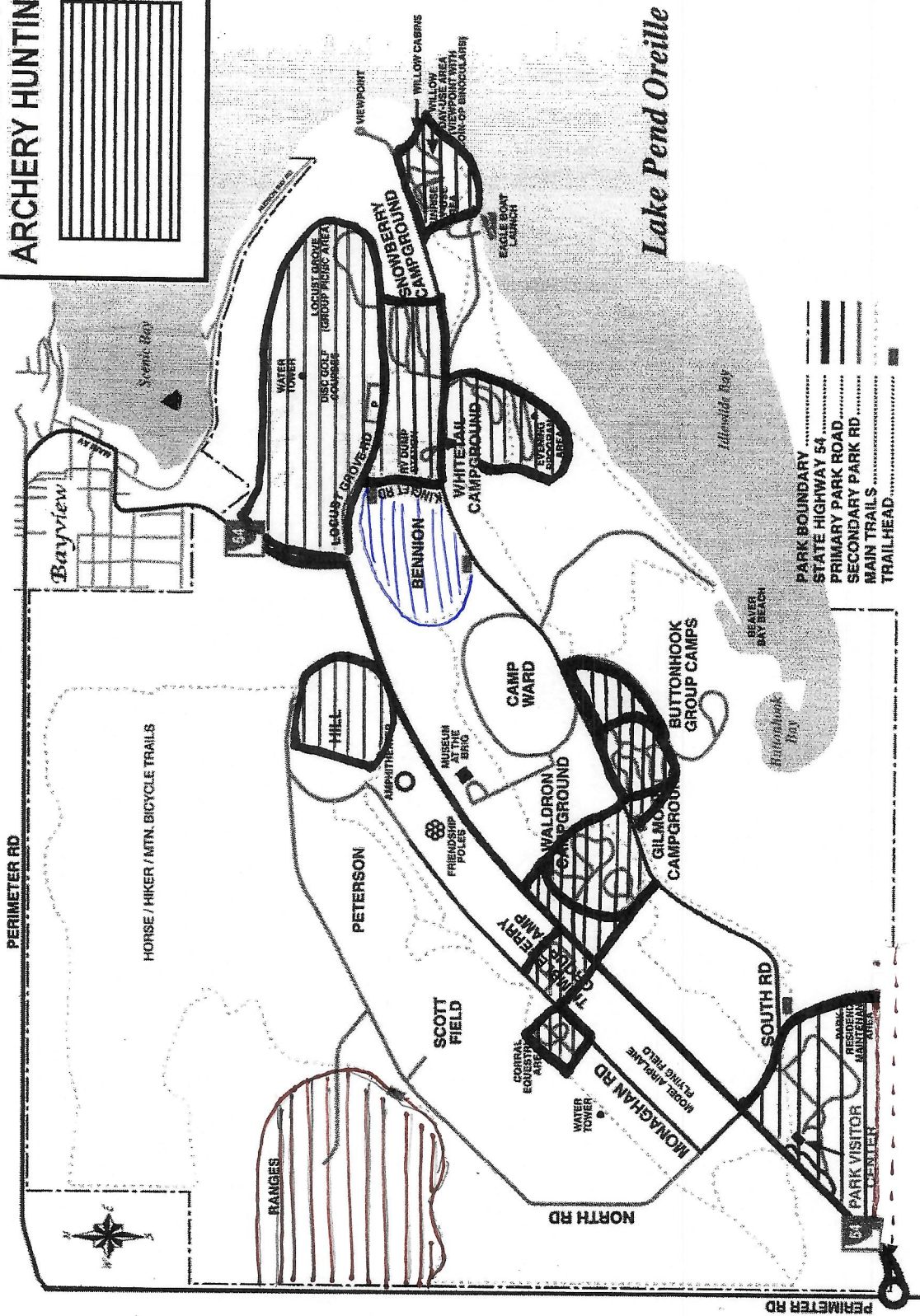
Farragut



FARRAGUT STATE PARK ARCHERY SEASON

INFORMATION MAP

AREAS CLOSED TO
ARCHERY HUNTING

Lake Pend Oreille