

Explore Idaho

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Introduction

The subject of my website is the geography of the state of Idaho, including its mountains, rivers, and flora.

My intended audience is native Idahoans as well as people from outside the state; really, anybody who has an interest in learning about the wild side of Idaho.

<https://connorjs55.github.io/wdd130/idaho/index.html>

Goals/Objectives

My goal with Explore Idaho is to teach about the outdoor experience that can be found in Idaho. This stemmed from my own curiosity as a non-native to Idaho. While learning about the state myself, I also wanted to give a brief overview of the native life that makes up the various landscapes found in Idaho.

Design Process

The design for this website was inspired by a previous website I had built using WordPress during the coronavirus quarantine. That previous website had been an experiment to try out affiliate marketing. While I did complete the website to a (mostly) functioning degree, I quickly learned I did not enjoy the blogging aspect nor the marketing aspect. However, I did enjoy the aesthetics of the homepage, which included camping, fishing, and hiking cards, similar to the whitewater rafting site we made. That website had an outdoor, Rocky-Mountain-type theme, so I wanted to do something similar with this website. The colors for my Explore Idaho website, however, came by accident. I had been planning on a more black-and-gold look, but while using AI to design my logo, the generator gave me this beautiful mountain logo with greens, tan, and a splash of red that completely won me over. I ended up copying some of the colors used in the logo and used them throughout the rest of the site.

Conclusion

I learned a lot during this project, and perhaps 90% of it during the last two weeks of the class. I have taken two other coding classes, and struggled immensely with them. This project was helpful in that it forced me to more deeply understand each element of the website. I had a hard time using the internet to find help, but once I figured out how to use W3Schools (I had initially been going to the wrong page), that helped a lot. I would say 80% of the website came fairly easily, but the last 20% is what I kept getting stuck on, not understanding, and getting behind on my assignments. These struggles included (and still include, to some degree) grids, margins,

and text-boxes. I found them to be much more difficult to work with than they should have been. I'm sure they will seem very simple when a few more things click into place in my mind.

The skills I learned during this project will help me in future web classes that I'll need to take, and maybe even in my career if I need to deal with websites. While I don't particularly enjoy designing or coding, I did find satisfaction in seeing my project go from lines of code to a webpage. Perhaps when I come to understand it better, I will do some small website projects on the side, for family or friends. I have a pretty vast collection of Google Docs that I've made for different things, like activity ideas with my wife, projects and skills I want to learn, and many, many documents of things I like learning about, such as electricity, weather, nature, gardening, horse training, real estate, and others. I have thought about converting some of these Google Docs into some simple GitHub websites similar to this project, because it is very pleasing to have nicely formatted images, text, charts, and links. Either way, websites and the internet will continue to be a bigger and bigger part of my life, so the things I learned in this class will absolutely continue to be very relevant.