



FEBRUARY, 2015 COMMUNITY UPDATE

Cougar Gulch Community Information Update

Annual Pancake Feed at the Hall

Please join us at the Community Hall on **Saturday, March 7th from 9 am until noon** for our annual Pancake Feed. The menu will include delicious pancakes with blueberries and syrup, farm fresh eggs & sausage along with juice and coffee. We will start serving at 9 am and continue serving until 11:30 am.

The donation for this event is \$5 per person and children under 10 are free. This is a great time to connect with neighbors and friends and enjoy a wonderful breakfast—cooked for you. See you there!



Spring Ladies Luncheon-March 21st

All women of the Gulch are warmly invited to attend the Spring Ladies Lunch Bunch gathering **Saturday, 3-21-15**.

This scrumptious event will be held at the home of Julie Schmidt, 5255 W. Crazy Creek Road. Please plan on arriving at noon and bring a main dish, a salad, or a dessert to share. Please RSVP Julie at 425-319-0915, or please email her at: julielinez1951@gmail.com.

This is a great time to visit and catch up with old friends, make new acquaintances and partake in some great food. Please call for directions—we would love to see all women of all ages attend this fun, relaxed event.

Annual Community Membership Drive is in Full Swing

The 2015 annual Cougar Gulch Membership Drive continues. Membership per family is only \$25 a year. Your dues go to keeping Meadowbrook Hall in good shape, and this means everything from the roof to the foundation. It helps pay for the heating and electrical costs and is a lifeline for major improvements such as redoing the front entry stairs and porch, renovating a safe handicapped entrance, installing a propane heater in the kitchen and keeping the hall stocked for rental and community use. Your membership dues are tax deductible and again this year, we will hold an “early-bird” contest. At our regular April board meeting we will select, at random, **TWO** community neighbors who have renewed or signed up for the first time to pay their yearly dues by March 31, 2015. One lucky winner will be the recipient of a \$50 VISA gift card. And the other will win a “surfboard” beach chair. So hurry and send in your membership form today. (See page 2.)



CHECK-OFF FOR WILDLIFE ON YOUR IDAHO TAX RETURN

Like it or not, the time is here to start completing 2014 tax returns. Preparing tax returns takes a significant amount of time and unless you are receiving a nice refund, it is not much fun spending your time organizing and completing all of the required paperwork.

The taxes we pay provide funds for many of the services and programs provided by federal and local government agencies. Police departments, fire departments, public schools and many other essential services receive funding from taxpayers. It comes as a surprise to many people when they hear that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), the agency that manages all of the wildlife in the state, is not financed by income taxes, property taxes, or sales taxes.

IDFG is funded through license and tag sales paid by hunters, anglers, and trappers and excise taxes those same people pay on hunting and fishing equipment. Those who hunt, fish and trap pay for the management of wildlife in Idaho. They even pay to manage species that are not hunted, fished or trapped. In 2014, retail sales of wildlife related recreation equipment in Idaho produced over \$100 million in Idaho sales tax revenue for the state general fund, yet Idaho Fish and Game does not receive any money from the state general fund.

IDFG employs 112 Conservation Officers who enforce all of the laws of the State of Idaho. They focus on enforcing wildlife laws, but they enforce all state laws. At no cost to the Idaho general fund, IDFG manages 365,000 acres of state land and 32 wildlife management areas, provides and maintains 350 boating and fishing access sites, and plants 32 million fish a year in over 600 lakes and streams.

If you do not financially support the management of wildlife in Idaho by buying a hunting, fishing, or trapping license (or, even if you do); there is a way you can voluntarily support wildlife programs. When you prepare your state income taxes, a check-off on line 33 of the state tax form allows you to choose to voluntarily contribute. Contributions collected through the check-off are used to benefit non-game wildlife - those species which are not hunted, hooked or trapped.

Taxpayers can choose to voluntarily reduce their tax refund, or add a contribution to the tax amount they owe. The amount donated is determined by the individual taxpayer.

Although nongame wildlife make up 80 percent of all Idaho wildlife species, the Fish and Game Department spends most of the license fees paid by hunters and anglers on game species. Contributing to the nongame wildlife check-off is a way for all Idahoans, whether they are hunters, anglers or wildlife watchers (or a combination of all three) to provide something for the wildlife they enjoy.

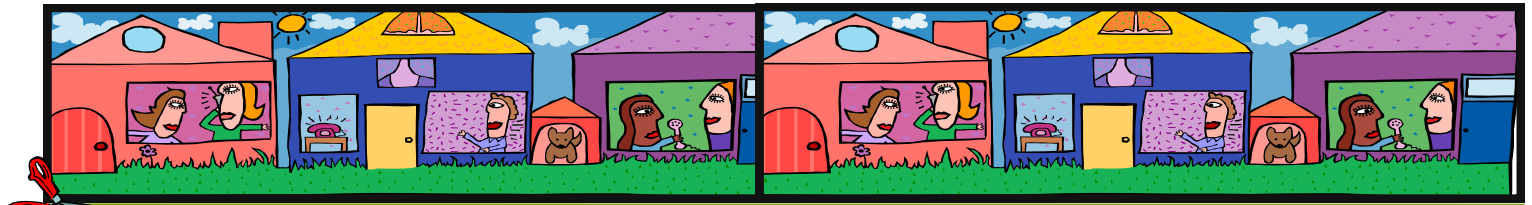
Voluntary contributions through the nongame tax check-off are used to fund a variety of projects including research on nongame species, wildlife viewing site development, wildlife based educational programs, etc. In general, the contributions help manage nongame species through gaining a better understanding of their habitats and life cycles, or through education which expands public appreciation of and knowledge about the nongame wildlife resources in the state.

Idaho's expanding population increases challenges of maintaining nongame wildlife populations and their habitats. Contributing to the tax check-off is a way for all Idahoans to help biologists understand the particular needs of nongame species and hopefully prevent the need to list additional species as endangered. Other ways to help the nongame and watchable wildlife programs in Idaho include sending voluntary donations to the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Id. 83707; and, purchasing the special wildlife license plates for motor vehicles. A portion of the cost of the special wildlife license plates goes to IDFG.

This year when you prepare your state income tax form, please consider a donation to benefit nongame wildlife and enter a number of your choosing on line 33 of Idaho Tax Form 40. By doing so you can contribute to the management of Idaho's wildlife even if you don't hunt, fish or trap.
- Philip Cooper, IDFG

Cougar Gulch Membership Application

Annual membership is generally due the first quarter of each new year, however, we are always open to new member applications (valid through the end of each year) and donations. Your dues help maintain the Hall and provide for community events that take place all year.



2015 Cougar Gulch Community Membership Application

Tax Deductible Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Current Email: _____

Home Address: _____

Annual Dues: \$25. Please make check payable to SRMPA.

Additional Donation: \$ _____

TOTAL donation: \$ _____

I would like to have the Cougar KITTEN sent to my personal email. YES NO

Please mail this registration and your dues to:

SRMPA Treasurer

6637 W. Meadowbrook Loop Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814