



If you are planning a visit to our Lucky Peak Research Station, below are some frequently asked questions that will help you prepare for this incredible experience!

Who can visit?

Everyone is welcome to visit our site! We welcome families, school field trips (pre-k through university), scout troops, church groups, birding and nature groups, university students, businesses and many more.

How much does it cost?

It is completely **FREE** to visit! Our goal is for every visitor to not only gain an appreciation and love for nature, but also an understanding of the important work we are doing to conserve it. We would never want price to hold someone back from what we feel is the life-changing experience of being face-to-face with wild birds.

How can I donate?

We need your help to continue this work! ***This project is fueled by donations from visitors like you and we can't thank you enough!*** Did you know it costs IBO about \$20 per trip to host visitors at Lucky Peak? If you share our passion for birds and education, please plan to bring cash or check if you'd like to make a donation to help secure future programming. You can also donate online at <https://give.boisestate.edu/ibo>

Do I need to schedule my visit?

- Groups of 10 or more planning to visit for the day, or groups of any size planning to camp should contact us to schedule your visit. We try to schedule larger groups so that no more than 2 groups are visiting on one day. This ensures that everyone visiting gets a reasonable chance to see and hold birds and that the banding station is not too crowded.

- We have one large camping area available to visitors who bring their own tents and we also have two medium-sized wall tents available on a first-come-first-serve basis for smaller groups who would like to reserve them.

When should I schedule?

- You should schedule with us as soon as you begin planning your trip. The best time to visit the research station is between late August and mid-October, as this is the time when our Songbird, Hawk, and Owl projects are running, meaning research is occurring 24/7 at Lucky Peak!
- **Weekend dates fill up fast!!** Some groups begin scheduling their fall trip as early as May. If you plan to visit on a weekend in September especially, contact us as soon as possible. If your group is able to visit on a weekday, you are much more likely to have a more quiet and intimate experience as opposed to a more bustling weekend crowd.

How do we schedule a fieldtrip or camping?

Visit our webpage and fill out a reservation form: <http://ibo.boisestate.edu/fallvisitors>

What should I bring?

➤ Daytime Visitors

- All visitors should bring water, snacks, necessary meals, and appropriate outdoor clothing.
- Don't forget your sunscreen, hand sanitizer, hats, binoculars, cameras, and field guides.
- Plan for lows in the 40's **even in August**: bring a jacket and long pants. Visitors planning to go on net runs to observe how we capture the birds should wear closed-toe shoes and long pants.

➤ Overnight Visitors

- All visitors should bring cooking gear, coolers, camp stove, enough water for drinking, cooking, and washing, tents, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, and head lamps.
- 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. (Thank you in advance from our resident Lucky Peak Crew!!)
- Nighttime temperatures can drop below freezing surprisingly early in the season, so be prepared! **Campfires are NOT allowed anywhere on the Wildlife Management Area.**

What is the road like up to the peak?



***BE PREPARED!!** This un-maintained dirt road is narrow, steep and winding with tight curves and washed out ruts. **This year in particular is a record year for VERY deep ruts.** 4WD or AWD is required. Please limit number of vehicles and ensure your transportation and driver's skill is appropriate for the road conditions. We recommend visitors test the road at least 10 days prior to large group trips. **Please be advised that we do not have the ability to tow/pull your vehicle out of ruts.**

I don't have 4-wheel drive, what do I do?

We offer 2-3 public field trips a year and provide free transportation in 16 passenger vans. Other organizations, such as the Golden Eagle Audubon Society of Boise also organize car pooling for their trips to Lucky Peak for those who do not have 4x4 vehicles. Contact us for more details.

Is there any way to get to the station besides driving?

Yes! Visitors can hike or bike up Highland Valley road, or from the Council Springs road access in Harris Ranch. Many overnight scout groups do a day hike up the road while a few parents or volunteers drive the camping and cooking gear up separately.

Is there a bathroom on site?

Yes, we have a pit toilet available to visitors. Please bring your own hand sanitizer, as there is **NO** sink, and bring your own toilet paper.

Do you offer guided field trips or activities?

- Yes! Our crews are trained for public outreach and education. They can give an overview of our projects and answer any questions you may have.
- We also offer various pre-trip classroom presentations or lessons, and activities for groups visiting the peak, targeted for the ages of your group. Topics include: migration, habitat, ecosystems, and bird adaptations. We have presentations in a variety of lengths for ages pre-k through adult.

Can I bring my dog?

Dogs are allowed by Fish and Game on the management area **ONLY if they are on leash**. We ask that visitors please **not** bring their dogs into camp because of bird safety issues. Even the most well-behaved dog can get caught in the expensive songbird nets, and most dogs will get frustrated since they will need to be leashed away from the banding yurt or left inside a car.

Someone in my group has limited mobility, is there accessibility for this visitor?

- Yes! Please contact us at least seven days before your visit if you need any help accessing the site. Once you arrive for your visit a member of your group can walk in to camp and alert us that you are at the gate. The road leading into the Lucky Peak camp is gated to prevent motor vehicle access, but on special request the research crew working on site can open the gate to allow those with limited mobility into the main camp.
- Once in camp, there is a short distance of about 40 feet from the parking area to the songbird and owl yurt where we bring birds to band and release. The ground is sandy but fairly level and smooth, allowing access to most walkers and wheelchairs. You may bring your own chair or sit on our log amphitheater benches. Unfortunately, the hawk trapping station and trails to most of the songbird and owl mist nets are **NOT** accessible.

Is there cell phone reception?

Yes. AT&T customers will get limited reception, and Verizon tends to get good but spotty reception.

Still have questions? Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at IBOvisitors@gmail.com!

Thank you!