

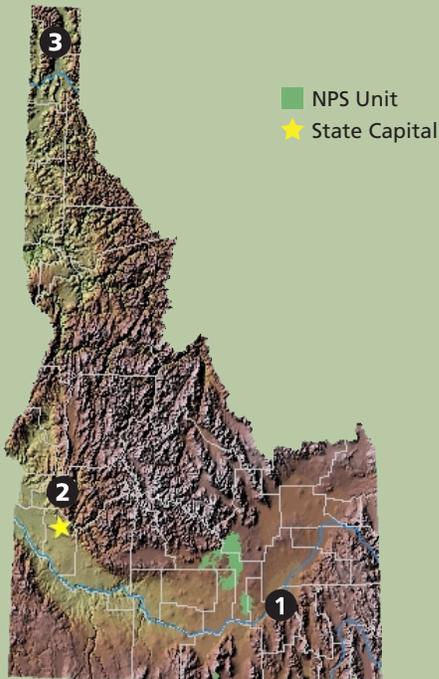


# Idaho News



Pend Oreille River at Oldtown Bridge. Photo: Nick Ivie

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. **Ferry Hollow Trail**  
Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
2. **Payette River Basin Water Trails**  
West Central Highlands Resource Conservation & Development
3. **Pend Oreille River Passage Trail**  
Priest Community Forest Connection

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### Shaffer Butte Trail System, Boise, ID

South West Idaho Mountain Bike Association (SWIMBA) was looking for some trails that were close to Boise but were in the mountains rather than the foothills. They wanted a place for people to ride and hike that had tree cover and provided a respite from the heat of the summer in the Treasure Valley. SWIMBA had an idea for a trail system that would be on Boise National Forest (BNF) and Bogus Basin Ski Resort lands. The problem for SWIMBA was how to work with multiple landowners, wade through the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process, and get everyone to agree on a game plan.

The National Park Service served in the role of neutral convener and facilitator for SWIMBA and their partners. NPS staff worked with SWIMBA, Bogus Basin, BNF, and Ridge to Rivers (a nonprofit trail and land managing entity funded by multiple governmental agencies) to create an existing conditions inventory, make recommendations for new trails, and agree on management and maintenance responsibilities.

After the stakeholders agreed on a plan, the Shaffer Butte Trail System Plan, Boise National Forest took the plan through the NEPA process. The project was able to “sail” through the environmental process because the issues that might have normally come up in NEPA were recognized and dealt with in the planning process. Since the creation of the plan, SWIMBA and Bogus Basin have hosted annual festivals and events on the new trail system. SWIMBA and Ridge to Rivers secured grants from Idaho Parks and Recreation Department for trail development. Currently, there are over 30 miles of trails on the system with more to come.

## We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.

### Sue Abbott

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### Alex Stone

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## 2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

### ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Find more information online at

[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

*“National Park Service assistance was critical in making this effort a reality. The NPS helped the partners to focus and collaboratively solve all of the issues involved in creating a 50 plus mile trail system on multiple land owners, constructed by volunteers and maintained by a nonprofit. I am not sure we could have done it without NPS.”*

- Dan Meeker, SWIMBA

## Current Projects

### 1. Ferry Hollow Trail

Project Partner: Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust  
NPS Contact: Sue Abbott  
Location: Southeast Idaho  
Congressional District: ID - 2

#### Project Goal

Develop a 15-mile multiuse riverside trail that connects Massacre State Park and American Falls Reservoir with the community of American Falls.

#### NPS Role

Provide assistance to the newly-forming trails group in developing a concept plan for the trail corridor.

### 2. Payette River Basin Water Trails

Project Partner: West Central Highlands Resource Conservation & Development  
NPS Contact: Sue Abbott  
Location: Payette, Gem, Boise, and Valley Counties  
Congressional District: ID - 1

#### Project Goal

Develop a system of water trails with improved access, portages, and camping areas in the Payette River Basin.

#### NPS Role

Work with project partners to form a coalition and action plan for managing the water trails.

### 3. Pend Oreille River Passage Trail

Project Partner: Priest Community Forest Connection  
NPS Contact: Alexandra Stone  
Location: Oldtown, Priest River, LaCede, and Dover  
Congressional District: ID - 1

#### Project Goal

Develop a 25-mile trail that connects four communities and links to trails continuing east to Sandpoint and west to Washington.

#### NPS Role

Assist trail partners with public and youth involvement, visioning, and goals. Host a design workshop with the Idaho-Montana and Washington chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects.



The Payette River Basin Water Trails Coalition envisions a system of whitewater and flatwater trails throughout the watershed. Photo: NPS