

# Flies & Lies

North Idaho Fly Casters, P.O. Box 1698, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

[www.NorthIdahoFlyCasters.org](http://www.NorthIdahoFlyCasters.org)

## March 2024

### Youth Fly Tying 2024

By DAVE LONDEREE

Here it is spring and it's time to tie flies. This year we will have a very full spring with three local High Schools. Added to the schedule this year, Coeur d'Alene High School has asked us to teach a class and take the students fishing like we have done in the past with Lake City High School and Timberlake High School.

#### Youth Fly Tying Schedule:

Lake City H.S. — April 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>  
Coeur d'Alene H.S. — April 9<sup>th</sup>  
Timberlake H.S.— May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

#### Youth Fishing Schedule:

Coeur d'Alene H.S. — April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Timberlake H.S. — May 15<sup>th</sup>  
Lake City H.S. — May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to help with these projects, please contact me as soon as possible. You can email Dave Londeree at [dlonderee@roadrunner.com](mailto:dlonderee@roadrunner.com) or call me at (208) 946-6631. Thank you!

### We are the NIFC

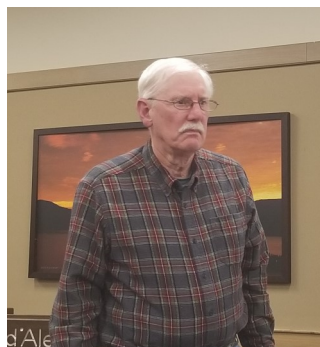
Since 1977, the North Idaho Fly Casters Club has been dedicated to all facets of the sport of fly fishing by providing a wide range of educational, social and conservation opportunities to the fly fishing enthusiast.

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### Thank You, Ed Lider!

By DAVE LONDEREE



On February 15<sup>th</sup> Mr. Ed Lider, a long term and cherished member of North Idaho Fly Casters gave a great presentation on Identifying Trout. Who knew there are so many trout species locally to us here in Idaho. Besides the Rainbow, Brown, Westslope Cutthroat, Bonnyville Cutthroat, Yellowstone Cutthroat, Snake River Cutthroat, Brook Trout, Golden Trout, Steelhead Trout, Tiger Trout, Lake Trout, Bull Trout and Dolly Varden. Other Salmonids in Idaho include Kokanee, Chinook, Grayling and Whitefish. There are also Large

Mouth Bass, Small Mouth Bass, Perch, Blue Gill, Crappie, Catfish, Burbot, Pike and Walleye. All these fish can be taken with flies. Be sure to check the Idaho fishing regulations for access and bag limits.

You know that there are over 100 bodies of water available here in North Idaho within a short drive. Between the rivers, streams, lakes and ponds get out there and hook up a few.



## President's Message

By RICHARD BIRKETT



It's been a long time since the North Idaho Fly Casters has been involved with a conservation project. Whether it was the outsourcing of this type of work to contractors, Covid, or changes in the regulations, there seemed to be a variety of reasons as to why our offers to help went

unanswered. Over the past several years, we reached out to a variety of organizations with no success. It just happened that the work for volunteers had dried up and so here we are today. Luckily, that's about to change.

Let me set the stage first. The Coeur D'Alene Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest published its "Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Management Plan: North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River" in June 2012 (link is at the bottom of this article). This was in response to the need to manage the recreational benefits of the river and surrounding area, including fishing, camping, boating and day use. At that point they had received input from the public about their concerns over sanitation, public access, resource damage, and the maintenance and improvement of fishing opportunities and habitat. While a few of the items were completed, progress slowed to a virtual stop in recent years. This included the improvement of boat launch opportunities at several points on the river. As stated on page 39:

"Improve boat launch opportunities to address the increase in drift boat and other floating craft use. Top priority sites to investigate development include Graham Creek, Prichard Bridge Day Use Site and Shoshone Gauge."

While the report lists the positive effects, in terms of supporting the overall goals of improved access and providing high quality recreational experiences, it also mentions the need for environmental analysis and public involvement.

Ed Lider, a longtime member, and retired Fisheries Biologist with the USFS (and last month's guest speaker!), shared his knowledge of the long term plan. Mark Vehr also shared his interest in revitalizing efforts to continue working the same plan. Together they remained vigilant and hopeful that this could be reenergized.

That opportunity rose with the recent changes in local staffing at the Coeur D'Alene office of the

USFS. Holly Hampton was appointed District Ranger early last year. Around the same time a few new faces joined the team, and as her staff became situated Ed and Mark were encouraged that they might just find a few sympathetic ears. They started to contact members of the local office and found several who were interested in reenergizing the project.

Over the past few months this effort grew into an organized team of volunteers, including members of the Friends of the River Coalition. A site visit was conducted where photos of the approximate area for the boat launch was marked using stakes. Several discussions were held to address potential issues, like sourcing materials, avoiding blockage of the boat ramp by campers, and seeking grant money to make this happen. A written plan was presented to the USFS in January and a meeting was held at the local offices where we found an open and receptive staff willing to offer their support. We received a suggestion to add an ADA ramp at that time, which is being worked on as I write this. While design of the site is ultimately the responsibility of the Forest Service, the environmental analysis needs to be conducted as well. This will be done by another agency.

The start date for this project has yet to be finalized, but we believe that this is most likely to take place in 2025 if not later this year. We had hoped to see this in summer but are pleased to see that it's finally taking off, continuing to enhance river access on our local water.

Look for further updates in our newsletter as we learn more from the USFS. We plan on announcing a call for volunteers to assist in a variety of ways, which may include onsite work (aka getting our hands dirty!) or other options as needed.

For further information on the "Coeur D'Alene River Corridor Management Plan", dated June 2012, visit the following link which is a copy of the entire plan: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5421419.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5421419.pdf)

*Shorten your line, focus your casts,  
and slow things down.*

*Enjoy the magic of local fishing."*

— Fennel Hudson,

# CLUB NEWS

## THE NEXT CLUB PROGRAM

NIFC holds dinner meetings from September through May on the third Thursday of each month.

**March 21, 2024**

**Coeur d'Alene Inn  
506 W. Appleway Avenue  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

Wet Fly Hour at 5:00PM  
Dinner at 6:00PM  
Meeting at 7:00PM

**March Guest Speaker:** Our speaker is Kelly Laatsch, Owner and General Manager, St. Mary Angler located in Cranbrook, B.C. The St. Mary Angler has been providing guided fishing trips in the Kootenay region of Southeastern British Columbia since 1992. St. Mary Angler also includes a fly shop, managed by Karen Laatsch.

Kelly was born in BC, and spent much of his youth in Alberta, fly fishing and tying since he was a boy. He guides on local waters, like the St. Mary, Elk, Upper Columbia, Kootenay, Bull and Skookumchuck rivers. He also leads a group of fly fishers to the Christmas Islands in pursuit of bonefish, giant trevally and permit. He also speaks to fly fishing clubs, such as ours, throughout the Pacific Northwest.

\*\*\*\*\*RSVP Please\*\*\*\*\*RSVP Please\*\*\*\*\*

Reservations and dinner choices can be made by emailing [craigpbaumann@gmail.com](mailto:craigpbaumann@gmail.com)  
Dinner options for the March 21st meeting are Chicken Cordon Bleu OR a Vegetarian plate option. The price is **\$25**.

**Deadline for reservations is  
Monday, March 18th at 5:00PM.  
Please indicate your menu choice.**

Please pay for dinner at the door with cash, check or card. A 75 cent card-use fee will be added on.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

2023-2024 club dues can be mailed to:

North Idaho Fly Casters  
P.O. Box 1698  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-1698

**Annual Membership Dues:**  
\$30.00 Family/Single/Senior  
\$50.00 Corporate/Business  
The membership year is September 2023 through August 2024.

## NEW MEMBERS

Benita Galland  
Doug Fraser  
Nicolas Buckmelter

## MERCHANDISE

To order something with the NIFC Logo printed on it, call Patrick Smith at (480) 374-0218 or email [smith.patrick075@gmail.com](mailto:smith.patrick075@gmail.com)



## LIBRARY NEWS



You can obtain the library inventory list on our Facebook page or direct from Pat. If you are interested in checking something out of the library, send an email to Pat Smith at [smith.patrick075@gmail.com](mailto:smith.patrick075@gmail.com). Include the number and name of the item from the inventory list and he will try to have it available for you at the next meeting.

## RAFFLE WINNERS

	FEBURARY 2024	
ITEM	DONATED BY	WINNER
Books & Sign	Terry Weber	Janet Regan
Yellowstone Puzzle	D & D Londeree	Mel Wimmer
Fishing Net	Stephen Speer	Brad Zier
Picture	Terry Weber	Ken Pena
Fly Tying Materials	Jim Rogers	Wayne Hudlemeyer
Basket of Goodies	Derek & Michelle	Janet Regan
Pendleton Bourbon	Steve Meyer	Rod Balsley
Fishpond Waist Pack	Mark Vehr	Derek Darst
Spinning Rod	Nils Wagenhals	Derek Darst
Books	Larry Krumpleman	Derek Darst
Flies	Howard	Dave Londeree
Coffee & /cups	Idaho PBS	Derek Darst
Flies	Fly Exchange	Ken Pena

If you have something you would like to donate to the club, all you have to do is let Dave Gillmor know. You can call him at (208) 920-9000.

*Sharing the fun of fishing turns  
strangers into friends in a few hours.*  
~~Eugene Clark

## March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

## April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## May 2024

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## CALENDAR



### March 2024

- 14th — NIFC Board Meeting
- 17th — St. Patrick's Day
- 18th — RSVP for Dinner Meeting
- 21st — NIFC Dinner Meeting

### April 2024

- 11th — NIFC Board Meeting
- 15th — RSVP for Dinner Meeting
- 18th — NIFC Dinner Meeting



### May 2024

- 5th — Cinco de Mayo
- 9th — NIFC Board Meeting
- 12th — Mother's Day
- 13th — RSVP for Dinner Meeting
- 16th — NIFC Dinner Meeting
- 27th — Memorial Day



## YOUR Stories are Wanted . . .

Help us create a newsletter that is interesting and fun to read by submitting some of what has brought you joy over the years (or months if you are new to fly fishing)! If you would rather 'tell' your story rather than write it, we can set up a time to talk and I am willing to transcribe your story for you.



**Sylvia.Beth.Bach@outlook.com**  
or call 208-771-9697



## Fly of the Month: Courtesy of Dave Londeree

### CRACKLEBACK

**HOOK:** Standard Dry Fly 12-18

**THREAD:** Brown 8/0

**HACKLE:** Brown

**BACK:** Peacock Herl

**BODY:** White or light cream fine dubbing



#### Tying steps:

1. Pinch the hooks barb flat and mount it in your vise
2. Dress the hook shank with thread from a hook eye length behind the eye to the bend.
3. Pick a hackle the proper size to fit the hook (1-1 ½ the hook gap). Strip 3/8" from the base of the feather and tie it to the shank (dull side up) at the hook bend. There should be a short gap section of the stem behind the hook.
4. Pick two Peacock Herls from the package or stem. Tie them on top of the hook shank at the hook bend with the herls pointing to the back.
5. Make a dubbing loop 3-4" long. Card the dubbing and sparsely load the loop. Twist the loop to make the dubbing noodle.
6. Wind the dubbing noodle from the hook bend to 2 eye lengths from the hook eye.
7. Tie off the dubbing noodle and cut off the excess.
8. Pull the 2 Peacock Herls over the top of the body and tie them off. Cut off the excess.
9. Palmer the hackle from the hook bend to just behind the hook eye. The Barbs should be facing toward the hook eye. Tie the hackle to the hook behind the eye. Cut off the excess hackle.
10. Whip finish and add a drop of head cement.

#### Note:

The Crackleback was first tied in 1952 by Mr. Ed Story.  
It is a Dry Fly that can be used "WET" by adding a bead.



*You'll never get bored when  
you try something new.  
There's really no limit to  
what you can do.*

*Dr. Suess*

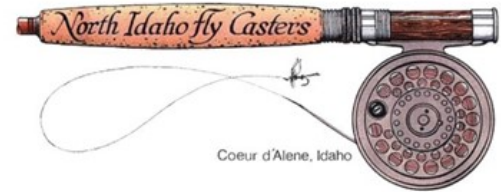
# NIFC Board Minutes – January 2024

Submitted by RICHARD BIRKETT, PRESIDENT

**Date:** February 8, 2024

**Time:** 5:30 PM

**Location:** Elmer's—CDA



1. Call to Order
2. Social
  - a. Finalize Fishout Schedule for 2024
    - i. June 22: Borley, NF CDA
  - b. Speakers
    - i. February: Ed Lider, Inland Northwest Fisheries
    - ii. March: Kelly Laatsch, St. Mary Angler Fly Shop, Cranbrook, BC
    - iii. April: Shawn Bennett, Grace Tree Service
    - iv. May: Lenny Moffo, Retired Guide
3. Educational
  - a. Rod Building
  - b. Net Building
    - i. Clamp purchase recommended due to the need to replace several.
    - ii. Motion (Mark V): Approve up to \$450 for the purchase of spring and bar clamps.  
Seconded: Dave L. Vote: Unanimous
    - iii. Tom and Dave G to source clamps and purchase later this year.
  - c. FF 101
    - i. Where are we at?
      - a. Articles 95% complete
        1. Next step: assemble articles into one Word document
    - ii. Schedule
      - a. Resolve Conflict: First meeting date if we move out of Memorial Day week....need to discuss
      - b. Agreed to:
        1. 3 educational meetings + 1 casting lesson + Fishout on June 22
        2. Session length: 90-120 minutes each (approximate)
        3. Venue identification process begins
          - a. Potential sites
            1. CDA Library for educational meetings
            2. Park in lieu of NIC Soccer field for casting
      - c. Identification of lead instructors
        1. Casting: Skip
        2. Tying: Dave L
        3. (Need to decide what classes will be taught)
      - d. Formation of classes
        1. Agreed that
          - a. Limited to 25
          - b. 1 lead instructor with several helpers
      - e. Marketing (all pending)
        1. Include discount for fly gear with local shops in lieu of supplying equipment
          - a. Reasons: Better in instances where the student has gear, allows for the student to begin a relationship with the local shop, gives them the opportunity to buy something other than a rod combo, and Reduces the burden on the club.

BOARD from page 6

- 2. Advertisement includes mention of the various chapters, dates, discounts at local shop, and sign up instructions.
- f. New Business: Youth Fly Tying
  - i. Lake City HS: April 4-5 with potential fishing date May 28-29
- 4. Conservation
  - a. Watershed Advisory Group Updates
    - i. North Fork CDA: Meeting 3/7/24
    - ii. South Fork CDA: No meeting on agenda yet. Might be in April.
  - b. Prichard Day Use Boat Launch Update
    - i. Grant update:
      - a. NIFC - \$2500
      - b. FoRC - \$1000
      - c. FFI - (Pending approvals) - Mark resending application
      - d. TU (Pending approval of Board) - Meeting set 2/12/24
    - ii. Status
      - a. Proposal sent 1/15/24 to USFS, Attn: Holly Hampton, District Ranger. Waiting to hear back.
      - b. Meeting set: 2/16/24
      - c. Adding river path access to help those with disabilities
- 5. Other
  - a. Finance
    - i. Financial Statement Review
    - ii. Motion to accept (Dave G); Seconded: Mark. Approval: Unanimous
  - b. Bylaws discussion
    - i. Reviewed recommended changes and identified questions to be asked of attorney.
    - ii. Rich to contact attorney for clarification and return to Board
  - c. Chamber of Commerce
    - i. Discussion resulted in decision to not approve.
  - d. Next Board meeting: March 7, 2024
- 6. Adjourned

# Birthday Wishes

*If wishes were fishes...*



## MARCH

- Mary Wehlacz**  
March 3
- Bob Miller**  
March 4
- Barb Hallett**  
March 11
- Toni Sommer**  
March 11
- Dave Londeree**  
March 13
- Sally Leis**  
March 14
- Rio Setty**  
March 14
- Robin Wimmer**  
March 15
- Mark Vehr**  
March 19
- Steve Meier**  
March 21
- Dan Richmond**  
March 26
- Mike Satren**  
March 30

## APRIL

- Binnie Maher**  
April 5
- Phil Waters**  
April 12
- Deb Harder**  
April 13
- Dave Gillmor**  
April 14
- Cathy McLaughlin**  
April 15
- Derek Darst**  
April 15
- Stephen Sommer**  
April 23

### Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

VFW meeting room, 406 N 4th Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

This program is for disabled Veterans. If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact:

**Brian Saks**  
**(208) 561-1375**

[brian.saks@projecthealingwaters.org](mailto:brian.saks@projecthealingwaters.org)



## Club Officers

### President

Rich Birkett  
(208) 660-1975  
birkettstl@gmail.com

### Vice-President

Tom McLaughlin  
(208) 719-0356  
tmclaughlin924@gmail.com

### Secretary

Craig Baumann  
(858) 353-2300  
craigbaumann@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Stephen Sommer  
(805) 878-4613  
stephen@sommerwholesalenursery.com

### Trustees

Wayne Hudlemeyer  
(208) 664-3611  
vwhud@tds.net

### Mark Vehr

(208) 449-8808  
ma2ve2@gmail.com

### Dave Londeree

(208) 946-6631  
dlonderee@roadrunner.com

### Trustee-at-Large

Dave Gillmor  
(208) 920-9000  
davegillmor@gmail.com

## Committees

### Membership

Craig Baumann  
(858) 353-2300  
craigbaumann@gmail.com

### Conservation

Matt Albaugh  
(208) 680-6792  
albaughrodco@gmail.com

### Youth

Dave Londeree  
(208) 946-6631  
dlonderee@roadrunner.com

### Library

Pat Smith  
(480) 374-0218  
smith.patrick075@gmail.com

### Raffles

Dave Gillmor  
(208) 920-9000  
davegillmor@gmail.com

## Programs

\*\*\*\*\*OPEN  
POSITION\*\*\*\*\*  
Volunteer Needed

### Merchandise

Patrick Smith  
(480) 374-0218  
smith.patrick075@gmail.com

### Quartermaster

Dave Londeree  
(208) 946-6631  
dlonderee@roadrunner.com

### Webmaster

Mel Wimmer  
(612) 816-1379  
mrwimmer@msn.com

### Newsletter

Sylvia Bach  
(208) 771-9697  
sylvia.beth.bach@outlook.com

### Newsletter Proofreader

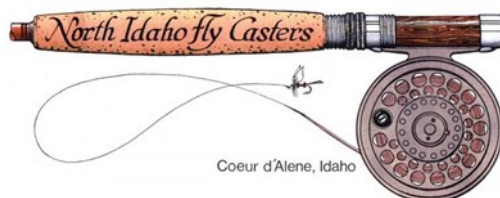
Leslie Balsley  
(425) 785-0511  
RLBalsley@comcast.net

*"I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized... I was somebody!"*

## Club Name Badges Available

You may have noticed club members sporting name badges adorned with the club logo and the owner's name. These badges are beautiful, a real work of art. To order one of these new badges, please contact Pat Smith at 480-374-0218 or [smith.patrick075@gmail.com](mailto:smith.patrick075@gmail.com) and let him make an order to the North Idaho Trophy Co. We can get a break in cost if we order in higher quantities. The cost is about \$15 with a magnetic fastener and about \$12 with a pin back.

An alligator type clip may be attached to the pin for an additional 80 cents.





# NIFC Corporate Memberships

Please support these businesses



Long Drift  
OUTFITTERS

Guided fly fishing & float trips  
Kootenai River, Idaho



Aaron Gordon  
(303) 917-2822

[longdriftoutfitters@gmail.com](mailto:longdriftoutfitters@gmail.com)

**THE RACKETEER**



*Welcome to the family*

(208) 262-9622 605 E. 8th Ave, Suite B, Post Falls, ID



**Mark's Marine**  
Coeur d'Alene Idaho  
*The World's Finest Fishing Boats*

**LUND**  
Waldcraft  
**HEWES**  
Craft

**(208) 772-9038**  
[www.marksmarincinc.com](http://www.marksmarincinc.com)



**Fishing Guides**  
[www.inwguides.com](http://www.inwguides.com)

**Northwest Outfitters**  
Idaho Outfitter # 17908



**Michael Beard**  
Owner/Guide

2171 N. Main St. (208) 667-2707  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 E-Mail: [info@nwoutfitters.com](mailto:info@nwoutfitters.com)

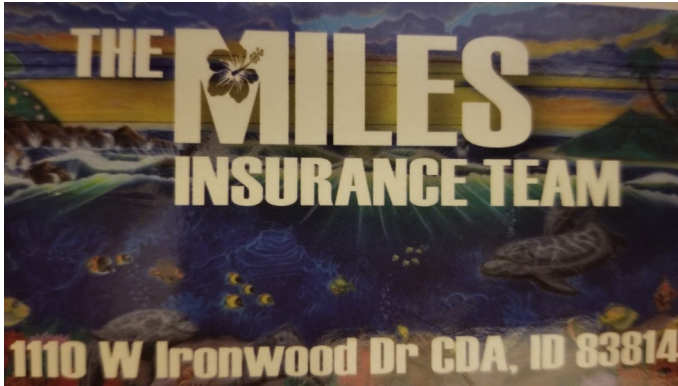
**SAINT MARIES FLIES**  
Derek Darst  
Fly Tyer

333 South 7th Street  
Saint Maries, Idaho. 83861

208-568-0709  
[saintmariesflies@gmail.com](mailto:saintmariesflies@gmail.com)  
Follow us on FaceBook and Instagram

# NIFC Corporate Memberships

## Please support these businesses



**Jeff Smith**

1816 Sherman Avenue  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

208 667-9304  
[www.fins1.com](http://www.fins1.com)

### Your Business Card

Could be Displayed Here and Projected Prior to  
Every North Idaho Fly Casters Club Meeting

**Contact Dave Londeree**

**(208) 946-6631**

[dlonderee@roadrunner.com](mailto:dlonderee@roadrunner.com)

*Find out more about your  
corporate membership benefits!*

## Water Resource Info

Suggestions from our readers

### Regional Fly Shops:

<b>Castaway Fly Shop</b> CDA, ID	1114 N 4th St, <b>208-765-3133</b>
<b>Castaway Outfitters</b> Kingston, ID	1560 CDA River Rd., <b>208-682-2929</b>
<b>North 40 Fly Shop</b> CDA, ID	170 E Kathleen Ave., <b>208-666-0506</b>
<b>Northwest Classic Tackle</b> Hayden, ID	9751 Gov. Way <b>208-772-0372</b>
<b>Northwest Outfitters Orvis</b> CDA, ID	2171 N. Main St., <b>208-667-2707</b>
<b>Silver Bow</b> Spokane Valley, WA	13210 E Indiana Ave., <b>509-924-9998</b>

### Links to Fishing Reports:

<https://nwoutfitters.com/river-reports>

<https://flyshop.north40.com/coeur-d-alene-fishing-reports>

<https://www.silverbowflyshop.com/fishingreports/>

### Weather:

**National Weather Service/NOAA**

<https://forecast.weather.gov/>

### Information (Regs/Maps):

**IDFG North Fork CDA**

<https://idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/water/1162568475573>

<https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/>