

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

INDEX OF HISTORIC SITES REPORTS

Number 675

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Historic Site Reporting Areas:

A large number of relatively small geographical study units are grouped into six areas that have similar features. Except for a small Great Basin fringe, Idaho is a Columbia Basin state.

Four Columbia tributaries flow out of Idaho. Comparatively minor Kootenai, Pend d'Oreille, and Spokane segments occupy Idaho north of Snake River, which accounts for most of Columbia drainage, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille rivers both are large, but their Idaho portions are very modest. Along with a larger Coeur d'Alene-Saint Joe-Spokane system, they make up Idaho north of Snake River.

North Idaho's Snake River area includes Palouse and Camas Prairie farmlands, but a large mountain bloc predominates. Idaho's Clearwater and Salmon River mountains, with extensions into Montana and Oregon, as farther northward across Idaho, occupy a large area scarcely penetrated by highways or major settlement. Until 1962, this north-south bloc ran 280 miles uninterrupted by highways (and very few one-lane Forest Service roads), while Salmon River's deep east-west canyon cut off North Idaho communication with a larger section farther south. Most of this rugged mountain bloc south of Salmon River Canyon constitutes another area of historical study units of southern Idaho.

Snake River's broad plain and adjacent mountain ranges, together with some Great Basin fringes, include southwestern, south central, and southeastern groups of study units. As in North Idaho, they include a number of local watersheds. Irrigated and desert Snake plains areas usually are distinguished, although small irrigated tracts sometimes do not make convenient study units and are assigned to surrounding mountain or desert lands. Major reclamation development in southwestern, southeastern, and south central Idaho progressed along somewhat different lines appropriate for their cultural and geographical areas. So they have separate groups of study units, as does southern Idaho's Salmon River mountain bloc.

I. COEUR D'ALENE-KOOTENAI

640 Kootenai River Area
 641 Pend d'Oreille-Clarks Fork
 466 Coeur d'Alene River and Lake
 642 Saint Maries-Plummer Area
 697 Saint Joe Area

II. CLEARWATER-PALOUSE-LOWER SALMON

464 North Fork Clearwater
 643 Palouse-Potlatch Timberlands
 262 Palouse Farmlands
 646 Lower Snake and Clearwater
 194 Pierce-Weippe
 463 Selway Lochsa Area
 645 Kamiah-Kooskia Area
 644 Camas Prairie-Cottonwood Butte
 647 Lower Salmon-Joseph and Doumeq Plains
 442 Snake River from Seven Devils to Salmon River
 600 Slate Creek-Florence-French Creek
 195 Elk City Region
 197 Warrens
 648 Chamberlain Basin-Bargamin Creek

III. CENTRAL RANGES

116 Seven Devils
 604 Salmon Meadows and Little Salmon
 606 North Fork Payette-Long Valley
 603 South Fork Salmon
 602 Middle Fork Salmon-Bear Valley
 650 Leesburg-Panther Creek
 649 Shoup-Ulysses-North Fork Area
 601 Salmon River and Lemhi Valley-Birch Creek
 626 Little Lost-Pahsimeroi
 625 Lost River
 168 Challis-Clayton Area
 627 East Fork Salmon
 206 Wood River
 619 Upper Little Wood
 204 Yankee Fork-Robinson Bar
 282 Stanley Basin, Sawtooth Wilderness, and western White
 Clouds
 609 South Fork Payette-Garden Valley
 198 Boise Basin
 662 Boise Mountains
 624 Camas Prairie-Soldier Mountain-Bennett Mountain

IV. SOUTHWEST IDAHO

- 658 Upper Weiser: Council Valley, Indian Valley, Middle Valley, Upper Valley
- 656 Brownlee-Mineral Area-Olds Ferry
- 657 Mann's and Monroe Creeks
- 659 Crane and Willow Creeks
- 607 Montour, Squaw Creek-Dry Buck-High Valley
- 660 Horseshoe Bend-Jerusalem Valley-Harris Creek
- 608 Boise Project area and adjacent Owyhee Irrigation
- 623 Snake River (Bliss to Guffey) and western Snake Plains
- 661 Grand View-Castle Creek-Sinker Creek
- 622 Owyhee Mountains and River
- 621 Bruneau River and Tract
 - Urban Unit
 - Rural Unit
- 605 Lower Weiser Area
- 763 Willow Creek, Dry Creek, and Pearl

V. SOUTHCENTRAL IDAHO (Includes western part of 617)

- 352 Hagerman Valley
- 620 Salmon Falls Creek and South Hills
- 618 Twin Falls-Minidoka Irrigated Tracts
- 615 Goose Creek
- 616 Raft River and Marsh Creek
- 617 Upper Snake Plain

VI. SOUTHEAST IDAHO (Includes eastern part of 617)

- 617 Upper Snake Plain
- 651 Upper Medicine Lodge, Beaver, and Camas Creeks
- 240 Henry's Fork
- 653 South Fork Snake
- 205 Cariboo Mountain-Tincup Creek
- 762 Star Valley, Stump Creek, and Crow Creek
- 611 Blackfoot River above Lincoln Creek
- 652 Idaho Falls-Blackfoot-Aberdeen Irrigated Tracts
- 655 Pocatello-Lower Portneuf-Ross fork
- 612 Portneuf Valley-Gem Valley-Gentile Valley
- 654 Soda Springs
- 304 Bear Lake County
- 610 Cache Valley
- 614 Malad Valley
- 613 Arbon Valley, Bannock Creek, Rockland Valley, and Black Pine

Area I.

Idaho North of Snake River Drainage:

Kootenai, Pend d'Oreille, Coeur d'Alene, and Saint Maries-Plummer study units would have different boundaries if constraints of Idaho's arbitrary state line were not imposed upon them. Kootenai's has more geographical association with British Columbia and Montana, while Pend d'Oreille and Coeur d'Alene have more relationship to Montana and Washington than to Idaho. All of North Idaho has a close affinity with eastern Washington, and any historical investigation of North Idaho study units has to identify that feature of sectional development in that region.

I. COEUR D'ALENE-KOOTENAI

640	Kootenai River Area
641	Pend d'Oreille-Clarks Fork
466	Coeur d'Alene River and Lake
642	Saint Maries-Plummer Area
697	Saint Joe Area

Area II.

Palouse, Clearwater, and Lower Salmon Area:

Palouse ridges and farmlands extend into Washington, so that Idaho's state boundary divides a major area into artificial segments. Similarly, Snake River below Lewiston forms a part of a natural geographical unit detached from Idaho. Snake River above Lewiston flows through a formidable deep canyon that also makes up a geographical unit that for all but state boundary purposes is handled as a single entity.

This entire area consists of a plateau cut by deep canyons into detached prairies and mountainous terrain. Some lower elevations are arid, but Clearwater ridges generally are forested.

II. CLEARWATER-PALOUSE-LOWER SALMON

464	North Fork Clearwater
643	Palouse-Potatch Timberlands
262	Palouse Farmlands
646	Lower Snake and Clearwater
194	Pierce-Weippe
463	Selway Lochsa Area
645	Kamiah-Kooskia Area
644	Camas Prairie-Cottonwood Butte
647	Lower Salmon-Joseph and Doumeceq Plains
442	Snake River from Seven Devils to Salmon River
600	Slate Creek-Florence-French Creek
195	Elk City Region
197	Warrens
648	Chamberlain Basin-Bargamin Creek

Area III.

Central Idaho Ranges and Basins:

Salmon River Canyon, running through a massive bloc of Clearwater and Salmon River mountains, separates North Idaho from a generally higher, usually more arid section with a similar, but geographically detached economy. Most of these study units are similar to mountainous study units farther north, but they represent different geographical sections. In Idaho's development as a state, this area had mines that sped up settlement and development, but otherwise formed a barrier to transportation and communication that accounts for a distinctive sectional tradition in Idaho history.

III. CENTRAL RANGES

116	Seven Devils
604	Salmon Meadows and Little Salmon
606	North Fork Payette-Long Valley
603	South Fork Salmon
602	Middle Fork Salmon-Bear Valley
650	Leesburg-Panther Creek
649	Shoup-Ulysses-North Fork Area
601	Salmon River and Lemhi Valley-Birch Creek
626	Little Lost-Pahsimeroi
625	Lost River
168	Challis-Clayton Area
627	East Fork Salmon
206	Wood River
619	Upper Little Wood
204	Yankee Fork-Robinson Bar
282	Stanley Basin, Sawtooth Wilderness, and western White Clouds
609	South Fork Payette-Garden Valley
198	Boise Basin
662	Boise Mountains
624	Camas Prairie-Soldier Mountain-Bennett Mountain

Area IV.

Southwestern Valleys:

Oregon and Nevada share parts of some of these study units with Idaho. Irrigated tracts, large and small, provide a basis for major settlement, and some mountain ridges that cannot be incorporated so easily into units grouped as Idaho's central mountain area are listed with them. Federal reclamation projects have special importance here. Some western Snake plains desert lands remain unreclaimed for farming, and their history differs greatly from that of major agricultural projects. Non-irrigated tracts in this area are more likely to be under BLM rather than Forest Service administration.

IV. SOUTHWEST IDAHO

- 658 Upper Weiser: Council Valley, Indian Valley,
Middle Valley, Upper Valley
- 656 Brownlee-Mineral Area-Olds Ferry
- 657 Mann's and Monroe Creeks
- 659 Crane and Willow Creeks
- 607 Montour-Squaw Creek-Dry Buck-High Valley
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Plains
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- 605 Lower Weiser Area
- 763 Willow Creek, Dry Creek, and Pearl
Urban Unit
Rural Unit

Area V.

South Central Plains and Uplands:

Nevada and Utah border areas would be incorporated into several of these units if state boundaries were ignored. Carey Act (1894) irrigation projects, supplemented by federal reclamation development after 1902, account for most settlement in this area, although some ranching and a very modest amount of farming preceded that development. Idaho had far more Carey Act success than did any other state (almost all others were failures), and most of Idaho's surviving projects are in this area. A large upper Snake plains desert study unit extends from this area into southeastern Idaho.

V. SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO (Includes western part of 617)

- 352 Hagerman Valley
- 620 Salmon Falls Creek and South Hills
- 618 Twin Falls-Minidoka Irrigated Tracts
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- 617 Upper Snake Plain

Area VI.

Southeastern Idaho:

Utah has parts (and in Cache Valley, a major part) of all border study units, as does Wyoming. If state lines were disregarded, part of Wyoming would be incorporated into Henry's Fork, while Idaho's portion of Star Valley would be included in a larger Wyoming unit. Portions of this area (primarily Bear River, of which Malad River is a part), are Great Basin, and most of it has a considerable basin affinity with Salt Lake. Upper Snake plains irrigated and desert lands are distinguished, with a largely dry land unit extending westward beyond this area. Most southeastern Idaho irrigation development resulted from Mormon cooperative enterprises--a system extended from Utah into Idaho. Transportation and communication systems, as well as economic and religious affiliation, bind this area to Utah.

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- 613 Arbon Valley, Bannock Creek, Rockland Valley, and Black Pine

SPECIAL 1000 SECTION UNIT
URBAN UNIT

1. Geographical context:

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:

5. Historical documentation and literature:

6. Historic sites inventory:

7. Industrial archaeological and engineering sites summary:

8. Architectural resources:

SPECIAL 1000 SECTION UNIT
RURAL UNIT

1. Geographical context:

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:

5. Historical documentation and literature:

6. Historic sites inventory:

7. Industrial archaeological and engineering sites summary:

8. Architectural resources:

9. United State Geological Survey Maps:

Big Foot Butte 1947
Christmas Mtn. 1971
Coyote Butte 1971
Flint Creek (15') 1965
Givens Hot Springs 1971
Graveyard Point 1967
Homedale 1971
Hooker Creek Ore-Id 1969
Initial Point 1971
Jordan Valley Ore-Id 1969
Lake Lowell 1971
Marsing 1971
Melba 1971
Opalene Gulch 1971
Pole Creek Top Ore-Id 1967
Rockville Ore-Id 1967
Rooster Comb Peak 1965
Sands Basin (15') 1957
Sheaville Ore-Id 1969
Silver City (15') 1965
Sinker Butte 1948
Triangle (15') 1965
Walters Butte 1971
Wild Horse Butte 1947
Wilson Peak 1971

10. Cultural resource management recommendations: