

Director Susan Buxton Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation 5657 E. Warm Springs Ave. Boise, Idaho 83716

Dear Director Buxton,

Idaho Business for the Outdoors and the members we represent support the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation proposed 2024 budget request and the additional \$100 million proposed by Governor Brad Little. This money will be used to increase overall recreation capacity and will address a critical deferred maintenance backlog.

As a nonpartisan, business member-based organization, Idaho Business for the Outdoors supports and advocates for the valuable role our outdoors and public lands play in sustaining Idaho's state economy, our public health, and a strong and diverse business community. We believe your proposed budget directs critical funds and resources to our state parks and outdoors.

As you know, our state parks, trails, forests and waters are significant economic drivers for our urban and rural communities in Idaho. The outdoor economy is a strong driver of business activity all across our country. Nationally, the recreation economy drives \$887 billion in consumer spending every year. In 2021, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that outdoor recreation accounts for \$2.8 billion dollars towards Idaho's GDP. It is clear that there is a continuing need for employees, maintenance and infrastructure to support these valuable resources.

Businesses leverage the quality of life represented by Idaho's outdoors in their marketing and recruitment, individuals and families love the unrivaled recreation opportunities, and our health care systems advocate for the health benefits of time outside. Our business members believe a healthy, sustainable economy goes hand in hand with access to state parks, public lands and the outdoors. Please share our support for your proposed budget as you work with the legislature this legislative season.

Best Regards,

Skylan Vett

Skylar Jett

Executive Director, Idaho Business for the Outdoors (Business Members are attached on the following page)

Business Members

Agnew Beck Lisa Hecht & Associates

APS Consulting Little Buddy Farms

Albertsons Little Egg Solutions

Axus International MESA Media

Beckwith Lodge Mariposa Labs

Beyeler Ranches Micron Technologies

Boise Cascade Modern Hotel & Bar

Breen Veltman Wilson Perpetua Resources

CCI Speer QB Quality Laminators

Center for Colorectal Care RedBuilt

Christensen Consulting LLC Republic Services

Coyle Family Foundation Scentsy

Clif Bar Shandro Group

EGT Solar Slattery Orthodontics

Figure 8 Investment Strategies Steven's Historical Associates

Gardner Co. St. Luke's Health System

George's Cycles and Fitness Summit Intellectual Property LLC

Grassroots Outdoor Alliance Treefort Music Festival

Habitat Veterinary Hospital

Idaho Mountain Touring

Idaho National Laboratory