

# 2013 Public Lands Transportation Scholar Program

## Application

If there are any questions, please call the TRIPTAC helpline at (877) 704-5292, or e-mail [helpdesk@triptac.org](mailto:helpdesk@triptac.org)

### Project Information

**Project Title:** Planning for an Alternative Transportation Facility within the Redfish Lake Recreation Complex and between the Redfish Complex and Stanley, Idaho.

**Project Abstract (150 word limit):**

In 2012 we received funding through the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program to complete planning for an alternative transportation facility within the Redfish Lake Recreation Complex and from the complex to Stanley, Idaho. In addition to this project, we have completed the environmental planning and begun design on the Redfish Lake Road and Bridge project. A value analysis completed on the project in October, 2012, recognized the need for “additional planning to assess parking needs, trail planning, potential traffic conflicts, and goals for the road segments to be decommissioned”. The purpose of this project would be to complete comprehensive transportation planning within the Redfish Lake Recreation Complex and between the complex and Stanley, Idaho.

**Project Description (250 word limit):**

*Please describe the need for a Transportation Scholar at you park. Carefully describe the project on which the Transportation Scholar would work.*

The Redfish Lake Recreation Complex is the most popular destination within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. During peak summer use, it is the largest community in Custer County, Idaho. Included in the complex are 5 campgrounds, 1 boatramp, 1 lodge (operated by permittee), and 3 day-use facilities serving 2,200 people at one time. All of these facilities are located in close proximity to each other, yet there are limited transportation facilities other than the 2 main roads for pedestrians and cyclists to access the various recreation sites. While vehicular traffic roadway congestion is not a problem, parking lots for day use overflow on weekends. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic is heavy along roads and trails throughout the summer months. Navigating these distances can be challenging since there are no directional signs, surfacing ranges from native to paved, and redundant trails occur. Visitor safety is a primary concern given that bicycles and pedestrians share routes with full sized vehicles. An alternative transportation facility designed specifically for pedestrians and bicycles to travel between sites in the complex would increase the safety of the existing roads by separating motorized and non-motorized uses, decrease congestion at day-use parking sites, and reduce gas emissions from short trips in between sites. An alternative transportation route between Stanley and the Redfish Lake Complex is also desired by the community. Redfish Lake is a popular day-use destination for travelers staying in Stanley, but having a non-vehicular access route to the complex would add options for those travelers.

**Project Products and Benefits (250 word limit):**

*Please describe the potential products you would like to have produced from a scholar.  
Please describe how unit resources and/or visitors will benefit from this alternative transportation product.*

There are currently two projects in different stages of planning, the Stanley-Redfish Trail and the Redfish Road and Bridge Project, which need to be coordinated so that they serve the needs of the public. The transportation scholar would work closely with a landscape architect and outdoor recreation planner to evaluate the transportation needs in the Redfish Lake Recreation Complex and a connecting trail to the City of Stanley. They would develop a proposed action for analysis by an interdisciplinary team. The scholar would analyze the results of a user survey that will be conducted during summer 2013. Survey results will be incorporated into the proposed action and alternatives. The City of Stanley is currently working on planning for a city park that would be the northern hub of the proposed Stanley-Redfish trail. The scholar would analyze the trailhead needs and look at several alternatives to provide those needs. The scholar would also ensure that the proposed action and any other identified alternatives were integrated with the Redfish Road and Bridge project. Work would include field observations and surveys, studying previous planning documents and findings, establishing data gaps and ways to fill those gaps, analysis of existing facilities and needed facilities, coordination with Forest Service employees and partners, and general project management duties.

**Project Contributions:**

*Please describe how the scholar's work will continue to the unit's long-term transportation planning objectives.*

The two projects previously described will provide benefits to the public for the next fifty years. It is critical that the Forest Service completes comprehensive, unbiased, and technically accurate analysis and design of facilities that will fulfill the needs of the public while living within the means of Forest Service to provide long-term operation and maintenance. Having the transportation scholar available to dedicate technical skill and coordination to the projects will allow the work to be done in a much more timely and cost-effective manner than relying on the existing staff of the Sawtooth NRA and Sawtooth National Forest. They will also bring current skills in transportation planning and alternative transportation that aren't currently available on the unit.

**Project Partners:** Project partners include the City of Stanley, the Stanley Chamber of Commerce, Custer County, the Redfish Lake Lodge, and the Sawtooth Society. In addition Congressman Mike Simpson and his staff are interested in the project and have been instrumental in bringing attention to alternative transportation and recreation needs and opportunities.

**Project Requirements:**

*Please identify any issues the park would have in meeting the program requirements listed in Section B of the RFP.*

No issues are anticipated.

**Housing Availability**

*Please describe in detail the housing that will be made available to the scholar.*

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*Will you provide housing on-site or will a stipend be given for the scholar to obtain their own housing off-site?*

Housing will be provided at the Stanley Administrative Site or in the Ketchum, Idaho, area.

*If the housing is on-site, is the housing shared, and if so, what is the turnover rate for the tenants residing in the house?*

Housing will most likely be shared through September or October. After the majority of temporary employees leave, there may be a house available for dedicated use by the scholar or they could continue in a shared situation.

*If a stipend will be given, will the stipend be given before the first of the month or will it be given as a reimbursement?*

No stipend will be given.

## **Car Usage and Availability**

***Will a car be required for transportation to and from the unit and the available housing?***

If the scholar is stationed at the Stanley Administrative Site, the housing provided is within a ¼-mile of the Stanley Ranger Station, where office space will be provided for the scholar. No vehicle would be required in this case. If the scholar is stationed in the Ketchum area, the scholar could participate in existing car pools.

***If the scholar does not own a car, will a car be provided for work related activities?***

A shared vehicle will be provided for work related activities.

***If the scholar does not own a car, can a car be provided for non-work related activities? i.e. going to the grocery store and airport***

No vehicle will be available for non-work related activities; however, we will arrange transportation to and from an airport if needed. Local transportation for non-work related activities will be the responsibility of the scholar.