

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### SITE REPORT - UPPER MEDICINE LODGE, BEAVER, AND CAMAS CREEKS

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Historic-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: An East-west continental divide segment, with higher ridges interspersed with passes elevated only slightly above a flat terrain, provides runoff for several Snake plains streams west of Henry's Fork. Partly arid and partly timbered with camas fields, this area includes grazing land as well as forests. Elevations vary from                    at Monida Pass to                    at                    .

2. Prehistory and significant archaeological sites: People have inhabited southern Idaho for fourteen thousand years or more. Until about eight thousand years ago they were noted primarily as big game hunters. Since then, they specialized more in camas, bitterroot, and other natural crops and seeds, as well as in smaller game. But they continued to hunt large game that remained after earlier elephants, camels, giant sloth, and other ice age creatures left as climatic conditions changed.

3. Cultural resource surveys and archaeological literature:

4. Historical summary: Major historical episodes include:

1. Exploration and fur trade, 1810-1862
  2. Gold rush traffic, 1862-1864
  3. Ranches, stage, and freight lines, 1864-1878
  4. Indian campaigns, 1877-1878
  5. Railway and highway routes, 1879-1906
  6. Forest Service administration, 1906-
5. Historical documentation and literature:
  6. Historic sites inventory:
  7. Industrial archaeological and engineering sites summary:
  8. Architectural survey: The Idaho Historic Sites Inventory records no sites of architectural interest in the Upper Medicine Lodge, Beaver, and Camas Creeks study unit, although a Forest Service administrative site at Spencer is being documented for National Register listing. All parts of the area deserve further survey for sites related to mining, ranching, and Forest Service uses. The following towns or centers need inspection for architectural remains:

Humphrey  
Spencer

No National Register sites of architectural significance are recorded in the study area.

9. United States Geological Survey Maps.
  - Antelope Valley 1972
  - Big Table Mtn. 1968
  - Copper Mtn. 1969
  - Corral Creek 1968
  - Eddie Ranch (15') 1957
  - Gallagher Gulch 1965
  - Gardner Lake 1972
  - Kilgore 1972
  - Lidy Hot Springs 1969
  - Lookout Point 1972
  - Lower Red Rock Lake (15') 1950
  - Monida 1968
  - Paul Reservoir (15') 1957
  - Scott Peak (15') 1957
  - Spencer North 1972
  - Spencer South 1972
10. Cultural resource management recommendations:

***Publications--450 N. 4th Street, Boise, ID 83702--208-334-3428***