



# LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM

2021 Application Cycle

# WHAT IS THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)?

- As one of America's oldest and most successful conservation programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was created by Congress in 1965 to preserve, create and ensure access to outdoor recreation facilities to strengthen the health of all Americans. With strong bipartisan support over the past 50 years, LWCF has helped fund public land acquisitions, preserve and restore critical wildlife habitat, create more outdoor recreation opportunities on America's public lands, generated greater hunting and fishing access, preserved historic sites, and supported state and local parks, trails, ballfields and swimming pools in nearly every county in America.

- **Federal Land & Water Acquisitions**—National Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, BLM, and USFS can acquire new lands and waters and creates additional access to these areas for outdoor recreational purposes. By law, 40% of LWCF funds go to this program.
- **State Assistance Matching Grants**—States can use LWCF funds for recreational planning, acquiring land and water and developing outdoor recreational facilities. A federal match is available for up to 50% of the costs of a project and the state has 3 years to spend the money. Money has to be used for outdoor recreation. By law, 40% of LWCF funds to the stateside program.
- **Other Federal Programs**—USFS Forest Legacy Programs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund also receive a percentage of LWCF funds.

## HOW DOES LWCF FUNDING WORK?

No taxpayer dollars are used to fund LWCF. Congress funds LWCF predominately with revenues from oil and gas leasing from the Outer Continental Shelf. Recognizing the potential environmental impacts of such leasing, Congress created LWCF in 1965 as an offset and way to provide funds to preserve the environment while promoting health through outdoor recreation. LWCF promotes outdoor recreation in three main ways:

# HOW MUCH FUNDING IS THERE FOR LWCF ANNUALLY?

- In the summer of 2020, Congress passed *The Great American Outdoors Act*, which guarantees that LWCF will be fully funded at \$900 million a year. Passage of *The Great American Outdoors Act* into law was a major accomplishment since LWCF had been chronically underfunded over the program's history (often receiving less than \$450 million annually) and LWCF was only fully funded twice over the past 50 years. Along these lines, of the \$38 billion in total revenues for LWCF's history, only \$17.5 billion were ever appropriated to LWCF (less than ½). The money that was not appropriated to LWCF by Congress was simply spent on other things. *The Great American Outdoors Act* put a stop to this chronic underfunding and ensures that America's public lands, parks, wildlife habitat and other outdoor recreation areas have the resources they deserve.

Each year, LWCF funds are apportioned to the states by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service. Under a formula set out in the LWCF Act, each state receives an equal amount of funding annually. The DOI Secretary may further appropriate additional funding based on the state's population as well as other state recreational needs. Each state has 3 years to obligate these funds to different projects. State agencies, U.S. territories, local governments--including cities, counties, towns and municipalities--and federally recognized Native American Tribal governments are all eligible to apply for an LWCF state grant to assist with their outdoor recreation projects.



LWCF grants are available for 50% of the total project cost. This state assistance program is a reimbursement program meaning the awarded governmental agency is required to submit reimbursement receipts to the National Park Service via their State Liaison Officer during the project period in order to receive the amount allotted to them.



Each state has a State Liaison Officer that works with the local community and provides assistance with the application process. Once a local governmental entity applies for a grant the application is then evaluated by the state and reviewed by the National Park Service. Applications are evaluated based on how well a given project addresses an outdoor recreation priority and the goals identified in the state's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Each proposal is then ranked based on how that proposal meets the state's priorities as well as on the technical merits of the project, previous outdoor program performance, availability of funding, project readiness and a site visit/inspection. Top ranking proposals are then reviewed by DOI and funded until there is no more money to be allocated for that given year. In addition to reviewing incoming projects, every five years the State Liaison Officer must also conduct a compliance visit to each LWCF state funded site to ensure that the site continues to be used for its original purpose of outdoor recreation.



# LWCF Responsibility is perpetual!

- **Project sponsors.** Only States may apply directly to NPS for LWCF assistance. However, funds may be made available through the States to political subdivisions of the state and other appropriate public agencies. Proposed projects may be sponsored by a state agency or a public agency of a subordinate unit of government. All eligible project sponsors, including those that have other than public outdoor recreation purposes, **must be able to commit its resources to the perpetual stewardship of the Fund-assisted public outdoor recreation area pursuant to Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act.**
- Property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance shall be retained and used for public outdoor recreation. **Any property so acquired and/or developed shall not be wholly or partly converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses without the approval of NPS pursuant to Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act and these regulations.** The conversion provisions of Section 6(f)(3), 36 CFR Part 59, and these guidelines apply to each area or facility for which LWCF assistance is obtained, regardless of the extent of participation of the program in the assisted area or facility and consistent with the contractual agreement between NPS and the State.





## LWCF in Idaho

- ❖ State agencies, cities, counties, recreation districts, and school districts eligible
- ❖ Funds from off-shore oil leases
- ❖ Land acquired or developed must be used for outdoor recreation in perpetuity
- ❖ Funds provide lands and facilities for outdoor recreation
- ❖ 50% match required
- ❖ Must provide a project boundary map that includes all property associated with the site receiving funding
- ❖ Alternate year funding for state/local government
- ❖ Approximately \$2 million available





The complete SCORP can be found on the IDPR website:  
<http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/scorp2018>

**LWCF EVALUATION COMMITTEE PROJECT EVALUATION FORM**

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please evaluate the project on the basis of the following criteria:

7-8 = Excellent or Extensive  
5-6 = Good or Considerable  
3-4 = Fair or Moderate  
1-2 = Poor or Little  
0 = None or Missing

A. Degree to which the project aligns with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, particularly Chapters 3 and 4.	
B. Degree to which the project benefits the general public and the facility is open and usable for outdoor recreation during reasonable hours.	
C. Degree to which the costs are reasonable, accurate and relate to an acceptable cost-to-benefit ratio.	
D. Degree to which the property and/or design is well planned and suited for the intended uses.	
E. Degree to which the facility will encourage universal accessibility beyond minimum requirements.	
F. Degree to which the applicant has demonstrated a financial commitment for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the site. (Is there a maintenance budget and/or impact statement for 3-5 years of commitment?)	
G. Degree to which the applicant understands environmental issues and will take action to mitigate any concerns for potential resource damage or health and safety matters.	
H. Degree to which the project creates new or improved recreational opportunities supported by the community.	
I. Degree to which project is reflected as a user need in a current agency plan (this could include a city master plan, local parks and recreation master plan, or county comprehensive plan.)	
J. Degree to which the project brings outdoor recreation activities closer to users and/or underserved demographics.	
K. Degree to which the applicant demonstrates public outreach to sufficiently identify community needs. (Excellent or extensive scores should be reserved for projects that include either statistically valid surveys or public meetings specific to the project.)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Do you feel that this project meets the criteria and general quality necessary to merit approval by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

# Contact for All LWCF projects

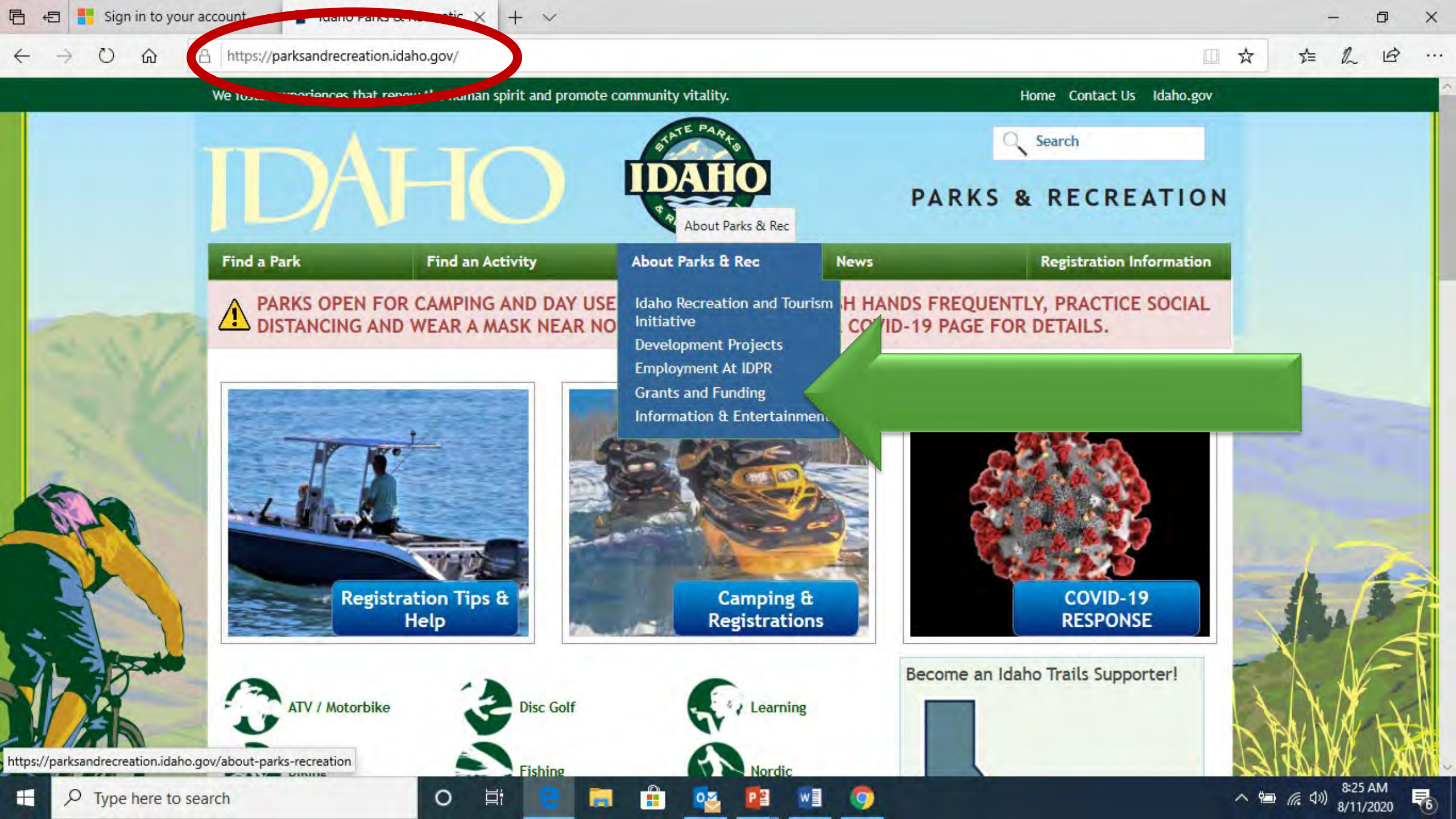
- Kathy Muir, Alternate State Liaison Officer
- [Kathy.Muir@idpr.Idaho.gov](mailto:Kathy.Muir@idpr.Idaho.gov)
- (208) 514-2431 office
- (208) 608-8186 cell



# LWCF Grant Cycle







We foster experiences that renew the human spirit and promote community vitality.

[Home](#) [Contact Us](#) [Idaho.gov](#)

# IDAHO



About Parks & Rec

## PARKS & RECREATION


[Find a Park](#)

[Find an Activity](#)

[About Parks & Rec](#)

[News](#)

[Registration Information](#)

 **PARKS OPEN FOR CAMPING AND DAY USE DISTANCING AND WEAR A MASK NEAR NO**

Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative  
Development Projects  
Employment At IDPR  
Grants and Funding  
Information & Entertainment

**H HANDS FREQUENTLY, PRACTICE SOCIAL COVID-19 PAGE FOR DETAILS.**



**Registration Tips & Help**



**Camping & Registrations**



**COVID-19 RESPONSE**



ATV / Motorbike



Disc Golf



Learning



Fishing



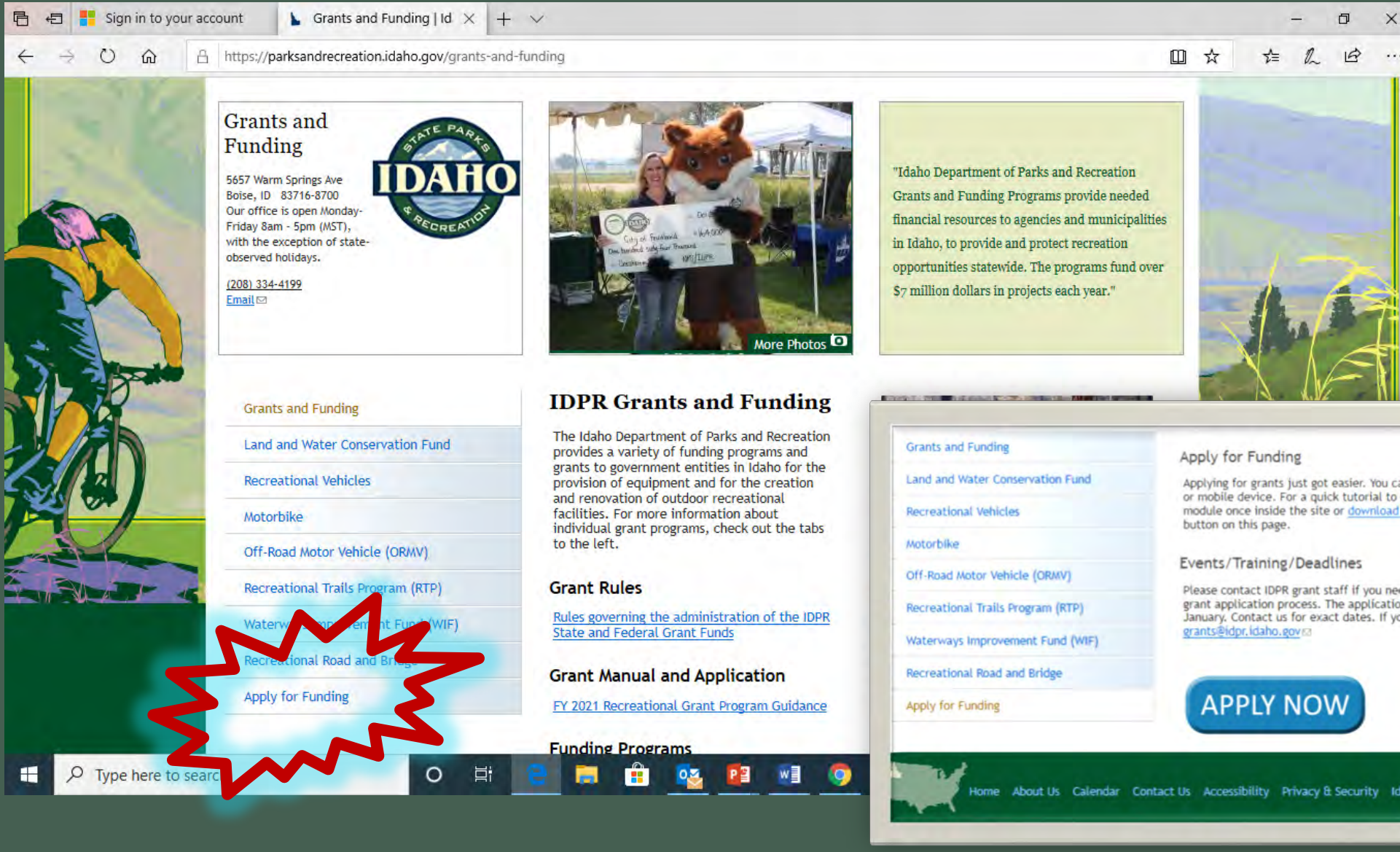
Nordic

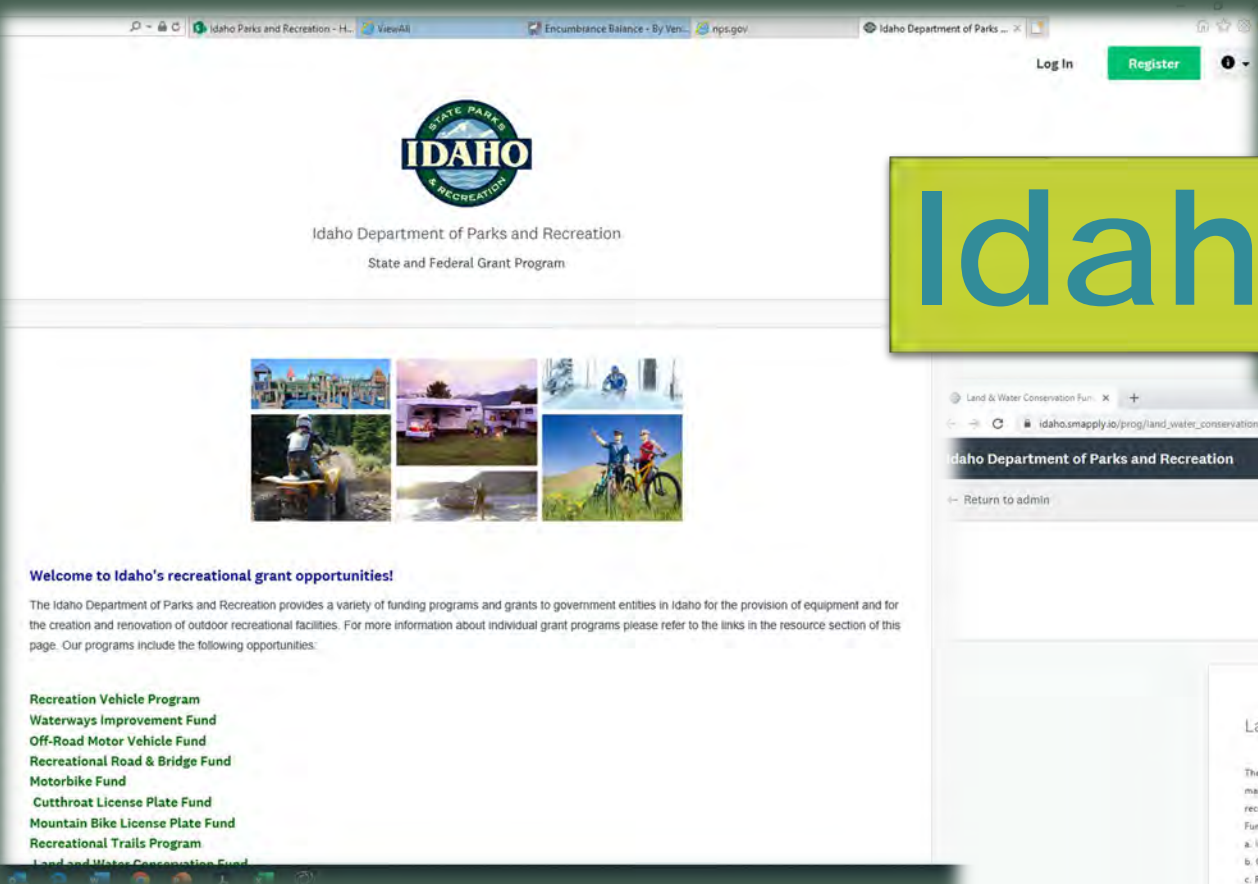
Become an Idaho Trails Supporter!

<https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/about-parks-recreation>

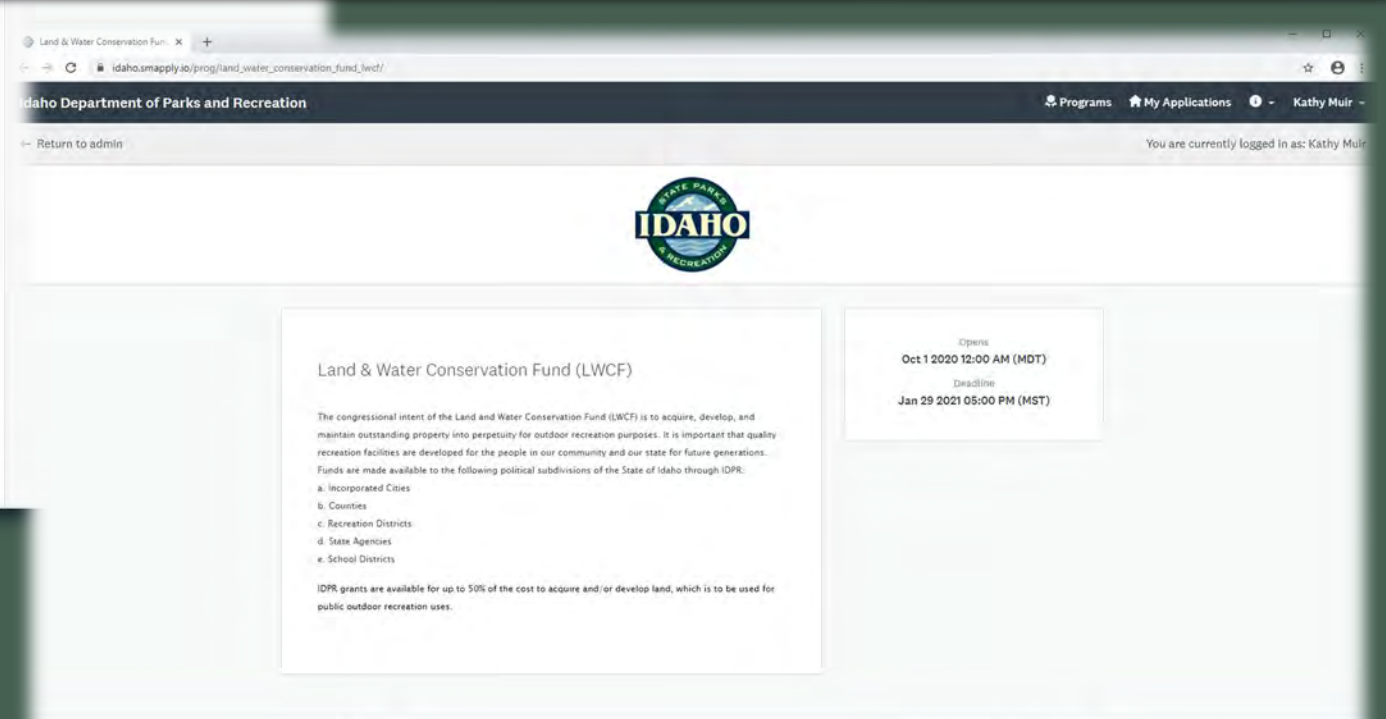


<https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/grants-and-funding>





# Idaho.smapply.io



Separate training for navigating application system



2018 – 2022

# Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation



Recreational Grant Program Guidance

## Recreational Grant Program Guidance



RV Fund  
Waterways Improvement Fund  
Off Road Motor Vehicle Fund  
Motorbike Fund  
Recreational Trail Program  
Recreational Road & Bridge Fund  
Specialty Plate Funds  
Land & Water Conservation Fund  
Clean Vessel Account  
Boating Infrastructure Grants

State Fiscal Year  
2022

## Other Training and Resources

- ✓ IDPR Grant Programs/Rules
- ✓ Navigating Survey Monkey Apply!
- ✓ Application Tips and Guidelines

Any  
Questions