

# Recreation

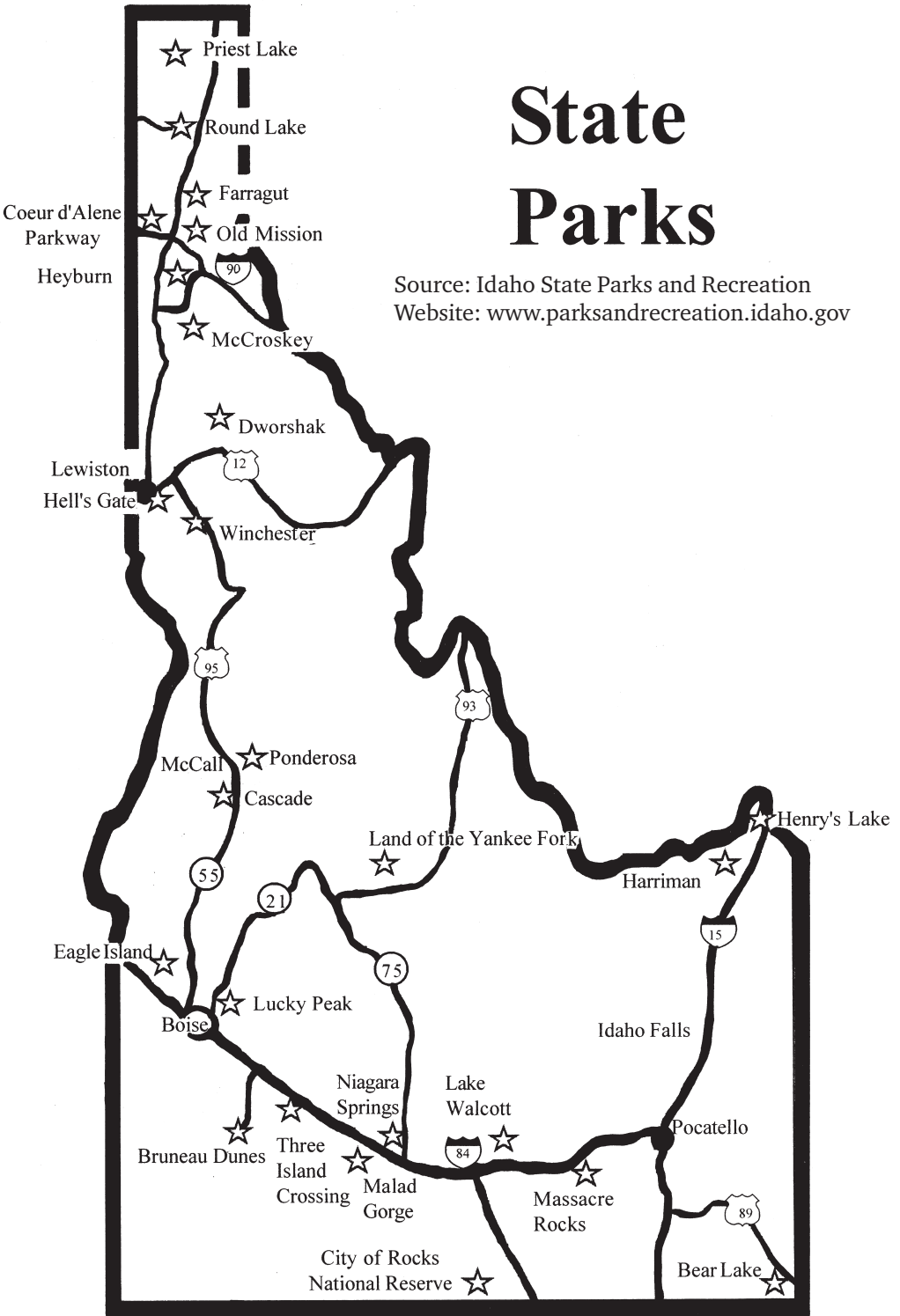


*Rafting on the Payette*

Photo courtesy of Jeff Harvey

# State Parks

Source: Idaho State Parks and Recreation  
Website: [www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov](http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov)



## Bear Lake

Bear Lake State Park is located in a high mountain valley in the extreme southeast corner of Idaho. At 5,900 feet elevation, the park offers a wide variety of both summer and winter recreation opportunities. Bear Lake itself is 20 miles long and 8 miles wide with half of the lake in Idaho and half in Utah. The lake is a water sports Mecca attracting boaters, water skiers, and beach lovers from all over the country. All that inviting water is hard to resist. Swimmers will enjoy a two-mile-long beach on the north end of the lake, plus a 1-1/2 mile beach on the east side. The gradual slope of the lake bottom provides an enormous swimming area. Ramps are available for boaters and water skiers who want to enjoy the water, too. Anglers can try for a native cutthroat or lake trout in the summer. In the winter, they can come back with buckets and nets when the Bonneville cisco run. The fish is found nowhere else on Earth.

Address: 3rd North 10th East

St. Charles, ID 83272

Phone: (208) 945-2325

## Bruneau Dunes

The tallest sand dune rises 470 feet above small lakes in the high desert south of Mountain Home. The state park includes desert, dune, prairie, lake and marsh habitat with opportunities to observe nocturnal species. Activities include fishing, birdwatching, camping, hiking, swimming and viewing the stars at one of only two public observatories in Idaho. Feel free to climb but no vehicles are allowed on the dunes. A visitor center offers information on birds of prey, insects, fossils, wildlife and the sand dunes. A variety of gift items are available for purchase. Two cabins are available for rent. Also 82 serviced with W/E and 31 standard sites. The Equestrian Area provides facilities for visitors to camp with their horses and there is a 9-mile riding trail around the park.

Address: 27608 Sand Dunes Rd.

Mountain Home, ID 83647

Phone: (208) 366-7919

## Castle Rocks

Castle Rocks, nestled in Big Cove, at the base of the 10,339-foot Cache Peak, offers diverse recreational opportunities in a magnificent setting. It is a place where solitude, natural beauty, and ranching heritage combine to enrich the visitor's experience. The park is located two miles northwest of the village of Almo in southern Cassia County, Idaho. Until 1999, the 1,240-acre ranch was privately owned. The Conservation Fund, and the Access Fund, purchased the property to be placed in public ownership. Congress passed the Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act on November 1, 2000. An additional 200 acres, connecting the Ranch Unit to the base of Cache Peak, was purchased in 2007. Today, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), Bureau of Land Management, and the USDA Forest Service, manage the Castle Rocks area in partnership. Visitors may see remnants of the ranch that was first homesteaded in 1888. The irrigation ditches and pasture are still in use today. Efforts are underway to convert the 1912 brick house into a Bed & Breakfast. Castle Rocks is a special place where time stands still and the user is a respectful guest.

Address: 748 East 2800 South

Almo, ID 83312

Phone: (208) 824-5901

## City of Rocks National Reserve

On his way to California in 1849, emigrant James F. Wilkens described the dramatic geological area he encountered as "City of Rocks." The name remains, as well as hundreds of pioneer inscriptions, wagon ruts, and journal accounts, testifying to the nearly quarter-million people who traveled through here between 1843 and 1869. Visitors today will see nearly the same scene - granite spires and monoliths reaching 60 stories tall. Geologists estimate the oldest granite to exceed 2.5 billion years. Established in 1988 as a national reserve, City of Rocks encompasses 14,407 acres of land (about one quarter is privately owned) and is renowned for its scenic, geologic, and historic significance. The City of Rocks

area was an important landmark on the California Trail. City of Rocks is one of the finest granite-face climbing sites anywhere. Climbers find the younger granite of the Almo Pluton to be some of the best rock they've ever ascended. About 700 routes have been developed to date. City of Rocks also has ample access to hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. The winter months provide excellent opportunities for snowshoeing and skiing.

Address: 3035 S. Elba-Almo Rd.

Almo, ID 83312

Phone: (208) 824-5901

### **Coeur d'Alene Parkway**

Walkers, hikers and bikers love this linear park that follows the north shore of beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene. The Coeur d'Alene Parkway lies along the north shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene, following Centennial Trail east from Coeur d'Alene to Higgins Point. At Higgins Point there is a boat-launch facility, a picnic area overlooking the lake, and docks. Over 1,000 feet of public shoreline parallels the path. Also available are an exercise court, roadside picnic tables, toilet facilities and benches for those who wish to stop and enjoy the lake view.

Address: E. Coeur d'Alene Lake Dr.

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Phone: (208) 699-2224

### **Coeur d'Alene's Old Mission**

The oldest standing building in all of Idaho is found here, in the Coeur d'Alene's Old Mission State Park. The Mission of the Sacred Heart or Sacred Heart Mission was constructed between 1850 and 1853 by Catholic missionaries and members of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Sacred Heart Mission and the Coeur d'Alene's Old Mission State Park provide an educational experience not found anywhere else, giving visitors an opportunity to examine the dynamics and complexities between Jesuit missionaries and the tribal people among whom they settled. The park features the Sacred Heart Mission building, a restored Parish House and an historic cemetery.

The visitor center includes a gift shop and an interpretive movie about the history of the Mission and the Coeur d'Alene Indians.

Location: Cataldo, ID, Northern Idaho, one mile east of Cataldo, I-90 off Exit 39

Address: Exit 39 I-90; 3172 S. Mission Rd. Cataldo, ID 83810

Phone: (208) 682-3814

### **Dworshak**

Dworshak State Park is located among trees and meadows on the western shore of Dworshak Reservoir. The park is comprised of three units - Freeman Creek, Three Meadows Group Camp, and Big Eddy Lodge and Marina. Camping, boating, fishing, swimming, hiking and water-skiing are just some of the many activities that await park visitors. A boat ramp and handling dock provide easy launching most of the year. A fish-cleaning station is nearby to help with the day's catch.

Address: 9934 Freeman Creek

Lenore, ID 83541

Phone: (208) 476-5994

### **Eagle Island**

Eagle Island is a 545-acre day-use park west of Boise that features a popular swimming beach, a grassy picnic area, a waterslide and more than five miles of equestrian trails for those looking for a place to ride horses. Waterslide is open weekends from 12pm - 8 pm during the summer. Horseshoe pits and a volleyball area complete the park.

Address: 165 S. Eagle Island Pkwy

Eagle, ID 83616

Phone: (208) 939-0696

### **Farragut**

Farragut State Park is located 30 miles north of Coeur d'Alene on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho's largest lake. Once the world's second largest naval training station, today the 4,000-acre park provides a multitude of recreation opportunities. To the traditional activities of picnicking, swimming, boating, hiking and camping, visitors can add playing disc golf, visiting the Farragut Naval Training Center Museum, taking advantage of the orienteering course, model airplane flyer's

field, taking the kids to the playground, and using the horseshoe pits and sand volleyball courts.

Address: 13550 E. Hwy. 54  
Athol, ID 83801  
Phone: (208) 683-2425

### **Harriman**

Harriman State Park lies within an 16,000-acre wildlife refuge in the greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Moose, Elk, and Sandhill Cranes are common, as is North America's largest waterfowl, the Trumpeter Swan. Known as one of the best fly-fishing streams in the nation, the Henrys Fork meanders for eight miles through Harriman. Over 20 miles of trails are available for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and cross country skiing. Guided horseback tours are offered by a park vendor, Dry Ridge Outfitters, 208-558-RIDE (7433).

Address: 3489 Green Canyon Road  
Island Park, ID 83429  
Phone: (208) 558-7368

### **Hells Gate**

Hells Gate State Park is the gateway to both Idaho's Lewis and Clark country and to Hells Canyon, the deepest river gorge in North America. Shady campsites along the Snake River make comfortable base-camps for exploration of the surrounding area. Jet boat excursions into Hells Canyon leave on a regular basis from the park's docks. The Nez Perce National Historic Park is only 30 minutes away. A wide choice of restaurants and shopping are just minutes away, in nearby Lewiston Idaho.

Address: 5100 Hells Gate Rd.  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
Phone: (208) 799-5015

### **Henry's Lake**

Located just 15 miles west of Yellowstone National Park, this high mountain lake is the kind of place fishermen dream about. The state park, named after explorer Major Andrew Henry, opens the Thursday before Memorial Day and closes mid-October, weather permitting. Anglers fish for cutthroat, brook and rainbow-cutthroat hybrid trout. The park has a modern fish cleaning station near the boat ramp. Camping is at one of 44 sites and there are camping-cabins also available for rent.

During winter, information on Henrys Lake can be obtained by calling Harriman State Park.

Address: 3917 E. 5100 N.  
Island Park, ID 83429  
Phone: (208) 558-7532

### **Heyburn**

Heyburn State Park is the oldest park in the Pacific Northwest. Created in 1908, it is comprised of approximately 5,500 acres of land and 2,300 acres of water. The park includes three lakes; Chatcolet, Benewah, and Hidden Lakes, with the shadowy St. Joe River meandering along the eastern boundary of the park. Natural and cultural history is plentiful at Heyburn. Before it was a park, the general area was a gathering place for the Coeur d' Alene Indian tribe. In the 1930's, the park was a Civilian Conservation Corps camp and those hardworking crews built many of the park's buildings. Heyburn is a natural park with a variety of different habitats. Large, tall Ponderosa pines tower over grassy hillsides covered in wildflowers. On shadier slopes, cedar trees mix with hemlocks and huge white pines. On the edges of the lakes, the wetland/marsh areas are home to many types of wildflowers and plants.

Address: 57 Chatcolet Rd.  
Plummer, ID 83851  
Phone: (208) 686-1308

### **Lake Cascade**

Lake Cascade State Park provides diverse and exciting recreational opportunities throughout all four seasons. Popular for all types of boating, prevailing winds on the water make it especially well suited for sailing and windsurfing. Rainbow trout, Coho salmon, small mouth bass and perch can be caught from the shore or by boat in the summer or through the ice in the winter. Hiking, bird watching, photography, mountain biking, all types of boating, ice fishing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and just plain relaxing are all easily accessible from Lake Cascade State Park. Lake Cascade offers two group camping opportunities, including Snowbank group camp and Osprey Point group yurts, 279 individual campsites in 10 developed campgrounds (with power, sewer, and water at Poison Creek and Ridgeview), two

dispersed camping areas with primitive camping, several day use areas, and 6 boat launch ramps. The various campgrounds and facilities of the park are dispersed around Lake Cascade's forty-one square miles of surface water and 86 miles of shoreline. The office for the park is located in Cascade near the intersection of Dam Road and Lakeshore Drive.

Address: 100 Kellys Parkway  
Cascade ID, 83611 (PO Box 709)  
Phone: (208) 382-6544

### **Lake Walcott**

Lake Walcott State Park is located at the northwest end of the Bureau of Reclamation's Lake Walcott Project, a welcome refuge on the edge of Idaho's high desert. Water skiing, power boating, windsurfing, sailing and bird watching are only a few of the activities that will make your stay at Lake Walcott enjoyable. Camping areas with RV hookups are available. Picnickers and tenters enjoy the acres of grass beneath groves of stately eastern hardwoods. Nearby sites of interest include Minidoka Falls near the park, Rupert City Park, and the historic railroad community of Minidoka.

Address: 959 E. Minidoka Dam  
Rupert, ID 83350  
Phone: (208) 436-1258

### **Land of the Yankee Fork**

The Land of the Yankee Fork State Park brings to life Idaho's frontier mining history. This State Park is part of the larger Land of the Yankee Fork Historic Area located in scenic central Idaho. Managed by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, the Salmon-Challis National Forest and the Challis District of the Bureau of Land Management this historic area provides unique historical interpretation and many recreational opportunities. At the Yankee Fork Visitor Center near Challis there are museum exhibits, a gold panning station, audiovisual programs, and friendly personnel to provide information on local mining history and area attractions. Also of interest are the ghost towns of Bonanza, Custer and Bayhorse, the Yankee Fork Gold Dredge, the Custer Motorway and the Challis Bison Jump. Land of the Yankee Fork provides outstanding trail opportunities

from hiking and biking trails to motorised ATV and Motorbike trails. Camping in the National Forest and BLM lands is varied as well with both primitive and developed campsites available

Address: 24424 Hwy 75  
Challis, ID 83226 (PO Box 1086)  
Phone: (208) 879-5244

### **Lucky Peak**

Three distinct day-use units can be found at this state park, near Lucky Peak Lake. Discovery Park is a popular roadside park for picnics, walking your pet or fishing in the Boise River. Sandy Point, at the base of Lucky Peak Dam is most popular for its sandy beach and clear, cool water. Spring Shores offers lakeside access for water enthusiasts by providing two boat ramps, parking, a full-service marina, on-site watercraft rentals and a convenience store.

Address: 8725 E. Hwy 21  
Boise, ID 83716  
Phone: (208) 334-2432

### **Massacre Rocks**

Oregon Trail emigrants referred to the Massacre Rocks area as "Gate of Death" and "Devil's Gate", but modern day travelers use terms like beautiful, serene, and restful to describe the park. The park is rich in Oregon Trail, geological, and natural histories. Rich in history, pioneers used this area, specifically what is now referred to as 'Register Rock,' as a rest stop for years. Today we invite horse owners to water and rest their animals in the corral at Register Rock. Many emigrant names are inscribed on the large rock, which is now protected by a weather shelter. A scenic picnic area surrounds the rock, creating a desert oasis for the modern traveler. The site also includes a horse rest area for highway travelers. Oregon Trail remnants are most easily seen from highway rest areas in either end of the park. For additional information on the Oregon Trail visit the Three Island Crossing State Park page and the Oregon/California Trail Center website.

Address: 3592 N. Park Ln.  
American Falls, ID 83211  
Phone: (208) 548-2672

### McCroskey

This 5300-acre ridgeline park is dedicated to pioneer women. McCroskey State Park's highlight is an 18-mile skyline drive through the park on unimproved roads providing spectacular views of the rolling Palouse country and access to 32 miles of multi-purpose trails. Facilities include a group day use shelter, primitive camping areas and picnic areas along the road. The road is not recommended for large RVs and may be too rough for your family car.

Address: 1291 Chatcolet Rd.

Plummer, ID 83851

Phone: (208) 686-1308

### Ponderosa

Ponderosa State Park covers most of a 1,000-acre peninsula that juts into beautiful Payette Lake near McCall. The scenic overlook at Osprey Point offers a spectacular view of the lake. The park offers hiking and biking trails, guided walks with park naturalists and evening campfire programs. The North Beach Unit has a beach and picnic area. The topography ranges from arid sagebrush flats to dense forests. Wildlife that can be viewed at the park include Canada geese, osprey, bald eagles, wood ducks, mallards, songbirds, deer, moose, beaver, muskrats and even bear. Winter activities include Nordic skiing and snowshoeing on groomed trails.

Address: 1920 N. Davis Ave.

McCall, ID 83638 (PO Box 89)

Phone: (208) 634-2164

### Priest Lake

Priest Lake State Park lies just 30 miles from the Canadian Border, nestled deep below the crest of the Selkirk Mountains. Surrounded by the natural beauty of Northern Idaho and mile-high mountains, Priest Lake State Park sits along the eastern shores of Priest Lake, a 19-mile long, over 300 foot deep lake. Visitors to the park will enjoy the dense forests of cedar, fir and tamarack and will be able to observe the park's year round inhabitants such as the whitetail deer, black bear, moose and bald eagles. Noted for its extremely clear water, fed by streams cascading from the

high Selkirk peaks, the main body of Priest Lake extends north south for 19 miles. A two-mile thoroughfare connects the main lake to the remote Upper Priest Lake that is accessible only by foot, mountain bike, or boat.

Address: 314 Indian Creek Park Rd.

Coolin, ID 83821

Phone: (208) 443-2200

### Round Lake

Round Lake State Park is situated in 142 acres of forest surrounding a 58-acre lake at an elevation of 2,122 feet. The lake is the product of glacial activity dating back to the Pleistocene Epoch. Flocks of Canada geese pass over towering pine, hemlock and larch as osprey plunge to the lake for trout or perch. Robins and raven inspect the campgrounds while a lake breeze carries campfire smoke up through the canopy of ponderosa, western red cedar and paper birch. Close to shore, turtles and frogs, beaver and muskrat dart about for food amid the reeds and grasses, red alder, skunk cabbage and water lilies. Along one of three trails, hikers find beaver lodges, dams and ponds and, often, glimpse a resident moose. With an afternoon breeze stirring the lake's waters, trout jump after insects as grebe dive under ripples and water ouzel dance on logs. Echoing across the lake is a strange chorus of bullfrog and duck calls, red-winged blackbird screeches, odd splashes and plops, and the sound of children playing on the beach.

Address: 1915 Dufort Road

Sagle, ID 83860

Phone: (208) 263-3489

### Thousand Springs State Park

Thousand Springs State Park, with its five beautiful units and multiple areas, is a testament to why the area is called the Magic Valley. Visitors can view wagon ruts and bridge abutments at Kelton Trail, explore the magnificent Malad Gorge, access the riding arena at Billingsley Creek, get writing inspiration at Vardis Fisher, step back in time and tour historic structures at Ritter Island and Bonnieview, take in the scenery at Earl M. Hardy Box Canyon

Springs Nature Preserve, view Niagara Springs, and fish at Crystal Lake. Day use opportunities abound within the units of Thousand Springs State Park.

Address: 1074 E. 2350 S.  
Hagerman, ID 83332 (PO Box 149)  
Phone: (208) 837-4505

### **Three Island Crossing**

Three Island Crossing State Park is located on the Snake River at Glenns Ferry. It is home to The Oregon Trail History and Education Center where visitors can learn about pioneer emigrants and Native American history. Oregon Trail pioneers knew this spot well. It was one of the most famous river crossings on the historic trail. Pioneer travelers used the three-island crossing until 1869, when Gus Glenn constructed a ferry about two miles upstream. The Glenns Ferry community sponsors “Three Island Days” a crossing commemoration the second Saturday of each August. Events often include living history presentations and historic skills fair.

Address: 1083 S. Three Island Park Drive  
Glenns Ferry, ID 83623 (PO Box 609)  
Phone: (208) 366-2394

### **Winchester Lake State Park**

Winchester Lake State Park surrounds a 104-acre lake, nestled in a forested area at the foot of the Craig Mountains, just off US 95 adjoining the town of Winchester. Winters at the park are long and cold with ample snowfall. Four Yurts are available for rental all year. Summers are short with warm days and cool, refreshing evenings. Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir are the predominant vegetation. Fishing for perch, tiger muskie, bass and blue gill are popular. Wildlife often seen in the park includes white-tailed deer, Canada geese, muskrats, Steller’s jay, racoons, osprey, bald eagles, and Columbian ground squirrels. The Wolf Education and Research Center is located one mile from the entrance to the park.

Address: 1786 Forest Rd,  
Winchester ID 83555  
Phone: (208) 924-7563

*Shoshone Falls*

Photo Courtesy of Jeff Harvey





## Alpine Ski Areas

### Bald Mountain Ski Resort

Managed by the Clearwater Ski Club, a local volunteer group, this small resort in North Central Idaho has been open since 1959 for skiing and snowboarding in the Orofino area.

Location: 2738 Bald Mountain Road

Pierce, ID 83546

Contact info: Clearwater Ski Club

PO Box 49

Pierce, ID 83546

(208) 464-2311 at the Hill;

(208) 435-4782 in Town;

[www.skibaldmountain.com](http://www.skibaldmountain.com)

### Bogus Basin Ski Resort

Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area has been the Treasure Valley's winter playground for 66 years. Located 16 miles north of Boise, Mother Nature blankets the slopes of Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area with 150"-200" of natural snow. The result is 2,600 acres of ski-able, snowboardable terrain plus more night skiing terrain (165 groomed acres) than any other ski area in the northwestern U.S. This family-friendly recreation area boasts 8 chairlifts covering 3 mountains, 54 groomed runs as well as ungroomed glades, 3 terrain parks, day lodges with food & beverage service, equipment rental shop, a retail store, ski & board school and child care. Nordic skiers enjoy 37km of groomed trails with 5km lighted at night as well as a beautiful lodge featuring limited food service, lessons, a rental shop, waxing bench and fireplace. Snowshoe trail passes and rentals are also available from the Nordic Center. The Pepsi GoldRush tubing hill is open weekends and holidays. 2-hour ticket includes tube rental. The 800-foot plunge offers thrills, and the ride back uphill is relaxing. Advanced tickets strongly recommended - the 2-hour sessions sell out quickly.

Contact Info: 2600 N. Bogus Basin Road  
Boise, ID 83702

Phone: (800) 367-4397; (208) 332-5100

[www.bogusbasin.org](http://www.bogusbasin.org)

### Brundage Mountain Ski Resort

Located eight miles north of McCall, ID, and just two hours north of Boise, Brundage Mountain Resort features 1500 acres of wide, elegantly-groomed runs, abundant powder glades, and is well known for having the Best Snow in Idaho™. Nestled in the scenic mountains of central Idaho, Brundage Mountain Resort offers the perfect combination of unparalleled conditions and the lack of crowds. Be sure to take advantage of our comfortable day lodge which houses a restaurant, retail, and rental shop. Enjoy outstanding views from our new food and beverage outlet at the top of the Bear Chair, called the Bear's Den. A spacious Kid's Center hosts day-care for children as young as eight weeks old. Our popular ski programs for children go through age 10 with plenty of options for adults and older kids. We offer 325 inches of the Best Snow in Idaho™, long wide runs, and easy access from McCall. The fact that there is rarely a crowded day at Brundage will help make your winter mountain experience even more enjoyable. Guided backcountry skiing by snowcat is offered on over 19,000 acres.

Contact info: 3890 Goose Lake Road  
McCall, ID 83638

Phone: (800)844-3246; 208-624-4151

[www.brundage.com](http://www.brundage.com)

### Cottonwood Butte Ski Resort

The Cottonwood Butte Ski Area is located in the heart of the Camas Prairie near the town of Cottonwood, Idaho where the pleasurable atmosphere on the slopes, courteous management and friendly hospitality is not the exception but the rule. We offer four major groomed runs and several powder filled trails among the trees that are served by a 3,000 foot long t-bar. Our 845 foot vertical drop challenges the intermediate, advanced and expert skiers and snowboarders. Our bunny slope offers a gentle 30 foot vertical drop served by a rope tow for the beginner or less confident soul. We offer ski and snowboard rentals, a repair shop, a lunch counter and ski lessons. Night skiing on Fridays is offered during the

month of January. So take a little drive and escape to the Cottonwood Butte!

Contact info: 490 Radar Rd  
Cottonwood, ID 83522  
Phone: (208) 962-3624;  
www.cottonwoodbutte.org

### **Grand Targhee Ski Resort**

Grand Targhee Resort is nestled on the west side of Wyoming's majestic Teton Mountains and receives 500 inches of snow annually. Famous for spectacular snow and magnificent scenery, Grand Targhee offers skiers two mountains totaling 2400 acres! Four chairlifts on Fred's Mountain gives access to 1500 acres and 2200 vertical feet. A high-speed quad on Peaked Mountain accesses open bowls, groomed runs and tree skiing with an additional 602 acres reserved for snowcat skiing. Tubing, snowshoeing, sleigh ride dinners, and spa services make for a complete winter vacation. Lodging is available slopeside, as well as off-site in Alta and in Driggs.

Location: Alta Wyoming via Driggs Idaho  
Contact Info: 3300 Ski Hill Road  
Alta, WY 83414  
Phone: (307) 353-2300  
www.grandtarghee.com

### **Kelly Canyon Ski Resort**

This eastern Idaho resort founded in 1957 features intermediate terrain, a ski school, equipment rentals and four lifts serving 640 skiable acres. It provides the only night skiing in eastern Idaho. Terrain is described as 35% beginner, 45% intermediate and 20% advanced. Events are held on the mountain throughout the year.

Location: Eastern Idaho, 25 mi. NE of Idaho Falls  
Contact Info: 5488 E. Kelly Canyon Road  
Ririe, ID 83443  
Phone: (208) 538-6251; www.skikelly.com

### **Little Ski Hill**

McCall's Little Ski Hill is one of the oldest ski areas developed in Idaho, preceded only by Sun Valley and Lookout Pass. The Payette Lakes Ski Club has maintained a non-profit organization status for the Little Ski Hill since 1937, when it was used for jumping. Night skiing is available on the weekends with Friday family nights and Saturday

telemark nights. It is run by volunteers whose goal is the development of skiing and snowboarding as lifetime sports for all ages. This community-supported ski area offers something for everyone, with Nordic Skiing at Bear Basin and 405 vertical feet of alpine terrain at the Little Ski Hill!

Location: Southwestern Idaho, 3 miles NW of McCall  
Address: 3635 ID 55  
Contact Info: Box 442  
McCall, ID 83638  
Phone: (208) 634-5691;  
www.littleskihill.org

### **Lookout Pass Ski Area**

Lookout Pass, Idaho's original ski area, opened in 1935. The ski area has tripled in size since 2003 with the addition of 2 new chair lifts. A new lodge addition, food court, and the new "Loft" Pub & Grub where added in the past couple of years. The region's Favorite Family Ski Area has easy access and great snow - averaging 400 inches per year means there's always great powder skiing with some of the best tree skiing glades in the west. A new front side terrain park, "Exit 0", with rails, banks, mounds and launches has also been added. A world-class terrain park featuring nine notorious 20-foot hits along with a 1,100-foot long, non-conforming halfpipe, and acres of expert tree skiing await your enjoyment. Lookout's famous FREE SKI SCHOOL for kids starts early January and runs through mid-March. Visit the website for the Events Calendar including our annual Winter Carnival and The Pacific Northwest Wife Carrying Contest. Location: Northern Idaho, 12 miles E. of Wallace on I-90

Address: 1-90 Exit 0  
Contact info: Box 108  
Wallace, ID 83873  
Phone: (208) 744-1301  
www.skilookout.com

### **Lost Trail Powder Mountain**

Located north of Salmon on Hwy. 93 at the Montana border, Lost Trail Ski Area has excellent runs for all levels. This ski area is well known for its consistent good base and light snow. Cafeteria, rentals and ski lessons

are available at the day lodge and overnight lodging is available in Salmon, Idaho.

Location: Idaho-Montana border, north of Salmon

Address: 9485 US-93

Sula, MT 59871

Contact Info: PO Box 311

Conner, MT 59827

Phone: (406) 821-3211;

[www.losttrail.com](http://www.losttrail.com)

### **Magic Mountain Ski and Summer Resort**

This small ski area near the Twin Falls area features great snow, a four-lane tubing hill with a lift, a 700 ft. vertical drop, a day lodge with a cafeteria, equipment rental and a lounge. Lodging is available in Twin Falls. The lodge is available for wedding receptions, reunions and other events.

Location: South Central Idaho, 28 miles south of Hansen on Rock Creek Road

Address: 319 Orchard Drive

Contact Info: PO Box 1241

Twin Falls, ID 83301

Phone: (208)736-7669

[www.magicmountainresort.com](http://www.magicmountainresort.com)

### **Pebble Creek Ski Resort**

Pebble Creek is a vertical playground that attracts skiers of all abilities. Located 20 minutes south of Pocatello in the Caribou Targhee National Forest, Pebble Creek boasts 2200 vertical feet, 1100 skiable acres, 54 runs, virtually non-existent lift lines and terrain for all levels from beginners to those demanding an honest challenge. Terrain is considered 12% beginner, 35% intermediate and 53% advanced.

Location: Southeastern Idaho, SE of Pocatello

Contact Info: 3340 E Green Canyon Rd, Inkom, ID 83245

Phone: (208) 775-4452

[www.pebblecreekskiarea.com](http://www.pebblecreekskiarea.com)

Email: [info@pebblecreekskiarea.com](mailto:info@pebblecreekskiarea.com)

### **Pomerelle Ski Resort**

Pomerelle Resort welcomes guests with great snow, affordable rates, smiles and service. Located just 25 miles off I-84

(Declo/Albion exit #216) then via Idaho 77, Pomerelle is a relaxed, fun-filled, personalized day resort nestled in the Sawtooth National Forest. With an annual snowfall of 500", it is usually one of the first Idaho ski resorts to open and you will enjoy virtually no lift lines during the season. Pomerelle offers 24 daily groomed ski runs plus gladed tree skiing and caters to family-oriented ski/boarding enjoyment. The Ski School specializes in teaching toddlers and family members of all abilities and is a PSIA member school. Kids 6 and under ski free with a paying parent. Day Lodge offers Cafeteria, Rental Shop for both alpine/snowboard equipment, Accessory Shop and Ski Patrol. Terrain park features and competitive events are scheduled throughout the winter season. USFS cross country nongroomed/nonpatrolled trails/loops are located adjacent to the resort; complimentary usage.

Location: South Central Idaho, near

Burley, 25 miles off I-84, exit 216, Hwy 77

Address: 961 E. Howell Canyon Rd  
Malta, ID 83342

Contact info: PO Box 158

Albion, ID 83311

Phone: (208) 673-5599;

[www.pomerelle.com](http://www.pomerelle.com)

### **Schweitzer Mountain Resort**

With a dazzling view of Lake Pend Oreille, Schweitzer Mountain Resort lies high in the Selkirk Range of the Northwest Rocky Mountains, where abundant snowfall buries the slopes in more than 300 inches annually. With 2,900 skiable acres, Schweitzer is larger than Sun Valley, Alta, Crested Butte and Snowbird. Facilities include a day lodge, outdoor apparel and gift shops, a general store, restaurants, pubs, cafes, several full bars and a chapel. A ski school, day care, special children's programs and rental services are available. Snowboarding, cross-country ski trails, cat skiing, snowmobiling and tubing are also available. On-mountain lodging includes the European-style Selkirk Lodge, the luxurious White Pine Lodge and numerous condo units - affordable studios to superior

quality six-bedroom jacuzzi units  
Location: Northern Idaho, 11 miles north  
of Sandpoint  
Contact info: 10,000 Schweitzer  
Mountain Road  
Sandpoint, ID 83864  
Phone: (208) 263-9555  
www.schweitzer.com

### **Silver Mountain Ski, Golf and Waterpark Resort**

Silver Mountain Resort in Kellogg, Idaho receives over 300" of famously light snow and offers a big-mountain experience on 2,200 vertical feet of exciting terrain. The ski area spans two mountains - Kellogg Peak and Wardner Peak - three bowls, 73 named runs plus extensive off-piste, terrain park, and is home to some of the best tree skiing in the country. Our high speed gondola whisks visitors from Gondola Village which is located just ¼ mile off I-90. The Village consists the Morning Star Lodge, Silver Rapids Indoor Waterpark, shops, restaurants and a day spa. Silver Rapids is Idaho's largest indoor waterpark and offers a FlowRider(tm) continuous surf wave, warm pools, hot tubs, a lazy river, slides, kid's play area and much more. The Galena Ridge Golf Course offers an exceptional golf experience. Whether you're a weekend enthusiast, a seasoned pro, or a first timer, the stunning beauty will elevate your game. Bike Country USA! Silver Mountain has epic downhill mountain biking offering an extensive network of trails. Gondola Village serves as a trailhead to the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes and just up the road from Silver is the "must ride" Route of the Hiawatha.  
Location: North Idaho, 30 miles east of Coeur d'Alene on I-90  
Contact info: 610 Bunker Avenue  
Kellogg, ID 83737  
Phone: (208) 783-1111; (866) 344-2675;  
www.silvermt.com

### **Snowhaven Ski Resort**

Snowhaven is a small ski resort near Grangeville with 7 runs served by a T-bar and rope tow. Ski and snowboard terrain includes 40 acres with a vertical drop of 440 ft. It offers a day lodge with a snack bar and

sun deck, a ski shop and a ski school. New at Snowhaven: Snow tubing, with two runs 780 ft. long with a vertical drop of 150 ft.  
Location: North Central Idaho, SE of Lewiston  
Contact info: 225 W North  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
Phone: (208) 983-3866;  
grangeville.us/snowhaven-ski-and-tubing-hill

### **Soldier Mountain Ski Resort**

When you ski Soldier Mountain, you go back to simpler, less-crowded times. Backcountry skiing or catskiing is incredible. The mountain offers great low prices and awesome snow with 36+ runs and an enhanced snowboard terrain park. Soldier Mountain is one of Idaho's hidden gems, an easy-going resort located in the picturesque Sawtooth National Forest, halfway between Boise and Sun Valley.  
Location: Central Idaho, 10 miles north of Fairfield  
Contact info: 1043 N Soldier Rd  
Fairfield, ID 83327  
Phone: (208) 764-2526;  
www.soldiermountain.com

### **Sun Valley Ski Resort**

It's easy to imagine the reaction of the skiers who first gazed out onto the awe-inspiring Sawtooth Range. Sun Valley is a downhill paradise with more than 3400 vertical feet and over 2000 acres of varied terrain. In fact, Sun Valley offers something special to skiers and boarders of all ages and skill levels on not just one mountain, but two-Bald Mountain and Dollar Mountain. Bald Mountain features the consistency of pitch, no lift lines and a variety of terrain and a super pipe that have earned it a reputation as one of the world's finest ski mountains. Dollar Mountain is the perfect place to get acclimated to downhill sports featuring high speed quads, a tubing hill and a new full-featured terrain park. We also boast a world-class SnowSports school. Since 1936, the Sun Valley Lodge has welcomed visitors with elegant amenities and old-world charm. Great on-site restaurants, hot pools, apres ski entertainment and boutique shopping abound here. But what

keeps guests coming back are the congenial smiles that greet you no matter where you stay. From our hotels and cozy cottages to comfy condos, you'll find lodging that meets your liking in Sun Valley.

Location: Central Idaho, at Ketchum

Address: 1 Sun Valley Road

Contact info: PO Box 10

Sun Valley, ID 83353

Phone: (208) 622-4111; (888) 490-5950;

[www.sunvalley.com](http://www.sunvalley.com)

Source: Idaho Department of Commerce;

[www.visitidaho.org](http://www.visitidaho.org)

## Nordic Skiing

Idaho's unique terrain of mountain valleys, broad sweeps of gently rolling hills and a rugged backcountry that includes the largest wilderness in the continental U.S., offers the Nordic ski enthusiast a very special experience. Nordic ski instruction and rentals are available at most ski resorts

throughout the state. There are also several tour operators who offer Nordic ski packages, including backcountry touring, hut to hut skiing, or groomed trails for easy touring. Numerous Forest Service and privately groomed trails from 5 to 60 kilometers are found throughout the state.

## Park N' Ski Program

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation operates a unique program called Park N' Ski through four separate trail systems and four state park ski areas. Many trails are groomed on a regular basis and provide amenities such as restrooms, warming shelters and backcountry huts/yurts. The program offers a season pass and a three-day temporary permit. Permits may be purchased at a variety of places throughout the state, including sports

shops, state parks offices, U.S. Forest Service ranger stations and chambers of commerce. In addition to the Park N'Ski areas, Farragut State Park, Priest Lake State Park, Round Lake State Park and Winchester State Park have cross-country ski trails available for use. For more information, contact the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, PO Box 83720, Boise ID 83720-0065, (208) 334-4199.

*Snowboarding, Grand Targhee Ski Resort*

Photo Courtesy of Idaho Tourism



## Snowmobiling

Idaho has over 7,200 miles of snowmobile trails in 29 grooming programs located throughout the state. Millions of acres of open riding exist on Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State and private land. The Forest Service and BLM can provide information that identifies open and closed areas, closure dates and other

details that may help you plan an enjoyable ride. Many county snowmobile programs also provide trail maps of the areas that are groomed. For more on where to ride in Idaho, contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at (208) 334-4199.

Source: Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation; [parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/](http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/)



*Silver City Masonic Temple*

Photo Courtesy of Idaho State Historical Society

## Bureau of Land Management

The BLM manages 11.9 million acres of public land in Idaho, most of which is concentrated in the southern part of the State. Every Idaho county contains some BLM-managed land, which accounts for 36 percent of the total Federal acreage within Idaho's borders. Idaho's public lands feature alpine forests, rolling rangeland, and spectacular canyonlands with premier desert white-water streams—the Owyhee, Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Lower Salmon.

Idaho's public lands are rich in environmen-

tal, historical, recreational, and economic values. These lands, with historical features that include some of the best remaining original ruts of the Oregon Trail, will attract millions of recreational visits. Many of these visits will be made by the outdoor sportsmen of Idaho, where about one of every three persons owns a fishing or hunting license. BLM-managed lands also support the traditional commodity activities of grazing, mining, and timber production, which are vital to Idaho's rural economies.

### BLM Districts and Field Offices

#### BOISE DISTRICT

3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705  
Information: (208) 384-3300

#### BRUNEAU FIELD OFFICE

3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705  
Information: (208) 384-3300

#### FOUR RIVERS FIELD OFFICE

Snake Rivers Birds of Prey National  
Conservation Area  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705  
Information: (208) 384-3300

#### OWYHEE FIELD OFFICE

20 First Avenue West  
Marsing, Idaho 83639  
Information: (208) 896-5912

#### COEUR D'ALENE DISTRICT

3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815  
Information: (208) 769-5000

#### COEUR D'ALENE FIELD OFFICE

3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815  
Information: (208) 769-5000

#### COTTONWOOD FIELD OFFICE

2 Butte Drive  
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522  
Information: (208) 962-3245

#### IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT

1405 Hollipark Drive  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401  
Information: (208) 524-7500

#### CHALLIS FIELD OFFICE

721 E Main Ave Ste 8  
Challis, Idaho 83226  
Information: (208) 879-6200

#### POCATELLO FIELD OFFICE

4350 Cliffs Drive  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204  
Information: (208) 478-6340

#### SALMON FIELD OFFICE

1206 South Challis Street  
Salmon, ID 83467  
Information: (208) 756-5400

#### UPPER SNAKE FIELD OFFICE

1405 Hollipark Drive  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401  
Information: (208) 524-7500

#### TWIN FALLS DISTRICT

2878 Addison Ave. East  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301  
Information: (208) 735-2060

#### BURLEY FIELD OFFICE

15 East 200 South  
Burley, Idaho 83318  
Information: (208) 677-6600

#### JARBIDGE FIELD OFFICE

2878 Addison Ave. East  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301  
Information: (208) 735-2060

#### SHOSHONE FIELD OFFICE

Craters of the Moon National Monument  
400 W F Street  
Shoshone, Idaho 83352  
Information: (208) 732-7200

## National Forests and Grasslands in Idaho

The National Forest system is responsible for administration of over 21 million acres of Idaho's forested land. This land serves a multiplicity of uses. The Forest Service must

juggle several competing uses including mining, recreation, logging, camping, wilderness, watershed protection, and scientific research, to name a few.

### BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST\*

1801 N. 1st Street  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
(406) 363-7100

### BOISE NATIONAL FOREST

1249 Vinnell Way, Suite 200  
Boise, ID 83709  
(208) 373-4100

### CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST\*

1405 Hollipark Drive  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
(208) 557-5900

### CURLEW NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

1405 Hollipark Drive  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
(208) 557-5900

### IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS - COEUR D'ALENE, KANIKSU, and ST. JOE NATIONAL FORESTS\*

3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815  
(208) 765-7223

### NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

903 3rd Street  
Kamiah, Idaho 83536  
(208) 935-2513

### PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

500 W. Mission St.  
Building 2  
McCall, Idaho 83638  
(208) 634-0700

### SALMON - CHALLIS NATIONAL FORESTS

1206 S. Challis Street  
Salmon, Idaho 83467  
(208) 756-5100

### SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST\*

2647 Kimberly Road East  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301  
(208) 737-3200

### WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST\*

PO Box 907, 1550 Dewey Avenue Ste A  
Baker City, Oregon 97814  
(541) 523-6391

### UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST\*

3285 East 3300 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84109  
(801) 466-6411

\* Unit is in two or more states

Source: US Forest Service, [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

## Major Land Areas, Sites and Rivers Designated by the U.S. Government

### National Parks and Monuments

The first National Park (Yellowstone) was designated in 1872. The National Park Service was created in 1916 to advance a new concept of land use to conserve the scenery, natural, historic, and wildlife in perpetuity for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. The U.S. Congress establishes these Parks and Sites.

### National Conservation Areas

National Conservation Areas (NCAs)

are designated by Congress to conserve, protect, enhance, and manage public land areas for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. NCAs feature exceptional natural, recreational, cultural, wildlife, aquatic, archeological, paleontological, historical, educational or scientific resources.

### National Recreation Areas

Congress in 1962 passed the National Recreation Area Act to help preserve and



expand outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the nation.

### **Wilderness Areas**

In 1964, Congress passed the Wilderness Act to set aside certain lands from development and to preserve their natural character. The Wilderness Act defines wilderness as an area of undeveloped Federal land, usually 5,000 acres or more, in a substantially natural condition. It is without permanent improvements or human habitation, and has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Such an area may contain ecological, geological, or other features or scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values.

## **National Parks, Monuments and Reserves**

### **City of Rocks National Reserve**

Established: 1988. “We encamped at the city of the rocks, a noted place from the granite rocks rising abruptly out of the ground,” wrote James Wilkins in 1849. “They are in a romantic valley clustered together, which gives them the appearance of a city.” Wilkins was among the first wagon travelers to fix the name City of Rocks to what looked like “a dismantled, rock-built city of the Stone Age.” California Trail pioneers were leaving civilization as they knew it in the East for new lives in the West. Some wrote their names in axle grease on rock faces, and their signatures can be seen today. No doubt thirsty on this northern edge of the Great Basin Desert, one emigrant saw the distant rocks in August like “water thrown up into the air from numerous artificial hydrants.” Beginning in 1843, City of Rocks was a landmark for emigrants on the California Trail and Salt Lake Alternate Trail and later on freight routes and the Kelton, Utah to Boise Idaho stage route.  
Contact Info: 3035 S Elba-Almo Rd  
Almo, ID 83312  
Phone: (208) 824-5901

### **Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve**

Established: 1924. A sea of lava flows with scattered islands of cinder cones and sagebrush describes this “weird and scenic landscape” known as Craters of the Moon. Craters of the Moon National Monument

### **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

In 1968, Congress authorized the Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act which permits State Legislatures and the U.S. Congress to designate certain rivers as wild and scenic to preserve outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values in a natural and free-flowing condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

### **National Natural Areas & Landmarks**

In 1972 Congress directed the Secretary of Interior to investigate and inventory areas which could be designated National Natural Landmarks and for possible inclusion into the National Parks System.

and Preserve contains three major lava fields covering almost half a million acres. These remarkably well preserved volcanic features resulted from geologic events that appear to have happened yesterday and will likely continue tomorrow. 18 miles W of Arco on Hwy 20.

Address: 1266 Craters Loop Road  
Contact Info: PO Box 29  
Arco, ID 83213  
Phone: (208) 527-1335

### **Hagerman Fossil Bed National Monument**

Established: 1988. Hagerman Fossil Beds contains the largest concentration of Hagerman Horse fossils in North America. The Monument is internationally significant because it protects the world’s richest known fossil deposits from a time period called the late Pliocene epoch, 3.5 million years ago. These plants and animals represent the last glimpse of time that existed before the Ice Age, and the earliest appearances of modern flora and fauna.  
Contact Info: PO Box 570  
Hagerman, ID 83332  
Phone: (208) 933-4105

### **Nez Perce National Historical Park - Spalding Visitor Center**

Established: 1965. For thousands of years the valleys, prairies, mountains, and plateaus of the inland northwest have



*Idaho Falls City Building*

Photo Courtesy of Idaho State Historical Society

been home to the Nimi'ipuu or Nez Perce people. Explore these places. Learn their stories. Treat them with care. The 38 sites of Nez Perce National Historical Park are scattered across the states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana and have been designated to commemorate the stories and history of the Nimiipuu and their interaction with explorers, fur traders, missionaries, soldiers, settlers, gold miners, and farmers who moved through or into the area.

Contact Info: 39063 US Hwy 95  
Lapwai, ID 83540  
Phone: (208) 843-7009

### **Yellowstone National Park**

Established: 1872. Idaho contains a portion of the nation's oldest and most famous national park. A thin strip totaling 31,488 acres (of the park's 2 million plus acres) make up part of Idaho's eastern border. Long before any recorded human history in Yellowstone, a massive volcanic eruption spewed an immense volume of ash that covered all of the western U.S., much of the Midwest, northern Mexico and some areas of the eastern Pacific. The eruption dwarfed

that of Mt. St. Helens in 1980 and left a caldera 30 miles wide by 45 miles long. That climactic event occurred about 640,000 years ago, and was one of many processes that shaped Yellowstone National Park—a region once rumored to be “the place where hell bubbles up.” Geothermal wonders, such as Old Faithful, are evidence of one of the world's largest active volcanoes. These spectacular features bemused and befuddled the park's earliest visitors, and helped lead to the creation of the world's first national park.

Contact Info: PO Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190  
Phone: (307) 344-7381

### **Hells Canyon National Recreation Area**

Established: 1975. Hells Canyon, North America's deepest river gorge, encompasses a vast and remote region with dramatic changes in elevation, terrain, climate and vegetation. Carved by the great Snake River, Hells Canyon plunges more than a mile below Oregon's west rim, and 8,000

feet below snowcapped He Devil Peak of Idaho's Seven Devils Mountains. There are no roads across Hells Canyon's 10-mile wide expanse, and only three roads that lead to the Snake River between Hells Canyon Dam and the Oregon-Washington boundary.

Contact Info: 1550 Dewey Ave Ste A  
(PO Box 907)

Baker City, OR 97814

Phone: (541) 523-6391

### **Sawtooth National Recreation Area**

Established: 1972. The SNRA, a part of the Sawtooth National Forest, is one of

the most breathtakingly beautiful spots in Western America. Three classic mountain ranges with 40 peaks of 10,000 feet or higher provide scenic landscapes in every direction. More than 300 high mountain lakes are within the SNRA and hundreds of sparkling streams with the clarity of crystal. Headwater creeks of the Salmon River converge in the Sawtooth Valley to form this legendary "River of No Return." Although the heartland of the SNRA is a 217,000-acre wilderness, it is only part of the total 756,000-acre SNRA.

Contact Info: 2647 Kimberly Road East,  
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Phone: (208) 737-3200

## **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created in 1968 by Congress. Designation as a wild and scenic river is not designation as a national park. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not generally lock up a river like a wilderness designation, the goal is to preserve the character of a river. Uses compatible with the management goals of a particular river are allowed; change is expected to happen. Development not damaging to the outstanding resources of a designated river, or curtailing its free flow, are usually allowed. The term "living landscape" has been frequently applied to wild and scenic rivers. Of course, each river designation is different, and each management plan is unique.

### **Battle Creek**

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. Battle Creek from its confluence with the Owyhee River to the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 23.4 miles; Total — 23.4 miles.

Battle Creek flows through a narrow, extremely meandering 200 foot deep canyon. The canyon consists of nearly continuous vertical walls of rhyolite which are about 1/8 mile apart. Over the next 20 miles the canyon widens to no more than 3/8 miles across and deepens to as much as 500 feet. Tucked between the cliffs and stream channel is a lush riparian area of willow, chokecherry, dogwood, alder, rose,

currant, sedges and grasses. Battle Creek is not floatable, but provides a beautiful hike for those floating the Owyhee River.

### **Big Jacks Creek**

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. Big Jacks Creek from the downstream border of the Big Jacks Creek Wilderness in Section 8, Township 8 South, Range 4 East, to the point at which it enters the Northwest 1/4 of Section 26, Township 10 South, Range 2 East, Boise Meridian.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 35.0 miles; Total — 35.0 miles.

Big Jacks Creek flows through Big Jacks Creek Wilderness. Enveloped by sheer and terraced canyon walls, this perennial stream is surrounded by riparian vegetation. Redband trout are found in the creek, and bighorn sheep inhabit the canyon. There are few trails that access this area.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise Idaho 83705

### **Bruneau River**

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. The Bruneau River from the downstream boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge Wilderness to its upstream confluence with the West Fork of the Bruneau River.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 38.7 miles; Recreational — 0.6 miles; Total — 39.3 miles.

Nearly 40 miles of the Bruneau River's 50-mile total length is designated as wild,

with a six-tenth-mile stretch at the Indian Hot Springs access point designated recreational. The Bruneau/Jarbidge River System flows north from the mountains of northern Nevada through the beautiful basalt and rhyolite canyons of the Owyhee Uplands to the Snake River in southern Idaho. The combination of sparkling water, steep multi-colored cliffs, and an interesting association of plants and animals make this desert canyon one of superior natural beauty and recreational appeal. The Bruneau River also provides challenging whitewater as it flows through this deep, wild and remote desert canyon.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise Idaho 83705

### **West Fork of the Bruneau River**

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. The West Fork of the Bruneau River from its confluence with the Jarbidge River to the downstream boundary of the Bruneau Canyon Grazing Allotment in the Southeast/Northeast quadrants of Section 5, Township 13 South, Range 7 East, Boise Meridian.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 0.4 miles; Total — 0.4 miles.

The West Fork Bruneau River joins with the Jarbidge River to form the Bruneau River about 24 miles north of the Nevada border, just upstream of Indian Hot Springs. The canyon opens up at this portion of the river through the designated 0.3 miles and then becomes narrower as the Bruneau River flows north.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### **Middle Fork of the Clearwater River**

**Designated Reach:** October 2, 1968. The Middle Fork from the town of Kooskia upstream to the town of Lowell. The Lochsa River from its confluence with the Selway River at Lowell (forming the Middle Fork) upstream to the Powell Ranger Station. The Selway River from Lowell upstream to its origin.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 54.0 miles; Recreational — 131.0 miles; Total — 185.0 miles.

The Middle Fork Clearwater includes the Lochsa and Selway Rivers, premier whitewater rivers. Part of the exploration route of Lewis and Clark follows the Lochsa River. Most of the Selway lies in Idaho's Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. These rivers offer clear, clean water, beautiful scenery with great plant diversity, and abundant wildlife.

Contact Info: Nez Perce - Clearwater  
National Forest  
903 3rd Street  
Kamiah, ID 83536

Bitterroot National Forest  
1801 North 1st Street  
Hamilton, Montana 59840

### **Cottonwood Creek**

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. Cottonwood Creek from its confluence with Big Jacks Creek to the upstream boundary of the Big Jacks Creek Wilderness.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 2.6 miles; Total — 2.6 miles.

Cottonwood Creek has dense riparian vegetation and tight meanders. Redband trout are found in the creek, and mule deer are common in the area. Access to the area is difficult.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### **Deep Creek**

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. Deep Creek from its confluence with the Owyhee River to the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness in Section 30, Township 12 South, Range 2 West, Boise Meridian.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 13.1 miles; Total — 13.1 miles.

Deep Creek carves an extremely meandering, vertical walled canyon to its confluence with the Owyhee River. Deep Creek can be kayaked or canoed in the early

spring when flows reach into the hundreds of cubic feet per second from snowmelt. Later in the spring, and again in the fall, Deep Creek provides outstanding hiking and backpacking opportunities.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### Dickshooter Creek

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. Dickshooter Creek from its confluence with Deep Creek to a point on the stream 1/4 mile due west of the east boundary of Section 16, Township 12 South, Range 2 West, Boise Meridian.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 9.3 miles; Total — 9.3 miles.

Dickshooter Creek flows south, and the stream cuts a narrow, deep gorge through the rolling plateau landscape until it joins with Deep Creek. The waters of Dickshooter cease to flow by late-spring to early summer, leaving behind only isolated pools in the gravel streambed. This canyon provides outstanding hiking and backpacking opportunities.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### Duncan Creek

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. Duncan Creek from its confluence with Big Jacks Creek upstream to the east boundary of Section 18, Township 10 South, Range 4 East, Boise Meridian.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 0.9 miles; Total — 0.9 miles.

Duncan Creek has dense riparian vegetation and tight meanders. Redband trout are found in the creek, and mule deer are common in the area. Access to the area is difficult.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### Jarbidge River

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. The Jarbidge River from its confluence with the West Fork of the Bruneau River to

the upstream boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 28.8 miles; Total — 28.8 miles.

The Jarbidge River joins with the West Fork Bruneau River to form the Bruneau River about 24 miles north of the Nevada border, just upstream of Indian Hot Springs. The Jarbidge River provides challenging whitewater during the spring, with stretches reaching Class V and VI difficulty. This river lies within a canyon with steep walls and statuesque rock formations. Golden eagles are commonly seen, and chukars are abundant.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### Little Jacks Creek

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. Little Jacks Creek from the downstream boundary of the Little Jacks Creek Wilderness upstream to the mouth of OX Prong Creek.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 12.4 miles; Total — 12.4 miles.

Surrounded by the Little Jacks Creek Wilderness, Little Jacks Creek is an attractive stream with excellent opportunities for viewing wildlife. Bighorn sheep are one of the main attractions. Little Jacks Creek lies within a multi-tiered, 1,000 foot deep canyon system. The stream has dense riparian vegetation and provides habitat for Redband trout. Spring is an opportune time to hike in this area.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### Owyhee River

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. The Owyhee River from the Idaho-Oregon State border to the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 67.3 miles; Total — 67.3 miles.

The Owyhee River Canyon consists of steep, rhyolite walls ranging in height from 250 feet to over 1,000 feet near the Oregon border. The west end of the river

below the confluence with the South Fork Owyhee River is known as the “Grand Canyon of the Owyhee.” Within this gorge can be found extensive areas of rhyolite pinnacle formations known as “hoodoos.” This is the most dramatic area of hoodoo formations within the entire Owyhee River system. Floating the Owyhee is popular in the spring during higher water flows. Low water float trips are also possible in smaller craft.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### **North Fork of the Owyhee River**

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. The North Fork of the Owyhee River from the Idaho-Oregon State border upstream to the upstream boundary of the North Fork Owyhee River Wilderness.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 15.1 miles; Recreational — 5.7 miles; Total — 20.8 miles.

Six miles of the North Fork Owyhee River, from the Idaho-Oregon border upstream to the Juniper Mountain road crossing, are designated as a recreational. Just over 15 miles, from the recreational river section upstream to the boundary of the North Fork Owyhee Wilderness, are designated wild. The North Fork Owyhee River consists of a steep, vertical walled canyon ranging in depth from 200 to 500 feet. As it flows toward Oregon, the canyon changes from a landscape dominated by rhyolite monoliths and pinnacle formations to one engulfed in sheer walls of blocky basalt. The river shoreline is lined with groves of mature and old-growth juniper woodlands. During high spring flows, a portion of this river is used by expert boaters as an outstanding Class V whitewater run.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### **South Fork of the Owyhee River, Idaho**

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. The

South Fork of the Owyhee River upstream from its confluence with the Owyhee River to the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness at the Idaho Nevada State border.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 30.2 miles; Recreational — 1.2 miles; Total — 31.4 miles.

Along this fork, 31.4 miles are designated wild, from the Idaho-Nevada border (the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness) to the confluence with the main Owyhee River. A short portion of this stretch, where the river crosses private land, will be managed as a recreational river. The South Fork Owyhee River enters Idaho from the north enclosed within a 550 foot deep canyon of basalt and rhyolite. Within the canyon there are beautiful rock pinnacles and hoodoos. This stretch of river is known as an outstanding wilderness river experience because of the canyon’s scenic qualities, solitude opportunities, wildlife viewing, and length of trip available.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### **Red Canyon River**

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. Red Canyon from its confluence with the Owyhee River to the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 4.6 miles; Total — 4.6 miles.

Red Canyon flows south and the stream cuts a narrow, deep gorge through the rolling plateau landscape until it joins the Owyhee River. Like the other canyons of the Owyhee River system, Red Canyon contains basalt and rhyolite walls. Riparian vegetation is well-established, and this canyon provides outstanding hiking and backpacking opportunities.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

### **Rapid River**

**Designated Reach:** December 31, 1975. The segment from the headwaters of the

main stem to the national forest boundary. The segment of the West Fork from the wilderness boundary downstream to the confluence with the main stem.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 26.8 miles; Total — 26.8 miles.

The water quality of Rapid River is exceptional; the river contains three listed fish species, chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, and associated critical habitat. The river's scenery is also outstanding; the steep gradient and narrow canyon focus the viewer's perspective on the fast-moving water and diverse riparian vegetation.

Contact Info: Nez Perce National Forest  
Salmon River Ranger District  
303 Slatecreek Rd  
HC 01, Box 70  
White Bird Idaho 83554

### Saint Joe River

**Designated Reach:** November 10, 1978. The segment above the confluence of the North Fork of the St. Joe River to St. Joe Lake.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 26.6 miles; Recreational — 39.7 miles; Total — 66.3 miles.

This northern Idaho river offers outstanding scenery, good fishing, and plenty of wildlife. The river was originally named the "St. Joseph" by Father Pierre-Jean DeSmet, a Catholic priest who established a mission there.

Contact Info: Idaho Panhandle National Forest

3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene Idaho 83815

### Salmon River

**Designated Reach:** July 23, 1980. The segment of the main stem from the mouth of the North Fork of the Salmon River downstream to Long Tom Bar.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 79.0 miles; Recreational — 46.0 miles; Total — 125.0 miles.

Known as "The River of No Return," the Salmon River is the longest free flowing river (425 miles) within one state in the lower 48. It originates in the Sawtooth and Lemhi Valleys of central and eastern Idaho, and snows from the Sawtooth and Salmon River Mountains in the south, and

the Clearwater and Bitterroot Mountains in the north, feed this wild river. The upper section passes through the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, while the lower section forms the southern boundary of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. The Salmon flows through a vast wilderness in the second deepest gorge on the continent. Only the Snake River (Hells) Canyon is deeper. The Salmon's granite-walled canyon is one-fifth of a mile deeper than the Grand Canyon. For approximately 180 miles, the Salmon Canyon is more than one mile deep. Largely due to this incredible wilderness, Congress designated 46 miles of the river, from North Fork to Corn Creek, as a recreational river and 79 miles, from Corn Creek to Long Tom Bar, as a wild river. From North Fork to Corn Creek, the spectacular canyon of the Salmon River has exposed some of the oldest known rocks in the state of Idaho. In the vicinity of Shoup, these rocks, called gneiss, have been dated as 1.5 billion years old. From Corn Creek to Long Tom Bar, the majority of the rocks exposed in the canyon walls are part of the Idaho Batholith. These rocks are generally called quartz monzonite and are approximately 65 million years old. The canyon itself was formed 35 to 45 million years ago. This rugged canyon provides habitat for an abundant and varied wildlife resource. Big game species commonly observed along the river include bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, mountain goats, black bear, cougar, and moose. Small mammal populations also are well represented by species such as bobcat, coyote, red fox, porcupine, badger, beaver, mink, marten, river otter, muskrat, weasel, marmots and skunks. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds are particularly abundant during seasonal migrations. Chukar, partridge, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, and spruce grouse are also common residents. The main stem of the Salmon River provides habitat for a variety of fish species. These include: cutthroat trout, bull trout, rainbow trout, mountain white fish, sockeye salmon, chinook salmon (spring/summer/fall run), steelhead, smallmouth bass, squawfish, sucker and sturgeon. The river offers high quality sportfishing for resident populations of cutthroat and rainbow trout, steelhead and whitefish.

Evidence suggests that man first inhabited the Salmon River country 8,000 years ago. White man came to the Salmon river in the very early 1800's following Lewis and Clark's 1805 expedition. There are several Native American and pioneer historical sites to visit along the river corridor. Many, such as the Jim Moore place, an early mining claim, are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Contact Info: Salmon-Challis National Forest

North Fork Ranger District  
Box 180  
North Fork, Idaho 83466

### **Middle Fork of the Salmon River**

**Designated Reach:** October 2, 1968. From its origin to its confluence with the Main Salmon River.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 103.0 miles; Recreational — 1.0 mile; Total — 104.0 miles.

One of the original eight rivers in the nation designated as Wild and Scenic on October 2, 1968, the Middle Fork of the Salmon River originates 20 miles northwest of Stanley Idaho, with the merging of Bear Valley and Marsh Creeks. The designated segment extends 100 miles from Dagger Falls to the confluence of the Middle Fork and the Main Salmon. The river traverses northeast through the heart of Idaho and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, flowing through a canyon that is the third deepest in North America. The Middle Fork is one of the last free flowing tributaries of the Salmon River system. Because of its remote location, man's presence in the area was somewhat limited, leaving it in the condition we see today. Only a few trails, landing strips, private ranches, and Forest Service stations are evidence of man's intrusion. While man's impact on the area has been relatively light, it has been diverse. The Native Americans who occupied the Middle Fork drainage were known as The Sheepeaters. They gained their name from the bighorn sheep that were prevalent in the area and constituted much of their diet. White trappers, miners and settlers began

coming into the area in the 1850's. No road access was ever built, and all supplies came in by horseback. Floating the river began in the 20's with a few adventurous souls who wanted to see beyond the rock wall canyon at Big Creek where the trail ended. Wildlife along the Middle Fork river is abundant due to the designation and isolation of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. The river moves through a variety of climates and land types, from alpine forest to high mountain desert to sheer rock walled canyon, creating a wide variety of habitats. Deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, bear and cougar are just a few of the animals to make the area their home. The Middle Fork drainage was one of the sites for the wolf reintroduction program. The fishery is one of the best catch and release fly fisheries in the nation. The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness occupies part of an extensive geological formation known as the Idaho Batholith. This formation, mainly granite, has been severely eroded, exposing underlying rock formations laid down during the Precambrian, Permian, Triassic, and Cretaceous periods.

Contact Info: Salmon-Challis National Forest

Middle Fork Ranger District  
311 N US Hwy 93  
Challis, Idaho 83226

### **Sheep Creek**

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. Sheep Creek from its confluence with the Bruneau River to the upstream boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 25.6 miles; Total — 25.6 miles.

Sheep Creek flows through an extremely narrow, winding canyon with sheer vertical walls. High water flows are in the spring and provide challenging whitewater for the most experienced boaters. Access to Sheep Creek is difficult because of its remoteness and primitive roads.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705



## Snake River

**Designated Reach:** December 1, 1975. The segment from Hells Canyon Dam downstream to an eastward extension of the north boundary of section 1, T5N, R47E, Willamette meridian.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 32.5 miles; Scenic — 34.4 miles; Total — 66.9 miles.

The Snake River likely got its name from the first white explorers who misinterpreted the sign made by the Shoshone people—who identified themselves in sign language by moving the hand in a swimming motion—which appeared to these explorers to be a “snake”; it actually signified that they lived near the river with many fish. In the 1950’s the name “Hells Canyon” was borrowed from Hells Canyon Creek, which enters the river near what is now Hells Canyon Dam. In the old days, Hells Canyon was known as Snake River Canyon or Box Canyon, though a few locals called it the “Grand Canyon of the Snake.” The Hells Canyon area was once home to Shoshone and Nez Perce tribes. According to the Nez Perce tribe, Coyote dug the Snake River Canyon in a day to protect the people on the west side of the river from the Seven Devils, a band of evil spirits living in the mountain range to the east. In the late nineteenth century, the military drove the Native Americans out and settlers began ranching and mining in the canyon. Today, boaters can explore archaeological sites and old homesteads, all part of the canyon’s rich, colorful history. Hells Canyon is one of the most imposing river gorges in the West. Until a million years ago, the Owyhee Mountains acted as a dam between the Snake River and its current confluence with the Columbia River, creating a vast lake in what is now southwestern Idaho. When the mountains were finally breached, the Snake roared northward, cutting a giant chasm through the volcanic rock. The resulting canyon, roughly ten miles across, is not as dramatic as the Grand Canyon. However, when the surrounding peaks are visible from the river, the sense of depth is tremendous.

The adjacent ridges average 5,500’ above the river. He Devil Mountain, tallest of the Seven Devils (9,393’) towers almost 8,000’ above the river, creating the deepest gorge in the United States. The river is as big as the landscape. Below Hells Canyon Dam, the Snake usually carries more water than the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Below the confluence with the Salmon River, flows average 35,000 cfs and often peak over 100,000 when the Salmon is high. Further downstream, the Clearwater and other rivers dump their flows into the Snake River, creating the Columbia River’s largest tributary. (The total drainage area is approximately the size of Oregon.)

Contact Info: Wallowa-Whitman  
National Forest  
1550 Dewey Ave Ste A  
Baker City, OR 97814

## Wickahoney Creek

**Designated Reach:** March 30, 2009. Wickahoney Creek from its confluence with Big Jacks Creek to the upstream boundary of the Big Jacks Creek Wilderness.

**Classification/Mileage:** Wild — 1.5 miles; Total — 1.5 miles.

Wickahoney Creek has dense riparian vegetation and tight meanders. Redband trout are found in the creek, and mule deer are common in the area. Access to the area is difficult.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land  
Management  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

Source: National Wild & Scenic Rivers System



*Union Pacific Maritime Depot*

*Photo Courtesy of Jeff Harvey*

## National Conservation Areas

### Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area

Created: 1993

Along the Snake River, 20 miles south of Boise Idaho, the NCA contains 485,000 acres. This includes 81 miles of the Snake River, 65,000 acres of critical nesting habitat, and 420,000 acres of prey habitat. A unique combination of climate, geology, soils, and vegetation has created a complete and stable ecosystem where predators and prey occur in extraordinary numbers. Canyon walls along the Snake River, ranging up to 600 feet high, provide abundant nest sites for birds of prey. Deep, wind blown soils cover expansive plateaus above the canyon. An unusual variety and high number of small mammals burrow in the fine textured soils, and find food and cover in the dense grasses and shrubs that grow on the plateau. Paiute ground squirrels are the most abundant burrowing species. Portions of the area support the densest ground squirrel populations ever recorded, they are the main prey of Prairie falcons. Blacktailed jackrabbits are an important prey species, especially for Golden eagles. Pocket gophers, kangaroo rats, and deer mice are also common prey species. The NCA contains the densest concentration of nesting birds of prey in North America, and one of the densest in the world,

more than 700 pairs of raptors nest here, representing 15 species. The NCA's prairie falcon population represents a significant portion of the species population. In all, 259 wildlife species inhabit the area; 45 mammal, 165 bird, 8 amphibian, 16 reptile, and 25 fish species. The Snake River Canyon within the NCA contains some of the oldest and most remarkable Native American archaeological sites in Idaho. Over 200 sites are recorded, including numerous outstanding petroglyphs. Human occupation has been dated to 10,000 B.C. In 1979 the Black Butte-Guffey Butte Archaeological District, located entirely within the NCA, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Portions of the Oregon National Historic Trail traverse the length of the NCA. Certain trail remnants are among the best preserved in the nation. The 1860's discovery of gold in the nearby Owyhee Mountains brought settlement to the area. Three sites from this period are on the National Register of Historic Places, including Swan Falls Dam (1901), the first hydroelectric dam on the Snake River.

Contact Info: Bureau of Land Management  
Lower Snake River District  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise Idaho 83705  
208- 384-3300

## National Natural Landmarks

The National Natural Landmarks Program recognizes and encourages the conservation of outstanding examples of our country's natural history. It is the only natural areas program of national scope that identifies and recognizes the best examples of biological and geological features in both public and private ownership. National Natural Landmarks (NNLs) are designated by the Secretary of the Interior, with

the owner's concurrence. To date, fewer than 600 sites have been designated. The National Park Service administers the NNL Program, and if requested, assists NNL owners and managers with the conservation of these important sites.\**NNLs are not National Parks. NNL status does not indicate public ownership, and many sites are not open for visitation.*

### **Big Southern Butte**

Butte County - 37 miles northwest of Blackfoot. Designated 1976.

Owner: Federal.

Acres: 5,756

The butte is composed of light-colored silicic volcanic rocks and stands nearly 760 meters above the low relief surface of the Eastern Snake River Plain. The site is an ecological "island" supporting vegetation such as lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), aspen (*Populus sp.*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos sp.*) not common to this region. The largest area of volcanic rocks of young age in the United States.

### **Big Springs**

Fremont County - 54 miles northeast of Rexburg. Designated 1980.

Owner: Federal.

Acres: 7

The springs emanate from rhyolite lava flows of the Madison Plateau, which comprise one of the largest rhyolite lava fields in the United States. Big Springs is the only first magnitude spring in the United States that issues forth from rhyolitic lava flows. It is the source of the South Fork of the Henry's Fork River.

### **Cassia Silent City of Rocks**

Cassia County. Designated 1974.

Owner: Federal, State and Private.

Acres: 20,214

Contains monolithic landforms created by exfoliation processes on exposed massive granite plutons, and the best example of bornhardts in the country.

### **Crater Rings**

Elmore County. Designated 1980.

Owner: Federal.

Acres: 1,262

Two adjacent and symmetrical pit craters that are among the few examples of this type of crater in the continental United States. The pit craters, which are volcanic conduits in which the lava column rises and falls, were formed by explosions followed by collapse.

### **Great Rift System**

Blaine County and extends into Minidoka and Power Counties - 43 miles northwest of Pocatello. Designated 1968.

Owner: Federal.

Acres: 171,999

As a tensional fracture in the Earth's crust that may extend to the crust-mantle interface, the Great Rift System is unique in North America and has few counterparts in the world. It also illustrates primary vegetation succession on very young lava flows.

### **Hagerman Fauna Sites**

Twin Falls County - West and southwest of Hagerman. Designated 1975.

Owner: Federal and State.

Acres: 4,243

Contains the world's richest deposits of Upper Pliocene Age terrestrial fossils, therefore considered to be of international significance.

### **Hell's Half Acre Lava Field**

Bingham County and extends into Bonneville County - The center of the site is 20 miles west of Idaho Falls. Designated 1976.

Owner: Federal and State.

Acres: 42,038

A complete, young, unweathered, fully exposed pahoehoe lava flow and an outstanding example of pioneer vegetation establishing itself on a lava flow.

### **Hobo Cedar Grove Botanical Area**

Shoshone County - 12 miles northeast of Clarkia. Designated 1980.

Owner: Federal.

Acres: 246

An outstanding example of pristine western red cedar forest. Two communities are represented: cedar/Oregon boxwood on the uplands and cedar/fern on the lowlands.

### **Niagara Springs**

Gooding County. Designated 1980.

Owner: Private

Acres: 51

The least developed of the large springs

discharging into the Snake River from the Snake River Plain aquifer system. It is outstandingly illustrative of the enormous volume of water transmitted through this aquifer.

### **North Menan Butte**

Jefferson County and extends into Madison County. Designated 1980. Owner: Federal and Private. Acres: 2,865

Contains outstanding examples of glass tuff cones, which are found in only a few places in the world. Their large size and unusual composition make them particularly illustrative of an unusual aspect of basaltic volcanism.

### **Sheep Rock**

Adams County - In Payette National Forest, 35 miles northwest of Council and two miles east of the Snake River. Designated 1976. Owner: Federal. Acres: 17

Provides the best view of the horizontally layered lavas that represent successive flows on the Columbia River Basalt Plateau, and an unobstructed view of two contrasting series of volcanic rocks separated by a major unconformity—an important geologic phenomenon.

Source: National Park Service; [www.nature.nps.gov](http://www.nature.nps.gov)

*Boundary County Courthouse*

Photo Courtesy of Idaho State Historical Society



## National Historic and Recreation Trails

### Ashton to Tetonia Trail

The Ashton-Tetonia Trail opened to the public in 2010, and is administered by the Idaho department of Parks and Recreation. It is managed through Harriman State Park. This 29.6 mile trail follows the abandoned railroad grade of the Teton Valley Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad from Ashton to Tetonia.

Address: c/o Harriman State Park, 3489 Green Canyon Rd, Island Park, ID 83429;  
Phone: (208) 558-7368

### California National Historic Trail

The California Trail carried over 250,000 gold-seekers and farmers to the gold fields and rich farmlands of California during the 1840's and 1850's, the greatest mass migration in American history. Today, more than 1,000 miles of trail ruts and traces can still be seen in the vast undeveloped lands between Casper, Wyoming and the West Coast, reminders of the sacrifices, struggles, and triumphs of early American travelers and settlers. More than 240 historic sites along the trail will eventually be available for public use and interpretation. The California Trail system (more than 5,500 miles) was developed over a period of years, and numerous cutoffs and alternate routes were tried to see which was the "best" in terms of terrain, length and sufficient water and grass for livestock. The general route began at various jumping off points along the Missouri River and stretched to various points in California, Oregon, and the Sierra Nevada. The specific route that emigrants and forty-niners used depended on their starting point in Missouri, their final destination in California, the condition of their wagons and livestock, and yearly changes in water and forage along the different routes. The trail passes through the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and California.

Address: National Park Service, Salt Lake City Field Office, 324 S State St. Suite 200, Salt Lake City, UT 84111;  
Phone: (801) 741-1012

### Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

Elevations range from 7,000 to 11,000 feet. From Summit Lake Trail in Yellowstone National Park, the trail meanders along the Idaho-Montana border for 80 miles through the Beaverhead National Forest. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail does not actually go through Idaho, but rather runs along the border of Idaho and Montana. It runs through the rugged and beautiful Beaverhead Range, then east through the Centennial Mountains.

Address: US Forest Service Intermountain Region, 324 25th St., Ogden, UT 84401  
Phone: (801) 625-5605

### Idaho Centennial Trail

The Idaho Centennial Trail travels 1200 miles from the Canadian border to the border with Nevada. It passes through all the ecological zones of the state: old growth cedar groves, clear glacial lakes, precipitous and rugged peaks, deep forests carpeted with ferns, granite spires, rushing rivers, and sagebrush steppes. The wildlife varies with the landscape, and adventurers may encounter just about any species in Idaho. The rivers and lakes are uniformly filled with game fish; raptors and waterfowl nest along the waterways. The forests are home to big game, from bighorn sheep and mountain goats to deer, elk, and moose. The expansive sage grasslands offer habitat to antelope, pheasant, grouse, and other upland game birds. The trail includes single track trails, jeep trails, and dirt roads, so any kind of user can appreciate the best that Idaho has to offer. The trail branches in the center of the state, so those on mountain bikes, snowmobiles, ATVs or trail bikes have a non-wilderness alternative. From Murphy Hot Springs at the Nevada state

line to Upper Priest Falls, near the Canadian border. Enroute it passes through the Owyhee Uplands, the Sawtooth National Forest and National Recreation Area, the Challis, Boise, Payette and Nez Perce National Forests, the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, the Clearwater National Forest, and the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

Web Address: <http://idahocentennialtrail.blogspot.com>

### **Lewis and Clark National Trail**

The Lewis and Clark Expedition, which occurred from 1804 to 1806, was one of the most dramatic and significant episodes in the history of the United States. It stands, incomparably, as our nation's epic in documented exploration of the American West. On the journey to the Pacific Ocean, the Lewis and Clark Expedition passed through north central Idaho. There are several historic sites and trails.

**Traveller's Rest:** Campsites of September 9-10, 1805, and June 30, 1806, near present-day Lolo, Montana. Campsites of September 11 and 12, 1805, along present-day Lolo Creek in Montana.

**Lolo Hot Springs:** A resort today.

**Packer Meadows:** The site where the Expedition rested on the return trip. Find it just east of the visitor center at Lolo Pass.

**Glade Creek Camp:** The site where the Expedition camped on September 13, 1805, a mile from the Lolo Pass Visitor Center and a few hundred yards off Forest Service Road 5670.

**Colt Killed Camp:** The site where the Expedition camped on September 14, 1805. It's at the Powell Ranger Station. Here the Expedition, unable to find game on the mountain, killed a young horse for food.

**Whitehouse Pond:** The small pond named by Private Whitehouse and noted in his journal. From here the Expedition left the river bottom and climbed up a steep ridge to the mountains to the north. A visitor seeking the true Lewis and Clark experience can hike a five-mile trail up that ridge line.

**Sites accessible from Kamiah or Weippe:** Along well-maintained gravel roads near Weippe.

**Salmon Trout Camp:** The site where the Corps camped June 18, 1806, waiting for the snows to melt in the high country. Short of food as they had been unsuccessful at hunting, they shot at several salmon a number of times without success.

**Small Prairie Camp:** The site where the Corps camped June 15, 1806, in a hard rain.

**Lewis and Clark Grove:** The site where Captain Clark, with five hunters, camped September 19, 1805, after coming 22 miles "...over a mountain, ...through much falling timber (which caused our road of to day to be double the direct distance on the course)...."

**Pheasant Camp:** The site where the main party under Captain Lewis camped September 21, 1805. Lewis wrote, "...we killed a few pheasants...."

**Weippe:** The site where Clark came across a few Nez Perce Indians near present-day Weippe on September 20, 1805. Today the site of the meeting is commemorated with a highway sign. The route along the ridge line followed by the Expedition is visible to the east.

**Address:** Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, 601 Riverfront Dr, Omaha NE 68201; Phone: (402) 661-1804

### **Nee-Me-Poo (Nez Perce) National Historical Trail**

In the summer of 1877, the Nez Perce were forced to move to a reservation, and a small band, some led by Chief Joseph, resisted. After repeated treaties had been broken, a small group of Nez Perce warriors lost patience and killed some particularly unfriendly settlers. Fearing retribution, the band fled through Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana, seeking refuge in Canada. They were pursued doggedly by the US Army and several volunteers, and eventually caught after fleeing over 1500 miles in three and a half months. Location: In its 1,170-mile route toward Canada, the trail runs from

Wallowa Lake, Oregon to the Bear Paws Mountains in northern Montana, and passes through the states of Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana, crossing tribal, private, county, state, and Federal lands.

Address: NPNHT Administration, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544

Phone: (208) 476-8334



*Nee-Mee-Po National Historic Trail in North Central Idaho*

Photo Courtesy of Steve Lee

The Nez Perce (Nimíipuu or Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail stretches from Wallowa Lake, Oregon, to the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana. It was added to the National Trails System by Congress in 1986.



## Oregon Trail National Historic Trail

In the mid-1800s, thousands of pioneers followed the Oregon Trail 2,000 miles from Missouri to Oregon in search of a better life. However, the Oregon Trail was never just one route. The Idaho portion of the Oregon Trail crossed deserts, mountains, and dangerously turbulent or deep rivers. Some emigrants deviated from the main trail in search of water and livestock forage, while others found shortcuts and better routes to avoid difficult terrain. Two segments of the primary route, North Trail and Sinker Creek, are located in southwestern Idaho, and visitors today can still see original wagon ruts. Interpretive sites at Bonneville Point, 16 miles southeast of Boise, and at the Milner Site, 4 miles west of Burley, explain the challenges faced by courageous pioneers. Natural landmarks on the Oregon Trail include:

**Smith's Fort:** Trading post owned by mountain man Peg Leg Smith who supplied travelers 1848-1849.

**Sheep Rock:** Named for mountain sheep seen by early travelers. Now called Soda Point, it is not far from the modern town of Soda Springs. Hudspeth's Cutoff branches from the main trail here.

**Soda Springs:** Steamboat Spring and Beer Spring were dubbed the Soda Springs because they bubbled out of the ground. Now covered by the Soda Point Reservoir. The modern town of Soda Springs gets its name from these springs.

**American Falls:** These falls were mentioned in the diaries of immigrants traveling the trails.

**Massacre Rocks:** 25 families from Iowa were attacked here August, 1862.

**Fort Hall:** Founded in 1834 by Nathaniel Wyeth. Later purchased by the Hudson's Bay Company. Abandoned in 1856.

**Twin Springs:** A welcome end to a stretch of desert along Hudspeth's Cutoff.

**City of Rocks:** Formations of soft granite.

**Salmon Falls:** Famous Indian fishing spot where travelers traded for fresh food. Not the same location as the modern town of

Salmon.

**Twin Falls:** Side by side waterfalls are as good as their name.

**Shoshone Falls:** An impressive waterfall dropping into the Snake River Canyon. Worth a side trip by wagon or car.

**Thousand Springs:** A series of waterfalls coming from the wall of the Snake River Canyon.

**Three Island Crossing:** Three small islands in the Snake River give this river ford its name.

**Hot Springs:** East of the modern town of Mountain Home. Not the same hot spring as Lava Hot Springs.

**Givens Hot Springs:** On the southern alternate route.

**Fort Boise:** Established in 1834 by the Hudson's Bay Company. The trail in Idaho leads from the southeastern corner of the state, through the central part of the state along the Snake River, near Boise and into Oregon.

Address: National Park Service, Salt Lake City Office, 324 S State St Suite 200, Salt Lake City UT 84111

Phone: (801) 741-1012

## Pacific Northwest Trail

The 1200 mile Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT), running from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean, ranks among the most scenic trails in the world. This carefully chosen path is high for the views and long on adventure. It includes the Rocky Mountains, Selkirk Mountains, Pasayten Wilderness, North Cascades, Olympic Mountains, and Wilderness Coast. The trail crosses 3 National Parks and 7 National Forests.

Address: Pacific Northwest Trail Association, 1851 Charles Jones Memorial Circle, Unit 4, North Cascade Gateway Center, Sedro-Woolley WA 98284; Phone: 877-854-9415; 360-854-9415

## Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes

The Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes is one of the most spectacular trails in the western United States. The trail nearly spans the Panhandle of Idaho as it runs along rivers, beside lakes and through Idaho's historic Silver Valley. Dispersed along the trail are

36 unique bridges and trestles that cross mountain creeks, whitewater rivers and tranquil lakes. The east end of the trail passes through a narrow mountain valley once heavily mined for silver. The valley is dotted with numerous small historic mining communities each offering their own unique features. The middle section of the trail follows the tranquil Coeur d'Alene River, passing fifteen small lakes and marshes loaded with waterfowl. The west end of the trail lies along the shoreline of scenic Coeur d'Alene Lake for six miles. It crosses a 3100-foot bridge/trestle to Heyburn State Park, the Northwest's oldest state park. The trail then follows the remote forested Plummer Creek Canyon for six miles, ending in the community of Plummer.

Address: 31732 S Mission Road, Cataldo ID 83810 (PO Box 30)  
Phone: (208) 682-3814

### **William Pogue National Recreation Trail**

3400-foot elevation. Trail splits at trailhead. One branch heads east along Sheep Creek to connect with the Roaring River Trail (11 miles). The other branch goes due south, following Corral Creek and meeting Forest Road 221 (8.5 miles). Both sections are open to bikes, motorcycles, horses, and hikers. Spurs off the William Pogue trail are Lava Mountain, Lower Lava Mountain, and Devils Creek, which all branch off to the south from the Sheeps Creek section. Information at trailhead kiosk. From

*Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes*

Boise, go 17 miles north on ID 21, then 26 miles east on Forest Road 268, around the Arrowrock Reservoir.

Address: Boise National Forest  
1249 S Vinelli Way Ste 200  
Boise, ID 83709  
Phone: (208) 373-4100

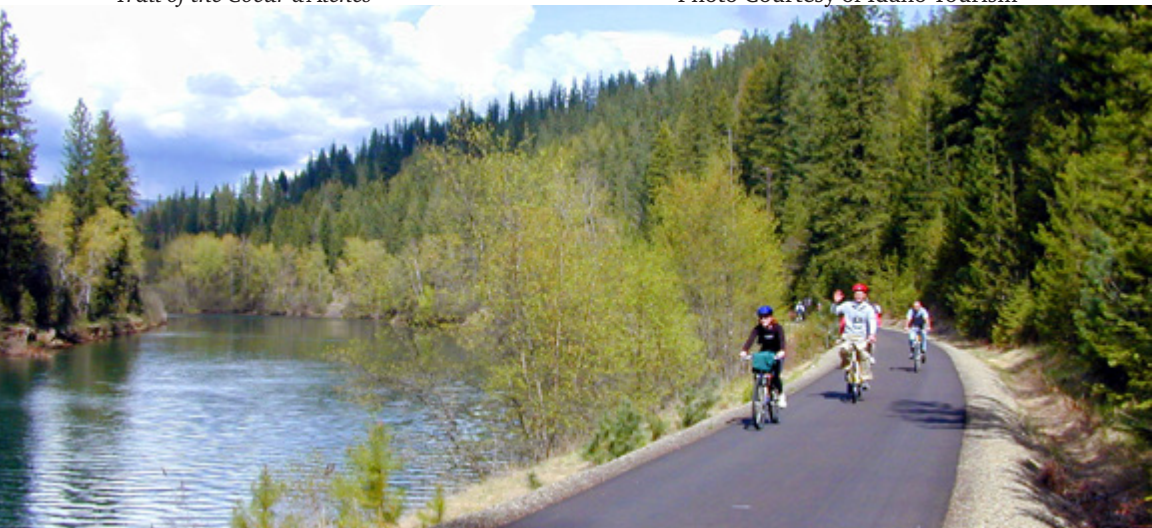
### **Wright Creek National Recreation Trail**

This trail runs 12 miles through the Elkhorn Mountain Range from Summit Campground to Reed Canyon. Follow Indian Mill Trail from Summit Campground to enjoy fantastic views from the summit of Elkhorn Peak, at 9095 feet. This trail is a scenic route open to year round recreational use. This trail can be done as a loop by returning to other area trails. Hunting for mule deer in the fall. There is a stock loading ramp in the parking lot for equestrians. The Elkhorn Mountain region features high peaks, and is the largest roadless area in the Bannock Range. The steep slopes of the canyon are thickly forested with pine, fir, maple, and aspen. The trail passes through the saddle north of the summit. Area wildlife includes mule deer, and some elk, cougar, and bear.

Address: Westside Ranger District, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, 195 South 300 East, Malad, ID 83252; Phone: 208-766-5900

Source: Public Lands Information Center, [www.publiclands.org](http://www.publiclands.org)

Photo Courtesy of Idaho Tourism



## National Wildlife Areas

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Refuge System preserves a network of lands and waters set aside for the conservation and management of the nation's fish, wildlife, and plant resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Information can be obtained from the following sources:

### **Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

322 N 4th St, Montpelier, ID 83254  
(208) 847-1757

Bear Lake Refuge is located in southeast Idaho, seven miles south of Montpelier. Surrounded by mountains, it lies in Bear Lake Valley at an elevation ranging from 5,925 feet on the marsh to 6,800 feet on the rocky slopes of Merkle Mountain. The interspersed bulrush, open water, and uplands provides ideal habitat for numerous waterfowl species. Common nesting species include the Canada goose, redhead, canvasback, mallard, gadwall, cinnamon teal, and northern shoveler. In a typical breeding season, the refuge will produce 4,500 ducks and 1,800 geese. Trumpeter swans are also beginning to nest on the refuge. The refuge provides valuable habitat for 12 species that nest in colonies in bulrush. These include the white-faced ibis, snowy egret, black-crowned night-heron, great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, California gull, Franklin's gull, Caspian tern, Forster's tern, black tern, western grebe, and eared grebe. Each species requires specific conditions for its nesting site. Sandhill cranes are frequently observed on the refuge. In late September, flocks of 200-500 cranes often feed on refuge grainfields. Bear Lake Refuge harbors one of the largest nesting colonies of white-faced ibis, a species now quite rare in the United States. Up to 5,000 adult ibis may be present in the spring. Because of its relative scarcity, management activities give the white-faced ibis special consideration. The refuge's shallow water and mudflat areas provide habitat for willets, avocets,

and stilts. Elusive rails are also present along with that master of camouflage, the bittern. Refuge habitat supports a rich variety of other migratory birds such as hawks, owls, and many species of songbirds. Refuge biologists have identified 161 bird species that use the refuge. Hundreds of mule deer winter along Merkle Mountain, and one or two moose are present during most seasons in refuge willows. Smaller mammals often seen are muskrats, skunks, and cottontail rabbits. Residents less frequently seen vary from small meadow voles to beavers, coyotes, badgers, mink, and weasels.

### **Camas National Wildlife Refuge**

2150 East 2350 North  
Hamer, Idaho 83425  
(208) 662-5423

About half of the Camas National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Idaho consists of lakes, ponds, and marshlands; the remainder is grass sagebrush uplands, meadows, and farm fields. Camas Creek flows through the length of the refuge. During migration, which peaks in March-April and October, up to 50,000 ducks and 3,000 geese may be present on the refuge. Tundra and trumpeter swans visit in the hundreds during migration. The refuge has become a popular swan watching destination with hundreds of tundra and trumpeter swans stopping over during migration. Several state record songbird observations have been made in refuge cottonwood groves on the refuge. Water management is a critical component of Camas Refuge operations. An extensive system of canals, dikes, wells, ponds, and water-control structures is used to manipulate water for the benefit of wildlife, with an emphasis on nesting waterfowl. Haying and prescribed fire are used to manipulate vegetation in some fields, and small grain crops are grown to provide supplemental feed for geese and cranes and to keep them from damaging private croplands.

### **Deer Flat National**

## **Wildlife Refuge**

13751 Upper Embankment Road  
Nampa, 83686  
(208) 467-9278

Nestled in the rolling sagebrush hills of southwest Idaho, the watery oasis at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge provides an important breeding area for birds and mammals, as well as other wildlife. The refuge is also a significant resting and wintering area for birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway, including spectacular concentrations of mallards and Canada geese. Because of its value to birds, Deer Flat has been declared a Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy. Located southwest of Boise, Idaho, the refuge has two sectors, Lake Lowell and the Snake River Islands. The Lake Lowell sector encompasses 10,588 acres, including the almost 9,000-acre Lake Lowell and surrounding lands. The Snake River Islands sector contains about 800 acres on 101 islands. These islands are distributed along 113 river miles from the Canyon-Ada County Line in Idaho to Farewell Bend in Oregon. Several islands house heron rookeries and gull colonies, and provide feeding and resting spots for migratory birds. The refuge protects a wide range of wildlife habitats, from the open waters and wetland edges of Lake Lowell, to the sagebrush uplands around the lake, to the grasslands and riparian forests on the Snake River islands. Refuge staff use a variety of wildlife management techniques to create and maintain wildlife habitat. With assistance from local growers, the refuge also cooperatively farms 240 acres to provide food for wildlife. The variety of habitats makes the refuge an important breeding area for resident and migratory birds and other wildlife. The refuge is also a significant resting and wintering area for birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway, including spectacular concentrations of mallards and Canada geese. Deer Flat, founded by President Teddy Roosevelt on February 25, 1909, is one of the oldest refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge

System, which now includes 540 refuges. The Refuge System celebrated its centennial in March 2003. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the System preserves a network of lands and waters set aside for the conservation and management of the nation's fish, wildlife, and plant resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

## **Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

74 Grays Lake Road  
Wayan, Idaho 83285  
(208) 574-2755

Grays Lake Refuge is 27 miles north of Soda Springs in southeast Idaho. It lies in a high mountain valley at 6,400 feet. Grays "Lake" is actually a large, shallow marsh. It has little open water and is covered with dense vegetation, primarily bulrush and cattail. Wet meadows and grasslands surround the marsh. Winters at Grays Lake are severe and long. Snow cover lasts from November through April, and frost may occur any month of the year. Warm days and cool nights characterize summers, with high temperatures only rarely exceeding 90 degrees. Annual precipitation averages about 15 inches. Grays Lake Refuge was established in 1965 with the primary objective of protecting and restoring habitat for nesting ducks and geese. Each spring, when the snow melts in April or May, a large variety of waterfowl migrate through the refuge and some stay to nest. The refuge's common nesting species include the mallard, cinnamon teal, canvasback, lesser scaup, redhead, and Canada goose. In recent years, trumpeter swans have reestablished as an important nesting species. Grays Lake is one of the best areas in this region to observe the rare trumpeter. In a typical breeding season, the refuge may produce up to 5,000 ducks, 2,000 geese, and over 20 swans. Ducks and geese, the last birds to migrate south in the fall, remain until freeze-up, which usually occurs in November. Grays Lake hosts the largest nesting population of greater sandhill cranes in the world. Over

200 nesting pairs have been counted in some years. Sandhills begin arriving in early April. In the fall, the refuge serves as a staging area, a place where cranes gather before migrating south to New Mexico, Arizona, and Mexico for the winter. During the staging period in late September and early October, as many as 3,000 cranes have been observed in the valley at one time. Abundant wet meadows, shallow water, mudflats, and bulrush marshes provide habitat for a large variety of waterbirds. A great number use the refuge during spring, summer, and fall. Franklin's gulls nest in large colonies in bulrush habitat, along with a lesser number of white-faced ibis. Grebes, bitterns, and elusive rails are also present. Shorebirds include curlews, snipe, phalaropes, and willets. Refuge habitat supports a variety of other migratory birds, including eagles, hawks, falcons, and many species of songbirds. Non-migratory birds include ruffed and sharp-tailed grouse. Large mammals regularly seen at Grays Lake are moose, elk, and mule deer. Smaller mammals include muskrats, ground squirrels, and badgers.

### **Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge**

287 Westside Road  
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805  
(208) 267-3888

Located 20 miles from the Canadian border and 5 miles from the town of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge is bordered by the rugged Selkirk Mountains to the west, the Kootenai River, Deep Creek to the east, and State lands to the south. Water is diverted from Myrtle Creek, the refuge's main water supply, and pumped from the Kootenai River and Deep Creek to maintain permanent ponds and to flood waterfowl food plots in the fall. The primary goal of the refuge is to provide resting and feeding habitat for migrating waterfowl. Spring migrants include mallards, northern pintails, American wigeon, and tundra swans. Canada geese gather on the refuge during August and September, while mallards peak in November. Some

waterfowl arrive in the spring and stay to nest on the refuge. The principal species are mallards, cinnamon and blue-winged teal, common golden-eyes, redheads, wood ducks, and Canada geese.

### **Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge**

Route 4 Box 290  
961 E Minidoka Dam Rd.  
Rupert, ID 83350-9414  
(208) 436-3589

Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge is located on the Snake River Plain in south-central Idaho, 12 miles northeast of Rupert. It includes about 80 miles of shoreline around lake Walcott, from Minidoka Dam upstream about 25 miles. Minidoka is one link in a chain of many Federal and State refuges in the Pacific Flyway that provide habitat for a variety of species during migration each year. Waterfowl are the most abundant migratory wildlife using the refuge. The refuge also serves as a molting area for waterfowl in summer. Of the 28 species of waterfowl that use the refuge, those most commonly seen are the Canada goose, mallard, pintail, redhead, gadwall, and wigeon. Unlike most birds, which molt wing and tail feathers one at a time, waterfowl lose their wing and tail feathers all at once and remain flightless for a month while the feathers grow back. The refuge's secluded bays free of disturbance, with lush beds of vegetation, attract 100,000 molting ducks and geese from July through September. During spring and fall migrations, over 500 tundra swans use the refuge. Open water, marshes, and mudflats provide habitat for an assortment of waterbirds. Western and Clark's grebes, American coots, and killdeer are commonly seen. Careful observers may also see common loons and shorebirds, such as willets, American avocets, and Wilson's phalaropes. Some birds depend on mutual defense and isolation to protect their nests from predators. Rather than nesting alone, they nest in dense colonies on small, isolated islands or in groves of small trees. Often, several species nest together in one

colony. By acting together, they can repel most predators. Colony nesters on the refuge include western and Clark's grebes, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, snowy egret, black-crowned night heron, American white pelican, California gull, and occasionally great egret or cattle egret. Portions of the refuge are closed to public access during the nesting season to protect the colonies from disturbance. The variety of habitats at Minidoka supports a diversity of birds not found in most areas of Idaho. Over 230 species have been seen on the refuge. Because of the colonies and concentrations of waterfowl, American Bird Conservance has designated the refuge an Important Bird Area of Global Significance. Some non-migratory species such as sharp-tailed and sage grouse, ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, and some songbirds are present year long. Other species occur only during summer months. Bald eagles can be seen regularly during the fall and winter. Whether perched in a tree, foraging for fish below the dam, or sitting on the ice feeding on waterfowl, they are always a majestic sight. Look for them in large trees around the park during the winter. It takes four or five years before bald eagles get their white heads, so look carefully to distinguish young bald eagles from golden eagles. Sagebrush is a unique plant community composed of plant species superbly adapted to this region's hot, dry summers and snowy winters. Sagebrush is a critical plant species for many animals, such as sage grouse, sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, and sage thrasher. Without large expanses of sagebrush, these species will continue to decline. Pronghorns and mule deer rely on sagebrush for winter food and cover all year long. A wide variety of mammals occur on the refuge. Mule deer are commonly seen near the headquarters. Pronghorns can be found in small numbers in the wide open sagebrush. Smaller mammals often seen are beaver, cottontail,

jackrabbit, muskrat, porcupine, raccoon, striped skunk, mink, coyote, and several species of bats. River otters can be seen on occasion. Rare species include cougar, bobcat, elk, and moose. Most of the upland areas are shallow soils underlain by fairly recent basalt lava flows, with an occasional sand dune scattered throughout. This mix of rock, sand, and shallow soil supports a diversity of small mammals, reptiles and invertebrates. The divergence point of the Oregon and California Trails was about a mile south of the refuge boundary and an alternate route of the Oregon Trail crossed the northern part of the refuge.

### **Oxford Slough National Wildlife Refuge**

Just east of the village of Oxford, ID.  
(208) 237-6615

Oxford Slough Waterfowl Production Area is in Franklin and Bannock counties on the edge of Oxford in southeast Idaho. It was purchased to protect redhead [duck] nesting habitat. The area is largely hardstem bulrush marsh, interspersed with open water and surrounded by areas of playa, saltgrass flats, native wet meadow, and some cropland. The lower areas have visible alkali deposits. The marsh is fed on the north and drained at the south by Deep Creek. A smaller creek and several springs feed the marsh from the west. Attempts to drain it in the 1950s were marginally successful; the drainage ditches still exist but have mostly filled in. The native pasture is no longer grazed. Most of the meadows are hayed to provide short grass feeding areas for geese and cranes. Most of the dry cropland has been converted to dense nesting cover. The irrigated cropland is used for small grains under a cooperative farm agreement; a portion of the crop is left each year for wildlife.

Source: US Fish & Wildlife Service  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

## National Historic Landmarks

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction. Working with citizens throughout the nation, the National Historic Landmarks Program draws upon the expertise of National Park Service staff who work to nominate new landmarks and provide assistance to existing landmarks.

### U.S. Assay Office

210 Main Street, Boise ID 83702

Designation: May 30, 1961

National Register Number: 66000305

Built by the Federal Government in 1870-71, the Boise Assay Office illustrates the importance of mining in the political, social, economic, and legal development of Idaho and the Far West. In operation from 1872 to 1933, it is one of the most significant public buildings remaining from Idaho's territorial days.

### Bear River Massacre Site

Preston, Franklin County ID

Designation: June 21, 1990

National Register Number: 73000685

On January 29, 1863, California Volunteers under the command of Col. Patrick Edward Conner attacked a band of Northwestern Shoshone. The bloodiest encounter between Native American and white men to take place in the West in the years between 1848 and 1891, Bear River Massacre resulted in the deaths of almost 300 Shoshone and 14 soldiers.

### Camas Meadows Battle Site

Kilgore, Clark County ID

Designation: April 11, 1989

National Register Number: 89001081

On August 19, 1877, the military force led by Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard which had been pursuing the Nez Perce since their departure from Clearwater was in a position to intercept them in their flight to Canada. Here, on August 20, a pre-dawn raid by Nez Perce warriors succeeded in capturing most of Howard's pack mules, forcing the army to halt until more mules

and supplies could be secured, which resulted in a time-consuming detour. The army's delay made it possible for the Nez Perce to escape into Yellowstone Park and Montana. Their remarkable journey toward Canada continued six weeks longer as a result of this raid.

### Cataldo Mission

Cataldo, Kootenai County ID

Designation: July 4, 1961

National Register Number: 66000312

Built around 1850 by Jesuit missionaries and Coeur d'Alene Indians, this log and adobe church with Baroque and Greek Revival details is the oldest surviving church in the Pacific Northwest and also the oldest structure in Idaho. The mission restoration project was completed in 1975 and is now a museum administered by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

### Experimental Breeder Reactor #1

Near Arco, Butte County

Designation: December 21, 1965

National Register Number: 66000307

On December 20, 1951, the EBR-I produced the first usable amounts of electricity created by nuclear means; in July 1963, it was the first reactor to achieve a self-sustaining chain reaction using plutonium instead of uranium as the major component in the fuel. In addition, the EBR-I was the first reactor to demonstrate the feasibility of using liquid metal at high temperatures as a reactor coolant.

### Fort Hall

Bannock County

Designation: January 20, 1961

National Register Number: 66000306

Fort Hall is the most important trading post in the Snake River Valley and is known for its important association with overland migration on the Oregon-California Trails. In the 1860s and 1870s it was a key road junction for the overland stage, mail and freight lines to the towns and camps of the mining frontier in the Pacific Northwest.

## Lemhi Pass

Tendoy, Lemhi County ID

Designation: October 9, 1960

National Register Number: 66000313

On August 12, 1805, when he reached the summit of this pass, Meriwether Lewis stood on the boundary of newly-acquired Louisiana, looking west to the snow-capped peaks of the Bitterroot and Salmon River Ranges, into what was then Spanish territory. Situated on a remote section of the Beaverhead Range, at an elevation of 7373' above sea level, Lemhi Pass was the point where the Lewis and Clark Expedition crossed the Continental Divide.

## Lolo Trail

Lolo Hot Springs, Clearwater County ID

Designation: October 9, 1960

National Register Number: 66000309

When, after reaching Lemhi Pass and crossing the Continental Divide, navigation of the Salmon River proved impossible, Lewis and Clark determined to use one of the several trails over the mountains used by the Nez Perce in their annual journeys to

the buffalo plains in the east. The Lolo Trail, used by the explorers to cross the Bitterroot Mountains in September 1805, represents probably the most arduous single stretch of the entire route traveled by the expedition.

## Weippe Prairie

Weippe, Clearwater County ID

Designation: May 23, 1966

National Register Number: 66000311

On the morning of September 20, 1805, an advance party of the Lewis and Clark Expedition came out of the Bitterroot Mountains onto the southeastern corner of Weippe Prairie, the western terminus of the Lolo Trail and long a favored source of camas root for the Nez Perce Indians. Here, the expedition first encountered the Nez Perce, who had never before seen white men. The Nez Perce gave the explorers food as well as much-needed help and directions during the 2-1/2 week period spent in their territory.

Source: National Historic Landmarks Programs, [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

*Cataldo Mission*

Photo Courtesy of Idaho Parks and Recreation





## Idaho Historic Sites

The Idaho State Historical Society oversees historic sites at four locations in the state which are operated in conjunction with local support groups.

### Old Idaho Penitentiary

2445 Old Penitentiary Road  
Boise, ID 83712  
(208) 334-2844

Directions: From the intersection of Broadway and Warm Springs Avenue, travel east on Warm Springs for about 1.5 miles then turn left onto Old Penitentiary Road. Idaho Territory was less than ten years old when the territorial prison was built east of Boise in 1870. The penitentiary grew from a single cellhouse into a complex of several distinctive buildings surrounded by a high sandstone wall. Convicts quarried the stone from the nearby ridges and completed all the later construction. Over its century of operation, the penitentiary received more than 13,000 convicts, of whom 215 were women. Spurred in part by conditions that sparked a general riot in 1971 and an even more severe riot in 1973, the inmate population was moved to a modern penitentiary south of Boise and the Old Idaho Penitentiary was closed on December 3, 1973. After the Penitentiary closed in 1973, the site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite

Willow-lined Rock Creek has formed a welcome refuge for Native Americans, explorers, and pioneers traveling through south central Idaho for centuries. Because it is located in a high desert area where average yearly rainfall is less than 10 inches, the availability of water and plant life was a natural draw to voyagers and those in search of a permanent settlement. Beginning around 1810, explorers and mountain men followed Indian trails as they trapped in all the drainages of the Snake River in the area, including Rock Creek. By 1840, dwindling beaver populations forced fur traders to a new occupation—guiding

emigrants through the area. In the 1840s, a rush of settlers followed the Oregon Trail to the Oregon country. Rock Creek was a popular camping spot along the Trail from the outset, and wagon ruts can still be seen at the site. When gold miners who rushed to southern Idaho in the early 1860s needed delivery of freight and mail, Rock Creek became a stop on what became the Kelton Wagon Road. In 1864, Ben Holladay was awarded a contract to deliver mail from Salt Lake City to Walla Walla, Washington. When his agents built Rock Creek, it became a “home station,” where stage drivers and attendants lived while they were off duty and where passengers could buy a meal or a night’s lodging. The original station consisted of a lava-rock building that served as a hotel and barn. In 1865 a store was built at the site. A small community grew up around the business, which also became a social center. Railroad construction boosted the prosperity of Rock Creek for a period of time when the transcontinental railroad provided a faster and less expensive means of bringing freight and mail into Utah. Those goods were then transported to their destinations in Idaho along the Kelton Wagon Road from the nearest railroad stop, at Kelton, Utah. In 1884 the Oregon Short Line Railroad was constructed on the north side of the Snake River — across the river from Rock Creek — and ultimately contributed to a decline in the community’s importance. While the Rock Creek Station was near a railroad, the great crack in the earth that formed the Snake River Canyon isolated the settlement and its use as a stage stop dwindled. The many large ranches that were developed in the area depended on the store, however, and the cattle industry helped to expand the community. The 1880 census reported that 44 people lived in the Rock Creek Valley. The 1900 census listed 146 people living at Rock Creek.

**Rock Creek Store:** James Bascom and John Corder built the store at Rock Creek in 1865, a year after the area had been designated a “home station” on the new

Overland Stage Line route. The store was also the first trading post between Boise and Fort Hall, and a stopping point on the Oregon Trail and the Kelton Wagon Road. In 1871 a post office was established in the store, and it also served as a polling place during elections. In the fall of 1876, two German emigrants, Herman Stricker and John Botzet, bought the store and contents, a stable and contents, and a dwelling house for approximately \$5,300. Stricker became the Rock Creek postmaster in 1877 and served in that position for the next 22 years. An addition on the north end of the building housed a saloon and card room for use by settlers, cowboys, and travelers. The store was closed in 1897 and later served several times as a home for families. The small log store building remains intact at the west end of the site. Its sod roof was replaced with shingles after a wet winter in 1879-80 and is now covered by a preservation roof constructed in 1985.

**Dry Cellar:** Located north of the Rock Creek Store, the cellar was used for storage of food and supplies, as a jail, and reportedly for protection from Indians. A semi-subterranean structure, it was created by utilizing a natural depression in the basalt and enlarging it by removing additional rock. Poles and a dirt roof were added to complete the structure. It is entered through a door on the south side of the structure.

**Wet Cellar:** Also located north of the Rock Creek Store, the cellar was used to store saloon supplies. It too is a semi-subterranean structure created by utilizing the natural depression in the basalt, enlarged by removing additional rock. Poles and a dirt roof were added to complete the structure. It is entered through a door on the south side.

**Stage Station Site:** Built by Ben Holladay to accommodate 40 horses and overnight stops by stage passengers and to serve meals on his Overland Stage Line route, the foundation of the building is still visible east of the dry and wet cellars.

**China House Site:** A gathering place for Chinese attracted to the area by mining, this small building was located east of the

Rock Creek Store and may have been used as an opium parlor or a store that sold Chinese merchandise. Beyond mining, Chinese settlers tended gardens and sold vegetables at the site. Eventually, open hostility from other residents and restrictive emigration laws, such as the Exclusion Act of 1882, forced the Chinese to leave the area. Positioning of China House on the site is identified by lava-rock markers outlining the approximate location of its foundation. Recent archaeological investigations by ISHS archaeologists at the China House have identified possible structural remains and Chinese domestic refuse (rice bowl fragments, a celadon teacup sherd, soy sauce and/or ginger jar fragments). Future excavations are planned to help augment the historical record by attempting to determine the full extent and intensity of the Chinese presence at Stricker Ranch during the late nineteenth century.

**Stricker House:** Herman Stricker, who moved to Rock Creek in 1876, filed for and was granted a water claim for 300 inches of Rock Creek water. He completed a ditch for irrigation and mining in 1884 and appropriated an additional 200 inches of Rock Creek water at that time. Stricker homesteaded additional land until his family holdings totaled 960 acres. An original six-room log cabin constructed by Stricker near the store burned down in March of 1900. Later that year, the Stricker family built a new home, which exists today on the southeast corner of the Rock Creek site. The house was constructed with walls of hand-hewn lumber hauled from Albion. In 1916 the original 11-room structure was expanded with an extension on the formal dining room, present kitchen, bath, service entrance, sun porch, and storage area. The upper floor of the house served as a hotel for travelers, cowboys, and engineers and surveyors during construction of Milner Dam and the Twin Falls Canal.

**Summer House:** Located south of the Stricker Ranch House, this building served as the kitchen during 1916 construction on the original home and was used during hot weather to help keep the house cool.

**Pioneer Cemetery:** Located on a five-acre piece of private land west of the Rock Creek site for which the Society has responsibility, the cemetery contains graves dating from 1874 to 1897. Fencing and markers were added to the location in 1990 and 1991, but livestock grazing in the field around the cemetery have continually damaged the protective fencing and threatened preservation of the remaining grave markers.

### Franklin Historic Properties

The town of Franklin was founded in the spring of 1860 by Mormon pioneers moving north through the Cache Valley of Utah. Sixty-one families built small cabins along the Cub River (at that time called the Muddy River) and commenced farming. Settlers fanned out to establish new communities in northern Cache Valley. These early pioneers believed they were still in Utah, and not until 1872 did an official boundary survey fix the Idaho-Utah border a mile south of where Franklin was established. In a typical Utah pattern, the first settlers laid out wide streets and held a drawing to distribute town and farm lots. Town lots were large enough to accommodate a garden, barn, and outbuildings. Space was reserved for a central square — which today is the Franklin City Park, located south of the State of Idaho properties for which the Idaho State Historical Society is responsible. The Relic Hall is open to the public from Memorial Day through Labor Day and at other times by appointment. The Franklin Cooperative Mercantile Building, which primarily houses Mormon history of a local and denominational nature, is open periodically, mostly by appointment. The Hatch House is closed.

**The Hatch House:** In 1872, Lorenzo Hill Hatch built his elegant stone house on one of Franklin's largest lots on Main Street, across from the city square. Hatch was the town's temporal and spiritual leader from 1863 to 1875. He was the second Mormon bishop and the first mayor of Franklin. He was also the first Mormon legislator in

Idaho. The stone Greek Revival style of the house was popular in Utah in the 1870s and the structure was occupied by descendants of Bishop Hatch until the 1940s. It was acquired by the Historical Society in 1979. When ownership of the house was assumed by the State of Idaho, the ground floor had been completely gutted by the previous owner. Extensive modifications had been made to the ground floor, which was raised approximately seven inches, and all interior walls were removed. The house is still in that condition. The second story survives with little modification and could be restored to an 1870-80s appearance in the future. A 1910 addition, made of a hard yellow brick, housed a new kitchen and pantry, later altered to a bathroom. This section of the house has been altered by the previous owner.

**Relic Hall:** In 1923 the Franklin Pioneer Association bought the old Franklin Cooperative Mercantile Building, located on Main Street one block east of US Highway 91, to use as a museum. After running out of room in that facility, the Association deeded a building lot to the State of Idaho located adjacent to and west of the Mercantile Building, hoping that a new building would be constructed on the site. The legislature appropriated funds for construction of a rustic log hall, which was built in 1936-37 from timber provided by the Forest Service and labor by Civilian Conservation Corps crews. The Idaho State Historical Society has been responsible for maintaining the Relic Hall building since its construction.

**Franklin Cooperative Mercantile Building:** Believed to have been constructed in 1870, this building stands on the east side of the Relic Hall and is probably the best preserved early commercial building in Idaho. It is still used as an adjunct display area to the Relic Hall.

## Pierce Courthouse

For many years, the town of Pierce enjoyed the distinction of being Idaho's oldest town. However, later research determined that Franklin, in southeastern Idaho, was actually settled several months earlier by Mormon pioneers. The first gold rush on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation started at the site in September of 1860 when W. F. Bassett, one of a company of prospectors, began successfully panning for gold in Orofino Creek at the mouth of Canal Gulch. Although prospecting on the reservation was illegal, the discovery stirred up a mining fever among residents of Walla Walla, Washington, and several expeditions ventured into the Clearwater River area. The original prospectors and many of the subsequent expeditions were led by Elias D. Pierce, an individual more interested in opening new areas to mining than in actually seeking the mineral himself. Instead, he visited the Washington territorial capital in Olympia and lobbied for permission to build a toll road to the new mining region. During his absence, other miners named the new town in his honor. Pierce himself returned briefly in

the spring of 1861 to run a sawmill, but he soon left to search for a new mining region. On January 8, 1861, the Washington Legislature established Shoshone County and made Pierce the county seat. By that summer, thousands of gold seekers poured into the Nez Perce country, which had been set aside as a reservation in 1855, and the town became a boisterous mining town in what was then Washington Territory. At first, the county commissioners met and court proceedings were held in rented rooms. Private citizens were paid to provide room and board for prisoners. In 1862, Shoshone County built a courthouse at Pierce. The county remained a part of Washington Territory until Idaho Territory was established in 1863. By then roads, towns, farms, and dwellings were scattered across the landscape, and that year a new treaty reduced the Nez Perce reservation to less than one tenth its original size. The Pierce Courthouse served governmental needs until 1885, when the county seat was moved to Murray.

Source: Idaho Historic Sites Office 208-334-2844; [history.idaho.gov/](http://history.idaho.gov/)

## FISHING IN IDAHO

Idaho is famous for its fishing. More than 10 world-class blue-ribbon wild trout streams, including the Henrys Fork, Silver Creek and the St. Joe River, are scattered throughout the state. Idaho's rugged mountains contain more than 1,500 high mountain lakes with good trout fishing. Numerous large natural lakes and reservoirs provide a wide variety of fishing opportunities for warm and cold-water species. In contrast to some states, most Idaho fishing waters are located in the public domain, and are open to the public. Access is free.

**Family Fishing Waters:** In response to anglers' requests for more family-oriented fishing opportunities and simplified rules,

Fish and Game has developed Family Fishing Water regulations. In these areas there are year-around seasons, a general six-fish limit for trout, bass, walleye and pike and no bag limit on other species. There are no length limits or tackle requirements. **Salmon and Steelhead:** Idaho is the only inland western state with ocean-run salmon and steelhead, and when conditions are right, the hatchery part of these runs provide an exciting fishing experience. State records are 54 pounds for salmon and 30 pounds, 2 ounces for steelhead.

## HUNTING IN IDAHO

Idaho has some of the best and most varied hunting in the west, from the trophy species of moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat to the more often hunted deer (mule deer and whitetails), elk and antelope. We hunt black bear and mountain lions too,

and a variety of upland game, turkeys and waterfowl. The state is two-thirds public land and a Fish and Game program called Access Yes! is opening up more private land every year.

## Idaho Fish and Game License and Tag Sales

### Number Sold

Description	FY 2017	FY 2018	Change 17 to 18	% Change
Resident Combination	144,808	139,279	(5,529)	-3.8%
Resident Sportsman Package	21,434	21,770	336	1.6%
Resident Season Fishing	132,849	146,216	13,367	10.1%
Resident Short-term Fishing	6,928	8,620	1,692	24.4%
Resident Hunting	60,079	57,759	(2,320)	-3.9%
<b>Total Resident Licenses</b>	<b>366,098</b>	<b>373,644</b>	7,546	2.1%
Non-resident Combination	2,258	2,445	187	8.3%
Non-resident Season Fishing	23,923	25,528	1,605	6.7%
Non-resident Short-term Fishing	132,916	139,431	6,515	4.9%
Non-resident Hunting*	44,368	47,584	3,216	7.2%
<b>Total Non-resident Licenses</b>	<b>203,465</b>	<b>214,988</b>	11,523	5.7%
Resident Tags	247,675	237,557	10,118	-4.1%
Resident Tags in Sportsman Pack**	121,829	124,790	2,961	2.4%
Non-resident Tags	49,360	53,413	4,053	8.2%
Miscellaneous Permits	214,482	230,277	15,795	7.4%
Misc. Permits in Sportsman Pack**	80,754	81,975	1,221	1.5%
Miscellaneous Permit issued at \$0	113,435	93,608	(19,827)	-17.5%
Access Depredation Fee *Eff. 5/1/17	136,088	415,516	279,428	205.3%
Controlled Hunt Applications	218,207	221,806	3,599	1.6%
<b>Total Tags, Permits, and Misc.</b>	<b>1,181,830</b>	<b>1,458,942</b>	277,112	23.4%
<b>Total Licenses, Tags, &amp; Permits</b>	<b>1,751,393</b>	<b>2,047,574</b>	296,181	16.9%

\* Includes all hunting licenses (Big Game, Small Game, Nongame, and Shooting Preserve)

\*\* Fees were collected in the sale of the sportsman package license sale.

Misc. Permit Issued at \$0 generally includes: controlled hunt purchases records, which are automatically generated as part of the purchase of a controlled hunt tag. Also includes handicapped permits for rifle, archery, and conversions from Adult to Senior licenses where this is no balance due, etc.

Source: *Director's Report to the Commission 2018*



*State Bank of Kamiah*

Photo Courtesy of Idaho State Historical Society



*Franklin Cooperative Mercantile Institution*

Photo Courtesy of Idaho State Historical Society