

Idaho Non-Motorized Trails Permit Poll

Background:

Idaho has had exponential growth in recreation over the last several years due to the population increase, as well as out of state visitors. In the past few years Idaho has seen almost 100% growth in terms of people recreating here in Idaho. This increase both from residents and non-residents vacationing in Idaho has taken its toll on our already suffering non-motorized trail-systems across Idaho. These trails were already in need of repair and it's only getting worse with an increase in every user group utilizing our trail systems.

Idaho already has recreation demographics paying to use our state. The Motorized community came together in the late 1970's and requested legislative action to require an annual sticker to use dirt bike and later ATV/UTVs on motorized designated multiuse trails. This program has generated multi-millions in revenue which has not only maintained but improved Idaho's motorized trails. Boaters also require a boating sticker, as do RVs and campers. These funds go back into the lands we love. Currently multiple user groups are looking at determining if a mandatory non-motorized trail access permit/sticker would be supported by the majority, to be able to have a reoccurring and annual revenue source to address the deteriorating condition of our non-motorized trails.

This would not affect winter permit programs already in use, instead this would be a spring-through-fall type permit. If you participate in the park and ski program, this would not affect that since those funds are utilized to keep parking areas plowed for use. Instead, this would generate funds that federal agencies or service organizations could apply to projects that have gone unfunded. It's unknown exactly how much this could generate, however it likely would exceed \$1M annually, which when looked at in the long term could positively affect our trails in a huge way. These funds would not just go the state "general fund". We believe Idaho Parks and Rec has done a great job with the Boat, RV, Yurt, Park and Ski, and Motorized programs and would excel at managing the non-motorized funds as well.

Many states surrounding Idaho already have similar programs in existence. Idaho has even tried an Equestrian trailer fee and Mountain Bike registration but both failed, due to the pressure being placed on one user group instead of all users. Currently our non-motorized trails have no annual revenue. Most of the trail work is done with grant money and by volunteer service organizations. If we had a recurring revenue stream that was available to these organizations, as well as state and federal funded trail crews, what could our trails become?

Many will argue we should not have to pay to use our public lands, and while many of us would agree with that belief, we must still understand what it takes to keep our trailheads and trails maintained and open. Hence many are trying to find a way to generate revenue to support our trail systems.

1. How do you use non-motorized trail systems?
 - a. Hiking/Backpacking
 - b. Trail Running
 - c. Equestrian

- d. Mountain Biking
 - e. Hunting and/or fishing
2. Have you purchased the optional Idaho Non-Motorized Trails Sticker available from IDPR?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Didn't know they existed
 3. How often do you utilize non-motorized, multi-use trailheads and systems in Idaho annually?
 - a. 1-10 times annually
 - b. 11-20 times annually
 - c. 21-30 times annually
 - d. 30+ times annually
 4. Do you currently belong to a non-motorized trail service organization?
 - a. Yes
 - i. Which organization? _____
 - b. No
 5. Have you participated in any non-motorized trail conservation projects in the last 12 months?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 6. Would you be interested in joining an organization?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 7. Would you support a required permit/access (such as a \$12 annual pass) to utilize non-motorized trails, if the revenue went back into our non-motorized trails and trailheads? (Similar to the motorized boat and RV sticker programs)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 8. Would you support non-residents paying a higher fee (such as a \$20 fee) to use non-motorized trailhead and trails?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 9. How would you like to see your permit/access fees distributed to our trail systems?
 - a. 50% of fees being awarded in grants that any group or organization can apply for with the remaining 50% divided into no more than 25% for administrative costs and either 25% or whatever isn't used for admin fees goes towards state funded trail crews.
 - b. More than 50% for grants and less for administrative fees and state trail crews.
 - c. Less than 50% for grants and more for administrative fees and state trail crews.