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## A Proposal to Redistribute the State OHV Gas Tax

Idaho's Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) is made up of two distinctly different sections: parks and recreation. The Park section's budget comes from general funds, entrance fees, and money from the state gas tax. The Recreation section is financed entirely by dedicated funds generated from registrations, and federal and state off-highway vehicle (OHV) gas tax revenue. *No general fund money is used for any part of the recreation program or its activities.*

### Current Situation

How IDPR's Recreation section is now funded:

#### Registrations:

■ Snowmobiles	45,000
■ Dirt Motorcycles/ATVs	136,000
■ Boats	88,000

#### State Gas Tax:

Gas tax in Idaho is used primarily to fund highway maintenance and state police. Those who burn fuel away from the road system, such as farmers and loggers, can have that tax refunded. Off-road recreationists have agreed to forgo the refunds in return for transferring 3 percent of the gas tax collections to IDPR. This fuel tax transfer is a reasonable way for dirt motorcyclists, ATVers, boaters and snowmobilers to contribute to the development and maintenance of needed recreation facilities.

The current formula for the distribution of the gas tax was determined in 1988, 63-2412.

It provides for the following distribution:

28%	Off/Road Motor Vehicle Fund (ORMV)
28%	Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF)
28%	Capital Improvement Fund (CIF)
15%	Road and Bridge Fund (R&B)
1%	Search and Rescue
100%	<b>Total of where the 3% is earmarked to go</b> <i>(Up to 20% of the total is allowed for administration costs)</i>

#### Federal Gas Tax:

The Recreation Trails Program (RTP) is a "user-pay/user-benefit" federal program created to return a modest portion of the fuel taxes paid by off-highway vehicle owners to state trails programs. This program is a benefit to recreationists who use the trails system. RTP is responsible for only 0.2 percent of the overall funding of the federal highway program. However, because of the economic crisis and the reduction of federal gas tax being collected, the probability of states continuing to receive these funds is highly unlikely.

## Proposed Change For The Future

Facing the likely loss of RTP funding and rising costs associated with maintaining and improving the recreation infrastructure, the Idaho Recreation Council feels that now is the right time to deal with the issue of state gas tax distribution. Since the current formula was set in 1988, OHV and boating use has dramatically increased. We believe that the distribution formula should be revisited and adjusted to put this money where the actual use is occurring on the ground.

### The Proposed Distribution Formula:

39%	Off-Road Motor Vehicle Fund (ORMV)
39%	Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF)
14%	Capital Improvement Fund (CIF)
7%	Road and Bridge (R&B)
1%	Search and Rescue
<b>100%</b>	<b>Total of where the 3% is earmarked to go</b> <i>(Up to 20% of the total is allowed for administration costs)</i>

This new formula was based on the actual fuel consumed by snowmobiles, ATVs, dirt motorcycles, and boats. We used a three-year average of 2009, 2010, and 2011 on which to base the new proposed formula.

	Snowmobiles	ATVs & Dirt Motorcycles	Boats	Total
<b>Average Annual Fuel Consumption</b>	56.5 gallons	33.7 gallons	86.6 gallons	—
<b>Registrations</b>				
2011	47,275	137,141	81,850	266,266
2010	41,383	136,847	88,933	267,163
2009	43,523	135,362	91,350	270,235
<b>State Fuels Tax*</b>				
2011	\$667,759	\$1,155,412	\$1,772,052	<b>\$3,595,223</b>
2010	\$584,534	\$1,152,935	\$1,925,399	<b>\$3,662,868</b>
2009	\$614,762	\$1,140,424	\$1,977,725	<b>\$3,732,911</b>
				<b>3-Year Average</b> <b>\$3,663,667</b>

\* Note: figures are based on fuel consumption x registrations x \$0.25 (State Fuels Tax)

For more information or to answer any questions you may have, please contact:

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