

## **Idaho State Parks Passport**

### **What is the Idaho State Parks Passport?**

The Idaho State Parks Passport is a new \$10 annual sticker for Idahoans that will be available for purchase beginning October 1, 2012, at the time you register your recreational vehicle (RV) or passenger vehicle, online, by mail-in renewal or at any county DMV office. The Idaho State Parks Passport is valid for either one or two years, and will expire concurrently with your vehicle registration. The Passport will save you the MVEF fee of \$5 per day.

### **Why would you want it?**

The Idaho State Parks Passport covers all state park motor vehicle entry fees for a year (valid in conjunction with your vehicles registration): unlimited MVEF access, including boat launch plus nightly discounts on camping.

### **How do you get it?**

You can obtain Idaho State Parks Passports at the time you renew your vehicles registration with ITD online, by mail-in renewal or at any County DMV office in Idaho.

If you've already renewed your vehicle registration this year, you can purchase an Idaho State Parks Passport by visiting any County DMV office in Idaho. (Having your license plate number would be handy at time of transaction for quick customer look-up)

## **Why is the Idaho State Parks Passport Needed?**

### **General Fund Reduction Consequences**

- Reserve Fund Substantially Reduced
- Decrease In 25 FTPs
- More Visitors (5.2 million), Less Seasonal Staff
- Significant Increase In Deferred Maintenance: More Costly Repairs
- Secure Dedicated Funding to Replace Lost General Funds

## **The Idaho State Parks Passport in Summary**

- Annual Vehicle Registration Process Used As an **Awareness Building Tool**
- **Idahoans will be given the opportunity to "Check Yes" To Purchase Access to State Parks for \$10 per vehicle, per year.**
- Beneficial to every Idahoan, any interest (Camping, Hiking, Fishing, Photography, Bird Watching, Swimming, and Picnicking)

## Success in Other States

### Michigan

True choice Opt-In at 28.65% participation.

### Washington

An Opt-out program with a 41% participation rate.

### Montana

An Opt-Out program with a 77% participation rate in 2010.

## Current Program Vs. New Program

Old Program: \$5 per vehicle, per day or \$40 annual pass

New Program: \$10 per registered vehicle projecting 20% participation

Projected Gain with New Program: \$1.9 million

## End Result

- Idahoans will have A Choice when they register their cars to Purchase Access To all 30 of their state parks for a tremendous discount.
- Movement towards a long-term, sustainable funding source to assist in keeping Idaho's State Parks open and accessible
- This will not make the agency whole, but certainly provides a solid foundation from which to move forward.

**Idaho State Park Passport Program  
Frequently Asked Questions  
September, 2012**

**Frequently Used Terms:**

**IDPR:** Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

**ITD:** Idaho Transportation Department

**DMV:** Department of Motor Vehicles

**MVEF:** Motor Vehicle Entry Fee: \$5 per vehicle, per day (\$40 MVEF Annual sticker available for non-Idaho residents)

**The Basics**

**What is it?**

The **Idaho State Parks Passport** Program has been developed to provide a sustainable source of funding for Idaho's cherished state parks – *the jewels of the gem state*. When Idahoans renew their motor vehicle registration with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) by mail, online or at their county DMV, they can *choose* to support Idaho State Parks with an **Idaho State Parks Passport** by paying \$10 for a one-year sticker or \$20 for a two-year sticker, in addition to their ITD renewal fees. A Passport sticker will allow admittance of the vehicle to all of Idaho's 30 state parks for as long as it is valid.

**Why do I want one?**

It will save Idaho residents from having to pay the \$5 daily MVEF fee when visiting state parks, giving them free day-use access to all 30 state parks, including boat launches, trails, interpretive exhibits, etc. For campers, it will save them from having to pay the \$5 MVEF fee on each day of their stay. Two visits to state parks in one year and it will pay for itself!

**How will the money collected from the Idaho State Passport Program be used?**

The money collected will go to the Idaho Park and Recreation Fund for operations, management, maintenance, and capital improvements at state parks and to assist in addressing the agency's current \$38 million maintenance backlog. The program's success is key to the continued sustainability of our state parks.

**Other Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. When will this program become effective?**

The **Idaho State Parks Passport Program** will become available on October 1, 2012 for those registering for the first time or renewing their registration.

**2. I've already registered my vehicle for the year (or two years) and didn't purchase an Idaho State Parks Passport at that time. Can I still purchase an Idaho State Parks Passport?**

Yes. At any time (beginning in October), you can purchase **Idaho State Parks Passport** at any county DMV office for \$10 per vehicle. Please be sure to have your license plate number on hand.

- 3. I love to spend the night camping in Idaho State Parks. How does this affect me?**  
In recent years, campers have been exempt from the daily \$5 Motor Vehicle Entry Fee (MVEF). For stays in 2013 and beyond, campers will be required to pay the daily MVEF in addition to campsite fees. The other option is to purchase a one or two-year **Idaho State Parks Passport** which eliminates the need to pay the daily MVEF, saving them \$5 a day. The **Idaho State Parks Passport** will be a substantial savings for frequent campers as well as frequent daily visitors.
- 4. I have a vehicle or motor home with a car/motorcycle/moped in tow. Do I have to purchase a Passport for the vehicle in tow?**  
Not necessarily. In most cases, the tow-vehicle will **not** be assessed the \$5 daily MVEF. However, *if* you un-hitch a vehicle and use it to travel in, out of, *or* around a state park, that vehicle will also be charged a \$5.00 MVEF per day. If you leave the vehicle hitched for the entire duration of your stay, no fee will be assessed.
- 5. Will the Idaho State Parks Passport Program apply to motorcycles?**  
Yes, as well as motor homes, passenger cars, vans, pickup trucks, motorcycles, and scooters.
- 6. What about commercial vehicles?**  
Commercial vehicles entering the park to conduct business (i.e. deliveries or construction vehicles) will not be assessed a \$5.00 MVEF. Owners of commercial vehicles can still purchase the **Idaho State Parks Passport** at the time they register their vehicle(s). Participating in the **Idaho State Parks Passport Program** and proudly displaying the **Idaho State Parks Passport** sticker on a vehicle, even though it may never enter a state park, is a great way to express support for Idaho State Parks.
- 7. How will the Idaho State Park Passport Program work if I choose to make reservations for overnight stays within Idaho State Parks?**  
If you are reserving a campsite in an Idaho state park via online reservations or through the call center, and you have purchased an **Idaho State Parks Passport**, you will provide the Passport number and will not be assessed the daily MVEF in addition to camping fees. If you don't have an **Idaho State Park Passport**, a \$5 MVEF will be assessed per vehicle, per day (camp night) at the time you make your reservation. If you decide to purchase a passport after you make your reservation, call the call center back with your reservation information and passport number, and they will gladly refund the \$5 MVEF.
- 8. How will the Passport work when I enter a park?**  
The passport will be a windshield sticker for placement in the lower corner of the driver's side. The Passport sticker, when permanently affixed on your vehicle, will give you unlimited vehicle entry into all 30 Idaho State Parks for one year (for \$10) or two years (for \$20). Additional camping and other park use fees (such as boat moorage) will remain the same.
- 9. Is the Idaho State Parks Passport available to out-of-state visitors?**  
**No.** Out-of-state visitors, including overnight campers, will be required to pay the \$5 MVEF per vehicle per day or purchase a \$40 Idaho State Park MVEF Annual (previously known as the Idaho State Annual Pass) sticker for their day-use and over-night visits.

**10. Will I have to pay a \$5 MVEF if I don't have an Idaho State Parks Passport when I am staying in a yurt, cottage or cabin at an Idaho State Park or recreation area?**

**Yes.**

**11. What if I don't buy Idaho State Park Passport when I register or renew my vehicle, can I still get into the park?**

**Yes.** You can still enter the park by paying the \$5 MVEF price at the park entrance, for which you will receive a MVEF day sticker, which is valid for one day and can be used enter multiple parks on that one day.

You can only purchase an Idaho State Park Passport at county DMVs or online. The **Idaho State Passports** will not be available at state parks or at IDPR offices. However, the \$40 Idaho State Park Annual MVEF will still be available to purchase in parks and online at [www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov](http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov).

**12. In the past, I have purchased Idaho State Park MVEF Annual stickers as gifts. Is this still an option?**

**Yes.** A \$40 Idaho State Park MVEF Annual sticker will still be available to purchase online at [www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov](http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov), at IDPR offices and within state parks.

**13. How will the program work when I go to my county DMV or go online to renew or register my vehicle?**

When you go to your county DMV office to renew your vehicle's registration or renew your vehicle registration online, you will be given the choice on the form to support Idaho state parks by agreeing to pay an additional \$10 for one year or \$20 for two years for an **Idaho State Parks Passport**.

**14. Will I still receive a discount for a second MVEF pass?**

**No.** The annual cost for an Idaho State Parks Passport for any vehicle will be \$10 per vehicle.

**15. I am a resident of Idaho and a service-related disabled veteran. How will this new program affect me?**

If you are a resident of Idaho and you have a 100% service-related injury you will continue to receive free entry into Idaho State Parks without needing an **Idaho State Parks Passport**.

**16. If I re-registered my vehicle in January and would like to purchase an Idaho State Parks Passport in June, is the \$10 fee pro-rated?**

**No.**

**17. Will the Idaho State Parks Passport sticker be valid for a registration year or calendar year?**

The **Idaho State Parks Passport** sticker validity will expire concurrently with your vehicle registration.

**18. Can I transfer an Idaho State Parks Passport to multiple vehicles?**

The **Idaho State Parks Passport** sticker is linked to individual vehicle registration/plates so you would need one for each vehicle that you plan to use when visiting a park.

**19. If I lose the sticker or it gets damaged, or I sell my car, how do I get it replaced?**

You will be able to purchase a replacement sticker for \$2 at any DMV office.

**20. Why should I give the state more money? I already pay taxes.**

Idaho taxpayer support for state parks has been reduced dramatically since 2010. In fact, if you were to spread the IDPR general fund budget equally to everyone over the age of 18 in Idaho, the cost would be about 89 cents per person per year. The **Idaho State Parks Passport** allows Idahoans to choose to support their state parks. **Idaho State Parks Passport** is a chance for residents to say - each and every year - that quality outdoor recreation opportunities are important. This purchase is an opportunity to provide ongoing, stable funding that will be used for day-to-day operations and staffing of state parks and campgrounds, to support community recreation and our precious cultural and historic sites.

**21. Is this a new tax?**

**No.** The **Idaho State Parks Passport** program gives Idahoans a **choice**: Idahoans can choose to participate or not participate to support their state parks, so it is not a tax.

**What is the Golden Age Pass and does the Passport impact its use?**

The Golden Age Pass is a federally managed program for use of National Parks. Idaho's State Parks do not receive financial benefit or participate in this program.



## Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date:** September 27, 2012

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### IDAHO STATE PARKS PASSPORTS AVAILABLE OCTOBER 1

**IDAHO** (September 28, 2012) - The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) announced today that the Idaho State Parks Passport will be available for purchase beginning Monday, October 1, 2012.

The Idaho State Parks Passport is a new \$10 annual sticker available for Idahoans. It will be available for motorists at the time you register your recreational vehicle (RV) or passenger vehicle, online, by mail-in renewal or at any county DMV office.

"We are partnering with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) on the Passport Program, utilizing the annual ITD vehicle registration process as an awareness building tool, reaching out to the 2.5 million registered motorists in Idaho," said IDPR Director, Nancy Merrill.

The Idaho State Parks Passport is valid for either one (\$10) or two years (\$20), and will expire concurrently with vehicle registrations.

The Passport will save Idahoans the state park Motor Vehicle Entry Fee (MVEF) of \$5 per day, covers all day-use and boat launch fees, and provides a nightly discount for campers.

A 20% participation of the state's 2.5 million registered vehicles will yield approximately \$1.9 million dollars to help off-set recent agency budget reductions.

"Passport sales are critical in our movement towards the long-term, sustainable funding sources we need in order to keep Idaho's State Parks open and accessible," said Merrill. "The revenue from this important program will not make the agency whole, but certainly provides a solid foundation from which we can begin to move forward."

Visit [www.idahoparkspassport.com](http://www.idahoparkspassport.com) for additional program details.



## Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

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### MEDIA ALERT

**Date:** September 27, 2012

**Contact:** Jennifer Okerlund, Communications Manager  
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### STATE AGENCY LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM - MOVEMENT TOWARDS ONGOING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

**What:** Press Conference

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter will officially launch the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation's (IDPRs) new Idaho State Park Passport Program.

The Idaho State Parks Passport program provides Idahoans with a choice when they register their vehicles to purchase access to all 30 of their state parks for a tremendous discount.

The Idaho State Parks Passport program is movement towards a long-term, sustainable funding source to assist in keeping Idaho's State Parks open and accessible.

**When:** Friday, September 28, 2012 / 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** Office of Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter

