

Introduction

The Idaho Wild Rivers Grant Program, authorized by [Idaho Code 49-419C](#) in 2003, is funded through the sales of the Idaho Wild Rivers rafting specialty license plates. The Idaho Department of Commerce (Department) oversees the award of these funds to whitewater related projects throughout the state.

A portion of the license plate fees "...shall be transferred by the state treasurer for deposit to the tourism and promotion fund of the department of commerce, and shall be used by the department of commerce for the general education and promotion of Idaho's white water rivers and the rafting and kayaking industries. The department of commerce shall confer with the consulting panel representing white water river communities and the rafting and kayaking industries before expending any moneys from the fund that were received into the fund from revenue derived from this special license plate program" [49-419C\(2\)](#).

Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel (referred to as "consulting panel" in the statute) is informally comprised of the individuals who sponsored the legislation and represent the whitewater rafting and kayaking community. The representatives are comprised of conservationists, manufacturers, retailers, outfitters, and enthusiasts.

Kevin Lewis, River Conservation Advocate

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Cris Riggs, President

Idaho Whitewater Association (non-profit representing whitewater users)

aireriverbum@gmail.com

Alan Hamilton, Founder

Aire Raft & Kayak (river equipment retailer)

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Jo Cassin, Owner

Idaho River Sports (river equipment retailer)

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Jackie Nefzger, General Manager

Mackay Wilderness River Trips (river outfitter)

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Eligible Applicants and Projects

Eligible applicants are government agencies or incorporated non-profit organizations, with projects that serve one of the following purposes:

- To promote whitewater river tourism within Idaho.
- To promote, encourage, or ensure safe use of Idaho's whitewater rivers.



- To improve user facilities or access to whitewater rivers.
- To clean up litter or promote good conservation practices by river users.

The Advisory Panel awards funds as equitably as possible between safety/education/river improvement projects and whitewater tourism promotion.

Wild Rivers Logo and Audio Credit Statement Requirements

Funded projects must credit the Wild Rivers Grant through the use of the Wild Rivers Logo (Exhibit 1, page 4) and/or the written or audio credit statement “paid for in part by funding through the Wild Rivers License Plate Fund”. Failure to properly use the logo/credit statement will result in denial of reimbursement. The Wild Rivers Grant Logo may additionally be used on any material that is promoting wild rivers. Digital copies of logo can be requested by email to grants@commerce.idaho.gov.

Available Funds

Availability of funds is driven by the purchase of the Idaho whitewater specialty license plate. The Commerce Fiscal manager checks the balance of the fund at the end of the calendar year. The balance, less the amount of funds previously awarded but not drawn, is available for new applications.

Grant Cycle Schedule

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Application Open: | December |
| Application Close: | January |
| Panel Review Meeting: | Mid February |
| Project Term: | March 1 – February 28 |

Grantee Reporting

A final report with documentation of the activities carried out and benefits generated must be submitted to the Department at the conclusion of the project, containing the following:

- A description of the success and impact the project has had on the community, including anticipated long-term benefits.
- A complete reporting of costs reimbursed and an explanation of unexpended funds that were not used for the project.
- Press clippings, photographs, or other information about the project, if available.

Department Annual Reporting

As the designated Special Plate Program Sponsor, the Department is required to prepare a financial report for the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) ([Idaho Code 49-402D](#)). ITD provides a report form in November of each year, requesting submission by the end of the calendar year.



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The financial report must include an accounting of revenue and expenditures associated with the funds, covering the previous state fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). The Department fiscal manager can compile the revenue portion of the report, with a description of expenditures (amounts and project details) provided by the Department grants team.

Exhibit 1:

