



Take A Hike!

The Newsletter Of The Idaho Trails Association

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

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Wilderness. After helping out our large crew of volunteers make a trail in a sagebrush landscape, Dwight went on to help out with every project ITA put on south of the Salmon River. Dwight showed up for more projects than any other volunteer and earned himself a reputation as a hard worker that never met a challenge he could not surmount.



Dwight Allen, Volunteer of the Year

Dwight Allen – Volunteer Of The Year

By: Brad Brooks

Volunteers are at the core of ITA. Dedicated individuals that understand the importance of taking ownership of public lands trails are what make ITA a success. And nobody embodies what ITA is about better than Dwight Allen. Dwight was this year’s recipient for the **Volunteer of the Year Award**.

Dwight first showed up to volunteer in June for the Parker Trail project in the Big Jack’s Creek

Dwight was a stalwart and a dependable volunteer on every project he worked on, embodying those traits that every dedicated public servant should strive for. We are honored to be giving him our first ever volunteer of the year award, and we hope to see Dwight out on the trail again next year.

If you want to find out why Dwight enjoys volunteering for ITA, you will have to find out for yourself by joining us out on the trail.

Congratulations, Dwight!

ITA Intern Joe Pickett Makes Field Season A Success

By: Brad Brooks

If you took the time to attend one of ITA's trail projects this year, chances are you had the pleasure of meeting Joe Pickett, our intern extraordinaire. Joe was a tremendous asset to ITA, and he was the person behind the scenes organizing the innumerable logistics to ensure each and every project was a success.



ITA summer intern, Joe Pickett

If you volunteered your time with ITA this summer, you knew Joe as the enthusiastic and friendly person that we all know him to be. Joe came on with ITA with a long list of job responsibilities and very little time to prepare. With high expectations, and little preparation, we threw him into the proverbial fire, and luckily he survived. Not only was Joe able to adeptly handle anything we threw at him, he always did it with a smile on his face. Whether Joe was swinging a Pulaski, building a bridge, recruiting volunteers, shuffling paper work, or updating our status on Facebook, he always did an exemplary job, and he will be sorely missed.

Unfortunately for us, Joe had to return to school after the season was over. The College of Idaho is lucky to have him back, but we mourn still. We are

going to miss Joe's incredible work ethic and positive attitude, but we are looking forward to our next crew of volunteers and interns in 2012.

ITA Continues To Build Trail Stewardship Role

By: Brad Smith

As many of our members and supporters know, one of ITA's core objectives is to help keep Idaho's hiking trails safe, sustainable, and enjoyable. In 2011 we were able to accomplish a great deal of trail work with the help of our volunteers and supporters.

This year ITA hired an intern to organize and recruit volunteers for six trail projects, ranging as far north as the Idaho Panhandle and as far south as the Owyhee Canyonlands.

Our intern, Joe Pickett recruited 58 volunteers, who contributed a combined 1,036 hours of volunteer service. Our volunteers repaired and maintained more than 22 miles of hiking trails, cleared out 189 downed trees and logs, and repaired 188 water drains. Additionally, volunteers constructed more than two miles of new trail, built two new trail bridges, and built one new trailhead kiosk.

The trails our volunteers worked on included the Beehive Lakes Trail on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, the Kennally Creek Trail on the Payette National Forest, the Wewukiye and Crooked River Trails on the Boise National Forest, and the Parker Trail in the Big Jacks Creek Wilderness. ITA also partnered with the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation on phase two of the Dan Ridge Trail Project in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, where ITA and SBFCF partnered to reopen the trail, which had not been maintained in ten years.

I was fortunate to participate in three of these projects, including the Parker Trail, Kennally Creek, and Beehive Lakes Trail Projects. It was personally gratifying to help our land managers take care of our hiking trails. It was also inspiring to see volunteers enthusiastically cutting out brush, repairing trail tread, and cleaning out water drains.

When I asked volunteers about their experiences, many remarked that they will never look at a trail the same way again. Much like when someone creates their own art work, our volunteers expressed that they have a greater appreciation and respect for our trails than ever before. This was evident as several volunteers came back to volunteer a second or even third time this summer.

All told, 2011 was a great year for us, our volunteers, and for Idaho's hiking trails. As we look to the future, we hope to continue to increase our commitment to trail stewardship.

New Requirements For Recreating In Grizzly Bear Country

By: Brad Smith

The Idaho Panhandle National Forest recently adopted new rules for recreationists and sportsmen using National Forest System lands north of the Clark Fork River, Lake Pend Oreille, and Pend Oreille River. The affected areas include the Priest Lake Ranger District, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, and portions of the Sandpoint Ranger District.

The intent of the new rules is to reduce the risk of negative encounters with grizzly bears that might result in serious injury or death. We strongly encourage hikers, sportsmen, and other recreationists to read the new rules in their entirety

by visiting the Idaho Panhandle National Forest website at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf>



Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service

In summary, the new rules require:

- All food, beverages, game, processed livestock food, pet food, and garbage must be hung at least 10 feet high and 4 feet from any vertical support or stored inside an approved bear-resistant storage container, closed hard-sided vehicle, or building secure from wildlife entry.
- Game meat must be properly stored at least 100 yards from sleeping areas, recreation sites, and National Forest Service system trails.
- Game meat, if left on the ground, must be at least one-half mile from any sleeping area or recreation site and 200 yards from National Forest Service system trails.
- All food, beverages, game, processed livestock food, pet food, and garbage shall not be buried, discarded, or burned in an open campfire. These items shall be disposed of in bear-resistant garbage containers (if available) or stored in bear-resistant storage containers until such time as they can be packed out or disposed of in bear-resistant garbage containers.

These rules apply from **April 1st through December 1st** of each year when grizzly bears are not in hibernation.

Again, we encourage all recreationists and sportsmen visiting these areas to read the new rules for themselves, take them seriously, and help to reduce the risk of negative encounters with grizzly bears that might result in serious injury or death.

Approved bear-resistant storage containers are listed on the following website:

<http://www.igbconline.org/html/container.html>

Thanks To Our Volunteers

We owe a debt of gratitude to the following volunteers for contributing their personal time to help keep Idaho’s hiking trails safe, sustainable, and enjoyable. Volunteers that contribute six or more hours of volunteer service are entitled to a free one-year ITA membership.

*Anne Morrison
Bill Woolston
Brad Brooks
Brad Smith
Brenda Bielke
Dan Simmons
Daniela Anguita
Doug Burke
Dwight Allen
Fred Herbert
Jace Bylenga
Jeff Flaker
Holly Beck
Jeff Halligan
Jim Dubuisson
Joanne Matibag
John Dale
John McCarthy
John Sullivan*

*Karsten Peer
Kevin Robertson
Laura Lazurus
Lauri West
Margaret Fuller
Marisa Godfrey
Mark Werthman
Michael Carpenter
Phil Hough
R. Erickson
Rob Mason
Sally Ferguson
Sharon Burdick
Shaundra Fontain
Sue Chelstrum
Sylvia Cooper
Todd Tucker
Tony Huff
Trisha Miller*

Major Gifts

We would like to thank the following donors for their financial contributions above and beyond the Regular Membership level.

Pulaski Members (\$100)

*Christina Perdos
Jeff Halligan and Jenni Blake*



Great turnout for National Trails Day

IRS Approves Tax Exempt Status

By: Brad Smith

In August the IRS officially approved ITA’s tax exempt status. Yes, it is a bit of a formality. But for members and donors, it means that your generous contributions are tax deductible. For ITA, it means that our revenues won’t be taxed as profit. There are few things as boring as the tax code, but this is an exciting step forward on the trail to organizational success.

About Our Supporters

We would like to thank **REI**, the **U.S. Forest Service**, the **National Forest Foundation**, **The Wilderness Society**, and our **members** for their generous financial support, which makes our work possible! We would also like to thank the **American Hiking Society** for contributing volunteer support for the Wewukiye Trail Project through their Volunteer Vacations program!

REI is a national outdoor retailer co-op dedicated to inspiring, educating and outfitting its members and the community for a lifetime of outdoor adventure and stewardship. Founded in 1938 by a group of Pacific Northwest mountaineers seeking quality outdoor equipment, REI is committed to promoting environmental stewardship and increasing access to outdoor recreation through volunteerism, gear donations and financial contributions.

The Northern and Intermountain Regions of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, recreation and trails program mission, in part, is to support the Idaho Trails Association in the formulation of cooperative partnerships in the management, operation, and maintenance of trails on National Forest System Lands.

The National Forest Foundation, chartered by Congress, engages America in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the 193-million acre National Forest System, and accepts and administers private gifts of funds and land for the benefit of the National Forests.

The Wilderness Society's mission is to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. Since its founding in 1935, The Wilderness Society has led the effort to permanently protect as designated Wilderness nearly 110 million acres in 44 states.

Founded in 1976, American Hiking Society is the only national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and protecting America's foot trails, their surrounding natural areas and the hiking experience.

Become A Member

<http://www.IdahoTrailsAssociation.org/Membership/>

Board of Directors

Sally Ferguson, President
Boise, Idaho

Phil Hough, Vice President
Sagle, Idaho

Brad Smith, Secretary
Sandpoint, Idaho

Brad Brooks
Boise, Idaho

Rob Mason
Missoula, Montana

The Idaho Trails Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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