



IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
REFERENCE SERIES

**GOLD RUSH ROUTES TO PIERCE AFTER 1860**

Number 1045

May 1994

Clearwater steamboat service up to Slaterville (at later Lenore) served a few steamboat loads of eager miners until low water cut off access to trails to Pierce. Then mining traffic used an old Nez Perce trail that ran from Lewiston to Cold Springs (in a gulch west of Craigmont) and continued to Elk City, Nez Perce pass, and crossed some of upper Bitterroot valley before returning to Idaho at Hughes Creek. Traffic to Pierce split off at Cold Springs and followed a Camas prairie route to a point above Greer. Then it used a Clearwater ferry and ascended to Weippe prairie and finally reached Orofino Creek near Pierce. Later State Highway 11 uses a similar (but not identical) route from Greer to Pierce.

**(This information has not been edited.)**