

Park Name: Priest Lake		Statute #: 67-4212(1)	First Established: 1959	Acres: 756
Classification: Natural		Primary Attraction: Lakefront on Priest Lake		
Secondary Attractions: Forests, swimming beaches, logging history				
Recreation Activities: Camping, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, cycling, fishing, boating, swimming, horseshoes, water sports, volleyball, nordic skiing, snowmobiling				
History				
Local History: The park gets its name from the "Black Robe" Priests of the Jesuit order who had visited the area in the French-Canadian fur trading era. The Crenshaw brothers came and built a cabin on a mining claim on Eight Mile Island in 1897. Nell Shipman came to the lake in 1921 to film a movie, made a home there and did much to promote the area. The Diamond Match Company had a floating logging camp at Indian Springs. In the early 1950s, the state endowment lands in the area were managed by a State Forest Timber Protective Association.				
Park History: The Division of Parks of the Idaho Department of Lands took over responsibility for Indian Creek in 1959. In 1966, IDPR took over the management of the endowment property in the places that would become Priest Lake State Park. In 1967, the Indian Creek campground was developed. The IDPR formally purchased the properties from the Department of Lands in 1977. In 1986, the Diamond Match Company offered IDPR 285 acres of property at Lionhead. The Squaw Bay property was acquired from the Nature Conservancy in 1986. The Dickensheets property was donated to IDPR by a local rancher.				
Natural Resources				
Types of Ecosystems Present: Ponderosa pine/Douglas fir forest, lake, river, stream, riparian			Environmental Quality: Very good	
Significant Fauna: Whitetail deer, mule deer, black bear, moose, squirrels, racoons, coyotes, bald eagle, waterfowl, perch, kokanee, rainbow trout, brook trout, lake trout, bull trout, cutthroat trout.				
Significant Flora: Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, grand fir, western red cedar, western larch, western hemlock, lodgepole pine, western white pine, huckleberry, thimble berry, black cottonwood, aspen, alder, paper birch, wild rose.				
Invasive/Noxious Species: Unknown			Elevation: 2,440	
% Developed: 40%	% Undeveloped: 60%		Non-conforming uses: Unknown	
Visitation				
Day Use: 118,987	Camping: 65,191	Annual Total: 184,178 (2017)		
Economic Impact as provided in 2018 BSU Study: \$5,302,000				
Recreation Amenities				
Paved Roads (Miles): 1.5		Gravel Roads (Miles): 5		Day Use Areas: 5
Paved Parking Lots: 5	Gravel Parking Lots: 7	Boat Ramps: 2	Docks: 10	Group Shelters: 1
Miles of trail (paved/gravel): 1		Miles of Trail (unimproved): 5		Visitor Centers: 1
Entrance Stations: 1	Improved Restrooms: 5	Vault Toilets: 10	Campsites Serviced (W,E,S): 11	

Campsites Serviced (W, E, or W&E): 62		Companion Campsites Serviced (W,E,S): 0	Dump Stations: 1
Companion Campsites Serviced (W,E): 0		Campsites Primitive/ Standard: 78	Group sites (including equestrian): 1
Camping Cabins: 6	Deluxe Cabins: 0	Yurts: 0	Cottages: 0
Future Plans			
A state park master plan is not available.			
Issues and Remarks			
The park consists of three unconnected units: Dickensheet, Indian Creek, and Lionhead. There are 6 picnic tables available for day use. There are 15 boat mooring spots available. The Indian Creek Unit has the deepest boat launch ramp on Priest Lake. This park's campgrounds are the first to fill on reservations.			