Intermountain Bird Observatory

Lucky Peak Pre-visit Information

Please print this information to share with your trip leaders and chaperones

Introduction to Lucky Peak
The Lucky Peak field station is located on Idaho Fish and Game’s Boise River Wildlife Management Area at the top of Highland Valley Road in the Boise Foothills. It is accessible by higher-clearance 4x4 vehicles, mountain bike, or on foot. The site offers scenic views of the Treasure Valley from the summit of Lucky Peak. The research station is in operation between July 16th and October 28th every year, and we welcome visitors. From late August through mid-October our Songbird, Hawk, and Owl projects are all running, meaning research is happening at Lucky Peak 24/7! This is the perfect time to schedule a group trip to experience IBO.

Before your visit please take a minute to read the following guidelines and information.
You can read more about Lucky Peak here: [http://IBO.boisestate.edu/visit/](http://IBO.boisestate.edu/visit/)
And read our visitor FAQ here: [http://ibo.boisestate.edu/visitor-faqs/](http://ibo.boisestate.edu/visitor-faqs/)

Guidelines for your visit:

**Vehicles**
Once on Highland Valley Road, follow the signs to the field station. After a ~5-mile drive on this steep, narrow dirt road, you will arrive at a locked gate. Please park your car in an orderly fashion near the gate and pit toilet, continue on foot through the pedestrian gate, and walk the ~200 yards to the station. Be sure not to block the gate or other vehicles.
Vehicles are only allowed in the main camp with special permission (e.g. mobility impaired visitors). Contact us if you need gate access and we can arrange to open it for you.

**Toilet**
Visitors are welcome to use our pit toilet. We ask that all visitors using the toilet do their part to help us keep the bathroom clean. For overnight visitors and groups of 10 or more, please bring a ‘donation’ of toilet paper. This will ensure that your group has enough for your visit, and that our crew does not run out. There is no sink or running water, so be sure to bring hand sanitizer. A spray bottle with cleaner is available in the bathroom to clean up any messes.
When leaving the toilet, please make sure the lid is closed and the door is unlocked.
Behavior in camp:
It is the chaperones’ responsibility to manage youth behavior in camp, not the IBO crew’s.

Please keep noise levels down while visiting our station. We ask that visitors use their ‘indoor voices’ near banding activities to keep bird and scientist stress low. Observe quiet hours until 9am in the main camp (no slamming of car doors, shouting, or loud conversations) and keep noise to reasonable levels at all other times.

We are conducting research at this site 24/7. The songbird crew might be up, but the hawk watch or owl crews may be sleeping, so please keep quiet even when it seems that “everyone” is awake.

For bird and visitor safety, rowdiness, throwing rocks, shouting, or climbing on log structures are not allowed in the main camp. Guests should stay outside of the crew kitchen tent and should not touch any of the research equipment, including nets, electronics, or banding tools.

Ask us about hiking trails around camp that can help your group burn any pent up energy! Part of the Lucky Peak experience is about getting out and enjoying nature. We love for visitor groups to have the freedom to run and shout outside of camp :)

Trails: Please stick to marked trails during your visit to the peak. Because of the high number of visitors every year, we have marked trails to prevent erosion and wear and tear on vegetation. Ask us about hiking loops and trails around the peak, or bring along a copy of the “Ridge to Rivers” trail system map.

Protecting Habitat: The sagebrush, forest, and cherry shrub habitat is what makes Lucky Peak so valuable to migrating birds. During your visit, please take care to not damage trees, shrubs, ground vegetation, or plantings. Chaperones, please prevent students and scouts from using pocket knives, axes, or saws at the research station.

Fire is one of the greatest threats to the important bird habitat at Lucky Peak. Campfires and fireworks are never allowed on the Wildlife Management Area. Please, no smoking at the field station.

We have also taken great care to build camping areas and an amphitheater to reduce erosion and enhance your visit. Please be sure to protect these logs and other structures in camp from wear and tear, chips, cuts, or scrapes. This means no climbing, kicking, cutting, or chopping on logs.

Pack it out: Visitors are responsible for removing all trash they brought with them.

Smoking: Please do not smoke at our field station.

Contact:
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