

Control of big sagebrush invasion into all of the units within the Grassland presents the greatest challenge for management and control. Without its control outputs in grazing, recreation and wildlife will decrease. A combination of proven and new management practices and resource improvements activities need to be applied in an economical and demonstrative manner which will maintain and enhance all other related resources.

Opportunities exist to work with the livestock associations, BLM, SCS, State Fish and Game, universities, and research communities to develop new vegetative species and activity management programs which will control big sage and suppress its rapid return. This needs to be done

while maintaining and/or improving recreation, grazing, wildlife, and fish opportunities.

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Idaho State Parks: Discovering the Undiscovered America

Rick Just

Idaho's diversity is well represented in its state parks. They offer a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities in settings ranging from desert dunes to wooded lakes.

More detailed information on the following parks is available from Idaho State Parks, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720.

Northern Idaho Parks

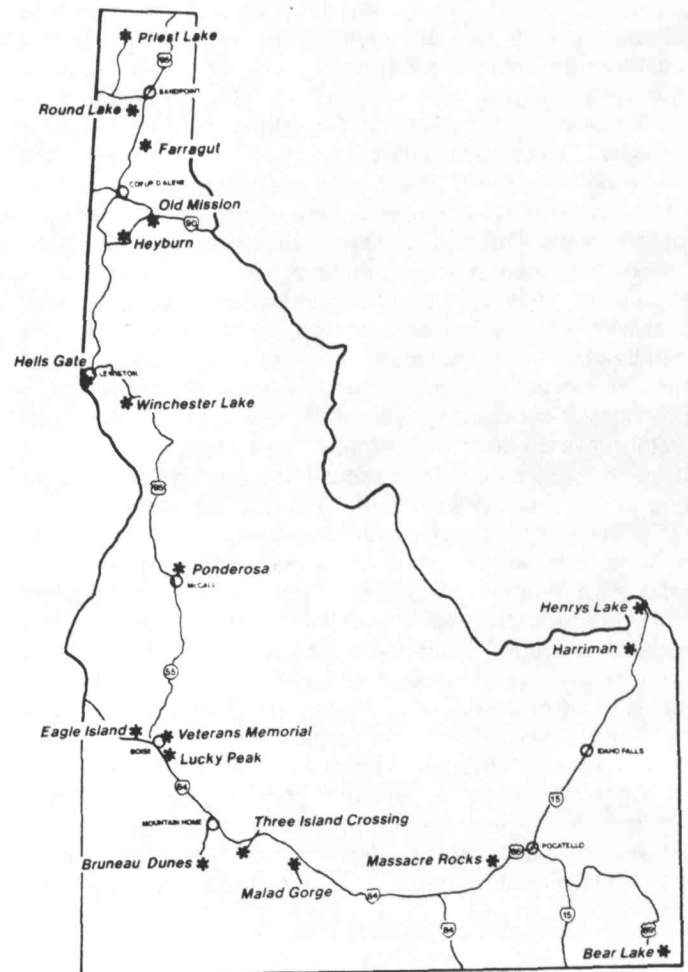
Round Lake

Round Lake campsites, ten miles south of Sandpoint off US 95, are shaded all day by towering western red cedar, western hemlock, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and western larch. The shallow lake is rimmed with grasses and water lilies, from which bullfrogs sing their evening chorus. The animal community includes turtles, muskrat, beaver, squirrels, chipmunks, porcupines, racoons, bobcat white-tailed deer, and birds ranging from the heron to the hummingbird. Swimming, hiking, and fishing are the most popular activities.

Farragut

Sprawling at the foot of the Coeur d'Alene and Bitterroot Mountain ranges, four miles east of Athol on state highway 54, this four-season vacationer's paradise awaits you with pristine forests of fir, cedar, ponderosa pine, and abundant wildlife. The crystal clear, azure blue waters of Idaho's largest lake—Pend Oreille, with its 1,150 foot depths is astonishing! The 4,000 acre park offers miles of hiking and horse trails, modern campsites, and extensive group facilities. Farragut is unique in its diversity, from Buttonhook Bay to the 60,000 person capacity natural amphitheater; from the shooting ranges to a fascinating park museum.

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Hells Gate

As the name implies, this is the gateway to the famous Hells Canyon National Recreational Area four miles south of Lewiston on Snake River Ave. Park rangers can put you in touch with outfitters if you wish to take a one to five day trip through North America's deepest canyon. At 730 feet above sea level Hells Gate has the mildest winters of any Idaho State Park. Steppe type vegetation covers the rolling hills surrounding Hells Gate. The marina is open all year. Trout, bass, and steelhead are the river's gamefish. Hiking, swimming, rollerskating, jogging, biking, and horseback riding are just some of the activities at this park.

Priest Lake

Nestled among granite peaks and tree-clad mountains off state highway 57 north of Priest River, 26-mile-long Priest Lake is a clear, pure Idaho treasure. Record Kokanee and Mackinaw have been caught here. Dolly Varden, cutthroat, and rainbow also challenge the fisherman. Boat ramps and docks are convenient to campsites. The forest is a mix of western red cedar, fir, spruce, and hemlock. Black bear, moose, elk, deer, bald eagles, mountain goats, and caribou are seen from time to time.

Old Mission

The historic Old Mission is Idaho's oldest building, one mile east of Cataldo at exit 39. It was constructed by the Coeur d'Alene Indians between 1850 and 1853 under the

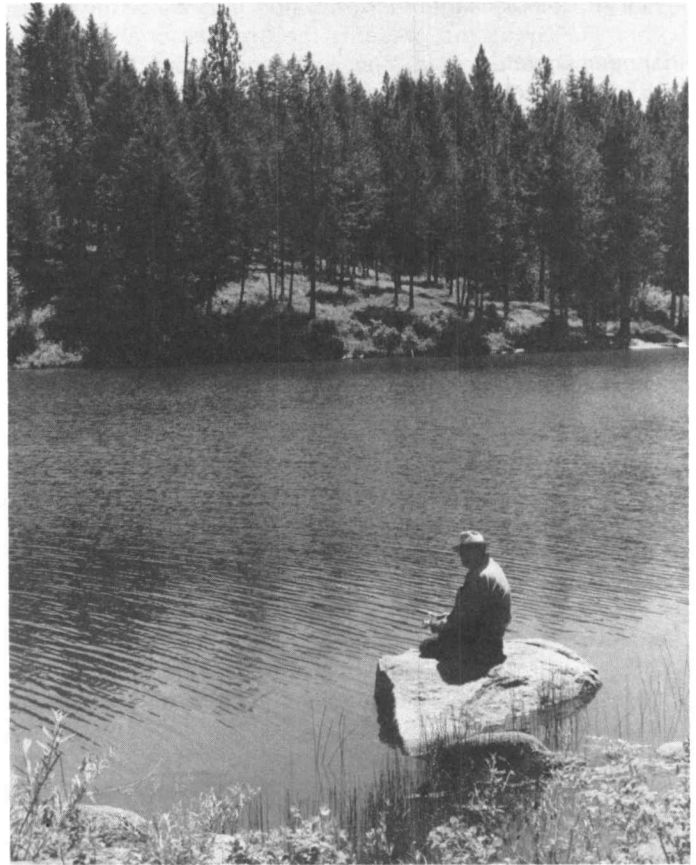


Cataldo's Sacred Heart Mission. (Idaho Tourism photo)

guidance of Jesuit missionaries. Take a walk along the history and nature trails, or ask for a tour of the restored mission church.

Heyburn

In 1908, Heyburn State Park, near St. Maries on state highway 5, became the first state park in the Pacific Northwest. Over 5,500 acres of land and 2,300 acres of water beckon to those with a yen to explore. Be sure to see the famous "river between the lakes" where the shadowy Saint Joe meanders through Chatcolet, Hidden, Round, and Benawah Lakes, keeping a narrow strip of bank with it on either side. Individual campsites and rustic group facilities are



Most of Idaho's State Parks offer quiet spots for fishing. This is Winchester Lake State Park. (Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation photo)

available among the fir and ponderosa pine.

Mowry State Park

Mowry is a largely undeveloped site on Lake Coeur d'Alene accessible only from the water. With its outstanding views of the lake, Mowry is a great spot to tie up your boat for a leisurely picnic or an afternoon hike. Tent camping is allowed though potable water is not available.

Winchester

Just off U.S. 95 near the town of Winchester, lying among the ponderosa pines at the foot of the Craig Mountains is one of Idaho's favorite fishing and camping spots, Winchester Lake. Summers here are shorter than fishermen's patience, so many lines are also dangled through the thick ice in the winter.

Southwestern Idaho Parks

Lucky Peak

Sandy Peak and Discovery Units are day use areas along the cool and placid Boise River just below Lucky Peak dam, ten miles southeast of the capital city. One of Idaho's most popular guarded swimming beaches is at Sandy Point. Also featured is a change house with showers, picnic tables, and grills. Reservations for large groups can be made for one of the three shelters at Discovery Unit. Tables, shelters, and

grills are also available for family use.

Bruneau Dunes

Bruneau Dunes State Park is located near Mountain Home off state highway 51. At 470 feet these are North America's tallest sand dunes. Early morning and late evening hikes are best for viewing desert wildlife and seasonal wildflowers. Coyotes, owls, kangaroo rats, hawks, lizards, and eagles are often seen. The small, cool lakes at the foot of the 600 acre dunes are excellent for bluegill, bass, and channel cat. Climbing the dunes is great family fun. Be careful to protect your camera from the sand. ORVs are not allowed in the park. Established trees and grass surround the campsites.

Three Island Crossing

Travelers on the Oregon Trail crossed the Snake River at this point near present day Glens Ferry. Today the park is a convenient camping stop along Interstate 84, where you will see longhorn cattle, buffalo, a historical display, and a portion of the Oregon Trail itself. The vegetation in this area is shrub/steppe type.

Malad Gorge

Interstate 84 crosses right over Malad Gorge at Hagerman Exit 147, but the angle of view hides one of Idaho's most spectacular sights from motorists. The 250-foot deep gorge below the footbridge where the river cascades into Devil's Washbowl is a photographer's delight. The craggy cliffs change character throughout the day with a fascinating interplay of light and shadows. The day-use park's picnic area is a compelling green oasis in the middle of the desert.

Ponderosa

Ponderosa pines—some 500 years old and 150 feet tall—shade the campgrounds on this thousand-acre peninsula two miles northeast of McCall. The view is exhilarating from the steep basaltic cliffs on the Payette Lake overlook. The mile high park features deep draft boat launching facilities, summer swimming, cross country skiing in the winter, and fishing. Osprey, deer, fox, geese, beaver, eagles, black bear, and bobcat are occasionally sighted. Wildflowers are abundant along the nature trails that wind through deep woods, along spongy marsh, and into arid sagebrush flats. The park's Meadow Marsh is currently under consideration for the National Register of Natural Places.

Veterans Memorial

Veterans Memorial State Park, at State Street and Stilson Road in Boise, is open for day use. The front of Veterans is a traditional urban park with stately evergreens, picnic tables, surfaced paths, parking, restrooms, and an outdoor program area. Beyond this, the city is forgotten as visitors walk or bike back to the Boise River and Boise Cascade Lake. The sounds here are natural: the wind whispering through cottonwood leaves, water wishing across river rock, a muskrat sliding almost silently into the lake, and the occasional cry of an American bald eagle.

Eagle Island

This day-use park is situated between the north and south channels of the Boise River eight miles west of Boise. Cottonwoods, willows, and a variety of native flowers and grasses are found on the site of a former prison farm. Com-

mon wildlife includes the great blue heron, beaver, eagles, ducks, muskrat, and fox. Visitors will enjoy a 15-acre man-made lake, a swimming beach, a waterslide, a group picnic shelter, concession buildings, and several acres of lawn and trees. Dogs are not allowed in this park.

Southeastern Idaho Parks

Massacre Rocks

Surrounded by ancient lava rocks, visitors might mistake that dark shape gliding across the sky for a pterodactyl. At Massacre Rocks, near American Falls, it is probably a pelican searching for dinner along the cooling corridor of the Snake River. Over 200 species of birds have been sighted here, along with coyote, muskrat, and beaver. Almost 300 species of desert plants can be found in and around the park. You can also expect unusual geologic formations, a well-designed camping area, and fascinating Oregon Trail artifacts.

Henry's Lake

Henry's Lake lies in a high mountain bowl (6,470 feet) along the Continental Divide just fifteen miles west of the West Gate of Yellowstone National Park. Fishing, boating, swimming, and waterskiing are the summer sports. Heavy snows close the park in the winter.



Harriman State Park, home of the rare trumpeter swan, lies in the heart of a 16,000-acre wildlife refuge. (Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation photo)

Harriman

The world famous fly fishing stream, Henry's Fork of the Snake River, winds through Harriman State Park eighteen miles north of Ashton on US 20/191. Nature is the main attraction here: Golden and Silver Lakes, wildflowers, lodgepole pines, thriving wildlife. Bring your camera and try for a picture of a rare trumpeter swan. If the wildlife eludes you, photograph the tetons across the sagebrush meadows, or the rustic log cabins that were an important part of the historic "Railroad Ranch." Harriman is a day use park the year around, featuring cross country skiing in the winter.

Bear Lake

Some of the bluest water in Idaho reflects the sunshine over Bear Lake twenty miles south of Montpelier on US 89. North Beach is a day use area where sun bathers and swimmers relax. A boat ramp and trailer parking are available. The lake has several species of fish found nowhere else in the world. Keeping track of where and when they are biting can make fishing tricky.