

## Idaho's First Whitewater Park To Host Freestyle Nat'l Champs July 8-9

### *REP-designed course to showcase nation's best paddlers*

**Boulder, Colo. (July 5, 2011):** On July 8-9, 2011, the country's best freestyle kayakers will converge on a new whitewater park in Cascade, Idaho, for the USA Freestyle Kayaking Association's National Point Series Championships, bringing national attention to the state's first-ever official river park.

In a state known for its whitewater, Recreation Engineering & Planning, the nation's leader in whitewater park design, completed Idaho's first-ever river park, Kelly's Whitewater Park, on the North Fork of the Payette River in the town of Cascade in August 2010. Since its opening, it's been heralded as one of the best such parks in the country, due to its user- and spectator-friendly design and clear, warm water feeding it from Cascade Lake just upstream. Converting a defunct lumber mill site into a beautiful park with three high-water channel structures, a separate novice channel and an island with sandy beaches, the \$3 million project also includes a new 2,600-square foot Welcome Center, outdoor amphitheater, trails and other amenities.



Its whitewater features will get their biggest test yet on July 8-9 when the 11-stop series culminates in Cascade, where the nation's best kayakers, including point series leaders Bryan Kirk and Emily Jackson, will compete in nine different classes for a \$15,000 purse. Water flows are estimated to be 4,000 cubic feet per second, making the park's top wave perfect for the first event of this magnitude ever held in Idaho.

"We're looking forward to the event and showcasing what a great venue it is," says KWP marketing manager Dan Gallagher. "It's getting the attention of boaters across the country and has world-class features that should be perfect

for an event of this caliber."

Spearheaded by locals Mark and Kristina Pickard and estimated to bring more than \$1 million into the local economy annually, Kelly's Whitewater Park is named after Kristina's sister Kelly Brennan, who was killed in an automobile accident in Salt Lake City. Its construction represents a team effort between REP, the community and local non-profit Friends of Kelly's Whitewater Park. "It's been a huge boon to the town," says Cascade Mayor Richard Carter. "It's transformed what looked like a battleground into one of the most beautiful parks you've ever seen." He adds that in the first six weeks after its grand opening, which was attended by Idaho's governor, it saw more than 15,000 visitors.

"It's definitely brought a lot of people to the area," says REP principle and lead park designer Gary Lacy. "It appeals to everyone from kayakers and stand-up paddlers to tubers and swimmers, and is a great addition to the town"

### **About REP**

Since its founding in 1983, REP has created nearly 80 percent of all of in-stream whitewater parks in North America, with an aggregate value of more than \$70 million. The parks vary in size from an \$18 million park on Calgary, Alberta's Bow River and \$21 million National Whitewater Center in Charlotte, N.C., to projects in Dallas, Michigan, Iowa, Ohio, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming and more. Info: [www.boaterparks.com](http://www.boaterparks.com); [www.b2inc.net](http://www.b2inc.net).