



Beth Schafer <beth@myfamilyradio.com>

PONDEROSA STATE PARK VISITOR CENTER TO BE DEDICATED TO FORMER GOVERNOR DIRK KEMPTHORNE IN AUGUST 4TH CEREMONY

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Jennifer Okerlund <Jennifer.Okerlund@idpr.idaho.gov>

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Jennifer Okerlund, Communications Manager

208-514-2254 / Jennifer.Okerlund@idpr.idaho.gov

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McCall (July 31, 2018) – The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) announced today that the Visitor Center at Ponderosa State Park will be dedicated in honor of former governor Dirk Kempthorne in a ceremony taking place Saturday, August 4, 2018 at 10am on the back lawn behind the park facility located in McCall. The public is invited to attend.

Governor Kempthorne was instrumental in 2006 with a successful initiative titled "Experience Idaho," that secured \$11 million dollars for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) to invest in new Idaho State Park infrastructure.

"Governor Kempthorne's contribution during his tenure was so significant to our state park system," said David Langhorst, IDPR Director. "Without his passion and support for outdoor experiences, the Visitor Center at Ponderosa State Park wouldn't exist, nor would many of the facilities at Lake Walcott, Heyburn, Harriman and Castle Rocks State Parks."

During the ceremony at Ponderosa State Park, Kempthorne will be honored for his commitment to green space and access in Idaho - and on a federal scale - also paying tribute to his time as Secretary of the Interior.

The dedication ceremony and recognition of Governor Kempthorne's contributions will extend beyond the name on the building and plaque in the former Governor's honor. A new interpretive experience and loaner backpack program will also be unveiled at the event, further paying tribute to the Governor's conservation legacy.

"Dirk's passion lies in public access and encouraging youth to explore and develop a sense of wonder and appreciation for the outdoors," said Patricia Kempthorne. "The backpack program creates a way for families to have easy access to the equipment they need to enrich their experiences within Idaho's State Parks and honors his commitment, hopefully inspiring the next generation of nature's caretakers."

Private fundraising efforts in partnership with the Friends of Idaho State Parks, raised the money to cover all costs associated with the dedication and contributions to expanded interpretive programming within nearly every Idaho State Park.