

*Great Outdoors Month*

*WHEREAS, Idahoans are enthusiastic participants 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, in 2008 we will celebrate the Centennial of state parks in Idaho; and*

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

*WHEREAS, Eagle Island State Park is one of many examples where the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are partners in helping Idahoans enjoy the great outdoors, and*

*WHEREAS, June 9 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 to be*

**GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH**

*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.*