



Executive Department  
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor  
**Proclamation**

State Capitol  
Boise

## 2012 GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

WHEREAS, Idahoans have the opportunity to participate in a variety of recreational activities from whitewater rafting and hiking to camping and fishing; and

WHEREAS, outdoor activities contribute to the physical well-being and happiness of the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is dedicated to protecting our wildlife heritage and the mission of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is "To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship;" and

WHEREAS, resource stewardship is not possible without a strong sense of connection to the natural world; and

WHEREAS, Idaho recognizes the troubling trend of disconnection, called "nature deficit," where children spend on average 6½ hours each day engaged in electronic media such as video games and television, and are spending half as much time outdoors as they did just 20 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is committed to finding solutions to reverse the "nature deficit" trend in Idaho by reconnecting children to the great outdoors through outdoor youth programming, opportunities for recreation on public lands, and environmental and natural resource education; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is committed to accommodating changing recreational needs and growing populations in parks such as Eagle Island, where a new kind of urban park is being created with recreational amenities such as kayaking, camping, horseback riding and nature study; and

WHEREAS, June 11 is Free Fishing Day in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation is a major contributor to tourism, Idaho's third-largest industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim June 2012 to be

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in Idaho, and I invite citizens to observe this month by taking advantage of the many opportunities our state offers for family outdoor recreation activities.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-sixth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty second.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

BEN YSURSA  
SECRETARY OF STATE