

IDAHO STATE POLICIES



The Center for Western Priorities' **Western States Conservation Scorecard** evaluates each Western state in three areas: Lands and Access, Outdoor Recreation, and Responsible Energy Development. Our aim is to illuminate best practices and gaps in state-level public lands-related policy in the West. We hope to highlight where Western states are demonstrating leadership, as well as where they can improve. Please see the full report for a breakdown of methodology and the complete grading rubrics with scores at www.westernpriorities.org/statescorecard.

IDAHO	LANDS AND ACCESS	OUTDOOR RECREATION	RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
	AVERAGE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

AVERAGE — LANDS AND ACCESS

Idaho has stellar stream and state trust lands access. In Idaho, **boaters are permitted** to wade and float on rivers, scout within high water marks, and portage around obstructions as needed. Recreational use of Idaho's "endowment lands" is allowed unless it interferes with other management activities. The Idaho Department of Lands recently **released** new **maps** highlighting recreation access on state trust lands, which show that 96 percent of Idaho's remaining trust lands are accessible by foot or boat. Idaho's **AccessYes!** program is a useful guide for crossing private property to get to public lands. Unfortunately, Idaho has no public lands day and little, if any, dedicated funding for conservation.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT — OUTDOOR RECREATION

Idaho does poorly in this category with no office of outdoor recreation, no dedicated funding for outdoor education, and no funding for outdoor infrastructure—with the exception of the **Idaho Off-Road Motor Vehicle Fund**, which is funded annually through a portion of the state gas tax. Idaho has an **Every Kid in the Park** initiative that grants fourth graders free access to Idaho State Parks.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT — RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Idaho has limited state-level responsible energy development policies. In 2016, Idaho **decided** to keep the oil and gas setback requirement at 300 feet instead of raising it to 500 feet. The state allows blanket bonding for oil and gas well reclamation. When it comes to spill reporting and transparency, Idaho has a spill reporting hotline, but does not provide easily accessible, publicly available spills data online. The state requires companies to share fracking chemicals through **FracFocus**. The state of Idaho matches the federal oil and gas royalty rate of 12.5 percent, charges a severance tax on oil and gas production, but does not have a conservation tax. Idaho does not require water testing before or after drilling, and does not have methane capture rules.