



**Board Report:
February 4, 2025
Susan Buxton, Director**

Deferred Maintenance and Capitol Projects

After the IDPR Board meeting on October 28, 2025, in Coeur d’Alene, the Director’s office has been focused on encumbering the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for IDPR and approved Idaho Outdoor Recreation Fund Advisory Council (ORFAC) projects. The funds were required to be encumbered as of December 31, 2024, and have their corresponding projects completed by December 31, 2026 (US Treasury regulations). The total amount of ARPA funds appropriated to IDPR from the Idaho Legislature and signed into law by Governor Little over the last 3 fiscal years was \$65 million dollars. The amount of state surplus funds appropriated to address deferred maintenance and capital projects appropriated was \$100M. IDPR’s development and fiscal teams have done amazing work getting projects bid and under contract and to address the accounting requirements. Please know that none of the monies include funds for personnel or operating expenses. I am beyond proud of our employees’ work, including what is needed our properties in order to have the public still enjoy our beautiful places, and address the construction.

The deferred maintenance and capital needs have been accumulating for many decades so these investments in outdoor recreation represent needs that have built up over 100 years for Idaho state parks and recreation facilities.

New Reservation and Registration System

During the same timeframe, the Reservation and Registration crew, and the parks staff, have been working with Brandt to install and launch the new system. This occurred on January 6, 2025, the same day as Governor Brad Little’s State of the State address. The launch was successful and was able to accommodate over 24,000 reservations. Seth Hobbs’ report does a great job describing the process and the efforts. No effort was without some glitches but the IDPR and Brandt teams were able to keep the system up, make system changes to address unforeseen glitches while the system operated.

Legislative Tour and Forestry Day

In November, 2024, we met with Legislators in Coeur d’Alene, Lewiston, Idaho Falls and Nampa with other agencies (IDFG, IDL, DEQ, PERSI, Tax) to provide information about the agencies, discuss proposed budget requests, discuss regional issues, describe the challenges and successes of the agencies and hear what issues the Legislators hear from their constituents. Scheduling was more difficult this year but the conversations were invaluable. It is always worthwhile to meet Legislators

in or near their districts so the local issues can be identified. It also provides opportunity for our board members to meet with us and the legislators in their areas.

Similarly, Vice-Chair Chuck Roady was a presenter at Forestry Day in January. There was a luncheon and we had a great opportunity to meet legislators, other natural resource agency representatives and stakeholders to discuss the issues facing the State and nation. Chuck and I were able to meet with Mike Boren, the newly appointed Undersecretary of Agriculture and Tom Schultz, the new Chief of Staff and discuss their new roles with USDA. Mike has previously served on the IDPR Board and Tom was the former Director of IDL. I look forward to working with them.

Meetings Attended

I have attended many meetings but want to recount a few:

ORFAC met to recommend projects to use \$5M of ARPA funds on October 25, 2024 and forwarded their recommendations to Governor Little. This Board made the final decision on those projects on December 12, 2024. The deadline of January 17, 2025, was set for submission of qualifying encumbrances to be received by the successful applicants. Since then, the projects are being reviewed as to whether they met the requirements of ARPA. We will set a special meeting with the Board to go over the final allocations of ARPA.

I was able to attend the North and South Region meetings, and the HQ meeting which had most of the employees in those groups in attendance. We discuss budgets, HR issues, operations and specific issues to the properties and employees in those areas. I find those and the Managers Meeting (held last week), to be the best way for me to see what our employees, the parks and recreation programs and the communities they serve need. It is also abundantly clear that we have amazing and caring people that work for IDPR. I am always inspired by each of them and their expertise.

I meet with user groups, other state, local and federal agencies, the Governor's office, non-profits and many more. I am always excited to tell IDPR's story. Just last week, I was able to meet with a local Kiwanis Club along with the Deputy Director of Health and Welfare to talk about our Foster Kids in the State Parks program and the events we have planned in the parks for foster families. The energy the public has for programs like these that combine state agencies and service groups is uplifting. I believe we will be able to get more donations for this program.



My third year as a Regent and Instructor for the national State Parks Leadership ended the first week of January 2025. The best part was that IDPR had 3 students graduate the program: Abigail Rossman (Harriman/Ashton-Tetonia Trail), Blake Packer (Land of Yankee Fork) and Ryan Buffington (East Region Manager). We have four first year students too: Joe Fihe (LOYF), Kirsten March (Walcott), Zack Grogen (Cascade) and John Seely (Dworshak). Spending a large part of a week

getting to know these outstanding leaders was priceless. The development that SPLS offers for networking, leadership and skills training alongside parks employees across the nation is wonderful.

Keith Jones at Round Lake



Group at Old Mission



IDPR Board at Old Mission 2024

After the Board meeting in October 2024, Brian Beckley, Chuck Roady, me, Adam Zaragoza, Joanna Hiller, Keith Jones and Mary McGraw were able to tour the new shop at Round Lake and look at the proposed IDL timber sale area near the park and the tree house sites we are building. It was great to have Keith, Chuck and Mary together to look at the condition of the timber and the sites. I learned a lot from those three who all have forestry backgrounds. Our continued program to address timber on IDPR lands will help maintain our natural resources for the future and address some “ugly” trees that need removal.

Round Lake State Park



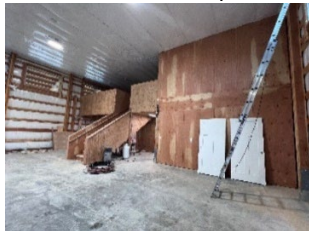
Round Lake State Park



State Park Leadership School



Visited the new shop in Smelterville when we toured the Old Mission



Conclusion

I continue to marvel that I have the best job. This report is meant to be a snapshot of a few months of activity. There are many other meetings, negotiations, problem solving, wonderful collaborations and alliances that IDPR has and is building upon. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this Board and the State of Idaho.

October – November - December

2024

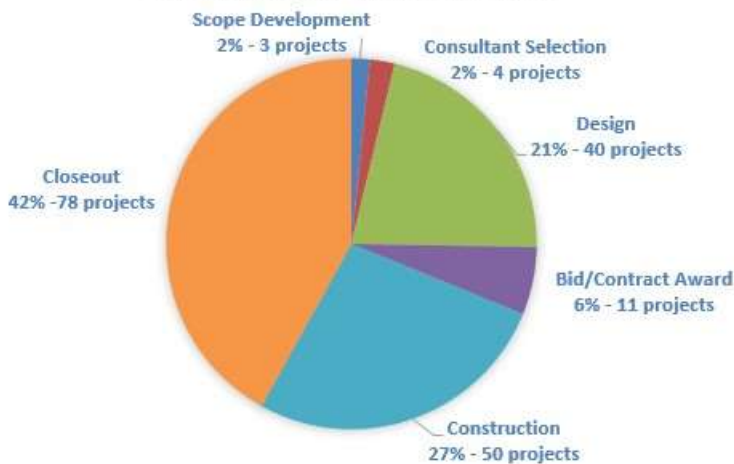
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Bureau Chief – Melanie Schuster

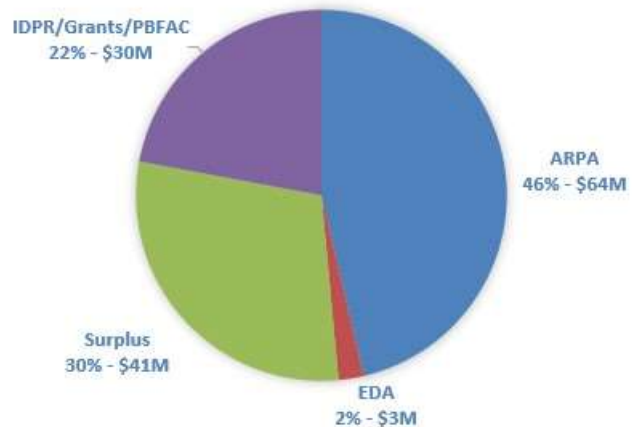
GENERAL UPDATE

The Development Bureau is currently managing 186 active projects totaling over \$138 million. These projects include multiple funding sources such as ARPA funding, Surplus funding, Federal Grants from the Bureau of Reclamation and Land and Water Conservation Funds, Idaho Grants from RV funds, funding from NPS, funding from PBFAC, as well as regularly allocated yearly state funding. This quarter we crossed the finish line on obligating the full \$65 Million in ARPA funding by the December 31st deadline. We now have two years to complete all 51 ARPA projects. Five ARPA projects have already been completed with fourteen more in the closeout process. The charts below illustrate where projects currently are in the development process by project phase and funding source.

PROJECTS BY PROJECT PHASE



PROJECTS BY FUNDING SOURCE



With fall turning to winter there was the usual race to get construction buttoned up before winter. Some projects such as the bathroom remodel at Three Island and the Seasonal House at Ponderosa have been able to continue through the winter. Four projects bid late in the year to get under contract before the ARPA deadline. With a huge push from Erik Ryan and Bryan Griggs, all four projects successfully bid and were able to get contracts in place for construction this next year. Farragut Peterson Campground is starting in January and Harriman Water & Septic System Upgrades, Massacre Rocks Sewer System Replacement and Henrys Lake Damsel Loop Campground Expansion will start as soon as weather allows.

ARPA FUNDING TRACKING *subject to change

IDPR ARPA TRACKING - July 2022 to December 2026								updated 12/31/24
Project #	Park	Project Name	Earmarked Budget	Allocated Budget	Obligated Budget	Expended as of 12/31/2024	Start Date	Completion
300037	North Region	Minor Maintenance	\$141,934.42	\$185,000.00	\$141,934.42	\$141,934.42	July 2022	April 2024
300038	South Region	Minor Maintenance	\$168,028.05	\$250,000.00	\$168,028.05	\$168,028.05	July 2022	July 2024
300039	East Region	Minor Maintenance	\$50,954.24	\$125,000.00	\$50,954.24	\$50,954.24	April 2023	August 2023
300040	Dworshak	North Region Vault Toilets - Freeman Ck	\$367,633.43	\$340,068.70	\$367,633.43	\$340,068.70	Nov 2023	
310112	Priest Lake	Priest Lake CG Elec & Water Upgrades	\$650,000.00	\$650,000.00	\$650,000.00	\$650,000.00	Sept 2022	June 2023
3101243	Priest Lake	New Day Use Areas	\$140,913.54	\$170,000.00	\$140,913.54	\$140,913.53	Feb 2024	Sept 2024
310333	Round Lake	Tree House Camping	\$1,600,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$1,600,000.00	\$164,761.00	Oct 2023	
3103251	Round Lake	IDL Cabins (ORFAC)	\$850,000.00	\$850,000.00	\$850,000.00	\$0.00	Nov 2024	
310413	TCDA	TCDA Bike-in Campsites	\$2,600,000.00	\$2,400,000.00	\$2,600,000.00	\$95,498.64	June 2023	
310531	Farragut	Peterson Group Camp	\$1,522,062.14	\$3,000,000.00	\$1,522,062.14	\$673,292.62	Feb 2023	
310611	Old Mission	Pathway Repairs and ADA Access	\$292,017.92	\$291,000.00	\$292,017.92	\$273,724.32	Sept 2023	Dec 2024
310731	Mowry	Campground Development	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$237,958.70	March 2024	
310815	Heyburn	Lakeview Cottage Renovations	\$70,160.60	\$70,160.60	\$70,160.60	\$70,160.60	Jan 2023	April 2024
310816	Heyburn	Rocky Point Lodge	\$487,144.36	\$490,000.00	\$487,144.36	\$460,653.95	Sept 2022	Nov 2024
310831	Heyburn	Wastewater Facility Repairs	\$3,900,000.00	\$3,000,000.00	\$3,900,000.00	\$2,248,378.79	Jan 2023	
310832	Heyburn	Replace Rocky Point Docks	\$1,600,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,600,000.00	\$510,325.00	May 2023	
3108243	Heyburn	Replace Chatcolet Docks	\$9,408,196.99	\$7,000,000.00	\$9,408,196.99	\$302,806.84	May 2024	
320215	Dworshak	Freeman Creek Phase 2 Waterline Upgrades	\$1,850,000.00	\$1,900,000.00	\$1,850,000.00	\$674,734.89	April 2023	
320312	Hells Gate	Hells Gate Marina Restroom Upgrades	\$147,528.58	\$147,528.58	\$147,528.58	\$147,528.58	Jan 2023	Sept 2023
320392	Hells Gate	Marina Dock Replacement Ph 2	\$700,000.00	\$700,000.00	\$700,000.00	\$668,539.67	July 2023	
3205251	Winchester	New Day Use Areas	\$125,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	July 2024	
330133	Ponderosa	Kokanee Cove Renovations	\$7,200,000.00	\$6,000,000.00	\$7,200,000.00	\$3,760,227.19	Sept 2023	
3301245	Ponderosa	Chokecherry CG Elec & Water Replacement	\$1,566,000.00	\$1,540,377.12	\$1,566,000.00	\$1,530,377.85	Sept 2024	
330231	Eagle Island	RV Campground	\$4,200,000.00	\$4,200,000.00	\$4,200,000.00	\$165,143.74	Jan 2023	
330233	Eagle Island	Calf Barn Reroof & Building Stabilization	\$389,932.44	\$380,062.44	\$389,932.44	\$380,062.44	April 2023	May 2024
330513	Bruneau Dunes	New Observatory	\$1,543,897.65	\$1,543,897.65	\$1,543,897.65	\$1,543,897.65	Aug 2022	May 2023
3307252	Lake Cascade	Horsethief Reservoir Development (ORFAC)	\$1,688,552.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00	Aug 2024	
340332	Thousand Sp.	Thousand Springs Vault Toilets	\$422,313.57	\$440,000.00	\$422,313.57	\$401,257.98	April 2023	Dec 2024
340333	Thousand Sp.	Replace Water Lines to Ritter Island	\$1,043,865.04	\$1,043,865.04	\$1,043,865.04	\$1,043,865.04	July 2022	Sept 2024
340395	Thousand Sp.	Billingsley Creek Campground	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,181,638.23	Aug 2024	
340542	Castle Rocks	Ranch Unit Bridge Replacement	\$423,196.45	\$440,000.00	\$423,196.45	\$374,188.70	April 2023	Oct 2024
350133	Massacre Rocks	Sewage System Replacement	\$883,295.04	\$1,000,000.00	\$883,295.04	\$110,933.79	May 2023	
350135	Massacre Rocks	New Day Use Areas	\$29,048.03	\$40,000.00	\$29,048.03	\$27,619.09	May 2023	Nov 2024
350311	Bear Lake	East Beach CG Ph 2 Elec Upgrades	\$132,000.00	\$132,000.00	\$132,000.00	\$132,000.00	Aug 2022	June 2023
350321	Bear Lake	East Beach CG Water Upgrades	\$88,000.00	\$88,000.00	\$88,000.00	\$88,000.00	Aug 2022	June 2023
350332	Bear Lake	Bear Lake Vault Toilets	\$181,397.38	\$181,397.38	\$181,397.00	\$181,397.38	Aug 2022	June 2023
350333	Bear Lake	East Beach Renovations	\$1,000,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$59,476.20	March 2023	
3503242	Bear Lake	Future Park Acquisition	\$2,500,000.00	\$2,500,000.00	\$2,500,000.00	\$2,500,000.00	Jan 2024	March 2024
360132	Harriman	Water & Septic System Upgrade	\$3,000,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$3,000,000.00	\$243,947.07	March 2023	
360231	Henry's Lake	Phase 2 Waterline Upgrades	\$528,199.88	\$528,199.88	\$528,199.88	\$528,199.88	July 2022	Nov 2022
360232	Henry's Lake	Sewer Connection	\$816,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$816,000.00	\$10,000.00	July 2022	
360233	Henry's Lake	Campground Expansion	\$2,434,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$2,434,000.00	\$119,275.94	Jan 2023	
360531	LOYF	LOYF Camping Improvements	\$3,047,280.25	\$3,500,000.00	\$3,047,280.25	\$2,733,434.95	April 2023	
300035	Statewide	Statewide Employee Housing	\$1,200,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$193,546.05	Sept 2023	
300036	Statewide	AT Bridge	\$350,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$216,617.76	Jan 2023	
	Statewide	ORFAC (non-IDPR)	\$1,261,448.00	\$0.00	\$1,261,448.00	\$0.00		
Project Totals (*Subject to Change)			\$65,000,000.00	\$56,326,557	\$64,811,448	\$25,545,369		

*Note that some numbers may be off due to financial systems transition to LUMA

SURPLUS FUNDING TRACKING *subject to change

IDPR SURPLUS TRACKING							updated 12/31/24	
Project #	Park	Project Name	Earmarked Budget	Allocated Budget	Obligated Budget	Expended as of 12/31/2024	Project Start	Project Completion
310132	Priest Lake	Group Camp Restroom	\$250,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$2,558	July 2023	
3101242	Priest Lake	Campground Improvements	\$815,000	\$815,000	\$815,000	\$793,723	Sept 2023	
3101244	Priest Lake	Lionhead Group Camp Bunkhouse Repairs	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$54,745	\$52,008	May 2024	June 2024
3101245	Priest Lake	Conceptual Design	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$46,500	\$46,500	June 2023	
310333	Round Lake	Tree House Camping - Additional funding	\$250,000	\$0	\$182,675	\$0	Oct 2023	
3103242	Round Lake	Backup Generators	\$360,000	\$169,850	\$339,799	\$19,850	April 2024	
3103243	Round Lake	Vehicle Pole Building Replacement	\$361,056	\$350,000	\$361,056	\$263,681	April 2024	
3103244	Round Lake	Well Upgrades	\$115,000	\$55,000	\$58,409	\$34,327	April 2024	
	Round Lake	New Welcome Center Design	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
310414	TOC	Boundary Survey	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$49,900	\$46,211	Oct 2023	
3104251	TOC	Post & Chains on Trail of the CDA	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$100,000	\$80,538	July 2024	Dec 2024
310412	TOC	New Maint. Shop - Additional Funding	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	March 2023	
310413	TOC	Bike-in Campground - Additional Funding	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	June 2023	
	TOC	TOC Vaults Interior & Exterior Painting	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	TOC	Repaint Bridges	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
310542	Farragut	Residence #2 Remodel	\$71,034	\$71,034	\$71,034	\$71,034	May 2023	July 2023
310532	Farragut	Buttonhook Bay Improvements	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$46,220	\$80	July 2024	
310531	Farragut	Peterson Group CG Additional Funding (RV match)	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$0	Feb 2023	
310531	Farragut	Peterson Group CG Additional Funding	\$280,000	\$0	\$216,226	\$0	Feb 2023	
	Farragut	Snowberry Shower House Replacement	\$700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	July 2024	
	Farragut	Eagle Boat Launch Road Grind and Pave	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	July 2024	
	Farragut	Eagle Break Water Repairs	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	July 2024	
3105251	Farragut	New Central Entrance Design	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Farragut	Waterline Repairs	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Farragut	New Visitor Center	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
310641	Old Mission	Repaint Old Mission - additional funding	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$124,342	\$124,342	July 2023	Nov 2023
	Old Mission	Visitor Center Security System Replacement	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
310731	Mowry	Mowry Development - Additional Funding	\$3,500,000	\$500,000	\$442,896	\$0	Nov 2024	
310831	Heyburn	Wastewater Facility Repairs - Additional Funding	\$2,100,000	\$0	\$82,566	\$0	Jan 2023	
3108241	Heyburn	Plummer Creek Bridge Evaluation	\$49,971	\$49,971	\$49,971	\$49,971	June 2023	Feb 2024
3108242	Heyburn	Plummer Creek Footbridge Demo	\$47,895	\$47,895	\$47,895	\$47,895	April 2024	May 2024
3108251	Heyburn	Rocky Point Staff House Reroof	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$49,950	\$49,950	Oct 2024	Dec 2024
3108252	Heyburn	Leased Cottage Sites	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$850	\$850	Nov 2024	
3108243	Heyburn	Chatcolet Marina - Additional Funding	\$11,000,000	\$0	\$11,000,000	\$0	June 2023	
310832	Heyburn	Rocky Point Marina - Additional Funding	\$8,400,000	\$0	\$44,682	\$0	June 2023	
	Heyburn	Bike Path Design from VC to TOCA	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
310931	CDA Parkway	Higgins Point Improvements	\$1,611	\$1,611	\$1,611	\$1,611	April 2023	June 2024
3109251	CDA Parkway	Higgins Point Dock Improvements	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$0	\$0	July 2024	
	McCroskey	Skyline Drive Road Repairs	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
320232	Dworshak	Big Eddy Lodge Carpet - Additional Funding	\$38,209	\$38,209	\$38,209	\$38,209	Nov 2023	Jan 2024
320241	Dworshak	Big Eddy Lodge Exterior Restain	\$138,696	\$138,696	\$138,696	\$138,696	June 2023	April 2024
320242	Dworshak	Big Eddy Lodge Replace Deck	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$172,219	\$118,100	April 2023	
3202243	Dworshak	Wastewater Upgrades	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$104,558	\$56,762	Jan 2024	
3202244	Dworshak	Volunteer Site	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$25,269	\$25,269	Jan 2024	
320233	Dworshak	Surface Water Intake - moved from ARPA	\$1,650,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$52,130	Jan 2022	
	Dworshak	Upgrade/Replace Wastewater System	\$2,900,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
320321	Hells Gate	Sewer System Upgrade - Additional Funding	\$2,150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$0	Sept 2023	
320397	Hells Gate	Camper Cabin Improvements	\$118,100	\$150,000	\$118,100	\$118,100	Sept 2023	March 2024
320311	Hells Gate	Repair and Resurface Trail - Additional Funding	\$52,079	\$52,079	\$52,079	\$52,079	Aug 2023	May 2024
320392	Hells Gate	Marina Dock Replacement - C&D docks	\$750,000	\$0	\$214,947	\$0	June 2024	
320396	Hells Gate	Bike-In Campground	\$300,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$21,271	June 2023	
	Hells Gate	Marina Loading Dock Replacement	\$465,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Hells Gate	Table and Fire Ring Replacement	\$530,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
320531	Winchester Lake	Winchester Yurts	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$15,196	\$15,196	Sept 2023	
3205241	Winchester Lake	Staff House Repairs	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$12,102	\$12,102	July 2023	
3205242	Winchester Lake	Campground ADA Pathway	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$114,887	\$26,218	June 2023	
3205243	Winchester Lake	Appaloosa/Yurt Loop Waterline Replacement	\$305,000	\$305,000	\$302,680	\$28,319	June 2023	
330131	Ponderosa	RR Upgrade Activity Center - Additional Funding	\$46,766	\$64,000	\$46,766	\$46,766	May 2023	Jan 2024
330133	Ponderosa	Kokanee Cove - Additional Funding	\$3,500,000	\$0	\$3,500,000	\$0	Sept 2022	
330143	Ponderosa	Visitor Center Reroof	\$58,647	\$58,647	\$58,647	\$58,647	Oct 2023	Oct 2023
3301244	Ponderosa	Deluxe Cabins Sidewalks	\$29,600	\$29,600	\$29,600	\$28,120	Oct 2023	Dec 2023
3301245	Ponderosa	Chokecherry CG Elec & Water - Additional Funding	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	Sept 2024	
	Ponderosa	Ranger House Remodels	\$115,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Ponderosa	Two Double Vault Toilets at North Beach	\$450,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Ponderosa	Replace North Beach & Lily Marsh Bridges	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
330231	Eagle Island	RV Campground - Additional Funding	\$3,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	July 2023	
330233	Eagle Island	Calf Barn Rehabilitation	\$650,000	\$100,000	\$95,482	\$39,000	April 2024	
3302241	Eagle Island	Dairy Barn Reroof	\$114,600	\$114,600	\$114,600	\$114,600	Sept 2023	Dec 2023
3302242	Eagle Island	Reroof Maintenance Yard Shop	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$15,985	\$15,985	Oct 2023	Dec 2023
3302243	Eagle Island	Dormitory Partial Demo & Abatement	\$109,500	\$109,500	\$109,500	\$109,500	Oct 2023	
3302244	Eagle Island	Parking Lot Improvements	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	\$160,000	\$38,400	March 2024	
3302251	Eagle Island	RV Host Sites	\$100,000	\$0	\$6,500	\$0	Dec 2024	
	Eagle Island	Slaughterhouse Demo & Abatement	\$250,500	\$0	\$0	\$0		

*Note that some numbers may be off due to financial systems transition to LUMA

SURPLUS FUNDING TRACKING *subject to change

330432	Lucky Peak	New Idaho City Yurt	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	Dec 2024	
3304242	Lucky Peak	Springs Shores Irrigation Pump Replacement	\$72,000	\$22,000	\$17,167	\$0	Jan 2024	
3304243	Lucky Peak	Discovery Unit Irrigation Pump Replacement	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$7,802	\$0	Jan 2024	Oct 2024
	Lucky Peak	Elec Gates, Security Cameras, Kiosk Mods	\$140,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
330512	Bruneau Dunes	Steele Reese Housing Conversion	\$22,993	\$16,993	\$18,272	\$18,272	Sept 2023	
330513	Bruneau Dunes	Landscape Upgrades at Observatory	\$99,500	\$99,500	\$99,500	\$99,500	May 2023	April 2024
330513	Bruneau Dunes	Paving throughout the park	\$1,250,500	\$1,250,500	\$1,250,500	\$1,250,500	April 2023	Oct 2023
330541	Bruneau Dunes	Irrigation and Landscaping - Additional Funding	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$7,000	\$0	Jan 2025	
330521	Bruneau Dunes	Repair Old Observatory	\$200,000	\$0	\$183,320	\$0	Aug 2024	
3305242	Bruneau Dunes	Install Planitarium in Observatory	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$206,910	\$199,410	July 2023	
3305251	Bruneau Dunes	Water Treatment Upgrades	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	Jan 2024	
	Bruneau Dunes	Ranger Residence Repair	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
330641	Three Island	Irrigation Upgrades - Additional Funding	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$37,046	\$37,046	March 2024	
330642	Three Island	Renovate Old VC Restroom - Additional Funding	\$42,000	\$0	\$40,078	\$0	Nov 2024	
	Three Island	Campgrounds Asphalt Repairs	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Three Island	Refurbish Old RV Dump Station	\$125,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Three Island	Trailside CG Host Site	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
330733	Lake Cascade	New Utility Building Additional Funding	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$159,412	Feb 2024	Oct 2024
3307241	Lake Cascade	Upgrade Paving Blue Heron Campground	\$1,260,000	\$910,000	\$910,000	\$909,081	Oct 2023	
3307242	Lake Cascade	Ridgeview Shower House Reroof	\$44,497	\$46,000	\$44,497	\$42,272	Nov 2023	Jan 2024
3307251	Lake Cascade	Shoreline Erosion (BOR Match)	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$0		
3307252	Lake Cascade	Horse Thief Reservoir Capital Dev. (ORFAC)	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	Aug 2024	
	Lake Cascade	Upgrade Communications System	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Lake Cascade	Buttercup & Sage Bluff Drainage Issues (BOR Match)	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Lake Cascade	Boulder Creek Projects (BOR Match)	\$350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Lake Cascade	Provide Permanent Staff Housing	\$800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	Jan 2024	
330832	Headquarters	Fire Alarm System Upgrades	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$186,750	\$162,178	July 2023	
3308241	Headquarters	LED Lighting Upgrades	\$68,000	\$68,000	\$64,360	\$14,349	April 2024	
3308242	Headquarters	Well Tie-in Irrigation Upgrades	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$12,535	\$12,535	May 2024	Oct 2024
3308251	Headquarters	OHV Shop Reroof	\$11,025	\$11,025	\$0	\$0	July 2024	Aug 2024
3403241	Thousand Springs	Remodel Manager House	\$125,000	\$60,000	\$40,320	\$40,320	Jan 2024	
340395	Thousand Springs	Billingsley Creek Campground - Additional Funding	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	Dec 2024	
	Thousand Springs	Repaint Buildnigs	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
340532	Castle Rocks	Lodge Improvements	\$163,000	\$150,000	\$158,800	\$141,117	July 2023	
3405243	Castle Rocks	Bunk House Maintenance	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$79,085	\$50,610	July 2023	April 2024
	Castle Rocks	Graham Canyon Unit Trailhead Amenities	\$430,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
3405251	Castle Rocks	Remodel Staff Housing	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$72,708	\$72,708	Dec 2024	
3406251	Lake Walcott	Water Systems Upgrades (BOR Match)	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$45,275	\$7,235	July 2024	
	Lake Walcott	Campground Electric Upgrades	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Lake Walcott	Pavement and Pathway Repairs	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
350135	Massacre Rocks	Parking Lot Improvements	\$675,000	\$675,000	\$675,000	\$656,986	July 2023	Nov 2024
3501241	Massacre Rocks	East Region Crew Shop Housing	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$0	May 2024	
	Massacre Rocks	IDL Eask Fork (ORFAC)	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Massacre Rocks	Ranger Residence Repairs	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
350333	Bear Lake	East Beach Renovation	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$600,000	\$0	May 2024	
3503242	Bear Lake	Bear Lake County Property	\$8,895	\$8,895	\$8,895	\$8,895	Nov 2023	Nov 2024
3503243	Bear Lake	Vault Toilet Replacement	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	April 2024	
3503244	Bear Lake	North Beach Dock Repairs	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$23,580	June 2024	
	Bear Lake	Fish Haven Master Planning	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
	Bear Lake	Permenant Staff Housing	\$800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
360102	Harriman	Scovel Center Winterization	\$237,000	\$170,000	\$237,000	\$156,162	Sept 2024	
360131	Harriman	Ranch Office Remodel	\$350,000	\$300,000	\$97,835	\$57,871	July 2023	
360132	Harriman	Water & Septic System Upgrades	\$200,000	\$0	\$103,320	\$0	Dec 2024	
360134	Harriman	Historic Building Reroof & Chimney Repairs	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,406,301	\$2,215,484	July 2023	
360135	Harriman	Replace HVAC/Remove Fuel Tanks	\$177,000	\$177,000	\$173,642	\$171,867	July 2023	July 2024
360141	Harriman	Paving John Muir Trail	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$18,995	\$18,995	June 2023	Dec 2024
3601243	Harriman	Manager House Repairs	\$117,441	\$117,441	\$117,441	\$117,441	July 2023	
3601244	Harriman	Assit. Manager House Repairs	\$117,591	\$117,591	\$117,591	\$117,591	July 2023	
3601248	Harriman	New Welcome Center Design	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$63,012	Oct 2023	
36012419	Harriman	Jones House Maintenance	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$22,800	July 2023	
36012423	Harriman	Dike & Culvert Repairs	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$15,960	\$8,700	May 2024	
360233	Henry's Lake	Campground Expansion	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$159,634	\$0	Dec 2024	
3602243	Henry's Lake	Staff Cabin Repairs	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$48,750	\$0	June 2024	
3602241	Henry's Lake	Boat Ramp Concrete Replacement	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$10,000	\$0	Oct 2023	
3602242	Henry's Lake	Conceptual Design	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$0	May 2024	
	Henry's Lake	IDL Cabins (ORFAC)	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
300036	Ashton-Tetonia	Historic Bridge Repair - Additional Funding	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	Dec 2024	
360432	Ashton-Tetonia	Visitor Center Upgrades	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$374,955	\$282,739	June 2023	
3604241	Ashton-Tetonia	Visitor Center Purchase	\$355,000	\$355,000	\$351,155	\$351,155	June 2024	Aug 2024
3604242	Ashton Tetonia	AT Trailhead Conceptional Planning	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$2,550	June 2023	
3604254	Ashton-Tetonia	Drummond Property	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	June 2023	
360513	LOYF	Bayhorse Preservation	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$583,748	\$361,656	Sept 2023	
360531	LOYF	Camping Improvements (RV Grant Match)	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0		
360541	LOYF	Exterior Painting - Additional Funding	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$24,500	\$14,934	May 2024	Jan 2025
3605251	LOYF	Bayhorse Bridge Replacement	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$31,400	\$27,310	Jan 2023	
	LOYF	Camping Improvements - Additional Funding	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		
3000247	North Region	North Region Minor Maintenance Program	\$666,667	\$666,667	\$300,000	\$288,561	Oct 2023	
3000248	South Region	South Region Minor Maintenance Program	\$666,667	\$666,667	\$300,000	\$270,903	Oct 2023	
3000249	East Region	East Region Minor Maintenance Program	\$666,667	\$666,667	\$450,000	\$431,808	Oct 2023	
	Statewide	Future Park Acquisitions	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	Nov 2023	
300035	Statewide	Statewide Employee Housing	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	Sept 2023	
300046	Statewide	Statewide Park Residence Repairs	\$800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	May 2023	
300047	Statewide	Statewide Natural Resource Protection	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$225,000	\$238,362	Aug 2023	
	Statewide	ORFAC	\$1,250,000					
Surplus Project Totals (*Subject to Change)			\$95,416,708	\$31,769,639	\$40,557,423	\$15,464,503		
			Earmarked Budget	Allocated Budget	Obligated Budget	Expended as of 12/31/2024		

NORTH REGION

<u>Project Number and Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
310132 – Priest Lake Replace Group Camp RR/Shower Building A Design-Build team was selected to deliver the project in combination with the Lionhead Entrance Station project. Design has been completed and construction is scheduled to start Spring 2025.	Design
310141 – Priest Lake Lionhead Entrance Station See project 310132.	Design
3101242 – Priest Lake Campground and ADA Improvements (Surplus) Project is complete and in the closeout process.	Close Out
3101243 – Priest Lake New Day Use Areas (ARPA) Eight new day use sites including ADA accessible sites were completed in May. Project is in the close out process.	Close Out
3101244 – Priest Lake Bunk House Repairs (Surplus) The deteriorating deck was removed and replaced with a new concrete slab and access stairs. The project was completed in May 2024 and is in the close out process.	Close Out
310321 – Round Lake Campground Improvements The project is underway with a Design-Build team. Defined camping pads have been installed in the lower loop (Sites 8-24). Parking spurs in the upper loop will be realigned as needed and camping pads will be installed when utilities are installed to those campsites in Fall 2025. See project 310332 for additional information.	Construction
310332 – Round Lake Electric & Water Upgrades Design is complete and being reviewed by DEQ. Electric and water will be provided to sites 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 40-51. Construction will start Fall 2025. See project 310331 for additional information.	Design
310333 – Round Lake Treehouses (ARPA) The project is underway with a Design-Build team. Design is complete and being reviewed for the building permit. Construction to start Spring 2025.	Bidding
310341 – Round Lake Reroof Park Residence Project complete. Roof replaced, heat tape added to roof, and additional insulation blown into the attic. Substantial completion signed, awaiting the final pay app to close out.	Close Out
3103242 – Round Lake Backup Generators Design complete with materials ordered and construction starting Spring 2025.	Construction

Project Number and Name

Status

3103243 – Round Lake Equipment Building Replacement.
Substantial completion has been signed, waiting for final pay app to close out.

Close Out



Round Lake Equipment Building

3103244 – Round Lake Well Upgrades
The pump has been replaced with the rest of the water system in design.

Design

3103251 – IDL Treehouses (ORFAC)
Working with Design/Build Contractor on project permitting requirements.

Design

Project Number and Name

Status

310412 – Trail of CDA Land Acquisition & Construct Maintenance Shop
Project is substantially complete pending accessibility modifications.

Construction



TOC Shop



TOC Shop Living Quarters for Staff

<u>Project Number and Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
310413 – Trail of CDA Bike-In Campsites (ARPA) All project approvals have been received and construction contract is signed. Construction is planned for Spring 2025.	Construction
310414 – Trail of CDA Survey Trail Boundaries (Surplus) The surveyor is under contract to survey the trail heading west from the shop ten miles to the county line. Survey has been received for review.	Design
3104241 – Trail of CDA Install Crosswalk Indicator Signs Project will go out to bid in January with an estimated Spring 2025 completion date.	Bidding
3104251 – Trail of CDA Replace Trailhead Posts & Chains The project is complete and pending closeout.	Close Out
310531 – Farragut Peterson Campground (ARPA) The project bid in December and the contract has been signed. Contractor to begin site clearing in January 2025.	Construction



Clearing for New Farragut Peterson Campground

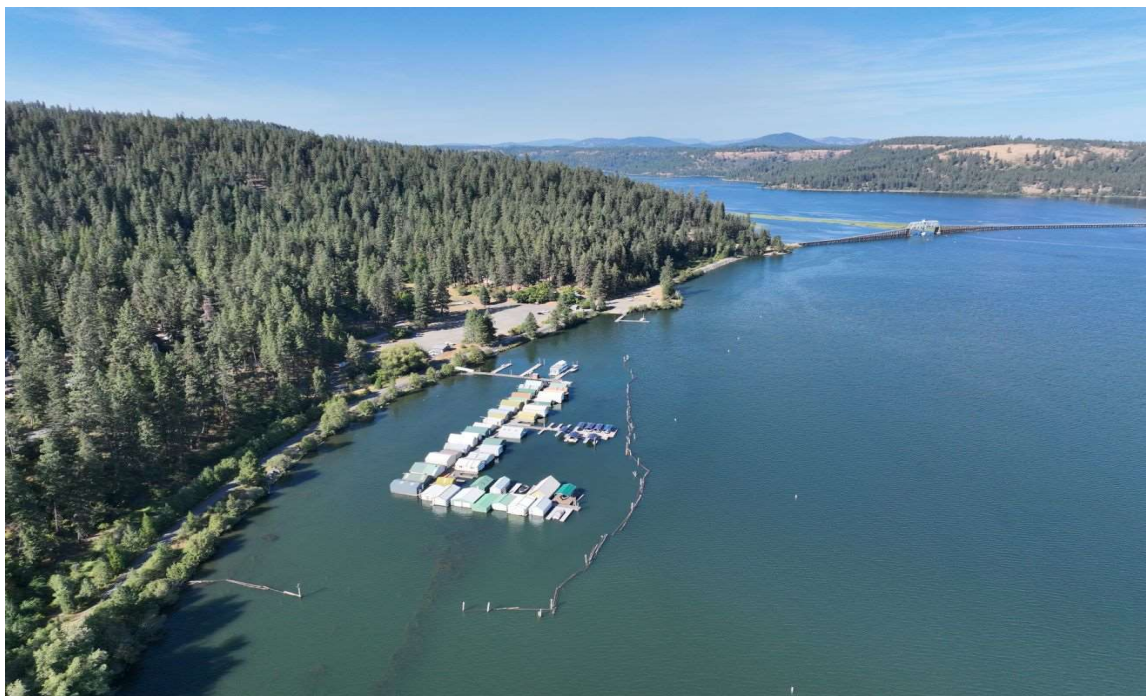
310532 – Farragut Buttonhook Bay Infrastructure Improvement (Surplus) The Design-Build team has completed the programming phase. We are working through refining the scope of the projects included.	Design
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Project Number and Name	Scope
310541 – Farragut Connect VC & Brig to Fiber Optic Due to extremely high monthly costs for fiber service the park has opted to procure Starlink to provide internet service to the Brig and Shop. Equipment is being purchased.	Construction
310542 – Farragut Staff Housing 2 Remodel Project is complete and in the closeout phase.	Close Out
3105251 – Farragut Roundabout Project is in design.	Design
310611 – Old Mission Church Porch Repair, Path Repair & Lift Replacement Construction has been completed, and the project is in closeout.	Close Out



New Pathway for Old Mission

Project Number and Name	Scope
<p>310731- Mowry New Campground (ARPA) A Design-Build team is under contract and design is at various stages of progress. Construction of the staff duplex will start Spring of 2025. Work on the new campground will start spring of 2025 and work on the Mowry house will start as soon as the staff duplex is complete.</p>	Design/Construction
<p>310741 – Mowry House Siding and Foundation Repairs See project 310731</p>	Design
<p>310816 – Heyburn Lodge Remodel (Surplus & ARPA) Interior and exterior construction complete. Landscaping completed with hydroseeding scheduled for Fall 2024 for completion of this project. Project is now in closeout.</p>	Close Out
<p>310824 – Heyburn Rocky Point Fuel Dispenser Replacement The project will be incorporated into the marina replacement project. The fueling station will be moved to the Chatcolet Marina. 90% design complete.</p>	Design
<p>310831 – Heyburn Wastewater Facility Repairs (ARPA) Lift station replacement started Fall 2024. Two lift stations have been replaced with nine remaining. Detailed design for repairs to the transfer pump facility will be complete Spring 2025 and construction is expected to begin Summer 2025.</p>	Construction
<p>310832 – Heyburn Rocky Point Dock Replacement (ARPA) 90% design drawings are complete for Chatcolet. Boat garages have been removed from Chatcolet and Rocky Point. The docks and breakwater have been removed from Chatcolet. Chatcolet marina replacement will occur in 2025 and Rocky Point in 2026.</p>	Design



Heyburn Boat Garages



Heyburn Boat Garages Removed

3108242 – Heyburn Plummer Creek Pedestrian Bridge Removal (Surplus) Close Out
 Project complete. The bridge has been removed and the site restored.

3108243 – Heyburn Replace Chatcolet Docks (ARPA) Design
 See project 310832.

3108251 – Heyburn Rocky Point Staff House Reroof (Surplus) Close Out
 Reroof has been completed and the project is in closeout.

3109251 – Higgens Point Dock Improvements (Surplus) Design
 The dock work will be included in the Farragut Improvements project and a Design-Build team has been selected.

320181- McCroskey Redtail Primitive Campground & Shelters Design
 Design is complete. University of Idaho has presented their findings regarding site impact and public opinion. Project on hold. Waiting for input from park before proceeding.

320141- McCroskey Develop Group Shelter, Toilet, Parking Design
 See Project 320181.

300040 – North Region Vault Toilets (ARPA) Construction
 New CXT's have been installed and clean up work will be finished in the spring.

Project Number and Name	Scope
<p>320215 – Dworshak Replace Freeman Creek Water Lines (ARPA) Construction of the waterline has started and will continue through the winter and will be finished in the Spring of 2025.</p>	Construction
<p>320233 – Dworshak Surface Water Intake Replacement (Surplus) Contracts have been signed with the engineer to get the project under design. The Preliminary Engineering report (PER) has been approved by DEQ. The design team is working on final design.</p>	Design
<p>320242 – Dworshak Big Eddy VC Deck Replacement (Surplus) The contractor deviated from the approved engineering while constructing the deck. The contractor is now working with the engineer to bring the project to completion. Project is scheduled for completion Spring 2025.</p>	Construction
<p>3202243 – Dworshak Wastewater Upgrades The Design-Build team is proceeding with wastewater system evaluation and recommendations for Freeman Creek and Three Meadows. The evaluation is waiting for USACE test pit approval.</p>	Design
<p>3202244 – Dworshak Volunteer Site Expansion (Surplus) The design is complete and we are awaiting USACE approval.</p>	Design
<p>3202245 – Dworshak Drift Creek Culvert Repair (Surplus) The project is scheduled for construction in January 2025.</p>	Construction



Dworshak Drift Creek Culvert

<p>320321 – Hells Gate Sewer System & Facility Upgrade The Design-Build team is proceeding with non-ground disturbing activities while other parts of the project are in design. USACE permit has been submitted, and we are waiting approval.</p>	Design
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Project Number and Name	Status
<p>320392 – Hells Gate Marina Mooring Dock Replacement (ARPA) Two new marina docks have been installed. The application of the zero-charge floor coating was only effective for a short duration, so the deck panels are being replaced with aluminum grating. Piles have been driven for C & D docks and the dock frames are complete. C & D docks will be installed in spring 2025. We are also starting plans to replace the loading dock near the concession building.</p>	Construction
<p>320396 – Hells Gate Bike-In Camping (ARPA) Design is complete. Waiting for the Corps of Engineers (USACE) approval to proceed with the project. Construction scheduling is pending per USACE approval.</p>	Design
<p>DPW 24540 Hells Gate Managers House Renovation. (PBFAC) Electrical system upgrades, plumbing upgrades, HV/AC and reroof are completed. Some additional repairs to the exterior have been added and are nearing completion.</p>	Construction
<p>DPW 25543 Hells Gate ADA Restroom Remodel (PBFAC) Design team has been selected and met on site to establish scope of work. Design team is working to provide schematic design for review.</p>	Design
<p>320531 – Winchester Additional Yurts (Surplus) Project on hold pending new pricing.</p>	Design
<p>3205241 – Winchester Staff House Repairs (Surplus) Staff house floor covering has been completed, and garage doors have been replaced. Electrical repairs to be scheduled.</p>	Construction
<p>3205242 – Winchester ADA Pathway (Surplus) Design is complete and construction is scheduled to start Spring of 2025.</p>	Design
<p>3205243 - Winchester Appaloosa Water Line Replacement (Surplus) Design is complete and construction is scheduled to start Spring of 2025.</p>	Design
<p>3205251 - Winchester New Day Use Areas (ARPA) Design is complete and construction is scheduled to start Spring of 2025.</p>	Bidding

SOUTH REGION

Project Number and Name

Status

3301245 - Ponderosa Chokecherry Loop Water & Electric Upgrades (ARPA)
Construction has ceased for the winter and the contractor will complete the remaining items spring of 2025. 4 campsites were altered to meet ADA requirements.

Construction



Chokecherry Loop Electric & Water Upgrades

330133 – Ponderosa Kokanee Cove Dev & Renovations (ARPA) Phase 1 & 2 Construction

The residence is nearing completion. Once electrical power has been connected by Idaho Power, finishes (painting, cabinets, flooring, trim) and appliances can be completed. Water meter to the residence is pending City of McCall approval. The residence is scheduled to be ready for occupancy in mid-February 2025. The water main and services to the residence and Activity Center have been completed. All that remains is setting of the meters and final City approval.



Ponderosa Kokanee Cove Residence

330133 – Ponderosa Kokanee Cove Dev & Renovations (ARPA) Phase 3 Construction

Kokanee Cove has ceased all work for the winter. Cabins 1 and 2 have been framed, roofed and rough-in of electrical and plumbing completed. Cabins 3 and 4 have slabs on grade and underground plumbing and electric completed. The old dormitory/restroom building has been removed and the new restroom building slab and underground utilities have been installed. The Event Center has the windows installed and a new roof installed. Remobilization is scheduled for late April, early May 2025, weather permitting. Cabins 5 and 6 have been added through ORFAC contribution of funding. Project is scheduled to be completed in November 2025.



Kokanee Cove Cabins 1 and 2



Kokanee Cove Event Center



Arial View of Kokanee Cove Cabins on Lake

<p>330141 – Ponderosa Reroof Ranger Residence A The reroof is complete and the residence is being analyzed to finalize the remaining scope of work.</p>	<p>Construction</p>
<p>330142 – Ponderosa Reroof Ranger Residence B Project scope and delivery method is being determined</p>	<p>Scoping</p>
<p>330143 – Ponderosa Visitor Center Reroof (Surplus) Project is complete, gathering close out documentation.</p>	<p>Close Out</p>
<p>3301244 – Ponderosa Cabin Sidewalks Project is complete, gathering close out documentation.</p>	<p>Close Out</p>
<p>330231 – Eagle Island RV Campground The campground project is coming along nicely. The campground has been paved, utilities (sewer, water, electrical) installed to each campsite, shower house and restroom buildings are all installed. The water line has been installed on the island side and the boring under the Boise River is nearing completion. Boring for sewer connection will begin in January 2025. Landscaping has been on-going with irrigation systems largely completed. The campground is scheduled for opening in mid-March 2025 although there will be some level of minor construction remaining that should be fully completed by June 2025.</p>	<p>Construction</p>

Park Number and Name	Scope
<p>330233 – Eagle Island Calf Barn Re-Roof & Stabilization (ARPA) The Calf Barn stabilization and re-roofing has been completed. Security lighting has been installed and we are awaiting Idaho Power to set meter.</p>	Construction
<p>3302243 – Eagle Island Dorm Abatement (Surplus) The Dormitory has been cleaned up and abated. The contractor is pricing structural bracing, exterior lighting, and means of securing the building to complete the project.</p>	Construction
<p>3302244 – Eagle Island Parking Lot Improvements (Surplus) The project is under design to improve the existing lot and increase parking.</p>	Design
<p>DPW25540 – Eagle Island Staff Housing Renovations Working with DPW to define scope of work and delivery method.</p>	Design
<p>330432 – Lucky Peak Idaho City Additional Yurts (Surplus) The Forest Service has approved replacement of the yurt at the previous Whispering Pines site. Working on a Design-Build contract to implement the project.</p>	Consultant Selection
<p>330441 – Lucky Peak Sandy Point Erosion Control Working on a Design-Build contract to implement the project.</p>	Consultant Selection
<p>3304242 – Lucky Peak Spring Shores Irrigation Pump Replacement Pump has been replaced but underground power has failed. Working on approval from USACE to replace underground power line. If approval is received, work will be completed Spring 2025 before water levels prevent work.</p>	Bidding
<p>3304243 – Lucky Peak Discovery Unit Irrigation Pump Replacement Pump has been replaced and project is in closeout.</p>	Close Out
<p>330512 – Bruneau Staff Housing Pilot Program The dorm has been completed and is ready for furniture to be installed.</p>	Construction
<p>330513 – Bruneau Dunes Observatory Replacement (Surplus/ARPA) The project is now in the close out process.</p>	Close Out
<p>330521 – Bruneau Observatory Repairs The repair of the old observatory started in December 2024. Work will include replacing the track system, drive system, electrical and flooring, allowing the park to utilize both observatories in their programs.</p>	Construction

Park Number and Name

Scope

330541 – Bruneau Dunes New Irrigation Well

A new well cannot be built due to water right restrictions. Eagle Cove will be xeriscaped to reduce the required water load in the park. Work will begin in January and completed in Spring 2025.

Design

3305242 – Bruneau Dunes Planetarium (Surplus)

Additional seating has been ordered to provide more visitor viewing opportunity.

Construction

330641 – Three Island Irrigation Pump & Control Upgrades

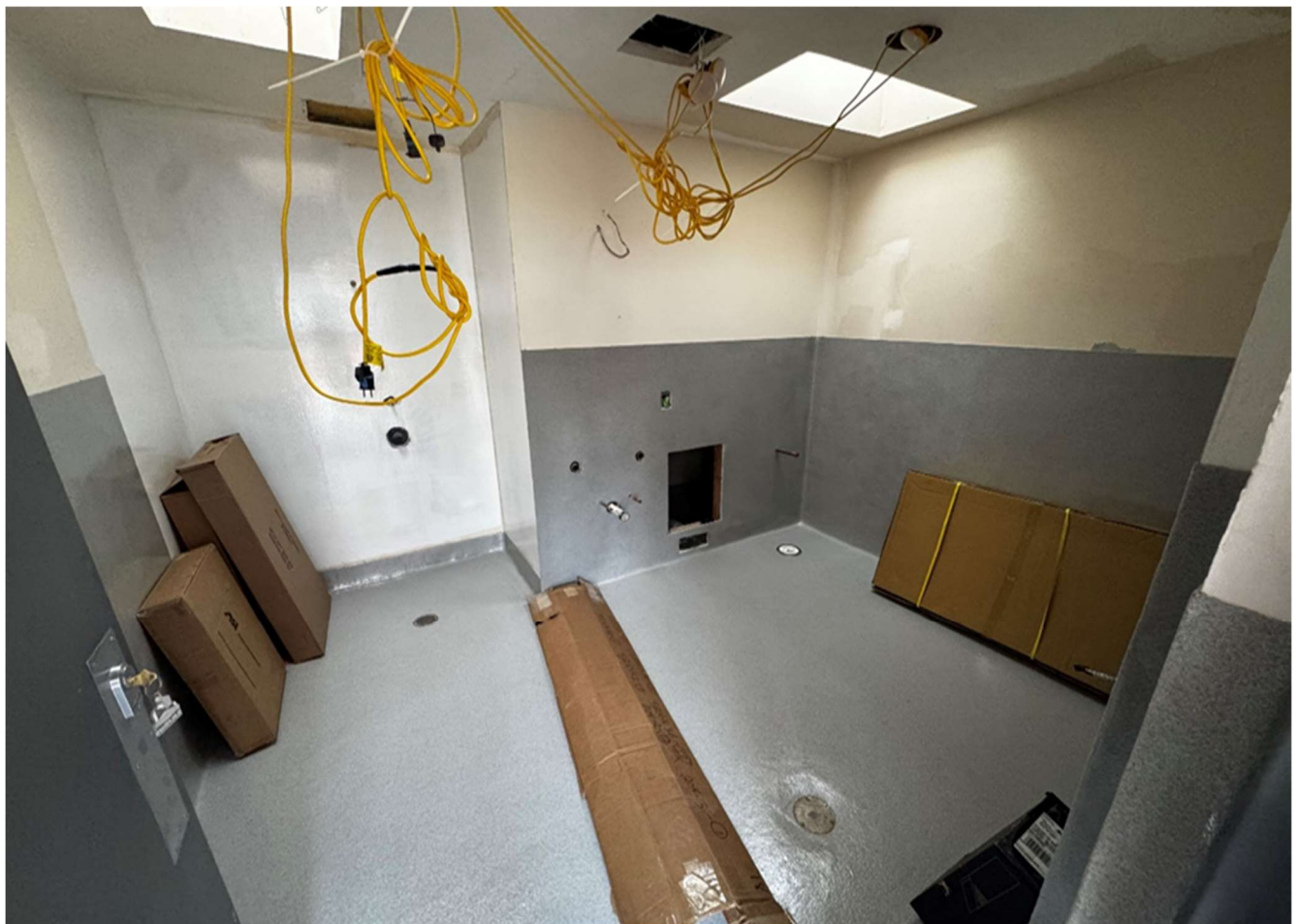
Service contractor is waiting to receive the new pump to install. The previous new pump was faulty and had to be replaced.

Construction

330642 – Three Island Renovate Old VC Restroom (PBFAC)

The conversion of the restroom facility at the old Visitor Center is underway and is scheduled to be completed in early February 2025.

Construction



Three Island Old Visitor Center Restroom Remodel

<u>Park Number and Name</u>	<u>Scope</u>
3307241 – Lake Cascade Dock Replacements The project has been completed and closeout is in process. BOR is looking to address additional accessibility requirements that may be implemented at a later date.	Close Out
330733 – Lake Cascade New Utility Building Construction is complete, close out docs are in place and working towards close out.	Close Out
3307252 – Horsethief Reservoir Development (ORFAC) Design-Build contract is in place and the project is in design.	Design
DPW 25541 Lake Cascade Reroof Shop Contract is in place to install new standing seam metal roof system. Construction to start Spring 2025.	Construction
3308251 – Headquarters Reroof OHV Shop Shop has been reroofed and project is completed. All close out docs are in place and Project is in the closeout phase.	Close Out
3308241 – Headquarters LED Lighting Upgrades. Project is completed. Gathering close out documents.	Close Out
3308242 – Headquarters Well Tie-in, Irrigation Upgrades Project is completed. Gathering close out documents.	Close Out
330832 – Headquarters Fire Alarm System Upgrades Upgrades to the card reader security system, hard drive, and software are completed. Gathering close out documents.	Close Out

Park Number and Name

Scope

340322 – Thousand Springs VC Exhibits

Design

The Project is being transitioned to a new Design-Build team as the former team has gone out of business.

340332 – Thousand Springs Vault Toilets (ARPA)

Close Out

Installation of vault toilets for Ritter Island, Box Canyon, Niagara and Crystal Springs have been completed and are in use. Contract closeout is in process.



Box Canyon Vault Toilet



Niagara Springs Vault Toilet



Box Canyon Vault Toilet



Ritter Island Vault Toilet

Park Number and Name

Scope

340333 – Thousand Springs Ritter Island Water System (ARPA)
This project is complete and in the closeout process.

Closes Out

340395 – Thousand Springs Billingsley Creek Campground
Construction remains halted by NPS now through September 15, 2024 (5 months interruption. Maintenance of the new sod and the installation of a new irrigation pump have been the only activity since April 2024. Construction will be restarted upon notice from NPS. Construction completion will depend on how long the work stoppage continues.

Construction



Billingsley Creek RV Campground

3403241 – Thousand Springs Manager House Maintenance (Surplus)
A service contractor has been out to visit the house and is preparing an estimate.

Bidding

DPW 23887 Thousand Springs South Region Reroofs
Reroofs have been completed for the Red House, Yellow House, Ritter Island Shop, Horse Barn, Rock House, Rock House Garage, Bonnieview House and Ranger House.

Close Out

EAST REGION

Project Number and Name	Status
340531 - Castle Rocks VC Water System Upgrade Project is substantially complete, with only punch list items remaining to be completed.	Construction
340532 - Castle Rocks Lodge Improvements (Surplus) Construction started in April and was completed May 2024. The project is in close out.	Close Out
340541 - Castle Rocks Fishpond ADA Improvements The project is under construction. The vault toilet and picnic shelter will be installed Spring 2025 to bring the project to completion.	Construction
340542 – Castle Rocks Ranch Unit Bridge Replacement (ARPA) Work has been completed and the project is in the closeout process following the final payment.	Close Out
3405243 – Castle Rocks Bunk House Maintenance (Surplus) Construction started in April and was completed May 2024. The project is in close out.	Close Out
3405251 Castle Rocks Ranger House Upgrades (Surplus) New kitchen cabinets, floor covering, and roof are completed. We are looking into the extent of exterior siding, trim repairs, and new paint needed to complete the project.	Construction
3406251 Lake Walcott Water Systems Upgrades Design team has been selected, Scope of work has been determined. BOR grant 50/50 funding has been approved. Design team is working towards construction documents for final review and submittal to BOR archeological team for cultural clearance and construction approval. Construction to start Summer/Fall 2025.	Design
DPW 23887 2nd Phase Differed Maintenance Lake Walcott Reroofs Project scope is for reroofing and minor repairs of the Dooley Gazebo, 4 Restrooms, BBQ Gazebo, KLEBE Gazebo, Information Gazebo, Chemical Storage, Information Kiosk, RV Restroom, Gazebo #11,12,and 13, Entrance Kiosk, Pump House, Staff House, Staff garage and Maintenance Shed. Project to be completed March 2025.	Construction
350133 – Massacre Rocks Sewer System Replacement (ARPA) The project has bid and is now contract. Work is underway to finalize South Idaho Public Health Permitting. Project to start construction Spring 2025.	Bidding
350134 – Massacre Rocks E. Fork Campground (Surplus) On Hold pending agreement with IDL.	On Hold
350135 – Massacre Rocks Parking Improvements (Surplus) Construction is complete and the project is in close out.	Close Out
3501241 – Massacre Rocks East Region Maintenance Shop Construction has started, excavation is completed, foundation is poured and framing has started. Project is scheduled for Summer 2025 completion.	Construction

<u>Project Number and Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
350333 – Bear Lake East Beach Renovation (ARPA) Design Phase for the new campground is complete and will be moving into construction. Anticipated construction start late Spring 2025.	Construction
3503241 – Bear Lake N. Beach Boat Ramp Replacement The programming phase is complete, refining the scope of work with the design team to fit the budget.	Design
3503243 – Bear Lake Insurance Replacement Vault Toilet The project is under contract and the vault toilet is expected to arrive Spring 2025.	Construction
3503244 – Bear Lake North Beach Dock Repair Repairs are under way and will be completed Spring 2025.	Construction
360102 – Harriman Scovel Center Winterization Grading is complete, decking is 90% installed with winter grates and pier caps to be finished in the spring. New HVAC has been installed and is functioning well. Fire suppression repairs being installed.	Construction



Harriman Scovel Center Winterization



Harriman Scovel Center Winterization

<u>Project Number and Name</u>	<u>Scope</u>
360131 – Harriman Historic Ranch Office Rehabilitation Project is under construction. Reroof and log repair have been completed. Deck and painting is complete. Interior remodel change order processed, and work is beginning now through winter.	Construction
360132 – Harriman Water & Septic System Upgrades (ARPA) Project has bid and is now under contract. Finalizing East Idaho Public Health permitting approval, and building permitting. Project construction to start Spring 2025.	Bidding
360133 – Harriman Fishpond Campground (Surplus) Due to the time needed to analyze the area and coordinate with outside agencies this project will be transitioned from ARPA funding to Surplus funding.	Scope Development
360134 – Harriman Historic Reroofs (Surplus) All reroofs have been completed. Additional bat boxes have been installed to help keep bats out of the newly cleaned and sealed buildings. Chimney repairs have started and four of six are complete, the final two to be completed in late Spring 2025.	Construction
360135 – Harriman HVAC Upgrades (Surplus) The project will remove existing underground oil tanks and replace HVAC systems with propane. Construction has been completed and in the closeout phase.	Close Out
360141 – Harriman John Muir Trail Upgrades Out Project bid August 2024 and bids were over budget. Friends of Harriman is unwilling to commit additional funding to complete the project, the project will be closed.	Close
3601243 – Harriman Manager’s House Maintenance (Surplus) Project is complete and in the close out phase.	Close Out
3601244 – Harriman Assistant Manager’s House Maintenance (Surplus) Project is complete and in the close out phase.	Close Out
3601245 – Harriman Shop Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete and in the close out phase.	Close Out
3601246 – Harriman Vehicle Storage Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete and in the close out phase.	Close Out
3601247 – Harriman Gas Storage Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete and in the close out phase.	Close Out
3601248 – Harriman New Welcome Center (Surplus) The project is under design with multiple sites being analyzed for project placement.	Design
3601249 – Harriman Honeymoon Hotel Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof and bat abatement completed. Bats have moved into their new condos outside the building. Interior completed in September 2024. Re-wiring started January 2025.	Construction

<u>Project Number and Name</u>	<u>Scope</u>
36012410 – Harriman Icehouse Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete and is in close out phase.	Close Out
36012411 – Harriman Cattle Foreman’s House Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof and chimney repair work are complete. Project is in closeout.	Close Out
36012412 – Harriman Ranch Manager’s House Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete. Chimney repair work to be completed in Spring 2025	Construction
36012413 – Harriman Tractor House Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete. Work complete on building stabilization. Project in closeout.	Close Out
36012414 – Harriman Tractor Storage Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete and in the close out phase.	Close Out
36012415 – Harriman Cook House Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof and chimney repairs completed in Fall 2024. In the close out phase.	Close Out
362416 – Harriman Cottage Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof and chimney repairs completed in Fall 2024. In the close out phase.	Close Out
36012417 – Harriman Dining Cottage Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof and chimney repairs completed in Fall 2024. In the close out phase.	Close Out
36012418 –Harriman Boys House Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete. Chimney repair work to be completed in Spring 2025.	Construction
36012419 –Harriman Jones House Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete, bathroom repairs complete, new heaters installed. In closeout.	Close Out
36012420 –Harriman Small Shop Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete. Building stabilization complete, in close out.	Close Out
36012421 –Harriman Ranch Foreman’s House Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof complete and ready for close out.	Close Out
36012422 –Harriman Sheep Barn Maintenance (Surplus) Reroof completed and ready for close out.	Close Out
36012423 -Harriman Dike and Culvert Repairs Engineer is working on design for culvert and headgate repair at Silver Lake and embankment and road stabilization at Golden Lake. Construction documents 90%.	Design

Project Number and Name Scope

360232 – Henrys Lake Sewer Connection (ARPA) Design
See project 360233.

360233 – Henrys Lake Campground Expansion (ARPA) Design
Project went out to bid and is now under contract. Finalizing public health permitting and building permitting. Working with Fall River Electric for easement to run new utilities to new campground loop. Construction to start Spring 2025

3602241 – Henrys Lake Boat Ramp Replacement (Surplus) Design
Design team is looking at construction options to repair the boat ramp.

3602243 – Henrys Lake Staff Cabin Repairs (Surplus) Construction
Contractor has completed construction and East Region Crew will finish final installation of cabinetry when the road reopens.



Henrys Lake Staff Cabin Repairs

Project Number and Name

Scope

360431 – Ashton-Tetonia Trail Upgrades (EDA)

Design

Schematic design is 75% complete and waiting for first review of drawings. EDA Environmental Narrative to be submitted for review in September 2024.

360432 – Ashton-Tetonia Visitor Center (Surplus)

Construction

Service Contractor completed, bathroom remodel, concrete ramp replacement, office remodel, HVAC replacement and reroof. Visitor Center opened in September. Final exterior elements will be completed Spring 2025.



Ashton Tetonia Visitor Center New Roof



Ashton Tetonia Visitor Center Ramp

300036 – Ashton-Tetonia Trail Bridge Inspections & Repair (ARPA)

Construction

Bridges have been inspected and the final report has been received. Bridge repairs started in September. Fall River and Conant Creek have repaired footings, deck, and railings. Bitch Creek to be repaired late Spring 2025.



Conant Bridge Footings



Fall River Bridge Repairs



Fall River Bridge Footings

Project Number and Name

Scope

360513 – Land of Yankee Fork General Rehabilitation (Surplus)

Construction

Structural Engineer team surveyed structures in July 2023. Structural report was received and initial work is complete to shore up the Dryer building and Stamp Mill. Summer 2024 reroofs have been completed for the stamp mill, dryer building, caretakers building, pyramid roof house and green house. Repairs to Stamp Mill will continue in Spring 2025.



LOYF Bayhorse Mill

360531 – Land of Yankee Fork Camping Improvements (ARPA)

Design

The design team has completed master plan concepts for the park. Working with Engineer to review water and sewer upgrades.

3605241 – Land of Yankee Fork Repaint VC, Shop & Manager’s House

Close Out

Contract is in place with a service contractor. The visitor center, shop, out buildings, signs, manager’s house and storage shop are complete. Project is in close out.

3605251 – Land of Yankee Fork Bayhorse Bridge Replacement (ARPA)

Design

Design updated to remove pressure treated wood as requested by BLM environmental review. Received ROW permit from BLM. Construction expected Summer 2025.

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

AGENDA ITEM
Idaho Park and Recreation Board Quarterly Meeting
February 4, 2025
IDPR Headquarters
5657 Warm Springs Ave.
Boise, ID 83716

AGENDA ITEM: **FY 2025 2nd Quarter Financial Reports**

ACTION REQUIRED: **Information Only**

PRESENTER: **Steve Martin**

PRESENTATION

Attached are the second quarter financial reports for fiscal year (FY) 2025. The transition to Luma continues to impact our financial reporting but we have made every effort to show accurate comparisons to prior fiscal year(s). The information presented reflects our best effort to show our customary reports including an overview of the department’s revenues, expenditures, and cash balances along with a summary of the Passport Program.

- Page 2 – FY 2025 Financial Statement / Budget Status as of 12/31/2024
- Pages 3-6 – FY 2025 Y-T-D Park Operations Revenues / Expenditures
- Page 7 – FY 2025 Cash Balances as of 12/31/2024
- Page 8 – FY 2025 Y-T-D Passport Program Revenue

Second quarter revenue comparisons are understandably affected by the transition from Aspira to Brant, and the decision to halt advanced reservations in September. We are expecting to have a more apples-to-apples revenue comparison by the end of the current quarter.

Passport revenue increased \$253,570 (11.3%) versus FY 2024.

Year-to-date expenditures are up consistent with increases in our budget appropriation. Overall, our ongoing base budget for personnel and operating costs is \$1.2 million (5.5%) higher than FY 2024.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This item is for information only.

**Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
FY 2025 Financial Statement / Budget Status
as of December 31, 2024**

Program/Object	Appropriation ¹	Expenditures	Encumbrances ²	Balance	% Remaining
Management Services					
Personnel Costs	\$ 3,117,800	\$ 1,452,944	\$ -	\$ 1,664,856	53.4%
Operating Expenditures	3,309,500	1,168,973	5,244	2,135,284	64.5%
Capital Outlay	170,000	130,765	-	39,235	23.1%
Trustee & Benefit	25,308,252	6,393,740	14,331,065	4,583,447	18.1%
Subtotal	\$ 31,905,552	\$ 9,146,422	\$ 14,336,309	\$ 8,422,821	26.4%
Park Operations					
Personnel Costs	\$ 15,801,800	\$ 7,798,543	\$ -	\$ 8,003,257	50.6%
Operating Expenditures	8,105,000	3,696,795	96,498	4,311,707	53.2%
Capital Outlay	5,342,949	2,270,099	1,058,833	2,014,017	37.7%
Trustee & Benefit	1,927,500	948,498	-	979,002	50.8%
Subtotal	\$ 31,177,249	\$ 14,713,934	\$ 1,155,331	\$ 15,307,984	49.1%
Capital Development					
Personnel Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Operating Expenditures	-	-	-	-	
Capital Outlay	160,436,515	26,353,267	-	134,083,247	83.6%
Trustee & Benefit	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	\$ 160,436,515	\$ 26,353,267	\$ -	\$ 134,083,247	83.6%
Total	\$ 223,519,316	\$ 50,213,623	\$ 15,491,640	\$ 157,814,052	70.6%

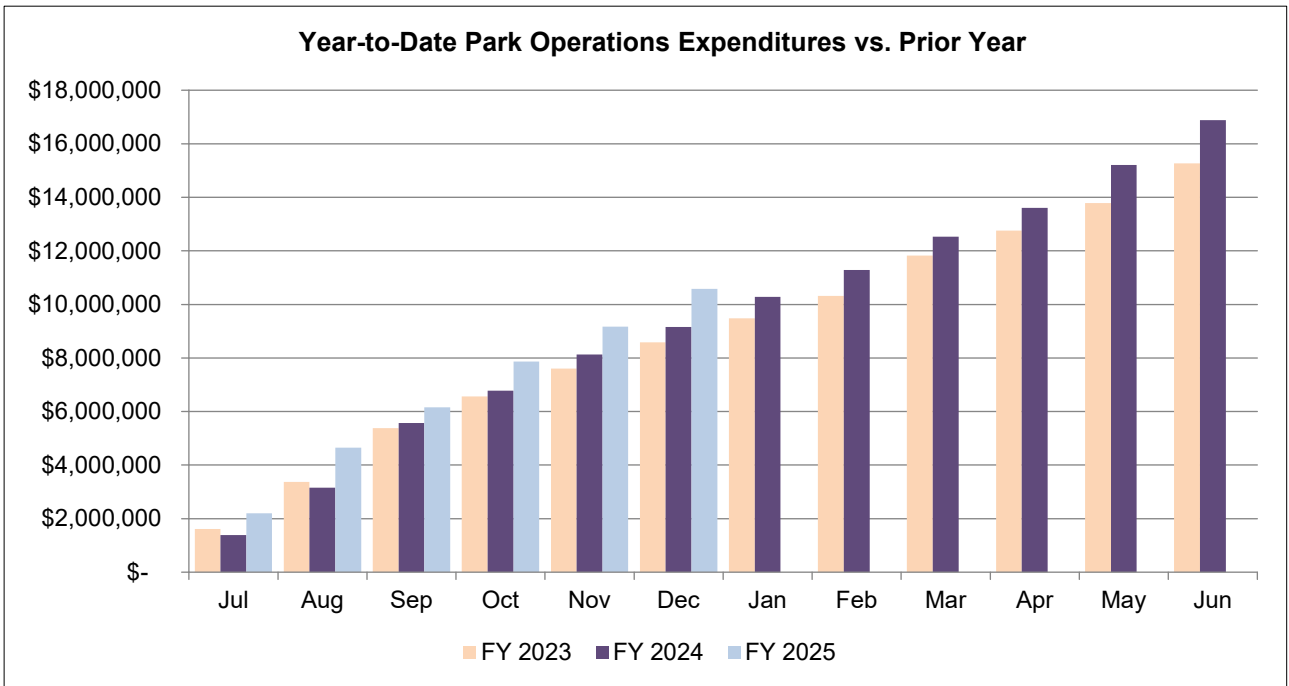
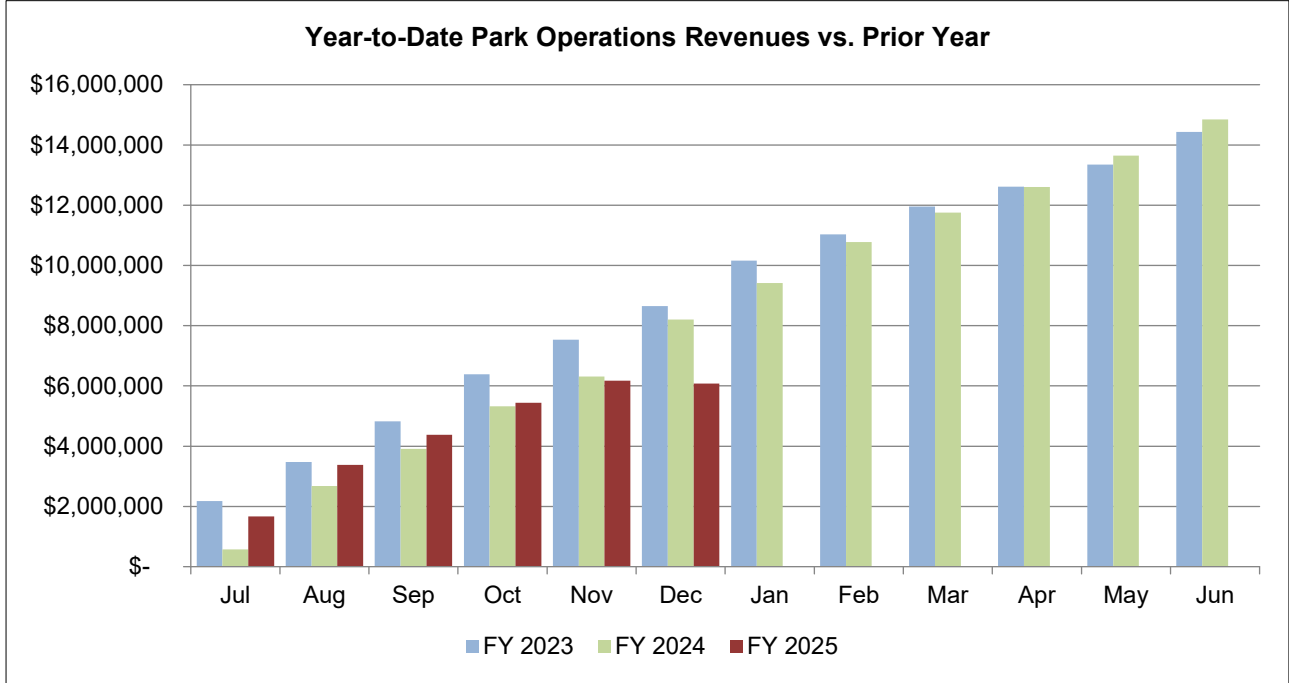
¹ Appropriation Includes:

Original Appropriation	87,954,400
ECF Grants	10,074,752
ECF Purchasing	2,369,649
Capital Reappropriation	123,116,515
Program Transfers	-
Receipts to Appropriation	4,000
	223,519,316

² Encumbrances Includes:

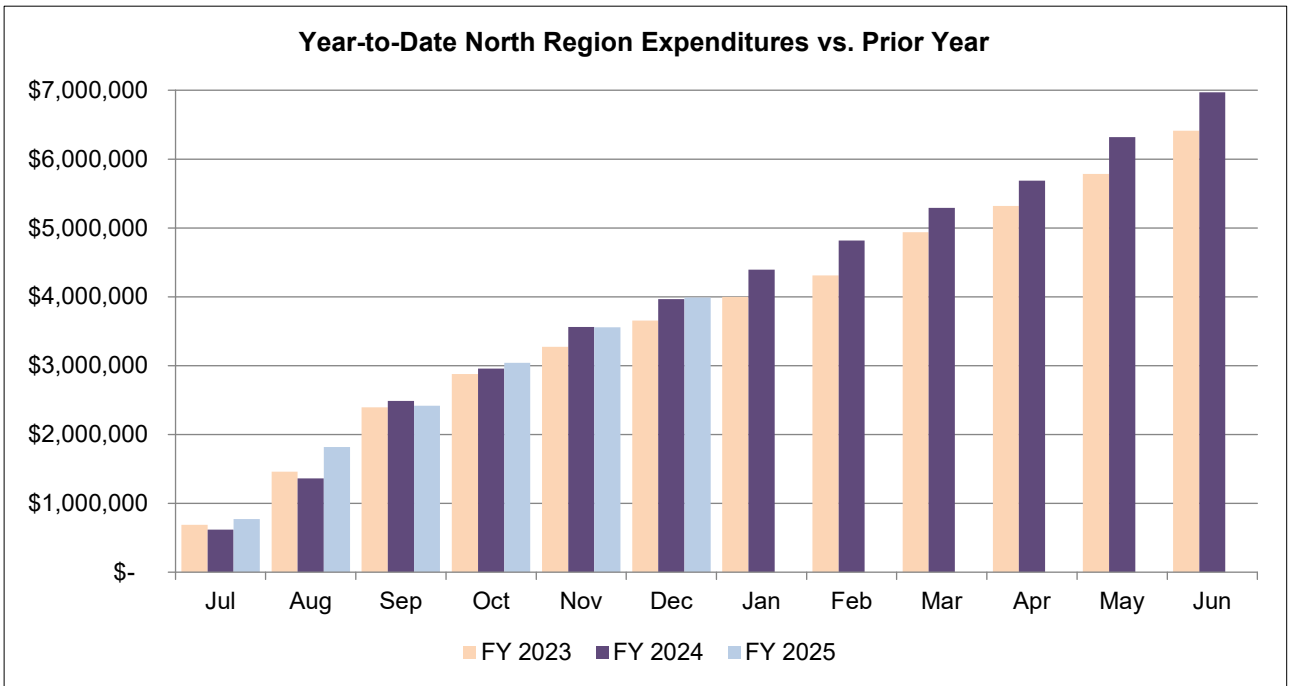
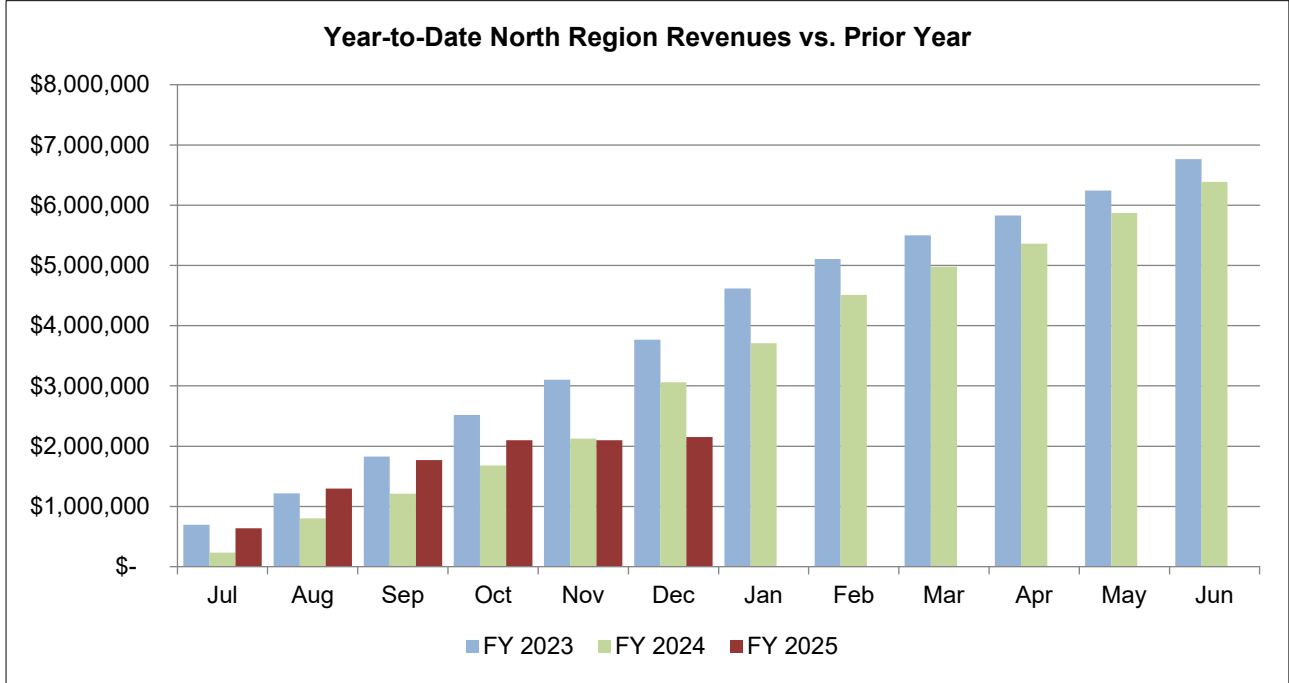
Grant Contract Balances	14,331,065
Open Purchase Orders	1,160,575
	15,491,640

**Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Park Operations - All Funds
Year-to-Date Revenues and Expenditures
December 31, 2024**



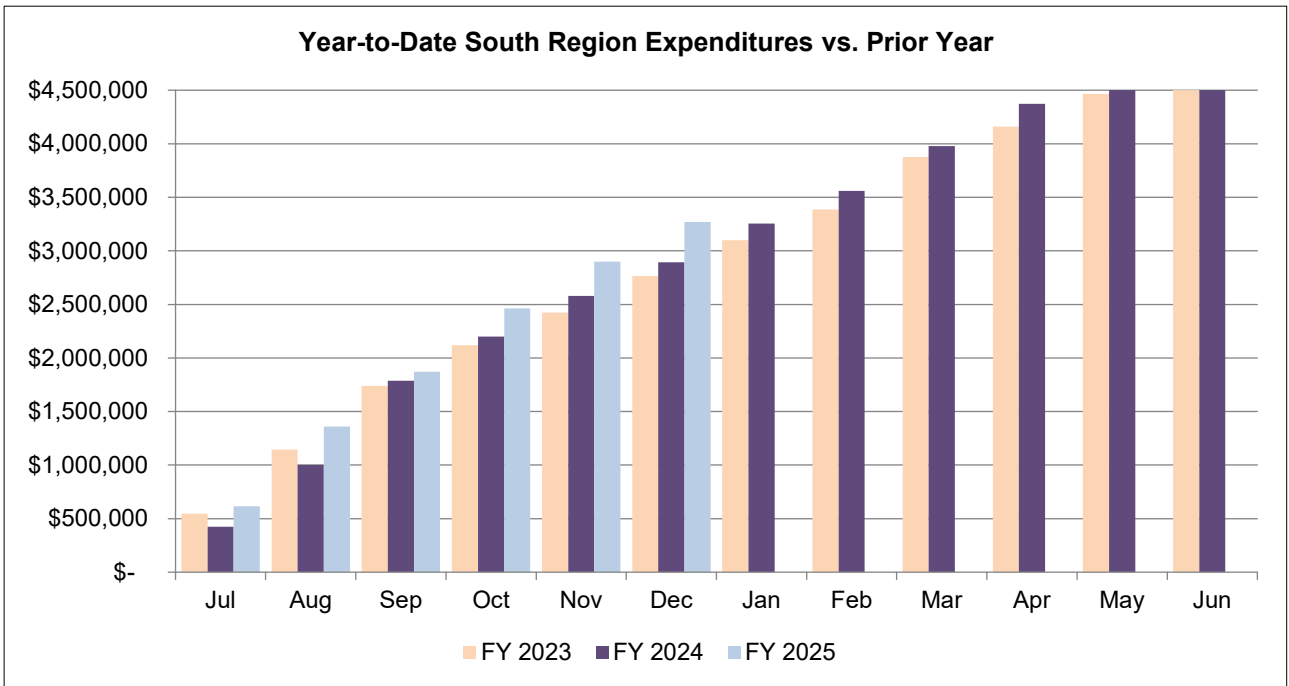
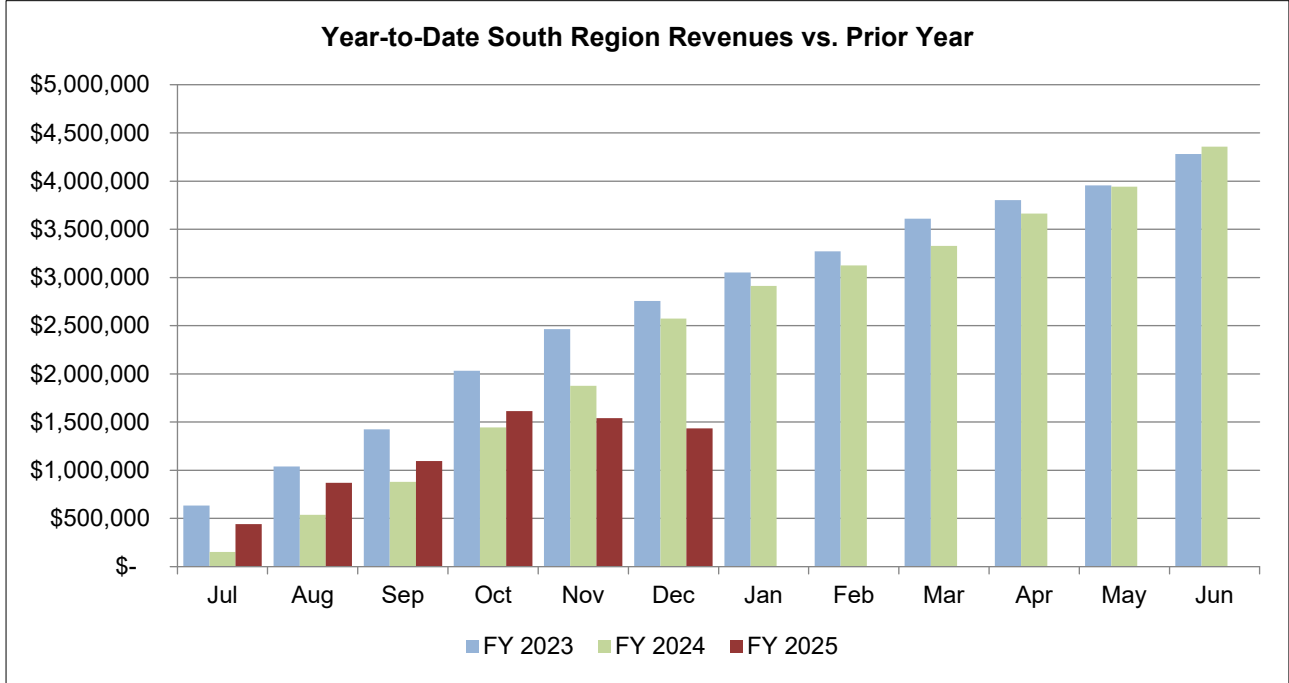
- All Park Operations fiscal year-to-date revenues are down \$2.1 million (-25.9%) compared to FY 2024.
- All Park Operations fiscal year-to-date expenditures are up \$1.4 million (15.5%) compared to FY 2024.

**Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
North Region - All Funds
Year-to-Date Revenues and Expenditures
December 31, 2024**



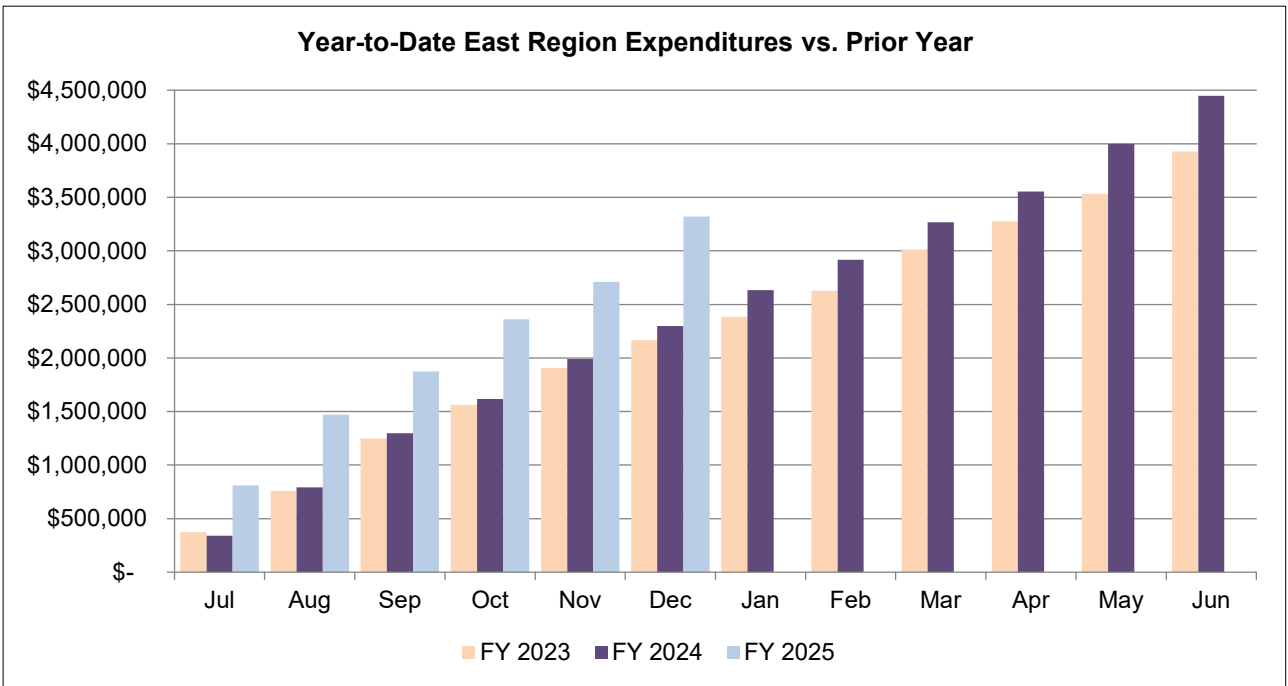
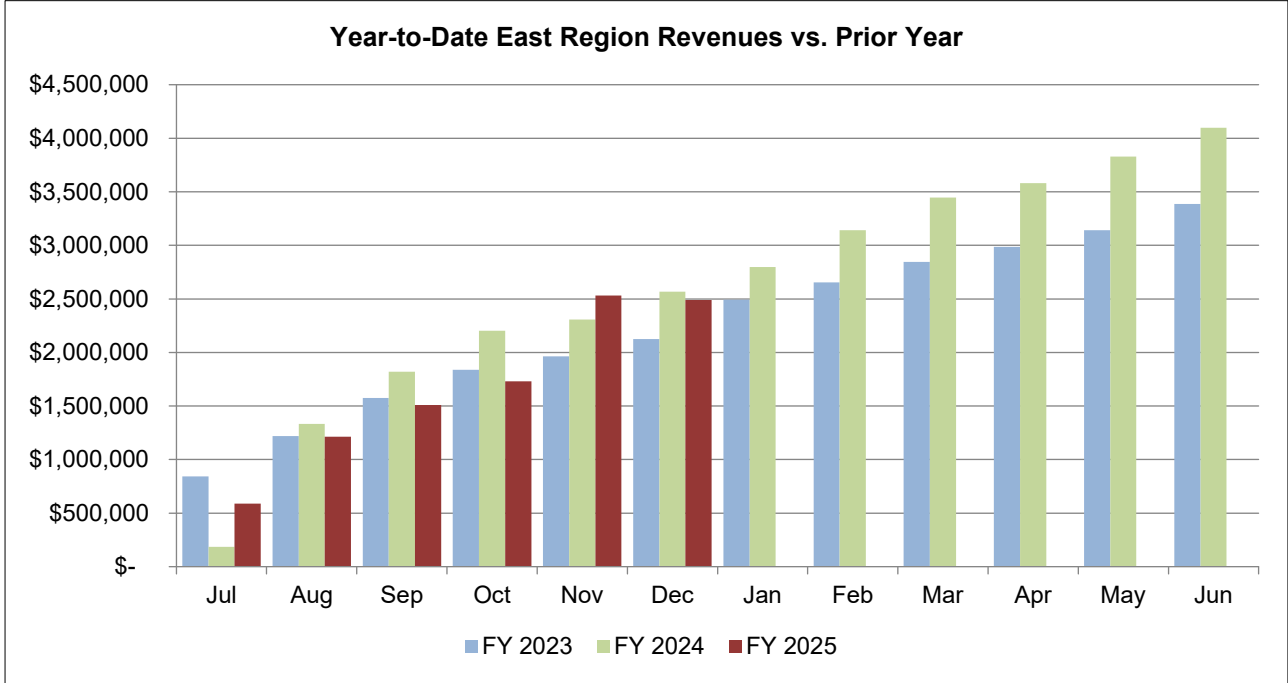
- North Region fiscal year-to-date revenues are down \$906,000 (-29.65%) compared to FY 2024.
- North Region fiscal year-to-date expenditures are up \$23,000 (0.6%) compared to FY 2024.

**Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
South Region - All Funds
Year-to-Date Revenues and Expenditures
December 31, 2024**



- South Region fiscal year-to-date revenues are down \$1.1 million (-44.3%) compared to FY 2024.
- South Region fiscal year-to-date expenditures are up \$376,000 (13.0%) compared to FY 2024.

**Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
East Region - All Funds
Year-to-Date Revenues and Expenditures
December 31, 2024**



- East Region fiscal year-to-date revenues are down \$77,300 (-3.0%) compared to FY 2024.
- East Region fiscal year-to-date expenditures are up \$1 million (44.5%) compared to FY 2024.

**Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Statement of Cash Position By Fund - FY 2025
as of December 31, 2024**

Fund	Description	Beginning Balance	Cash Inflows	Cash Outflows	Cash Balance	Grants / Capital Obligations	Unobligated Fund Balance
12500	Federal Indirect Cost Recovery	\$ 19,817	\$ 310,205	\$ (134,812)	\$ 195,210	\$ -	\$ 195,210
24300	Parks and Recreation Fund	99,622,845	22,462,945	(27,886,136)	94,199,653	83,126,930	11,072,724
24302	Parks & Rec - Registration Administration	11,478,918	5,161,352	(12,083,034)	4,557,236	-	4,557,236
24303	Parks & Rec - Sawtooth License Plate	2,472	65,765	(65,765)	2,472	-	2,472
24304	Parks & Rec - Cutthroat Wildlife Plate	76,615	38,314	-	114,929	19,000	95,929
24305	Parks & Rec - Mountain Bike	249,238	35,196	-	284,434	35,878	248,556
24701	Recreational Fuels - Capital Improvement	3,599,387	934,497	(1,052,280)	3,481,604	1,120,888	2,360,716
24702	Recreational Fuels - Waterway Improvement	3,041,686	929,821	(625,198)	3,346,309	1,596,571	1,749,739
24703	Recreational Fuels - Off-road Motor Vehicles	5,535,616	929,821	(1,336,275)	5,129,162	1,185,904	3,943,258
24704	Recreational Fuels - Road & Bridge	2,308,716	484,285	(224,260)	2,568,742	1,176,001	1,392,741
24706	Recreational Fuels - Administration	273,339	706,018	(537,267)	442,090	-	442,090
25001	Registration - State Vessel	0	1,286,946	(1,286,945)	1	-	1
25002	Registration - Cross Country Ski	249,937	26,420	(39,797)	236,560	-	236,560
25003	Registration - Snowmobile	2,602,279	1,343,640	(2,806,403)	1,139,516	-	1,139,516
25004	Registration - Motorbike	3,251,152	866,835	(649,812)	3,468,175	100,792	3,367,383
25005	Registration - Recreational Vehicle	26,220,545	4,517,344	(2,187,270)	28,550,619	12,026,925	16,523,694
25006	Registration - State Avalanche Fund	108,955	31,211	(57,592)	82,574	-	82,574
34000	Federal ARPA ¹	1,408,567	-	(42,998)	1,365,569	2,881,969	(1,516,400)
34430	Federal ARPA - SLFRF	8,511,701	43,257,336	(13,145,283)	38,623,755	36,123,755	2,500,000
34800	Federal Grant Fund ¹	2,961,715	4,609,197	(4,899,793)	2,671,120	6,308,979	(3,637,859)
34900	Miscellaneous Revenue	1,858,795	15,606	(3,328)	1,871,073	1,800,582	70,491
41001	Enterprise	6,774,979	1,218,386	(1,026,541)	6,966,824	58,849	6,907,975
49601	Expendable Trust - Park Donations ²	423,164	78,282	(23,672)	477,774	-	477,774
49602	Harriman Trust	1,513,691	179,854	(212,072)	1,481,473	184,422	1,297,051
49603	Park Land Trust	3,412,308	97,950	(40,827)	3,469,431	497,698	2,971,733
49605	Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes	623,481	56,112	(59,987)	619,606	-	619,606
Total		\$ 186,129,918	\$ 89,643,340	\$ (70,427,346)	\$ 205,345,913	\$ 148,245,143	\$ 57,100,770

Notes: ¹ Federal Grant Fund is a borrowing limit and does not represent department cash

² 0496.01 Includes State Trust Outdoor Recreation Enhancement (STORE) Act Funds (see 67-4247)

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Passport Program Revenue FY 2025
as of December 31, 2024

Gross Revenue	FY 2024 December	FY 2025 December	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
1-Year Registrations	\$ 140,710	\$ 164,560	\$ 23,850	16.9%
2-Year Registrations	161,880	208,720	46,840	28.9%
Total	\$ 302,590	\$ 373,280	\$ 70,690	23.4%

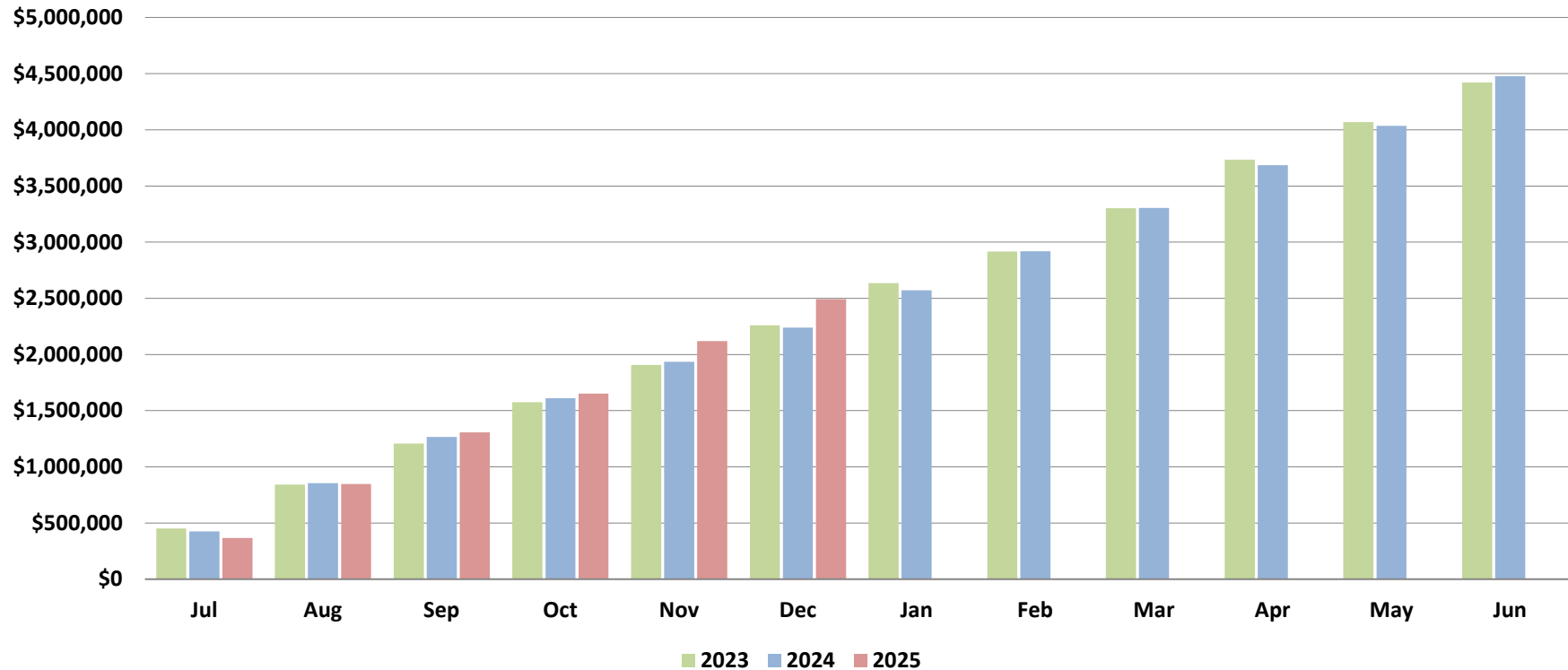
FY 2024 Y-T-D	FY 2025 Y-T-D	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
\$ 985,990	\$ 1,014,460	\$ 28,470	2.9%
1,252,040	1,477,140	225,100	18.0%
\$ 2,238,030	\$ 2,491,600	\$ 253,570	11.3%

Transactions

1-Year Registrations	14,071	16,456	2,385	16.9%
2-Year Registrations	8,094	10,436	2,342	28.9%
Total	22,165	26,892	4,727	21.3%

98,599	101,446	2,847	2.9%
62,602	73,857	11,255	18.0%
161,201	175,303	14,102	8.7%

Revenue Trend by Fiscal Year





Human Resources Report February 2025 Board Meeting

Jennifer Quinno-Miller – Human Resource Officer

Team Updates

The team has had a great last couple of months and had the opportunity to spend time in the field. The majority of the team was able to attend each of the three region meetings and took the opportunity to make park and staff visits at the same time. We value the time spent in the field working directly with staff and have committed to making that a priority whenever possible. The regions all put on a great couple of days with their staff.



Performance Evaluations

The agency's review period runs from January 1 to December 31, and all managers are currently in the process of completing performance evaluations for each of their permanent employees. Drafts in template form are due February 28 and will be ready for entry into Luma at that point. Performance evaluations (appraisals) are required to highlight employee performance, provide development opportunities, and determine Change in Employee Compensation (CEC) distribution. Employees are evaluated in four categories: Promoting Responsible Government, Customer Focus, Professionalism, and Leadership, if applicable. They are also evaluated on the completion of personal professional and/or development goals. Ratings are used to distribute CEC funds, advancing the highest-performing employees more quickly.

Budget and Change in Employee Compensation

We are hopeful for good news this legislative session regarding our budget and the approval of a CEC. If the budget is successful, we'll hopefully see additional appropriation of personnel funds to address problematic areas in our compensation structure, particularly low wages and compression issues that are affecting the entire structure. As wages continue to fall behind current market rates and competitors, coupled with increasingly difficult economic environments for most of our park and program locations, we are hopeful for a generous CEC to provide meaningful and significant increases for our employees.

Upcoming Season

Winter is our opportunity to prepare and plan for the upcoming busy spring-to-fall season. Staff is preparing for heavy volunteer recruitment and placement as well as seasonal recruitment and onboarding. During these times, we will bring on approximately 300 seasonal staff and between 300-500 routine volunteers.

Training

Statewide required training courses are launching soon, including the new defensive driving training along with annual respectful workplace and cybersecurity trainings. These are assigned to all new employees as they onboarded and are required annually for all employees. Other training we hope to provide include the Incident Reporting System, Luma training for performance appraisal entry, and Worker's Compensation.

We recently wrapped up participation in the all-managers meetings where managers were given a wellness and burnout training presented by the DHR training staff and a webinar presentation called "GenWhy," which discusses and highlights the differences and uniqueness of the different generations.

Looking Ahead

Team goals for the coming year include streamlined employee onboarding and offboarding, policy review and consolidation, employee handbook creation, and new employee orientation.

Lupe Arteaga - HR Business Partner III

Recruitment has been active and successful over the last several months, with most positions currently filled or in the process of being filled, with lots of internal movement.

- Those highlighted in yellow are seasonal employees who were promoted to permanent, classified positions.
- Those highlighted in green are permanent, classified employees promoted to other positions.
- Those highlighted in blue are permanent, classified employees who laterally transferred or accepted a voluntary demotion to other locations.

EAST REGION			
Admin Asst 1	Thousand Springs State Park	TAMMY SWARNER	11/24/24
Ranger	Harriman State Park	VACANT	
Admin Asst 1	Harriman State Park	VACANT	
HEADQUARTERS			
Building Fac Maint Foreman	Headquarters	BRIAN BACKLIN	10/07/24
PIO, Senior	Headquarters	ROBBIE JOHNSON	11/15/24
Real Estate Manager	Headquarters	PAMELA HUCK	12/30/24
Public Information Specialist	Headquarters	VACANT	
NORTH REGION			
Ranger	Hells Gate State Park	TONY MONZINGO	10/21/24
Grants Program Specialist	North Region Office	ANISSA CRANE	01/06/25
Ranger	Heyburn State Park	VACANT	
Office Specialist 2	North Region Office	VACANT	
SOUTH REGION			
Assistant Manager	Lake Cascade State Park	DALTON CRANE	12/08/24
Ranger	Ponderosa State Park	VACANT	
Ranger	Lake Cascade State Park	VACANT	

Patricia Hendrickson, Volunteer Services Coordinator

We currently have 79 tentative host commitments for the 2025 season, which puts us over 50% filled on all necessary host positions, and more being finalized every day.

In our recruitment efforts, the volunteer program continues to effectively utilize our partnership with workcamper.com, the fantastic relationships the parks have fostered with past volunteers and social media to increase our ranks, making volunteerism an unmatched asset to IDPR.

- 2078 volunteers contributed 71,921 hours to IDPR services and projects in 2024.
- According to independentsector.org, the 2024 monetary value per hour for volunteers in Idaho is \$30.12, making the total economic value of our volunteer hours \$2,166,260.52 for 2024.



The volunteer program is making strides in reviewing the process for accepting applications, tracking the needs within each of the parks, finding effective matches for volunteers and updating/consolidating onboarding forms.



We have secured a contract with Smartsheet and are in the process of transferring volunteer forms to an online access platform, increasing accessibility for our remote and mobile volunteers and streamlining the Volunteer onboard process.

Background check processes and procedures were reviewed in 2024. We secured a new 3rd party Background screening partner, Verified First. IDPR is

now routinely running nationwide background screens for new onboarding staff and applicable volunteers, increasing efficiency for the individuals, completing the screening process and decreasing liability for the agency.

This year, we have reached out to other agency programs and incorporated their management of volunteers into the volunteer program.

As always, providing many contacts for individuals looking for more information about the volunteering program with IDPR, resulting in many positive placements that volunteers are very excited to undertake.





MANAGEMENT SERVICES QUARTERLY REPORT

October – November – December 2023

Second Quarter, FY2025

Management Services Administrator

Adam R. Zaragoza

IDPR Mission

Improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship.

Management Services Administrator Primary Functions

- Provide management services staff with the necessary tools to succeed in their jobs and provide leadership and direction for registration, reservations, grants, fiscal and development programs.
- Work with Operations Administrator (Troy Elmore) to identify the needs of the operations staff and assist in meeting those needs.
- Proactively work to meet the Director and Board priorities, projects, concerns and implement the agency's strategic plan.

Administrative Duties

- Focus on supporting the team members and providing them with the tools to do their jobs effectively and enjoy what they are doing.
 - Continual review of agency policies, interpretations and where updates may be needed.
 - Continual review of parks and where possible expansion opportunities exist.
 - Continue to work on various projects for the agency.
-

MAJOR TASKS AND WEEKLY UPDATES

October 1 to 4

Attended the East Region Managers meeting at Harriman State Park with a lot of our Headquarters staff. Presented information to the team on behalf of Director Buxton.

October 7 to 11

Continued work around the headquarters campus and hired a new headquarters maintenance manager, Brian Backlin. General administrative duties and staff support on various issues.

October 14 to 18

Attend the North Region Managers meeting at the region office. With Director Buxton and Operations Administrator Elmore, we met with representatives from the Coeur d'Alene tribe, toured Mowry State Park with Representative Mendive and Kootenai County Commissioner Duncan. Met with Shoshone County Commissioners regarding the new TCDA Bike In Campground. Ended the week working with our team on Henry's Lake, Kokanee Cove and Horsethief projects.



October 21 to 25

Reviewed the ARPA program with our Development Bureau Chief, funding deadlines and obligations. Met with the Governor's office regarding multiple topics and IDOPL reps regarding fire suppression systems in state park facilities. Visited Ponderosa State Park to see the progress on Kokanee Cove and met with our engineering team on Horsethief. Attended a meeting regarding the ORFAC decisions.

October 28 to November 1

Attended and presented items at the Board meeting in the Coeur d'Alene region office. Toured Round Lake and Lionhead with Director Buxton and Board Member Roady. Met with Deputy Fire Marshall in Coeur d'Alene. Met with IDFG and our engineering team regarding Horsethief Capital Development. Discussed with BLM the status of Formation Springs.



Tour of Priest Lake, Lionhead Unit and the Logging project

November 4 to 8

Attended the South Region Managers meeting in Boise. Met with the new City Manager of McCall and the City's planning staff regarding all projects related to Ponderosa State Park. Met with representative from United Payette. Toured the Tamarack housing with our HR Officer and worked on the agreement for housing for Lake Cascade State Park. Prepared for the Legislative Showcases. General administrative duties and staff support on various issues.

November 11 to 15

Continued working with Fish and Game regarding their Winchester Dam project. Met with representatives from the Friends of Harriman State Park to discuss future projects. Worked with IDOPL. General administrative duties and staff support on various issues.

November 18 to 22

Prepared for the eastern Idaho legislative updates. Worked with the team on issues regarding the Kokanee Cove project at Ponderosa. Attended the legislative updates in Idaho Falls.

November 25 to 29

Continued working on sewer and water issues with Ponderosa State Park. Began the interview process for the Real Estate Manager position and enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday.



December 2 to 6

Attended the CEO training in Meridian and provide general IDPR updates to staff. Met with Board Member Liddiard. Started Real Estate Manager interviews with our Human Resources officer. Provided guidance to ORFAC applicants. General administrative duties and staff support on various issues.

December 9 to 13

Completed first round interviews for the Real Estate Manager position. Met with the new Colonel for the Idaho State Police and his legal staff regarding the 3 Island State Park housing lease. Pinch hit for Director Buxton for a special board meeting. Met with IDL representatives regarding the Development and Management plans.

December 16 to January 3

General administrative duties and staff support on various issues. Prepared for a long family holiday vacation in Florida and the Fiesta Bowl in Glendale.

End of 2024, Happy 2025



October 29, 2024 Morning at Round Lake

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – KEITH JONES

Mission

Help protect and enhance the natural resources of Idaho State Parks.

Goals

- Assist parks with forest and/or land management activities that promote resource health and safety, while meeting the objectives of the park.
- Assist parks with weed control efforts.
- Help parks with wildfire hazard mitigation.
- Develop a working network with natural resource professionals, partner agencies, and organizations that will benefit IDPR.

Quarterly Program Report

- Worked with IDL to install bud caps on the 70,000 seedlings planted at Heyburn state park the last week of August to help protect them from deer, elk, and moose browsing this fall and winter. This project re-establishes seral species on a site thinned 25 years ago that has not seen an acceptable amount of natural tree recruitment on the site due to extensive brush competition. Project area was treated with Herbicide last summer to prep for spring 2024 planting. Funding for the project is coming from a grant awarded to IDPR by IDL.
- Removed 35 trees at Ponderosa State Park that were blown over in a storm and had been infested with Western Pine beetles, before they became a threat to the rest of the surrounding forest.
- The timber sale to facilitate the new forestry contest stations and open a new day use opportunity for Farragut State Park has been cut, hauled and slash piled, park staff and I will burn the largest piles this winter. This project removed approximately 500,000 board feet of overstocked mostly shade tolerant trees, creating a more open stand that will support seral species in a less competitive environment, promoting vigor and resilience of the remaining trees.
- Update for the Ponderosa pine restoration project in Ponderosa State Park: We were able to secure a buyer and operator to harvest the project area this winter. Cutting, hauling and piling is complete. Residual piles will be burned next fall ('25) and sub merchantable Grand fir will be cut and excessive in woods slash will be piled this spring with money from a grant from IDL. This project addressed the overstocked and grand fir dominated stand to the north of the water tower. This project will treat approximately 65 acres with the same prescription as the adjacent MeadowMarsh II sale in the Park, removing most of the shade tolerant Grand fir, and restoring the stand to its historic, pre fire suppressed stand composition of Ponderosa Pine, Larch, and Douglas fir.

- Completed Minor maintenance projects with staff at Three Island, 1000 Springs, Lake Walcott, Harriman, Priest Lake, Coeur d Alene Lake Parkway, Lucky Peak, and Hells Gate to address substantial needs for hazard tree removals, pruning healthy trees, and plant replacement trees in their Parks.
- Conducted natural resource training sessions for North, and East/south Ranger roundups, and the East region managers meeting.
- Completed a large-scale hazard tree removal project at the Lionhead unit of Priest Lake State Park. This project removed 90% of the decadent and rotting overstory in the campground and around the shop that posed a significant risk to visitors and staff. We utilized minor maintenance funds to pile and remove all extra slash on the site, and we will be planting 40 new 3” replacement trees next fall, in addition to hundreds of seedlings.
- Conducted a site visit to Harriman to meet with Park staff, IDFG, and local NRCS rangeland specialist to look at better ways to manage the Grazing lease on the Sheridan unit that will be more efficient and sensitive to habitat and wildlife needs.
- Attended 15 hours of CE classes for pesticide applicator license renewal
- Closed out another direct timber sale at Heyburn to address a small pocket of Douglas fir beetle damage.
- Working with the development program and project designers to pre plan timber removal from project areas prior to construction to maximize efficiencies and minimize site impacts
- In cooperation with IDL, IDFG, and Winchester Lake state park staff, we conducted a successful broadcast burn on Ponderosa Pine habitat on the backside of the lake this fall.
- Continue working with the Parks to create their top five natural resource project priorities. This will be in alignment with the development process and will help maximize collaboration, identify, and allocate potential alternative funding sources for projects, minimize any duplication of efforts, and create complete projects that are turnkey for the Parks and public to enjoy (from design/construction to restoration and re vegetation).
- I am representing the department on the Statewide student forestry competition steering committee. The contest has a new home at Farragut State Park, which will provide fantastic opportunities for interagency cooperation and potential employee recruitment for IDPR, IDL, and IDFG.

“Smoke on the Water”: Wildfire Smoke Impacts on Commercial River Recreation

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Abstract

Wildland fire smoke contributes to unhealthy indexes of particulate matter that impact human health. Research continues to document the effect of poor air quality on outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism, however, less is known about the relationship between smoke and tourism operations. The purpose of this research was to understand lived experiences of wildland fire smoke within the context of commercial river recreation operations. We interviewed commercial guides and outfitters ($n = 26$) across the State of Idaho. Data were first inductively analyzed, then, based on preliminary results, the Triple Bottom Line sustainability framework was applied to describe social, environmental, and economic impacts. Operational strategies and future needs to respond to wildland fire smoke in this setting are discussed with attention to ecosystem service elasticity as a theoretical frame explaining this and other emergent phenomena in a changing climate.

Keywords

air quality, climate change, outdoor recreation, triple bottom line, nature-based tourism, ecosystem service elasticity

Introduction

In July 2023, the Elkhorn Fire burned thousands of acres in the Payette National Forest, deep in Idaho’s Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. Summer wildfires in this part of the United States are common occurrences (e.g., Stephan et al., 2012; Thompson et al., 2017), and for many people, just “a natural part of life” (Outdoor Idaho, n.d.). One exceptional feature of the Elkhorn Fire, however, was a video that captured recreational white-water rafters boating directly *through* the wildfire (Figure 1), a decision made by this and other boating groups who deemed it to be the safest among many undesirable options. The video (Ammons, 2023) shows thick smoke and actively burning trees and other vegetation, just a few meters from a raft bouncing through whitewater rapids. Because of the Elkhorn Fire and its proximity to the Wild segment of the Main Salmon River, recreational river trips were heavily impacted, and many commercial river trips were rescheduled and/or rerouted to other rivers (Xavier, 2023, August 10).

The spectacular nature of the scenes depicted in the video underscores a broader experience in the western

U.S. and elsewhere in the world: due to climate change and forest management practices, wildfires are an increasingly common experience for people participating in outdoor recreation (e.g., Bawa, 2017). The effects of these experiences, particularly as they pertain to air quality, are only beginning to come into clearer focus (e.g., Brown et al., 2024; Zajchowski, Tysor et al., 2019). A range of climate change impacts are also beginning to be explored in the outdoor recreation (e.g., Askew & Bowker, 2018; Finger & Lehmann, 2012; O’Toole et al., 2019) and

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Figure 1. Screenshots from a video on the Wild Main Salmon River. Source: Ammons (2023, August 4).

nature-based tourism literatures (e.g., De Urioste-Stone et al., 2016; Hewer & Gough, 2018), which consistently note both the geographically-contingent nature of these phenomena and the expectation that these effects are likely to increase in both frequency and in intensity. Therefore, like other settings (e.g., Hendrick et al., 2023), the cultural ecosystem services desired in these tourism experiences are highly dynamic, shifting in tandem with other social-ecological relationships. And, in settings where nature-based tourism opportunities facilitated by operators are subject to this dynamism, impacts to enterprises are myriad.

In this study, we focused on the impacts of wildfire smoke on one specific population: commercial river guides and outfitters in the State of Idaho, United States of America (hereafter “United States”) to understand how wildland fire smoke affected them and their clients, as well as how they responded to its impacts. Idaho is home to 107,651 river miles, which support a burgeoning nature-based tourism and commercial outdoor recreation industry (Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), 2024). Yet, the growth in the outdoor industry in Idaho parallels the increasing incidence and severity of wildfire events, which can contribute to hazardous air quality indexes from smoke. We wanted to understand how river guides and outfitters made sense of wildfire smoke’s impact on their water-based livelihoods, in part, to establish and communicate impacts of poor air quality for public land managers, outdoor recreationists, and communities to engender more effective and nimble response to dynamic air quality conditions. Additionally, understanding the lived experiences of those impacted by poor air quality

helps provide information about broader environmental change, particularly as outdoor recreation and air quality expectation baselines shift. Finally, demonstrating and detailing the ecosystem service elasticity, or the change (or lack thereof) in the benefits people derive from nature (Daw et al., 2016), impacting nature-based tourism enterprises provides theoretical advancement for the travel and tourism field.

Wildfire Smoke and Air Quality

Wildfires have been increasing in size and frequency throughout the western United States (Washington, California, Oregon, Idaho, and western Montana) since the mid-1980s (Abatzoglou & Williams, 2016). The magnitude, duration, and frequency of such wildfires in western United States forests is strongly driven by climate change (Halofsky et al., 2020; Westerling, 2016), as it influences the fire regimes, impacting landscape processes and ecosystem functions (Wasserman & Mueller, 2023). Most of the western United States experiences changes in climate in terms of warmer temperatures, drier summers, below-average winter precipitation, increased annual occurrences of short-term drought conditions, and reduced snowpack (Abatzoglou & Barbero, 2014; Westerling, 2016), which has cascading ecological impacts and implications for wildfire activity.

Increased wildfire activity has already caused severe economic, ecological, and social damages, such as destruction of houses, deteriorating air and water quality, and fatalities (Westerling & Bryant, 2008) that are likely to continue across the 21st century in a warming and

drying climate (Abatzoglou et al., 2021; Barbero et al., 2014). Wildland fire releases large plumes of smoke into the atmosphere during late summer, which is a major contributor of particulate matter, and acts as a persistent threat to outdoor air quality throughout the western U.S. (Kaulfus et al., 2017). Annually, over 25% of primary particulate matter_{2.5} (particulate matter with aerodynamic diameter $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$) is emitted from wildland fire activities in the United States (Kaulfus et al., 2017), which was found to increase to 32% at the United States Environmental Protection Agency's National Emission Inventory 2011–2015 (Larkin et al., 2020). McClure and Jaffe (2018) found a significantly increasing trend in particulate matter_{2.5} in states such as Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming over the last four decades due to increased wildfire activity.

Air Quality and Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation on public lands is one of the most popular pastimes in the U.S. (Gellman et al., 2022) and participation steadily increased since the 1960s (Taff et al., 2021). Outdoor recreation provides numerous non-market benefits, or ecosystem services, to people, such as educational opportunities, psychological restoration, social interaction, and improved physical health (Lackey et al., 2021). Additionally, in 2022, outdoor recreation contributed to more than \$1.2 trillion of the United States economy, accounting for 2.3% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product, and nearly 5 million jobs, or 3.1% of United States employment (Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), 2024). Outdoor recreation is a particularly important driver of economic growth in the western United States, where federal agencies (i.e., United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) own more than half the landmass (Gellman et al., 2022). In Idaho, outdoor recreation accounts for 3.1% of state Gross Domestic Product; more than 35,000 Idahoans were employed in sectors related to recreation and nature-based tourism in 2022 (BEA, 2024). These figures are projected to rise over the next 10 years due to anticipated population growth and a notable increase in the demand for outdoor recreation (Maas & Himes, 2021).

Yet, as wildland fires in the United States West have become more frequent and severe in recent years, poor air quality from smoke pollution holds numerous implications for the outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism industry (Brown et al., 2024; Cascio, 2018; Keiser et al., 2018; Tanner et al., 2022) and the ecosystem services desired by its clients. For the last 10 years (2012–2022), on average, 64% of the total land area burned in wildfires in the western United States was on federal lands (Hoover & Hanson, 2023). In some cases, wildfires frequently burn on public lands commonly used for recreation (Hesseln

et al., 2003). Additionally, “fire season” (June–September) overlaps with the peak outdoor recreation season, impacts visibility, and deteriorates the visitor experience (Brown et al., 2024; Gellman et al., 2022; Zajchowski, Tysor et al., 2019).

Scholars have begun to explore the behavioral consequences of decreased air quality on outdoor recreation in the western United States with conflicting results. Gellman et al. (2022) studied 1,069 public campgrounds and 30 parks across the western United States along with 10-year daily wildfire and smoke data to assess the impacts of wildfire on outdoor recreation. The authors found 1 million visitor-days per year are affected by smoke from wildfire to some extent. On the other hand, in a recent study using visitation data from 2009 to 2019 from eight national parks in Washington, Oregon, and California, Brown et al. (2024) identified that increased particulate matter_{2.5} levels have no effect on visitor attendance at all but one park in their sample (Yosemite). A similar result was observed by Clark et al. (2023) for 32 national parks from 1980 to 2019. Limited qualitative research has explored the impacts of air quality on outdoor recreation from users' (Zajchowski, Brownlee et al., 2019) and managers' perspectives (Zajchowski, Tysor et al., 2019), and to our knowledge no empirical research has documented industry members of the impact of variable air quality on their operations, inclusive of bookings, cancellations, workforce health, and numerous other factors.

Accordingly, we sought to understand experiences of poor air quality associated with wildfire smoke for a subgroup of commercial outdoor recreation providers. Additionally, given providers' dependence on cultural ecosystem service provision, we were curious how elastic or inelastic the non-market benefits they provide to clients were perceived to be. Does a smoky day impact the visitor experience on their trips? And, if so, how? As climate and natural resource management decision-making in other settings (i.e., the Dolores River; Hendrick et al., 2023) indicated cascading impacts for tourism providers, an explicit focus on workforce and operations impacts was prudent.

Materials and Methods

To understand and characterize the impacts of wildfire smoke on commercial river guides and outfitters, we conducted semi-structured qualitative interviews ($n = 26$) with outdoor industry professionals throughout the State of Idaho. This approach aligned with the research goals, as there had not yet been any systematic qualitative analysis of commercial river guides and outfitters perceptions of wildfire smoke in Idaho or elsewhere. Our interview protocol was designed using a modified Seidman

approach (e.g., Rose et al., 2016), where specific questions explored an interviewee's focused history, experiences, perceptions, and reflections. While researchers asked the same set of questions during interviews, the semi-structured format allowed researchers to probe and explore pertinent topics more deeply using an interpretivist paradigm (Charmaz & Thornberg, 2021). In other words, we wanted the lived experience of professionals to drive our conversations about the phenomenon of working in and through smoke on the water and allowed participants to focus on topics important to them.

Sample

Following Institutional Review Board approval from the University of Idaho and the University of Utah, a range of sampling methods were employed. First, in September 2023, all authors conducted in-person participant recruitment in Island Park, Challis, and Salmon, Idaho, visiting store locations for whitewater, scenic, and fishing outfitters and guides. An informational flyer explaining the study and the corresponding author's business card were left with potential interviewees and subsequent email and phone follow-up occurred post-visit. Second, a targeted website search led to phone and email recruitment of commercial river recreation businesses in the Idaho towns of Island Park, Driggs, Challis, Salmon, McCall, Stanley, Ketchum, Riggins, Moscow, and Lewiston, as well as the Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area. Third, like other qualitative natural resource-based research (Hendrick et al., 2023; Zajchowski, Tysor et al., 2019), snowball sampling techniques explored interviewees' existing networks throughout the State and probed additional geographies not included in the previous searches. Fourth, we continued to recruit interviewees *past* data saturation (Charmaz & Thornberg, 2021), or, in other words, past when additional interviews did not yield new information or insights, due to a lack of representation within the snowball sample from two major commercial water bodies; sampling continued using targeted website searches for commercial outfitters and guides operating on the Snake River Plain and the Lochsa River. In total, through one of the four methods described above, 64 individuals were contacted in the Fall of 2023. To increase response likelihood, two email follow-ups occurred after the initial request for participation. In total, 26 respondents agreed to participate in the study (41% response rate).

Interviewees included individuals with professional roles in river recreation, such as commercial outfitters, guides, and representatives of not-for-profit organizations throughout Idaho (interviewee information is presented in Table 1, and spatial distribution in Figure 2). Interviewees were ultimately selected to participate in the study based on their ability to provide robust insight on our object of inquiry. Following consent procedures,

Table 1. Interviewee Background Information.

Interviewee	Commercial recreation service	Time in industry (years)
P01	Rafting	4
P02	Fly-fishing, float trips	49
P03	Rafting	3
P04	Fly-fishing	21
P05	Fly-fishing	4
P06	Fly-fishing	45
P07	Scenic pontoon boat tours	6
P08	Fly-fishing and fishing	8
P09	Fly-fishing	> 30
P10	Rafting, fly-fishing	8
P11	Guiding industry	18
P12	Rafting and fly-fishing	17
P13	Rafting	9
P14	Fly-fishing	13
P15	Rafting	6
P16	Fly-fishing	2
P17	Fly-fishing	16
P18	Wilderness river tripping	4
P19	Rafting	31
P20	Rafting	20
P21	Rafting	2
P22	Motorized rafting	7
P23	Rafting, kayaking, fly-fishing	29
P24	Guiding industry	15
P25	Rafting, biking, fly-fishing	13
P26	Rafting, fly-fishing	25

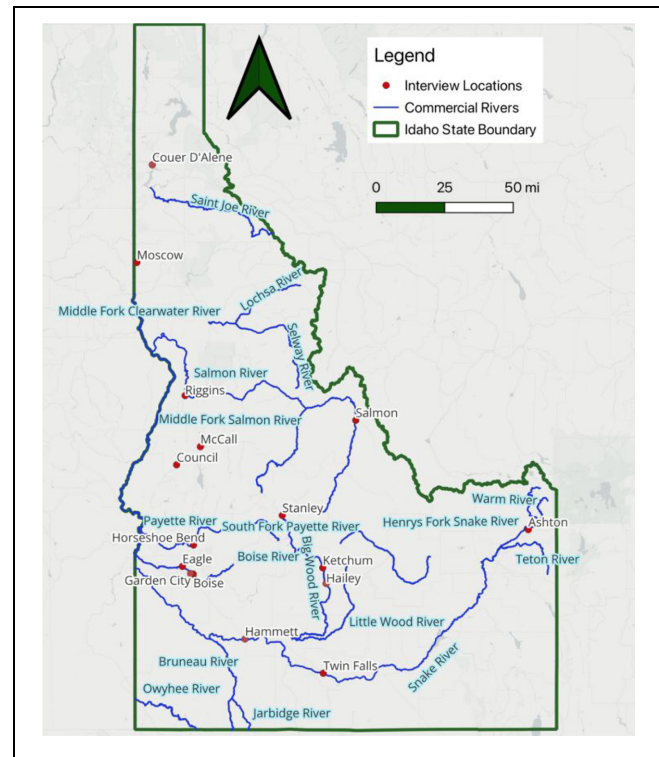


Figure 2. Interviewees' company locations and their commercial river permits.

Credit: Isabelle Allen.

interviews lasted up to 1 hr in length and were conducted online and via phone. All interviews were recorded with permission from interviewees and transcribed using Zoom transcription services.

Analysis

Following interviews, first, second, and third authors reflected on our respective, general impressions of each interview and key points through construction of a field note (i.e., analytic memo; Miles et al., 2014). We then used a two-phased approach, coding each transcription in Taguette, an online qualitative data analysis software. In Phase I, each author separately coded up to six transcripts using an inductive approach to form individual codebooks. We then discussed initial codes to develop a shared codebook, comprised of 33 codes, for the next phase of coding.

Based on Phase I, interviewees expressed that wildfire smoke significantly impacted guides and clients, the environment, and their business, which aligned with the Triple Bottom Line Framework. A term coined by Elkington and Rowlands (1999), triple bottom line is a corporate philosophy and an accounting framework comprised of three pillars—social, environmental, and economic—that asserts the interconnectedness and equal significance of all three performance dimensions and are at the core of sustainability (Rasmi & Türkay, 2023). Accordingly, to assess the experience of river based outdoor recreation businesses in Idaho during smoke events, the triple bottom line approach was used, enabling a comprehensive analysis that goes beyond solely understanding economic impacts. Here, triple bottom line is integrated into the concept of sustainable recreation (Selin et al., 2022) and sustainable tourism (Stoddard et al., 2012), and a case is presented for triple bottom line's usefulness in evaluating the success and sustainability of outdoor recreation businesses from the perspectives of commercial outfitters and guides. Specifically, the *economic impacts* category refers to the financial impact of wildfire smoke on commercial river-based recreation. *Social impacts* refer to mentions of wildfire smoke impacts on clients and/or guides (e.g., physical health). *Environmental impacts* refer to a broad array of effects; importantly, these ecological impacts are not limited to those from wildfire smoke but are inclusive of systemic impacts from climate change, as well as discrete impacts to soil and water quality from wildland fire. Finally, *operational strategies* and *future needs* to address smoke on the water were developed from remaining codes and included as the last two themes.

In Phase II of coding, we used the inductive codes developed in Phase I and themes described above for deductive analysis. To increase trustworthiness and groundedness in our analysis (e.g., Miles et al., 2014), an

Table 2. Theme Structure, Included Codes, and Frequencies.

Theme	Code	Percent of respondents
Economic impacts	Canceled or postponed trips	69
	Costs to changing trip location	23
	Outdoor economy	15
Social impacts	Trip insurance (lack of)	4
	Client experience (i.e., destination image)	77
	Guide physical health	73
	Client physical health	65
	Guide emotional labor	35
	Client mental health (i.e., anxiety)	31
	Guide mental health (i.e., burnout)	23
Ecological impacts	Cascading ecological impacts	96
	Soil and water quality	65
	Landslides/mudslides	50
	Climate change	42
	Loss of riparian habitat/integrity	38
Operational strategies	Changes in hatches	31
	Participants allowed to opt-out	69
	Masks/buffs	58
	Substituting trip location	50
	Communication between outfitters and guides	42
	Monitoring AQI	38
	Communication with fire liaison/management agency	35
	Smoke education with clients	27
	Shortening trips	27
	Trip insurance (to prevent loss)	19
	Offering different trip lengths (1 vs. 6 day)	19
Future needs	Changing camp/lunch locations	12
	Outfitter control over policies	31
	Stakeholder relationships to manage business impacts	31
	Need tools for outfitter decision-making	15
	Trip insurance (future policy)	12

intercoder reliability analysis (Rose & Johnson, 2020) was performed using Cohen's Kappa. Unlike percent agreement, this statistic reports the level of agreement between coders that exists above that which could have occurred by chance ($0.6 >$ acceptable agreement; see McHugh, 2012). Initial agreement across five coders and 26 transcripts ranged from 0.455 to 1.000, with an average of $K = 0.753$, indicating a moderate intercoder agreement. Discrepancies between coders were then addressed through subsequent intercoder discussions, resulting in an average $K = 1$, indicating perfect agreement. The resulting distribution of codes and themes allowed for summative analysis of the salience of specific experiences of Idaho commercial river recreation operators in times of smoke.

Results

The iterative coding process allowed for an analysis of triple bottom line impacts, operational strategies, and future needs for Idaho outfitters and guides operating commercial river recreation in environments with seasonal wild-fire smoke. Table 2 presents the frequency distribution from coding, grouped by theme, and salient findings are discussed by theme below.

Economics Impacts on Outfitters, Guides, and Rural Economies

Mentions of economic impacts from smoke and wildland fire, which included canceling or postponing trips (69%), costs to changing trip locations (23%), and the cascading impacts on outdoor recreation economy (15%) indicate existing and growing impacts for outfitters, guides, and their localities. Notably, nearly 70% of respondents cited needing to occasionally or regularly cancel or postpone scheduled trips because of air quality concerns. Mentions of the importance of the outdoor recreation economy to the State of Idaho were relevant, as one interviewee explains the economic ripples that lost trips create:

I think my fear with that is our industry is a really large industry, and it's much bigger than us. We're not just paying guides, we're paying food packers; people do our laundry. There are so many people that are connected to just us running one trip that it's a huge economic factor. Those are the people that I almost worry more about, for the smoke issue.
– Interview 12

Another interviewee explains, “It’s not just the fishing [that is impacted by smoke], it’s the whole economy” (Interview 4). According to participants, economic impacts challenge outfitters who make most of their income in a short and increasingly variable season, and many of whom operate in areas driven largely by the cultural ecosystem services afforded.

Social Impacts on Outfitters, Guides, Clients, and the State

Codes associated with the social impacts of smoke underline the challenging conditions guides work in, as well as changes to the visitor experience. For clients, smoke increases anxiety and apprehension, and participants (35%) spoke of the added emotional labor for guides trying to provide positive experiences on the river with one stating:

It's pretty common for guests to express concern about what they're, like, breathing in. It does change the dynamic a little bit, because then we become people who are having to do,

like, some level of like mental health first aid with people who are very anxious about the amount of smoke that they're inhaling, which is understandable because it's not good for you. We have to shift the dynamic a little bit from this being, like, a fun white-water experience to, “Okay, I understand that there's heavy smoke, but we can do these things to mitigate the impact that it's going to have on you with masks,” or we can tell them to use bandanas. – Interview 1

From assuaging fear to communicating risk and fire ecology, guides are working diligently to preserve the visitor experience. Changes to the client experience were cited by 77% of participants. A participant describes how smoke impacts visitor expectations for their trip:

I think the visitor experience is important, and I've been talking to these people since 2021, planning their family vacation, and they have a destination image in mind. Now, in smoke, they decide whether it's worth it or not. Is it going to be the trip they envisioned? If clients are seeing the Moose Fire on [television] in Salmon Idaho, it's massive, it's impacting their level of apprehension and their assumptions about safety, even if the river is still safe to float. – Interview 10

As visitors, most of whom are out-of-state clients, weigh the safety of recreation opportunities in the State of Idaho, some chose substitution methods, changing the destination of their trip. A participant describes the consequences of this from a statewide perspective:

You know, people aren't coming to vacation during fire season [in Idaho], they're cutting their vacations short, they're going to other places, and I think people are pretty adaptable to that. Obviously, everybody knows that the West is prone to some smoke and wildfires, but as mobile as people are, I think that they often can decide “We're in Idaho and we're getting out of here,” because they know that Oregon's fine or Montana's fine this week or that week. So people are definitely keeping their plans a little looser. – Interview 23

Whether perceived or actual risk, smoke is changing visitor expectations and behaviors, while guides and outfitters work to determine how they can maintain a sustainable visitor experience. Participants also cited examples of concerns for guides physical (73%) and mental health (23%), and client physical (73%) and mental health (31%). Physical health impacts for guides and clients included, but were not limited to, acute respiratory impacts, burning of the eyes and throat, and the implications of long-term wildland fire smoke exposure. Mental health impacts included increased anxiety and burnout for guides. Notably, participants also mentioned clients in high-risk categories who, most often, end up opting out of a trip due to smoke conditions.

Ecological Impacts From Wildland Fire and Climate Change

Mentions of cascading ecological impacts were coded for 96% of participants. Notably, these often-involved other impacts than smoke, but situated smoke as part of a broader system of climate change and wildland fire. Codes included changes in soil and water quality (65%), landslides and mudslides (50%), loss of riparian habitat (38%), and changes in insect hatches (31%). The consistent mentions of this social-ecological system surrounding climate change and wildland fire emphasize the salience of impacts, with Idaho rivers experiencing a flux of dynamic environmental conditions (e.g., inconsistent water regimes, post-fire areas prone to landslides, mudslides, and increased sedimentation). A participant summarizes their thoughts on the impacts of smoke for river operations:

Water temperatures actually go down noticeably during smoky periods... Fish growth rates, physical habitat for fish water depth—the whole thing is driven by plants... Plant growth goes way down on smoky days, dissolved oxygen production by photosynthetic plants goes down. You can see all this stuff in real time every day when it gets smoky. – Interview 6

In addition to smoke from wildland fire, the impacts of landslides are sometimes not seen until years after a fire event, and when landslides do happen, there can be cascading impacts:

Landslides were a big issue last year on the Middle Fork [of the Salmon River] and the year before. So, when the fires come through, and it burns up all the vegetation, there's nothing to hold the topsoil down, and then, if it rains, we've seen big, big landslides that have changed the river, caused log jams in the river, etc... – Interview 15

We also coded for explicit mentions of climate change and climate change impacts (42%). Mentions of climate change were often tied to changing fire regimes, as one participant explains:

It's interesting to see the river change via wildfire, I don't think that's a bad thing. It's a natural process, obviously, that I think is being accelerated by climate change and human interaction. – Interview 15

Operational Strategies to Reduce Social and Economic Impacts

In light of economic, social, and ecological impacts of smoke from wildland fire, participants shared mitigation strategies they and their clients are taking, including

allowing participants to decide whether or not to participate in a trip (69%), utilizing masks or buffs (58%), substituting trip locations (50%), shortening trips (27%), educating clients on smoke and wildland fires (27%), or changing camp locations (12%). Many participants explained the limitations of mitigation strategies for guided river trips.

So, that's kind of as much of a policy as we've adopted. If we know we're going into a [smoky] trip, we'll try to send masks, and then it's ultimately up to the guides to use them or not. If they want, obviously. They're not checking the air quality every day, nor do we really know how much it's going to change, there's not accurate gauging for every part of the river. – Interview 25

Participants, especially on multi day trips, may be subject to extended time in poor air quality. With limited options for reprieve, mitigation strategies involve more sweeping adaptation, like changing trip locations or choosing to shorten or cancel a trip entirely. For outfitters operating 1 day trips, those cancellations were more frequent, as one participant explains, “We do lose a lot of people from the trips as well. Since we're doing half- and full-day trips and people are coming from Boise, it's an easier opportunity for them to cancel” (Interview 23).

Educating clients was also an adaptation strategy exercised by interview participants, offering further insight into the layered roles of river guides. Some outfitters expect their guides to effectively communicate about smoke and wildland fire ecology. A participant explained this as an opportunity:

I think they generally are pretty receptive to it [education]. What's cool about being a guide and part of why I do it is that it's an opportunity for us to share a lot of information, and they generally trust us because of the guide-guest relationship – they trust what we're telling them about the area. Which is good. It's a cool way to talk about issues like the pine bark beetles, general forest management, and like how fires are actually sort of good, but not quite at this scale. – Interview 3

Monitoring air quality was coded as a risk management strategy for thirty-eight percent of participants. One participant explained their decision-making tool simply, “If the smoke calculator says its unsafe, we cancel the trip for guides and clients” (Interview 10). While exercised by some outfitters, there are no clear guidelines or standards for guides and outfitters to decide whether conditions are “safe.” As a result, risk assessments vary across outfitters and guiding staff. When the decision is made to run a trip in variable conditions, communication between outfitters and guides is critical and was coded in 42% of interviews. A participant recounts responding to an active fire in the river corridor with a trip:

I think this was actually a pretty big failure on our part: we didn't have much of a conversation that day for when we did see firefighters with an exit boat. We never said, "Hey, should we send people that have severe asthma out?" "Should this be the end of their trip?" I think that was something that frustrated both the guides and the guests, that wasn't an option on the table since we weren't prepared for it. I definitely think there were guests that would have liked to have just left while we were in the middle of the fire and didn't really care that they missed the rest of the trip. – Interview 3

Participants also cited the same need for communication between outfitters and management agencies (35%). One person explained that "communication and advocacy together are key" and described the chain of command that helps outfitters operate in variable conditions:

Outfitters, Middle Fork Outfitters Association, and Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association communicate really closely with the Forest Service. We have a head of the Salmon chapter and Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association talking directly to Forest Service staff and communicating over email to all guides and outfitters. Even on years without fire they nominate a fire coordinator who communicates with the Forest Service and gets information back to the outfitters and advocate for outfitters. – Interview 10

River based recreation opportunities in the West face many pressures, but participants shared effective communication and advocacy with management agencies increases access to recreation opportunities and helps outfitters respond and adapt to changes such as road closures, landslides, active fires, and smoke conditions. Participants also cited instances of management agencies issuing temporary permits on other waterways to help reduce impacts to businesses from extended closures. Promoting trip insurance to prevent loss (12%) and offering diverse trip lengths (1- and multi-day trips) (19%) were also cited as viable mitigation strategies. This participant describes the advantage of diverse offerings by stating "They [outfitters with permits on multiple rivers] figured it out a long time ago, and they're doing well because of diversification of experiences they can provide their clients" (Interview 6). Participants underscored how outfitters across the state are honing a diverse array of adaptation strategies they hope will help mitigate most of the social and economic impacts of smoke on the water.

Future Needs for Policy and Guidance

When evaluating future outfitter needs for policy and guidance, four main codes were formed including outfitter control over policies and decision making (31%), stakeholder relationships to manage business impacts (15%), the need for outfitter decision making tools (15%), and a future mandated policy for trip insurance (12%).

Apprehension toward policies that would not account for diverse service areas and conditions across the State were noted in interviews. As a participant explained:

I think there's some training and information out there [...] so that's probably more of the approach to take with guides [...] It's inherently unsafe – everything we do is unsafe – that's why we exist. Everything's risk management. I think guides are just looking for a better understanding of how to assess those risks. I think guides, probably, what they're looking for is more tools versus more standards. – Interview 11

Participants also described the growing need for trip insurance in a more unpredictable climate. Some outfitters we interviewed already institute a mandatory trip insurance policy, while others see this as a necessary step for the future:

Really leaning into travel insurance. I think we're going to see it. We might even just start seeing people building it into their pricing. There's just no choice if you're coming on a trip with us. – Interview 25

While these future needs are diverse and ranged in support across guides, these responses communicate that guides are continually evaluating their viability as a business in an increasingly complex outdoor recreation economy.

Discussion

The purpose of this research was to understand the geographic phenomenon of commercial river recreation operators impacted by wildland fire smoke and poor air quality in Idaho. Building on previous sustainable recreation (Selin et al., 2022) and sustainable tourism (Stoddard et al., 2012) research, the triple bottom line framework emerged as a prudent lens. While the direct economic impacts of smoke, operationalized as trip cancellations (mentioned by 69% of interviewees), costs of re-locating trips (29%), etc. were noted, changes to the client experience (77%), as well as guide (73%) and client (53%) physical health were equally salient social factors with downstream economic impacts. When viewed from a destination image perspective, participants shared concern about client experiences harming Idaho's image and subsequent demand for nature-based tourism. This trepidation mirrors other tourism-dependent communities where fire is common (e.g., Cartier & Taylor, 2020). These concerns were juxtaposed against the general sentiment that "smoke is part of being outside in Idaho during the summers," highlighting that smoke is part of a "natural process." And, while participants noted the cascading ecological impacts that wildland fire and smoke create (96%) many shared the conditions they manage on the water are exacerbated by climate change (42%).

Theoretically, findings from this effort contribute to recreation substitutability scholarship within the human dimensions of air quality, which explores changes in recreation behavior (e.g., Zajchowski, Tysor et al., 2019). Recent protected area research, in part, supports this theoretical linkage (e.g., Keiser et al., 2018; Zajchowski, Brownlee et al., 2019), as does recreation research in other contexts (e.g., Mullan et al., 2024). Other findings, however, are less conclusive (Gellman et al., 2022) or even contrary (Brown et al., 2024). In our effort, most interviewees mentioned business practices allowing participants to opt-out or postpone trips (69%) and noted that guides may change trip location (50%) or duration (27%) due to smoke, highlighting the role of displacement, temporal, and spatial substitutability in addressing impacts of poor air quality in this commercial context. Thus, we demonstrate the recreation and nature-based tourism provider population can also inform the debate regarding recreation substitutability due to air quality conditions. Further, as outfitters and guides are financially dependent on recreationists and tourists demand, they compile and respond to booking trends, making them ideal partners for quantitative efforts documenting cancellations, revenue loss, guide sick-days, and other impacts.

While future efforts to quantify economic impacts to the industry and rural economies are prudent, the impacts to the visitor experience mentioned by guides also suggest opportunities to explore climate-induced cultural ecosystem service elasticity or changes due to the broader social-ecological systems in these geographies. While weather dependency (e.g., Verbos et al., 2018), last chance tourism (e.g., Groulx et al., 2019), and perceptions of change (Blacketer et al., 2023) scholarship highlight nested temporal and climatological impacts on tourism and outdoor recreation, ecosystem services elasticity holds promise for theoretically exploring of the tourism experience as influenced through acute, episodic social-ecological forcings. What services are relatively stable despite perturbations (low elasticity) or more variable and impacted by wildfire smoke (high elasticity)? Dawson et al. (2011) highlight that vulnerability drives last chance tourism scholarship, however, the negative elasticity facilitated through some climate impacts (i.e., existential decrease in ecosystem services increases demand for tourism opportunity), does not mirror the dynamic and uncertain air quality conditions, where permanent loss is not a concern; rather clients (and guides) are attempting to pick a weather window to access fluctuating ecosystem service provision. This raises an alternate “paradox” to last chance tourism: how do tourism operators function within environments when the physical setting is so increasingly dynamic as to either afford or counter the very benefits sought by their clients?

In terms of interdisciplinary scholarship and praxis, public health research, wilderness medicine guidance, and wildfire management offer potential avenues. Ambulatory monitoring of particulate matter through low-cost sensors (e.g., McCann et al., 2021) can provide in situ exposure, as well as contribute to longitudinal monitoring of smoke conditions within seasonally impacted river corridors. Monitoring, paired with public health guidance from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2024) or state/provincial guidance (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2024), can form the basis for trip cancellation or opt-out refund policies. Further, supplementary guidance to traditional wilderness medicine curriculum can equip guides with strategies to address the physical and mental health concerns in the field mentioned by participants. Partnering with industry-specific health advocacy groups, such as Redside Foundation, can further informal education and training opportunities around air quality risk management related to smoke. Finally, resiliency-based approaches to fire events recommended by Cartier and Taylor (2020) should be implemented including management practices that prioritize local communities, economies, and environment and establishing proactive communication structures led by fire managers to ensure holistic and efficient communication with guides, outfitters, and other stakeholders.

Guides and outfitters are adapting their operational strategies to curb the impacts of wildfire smoke on themselves, their participants, and the health and wellbeing of their enterprise. Yet, while smoke was very much a social, economic, and environmental concern for outfitters and guides, there was a reticence toward State or industry-wide policies addressing air quality impacts in trip contexts (31% of sample). There are numerous potential factors influencing this trend. First, the vast physical geography of the State, varying river management agencies, already dynamic nature of outdoor enterprise management, and diverse recreation types and trip duration, make uniform policies, at best, cumbersome. Further, the political geography of the State is decidedly conservative, anti-regulation, and, when aligned with the dominant political agenda, in favor of local control. Thus, like Running et al. (2017), who interviewed Idaho farmers about environmental and climate change, political ideology likely eclipses any potential benefits from policy guidance across the commercial river recreation sector. With this in mind, Gellman et al. (2022) suggests land managers incentivize behavioral shifts in the location and timing of visits to public lands to reduce exposure to poor air quality. This aligns with our findings, suggesting incentives for both clients and outfitters, such as assistance to formalize trip insurance policies and diversifying substitution offerings are a more palatable path forward.

Conclusion

This research builds on prior sustainable recreation (Selin et al., 2022) and sustainable tourism (Stoddard et al., 2012) research utilizing the triple bottom line framework. As guides, outfitters, and the river-based recreation and tourism industry continue to confront the issue of wildfire smoke, collaboration with public health research, wilderness medicine education, destination management organizations, and land managers will be necessary. We also recommend that outfitters and guides continue to develop robust outfitter policies that include trip insurance, air quality guidelines, and spatial and temporal substitutes in response to poor air quality. Our findings demonstrate not only the geographic phenomenon of wildfire smoke in Idaho, but also the layered and cascading impacts that smoke has on river recreation and nature-based tourism, which will continue to have downstream impacts if adaptations are not addressed.

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Michala Hendrick, M.S. is the director of youth programming at Hudson Taconic Lands. Her work focuses on youth programming and conserving land around public schools to increase outdoor education opportunities. Her previous research examined stakeholder relationships to ecosystem services, visitor use management, specialization theory, and barriers to outdoor recreation.

Dr. Chris Zajchowski is Assistant Professor of Parks, Tourism, Recreation Ecology at the University of Idaho and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. His research focuses on human dimensions of natural resources, with particular emphasis on outdoor recreation and environments with poor air quality.

Dr. Jeff Rose is an Associate Professor in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism at the University of Utah. His research examines systemic inequities expressed through political economy, relationships to nature, class, and race. He uses this justice-focused lens to study homelessness in parks, socioecological systems, and outdoor experiences.

COLLEGE OF NATURAL
RESOURCES



Oct. – Dec. 2024 Dual-Appointment Report

IDPR Interpretation Research Takes Center Stage

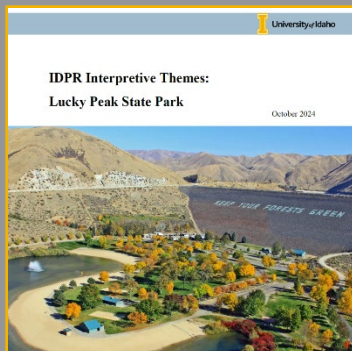


Fall semester continued with a focus on the excellent research efforts of Parks and Recreation Lab graduate students. Jacqueline Snow and Anna Medlin presented their research at the Leave No Trace 30th Anniversary Global Summit in Boulder, Colorado. Anna shared preliminary findings from her interpretive theme research with **Priest Lake, Hells Gate, Dworshak, Ponderosa, Lucky Peak, Thousand Springs, Bear Lake, Harriman State Parks**, as well as the **Ashton-Tetonia Trail**. Jacqueline presented the findings from

her year-long research on recreation impacts in rangeland settings. Jacqueline's effort was supported by U of I's **Rinker Rock Creek Ranch** and Dr. Karl.

Anna and Jaqueline competed in University of Idaho's 3-Minute Thesis Competition in November. Anna placed third, which won her a trip to the statewide competition in Idaho Falls in February. Congrats to them both for their accomplishments!

Shahriar continued his work on Idahoans' risk perceptions of wildfire smoke, and Brey began his research on spatially documenting Indigenous values.



Initiatives

Harriman Trails Plan

- Drs. Zajchowski and Picardi, along with CRO Planning and Design consultants, began our work with **Harriman State Park** and the Friends group for the trail design and operations plan. In addition to helping connect the dots between the consultant team and IDPR, our Lab's role will be to lead an on-site visitor survey in Summer 2025, with the assistance of Washington & Lee interns. We're looking forward to this work ramping up this Spring and Summer.



Lake Cascade Sign Design Project

- We solidified our plan for NRS 387 students to work with Zack and his staff at **Lake Cascade** on interpretive sign design and creation in Spring 2025. Last year's work with **Massacre Rocks** was a success and we look forward to repeating with the South Region.



Jaqueline presenting on her **Artificial Intelligence Research with McCroskey State Park** at the 3 Minute Thesis Competition.



With assistance from our colleagues at University of Utah and a former student from Old Dominion University, Shahriar and Dr. Zajchowski published ["Smoke on the Water": Wildfire Smoke Impacts on Commercial River Recreation](#) in the State of Idaho in the Journal of Travel Research. Thanks to Harriman State Park for helping us kick off this project at the Scovel Center in Fall of 2023, and for Chairman Beckley for his assistance with tracking down interviewees.

Past and Upcoming Park Visits

Park	Date
IDPR Board Meeting North Region Headquarters	Oct. 28
IDPR Managers Meeting Boise	Jan. 22
Interpretive Team Meeting Ponderosa State Park	March 25 & 26

Initiatives

SORP Board Service



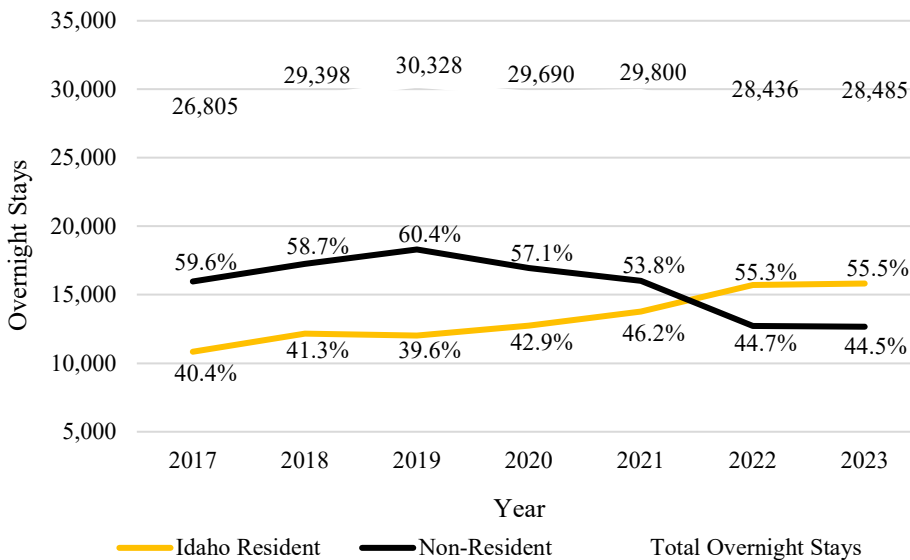
- Dr. Zajchowski serves as an at-large Board member for Society for Outdoor Recreation Professionals and attended the annual in-person Duluth, Minnesota Board meeting in Duluth, Minnesota. Duluth will be the site for the 2026 National Outdoor Recreation Conference. We hope to bring as big an Idaho crew as 2024 in Tahoe.



Fullbright Scholar at U of I

- In October, Natalia Jaramillo Machuca lectured in NRS 125 on transboundary natural resource management in Antarctica. Natalia has been on eight Antarctic expeditions with the Colombian team. She joined U of I in Fall 2024 as a Fullbright Scholar working with Drs. Zajchowski and Gessler. She will assist the Lab this summer on a social values mapping survey in the Salmon River Basin.

HB93 – Impacts of Doubling Overnight Fees on Nonresidents



- Drs. Chelsea Pennick, Katie Lee, and Zajchowski analyzed the impacts of Idaho House Bill 93 on access by resident status, length of stay, and revenue for **Farragut, Henrys Lake, Ponderosa, Priest, and Round Lake State Parks**. We are working with IDPR staff to confirm findings, but initial results point to ~15% more Idaho reservations than before the Bill, slightly longer stays, and increased revenue. Stay tuned as we solidify numbers.

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 and Recreation Ecology
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NORTH REGION MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2024

MISSION: To serve North Idaho Park users and recreationists providing them with a quality experience that is safe and enjoyable while managing and protecting the public's investment and natural resources.

GOALS:

- Ensure that all facilities are kept clean and hazard free.
- Utilize both paid and volunteer staff to man visitor centers and entrance booths to answer questions and sell park permits.
- Patrol parks ensuring user needs, user safety, and resource protection.
- Manage operations and opportunities to ensure quality experiences and resources are provided and enhanced.

Primary Issues and Concerns

1. Seasonal Staff Shortages
2. Minimal budgets with increased fixed costs, and higher use.
3. Aging facilities and equipment
4. Meeting ever-increasing use and opportunity demands insuring quality experiences.

NORTH REGION SERVICE CENTER – DAVID WHITE, REGION MANAGER

- Participated in the Region Park Manager's weekly calls; Park Manager's monthly calls; Heyburn Marina/ Boat Garage discussions; Board Meeting, presenting the Heyburn Recreation Lease Appraisal Agenda Item; and OPS Region Manager Team's Meetings.
- Assisted with Hells Gate State Park Ranger interviews.
- Reviewed Hells Gate, Winchester, Dworshak park operations
- Reviewed Farragut upcoming projects with staff and the design/build contractor; OM pavement Project/TOC maintenance/housing building projects.
- Attended the CdA Area Chamber of Commerce Natural Resource Committee meeting; Bi-Annual TOC Commission meeting in Mullan; and Brandt Reservation Training
- Hosted the Bi-Annual TOC Ramp Meeting of the governments to discuss the past year's activities.
- Hosted an all-staff NR Meeting with HQ staff attending and presenting.
- Discussed a Trail of the CdA's Crossing Agreement with a local attorney
- Assisted the NR Grant Specialist position interviews and with Real Estate Manager position follow-up interviews.
- Coordinated the statewide picnic tables/fire rings requisition in fulfilling the RV Grant.
- Met with the Washington State Park's Commission and Washington State Park executive staff providing them a summary of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation overall operations and management including funding and staffing.

NR MAINTENANCE CREW – LANNY NEIPERT, MAINTENANCE FOREMAN

CdA Parkway:

- Talked with Ryan and with Erin M about pump removal, did not accomplish due to Ryan having difficulties finding a new pump

Dworshak:

- Spoke with Jake about the water leak at Three Meadows and lent him the Line locator and hammer drill to work on it

Farragut:

- Met with Erin M. and went over projects they need help with (Grey water dump in Waldron, fire standpipe on South Road, Grading North Road, fixing waterline from Thimbleberry to equestrian area)

Hells Gate:

- Discussed plan with Steve about replacing deck railing on Jack O'Conner center, traveled to Lewiston, tore off the old deck railing, replicated upright posts and installed new railing
- Looked at replacing dock sections and putting new lumber on the sides to attach the new sections
- Looked at the water back flow device location for new shelter around device

North Region Office:

- Worked with Julie to get Minor Maintenance paperwork caught up, sent out substantial completion forms to Modern Glass and Comfort Heating and Air
- Set up conference room and attended Region meeting
- Helped Keith re-wire trailer plug on chipper again (Parks keep changing it)
- Don went to Nesbitt property and did Fall clean-up
- Discussed snow plowing here at the Region Office and where the piles of snow get placed for the winter, with Ethan from Fish and Game
- Swapped out snow tires on R-321, R-520, and R-533
- Welded up new gate pins for McCroskey and went with Keith and cut lock off gate and replaced it with the new gate pin
- Sent Ryan Buffington plans for the steel Idaho for park entrances
- Cut 3 F&G logos for Carson
- Built a new shelf for CNC computer

Old Mission/TOC:

- Met up with Will, Ryan Buffington and Brad (ER maintenance supervisor) at the new TOC shop
- Went to OM and looked at Toro shed roof (discussed having electrical moved below roof for fewer penetrations through roof)

Round Lake:

- Re-insulated, sheeted and tar papered side of VC. Installed cedar boards around chimney and installed new cedar siding shingles. Used type S mortar to fill in gaps between cedar boards and chimney rocks.
- Welded up a gate arm with lock open and lock close posts. Then had gate and posts powder coated and installed new gate at burn pile location.
- Planed table boards with Bart, Cole, and Lauren.

OHV/Boating:

- Helped Bailey take delivery of the new front-end loader for Rec Bureau
- Helped Sean figure out how to use snowblower attachment for new loader

NR OFFICE STAFF

- Researched and ordered new items for the NR Retail section
- Reached out to Parks that had change in personnel to get Emergency contact roster updated.
- Sent out letters to the Heyburn Leases to update them on the boat garage discussion
- Worked with Finance to get documentation and W-9s updated for several vendors and then submit payments to be processed for them
- Assisted with Board Meeting prep and set-up, arranged lunch for day of
- Assisted Susan and Troy with set up and various administrative needs for IDPR portion of the Legislative Showcase
- Helped coordinate the Fall NR Meeting with David
- Coordinated with ROW Concessionaire and OM Staff to ensure their annual payment is completed
- Assisted with scheduling conference room for IDFG Meetings and Brandt Training
- Attended Brandt Training
- Started to compile Annual RAMP meeting report based on responses from participants
- Working with Lucas, Melanie and park staff to get MM project contracts and documentation completed that had been missed previously
 - Process documentation with Nadine to submit for payment to be made to the contractors
- Compiled responses from park managers and staff into condensed report for NR Manger on several quick turnaround suspense's.
 - NR Parks Minor Maintenance Needs List Update

- Heyburn Lot Appraisal Payment Comparison 2003 to 2025
- NR Truck Requisition

COEUR D’ALENE LAKE PARKWAY – LIZ PALFINI, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- The Parkway is running smoothly. When the weather is good, visitation is good.
- Eagle season is on, so weekends are heavy

Park/Program Usage

- 1 Higgens point shelter rental in Oct
- No permits in November and December

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Regular maintenance ongoing

Staff Training

- Staff attended monthly safety meeting.

Park Manager’s Narrative

- The gangway ramps at the overnight docks were being vandalized in October. The treads are being pried off from the gangway and thrown into the water. They are being repaired as they are discovered.
- The irrigation pump went out at Higgen’s Point and Ryan is figuring out what we need to get it repaired. There seem to be some issues with permits because the water is coming out of the lake.
- Story walk trail improvements have begun, but are not yet complete.

FARRAGUT STATE PARK – LIZ PALFINI, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Overall customer complaints are low with the number one complaint being roads.
- Weather has been wet and day use has been slow.
- Camping has slowed down, as water has been turned off throughout the park, we have moved camping over to Thimbleberry.

Park/Program Usage

- 1 disc golf tournament
- Shelters: 1 wedding
- Group Camps:0
- Events under permit: 2 XC meets

Program Services

Type of permit issued (after event)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	5	1,535
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- Brig and Jr Ranger Station closed after Memorial Day weekend for construction
- 2 backpacks were lent, 0 fishing poles, 0 tackle boxes

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation (Brig Tours)		

Traditional Interpretation	3	67
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Hazard trees were removed within campgrounds and along trails and roadways. Keith worked with our staff on the IDL sale and work was mostly completed by the end of December. Cleanup and burning will begin in January.
- The Scott field and flagpole day use area sale went to auction, and work should begin in December.
- I met with Keith to discuss future sales around the park and coordinate a sale that affects IDFG lands.

Staff Training

- Staff attended monthly safety meeting.
- Staff attended the 2-day North region meeting in CDA on October 16-17
- Mykayla, John and Derek attended Supervisory academy
- John and Derek attended CEO in Boise
- Brandt Training

Park Manager's Narrative

- Brig interior repairs are in progress, filling cracks and holes throughout and Brig interior was painted by volunteers and staff.
- We have two showers in the Gilmore shower house closed as we repair the tile damage.
 - The tile has been removed, and a seamless coating is being installed to replace it.
- Work is being done to improve parking areas at interpretive areas as well as trail heads.
 - Dead trees and debris have been removed, and repairs have been made to the areas.
- Met with David L. from IDFG regarding the various projects coming down the pipeline.
 - He was initially concerned about shoreline camping or development at Buttonhook. I took him to the areas we will be improving, and he had no problems with our plan and gave his approval to proceed with the host site at the restroom area and the road improvement.
 - We also toured the other areas including Eagle boat launch and the perimeter fence.
 - We also talked about the large amphitheater and my plan to return it to its Navel footprint. He agreed so I will discuss with Keith, and we will figure out how to get the trees removed.
- Met with several HQ staff during the week of the 13th, gave tour of the park and answered questions.
- We had one workman's comp incident with Ranger Ryan Reed in November and he was out post-surgery for the whole of December.
- Facility inspection team converted all the inspection findings into a complete work order list and assigned them out to full time staff.
- Met with the CDA Audubon Society regarding the Eagle watch activities at Higgins point, they will be down helping folks and talking about Eagles this winter.
 - We also talked about arranging some Bluebird hikes and updating some signs
- Minor maintenance funds were used:
 - to move the camp host site in Whitetail to make room for better parking at the shower house and less customer conflict between the hosts and campers.
 - to add lighting to the solitary confinement area of the Brig, this should be completed in January.
- Attended the Peterson pre-bid meeting
- Met with Tabitha regarding a donation to the Parkway. The NIC trail folks would like to donate a bike repair station. We accessed the most appropriate placement and have given the go ahead. It will be a nice addition to the parkway.
- Erin and I attended the Athol library reopening.

- Maintenance welded up some A frame sign holders for “Trail Closed” signs in preparation for the forest management project going in and around Scott field.

DWORSHAK STATE PARK – JOHN SEELY, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- The Big Eddy office is open 9am-5pm Monday- Friday.
- The marina store was closed for the season after Labor Day weekend.
 - Fuel sales are no longer available as the marina has been pulled from shore
- Big Eddy Lodge is open for rentals. The Deck is still closed to the public.
- The entry station at Freeman Creek is closed for the season.

Park/Program Usage

- Primary users are mainly fisherman and hunters.
- Freeman Creek Traffic counter numbers are higher than the 5-year average for the month of December.
 - The traffic count: Oct-507 /Nov-157 /Dec-238

Program Services

Type of permit issued (after event)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Slash piles were burnt. A few hazard trees were removed
 - Keith Jones and Will Niska came down to assist in hazard tree removal focusing on 3M and 3M road. October 22nd and 23rd.

Staff Training

- John Seely, Kiona Rogers, and Jen Hill attended the 2-day NR meeting in CDA on October 16-17
- John Seely attended 16 credit hours on courses to renew his applicator license.
- Jenn Hill attended Crucial conversations- 16 hours
- Brandt Training

Park Manager’s Narrative

- The waterline project at Freeman Creek is still in full swing.
 - Trout loop is finished.
 - Kokanee Loop is nearing completion.
 - Both loops still require restoration work, this includes hydro seeding and road repair.
 - TML will start on Osprey loop in January.
 - The Drift Creek culvert is scheduled to be repaired the second week of January.

- Due to the waterline replacement, we may not be able to open Kokanee, Osprey, and Trout loop until the second week of July.
- This will leave the park with only 10 sites and 4 cabins available.
- Three Meadows is unaffected.
- The vault toilet in Kokanee loop is leaking electricity into the ground. The mud tested at 88 volts. TML has contacted the electrical contractor to remedy the situation.
- The roof at Big Eddy Lodge started to leak, but a temporary fix has resolved the issue for now.
- The Big Eddy deck is not complete.
 - The contractors finished the concrete work and the decking, but there are problems.
 - The engineer signed off on the load capacity, but said it is poor workmanship.
 - Bryann Griggs is creating a punch list of items that need to be addressed.
- I will be attending the State Park Leadership School in West Virginia in January.

COEUR D'ALENES OLD MISSION STATE PARK – WILL NISKA, MANAGER

Customer Service

- Lost only seasonal employee that was working.

Park/Program Usage

- The traffic count: Oct-2,381 /Nov-1,120 /Dec-1,080
- St. Dominics- 200p
- Immaculate conception- 80p

Type of permit issued (after event)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	2	280
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- Holy Family- 28p
- West Ridge- 75p
- St. Pius- 30p
- Homeschool- 20p
- Atlas Elem.- 70p
- Wells Gray- 29p
- Home Garden- 10p
- Providence Health- 50p
- Stargazing- 50p
- U of I- 16p
- Arrows Co-op- 75p
- St. Mary's Catholic- 13p
- 3B Homeschool- 15p
- Yasuhara Middle- 30p

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming	1	50
Traditional Interpretation	3	79
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming	10	434
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Mission Pathways final walk through completed.
- THPO brought a group of historic preservationists to the park to tour the Mission.

Staff Training

- Staff attended the 2-day North region meeting in CDA on October 16-17
- Brandt training

Park Manager’s Narrative

- HVAC for the Visitor Center completed
- Manager attended Legislative Showcase
- AV company came out to assess repairs to the museum AV equipment.

TRAIL OF THE COEUR D’ALENES – WILL NISKA, MANAGER

Customer Service

- No seasonals working
- Keeping the trail open and clear for users.
- Visitor’s needs and expectations are being met.

Park/Program Usage

- The traffic count totals: Oct-10,156 /Nov-5,771 /Dec-5,802

Program Services

Type of permit issued (after event)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

Staff Training

- Staff attended the 2-day North region meeting in CDA on October 16-17

Park Manager’s Narrative

- Manager attended Trail Commission Meeting
- Manager attended campground meeting with FAA and DEQ
- Manager attended meeting with development for crosswalk indicator install on TOC
- Manager attended RAMP meeting.

HELLS GATE STATE PARK – STEVE KUSKIE, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Lewis and Clark Discovery Center: open 9:00am – 5:00pm, seven days a week, except holidays
- Marina store, operated by Snake River Adventures: opened the last weekend in April
- Jack O’Connor Center: open on Tues-Saturday, 10:00am – 4:00pm and Sunday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm
- The marina remains closed. Three coats of the ESD coating proved insufficient.
- Two of three camp loops and half of the cabins have been closed for the winter.
 - This leaves Aspen loop and four cabins open. Usage is slow.
- Registration stickers have been steady.
- Day use has fallen off significantly.

Park/Program Usage

Program Services

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	3	100
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- Annual Halloween Trunk or Treat event was held in A and B loop of the campground.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming - Booklets		
School Programming		
Special Events	1	500
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Work on the north irrigation pump continues.
 - The Soft Start for the system is still slated for late January for delivery.
 - Some of the internals were installed wrong and will be re-routed early January
- Working on thinning areas of dead, low lying branches.

Staff Training

- Staff attended the 2-day North region meeting in CDA on October 16-17.
- Brandt/ITINIO software training for most of the crew
- New CEO training for our newest Ranger
- Two Rangers attended Crucial Conversations

Park Manager’s Narrative

- Phase II of the marina has begun, and we are also replacing the decking on Phase I.
 - This should allow both Phases to open to the public Spring 2025.
- The parking lot lights were replaced with programmable LEDs with motion sensors.
 - Unfortunately, the power wasn’t knocked down from 480v to 240v at the panels as the engineer expected.
 - We are re-wiring the lights to 240v panels and will assess what damage occurred thereafter.

- Filled vacant ranger position, applicant is hitting the ground running

HEYBURN STATE PARK – NATHAN BLACKBURN, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Customer service needs centered on assisting customers with camping, cottage and cabin rentals, day use, informing the public of maintenance projects, and educating customers on park rules.
- In the Visitor Center, the focus was on collecting and verifying customer insurance requirements, lease payments, snowmobile, and boat registrations, and other customer needs.
- Chatcolet, Benewah and Hawley’s Landing are all closed for the season.

Park/Program Usage

Program Services

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming	1	3
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Mowry State Park development is going to begin in Spring 2025.
- Nate Blackburn is also working on Heyburn hosting the PNW Preservation Field School in 2025

Staff Training

- Staff attended the 2-day North region meeting in CDA on October 16-17
- Courtney Davenport and Lexi Daire attended training for Brandt

Park Manager’s Narrative

- Boat Garage demolitions are getting close to being wrapped up with a few stragglers left, and the small boat launch at Rocky Point Marina remained closed for this purpose.
- Marinas are looking very sparse, and demolitions are set to begin in the following months.
- The wastewater project is moving along. We did discover that the flow into the first settlement pond was almost completely blocked and that us hosing down the solid “debris” to help it flow was not working as well as we’d thought. This project began just in time.
- Manager attended Legislative Showcase

MCCROSKEY STATE PARK – NATHAN BLACKBURN, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Customer service needs were focused on off-road vehicle information, trails, and camping.
- Questions were answered at Heyburn Visitor Center regarding 2024/2025 use and most stemmed around whether the Skyline was passable.

Park/Program Usage

- There was help from the community in October to clean up litter that was left by other visitors. It was difficult for staff to get to McCroskey more than once/week due to seasonal layoffs.
 - Based on the amount that was cleaned up, three times per week would have been more appropriate

Program Services

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

Staff Training

Manager’s Narrative (not covered above)

- The roads have now become impassable for the season, so everything is on hold until 2025 when the weather and roads improve
- Courtney Davenport is continuing work on a Resource Management Plan for McCroskey.
 - The plan is to be graded for the Pacific Northwest Resource Management School, as well as to be a functional and helpful tool that will be updated yearly. Completion of the plan will be done by early November.

PRIEST LAKE STATE PARK – LONNIE JOHNSON, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- The store remains open 5 days a week.
- We received enough snow to groom our cross-country ski trails on December 21st and Dec. 28th.

Park/Program Usage

- October saw a varied amount of visitation. It was busy beginning of the month with campers, day users and cabin use, and toward end of month it dropped off to zero.
- November was a very low visitation month and not sure why it has dropped off. In years past the cabins would be booked full on weekends and we would also have some campers. Not so this year.
- December was another slow month for visitation. Lack of snow, many rainy days and heavy fog may have played a role in the low visitation numbers. I believe the cost per site in the off season also keeps people at home.
- On Dec. 31st, we had 2 cabins reserved and one campsite being occupied. It’s a winter miracle.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
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Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- The logging project at Lionhead campground started on September 20th and was completed on November 23rd.
 - This is to remove large hazardous old trees at the Lionhead campground, allowing sunlight to get into the forest floor, bringing more growth to the barren areas.
- We were able to get Storro excavating in to assist with the cleanup and burning of slash piles after the logging operation at Lionhead.
- The cutting of stumps was tackled by staff as time and weather permitted.

Staff Training

- 5 staff attended the 2-day North region meeting in CDA on October 16-17.
- Jenny attended a 2-day training course in Boise of ICORT on October 22-23.
- 2 staff on November 17th participated in judging smokey the bear and woody poster contest at IDL in Coolin.
- 5 staff attended the 1-day training for Brandt, a new reservation system, on Dec. 2nd at NR Office.
- Christine attended a weeklong training in McCall Idaho for Wilderness First Responder Dec.12 to Dec. 18th. She became certified.
- Misha took her Horticulture test on Dec. 5th and became certified.

Park Manager's Narrative

- After the logging operation at Lionhead was completed, money was acquired from Keith, the Natural Resources Specialist, and from NR Minor Maintenance funds, to bring in contractor Storro Excavating to clean up slash, haul logs and burn piles.
- Staff have been interviewing volunteers for summer positions.
- No seasonal applications have arrived yet, we hope the flood gates open after the 1st of year with applications.

ROUND LAKE STATE PARK – MARY MCGRAW, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Visitor center hours were reduced to at 10:00am to 3:00pm
- Park staff provided regular updates to phone and web services to keep customers informed of operational changes for the current season.

Park/Program Usage

- Park use was steady with day users, Dog walkers, & fisherman. The weather has been rainy and cool. There were no campers in December.

Type of permit issued (after event)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	1	50
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Contractors have been working with the engineering people to get DEQ approvals to continue the work in the campground.
- The manager meet with board members and Boise staff regarding the proposed timber sale on IDL property and possible ORFAC money for additional hike in cabins (AKA treehouses) on IDL property
- The Manager and Natural Resource Manager meet twice with IDL to discuss the proposed timber sale on the endowment property surrounding RL.
- The Manager attended meetings with Development regarding campground improvements, treehouses and the vehicle storage building

Staff Training

- All staff attended the 2-day North region meeting in CDA on October 16-17
- Manager, Admin Asst. and one ranger attended the new reservation system training 7 hour each

Park Manager's Narrative

- The Manager attended meetings with Development regarding campground improvements, treehouses, and the vehicle storage building.
- The Manager met with H2O, contractors and development regarding the water system upgrades that need to be completed.
- The visitor center furnace was replaced, Installing two mini splits heating units.
- The north region crew has completed the visitor siding repair project around the fireplace chimney
- We were able to replace green restroom Shower valves in one of the showers the second shower continued leaking, this will be ordered and replaced in the spring before opening the building.
- Both MDF drinking fountains have failed, we are working to remove both fountains and replace with a standard standpipe.
- Minor Maintenance monies were used to replace the south side of the beach shelter and to build and install a new gate on Blue Sky rd. at our burn pile area and the NR Crew completed the gate.
- The Manager has been working with Friends of Scotchman peaks to coordinate the winter tracks program at the park.
- The Manager has worked to familiarize Lauren with RL procedures and policies, she has finally received her computer at the end of the month. She has worked with ITS to get it set up.
- RL vehicle storage shed is finished, and equipment was moved in
- A new lumber rack was built near the booster station, lumber was sorted and stacked.
- Work Continues to be done to remove dead timber from the shop area after the beetle infestation to the lodgepole pine trees and hazard trees were removed in the campground.

- We spent time burning piles of slash where the beetle infestation occurred.
- We have been working on cutting wood and splitting it for next season's firewood sales.

WINCHESTER LAKE STATE PARK – DYLAN GOODELL, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Staff finished constructing a new shed to store PDF's and paddles by the Visitors Center.
- There have been many calls asking about camping availability and ice conditions.
- Madison spent Saturdays at Hells Gate, helping their office staff and helped at the annual trunk or treat event this year too.
- Staff has been monitoring snow conditions on Lakeshore trail and we hope to start grooming soon.
- Madison and Lauren continued to create engaging social media posts.
 - One video received 25,000 views in 2 days.
- Staff has been coming up with ideas to bring in visitors during the winter.
 - Staff decorated the VC for the holiday season.
 - A snow man making contest has been suggested.
- Lauren has continued with hiring camp hosts; all three sites filled for the summer at this point.
- Madison and staff have been acquainting ourselves with the new Brandt software.

Park/Program Usage

- The traffic count: Oct-2,855 /Nov-1,484 /Dec-1,182

Type of permit issued (after event)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	3	130
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- Beth took a 5th grade class on an interpretive walk.
- Lauren presented a leaf program at the park.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education	1	11
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events	1	15
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Dylan has been working with Nez Perce, DEQ and other stake holders for fire etiquette signage.
 - The tribe may also provide a Purple-Air monitor for the park.
- We have continued removing the old telephone barriers and replacing them with rock.
- Staff repainted bathroom in VC and floor of entryway and constructed a new storage area in the restroom.
- IDL has been continuing with the thinning and managing the forest to seral stage. Stakeholders are planning on another prescribed burn this spring.
 - IDL has been out burning hand piles and finished using the chipper for the season
- Madison has been researching and putting together an informative tree cookie display.
- Lauren has been getting quotes to upgrade a camp host sight from 30Amp to 50Amp.
- We have been spending minor maintenance funds to improve the park
 - We installed a new garage door at the maintenance shop.

- We have continued to look for quotes on the foot bridge tread replacement.
- Staff have been laying down gravel in campsite living pads and spurs.
- Waterfowl hunting was successful this fall, there were less hunters this year and geese have mostly migrated away at this point.
- IDL was awarded grant funding for MCH bubbles.
 - WIN will receive 750 bubbles enough to treat 50 acres.

Staff Training

- Beth has been finalizing PNWRMS first year project. It is due 11/8/24.
- Dylan, Lauren and Madison attended the 2-day North region meeting in CDA on October 16-17
- Lauren held a BLS recertification class, both Beth and Maddison received certifications.
- Dylan, Madison and Beth attended the Brandt training at HEL.
- Beth attended a snow school grant writing workshop and completed a few trainings to recertify CEO status.
- Staff held a fire extinguisher training exercise

Park Manager's Narrative

- Winchester Dam was given a poor rating by department of water resources due to the gravel placed behind the concrete fuses.
 - All the fuses and gravel are to be removed for the dam to remain in use, so park staff assisted IDFG in the removal of the gravel.
- Dylan and Lee, the archeologist from U of I, did a field survey for SHPO in the areas around the new water line, day use areas, and shower house. He is finalizing the report.
- Visitation has really slowed down; it has not been cold enough for the lake to freeze for ice fishing and there is not enough snow for snow sports.
- Development construction projects have been delayed due to TML staffing. Updated timeline is Shower house ADA pathway in spring 25 and Appaloosa loop water line replacement September 25. Additional Yurts are on hold currently.
- Dylan attended the Legislative showcase.
- Dylan met with IDFG about aquatic vegetation management. The clearwater region will schedule a drawdown of water for every reservoir in the region every 5 years.
 - The consensus was that an aquatic vegetation harvester that pulled plants and roots would be the best solution for removing biomass from the reservoir.
 - They are about \$100,000. We will be looking for grant funding.
- Staff has been learning the new Brandt software program.
 - Madison has just about completed the retail portion of the inventory.
- We have also been brainstorming ideas to bring in visitors during the off season. These include having an ice-skating rink, skijoring/dog sledding, curling and astronomy programs.

OPERATIONS DIVISION QUARTERLY REPORT

OCT-NOV-DEC 2024

OPERATIONS DIVISION – TROY ELMORE, ADMINISTRATOR

Mission: To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship.

Goals:

- To provide leadership and direction for the ongoing daily operations of Idaho State Parks, the IDPR Recreation Bureau, and the Natural Resources Management Program.
- To leverage existing resources to provide staff with the necessary tools to accomplish the mission of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

Administrator's Report

- Conducted weekly meetings with the 3 regional managers. Provides an ongoing opportunity for back-and-forth communication on a routine basis.
- Participated in monthly manager meetings with region managers and all park managers. This allows me to relay information from headquarters and get feedback at the park level.
- Attended the east region meeting in Harriman. Provided an update to the region staff and other IDPR staff who also attended.
- Attended the north region meeting in Coeur d'Alene. Provided an update to the region staff and other IDPR staff who also attended. While in north Idaho, I accompanied Director Buxton and Adam Zaragoza on an on-site visit at Mowry State Park and Heyburn State Park. Coeur d' Alene tribe representatives, Representative Mendive, and Kootenai County Commissioner Duncan were also in attendance.



Beautiful view of Heyburn State Park this winter

- Attended the south region meeting in Boise. Provided an update to the region staff and other IDPR staff who also attended.
- Attended legislative showcase planning meetings in preparation for the legislative tour with local legislators in their respective regions across the state.
- Continued to work with Heyburn park staff, region staff, and our development team on operational procedures regarding the Heyburn marina project.
- Finalized and submitted formal comments to Army Corps of Engineers regarding their Lucky Peak Reservoir Master Plan. We also met in person prior to submitting comments and expressed our concern with the proposed changes to management designations which could impact future management of Lucky Peak State Park and nearby recreation.
- Attended the annual Compliance Enforcement Officer training in Meridian. Spoke to staff and participated in several Ada County Sheriff presentations. Thanked Ada County Sheriff Investigator Marlin McCowan for all his investment in training IDPR staff.
- Worked with park staff and development staff on establishing a framework for RV grant application to be submitted in January. Project would potentially provide the ability for IDPR to charge fees for dump station use at our parks. This was a recommendation from the RV committee after submitting an unsuccessful grant last year, asking for funding to offset the costs of maintaining our dump stations.
- Attended IDPR all-staff headquarters meeting in Boise. Helped facilitate the meeting and presented a detailed overview of the projects going on in our parks to HQ staff.
- Worked on the RFP for the winter sports venue concession in Eagle Island State Park. The RFP was released on December 20th, asking for interested parties to submit proposals by January 23rd. Received applications are currently under review.

Motorized Trails Program:

The following is a list of activities that have been recently completed by the Motorized Trails Program. This is in addition to the routine tasks of answering questions from the public and routine tasks around the office.

- Attended International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) in Green Bay WI. Representing Idaho and attending International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA) meetings and general meetings.
- Attended the Idaho Trail Machine Association (ITMA) Annual State ride held in Eastern Idaho on the Caribou Targhee National Forest. Facilitated OHV Education class for students and attended ITMA board meeting.
- Conducted interviews for South Region Equipment Operator and for the North Region Trails Specialist positions and hired Rene Rodrigues Jr for the Equipment Operator position and Bailey Lerwill for the North Region Trails specialist.
- Attended National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) in Minneapolis MN. Attended International Off Highway Vehicle Administrators meetings as well as general meetings representing Idaho and the Motorized Trails Program. Discussion of Off Highway vehicle Law Enforcement development in Idaho and sharing information among state administrators on best practices and OHV Laws.
- Attended Idaho State Snowmobile Association (ISSA) annual convention held in Eastern Idaho, Island Park. Discussed new groomer purchasing for FY25 and anticipated replacements for FY26. Updated general members on new registration program switchover happening in January and snowmobile sticker sales as well as distribution of funds to county programs. Education Coordinator held Avalanche Awareness class for the group and attended meetings with avalanche centers forecasting in Idaho for updates on Eastern Idaho education efforts.

2024 Trail Work Totals
Trail Rangers

REGION	MILES CLEARED	NUMBER DOWNFALL	TREAD WORK (FT)	WATER BARS	BRUSH WORK (FT)	ATV	MB
NORTH	489.17	3,554	2,997	137	33,410	62.30	426.97
SOUTH	476	2114	665	151	32140	7	480
EAST	678	2,421	217	212	169,059	113.3	564.7
Totals	1,643.02	8,089	3,879	500	234,609	182.10	1,471.37

ATV Trail Rangers

REGION	ATV MILES CLEARED	NUMBER DOWNFALL	TREAD WORK (FT)	WATER BARS	SIGN VERIFIED	SIGN INSTALLED	BRUSH WORK (FT)	ROCK REMOVAL (FT)
STATEWIDE	263.50	1,682	400	31	141	31	100,138	537
Totals	263.50	1,682	400	31.00	141	31	100,138.00	537

OHV Education

July, August, and September

- 307 - Students completed the IDPR Responsible Riders OHV Operators Course
- 40 - Responsible Riders OHV Safety courses held
- 10 - Students completed the IDPR OHV Train-the-Trainer course for ATV/UTV instructor
- 1 - IDPR OHV Train-the-Trainer course held

OHV Education

October, November, and December

- 25,000 - Snowmobiling in Idaho booklets distributed to vendor partners
- 40,000 - Post cards mailed to snowmobile households to inform about upcoming sticker vendor transition
- Attended various snowmobile club meetings
- 75 - Students completed the Responsible Riders OHV Safety Course
- 8 - Responsible Riders OHV Safety Courses held
- 164 - Students completed the Avalanche Awareness Safety Course
- 8 Avalanche Awareness Safety courses held
- 7 students completed the IDPR Responsible Riders Snowmobile Operators Course
- 1 Responsible Riders Snowmobile Operators course held

Boating Program:

The following is a list of activities that have been recently completed by the Boating Program. This is in addition to the routine tasks of answering questions from the public and county marine deputies, grant administration, preparation for various training courses, attending county waterways committee meetings, and ordering of equipment and supplies.

- Conducted inventory of boating outreach items, designed new outreach items for the upcoming year
- Compiled all 2024 Boating Law enforcement data to submit for US Coast Guard performance report
- Contracted a GIS professional to redesign Idaho's Boat Launch map and Life Jacket Loaner station map
 - Developed a new application for staff to update the information on these maps
 - Worked with partner agencies to develop a map layer that they can also use with their applications (i.e IDFG).

Non-Motorized Trails Program:

- The following is a list of activities that have been recently completed by the Non-Motorized Trails Program. This is in addition to the routine tasks of answering questions from the public and routine tasks around the office.

- Idaho City Yurt staff maintained almost all of the summer use trails around the yurts.
- Idaho City Yurt staff bucked logs and hosted three volunteer wood splitting days to fill the yurts with firewood.
- Idaho City Yurt staff sanded and stained two yurt decks.
- Idaho City Yurt staff hosted two trail maintenance volunteer weekends with Idaho Trails Association.
- Non-Motorized program staff developed and printed new brochures for the Idaho City Yurts.
- Non-Motorized Program Staff finalized a list of potential route changes on the Idaho Centennial Trail due to lack of maintenance, trespasses, and safety concerns.
- Pistenbully online course for all grooming staff.
- Idaho City Yurt Ranger taught a snowshoeing class at the Garden City Library.
- Non-Motorized Program staff worked with the Emmett National Interscholastic Cycling Association team to layout and start building a new trail.
- Non-Motorized Trails Program Coordinator recertified her Wilderness First Responder.
- Non-Motorized Program Staff learned and practiced operating the new Brandt system before implementation.
- Training new equipment operator to run Idaho City groomer.
- Non-Motorized Program Staff updated the Idaho City Backcountry Yurt website pages.
- Non-Motorized Program staff drafted two RTP grant applications, one for a single track trail machine and one for Idaho Centennial Trail maintenance.

**RESERVATION & REGISTRATION (R&R) PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT
October – November – December '24**

RESERVATION & REGISTRATION PROGRAM – SETH HOBBS

Mission

The R&R program proudly supports IDPR's customers. The program's scope of responsibility includes oversight of IDPR's camping resources, statewide retail sales, including permits, and the department's recreational registration program for snowmobiles, boats, and off-highway vehicles. The program also distributes registration funds to communities and other agencies statewide to develop and maintain trails, facilities, and programs for motorized recreation.

Registrations/Permits

Vehicles/Permits	CY 2024	Oct-Dec 2024
Boat	91,500	7,737
OHV 1 yr	121,326	11,838
OHV 2 yr	159,299	17,210
Snowmobile 1yr	42,508	23,782
Snowmobile 2yr	9,492	4,828
Snowmobile - Non-Res 1yr	31,885	8,156
Snowmobile - Non-Res 2yr	2,176	1,002
Snowmobile - Rental	2,272	2,024
PAISS Non-Motorized	143,199	2,571
PAISS Not Reg. in Idaho	12,631	373
Park N Ski 3-Day	1,163	228
Park N Ski Annual	1,660	1,054
Annual MVEF	5,045	226
OHV MVEF 1 yr	992	74
OHV MVEF 2 yr	737	22
Totals	625,885	81,125

Recreational Management System Conversion

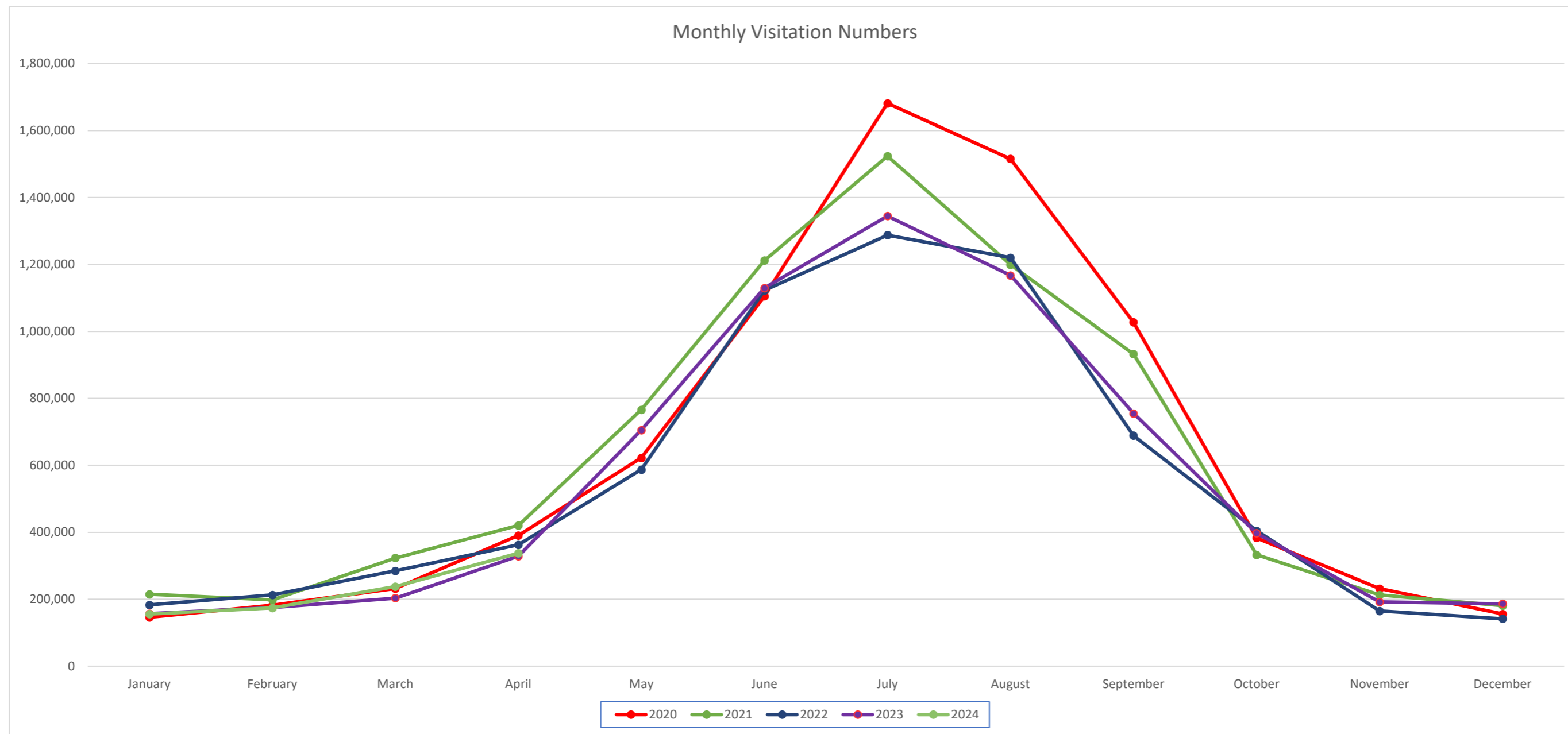
Staff has been working diligently with Brandt on our new system. Current projects being working on with Brandt are product/inventory import, campsite inventory attributes, registration & permit development, and the map project. IDPR is also working with ISP on a data share to verify registration and permit purchases and with ITD on Passport and RV registration verification.

Switching to a new contractor provides IDPR with the ideal opportunity to make some operational changes that will help standardize the customers' experience between all parks. Some changes that staff will be looking at include making group camps equitable by using a yearly lottery draw, opening parks to same-day reservations,

removing the walk-in seasons and making all park inventory reservable online, and change of pricing structure to allow dynamic pricing.

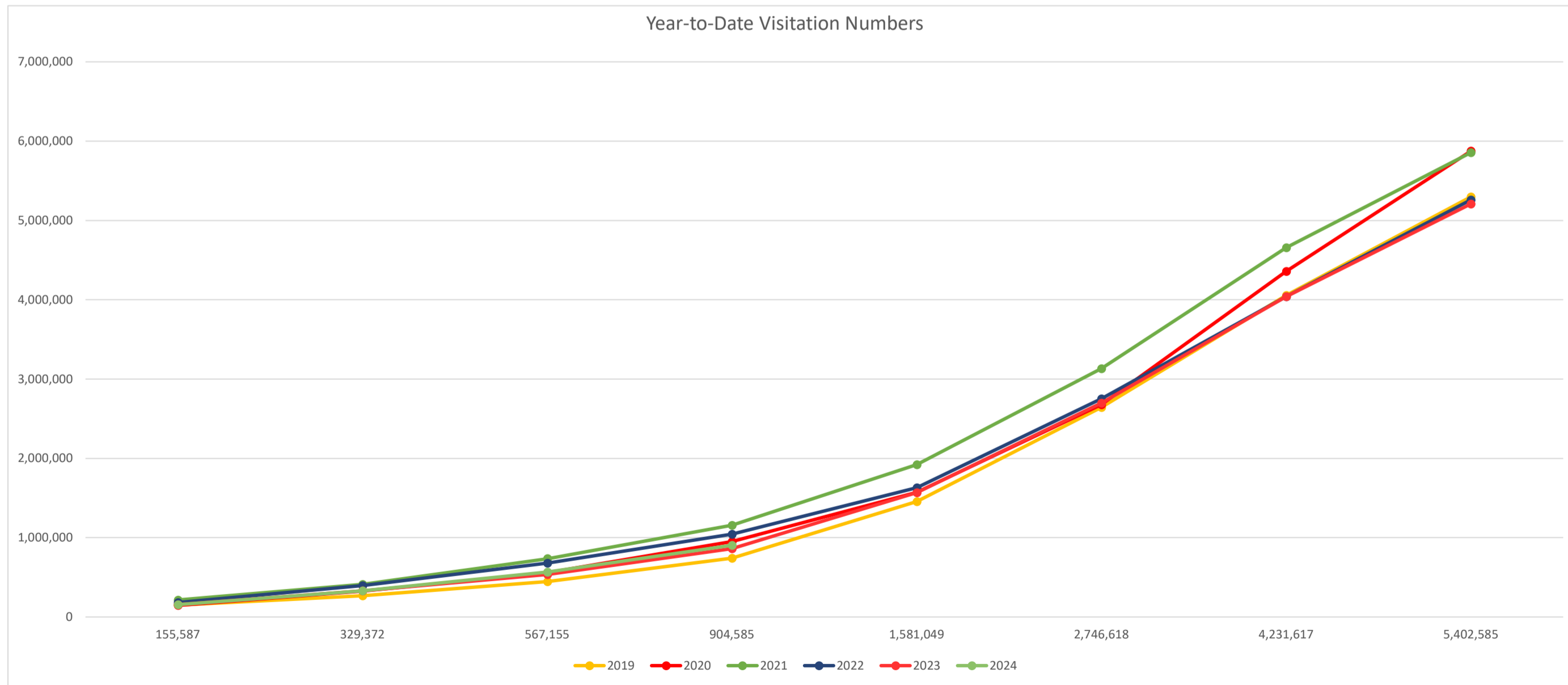
YoY Monthly Visitation Numbers

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Yearly Total	%Δ
2016	102,277	119,825	175,565	315,384	531,894	894,895	1,141,430	959,975	593,570	324,765	173,190	96,633	5,429,403	
2017	90,644	91,687	174,999	320,676	675,271	1,074,921	1,321,952	1,105,086	636,383	298,594	164,831	98,152	6,053,196	
%Δ	-11.37%	-23.48%	-0.32%	1.68%	26.96%	20.12%	15.82%	15.12%	7.21%	-8.06%	-4.83%	1.57%		11.49%
2018	118,787	109,489	165,542	268,192	720,522	1,102,401	1,393,051	1,178,227	693,372	349,708	188,641	113,424	6,401,356	
%Δ	31.05%	19.42%	-5.40%	-16.37%	6.70%	2.56%	5.38%	6.62%	8.96%	17.12%	14.45%	15.56%		5.75%
2019	149,695	119,999	178,091	292,065	715,831	1,188,495	1,410,846	1,242,443	675,857	274,821	168,919	116,507	6,533,569	
%Δ	26.02%	9.60%	7.58%	8.90%	-0.65%	7.81%	1.28%	5.45%	-2.53%	-21.41%	-10.45%	2.72%		2.07%
2020	146,056	182,373	231,826	390,317	622,386	1,104,606	1,681,457	1,515,113	1,026,778	382,970	231,879	155,821	7,671,582	
%Δ	-2.43%	51.98%	30.17%	33.64%	-13.05%	-7.06%	19.18%	21.95%	51.92%	39.35%	37.27%	33.74%		17.42%
2021	214,821	197,740	323,238	420,500	765,560	1,211,475	1,523,376	1,198,955	932,236	332,849	212,813	180,604	7,514,167	
%Δ	47.08%	8.43%	39.43%	7.73%	23.00%	9.67%	-9.40%	-20.87%	-9.21%	-13.09%	-8.22%	15.90%		-2.05%
2022	182,692	212,794	284,929	362,331	587,392	1,122,172	1,287,263	1,220,272	688,577	404,649	164,743	141,288	6,659,102	
%Δ	-14.96%	7.61%	-11.85%	-13.83%	-23.27%	-7.37%	-15.50%	1.78%	-26.14%	21.57%	-22.59%	-21.77%		-11.38%
2023	156,895	174,542	203,286	328,863	704,762	1,129,005	1,344,419	1,166,885	754,685	397,019	191,851	186,177	6,738,389	
%Δ	-14.12%	-17.98%	-28.65%	-9.24%	19.98%	0.61%	4.44%	-4.38%	9.60%	-1.89%	16.45%	31.77%		1.19%
2024	155,587	173,785	237,783	337,430	676,464	1,165,569	1,484,999	1,170,968	715,361	450,978	173,866	92,410	6,835,200	
%Δ	-0.83%	-0.43%	16.97%	2.61%	-4.02%	3.24%	10.46%	0.35%	-5.21%	13.59%	-9.37%	-50.36%		1.44%



YoY Year-to-Date Visitation Numbers

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u>	<u>%Δ</u>
<u>2016</u>	102,277	222,102	397,667	713,051	1,244,945	2,139,840	3,281,270	4,241,245	4,834,815	5,159,580	5,332,770	5,429,403	5,429,403	
<u>2017</u>	90,644	182,331	357,330	678,006	1,353,277	2,428,198	3,750,150	4,855,236	5,491,619	5,790,213	5,955,044	6,053,196	6,053,196	
%Δ	-11.37%	-17.91%	-10.14%	-4.91%	8.70%	13.48%	14.29%	14.48%	13.58%	12.22%	11.67%	11.49%		11.49%
<u>2018</u>	118,787	228,276	393,818	662,010	1,382,532	2,484,933	3,877,984	5,056,211	5,749,583	6,099,291	6,287,932	6,401,356	6,401,356	
%Δ	31.05%	25.20%	10.21%	-2.36%	2.16%	2.34%	3.41%	4.14%	4.70%	5.34%	5.59%	5.75%		5.75%
<u>2019</u>	149,695	269,694	447,785	739,850	1,455,681	2,644,176	4,055,022	5,297,465	5,973,322	6,248,143	6,417,062	6,533,569	6,533,569	
%Δ	26.02%	18.14%	13.70%	11.76%	5.29%	6.41%	4.57%	4.77%	3.89%	2.44%	2.05%	2.07%		2.07%
<u>2020</u>	146,056	328,429	560,255	950,572	1,572,958	2,677,564	4,359,021	5,874,134	6,900,912	7,283,882	7,515,761	7,671,582	7,671,582	
%Δ	-2.43%	21.78%	25.12%	28.48%	8.06%	1.26%	7.50%	10.89%	15.53%	16.58%	17.12%	17.42%		17.42%
<u>2021</u>	214,821	412,561	735,799	1,156,299	1,921,859	3,133,334	4,656,710	5,855,665	6,787,901	7,120,750	7,333,563	7,514,167	7,514,167	
%Δ	47.08%	25.62%	31.33%	21.64%	22.18%	17.02%	6.83%	-0.31%	-1.64%	-2.24%	-2.42%	-2.05%		-2.05%
<u>2022</u>	182,692	395,486	680,415	1,042,746	1,630,138	2,752,310	4,039,573	5,259,845	5,948,422	6,353,071	6,517,814	6,659,102	6,659,102	
%Δ	-14.96%	-4.14%	-7.53%	-9.82%	-15.18%	-12.16%	-13.25%	-10.18%	-12.37%	-10.78%	-11.12%	-11.38%		-11.38%
<u>2023</u>	156,895	331,437	534,723	863,586	1,568,348	2,697,353	4,041,772	5,208,657	5,963,342	6,360,361	6,552,212	6,738,389	6,738,389	
%Δ	-14.12%	-16.20%	-21.41%	-17.18%	-3.79%	-2.00%	0.05%	-0.97%	0.25%	0.11%	0.53%	1.19%		1.19%
<u>2024</u>	155,587	329,372	567,155	904,585	1,581,049	2,746,618	4,231,617	5,402,585	6,117,946	6,568,924	6,742,790	6,835,200	6,835,200	
%Δ	-0.83%	-0.62%	6.07%	4.75%	0.81%	1.83%	4.70%	3.72%	2.59%	3.28%	0	0		1.44%



SOUTH REGION QUARTERLY REPORT OCT – NOV – DEC 2024

MISSION: To provide a safe and unique experience while preserving, protecting, and enhancing recreation. We interpret natural, cultural, and historic values and maintain park infrastructure for visitor services and programs, while looking for new opportunities.

GOALS:

- Ensure that all facilities are kept clean and hazard-free.
- Utilize both paid and volunteer staff to staff visitor centers and entrance booths.
- Patrol parks ensure user needs, user safety, and resource protection.
- Assess operations and opportunities to ensure quality experiences are provided.

SOUTH REGION SERVICE CENTER – THERESA PERRY, SOUTH REGION BUREAU CHIEF

- A South Region meeting was conducted at the beginning of November. A variety of topics were presented during this valuable meeting which provided all staff with the opportunity to share operational trends and solutions to challenges, review policy, and meet with fellow staff.
- Participated in one legislative tour meetings in Nampa, as well as the IDPR board meeting held in November and December.
- Provided support to parks for the South and East Region Ranger Roundup. This important training was hosted at Ponderosa State Park in October and covered topics such as communication, maintenance skills, natural resource management, and networking opportunities for ranger staff.
- Continued to provide support and direction to the IDPR CEO (Compliance Enforcement Officer) team as it continues to review the CEO policy and consider training standards.
- Coordinated the training for 13 new CEO employees in the first week of December. This group received the initial training curriculum with topics that ranged from being a good witness, drug abuse, and gang activity in Idaho, etc. Additional training for the new and all current CEOs is being planned for early spring 2025 in all three regions.
- Continued work with park staff and the Development Bureau regarding details of several projects in the region: for example, the Eagle Island campground, Thousand Springs CXT project, employee housing at Lake Cascade.
- Park and region staff and Development Bureau staff met with tribal leaders and Land and Water Conservation fund staff to discuss the Thousand Springs Billingsly Creek campground project. The project construction has been on hold for several months due to potential disturbance of cultural areas. After the site visit, it was determined the sensitive areas are outside the campground area and permission to resume the project was given.
- 2024 marks the second year for the surplus minor maintenance program, this program provides the funds needed to complete many smaller scale projects that are under \$25,000. For the year, the South Region parks were able to complete \$293,000 in project work and completed re-siding on buildings, flooring replacement, and plumbing repairs, for example. The program will continue in 2025 allowing parks to complete a variety of needed repair and replacement projects.
- Filling permanent vacancies is an ongoing process as new staff join the agency, and others transfer to different positions within the agency or leave. The following vacancies were interviewed for or remain unfilled this quarter: Lake Cascade, the assistant manager vacancy was filled, and Cascade and Ponderosa each have a ranger vacancy, but interviews are scheduled for early spring.
- A request for proposal (RFP) for a winter sports venue (snow hill) concession located at Eagle Island was completed and released. Interested parties will have until the end of January to submit

proposals which will then be evaluated by agency staff. The current contract will expire in May 2026.

- Weekly operations conference calls with the other region managers and the operations chief, and monthly online meetings with park managers continued. In addition, North and South Region parks and region managers, Development Bureau staff, and the operations chief meet with our Corp of Engineers partners each month.
- Meetings and gathering data to submit an RV grant for RV dump station fee systems for 15 state park locations occurred this quarter. The grant will be submitted at the end of January.
- Park staff prepared for the agencies’ transition to the new Brandt reservation system by attending trainings, submitting park site information, and testing systems.
- Efforts to complete the radio programming needs for the agency continued this quarter by gathering user agreements to access federal, state, and local agency frequencies. This has been a challenging process as we try to gather the user agreements, understand changes in radio frequency/technology, and coordinate our needs with the staff at Idaho Military Division and Public Safety Communications.
- Specifications and requests for purchasing capitol items in LUMA were completed. AEDs for the south region, along with picnic tables and fire rings for parks, and capital equipment purchases were accomplished.

BRUNEAU DUNES – BRYCE BEALBA, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Park staff winterized all buildings and campgrounds in November.
- Staff have had numerous in-house discussions on how to implement the Brandt transition. Signs will be printed, and a new visitor center parking lot kiosk has been built for credit card payments.
- A contractor was hired to repair the old observatory to satisfy the demand for this popular asset.
- The observatory historically closes for the winter, however, this year it remained open year-round to provide limited public and private observatory programs as the program has a high demand.
- Park staff rebuilt and refinished numerous wooden picnic tables throughout the park.
- New jack fencing has been installed at the Small Dune to prevent off-roading and protect the new paving.
- The new rescue UTV arrived in November but still needs capable tires.
- The observatory has been nominated for a public works award, the decision is pending.

Park/Program Usage

- The car counter total for October was 3,945 vehicles and 1,479 vehicles in November but the counter started malfunctioning in November.
- The visitor center had 2,296 visitors in October, 576 in November, and 127 in December.
- Visitation dropped as temperatures dropped and the holiday season came.
- The park had 392 sandboard rentals in October, 79 in November, and 9 in December.
- The observatory saw very large crowds (over 300/night) in the later part of October.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- Both new rangers will be attending next year’s interpretation training, and both have been asked to give programs in the upcoming season.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation	14	1,398
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Stage 2 fire restrictions were lifted at the equestrian campground in late November.
- Fire lines were dug around critical areas in the park and park staff routinely cut down grass and weeds along the roads for fire defense and prevention.
- Park staff started pumping water into the lakes in November.
- The domestic water treatment system has failed and will require up to 80% to be replaced. Arsenic is still an issue and park staff has been working with Development.
- Park staff met with a contractor to discuss xeriscaping in the Eagle Cove and Broken Wheel campgrounds. Funding was secured to add a well, however, IDWR has imposed a county-wide well drilling moratorium, hence we are looking at changing to xeriscaping.
- A new irrigation system was added to the visitor center island to plant shade trees.
- Landscaping choices at the new observatory are proving problematic as invasive weeds significantly impact the appearance of the grounds. Puncturevine and Skeleton weeds are present in the two main campgrounds while thistle has taken over the Equestrian campground.
- Sightings of large carp in the Small Lake continue. The lake was treated around 2000 and has been a valuable fishery and resource.

Staff Training

- Ranger Trammel attended agency-sponsored chainsaw training.
- All staff attended the South Region meeting in November.
- Staff attended Brandt training in December.

Manager's Narrative

- Park Ranger Trammel started in October.
- Park staff attended the Mountain Home Travel and Tourism meeting.
- Manager Bealba attended Rotary.
- The increase in permanent staff (additional ranger staff), and some increase in operating funds will allow the park to begin addressing the backlog in maintenance projects at the park.
- Park staff had further meetings with BSU, CSI, CWI, and CI regarding the internship program. We expect to have up to nine interns helping with observatory programming, Dark Sky outreach, and light pollution monitoring. Salary will be paid through the BSU grant and IDPR will provide access to the telescope on non-program nights for research and access to the dormitory.
- The new observatory has several hidden and unplanned operating costs that are coming to light, including the need for software upgrades, maintenance contracts, training contracts, etc.
- Seasonal housing is a necessity to attract qualified applicants. The housing being constructed at the SR dormitory will be used for interns (1-2) and does not satisfy the housing-need to properly staff the maintenance and visitor center department.
- The current permanent staff is the most talented and skilled we've had to date, and they have been, and are able, to accomplish new tasks the park needs.

- The proposals for dynamic pricing and same day reservations are creating concerns for staff and visitors.

EAGLE ISLAND – JOHANNES GIESSEN, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Our office staff started processing larger event requests for 2025.
- Lack of staffing caused a lot of people to come through the Hatchery entrance without paying. A park guest informed a seasonal that there was a post floating around social media that the Hatchery entrance wasn't staffed, and they could enter for free there.
- Field staff continued to receive a lot of questions about when the campground construction will be finished, which provides opportunities to share info about the progress, projected opening dates, and the new reservation system. Rangers are noticing that prior trepidation and anger over the campground is slowly turning into excitement for the grand opening.

Park/Program Usage

- The traffic count was 9,087 in October, 10,781 in November, and 11,262 in December.
- Cross country events in November went as smoothly as possible, considering the construction projects, flooded parking fields, and the unexpected high number of vehicles.
- Park visitation for this quarter was down an average of 23% from 2023, likely due to the ongoing impact of construction and not hosting the district cross country races.
- Disc golf players, dog walkers, and photography groups were the primary users through the quarter. The bulk of our visitors this month came from the snow hill concession.
- Our concessionaire Wild Beginnings Nature School finished their semester in December. Our snow hill concessionaire, Gateway Parks, opened the first week of December.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	7	7,898
Special Use Permit	1	20
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- No programs were held this quarter.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- The artesian well that was cleaned last month is still flowing and doing well.
- Knife River pumped water into one of the main fields we use for race parking, which meant we ran out of parking spaces faster than anticipated at XC State Championships.
- Construction has torn up a few places on the entrance road, the parking lot, and the historic walkway to the prison dormitory while laying necessary infrastructure for utilities.

- There was one break-in at the calf barn, two attempted break-ins at the warden's barn and house, and the slaughterhouse was graffitied.
- The water level in the new pond has finally risen to the level of the culvert that feeds the old pond after receding so much the park was forced to shut off aerators.
- The park violated DEQ sampling requirements in August by not taking a public potable water sample downstream of the well that month, and to fix the issue, they required that we post the violation on our bulletin board for 10 days. The park is now in good standing with the DEQ.
- Rangers installed more protective caging on trees around the pond as beaver-activity continued.
- Rangers continued doing manual removal of poison hemlock and goat head weeds.

Staff Training

- Two rangers attended Ranger Roundup at Ponderosa in October.
- All permanent park staff attended the South Region meeting in November.
- All permanent park staff attended the Brandt Reservation System training in December.
- Both park rangers were trained by Lucky Peak Park Manager Nicol for citation writing. He walked them through an in-depth procedure for filling out, serving, recording, and filing citations.

Manager's Narrative

- The state of the historical buildings is still not satisfactory. They remain in disrepair and are an attractive nuisance, which poses a liability risk.
- The lack of adherence to the construction schedule proves to be a hurdle to effectively manage daily park operations.
- Campground construction remains the biggest challenge to park operations. Visitors continue to ignore signage and drive into construction areas on weekends and event days.
- The RFP for the winter sports venue concession went live on December 27. Two parties voiced their interest in the concession: Gateway Parks and Bogus Basin.
- The organizer for Idaho Potato Days reached out to discuss hosting the event at the park. This event attracts up to 20,000 people. When discussing the logistical challenges with the organizer, they appeared to be flexible to make this event work in the park. However, the permitting process has lost steam since.
- The snow cone contract as well as the farming contract both expired this month. Both parties have expressed their respective interest in renewing their contracts.
- Christmas day was a busy day at the snow hill concession and a physical altercation broke out between two individuals over a snow tube. The police were called.
- Gateway Parks asked for provisions outside their contract, such as special entrance treatment for their guests. They have also been reminded about several operation and contract requirements, such as covering the sprinklers in the area, which were not done, they have been doing a poor job cleaning the east restroom and keeping their site clean of litter, and to date they provided incorrect and late insurance.
- Cross country race organizers have not provided their request for permits, which we assume is due to the new fee structure they will need to pay for any upcoming events.

LAKE CASCADE – ZACK GROGAN, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Park staff and South Region Maintenance Crew removed the handling docks at Poison Creek, Sugarloaf, Van Wyck, and Blue Heron boat ramps for the season.
- Park staff finished winterizing the water systems at Big Sage, Sage Bluff, Van Wyck, Ridgeview, Crown Point, and Poison Creek during the month.
- All the park's dock systems were marked with snow pole markers to ensure that snowmobilers and other recreationalists are aware of potential obstacles near boat ramp areas.

- Park staff and South Region Crew worked on installing a new culvert at Boulder Creek winter ice fishing access location.
- For the sixth year the park continued to work in partnership with IDFG to provide an additional winter access area at Boulder Creek Day Use Area.
- Park staff continued to work with IDFG to adapt to the needs of the public and provide recommendations to IDFG on the new winter access area (Access Yes! Program) on Stonebraker Road.
- Park staff started packing down Nordic trails in anticipation of the upcoming ski season.

Park/Program Usage

- The park hosted the Cascade Ramblers Lake Run at Van Wyck Campground and Boat Ramp.
- The park hosted a high school Polar Plunge event with 50 attendees.
- Warmer weather in October provided late-season camping but fluctuating ice conditions in December lowered ice fishing numbers.
- Park staff are assisting the Mountain Community School with a Trout in the Classroom Program for this winter. This will include assisting them with program material and setting up the fish tank to start the program once they receive the trout eggs from IDFG and Trout Unlimited.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	3	250
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- No formal programs were provided this quarter.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Park staff completed the limbing project in Big Sage and Sage Bluff.
- There were no significant issues with Harmful Algae Blooms containing toxic cyanobacteria in the lake throughout this season as it historically occurs between August and October.
- The parks John Deere skid steer which is a key piece of equipment was found to have major engine issues. An engine replacement would cost \$28,000, more than the skid steer is worth.
- The park staff placed barricades and signs around the Wyck unit to prevent snowmobilers from riding over and damaging young trees, hitting grills, and breaking spigots.
- Ranger Nuttall fell a few trees off the Van Wyck Ski Trail and staff completed limbing projects.

Staff Training

- Park staff attended the South Region Ranger Roundup in October.
- Park staff including attended the South Region Meeting in November.

- Park staff completed their First Aid and AED training.
- Ranger Nuttall and Ranger Cotroneo attended the Compliance Enforcement Officer training.

Manager’s Narrative

- The park hired a local business to install a new carpet in the 980 Dam Rd house. Park Staff sanded and refinished the hardwood floor as well as paint and fix minor issues in the house.
- Park staff attended Valley County Waterways and the Cascade Chamber of Commerce meetings.
- There was one IRS report submitted in October. A variety of issues were documented within the park’s patrol logs related to paying camping and day use fees.
- Park staff assisted the Chamber with putting up the Christmas light in town.
- Park staff worked with BOR to reorganize the BOR shops and install new entrance signs.
- The Park has been dealing with campers in the day-use areas arriving late at night and leaving early in the morning. Park staff discussed how this had been an increasing issue in the park all year round. Park staff are discussing ways to combat this issue and capture lost revenue.
- Dalton Crane was hired as the Assistant Manager on December 8.
- Park staff completed Snowbank and a large portion of the Blue Heron fencing project.
- The development project for the Osprey shop building was completed.
- Park staff worked with Chris Zajchowski - University of Idaho, for interpretive projects.

LUCKY PEAK – SURAT NICOL, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Sandy Point closing time was reduced to 4pm.
- Seasonal staff have all left.
- All units are now off leash until May 1.
- Administrative Assistant Radar continued to update social media and announce park events.

Park/Program Usage

- Two Cyclocross races were held at Sandy Point.
- Disc golf course was installed in October for the season.
- Spring Shores ramp was back in use in November after being inoperable due to low water.
- USACE Turner Gulch boat ramp was back in use in December.

Type of permit issued (after event)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	3	215
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- Administrative Assistant Radar and Assistant Manager Sabin held three holiday events for the public called Trim the Trees. This is the third year of the event, and it is growing.
- Administrative Assistant Radar and Assistant Manager Sabin held wreath making classes at the Sandy Point shop. Participants created wreaths and ornaments from material found in the park.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming	5	146
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Low lake levels and head pressure have greatly reduced irrigation on 2/3 of Sandy Point Turf.

Staff Training

- Staff took Emotional Intelligence online class from DHR.
- Two rangers attended Ranger Round Up at Ponderosa.
- Staff attended the South Region meeting.
- Assistant Manager Sabin conducted CPR skills testing for IDPR employees.
- Staff attended Brandt reservation training.
- Ranger Bailey completed an online education class in Astronomy.
- Ranger Bailey attended, Administrative Assistant Radar audited, and Park Manager Nicol taught new CEO training.

Manager’s Narrative

- Irrigation system and buildings were winterized.
- Park Manager Nicol attending Race to Robie Creek meetings
- Irrigation pumps were installed at Spring Shores. Unfortunately, we will be waiting another 3-4 months before the Corps of Engineers will grant a permit to replace the electrical lines.
- Three staff members attended a career fair at Idaho City.
- Park Manager Nicol met with the CEO team on policy, equipment and training issues.
- Park Manager Nicol attended the legislative tour with other IDPR employees. IDPR had the opportunity to talk directly to legislators on issues, challenges and projects facing the agency
- Lucky Peak Lake Master Plan comments from IDPR were submitted to USACE.
- Park Manager Nicol and USACE met with American Power Boaters about a potential race this May at Spring Shores.

PONDEROSA – MATT LINDE, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- The visitor center was open for about 20 of the 31 days in October.
- November had no one stationed at the entrance station providing customer service and the visitor center was open for about 80% of the month but was back to full staff in December.

Park/Program Usage

- The park seemed overrun with mostly construction workers in the month of October.
- Park usage has dwindled to locals who are walking in the park and Nordic skiers and snowshoers.
- Roots Forest School is in full swing.
- MOSS groups also can be seen learning about the park.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	2	240
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- No formal programs were hosted this quarter.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming	71	889
Special Events	1	251
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- The harvest portion on the water tower 2 restoration project wrapped up on December 30. This project will have more work for the summer of 2025 with the removal of grand fir that are 8”and under and piling and slash pile burning slated for this fall.
- Seven hazard trees were taken down in October.

Staff Training

- The South Region meeting was attended by almost all staff.
- Staff training in December consisted of two rangers that attended wilderness first aid classes.

Manager’s Narrative

- Park staff winterized infrastructures.
- Not being able to fill the cabin cleaner position is worrisome as park staff will not have the ability to do their duties and clean cabins during the summer.
- Work wrapped up on the Chokecherry loop utility upgrade project because of snow and cold. There is work to be done next year before we open for the camping season. The Kokanee Cove project is almost wrapped up as well because of the snow and cold.
- Park staff have been grooming all trails and have the complete Nordic trail system working.

THOUSAND SPRINGS – DAVID LANDRUM, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- The weather cooled down, but we are still seeing an increase in visitors at all park units.
- The Rock House, Yellow House, and Pink House on Ritter Island remain the Thousand Springs hot spots. Even with the fee increase, there is no decrease in reservations.
- The visitor center is open three days a week until March 2025.

Park/Program Usage

- Park visitors are hiking Box Canyon, enjoying walking/biking the bike path at Billingsley Creek connecting to the City of Hagerman, and the riding arena at Billingsley Creek saw an increase of horseback riders.
- Visitation at the visitor center had several record-breaking days compared to the last two years.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- No formal programs this quarter.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming	13	55
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Park buildings are getting much needed new roofs. These will help preserve these buildings for years to come.
- The visitor center at Billingsley Creek has been open for over 2 years with temporary interpretive exhibits. Park staff have been working with National Parks to come up with ideas for the design. MOEY, a company from the East Coast, was selected to put together the final design but they have gone out of business. A search for a new company began.
- Issues holding up construction of the campground have been resolved. The contractor worked on installing some irrigation lines and finishing work on the campsites. They plan to plant grass and trees next spring. Staff are hopeful for spring opening.

Staff Training

- Staff attended Ranger Round-up in Ponderosa.
- Staff attended the Region Meeting.
- Staff participated in weekly safety training; all staff full-time, seasonals, and volunteers.
- Staff attended Reservation Training.

Manager's Narrative

- The administrative assistant moved to another state and another assistant was hired.
- Staff worked on a float that participated in the Hagerman City Christmas parade.

THREE ISLAND – NITA MOSES, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- The Oregon Trail History & Education Center was open from 9am to 4pm daily but hours of operation were cut due to layoffs of volunteers and seasonal employees.
- The history center was open for 31 days in October, 21 days in November, and 20 days in December.
- Visitors positively commented on the overall park management and bathroom cleanliness.

Park/Program Usage

- The Oregon Trail History & Education Center served 1,282 visitors in October, 284 in November, and 116 in December.
- The Traffic counter read 3,642 vehicles in October, 910 in November, and 740 in December.
- Visitors to the history center came from 22 states and six other countries.
- Previous winters had more cabin and campsite reservations – namely duck hunters and people traveling south for the winter. It is uncertain why the decline.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	3	193
Special Use Permit	2	225
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- Shelters and group use continued through October and November but not December.
- Seven loaner backpacks were given this quarter.
- We reached 200 people with programs and park sponsored events this quarter. To date, we have reached over 1,000 people with park programming this year.
- The Northwest Garrison Cavalry held a living history camp which included cannon fire (blanks).
- The group of German Exchange Students were taken on guided hikes with nature and history themes.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming	1	40
Special Events	1	160
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- The first draft of the park’s Invasive Species Management Plan is being reviewed and refined.
- Staff have been spreading manure and grass seeds to bare and sparse areas parkwide.

Staff Training

- Park Rangers Fossen and Redd attended the Ranger Roundup in Ponderosa in October.
- Ranger Barron attended a pesticide seminar on diagnosing brown patches in turf grass.
- Ranger Redd completed 16 hours attending Crucial Conversations Mastering Dialogue.
- Park staff attended the South Region meeting in November.
- Rangers Fossen and Barron attended hands-on chainsaw training at Lake Cascade.
- Park staff attended the Brandt training for the new reservation system in December.

Manager’s Narrative

- Park staff have done an excellent job working with Development on surplus minor maintenance as well as completing regional minor maintenance projects.
- The park worked with the city to build a gravel trail from the Wagon Wheel loop to the original trailhead near the dump station.
- The park rented an industrial compressor to winterize the park’s irrigation system.

- Park staff have begun staining the camper cabins parkwide.
- Park staff worked on scheduling 2025 volunteers and seasonal staffing.
- The upgrades to the public restroom at the Trailbreak Cabin continued throughout December.
- Demolition continued at the old visitor center exterior bathroom for upgrades.
- Ranger Barron applied for a grant through the Idaho Humanities Council and Friends of Idaho State Parks will be the awardee. He was awarded a \$7,000 grant to create a new tactile model of the river crossing in a table display for the history center.
- Director Buxton and Administrative Manager Zaragoza brought the Department's new Public Information Officer, Robbie Johnson, to meet staff, see the park, and explore the history center.
- Park Ranger Barron worked in Adobe Pro to re-create the outdoor interpretive signs that were so scratched and faded that they were nearly impossible to read.

SOUTH REGION MAINTENANCE CREW – CHRISTOPHER RE, FOREMAN

Bruneau Sand Dunes

- Finished irrigation line, fixed pipe, tested and refilled the hole, and leveled the landscaping around the pump house.
- Helped with transportation of broken equipment.

Eagle Island

- Picked up new culvert for the Hart Davis Irrigation canal but were unable to finish due to construction in the park related to the new campground.

Lake Cascade

- Removed the handling docks from the ramps at Sugar Loaf, Van Wyck, and Blue Heron and moved them to the parking area for winter storage, with some changes to the Blue Heron unit due to the newer docks and the extended parking areas at Blue Heron.
- Added a culvert at Boulder Creek overflow area parking area to change the main entrance in the winter.
- Helped work on John Deere backhoe and helped bring a rental skid steer from Boise to the park.

Lucky Peak

- Worked with the park and helped change the cutting edge on each park's tractors.
- Finished welding projects on both Sandy Point and Spring Shores tractors.
- Worked on modification to the temporary docks to make them usable for the winter season.

Ponderosa State Park

- Worked with park staff to remove the docks safely.
- Widen the area in the new parking area by moving extra dirt into mounds that helped separate the parking area and the park housing.

South Region Operations

- Attended the South Region meeting in November as well as the First Aid and CPR training.

**EAST REGION QUARTERLY REPORT
OCT – NOV – DEC 2024**

MISSION: To provide a safe and unique experience while preserving, protecting, and enhancing recreation. We interpret natural, cultural, and historic values. To maintain park infrastructure for visitor services and programs, while looking for new opportunities.

GOALS:

- Ensure that all facilities are kept clean and hazard-free.
- Utilize both paid and volunteer staff to staff visitor centers and entrance booths to answer questions and sell park permits.
- Patrol parks ensuring user needs, user safety, and resource protection.
- Assess operations and opportunities to ensure quality experiences are provided.

EAST REGION SERVICE CENTER – RYAN BUFFINGTON, EAST REGION BUREAU CHIEF

STAFFING UPDATES

Harriman State Park

- The Administrative Assistant 1 (AA1) position remains vacant following Annette Anost's departure. Despite multiple rounds of interviews and offers, the park has been unable to secure a hire due to challenges such as a limited pool of qualified local candidates, high housing costs, and restricted availability. The entry-level salary range further complicates recruitment efforts. However, Jess and Joe have been persistent, and as this quarter concludes, they are optimistic about securing a hire soon.
- Ranger James Richardson resigned at the end of this quarter. James, who served for about a year, was a valuable team member, and his departure will temporarily impact park operations. James has accepted a position as the County Maintenance Supervisor in Rigby, which is closer to his home. While his absence will be felt, we wish him success in his new role.
- Ranger Annalee Darrington successfully transitioned from closing winter operations at Henry to assisting with Harriman's winter operations.

Land of the Yankee Fork

- Blake Packer transitioned into the Park Manager role, transferring from Lake Cascade. Blake's strong organizational focus has already proven beneficial in understanding the complexities of this unique park unit. He has enthusiastically begun planning for the multiple sites under this park's jurisdiction and is making excellent progress.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

East Region Maintenance Crew (ERC)

- Significant progress was made on the Regional Maintenance Headquarters facility at Massacre Rocks State Park. Contractors completed the site work and foundational posts for the structure. Brad and I reviewed the nearly completed shop for the TOC at Smelterville to identify any necessary adjustments for the Massacre Rocks project. Based on our observations, we recommended several changes, such as additional 220 outlets, expanded ground-level open space, and bathroom modifications to include an eyewash station. These recommendations have been forwarded to the project management team, and we are pleased to report that most changes will be implemented with a minimal additional cost.
- With James Richardson's departure, Brad and Robert have been assisting with maintenance operations at Harriman State Park. They have spent considerable time on-site to familiarize themselves with the park's needs while balancing other projects across the region.

East Region Office (ERO)

- Brad Gilmer and I conducted housing inspections and compiled a comprehensive list of maintenance projects across the region. While the list is extensive, Brad’s expertise in building maintenance and renovations gives us confidence that many projects can be completed in-house, significantly reducing costs.
- A regional committee was established to plan and prepare for the upcoming regional CEO refresher. This committee includes myself, Travis Taylor, Andy Stokes, and Joyce Storey. Together, we created an agenda, secured guest speakers, and developed training scenarios to help staff enforce park rules and ensure visitor safety.
- I conducted multiple visits to all East Region parks to stay updated and provide oversight on operations, projects, and staffing considerations. Growing relationships with park teams have deepened my confidence in the exceptional dedication and performance of our field staff.

Registrations and Reservations (R&R) Training

- This quarter, we coordinated with the Registrations and Reservations team to prepare for the rollout of the new Brandt System. Our East Region staff has responded positively to the system’s functionality and is eager to see it implemented. Special thanks to Seth and Rebecca, whose leadership and support have been instrumental in addressing concerns and preparing the team.

BEAR LAKE – ANDREW STOKES, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- We continued to field reservation questions through the fall for the 2025 season and a few patrons tried to talk us into pre-booking before the new system opened.

Park/Program Usage

- Some usage in December, mostly by anglers.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- Nothing to report.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Working with archeologists on future developments, including the North Beach boat ramp project.

Staff Training

- Jason attended CEO training, and all staff attended the Brandt reservation training that was held in Idaho Falls.

Manager’s Narrative

- We pumped all our CXT restrooms over a two-week period. It took seven trips, and we hauled off around 21,000 gallons of waste. Trash in the vault is a serious concern. Staff worked shoulder to shoulder with Dry Creek to help remove trash before it entered their truck.
- Started a large project at the Mountain Fawn campground and day use area by removing overgrowth along the park roads and thinning out dead sage throughout the area. This includes areas around individual campsites, around the dump station, the entrance, areas of the boat ramp, and the road leading down to day use.
- We also started cleaning up the road leading to our culinary water system. We hope this will help create a little defensible space.
- Worked on park fencing to help protect wildlife and worked with local IDFG officer to free deer caught in fences on the east side of the lake.
- Installed new septic risers over vaults of our dump station. Old system was becoming a safety hazard and was allowing dirt and rock into the system.
- Held several meetings with our engineer and contractor over our new Sage Springs primitive campground to be built on the east side. We have a working document and are close to a final design. It will have a combination of RV sites, tent sites and several group sites.
- Our Christmas lights were a hit with the community. So many people thanked us personally and openly on social media platforms.
- Created a couple fun videos for Christmas to post on social media and send out as holiday greetings.
- It was truly a merry and bright Christmas here at Bear Lake State Park. We look forward to the start of the new year and are excited about what awaits us. 2025 will be an awesome year!!

CITY OF ROCKS –TRENTON DURFEE, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Manager of Bruneau Dunes, Bryce Bealba stayed in the Almo Creek Cottage and gave our parks and staff excellent reviews. He loved his experience here.

Park/Program Usage

- November was a great month at the parks. Weekends stayed busy with hunters and campers trying to enjoy the last few good days of the year.
- Usage for this quarter: Campgrounds = 1841 site nights; Ranch House = 27 nights; Glamping Yurt = 20 nights; Cottage = 19 nights; Shelter = 0.
- Visitor center attendance 1628 in October, 188 in November and 74 in December.
- Traffic Count: CIRO = 10,357; CRSP = 9,534

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	2	68
Special Use Permit	0	0
Film Permit	0	0
Other permits	2	10

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- We held some programs in October including Night Sky Program for GAPP (German American Partner Program), Pinnacle Pass Hike and an art program with Artist in Residence for GAPP, and Ghosts of Pioneers Past event.
- Rise & Shine programs were given on KMVT by Robb.

- Sophia translated the Geological Trail booklet and script into Spanish and met with the Hispanic Chamber both virtually and by phone to plan hikes and to discuss future endeavors. She also visited two SPARK schools for presentations: Night Sky and Mammals.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming	0	0
Traditional Interpretation	4	125
Environmental Education	0	0
Jr. Ranger Programming	0	0
School Programming	2	25
Special Events	1	57
Special Events Held Off-Site	0	0

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- In 2024, we established agreements with the Student Conservation Association, Montana Conservation Corps, Cassia County Noxious Weed, and Idaho Conservation Corps/Northwest Youth Corp Legacy Restoration Fund Maintenance Action Team (LRF MAT) to contract crews. I worked with Blake Gerttula at Craters of the Moon to implement the LRF MAT project. We have developed an MOA with Idaho Conservation Corp and outlined plans for purchasing materials and completing the project within the next three years. Planning Environment and Public Comment compliance has been completed on all FY24 projects, and all funds have been transferred.
- Austin completed all natural resource planning efforts and has compiled a project binder for reference. The strategy includes details on targeted species, maps, timelines, revegetation plans, species and site strategies, and record keeping forms. To date, we have removed nearly 70% of the Rocky Mountain Junipers from Stine’s Creek Picnic Area and have treated the pond enclosure at CRSP three times. Fall efforts focused on revegetation at Circle Creek and addressing fuels reduction in CRSP.
- Continued to work with Tom Rodhouse, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and members of the Shoshone Bannock tribe on planning fuels reduction project in Circle Creek Basin in spring of 2025. Trenton facilitated a meeting between all partners and CRMO staff members met onsite for a project location visit.

Staff Training

- Staff attended the Region Meeting in October at Harriman.
- CPR Online Training – four hours Austin, Trenton, and Rob.
- First Aid/CPR Skills Training: Michelle, Phil, Bryce, Shellie, Sam, 1.5 hours each. First-Aid/CPR Skills Training: Trenton, Austin, and Robb 1 hour each.
- CIRO/CRSP staff welding training- Sophia, 1.5 hours.
- Brandt/Itinio Reservation training in Idaho Falls: Trenton, Michelle, Sophia, Sam, Austin, Robb, and Laci eight hours each.
- Austin Provided a LUMA and Schedule Training – One hour for all staff.
- Bryce and Phil completed CEO Training Dec 1-5, 40 hours each.
- Michelle CDL LUMA training online 40 hours.

Manager’s Narrative

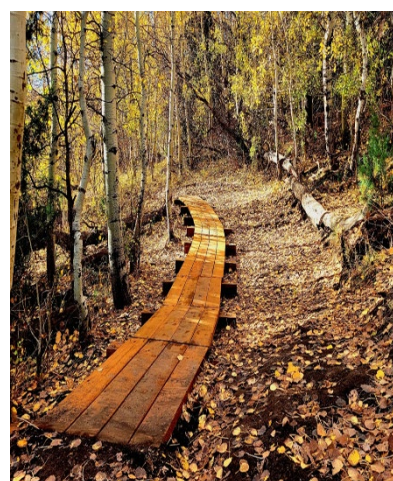
- Met with Cache Peak Back Country Horsemen to discuss proposals and possible changes.
- Worked with a contractor to replace the north fence line of Emery grazing allotment.
- The ICC crew replaced the old wire on the fence line by the Geowatt trail.
- Built a bog bridge on the Tea Kettle trail with MCC.
- Sam Stephenson updated our Emergency Response Plan and issued all classified staff a copy.

- The new camping area across the road from flaming rock was cleared and the tent pads, picnic tables and fire rings installed.
- The ranger house repair has almost been completed, and it looks great. Sam’s house had new cabinets with granite tops installed, some sub floor replaced, and new flooring throughout the entire house. It also received a new built-in microwave and garbage disposal.
- Castle’s Pond Project saw a lot of improvements in November. The cattleguard was removed and they cut the concrete out of the middle making it much deeper and easier to clean out in the future.
- Some great news came in December the NPS made an offer on the Nicholson property, \$2,695,000 for 490.15 acres.
- Closed all 2025 NPS projects in Planning Environmental & Public Comment for NEPA and NHPA compliance.
- Idaho Conservation Corps debrief and planning, NPSage Project and site visit.
- Meetings attended in December: Invasive Plant Management Teams Steering Committee, Upper Columbia Basin Network Natural Resources, and NPS & Biological Resources Division Collaboration.

Ghosts of Pioneers Past 10/30/24



Austin, Sam, and MCC bog bridge



HARRIMAN/HENRYS/ASHTON TETONIA TRAIL/MESA FALLS - JESS BRUMFIELD, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- November was an exciting month for staff. With help from development, we were able to open the Boys House for year-round use. This provides another facility available to rent for group gatherings. When the Boys House is not rented out it can be used as a warming hut in the winter and in other months as a place to enjoy indoor activities.
- Visitors got excited about winter recreation activities and our phones have been ringing around the clock about questions regarding our Nordic program. The day after Christmas the park received enough snowfall to start our grooming operations.

Park/Program Usage

- Visitation to the park quieted down after Haunts and with the change in weather.
- With the anticipation of winter recreational activities, our rental facilities became more popular and thus arrivals and departures became more routine.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation	7	90
Environmental Education	4	24
Jr. Ranger Programming	3	17
School Programming	2	110
Special Events	3	1650
Special Events Held Off-Site		

- Haunts of Harriman had its' 23rd year with 1500 attendees, which is a 10% increase from last year. Many volunteers helped decorate and visitors enjoyed seeing the decorations while they were passing through during the set-up. This increased awareness of the event and some interest in volunteering next year. The event was well received by the public, giving a very positive and different experience for visitors. Some of the decorations were left up all the way to Halloween for folks to see while entering the park. This special two-night event has continued to grow as a community event.
- The new availability of the Boy's House continues to be a family favorite with games, books, and crafts for all ages, Jr Ranger monthly activities, and complimentary cocoa and cider. Families are coming to the Boy's House to warm up and spend family time playing Yahtzee, puzzles, or doing crafts together.
- We held the first Annual DONUTS WITH SANTA! This consisted of a visit from a local Santa, hot cocoa and donuts, and Christmas crafts. There were also outdoor activities including a snowball target area, hockey puck shooting, and build your own snowman. Christmas movies were shown in the Jones House, compliments of the Island Park Library. The snow added a beautiful backdrop, and park staff are energized to make this a yearly tradition. Approximately 25 children came to see Santa, accompanied by about 25 adults.



Donuts with Santa

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- A beaver created a dam below the newly installed Thurmon bridge, along with making a feed pile just upstream of the bridge. The beaver dam caused the water level to rise significantly and started eroding portions of the bank and bridge supports. Staff immediately took corrective action and removed a large portion of the dam and removed the beavers' feed pile. This action was to help deter the beaver in rebuilding and to hopefully establish their home elsewhere. Since then, we haven't seen signs of the beaver, and the water level remains more consistent with the normal creek flows.

Staff Training

- Park staff attended the East Region Meeting which was hosted here at Harriman State Park. Historic tours and presentations on bats, park development projects, natural resources, and cattle ranching were given by park and IDPR staff at the meeting.
- Our park maintenance ranger attended the Ranger Roundup. (40 hours)
- Itinio Reservations Training occurred in Idaho Falls with seven staff attending.

Manager's Narrative

- Construction continued throughout the park. The back deck and stairwell on the Ranch Office have been rebuilt and the facility was painted. The Scovel Center deck project is almost completed. HVAC heating systems were installed in 4 of 10 Scovel rooms, the goal being to keep them open in winter. Sheet rock installation started in the Honeymoon Hotel. Most of the chimneys in the park are being repaired. The Boys House received a new furnace to better heat it in winter.
- New interpretive signs were re-created, purchased and installed along the John Muir Trail.
- The grazers moved all cattle off the ranch complex by the end of October.
- Park staff began preparing for winter (including erecting ski pole markers, signage changeouts and moving wood into rental buildings).
- Construction began in November on the staff log cabin at Henrys Lake to refurbish the water damage done earlier this spring.
- Staff began to take some deserved time off for the holidays.
- The departure of the park's administrative assistant will be a loss and challenge; the visitor center may be open with more limited hours.
- We welcomed three seasonal employees who recently joined our team.

ASHTON TETONIA TRAIL

Customer Service

- ATT staff assisted with the Haunts of Harriman event on October 18 and 19.
- The visitor center is now open from Friday through Tuesday.
- The Marysville, Judkins, and Tetonia lots have been plowed when needed. Visitors also expressed wanting the Felt parking lot plowed, so staff have begun plowing that area when needed as well.

Park/Program Usage

Car counts:

- Marysville: October 770; November-counters removed for the season.
- Judkins: October 772; November -counters removed for the season.
- Visitor Center: October 1562; November 129; December 234.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- Park staff partnered with a local craft business to hold an ornament decorating event. The park provided the materials while Sisters Craft Closet provided their artistic expertise.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events	1	17
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Rivers West Construction finished the preventative maintenance they had on Fall River Trestle.
- Work has begun on Conant Creek Trestle to repair the footings, tighten deck boards, and resecurng handrails that need it.
- Park staff worked with the City of Ashton Public Works department to properly winterize the Ashton Visitor Center Dump Station. Big thank you to Todd and Justin for helping fix the broken shut-off valve!
- Staff finished collecting field data for all crossings on the Ashton Tetonia Trail. This inventory will allow for better documentation on easements, leases, and encroachments once all data points are put into an interactive real estate map.
- ATT Ranger participated in an interpretation focus group with the University of Idaho to finalize interpretive themes for the Ashton-Tetonia Trail.
- Park staff and volunteers have been working on trimming trees back around Drummond and Felt.
- Surplus minor maintenance roof work was completed on staff housing.

Staff Training

- ATT Ranger attended the East Region Meeting hosted at Harriman State Park of Idaho.
- Training on 12/9 with Brandt and Reservations staff on the new R&R system.

Manager’s Narrative

- Park staff and engineers from Forsgren met with representatives from Conant Creek Canal Company to discuss the engineering/logistical needs for their documented crossing in the Drummond area.
- Park staff and East Region Construction Manager had a meeting with Fremont County Road and Bridge to discuss potential improvements to the trails reroute, County Road 700 N.
- ATT Ranger attended the monthly Ashton Chamber of Commerce meeting.
- ATT Ranger worked to increase winter recreation on the trail by working with a local dog sledding business to acquire a concession permit for the park.

HENRYS

Customer Service

- The park “closed” on October 12th. All the staff except the ranger have left for the season. Caddis Loop is open to dry camping with a vault toilet accessible. The docks were pulled, but the ramp and vault toilets are available there. The entrance station is closed, but fees apply to all activities.
- Caddis Loop and the vault toilet were closed in December. The day use vault toilets were available.
- The park road was plowed to continue the cabin remodel.

Park/Program Usage

- October’s campground numbers decreased from last year with 31.18 sites per night in use compared to 2023’s 33 sites per night in use.
- October’s vehicle count was 8391, an increase of 3788 from 2023’s. Fishing finally was good from the shore and in the boats during October.
- November’s vehicle count was 6,588, an increase of 4,453 from 2023’s. The fishing was good, but there were a lot of people coming into the park just to look.
- December’s vehicle count was 6,730, an increase of 670 from 2023’s 6,060 attesting to the good weather and the road being open most of the month.

Type of permit issued (after event)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- The Trumpeter swans changed their habits in September because there were more people at the ramp but didn’t come back to the park in October.

- IDPR Natural Resource Manager, Keith Jones, inspected the trees in Adams and Blue Dun and made some recommendations for dead and dying trees that will be completed in the spring.

Staff Training

- October 1-2/East Region Meeting. (16 hours)
- December 9th-Brandt/Itinio Training. (8 hours)

Manager's Narrative

- Staff checked the septic system. There was only a four-inch crust on the top of the tank compared to over a foot last year. The CCL's (enzymes) were added regularly during the season to help it decompose, but there may not have been as much use this year.
- Henrys Lake was 86% full at the end of October, and the Upper Snake River system was at 42% of capacity.
- The ITD highway cameras, the park sign, and the entrance stop sign were taken out by a jack-knifed semi-truck on the 2nd of November. ITD put up a stop sign on a stand and delineators at the intersection.
- Kendall Andersen and Christian March, communication techs from Idaho Military Division came to check Henrys Lake State Park's (and Harriman's) radios at the end of October. In the discussion, staff found out that one of the two bases at the park was illegal and the park could have been fined \$8,000 for using it. All the radios need updating and some are old enough they cannot be updated. Staff took photos of the radios and sent them to Christian, so he had all the communication numbers. They will be dropped off in Rigby to get the updates.
- A meeting was held on December 3rd to open the bid process for the Damsel Loop, Dump Station, and the Entrance Station. The bid closed on the 19th and was awarded to High Output Construction.
- The remodel on the cabin continued. The subfloor and flooring, bathroom vanity and toilet, lights and fans, trim, and new doors were installed. Wall painting was completed. The water was turned back on. The kitchen cabinets will be completed by the East Region Crew.
- Henrys Lake was 86% full at the end of the month, and the Upper Snake River system was at 42% of capacity.

LAKE WALCOTT – KIRSTEN MARCH, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Showers are closed in the campground for the winter season.
- Water was turned off to the electric sites without frost free faucets for the winter season in October. Water was still available for public use at other various locations around the park.
- November 1 to March 31 is the annual watercraft closure for Lake Walcott, and docks were pulled from the water to protect from ice damage.
- Park staff worked with event coordinators in preparation for the new reservation system. The Visitor Center handles the campground reservations for several large events at Lake Walcott. In anticipation of the removal of the reservation freeze, the visitor service ranger scheduled different reservation windows for each event. This should help reduce reservation errors as staff learn the new reservation system.

Park/Program Usage

- Lake Walcott is beautiful during the fall. The leaves have changed color, and the wildlife are starting to move into their wintering ground. The fall colors, sunny days, and the herd of deer have attracted campers and day users alike. Tent camping dropped off, but RV camping remained at about 46% occupancy. The RV loop was full for the first two weekends of October at over 90%. The last days in October saw no one in the campground for the first time since April. October car count: 4675.
- Lake Walcott hosted the MVAC Cross-Country Conference Championship on October 3 in which 300 middle school students competed in the race. For the day, we had 729 vehicles, 80 more cars

than on the Fourth of July. We charged the entrance fee, enforced parking, and sold 153 entrance passes making \$1069. Two rangers from Thousand Springs assisted us with parking. We learned from this event and the one in September, that we need at least eight people to run the entrance and parking for cross-country events.

- Most people coming to the park in November were day users for wildlife viewing, disc golf and family photos. Visitation was highest on weekends. Overnight camping is down to about 4% occupancy in November and below 1% in December. We saw 2452 cars in November.

Type of permit issued (after event)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit	1	320
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- One Junior Ranger badge and one patch were handed out this quarter (in October).

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming	1	1
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Park staff continued with cleanup of the fallen trees from September. Most of the tree limbs have now been cleaned up.
- IDFG stocked Lake Walcott with catchable 12-inch fish in October.

Staff Training

- New CEO Training – Kylee Gustafson – 24 hours total.
- Brandt Training – Kirsten March, Rolando Gomez, and Kylee Gustafson – 24 hours total.

Manager’s Narrative

- All full-time staff had the opportunity to attend the East Region Meeting at Harriman State Park. It was great for the new rangers to meet staff from other parks and make connections.
- The park manager and east region manager attended sessions of the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge’s comprehensive conservation planning meeting. Several agencies including IDPR, BLM, IDFG, and BOR attended the planning meeting for partnership agency input.



Beginning of October



End of October

- The docks were removed from the water with the help of the East Region Crew on November 4. The weather was ideal with low winds. When removing the kayak docks, the weight of the dock ended up tearing eight dog bones which will need to be replaced come spring 2025.
- We have received approval from the Bureau of Reclamation to complete routine maintenance on the irrigation filter. A contract with BTH Custom LLC is completed and the replacement for the irrigation filter will start in March 2025.
- There was a single vehicle accident at the entrance to the park on November 29. No injuries but the entrance sign to the park was obliterated and will need to be replaced.



Entrance Sign Before



After Car Accident on 11/29/2024

- Visitor service ranger has been working to build inventory for the gift shop to get ready for spring and working with disc golf tournament coordinators to prepare for 2025.
- The maintenance ranger has replaced broken valves for the irrigation system. The propane tank at the RV Loop has been replaced with a Suburban Propane tank under the State contract. We are waiting for AmeriGas to pick up their old tank.
- With the start of the new year close at hand, the park manager is working on evaluations, annual reports, and concession agreements.
- We have started recruiting for 2025 seasonal employees.

- The Region Manager and Crew completed a facility inspection for the visitor center and park housing. The park housing is in the midst of renovations.
- The roofing project started November 18 and is nearly complete, which is way ahead of schedule. All roofs are complete, except for two skylights on the RV bathroom. The skylights are scheduled to be delivered mid-January. The punch list and closeout for the project will happen after the skylights are installed. The roofing crew has done an excellent job with clean-up on the construction project. Visitors to the park have commented on how nice the new roofs look.

LAND OF THE YANKEE FORK –BLAKE PACKER, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- The Visitor/Interpretive Center transitioned to new hours of operation on October 21st: open from 8:30am-4:30pm, Wednesday-Sunday, Closed: Monday-Tuesday.
- The Visitor/Interpretive Center dump station closed for the season on October 22nd. The Challis Hot Springs Campground water was winterized, and the dump station was closed for the season on October 21st.
- The Challis Hot Springs Pools were open and fully operational during October and transitioned to winter hours on November 1st, 8:30am-8:30pm, Wednesday-Sunday, Closed: Monday-Tuesday.
- The Challis Hot Springs Campground closed for the winter season on November 1st with an anticipated peak season opening on March 17, 2025.
- Park staff worked diligently to ensure all open facilities and grounds were accessible throughout December. The park has transitioned the pools deep cleans from Sundays to Mondays to provide unreduced hours for visitors on weekends.
- The Visitor/Interpretive Center gold panning station was open to the public until October 22nd.
- Park staff closed the Bayhorse Ghost Townsite on October 16th for the season.
- The park continues to provide invasive species stickers, OHV permits, snowmobile permits, boat registrations, OHV Idaho State Passports, and Annual Motor Vehicle Entrance Fee (MVEF) passes to visitors.
- Park staff had numerous inquiries into campground reservations and provided accurate information to customers regarding the transition to the Brandt reservation and registration system that will go live on January 6, 2025.
- Park staff worked with IDPR Visitor Services staff to make changes to the existing Challis Hot Springs Campground layout and maps. This included working to convey the appropriate information to visitors on the park's website and to ensure that these changes were appropriately messaged to the public prior to the Brandt Reservation/Registration transition on January 6, 2025.

Park/Program Usage

- The park experienced an increase in visitors seeking OHV permits throughout October. This increase in permit sales coincided with the general deer and elk hunting seasons in the local area.
- Visitor/Interpretive Center traffic counter numbers were 1,046 for October; 239 for November; and 256 for December.
- Bayhorse Town Site's traffic counter numbers for October were 361.
- The historical film was shown 24 times to 69 visitors in October, 4 times to 12 visitors in November, and 1 time to 2 visitors in December.
- The park hosted a High School District Cross-Country Meet in October. This special event had approximately 200+ participants and spectators.
- The Challis Hot Springs Pools visitation decreased during the Fall and Winter months but still maintained a consistent flow of visitors.
- The Visitor/Interpretive Center visitation significantly increased throughout the month of December with 159 visitors compared to 32 visitors in November. It has been very slow throughout the fall and winter months at the Interpretive Center.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit	1	200+
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

- No formal programs were completed this quarter.

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Park staff in cooperation with the IDPR Development Bureau and contractors completed roofing and stabilization projects at the Bayhorse Town Site.
- Park staff removed all interpretive panels from the Bayhorse Ghost Townsite on October 16th to store at the park’s main shop location for the winter months.
- Park staff completed minimal trail maintenance due to staffing shortages on several OHV motorized trails in the Yankee Fork area.
- Park staff continued to evaluate park units for hazard trees which are the result of drought, age, and other possible diseases identified throughout the park.
- Park staff are planning to evaluate the historical structures at Bayhorse Ghost Town once this unit is accessible in the Spring of 2025.

Staff Training

- Joe, Nina, and Blake attended the East Region Meeting on October 1st and 2nd at Harriman State Park.
- Nina attended and successfully completed the South/East Region Ranger Round-Up at Ponderosa State Park on October 16th and 17th.
- Blake Packer, Larry Garey, Nina Scheffel, Joe Fihe, Kathleen Gibson, Beth Bratlie, Tiffani Foster, and Dixie Maxwell attended the Brandt reservation and registration training on December 9th and 10th in Idaho Falls, ID.
- Training needs identified: Brandt System Training, Interpretative Training, Compliance Enforcement Officer (full 80-hour course), CEO Refresher, First Aid/CPR Training, First Aid/CPR Instructor Training, IDPR Snowmobile and Avalanche Awareness Training, IDPR OHV/Trails Training, IDPR Ranger Round-Up, IDPR Administrative Assistant Training, SITPA Chainsaw Training, Backcountry Horsemen Chainsaw Training, NOLS Wilderness First Responder Training, PNW Field Preservation School Training, DHR Supervisory Academy, DHR Crucial Conversations, DHR Crucial Accountability, DHR Getting Things Done, State Park Leadership School, Cyber Security Training, and Respectful Workplace Training.

Manager’s Narrative

- During October, park staff fixed a significant break in the Visitor/Interpretive Center’s irrigation system, winterized the potable water system and dump station at the Challis Hot Spring Campground, and winterized the irrigation system and dump station at the visitor center.

- In November, park staff winterized all small engine equipment, installed new 6'x6' posts at the Challis Hot Springs entrance to secure the entrance gates when this unit is open, and installed additional gravel base material to several failing sections of roadway on the entrance road into the Challis Hot Springs Unit. Staff also cut firewood for the parks Interpretive Center and main shop to assist in reducing propane and electrical costs associated with heating these facilities. Staff collected roughly three cords of firewood during this effort.
- Park staff met with IDPR Development Bureau staff and contractors to identify areas in need of repairs on the existing roadway into the Challis Hot Springs during the month. A service contract was completed with Rivers West Construction to complete this project utilizing ARPA funds in the Spring of 2025.
- Park staff obtained cost estimates for repairs to both state park residence's roofs from Weathertight Roofing. Both projects were approved and are being funded with Surplus Minor Maintenance funding. Park staff completed project contracts and selected roofing material colors for both projects. Both projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2025.
- Park staff met with IDPR Development Bureau staff and design/engineering contractors to identify development ideas, infrastructure locations, current utilities, potential options for utility improvements, and design plans to create an updated design master plan and pursue options for new utility services. Park Manager, Blake Packer has initiated conversations with the City of Challis to assess the viability of connecting sewer and water utilities at the Challis Hot Springs to the City of Challis utility infrastructure.
- Park staff met with IDPR Development Bureau staff and contractors to identify needs and options to make improvements to the current facilities heating source. The project is expected to be completed in early January.
- Park staff continued to clean and organize around the Interpretive Center shops to provide a more professional and presentable appearance of this work area.
- The park continues to seek a Benefited Seasonal Administrative Assistant I position – a limited number of applicants are available. The park will be increasing recruitment for this position throughout the Winter of 2024 until this critical position is filled.
- The park began additional recruitment for seasonal office staff throughout the month of December. This is to help supplement staffing needs while several existing seasonal office staff members are on their layoff period in January and February.
- Park staff covered multiple shifts including night shifts to ensure that staffing needs were met at the Challis Hot Springs office. This also included responsibilities related to the cleaning and maintenance of the Challis Hot Springs pools.

MASSACRE ROCKS – TRAVIS TAYLOR, PARK MANAGER

Customer Service

- Substantial work on the boat ramp parking lot was completed on November 4 and reopened. All that is left is hydroseeding which will take place in the Spring.
- We've started some minor remodeling to the visitor center, out with the old retail shelving and in with new!

Park/Program Usage

- A mild October led to above average camping, especially in the lower loop. Campgrounds stayed nearly full the first two weekends of October and then slowed with cooler temperatures.
- Mild temperatures led to increased disc golfing and bouldering. We noticed lots of travelers stopping by.
- Camping was sporadic throughout November with the drop in temperatures.
- The park was very quiet in December. A few passersby stopped to check out the VC and stretch their legs. We started seeing a few RC rock crawlers in the park, especially up behind the VC.
- Bouldering and disc golf have increased with the cooler temperatures.

Type of permit issued (<i>after event</i>)	No. of Permits	No. of Attendees
Group Use Permit		
Special Use Permit		
Film Permit		
Other permits		

Park Sponsored Program or Event

Program Type	No. of Programs	No. of Attendees
Experiential Programming		
Traditional Interpretation		
Environmental Education		
Jr. Ranger Programming		
School Programming		
Special Events		
Special Events Held Off-Site		

Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and/or Historical Resources

- Nothing to report.

Staff Training

- Krinn, Adam and Travis attended the Brandt training in Idaho Falls in preparation for the new reservation system.

Manager's Narrative

- Met with Kendall from State Comms regarding the park's radio situation.
- Had the park's five-year sanitary survey on the public water system on the 16th.
- Prioritizing our fall and winter projects.
- Had a productive ER meeting at Harriman. No illness could be blamed on the food!
- The East Fork Project is finally ready to move forward. Ryan Buffington and I visited the area earlier in the month to refamiliarize ourselves.
- Development held a pre-bid meeting for the upcoming septic project on Nov 18.
- The bid opening for that project was in Idaho Falls on the 26th.
- Travis attended the Legislative Showcase in IF on the 21st as well.
- Ryan B., Brad G., and Travis walked through and inspected the Ranger house, park ranger Krinn Jones resides in. All was well, but the house was built in the early 70's. It's due for some renovations.
- Travis sat in on a Teams meeting with Troy, Ryan, Melanie, and Kathy Muir regarding a possible Cutthroat Plate grant to replace an ancient fishing dock that was destroyed a couple winters back.

EAST REGION MAINTENANCE CREW - BRAD GILMER, FOREMAN

East Region Crew Misc Tasks

- Attended the East Region Meeting at Harriman State Park.
- Worked on equipping the cargo trailer and setting up a storage system inside.
- Brad, Trenton, and Michelle met with IDOT to go over the CDL training and testing.
- Brad worked on obtaining his CDL by completing his book training, LUMA training and written tests for a class A CDL with air brake endorsements and combination trailer. All he has left are the driving hours and the final test. Once he finishes, Robert will begin working on his CDL.
- Obtained quotes for a 40' shipping container and submitted them to Nicolas for purchase.
- Acquired a 36" wide belt sander for the new shop at Massacre. We received it from ISU, as they were giving away their older single head sander for free.

- Took the F-550 to Ford due to a malfunction with the electric-over-hydraulic trailer brakes. After testing we confirmed the issue was with the truck, not the trailer. Ford identified the problem and submitted a ticket for resolution. It spent the month in the shop, the problem was the trailer control module.
- Brad toured the new North Region shop in Coeur d'Alene. We are eager to begin work on our shop and plan to propose a few changes during the December meeting.
- Performed region wide housing inspections.

Ashton Tetonia Trail

- Got three quotes for the new tilt deck trailer we had requested for Nicolas to help speed up the process as it is less than \$10K.
- Picked up the new tilt deck trailer for ATT and brought it to Harriman for Abby.

Bear Lake State Park

- Took the mini excavator down to help with removing fence posts, fire rings, and other reusable items from the old group camp. These items were loaded and moved to a storage area, where they will remain until the new campground is completed.
- Bear Lake is borrowing our F-250 to tow their Gooseneck dump trailer and assist with cleanup, as their F-250 is still in the shop after suffering a major mechanical failure over the weekend.
- Returned the Bear Lake ranger truck Brad borrowed when he went to Coeur d'Alene

Harriman State Park

- Continued working on the routine canal maintenance clearing 3.5 miles of canal and allowing the main canal to flow again and not be as choked off with vegetation as it had become.
- We replaced one culvert that was at a weird angle and was a hazard for full sized vehicles. We added an additional culvert in an area that was getting very torn up where vehicles were getting stuck and needing assistance.
- We rented a man lift and placed and secured a new spark arrestor on the Railroad Ranch dormitory.
- Brad went with Nathan to the bid opening for the Harriman Water system to show Nathan and the contractors some of the issues James and myself had found.

Lake Walcott State Park

- We moved the equipment to Lake Walcott State Park and removed the docks out of the water until spring.
- While we had the equipment in the park Kirsten ordered a dumpster and Robert used the equipment to fill it with some garbage that they had in storage areas and around the park.

Massacre Rocks State Park

- Moved the equipment to Massacre in preparation for projects planned over the next couple of months.
- Collected and placed rocks to mark the different group campsite boundaries.
- The road into the group camp was damaged by dirt removal from the boat launch so we repaired the ruts and leveled it.
- Cleaned the dirt road leading past the group camp to the parking area for the Oregon Trail wagon rut trail.
- Expanded the shop parking area using dirt from the boat parking lot project. This improvement enhances traffic flow to the region crew's shop and facilitates easier loading and unloading of equipment needed for upcoming projects.
- Removed old parking stops.
- Welded the spare tire mount on the Massacre trailer that had been damaged.
- Helped with the remodel work inside the visitor center.



Communications Report
February 2025 Board Meeting
Robbie Johnson, Communications Manager

The new Communications Manager position is an opportunity to put fresh eyes on past and existing communications strategies and policies both internally and externally. An update to the IDPR Communications Strategy is in development.

Social Media

There are roughly 40 IDPR-related social media pages for state parks and IDPR recreation programs with various staff providing posts and updates on IDPR activities.

Communications is visiting parks, listening to staff, and learning programs and current approaches. In addition, we are assessing IDPR social media and how to best use it in an ever-changing social landscape. This will lay the groundwork in establishing updated social media guidelines.

Website

The site serves as the backbone of public information and outreach for all IDPR programs, parks, rules, legal postings and more. Communications is working on simplifying the site and reducing redundant information while focusing on a simple, sustainable, customer-focused approach.

Media Relations/Press Releases

A comprehensive press release distribution list is being built that helps share news beyond the media. IDPR is moving toward all media inquiries going through Communications. The Governor's office is asking that all interviews be approved through that office prior to the interviews being conducted.

Content Development

Videos and images show and tell the story of IDPR. A new approach to gathering photos and videos will help feed the ongoing need for visual products.

IDPR Brand

A brand kit and resources to create consistent signage, brochures, social media graphics and other materials will be made available internally. Establishing an IDPR brand voice is important.

How a Communications Strategy supported the new reservation system

Social Media

The 30 Parks in 30 Days campaign began the process of bringing together the many parks and social media platforms in having a consistent tone and visual approach to outreach. The goal of re-establishing public awareness of the value and demand for camping and other experiences in Idaho State Parks was met.

Website

The website provided background and consistent messaging for why the reservation system changes were made and helped the public navigate the new system. There was a significant spike in website visits providing excellent insight into what customers are looking for and how to provide a customer-focused experience.

Media Relations/Press Releases

Strong media relations and consistent public outreach with press releases, interviews, website content and social media prior and during the launch of the system helped the press and the public understand the value of the new system and how to use it. Proactive public information provided a head start on addressing public concerns and improved the user experience during the initial changeover. The transparency of the process built public trust.

Content Development

The extra step of creating videos showcasing customer service provided by IDPR employees as the new system rolled out increased public trust. This type of content significantly boosts the reach of social media and makes it easier for the news media to cover IDPR.

IDPR Brand

Delivering the Idaho Experience – Parks and Recreation Style was effective in illustrating the various things IDPR provides visitors. *IDAHO TIME* says it all: Time spent enjoying IDPR's Idaho is valuable and unique and is in high demand. Past time in history, in the moment, and in the future is protected and preserved because of the dedicated work of IDPR employees.