

DATA SHEET 140228869

Form 10-306  
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: IDAHO
COUNTY: CUSTER
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Challis Bison Jump

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Range Land	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: CODE

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

None known to exist- public lands

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: CODE

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
The Challis Bison Jump 10-CR-196

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
The Museum, Idaho State University

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Pocatello STATE: Idaho CODE: 16

STATE: Idaho

COUNTY: Custer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site is located [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted]. This area is at the foot [redacted] with the jump site located in a talus slope bordered by [redacted] that may have served as a natural barrier for the drive lane.

The site has undergone excavation by an archaeological team from Idaho State University under the direction of B. Robert Butler. Approximately 80 square meters to an average depth of 1.5 meters of excavation revealed several bison bones and horns, estimated at 20-30 animals, along with projectile points used by the bison hunters near the end of the 18th century.

[redacted] a small cave, Quill Cave, was located in which several Indian artifacts were recovered along with artifacts found in the immediate area that have served to establish mans inhabitance of the vicinity during the 17th century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century OR | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century             | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century    |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A typical Bison Jump where buffalo were driven over a cliff by their Indian persuers. Uncommon in that there are few, if any, other confirmed buffalo (bison) jumps in the State of Idaho. This jump, from published studies, shows that there were buffalo in this area and were slaughtered in this manner as late as 1840-1860, after they were thought not to exist in this area. (Butler: 1971,p.4)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Robert B., "A Bison Jump In The Upper Salmon River Valley of Eastern Idaho," TERIWA The Journal of the Idaho State University Museum, volume 14, No. 1, p. 4., 1971

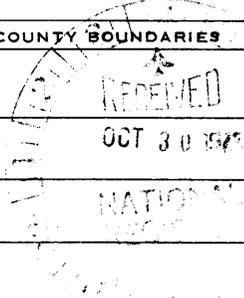
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: TEN

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Bob Cramer, Natural Resource Aid DATE: 6/29/73

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Bureau of Land Management

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 430 PHONE: 756-2234

CITY OR TOWN: Salmon STATE: Idaho 83467 CODE: 16

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes  
 No  
 None

Made Wells  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is  National  State  Local

George J. Turner SEP 12 1973  
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Robert A. Wheeler  
 Deputy Assistant Secretary

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Mortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/5/75

ATTEST:

W. J. Smith  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 SEP 5 1975

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Idaho	
COUNTY	
Custer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 5 1971

(Number all entries)

7. Description

The Challis Bison Jump is a multicomponent site. Earliest activity at the site took place between 1000 B.C. and A.D. 900. Quill Cave, which was only briefly occupied, and a basal cultural layer at the foot of the talus slope are associated with this early activity, which consisted primarily of projectile point manufacture. In the late 1700s or early 1800s, the cliff just above the excavated site area was used once as a bison jump.

8. Significance

Although the site was used briefly prehistorically, as evidenced by Quill Cave and a cultural layer at the foot of the talus slope, its major significance is the presence of a bison jump in Idaho. No historic accounts recorded buffalo jumping activity in the area. The group who used the jump were probably Lemhi Shoshone, who did not have enough horses to pursue buffalo in the manner usually associated with mounted historic bison hunting tribes. (Butler: 1971, p. 11)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Photo 1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON

Challis Bison Jump

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

SEP 5 1975

2. LOCATION

STATE

Idaho

COUNTY

CLUSTER

TOWN

CHALLIS

STREET AND NUMBER

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Cramer

DATE

6/25/73

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Bureau of Land Management  
Salmon, Idaho 83467

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

General view of the site looking northwest





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Photo 2

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME COMMON Challis Bison Jump		AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) SEP 5 1976
2. LOCATION STATE Idaho		COUNTY Custer	TOWN CHALLIS
3. PHOTO REFERENCE PHOTO CREDIT Bob Cramer		DATE 6/25/73	NEGATIVE FILED AT Bureau of Land Management Salmon, Idaho 83467
4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			



General view of the site looking northeast. The bison were believed to have all jumped to the left of large rock pinnacle in the right foreground.



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Photo 3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON

Challis Bison Jump

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

SEP 5 1975

2. LOCATION

STATE

Idaho

COUNTY

CUSTER CHALLIS

TOWN

CHALLIS

STREET AND NUMBER

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Cramer

DATE

6/25/73

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Bureau of Land Management  
Salmon, Idaho 83467

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of the cliff face where the bison fell to their death:

