



# Reference Series #621

## Site Report: Bruneau River And Tract

Publication date: 1982

**H**istoric-site reports contain information designed to assist in two preservation functions. One is preservation planning at the local level. The other is the work of federal agencies in carrying out their responsibilities to comply with historic-preservation requirements prescribed by federal statutes and regulations. These reports summarize local archaeological, historical, and geographical contexts; existing surveys of historic sites; architectural, engineering, industrial; and other cultural resources; and available maps and literature concerning each area. Natural geographical, rather than governmental, boundaries have been used to identify seventy-two areas that vary greatly in size. Site reports reflect a broad cultural and geographical disparity characteristic of diverse regional components found in Idaho, but the areas are designed to incorporate cultural elements of immediate local significance that need to be taken into account for preservation planning.

1. Geographical context: Bruneau tract lands west of Salmon Falls Creek drainage offer major possibilities for irrigated farming, but available water is limited. Some pumping from Snake River has developed part of this tract. Practically all of this area is arid, with ranches on rangeland that gradually increases in water supply at higher elevations near Nevada. Bruneau canyon is a long narrow gorge with vertical walls as much as 1,200 feet high. Elevations range from        at Bruneau to        at        .
2. Prehistory and significant archaeological sites:
3. Cultural resource surveys and archaeological literature:
4. Historical summary: Major historical episodes include
  1. Exploration and fur trade, 1811-1842
  2. Oregon Trail alternate, 1843-1864
  3. Ranching and supply routes, 1864-1878



4. Bannock War and ranch expansion, 1878-1912
  5. Early automobile era, 1912-1934
  6. Grazing regulation, 1934-1946
  7. Bureau of Land Management, 1946-1980
  8. Resistance to federal regulation, 1980-
5. Historical documentation and literature:
6. Historic sites inventory:
7. Industrial archaeological and engineering sites summary:
8. Architectural resources: Sites of importance in the study of architecture in the Bruneau River and Tract study unit include ranches and stage stations. Examples of log construction, lava rock buildings, and wood and willow fences survive. The Idaho Historic Sites Survey records one site of architectural interest, the Wickahoney Stage Station.

The entire study area deserves further survey; centers that need inspection include the following:

Grasmere	Three Creek
Hot Spring	Winter Camp
Murphy Hot Springs	

National Register sites of architectural significance include the Wickahoney Stage Station at Wickahoney, and the Bruneau Episcopal Church.

9. United State Geological Survey Maps:
- Antelope Creek
  - Austin Butte
  - Balanced Rock
  - Big Bend Crossing
  - Big Horse Basin Gap
  - Black Butte East
  - Black Butte West
  - Black Leg Creek
  - Blackstone Reservoir
  - Broken Wagon Flat



Bruneau 1947  
Buckhorn  
Buster Butte  
Castleford Butte  
Cave Draw  
Chalk Hills 1976  
C J Strike Dam  
Clover Butte North  
Clover Butte South  
Coonskin Butte  
Coonskin Butte NE  
Cowan Reservoir  
Crowbar Gulch  
Crows Nest  
Crows Nest Butte  
Crows Nest NE  
Curtis Draw  
Dishpan  
Grand View 1947  
Grasmere  
Grasmere Reservoir  
Grassy Hills  
Grindstone Butte 1948  
Hagerman 1949  
Hammett 1947  
Hill Pasture 1972  
Hodge Station  
Hole in Rock  
Horse Butte  
Hot Spring 1976  
Indian Butte 1949  
Indian Cove 1947  
Indian Hay Meadows  
Indian Hot Springs  
Inside Lakes  
Juniper Butte  
Juniper Ranch  
Little Blue Table 1972  
Little Valley 1947  
Mosquito Lake Butte  
Murphy Hot Springs  
Notch Butte  
Ox Lake 1972  
Pence Butte 1976



Perjue Canyon 1976  
Poison Butte  
Pot Hole Butte  
Pot Hole Canyon 1976  
Riddle 1971  
Salls Crossing  
Sand Dunes 1947  
Stiff Tree Draw  
Sugarloaf 1972  
Table Butte  
The Arch 1975  
Three Creek  
Three Forks  
Triguaro Lake  
Triplet Butte  
Turner Table  
Twentymile Butte 1976  
Wickahoney Crossing  
Wickahoney Point  
Winter Camp  
Yahoo Creek

Cultural resource management recommendations: