



2016 Annual Report





The Idaho Trails Association (ITA) is a non-profit 501(c)3.

Mission

Idaho Trails Association promotes the continued enjoyment of Idaho's hiking trails.

Purpose

To facilitate the active enjoyment of Idaho's public lands and hiking trails, the Idaho Trails Association brings together citizens and develops partnerships to foster:

- Care-taking of Idaho's hiking trails through stewardship projects, including trail construction and maintenance on non-motorized trails.
- Development of traditional trail-maintenance skills.
- Preservation, protection and access to Idaho's hiking trails through outreach and advocacy.

In 2016, Idaho Trails Association completed seventeen projects on the public lands in Idaho administered by the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Our Agency sponsors included the Boise BLM-Bruneau Field Office and the Payette, Boise, Sawtooth, Salmon/Challis and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. We hosted five week-long projects across the state. Four of the projects were within designated Wilderness areas, and one took place in a very remote, spectacular Roadless area in south central Idaho.

ITA provided two weekend work parties that brought people out to wonderful remote areas for overnight camping trips. Both of these events were well attended and very successful, though one was cut short due to the wrath of a fast-approaching winter!

The projects included activities as varied as trailhead maintenance, reopening trails that had been blocked by downed trees and eroded by past fires and overuse, and trail relocation to avoid resource impacts. Our volunteers worked HARD, the projects were rewarding and needed, and the land managers were appreciative of our crews' efforts.

We also branched out into new territories this year, and had success with all of these projects. Logs removed, water bars cleaned and installed, miles of tread reestablished, miles of brush removed—along with miles of those ankle-breaking rocks. And our crews did it all without a single injury!! Traditional skills combined with people who care and are engaged made for a wonderful season!

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2016 by the Numbers!

Number of volunteers— 222
Volunteer field hours— 3,796
Monetary value— \$134,946
Miles of trail cleared— 70.5
Miles of trail reconstructed— 9.8
Logs cut from trail— 460
Brushing— 10 miles
Water bars cleaned— 698
Tread resurfacing— 6 miles
Rock removal— 29 miles
Bridge removal— 1
Turnpike rebuilt— 407 feet
Cribwall construction— 66 feet
Switchbacks constructed— 2
Culverts replaced— 1
Wilderness campsite naturalization— 14
Trash packed out— 168 Pounds
Reconstructed and painted benches— 2
Fence reconstruction— 600 feet
Fence removal— 1200 feet



Project Highlights:

ITA worked on seventeen projects throughout the state of Idaho. Four projects were completed in northern Idaho, two in southern Idaho's Owyhee Canyonlands, and ten projects in central Idaho.

Purjue Canyon, Owyhee Canyonlands, Boise Field Office, Bureau of Land Management.

Volunteers worked their way down Purjue Canyon in the Little Jacks Creek Wilderness to improve the trail into the canyon. Trailhead cleanup and improvement projects were all a part of this great work party in the heart of Idaho's amazing high desert.

Marble Creek, Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, Payette and Challis National Forests.

Six hearty ITA volunteers traveled deep into the heart of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness to work on a very difficult section of the Marble Creek Trail. ITA partnered with the Selway/Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation and the Backcountry Horsemen to accomplish this project. After a hard week of sawing, the Marble Creek trail is once again open!



Little Wood River Project.



Summit Creek on the Challis NF

Toxaway Lake, Sawtooth Wilderness, Sawtooth National Forest

Eleven ITA volunteers spent the week camping at Toxaway Lake in the Sawtooth Wilderness working on the Toxaway trail #096. This was a heavy maintenance project repairing damage from heavy use and water drainage issues. Tons of rocks were moved to fill in eroded sections and fill was carried in by the volunteers to reestablish a reasonable grade for the trail. The work was extremely physical but rewarding; we made huge improvements on one of the most popular trails in central Idaho!



Toxaway Volunteers on top of the world!



Alice/Toxaway Divide, Sawtooth Wilderness

Beehive Trail, Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Fourteen volunteers spent a beautiful day improving the Beehive Trail on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest in northern Idaho. Five logs were removed, forty three water bars were cleaned and four and a half miles of trail were brushed out. Big trees in a beautiful part of Idaho! We are planning on doing more of these projects in north Idaho, so be watching for them!



Happy Trail Volunteers in northern Idaho!



Big trees grown here!

ITA's First Trails Program Specialist and Idaho Centennial Trail Coordinator- Clay Jacobson

In June of 2016, the Idaho Trails Association hired Clay Jacobson as our first Trails Program Specialist and Idaho Centennial Trail Coordinator. Clay has a background in the outdoors and has hiked the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail and the Idaho Centennial Trail, along with many miles logged in various other locations. Clay has a great knowledge of trail and traditional skills and a passion to share these with people. If you don't run into him working and hiking the trails in Idaho, you will probably see him talking about ITA and the Idaho Centennial Trail in one of his slideshow presentations across the northwest.



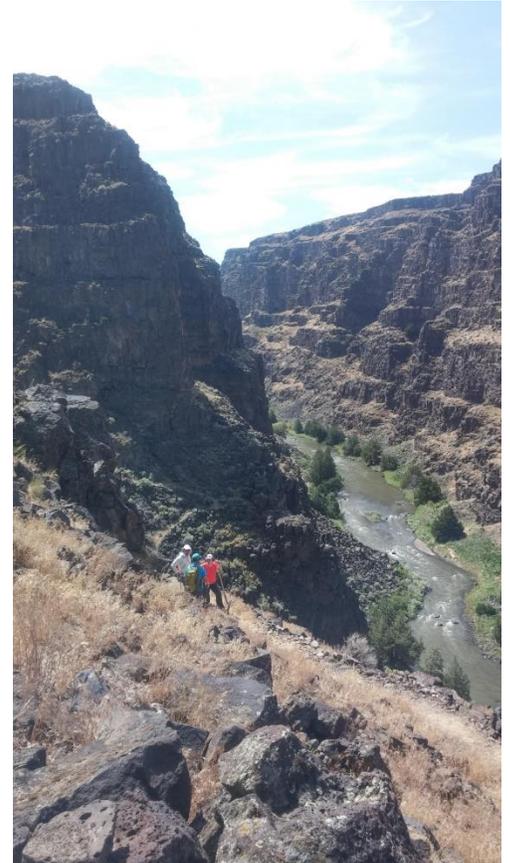
Clay Jacobson taking a much needed break.

Crew Leader College

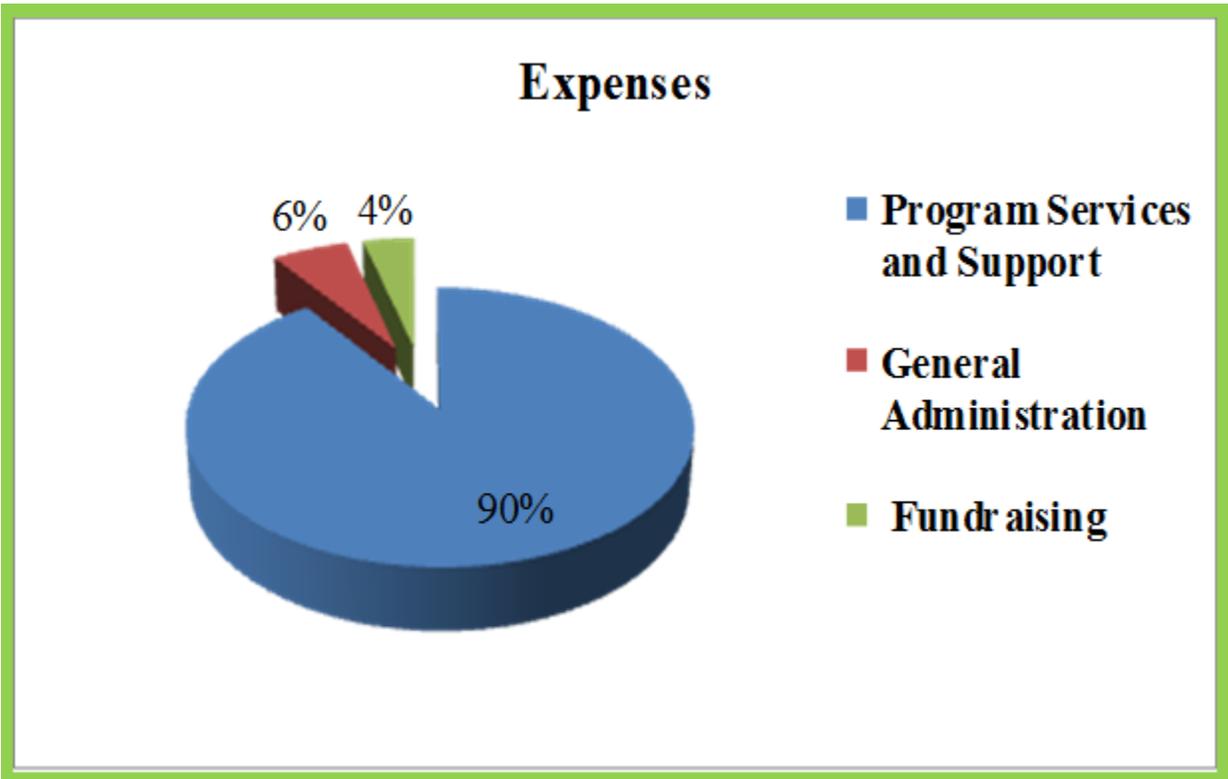
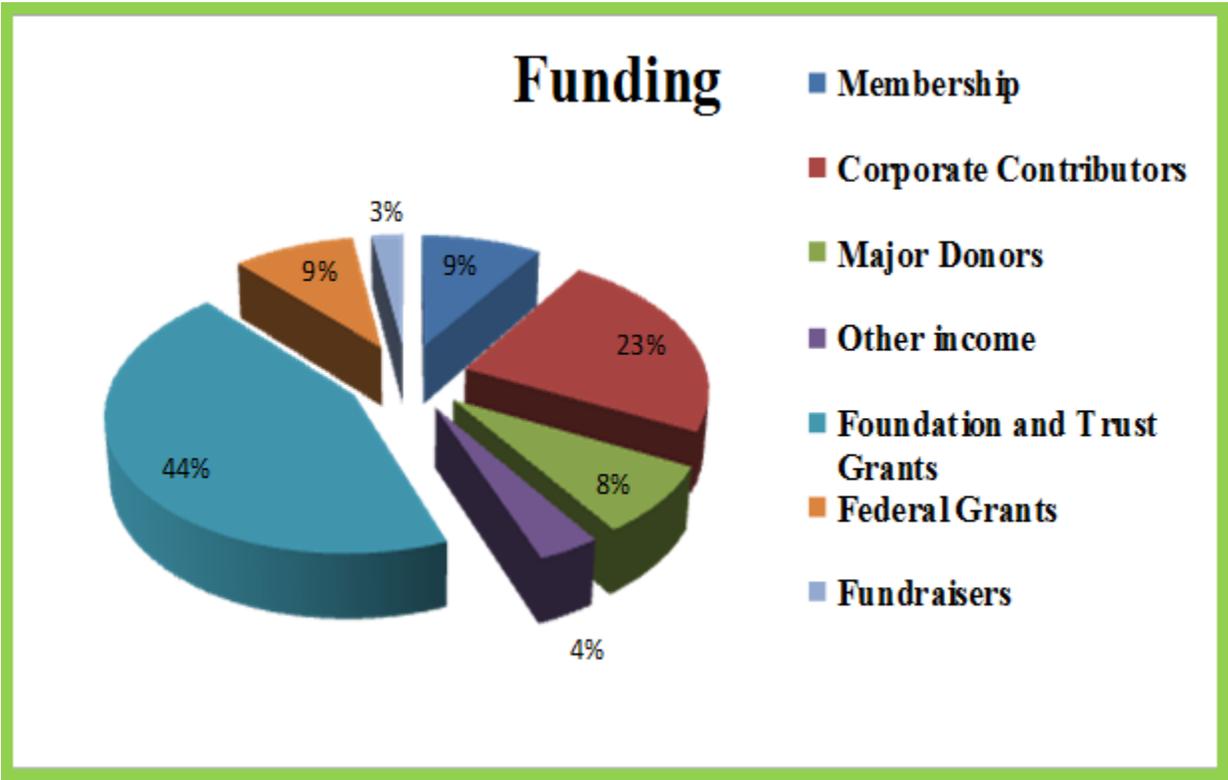
ITA partnered with the McCall Ranger District of the Payette National Forest to host our second annual Crew Leader College. This program is used to train and develop highly skilled crew leaders. Thirteen volunteers spent 3 days learning the skills and gained the certifications needed to lead volunteer projects. Participants learn how to clean and install water bars, properly remove brush, size up and cut logs while working towards your crosscut saw certification is the objective. We have committed to hosting two Crew Leader Colleges in the spring 2017 to help increase the skill level and number of volunteer crew leaders. We will be hosting one Crew Leader College in northern Idaho and one in central Idaho. So watch for those and sign up early if you are interested in leading projects in the future or just want to hone your trail skills!



National Trails Day Volunteers in the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness celebrating after a great day of trail work! From youth to mature, we bring all ages together to help support and appreciate the wonderful trail system Idaho has to offer!



During 2016, Idaho Trails Association received from grants from REI, Sawtooth Society, National Forest Foundation, Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, ON Semiconductors and Clif Bar. Partnerships which supplied funding and materials included the Idaho Conservation League, Shu's Running Company, D&B Supply, and the United States Forest Service. Other funding is listed below.



The Future:

As we look to the future of the Idaho Trails Association, we envision an organization that continues to be well respected, well-run and that accomplishes a great deal of top-notch trail work done with the help of a growing number of members and volunteers.

ITA is taking its second big growth step this coming season after a hugely successful 2016. We're increasing our membership, funding, work projects, and the number of volunteers out in the field. We're putting special emphasis on growing our membership in 2017. Getting more and more people to join is important to any organization. A larger membership base can help us increase our work across the state.

While we have completed a few projects in Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Salmon, Challis and Coeur d'Alene areas, we have little representation here. ITA intends to change that. We hope to partner with other organizations, and reach out to the public to increase the number of stewardship projects in these areas.

As we grow, we will need to increase the number of highly skilled ITA Volunteer Crew leaders. If you're interested in leading a project, get in touch with us and we can get you trained and certified at one of our Crew Leader College trainings this coming spring. These training camps are fun and focused, and provide intense education on trail maintenance skills, crosscut saw certifications, and crew leader expectations. We invite you to get great, hands-on experience from some of the most experienced trail specialists in the Northwest!

Here at ITA we know our future is bright. We're growing our membership, getting more grants and donations, and our work requests outnumber our availability. You can help us grow into the future by getting the word out about the wonderful members and volunteers and work of ITA.

Thoughts from the Executive Director:

The success that the Idaho Trails Association had in 2016 came from our members, volunteers, partners, and funders. As the ITA continues to grow in 2017 and expand our work to more parts of the beautiful State of Idaho, we'll have a positive impact on more hiking trails, public lands, communities, businesses, and individuals.

It's exciting to see projects coming up next year in the Seven Devils and Gospel Hump Wilderness areas. We love these special gems and we're excited to do our part to keep their trails open and accessible. During 2017, we'll also continue to have our signature week long projects in the Sawtooth and new White Clouds Wilderness areas and many other shorter projects in the Payette, Boise, Idaho Panhandle National Forests and the Bureau of Land Management. The list of projects for 2017 is growing rapidly as we confirm with land managers where and how we can help!

The leaders of the ITA are proud of our ability to teach and promote traditional trails skills. We know from experience that these traditional skills help the public participate safely and effectively in volunteer stewardship work on our public lands. We are especially proud of our safety record – 6 years of volunteer labor without a single serious accident.

By safely engaging the public in stewardship activities, we are working to help those volunteers build a strong connection to the great outdoor recreation and beautiful lands in our State has to offer. Then hopefully these people will personally contribute to the future management and direction of these precious resources.

Thank you all for the incredible 2016 that we had together. We look forward to a fantastic 2017.

Jeff Halligan

Our Thanks!

Without all of the support, we would not be so successful: REI, Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, Sawtooth Society, Idaho Conservation League, Shu's Running Company, National Forest Foundation, On Semiconductors, Cabela's, D&B Supply, Clif Bar, Sawtooth Brewing, Payette Brewing Company, In the Wild Chef, Hiking Idaho, Agency Partners, Volunteers, Members, Contributors, Board of Directors and Advisory Board. Thanks to all of you that help behind the scenes!

Your support will help ITA continue to help keep Idaho's hiking trails open to the public. ITA is dedicated to supporting, maintaining and educating the public about Idaho's unique hiking trail system.

To become a member please visit: www.IdahoTrailsAssociation.org



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