

POLICY STATEMENT  
FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF STATE PARKS  
AND RECREATION AREAS (IDAHO)

The following policy statement was adopted by the State Board of Land Commissioners, State of Idaho, November 6, 1958. Arthur Wilson, State Land Commissioner, J. W. Emmert, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation.

The chief function of the Division of Parks and Recreation is conservation and protection for all time to the people of Idaho certain areas of typical Idaho scenery. In addition, such areas of outstanding beauty, unusual geological formations, historical settings and places closely related to early Idaho development, as well as recreation areas, are worthy of preservation.

It has long been known that a State as a unit of Government has a definite obligation to its citizens. It should protect and preserve such areas, and in so doing provide access to them, provide means for their fullest and most complete enjoyment by the people, and also provide, without detracting from their natural appeal, such outdoor recreation facilities as are compatible with the surroundings. Areas included within the State Park system should be of State-wide significance; areas purely of local or county importance can and should be administered at the local or county level.

The State Parks are under the jurisdiction of the Idaho Department of Public Lands, Division of Parks and Recreation.

Purpose of the State Park System

The chief purpose of the Division of State Parks and Recreation shall be to serve the people of Idaho and their visitors by:

1. Conserving and protecting certain areas of typical Idaho scenery of unique or exceptional scenic and/or scientific value in its virgin state, not only for the inspiration and benefit of the present generation, but also for the generations to come.
2. Establishing and operating State parks that provide recreation use of natural resources and outdoor recreation in outdoor areas.
3. Preserving, protecting and portraying historic places and settings related to early Idaho development.

Classification of Areas

To assure the accomplishment of this basic purpose in accordance with the best standards, the State Park System shall include, but not be limited to:

1. State Parks - Relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or wilderness character, oftentimes containing significant historical, archeological, ecological, geological and other scientific

values, preserved as nearly as possible in their original or natural condition and providing opportunity for appropriate types of recreation where such will not destroy or impair the features and values to be preserved.

2. State Monuments - Areas, usually limited in size, established primarily to preserve objects of historic and scientific interest, and places commemorating important persons or historic events. The only facilities to be provided are those required for the safety and comfort of the visitors such as access, parking, water, sanitation, interpretive devices and sometimes facilities for picnicking.
3. State Recreation Areas - Areas selected and developed primarily to provide non-urban recreation opportunities to meet other than purely local needs but having the best available scenery. Hunting and other recreation activities not usually associated with State parks may be permitted. This classification shall include those areas adjacent to main highways developed to provide overnight campgrounds for the travelling public.
4. State Waysides - Relatively small areas along highways selected for their scenic or historical significance and providing opportunity for the traveler to relax, enjoy a scenic view, read an historic marker, or have a picnic lunch. These areas are and should continue to be administered by the highway department; however, the larger and more scenic waysides may be administered as units of the State Park System, if mutually agreeable to the two agencies.

#### State Park Areas Required

They shall be sufficient in number, size and development to adequately serve the needs of all the people of the State over and above the facilities which are or should be provided by local city, town or county parks and Federal agencies. The areas shall be primarily natural in which the developments are for the purpose of making them available for public enjoyment in a manner consistent with the preservation of the landscape. These facilities should be of a simple type, consistent with a natural environment, to provide camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, boating, swimming, fishing etc. which involve no major modification of the lands, forests and waters. Developments shall be without the extensive introduction of artificial features such as an athletic field, playgrounds, golf courses and other forms of recreation facilities that are primarily for local use and are found in city parks.

#### Inventory

An inventory of all existing and potential areas shall be maintained so as to assure a well-rounded system containing an adequate representation of the State's natural and cultural heritage for preservation and presentation to the public.

#### Distribution of State Park Areas

The State park areas should be geographically distributed so as to assure proper balance in their use by the citizens of all parts of the State, but not necessarily located near specific communities on the basis of population or area. Areas of extraordinary value may be selected regardless of balance. However, the determining factors should be the availability of land suitable to the types of outdoor recreation characteristic of State parks. Parks are where you find them.

#### Priority of Use

A State Park System should be developed on the principle that each area may provide for various types of recreation use. In order that the satisfactions sought by many are not sacrificed for the benefit of a few, it is necessary to set up the following priority of use.

1. Picnic Grounds - Picnic areas in State parks shall be provided commensurate with needs. Their development will include water supply, sanitation facilities, parking areas and family units. Since picnic grounds are day-use areas they should be in easily accessible central locations.
2. Campgrounds - Public campgrounds shall be provided where there is ample space and needs are evident. Their location should be such that use will not interfere with the use of the picnic areas. Occupancy may be limited when conditions warrant.
3. Organization Camps - Development of organized group camps may be permitted if suitable sites which will not interfere with public use of the areas are available.
4. Summer Homes - The development of summer homes in State parks is not encouraged. This is an extravagant use of State lands permitting a few to benefit from the resource, but depriving the masses. In those areas where this development already exists, its expansion will be limited.

#### Acquisition

It shall be the policy of the Division to consolidate the land ownership in existing park areas and to acquire new areas in order to preserve scenery, areas of historic interest and provide recreation opportunities. Lands may be acquired by purchase, exchange and/or gifts.

#### Development

It shall be the policy of the Division to develop all park areas in a dignified and substantial manner to best meet the needs of the people. All development and construction shall be carefully planned in advance. Construction shall be of durable materials and of a type that requires a minimum of maintenance and operating costs.

### Operation and Maintenance

It shall be the policy of the Division that all park grounds and facilities will be maintained in a clean, neat, sanitary and orderly manner, to protect public health and safety, and increase enjoyment. State park personnel shall maintain and operate the park areas on funds allocated for such purposes.

### Land Uses

Nonconforming land uses such as hunting, grazing, mining, sites for schools, power developments, right of ways and non-park structures will not be permitted except in the most unusual circumstances. Merely the availability of a "free site" or existence of "unused resources" cannot be considered as justification for nonconforming uses of park lands.

In cases where State parks are on lakes or include lakes within the boundaries, a strip at least 200 feet wide, measured horizontally from the highwater surface shall be maintained for public use. Only such development as is needed for safety, comfort and sanitation will be permitted in this strip.

### Concessions

It shall be the policy of the Division that concessions, which include stores, motels, boat and motor rentals, stables and other services, will be operated under terms of a lease by private individuals or firms. Concessions will be awarded on a competitive bid basis, subject to such qualifications as the Land Board may prescribe.

The Division will establish controls on rates charged by concessioners.

### Wildlife

All areas of the Idaho State Park System, except recreation areas and any others particularly designated by the Land Board, are game refuges and the wildlife in its natural habitat is for the enjoyment of the visitors.

### Protection

The enforcement of law and order in State Park areas is a responsibility of the State and County peace officers.

### Fees and Charges

The Division of Parks and Recreation may initiate and put into effect a schedule of fees and charges for the use of parks, to defray at least a part of the cost of operation and maintenance.

### Park Names

Geographical, historical or local names will be used in the naming of State Park areas. The use of the names of living persons will not be permitted. Where a group desires to honor a person who has worked diligently for the acquisition, dedication and development of some particular area and good evidence can be supplied of such service, a plaque may be permitted.