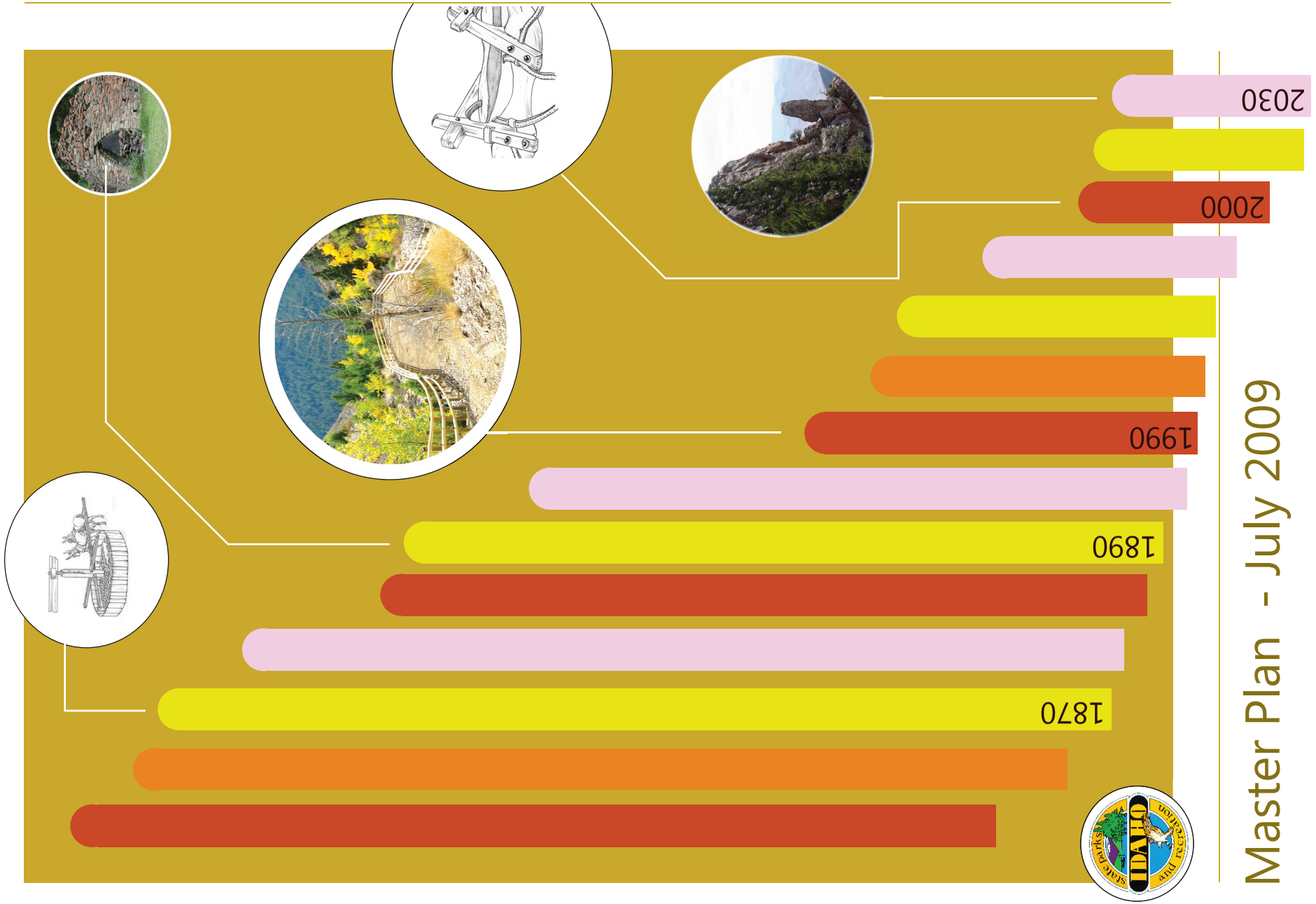
Land of the Yankee Fork State Park



Master Plan - July 2009

Idaho Department of

Our Mission:

'To improve the quality of life in idaho through outdoor recreation
and resource stewardship'

Parks and Recreation

Land of the Yankee Fork State Park
Master Plan - July 2009

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Executive Summary

Park History

In 1988, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) went on a quest to create a state park in honor of Idaho's 1990 Centennial. Citizens nominated dozens of sites around the state. Ultimately, the ghost town of Bayhorse—nominated by Idaho ghost town expert Ernest Lombard—was selected by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board because it gave the opportunity to preserve and interpret an important piece of Idaho's mining history.

The Idaho Legislature appropriated money for the purchase of Bayhorse, which is 8 miles southwest of Challis, and for development of park infrastructure. Unfortunately, IDPR was not able to secure the site at its appraised value from the mining company that owned it. Interpreting the history of one of the major industries that led to the settlement of Idaho was still an important goal for the Park Board. They decided to go ahead with other elements of the Centennial park proposal, which included interpretation of the Yankee Fork Dredge, the townsites of Custer and Bonanza, and the development of a mining interpretive/history center near Challis. Land of the Yankee Fork State Park opened in 1992 and has served about 50,000 visitors a year ever since.

In 2006, the mining company that owned the Bayhorse townsite decided to dispose of it and approached IDPR to see if the agency was still interested. Interest was there, but 17 years later, the money no longer was. Ernest Lombard, who had nominated the site originally, was now an Idaho Park and Recreation Board member. He worked with staff to come up with a creative solution for acquiring Bayhorse. Money was available in the Off Highway Vehicle account, which is dedicated to developing off-road opportunities for motorbike and ATV riders. Umont Mining owned property adjacent to and near Bayhorse that would provide some new riding opportunities but, more importantly, would improve public access to hundreds of miles of motorized and non-motorized trails on land managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Using off-highway vehicle funds, IDPR purchased 547.89 acres from Umont, including the ghost town of Bayhorse in 2006 and 2007.

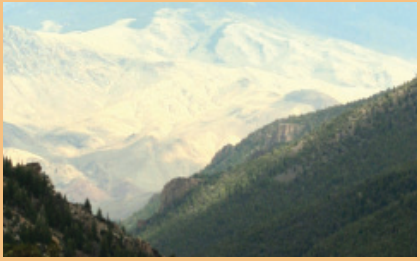
Decades of milling, smelting and mining had contaminated the soil of the townsite and lands adjacent to several of the mines. Providing public access to Bayhorse would require some clean-up and encapsulation. Under the oversight of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and using an Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield grant, IDPR contracted for the necessary remediation. In addition to extensive cleanup, the old slag pile in Bayhorse was used as a repository for contaminated soils and capped with clean material for use as a parking lot. The milled rock tailing pile was pulled back from the creek, re-contoured and capped with over 18 inches of clean material. The townsite main street was capped with clean gravel, and a rail fence installed along the perimeters to allow visitors to get close to the old buildings and at the same time protect the structures and assure public safety. The rehabilitation effort at Bayhorse was recognized by the Department of the Interior when IDPR and its partners in the project received the Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award in May, 2009. As a part of the project, IDPR installed restroom facilities, new bridges over the creek, and developed a trailhead for OHVs on the edge of town leading to the backcountry mines.

The acquisition of Bayhorse and the potential to develop trail opportunities nearby led to the decision to create a new master plan for Land of the Yankee Fork State Park, including Custer, Bonanza and the Interpretive Center south of Challis.

Public Participation and Comment Opportunities

The Land of the Yankee Fork Draft Master Plan was developed by gathering opinions from the public, stakeholders, federal partners, key administrative staff and park staff about the future direction the park should take. This was accomplished through public meetings, planning team meetings that included stakeholders and partners, and through online comment opportunities.

This draft will be reviewed by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board at their regular meeting in Boise on May 13, 2009. The draft plan will be open for public comment through June 30, 2009. IDPR planning staff will conduct at least two public open house meetings in Challis regarding the draft plan, and present it to the Custer County Commissioners, the Challis City Council, Custer County Planning and Zoning, the Stanley City Council, and the Challis Chamber of Commerce. The final plan will go to the Idaho Park and Recreation Board for approval during their meeting at Harriman State Park in late July (TBA).



Highlights of the Plan

Mission Statement

To preserve and interpret the heritage of central Idaho by ensuring recreational access to historical and natural areas.

Land of the Yankee Fork Vision Statement

Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is a unique destination where visitors can experience mining history, regional culture, geology and nature while enjoying miles of recreational trails. The area's historical mining trails and roads are key to that experience. To ensure visitor safety and resource protection, IDPR is dedicated to keeping motorized vehicles on designated routes through trail design, signing, maps, trail ethics education and enforcement. The park provides people-to-people interpretation through guided tours, living history events and trained staff at every point of contact. Land of the Yankee Fork State Park serves as a platform from which visitors are encouraged to experience the many related historical sites in Custer County.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 – Develop revenue generation opportunities for the park and community to ensure preservation of the historical, archaeological and natural resources of the park.
Goal 2 – Provide interpretation of the historical, natural and cultural resources of the park.
Goal 3 – Provide recreational opportunities and trail access for motorized and non-motorized park users.
Goal 4 – Partner with others to provide high quality recreational experiences.
Goal 5 – Provide a safe environment for public recreational and educational experiences.

Identified Opportunities

Economic Development through Tourism

Encouraging economic development through tourism was the most important opportunity identified by the Stakeholder Advisory Team (SAT), IDPR's Planning Review Team (PRT), and park staff. Much of that discussion took place before the dramatic national economic downturn of late 2008.

The term "heritage tourism" came up again and again. This term applied generally to park opportunities but also encompassed an undefined area that would probably include all of Custer County, but might go as far north as Salmon. Land of the Yankee Fork State Park would be an essential component of a heritage tourism movement in the county. The park will enhance economic development by encouraging a wider spectrum of recreation opportunities and taking a leadership role in marketing and branding.

Interpreting History

History education and interpretation was widely recognized as the very reason for the park's existence. Although additional recreational opportunities were identified for the park, history should remain its focus. The interpretation of active mining in the area would provide historical context and benefit the community and industry.

Enhanced Trail Opportunities

The park will work with federal partners to develop enhanced trail opportunities, particularly for motorized recreationists, including the development of looped trails from existing routes, providing staging areas and trailheads, upgrading the signing on trails and creating passport-like opportunities for trails. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation will work to maintain existing access to public land and look for opportunities to increase it. Connecting trails from Challis to Bayhorse are critical for local economic development, encouraging overnight stays, the purchase of meals and recreation gear and the potential rental of ATVs.

Partnerships

Partnerships were recognized by all participants as key to future of the park. The park will strive to maintain sound, flexible agreements with the Challis National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management Challis District. Additionally, it will seek to formalize agreements with Custer County and develop cooperative agreements with cities, chambers of commerce, and tourism organizations and others in order to promote heritage tourism and economic development.

Lodging

Development of IDPR lodging opportunities in association with the park would provide an ongoing revenue stream that would reduce the impact of park operations on IDPR's budget, and help assure the continuing operation of the park. Development of a campground closely associated with the Bayhorse property is highly desirable.

Identified Issues

Lack of Support, Financial and Available Resources

A perceived lack of support for Land of the Yankee Fork State Park was far and away the biggest issue identified. This was reflected in comments from the SAT that they sensed little support from legislators and the governor. There was fear among staff that the weak economy might negatively affect the park through holdbacks, cutbacks or perhaps even closure. There was also a related skepticism that producing the plan would be pro forma; that it would be an end in itself. It is important to recognize the concerns of staff and residents and work to engate them in making planning efforts lead to real recreational opportunities and a resulting boost to the local economy. For that reason, monitored implementation is crucial.

Disposition of Historical Buildings and Artifacts

There is much concern from all three groups regarding the preservation of historical buildings associated with the park, particularly in Bayhorse. The joint PRT/SAT developed the following statement regarding the disposition of buildings: IDPR will stabilize key structures to significantly slow deterioration from the elements and may seek to restore and preserve selected structures.

Negative Local Impacts

Increased traffic on the gravel county road will bring with it additional expense to the County. That same traffic is a concern for the neighboring Petersen Family Trust, namely a potentially higher rate of vandalism. The bridge near the Petersen home is near the end of its functional life. Rerouting traffic east on the gravel road from Bayhorse to where the road meets State Highway 75 would make that point moot.

Management of a Large Area

The size of the area partially under the management of Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is a concern across the board. Focal point sites are widely scattered making access time consuming in the main season. Heavy snows preclude access to most areas in the winter. The geography and topography of the park are equally challenging to visitors, making signs, maps and directions given by park hosts critical.

Lack of Utilities

Basic utilities are unavailable at the ghost town sites. This limits the potential for overnight stays, a staff presence, retail sales, etc. Spotty communications are a safety concern. Development is limited by a lack of water rights.

Resource Area Designations

IDPR has authority only to apply resource area designations to property it owns or solely manages. For Land of the Yankee Fork State Park that is limited to property associated with the Bayhorse ghost town and the property on which the Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center sits south of Challis. The latter is designated as a Service/Support area for the park. Bayhorse properties are designated mostly as Conservation Areas, with the townsite itself designated a Heritage Area and the main trailhead designated a recreation area. Additionally, two small areas associated with unremediated mining claims are designated as Restricted Use Areas. (See map page 9)

Establishing and promoting trail opportunities are an important part of the success of Land of the Yankee Fork State Park. At the time of this plan's development, the Challis National Forest was conducting a travel planning process that would result in the designation of trails by use type, the potential closure of some trails, and the possible enhancement of other trails through the creation of looping opportunities. IDPR has commented during that process, particularly regarding the need to clearly designate trail use type and provide looping opportunities. The exact configuration of the trail system in the planning area will not be known until late 2009. Once the authorized trails and use types have been designated, IDPR will—depending on availability of funds—assist the Forest with signing and trail maintenance to fully implement those components of the travel plan associated with the LYF planning area in order to increase the recreation opportunities envisioned in this master plan. (See map page 11)

Chapter 1: Land Use and Facility Designation

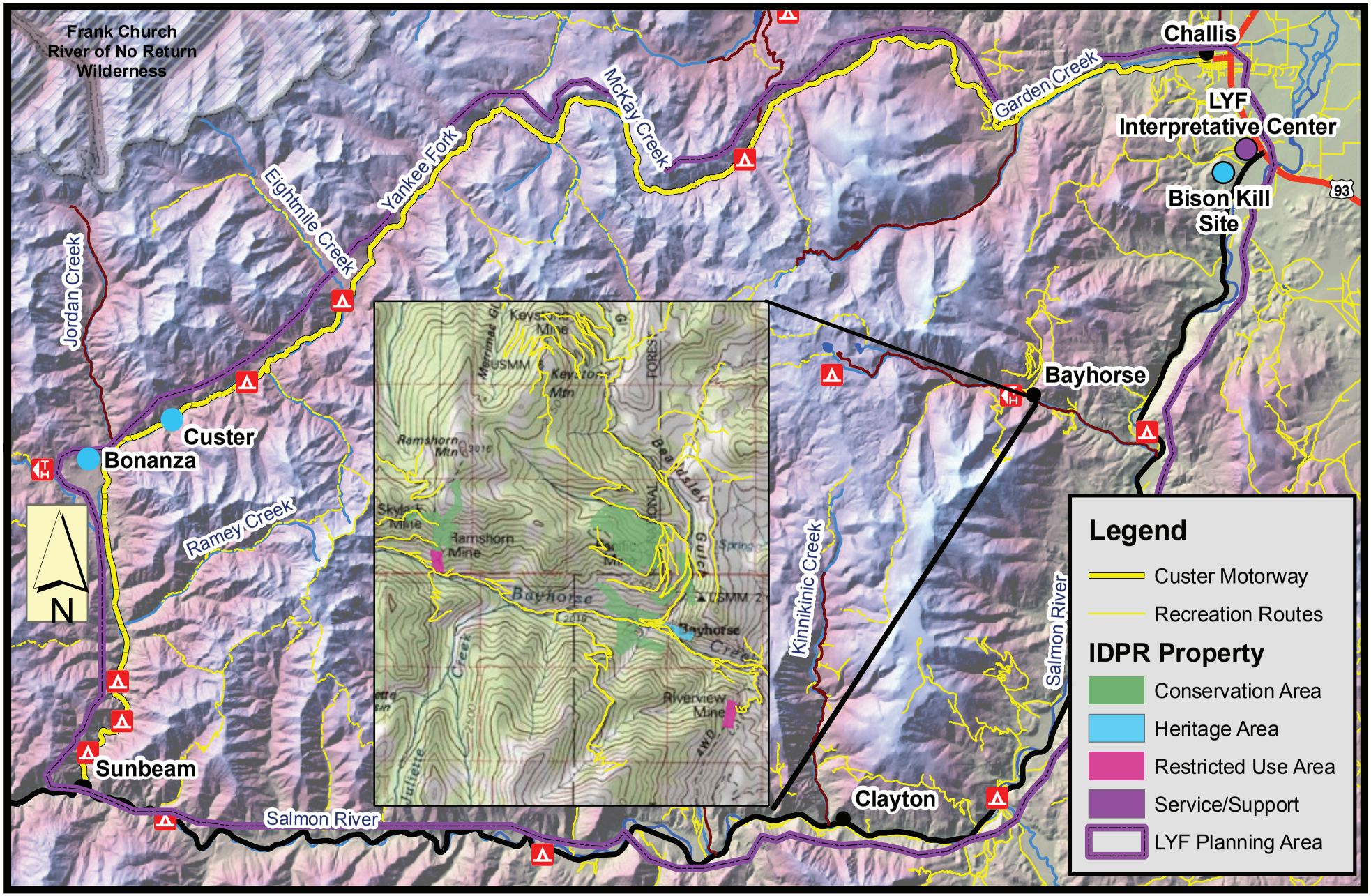
1.1 Park Resource Area Designations

In typical park master plans this section identifies those lands inside a park most suitable for recreational, interpretive and educational opportunities within a framework of resource protection. At Land of the Yankee Fork, the park shares some level of management authority over about 200,000 acres, yet only a little over 500 acres of that property belongs to the IDPR. While recognizing that IDPR resource area designations do not trump existing designations of the primary land management agencies, it is important to describe use types for management purposes. Two maps provide a picture of resource uses. The first shows current resource use and IDPR involvement in the larger Land of the Yankee Fork area. For purposes of this plan, that area is defined as the public property loosely bounded by the Custer Motorway on the north and west; State Highway 75 on the south, and US 93 on the east (see overview map on facing page).

Included on the overview map are the ghost towns of Custer and Bonanza and the Bison Kill Site south of Challis, all of which are Heritage Areas under IDPR's designation system, and are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center south of Challis is designated a Service/Support area for the park, providing offices and maintenance facilities as well as orientation and interpretive services for visitors. The Custer Motorway, which is a scenic attraction of the Salmon River Scenic Byway, is further designated as a recreation corridor through this plan. Trails leading through IDPR's Bayhorse properties into the Challis National Forest and the BLM's Challis District are recognized as key recreation gateways.

A second map on page 11 details resource area designations for properties associated with the ghost town of Bayhorse owned by IDPR. Most properties there are designated as Conservation Areas, many of which include recreation corridors to accommodate off-highway vehicle travel. The townsite itself is a designated Heritage Area. Two propertues are designated a Restricted Use Area because of as yet unmitigated hazards associated with mining.

Resource Area Designations



Explanation of Resource Area Designations

IDPR is charged with the dual mission of protecting and conserving the resources of the state park system and of providing recreation opportunities and facilities for public use. Classification of Land of the Yankee Fork State Park as a *Heritage/Recreation* Park (see page 108) recognizes the significant mining history, regional culture, and the archaeological and architectural features of the park, while allowing for recreation in designated areas. These heritage resources combined with the wild and scenic beauty of the park provide for a diversity of high quality visitor experiences.

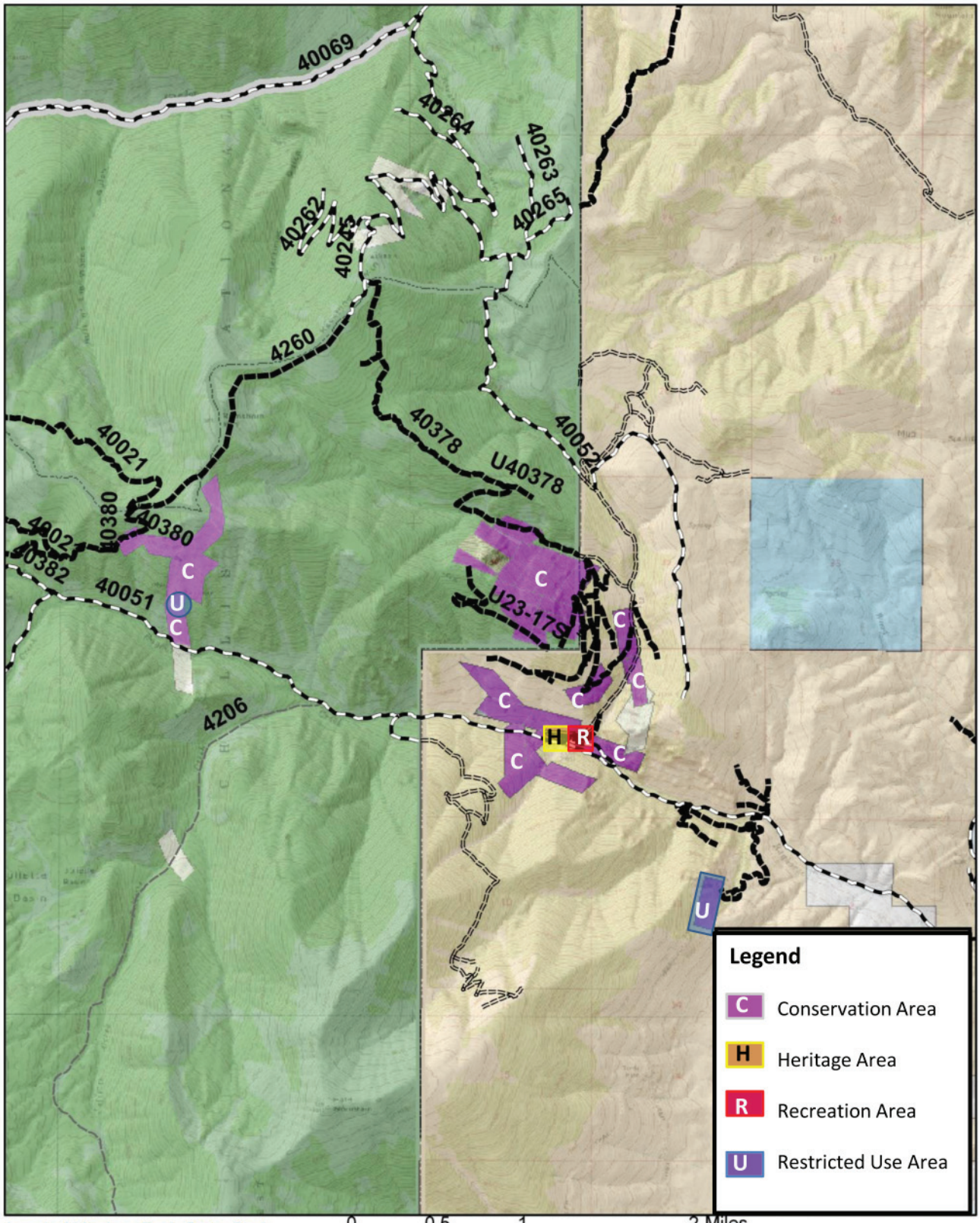
Resource area designations identify those lands within a park most suitable for recreational, interpretive and educational opportunities within a framework of resource protection and perpetuation. These designations define the pattern for human activity in a given area. They establish the character of a place by determining what happens, where it happens, and to what degree it happens. They control use and development, and arrange park activities and facilities in such a manner as to obtain a balance between visitor enjoyment of the park and protection of park resources.

Purpose

Some resources such as historic structures at Bayhorse and the surrounding mining district or archaeological sites require greater protection than others. Development and recreational activities have to be limited in these areas. Other sites are suitable for more intensive recreation, trails and interpretive facilities. To integrate land characteristics, protection needs and area-specific suitability for development and/or recreation activities, a resource area designation system has been developed for use in parks statewide. This system considers the park's classification and purpose, the area's resource values and sensitivities, recreation potential, and desired visitor experiences. Resources of national, statewide or regional significance are to be considered of high value and importance. Archaeological and paleontological sites and historic structures are of high value. Specific factors used in evaluating resource values include rarity, endangerment and uniqueness. Resource sensitivity is a term used to quantify the degree to which a resource can be adversely affected by human activity. Cultural and natural resource sensitivities play key roles in determining appropriate development and use in specific areas. The designation of resource areas is based on analysis and integration of resource management and protection objectives, resource constraints, and resource sensitivity information.

Procedure

A resource area designation system has been developed to classify all lands managed by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Six levels of protection (or appropriate levels of development/activity) are recognized in this system. These levels span a wide range of resource management strategies. All land within a state park shall receive resource area designations during the preparation of the master plan for the unit. Depending upon the unique characteristics of each park, any or all of the six resource area designations may be utilized; however, it should not be expected that all resource area designations will appear in all parks. Resource areas are



Land of Yankee Fork State Park

Bayhorse Unit

Resource Area Designation Map

approved by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board with its adoption of the park's master plan. Resource area boundaries may be refined during the preparation of subsequent implementation plans by park staff. Resource area changes or relocation of resource area boundaries require staff analysis, justification and Board approval.

Descriptions of these six resource area designations, management objectives, resources area characteristics and typical activities are outlined below. The area map depicting the various resource area designation boundaries for lands administered by Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is shown on the preceding page. (Note: This map will be finalized after the draft master plan has been approved.) A breakdown and amplification of the Resource Area Designation System is presented in tabular form in Appendix II.

Restricted Use Area

On a Resource Area map, the *Restricted Use Area* is designated with the letter (U).

Description – *Restricted Use Areas* encompass resources that do not readily lend themselves to public use or visitation. *Restricted Use Areas* may include resources that have exceptional natural, scenic and educational value, such as outstanding geological formations or features illustrating geological processes; fossil evidence of the development of life on earth; an ecological community illustrating characteristics of a physiographic province or a biome; a biota of relative stability maintaining itself under prevailing natural conditions, such as a climax community; an ecological community illustrating the process of succession and restoration to a natural condition following disruptive change; as well as resources that present hazards or danger to visitors; or where long-term use prohibits recreational activities.

Management Objectives - The primary objective is to protect and perpetuate the individual features of unique natural or scientific significance or areas of land or water which possess inherent conditions of exceptional natural, scientific or educational value while keeping visitors safe. Physical development shall be limited to the facilities absolutely necessary for protection, research, and educational projects, and where applicable for interpretive services. Human access to *Restricted Use Areas* is limited to resource extraction, educational and scientific purposes. Appropriate management may include prohibition of use to protect the resource from degradation and/or park visitors from danger. This resource area shall be adequate in size to protect the values within the area. Resource modification can occur in this resource area to maintain or restore natural areas in as natural a state as possible.

Resource Area Characteristics - Although *Restricted Use Areas* are primarily established to safeguard unique resources and park visitors, these areas have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. These areas are isolated and relatively inaccessible. As visits to these areas must be approved by park staff, visitors to these areas are assured a personal experience that is undisturbed by other park users.

Typical Activities - Activities range from guided interpretive walks and scientific study to the mining of mineral resources.

Natural Area

On a Resource Area map, the *Natural Area* is designated with the letter (N).

Description - Lands and waters containing outstanding natural communities and possessing natural integrity. This area encompasses exceptional geologic, wildlife, botanical, riparian, and riverine environments. *Natural Areas* are established to promote, to perpetuate, and where necessary, to restore the natural character of the land.

Management Objectives - The primary objective is to preserve the resource in a near-natural state. Appropriate management includes protection of the resource from degradation, inappropriate development, and over-use. Resource modification can occur in these resource areas only to maintain or restore these areas in as near-natural state as possible.

Resource Area Characteristics - *Natural Areas* have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. These areas are secluded, with subdued noise levels and a serene, peaceful environment. In these areas, a visitor may occasionally encounter individuals or small groups seeking a similar experience.

Typical Activities - Activities causing low impact to the natural resources, such as hiking, wildlife watching, photography, cross-country skiing, dispersed picnicking, small-group interpretive walks, and boating activities that do not degrade the environment or detract from the desired visitor experience.

Conservation Area

On a Resource Area map, the *Conservation Area* is designated with the letter (C).

Description - Lands and waters offering a variety of resource values including: open space, scenic, aquatic, geological, wildlife, botanical, soil stabilization, watershed protection, buffers, etc. *Conservation Areas* are established to accommodate low to moderate resource impact and dispersed forms of recreation and to act as buffers from or transitions to other resource areas. *Conservation Areas* are relatively undeveloped.

Management Objectives - The objectives of these areas are to provide for both use and protection of the resource. Facility design and area management should establish limits on use to ensure resource conservation. Resource modification can occur in these areas to provide both moderate levels of recreational opportunity and/or conservation of the natural resources.

Resource Area Characteristics - *Conservation Areas* have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. This transitional area is characterized by dispersed, sporadic activity. Noise levels vary from relatively quiet to fairly noisy, depending upon the occasion. Visitors to these areas will frequently encounter other individuals and groups of park users.

Typical Activities - Activities causing low to moderate impacts to the natural resources, such as mountain biking, picnicking, cross-country skiing, fishing, dispersed swimming, boating and special events. Also included are the activities listed in the *Natural Area* above.

Heritage Area

On a Resource Area map, the *Heritage Area* is designated with the letter (H).

Description - These areas encompass structures and features of significant historical, cultural, archaeological or architectural value.

Management Objectives - Preservation of historic and structural integrity is of paramount importance. Emphasis will be placed upon provision of opportunities for education and interpretation in and around areas, structures and features of historic, cultural, archaeological and architectural value. Appropriate management is to facilitate visitor appreciation without degradation of the resource.

Resource Area Characteristics - *Heritage Areas* have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. Although able to accommodate groups of visitors, these areas are quiet, passive and thought-provoking. During periods of peak use, visitors to these areas are almost certain to encounter other visitors seeking the same experience.

Typical Activities - The *Heritage Area* is a moderate use area for historic-period preservation, restorations, and interpretation. Activities include those causing low impacts to the resource, such as personal inspection, photography, scientific study, small-group interpretive walks and special events. Recreation-related facilities are generally secondary and will be separated from the site(s) of historic/cultural resources by sufficient buffers. Activities in keeping with the historical period of the historic/cultural resources are encouraged.

Recreation Area

On a Resource Area map, the *Recreation Area* is designated with the letter (R).

Description - Lands and waters offering moderate to high levels of diverse recreation and development opportunities, with a secondary function of conserving the natural character of the surroundings.

Management Objectives - The primary objective of a *Recreation Area* is to provide recreation opportunities so that park visitors can safely enjoy the park and its resources. Appropriate management is to facilitate recreation without irreparable resource damage. The highest level of development and activity in a park is intended to occur within this resource area. *Recreation Areas*

are established where the soils, slope, drainage and vegetation can support intensive recreational activities. The landscape within this area can be substantially modified to meet this objective.

Resource Area Characteristics - *Recreation Areas* have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. These areas are public and dynamic. They are readily accessible, busy, crowded, noisy and characterized by almost continuous activity. Visitors to a *Recreation Area* during periods of peak use are certain to encounter many other visitors engaged in a wide variety of recreational and social activities.

Typical Activities - Typical activities include those causing potentially moderate to high impacts to area resources, such as developed camping; group sports; developed picnicking; boat mooring, launching and beaching; swimming; beach activities; non- motorized trail use; motorized trail use; parking; outdoor interpretive programming; and overnight lodging in dorms, lodges, cabins, yurts or recreational housing. Also included are the activities listed in the *Natural* and *Conservation Areas* above.

Service/Support Area

On a Resource Area map, the *Service/Support Area* is designated with the letters (S/S).

Description - Lands necessary to provide services to park visitors, housing to park employees, and support the maintenance of park facilities, equipment and vehicles.

Management Objectives - The primary objective is to support activities in the other five areas in a safe, efficient, and economic manner. Although activities in this area are essential to the other areas, they are not necessarily aesthetically compatible. Appropriate management is to centralize service, support and maintenance functions in specific, limited areas buffered from activities in the other areas. Facilities in this area should be designed and managed to efficiently accommodate the maximum levels of use anticipated.

Resource Area Characteristics - *Service Support Areas* have certain characteristics and atmosphere that cumulatively and subconsciously impart the desired visitor experience. *Service Support Areas* providing visitor services are readily accessible, busy, noisy and characterized by continuous daytime activity. Visitors to *Service Support Areas* during daylight hours are certain to encounter many other visitors seeking services and engaged in a wide variety of recreational and social activities. *Service Support Areas* supporting staff functions only, e.g., park maintenance and staff housing facilities, are not open to the public.

Typical Activities - Typical visitor activities include park admission, registration, fee collection, visitor information, retail sales, indoor/outdoor interpretive programming, provision of developed moorage, developed parking, and concession operation. Staff activities include seasonal and permanent employee housing and activities associated with shop buildings, storage yards, fueling facilities, and utility stations.

1.2 Vision Selection Process

A vision statement is a description of a preferred future. It is where we want to go. Vision statements are written in present tense as if that preferred future had already arrived. They focus planning efforts and give the public a succinct description of future park development and management.

To arrive at an agreed upon vision, IDPR planning staff developed three vision scenarios:

Vision One

Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is known as a place where parents can take their kids to see what a ghost town looks like. Grandparents tell stories about the way things were done when they were children, showing youngsters how butter was churned, gold was mined and hay harvested in the old days. Children would have hands-on opportunities to experience some of these things themselves while learning about the history of mining and the culture of Central Idaho. On special occasions local citizens would provide living history demonstrations. Lodging would be available in town or at BLM and Forest Service campgrounds. Recreation opportunities in the area have changed little.

Vision Two

Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is marketed as a historically unique destination where recreationists have an opportunity to enjoy their particular activity, OHV riding, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking and camping. The area's trails—often old mining trails and roads—are the mechanism for experiencing mining history and local culture. The park provides people-to-people interpretation through guided tours and living history events. Trailheads are well-marked and offer ample parking. Maps illustrate several point-to-point and looping opportunities and provide the historical context for each. Lodging opportunities in town are promoted in the park, as are the area's BLM and Forest Service campgrounds. As the opportunity arises, IDPR may develop nearby full-hookup camping or alternative lodging.

Vision Three

Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is marketed as a destination for recreationists. They come to hike or ride OHVs, horses or mountain bikes. Facilities have been developed to accommodate the needs of recreationists, particularly those bringing their toys with them. Trailheads offer parking for trailers and large recreational vehicles. The park works with local outfitters to promote nearby river recreation. Lodging in town is promoted, as are the basic BLM and Forest Service campgrounds. IDPR offers a developed campground with full hookups for RVs. The ghost towns and old mining sites are among many interesting things to see while riding or hiking.

PRT and SAT members were asked to select the vision that came closest to describing their hopes for the park's future. Three selected Vision One, twelve selected Vision Two, and three selected Vision Three. Although Vision Two was clearly the preferred vision of a majority of team members,

most still did not feel it exactly fit their needs.
Planning staff took Vision Two, incorporated team comments, and broke it all down into major components.
On February 10, 2009, staff facilitated a joint PRT/SAT meeting in Challis. The meeting had two goals, first to develop a policy statement regarding historic facility management, and second to develop the park vision statement.

Present at the meeting were Brant Tritthart, Idaho Heritage Trust Executive Director Gaetha Pace, Jolie Turek, Curt Thomsen, Sacajawea Center Manager Angie Hurley, US Forest Service Acting District Ranger Russ Camper, Outdoor Recreation Analyst Jeff Cook, Planner Jeff Eagan, Interpretive Specialist Kathleen Durfee, Planner Connie Vaughn, Land of the Yankee Fork State Park Manager Dan Smith, Region Six Board Member Doug Hancey, East Region Manager Garth Taylor, Tom Coates, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Jeff Christensen, Off Highway Vehicle Program Manager Troy Elmore, BLM Challis Field Manager Dave Rosenkrance, Region Three Board Member Ernie Lombard, and Nancy Tacke from the Center for Idaho History and Politics at Boise State University.

Team members discussed the major elements, added elements and talked about wording. Following the meeting, planning staff took the comments and crafted the following vision. It was distributed to team members for their input and received substantial approval.

Land of the Yankee Fork Vision Statement

Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is a unique destination where visitors can experience mining history, regional culture, geology and nature while enjoying miles of recreational trails. The area's historical mining trails and roads are key to that experience. To ensure visitor safety and resource protection, IDPR is dedicated to keeping motorized vehicles on designated routes through trail design, signing, maps, trail ethics education and enforcement. The park provides people-to-people interpretation through guided tours, living history events and trained staff at every point of contact. Land of the Yankee Fork State Park serves as a platform from which visitors are encouraged to experience the many related historical sites in Custer County.

1.3 Proposed Development, Land Use and Facility Designation

Prioritized facility and infrastructure list

The table on the following three pages presents a rough priority of development projects if funding were readily available. Realistically, funding is dependent on the health of the economy in general and funding sources in particular. The availability of funding for a project or portion of a project ranked further down in the list would likely elevate its completion.

Project	Need	Estimated Cost
Securing Mine Adits	Several adits in the Bayhorse area pose a potential hazard to the public. IDPR will work with the Idaho Department of Lands to assure that they are gated and closed to public access.	**About $7500 per adit** **IDOL Funding**
Bayhorse Stabilization	Historic building stabilization will be needed in order to conduct tours of the mill, Wells Fargo building, hotel and other important buildings. The costs provided here come directly from the Preliminary Evaluation of Bayhorse Townsite Historic Structures report, prepared by Frederic Walters, 2007 (Appendix III). That report also determined the degree of stabilization needed on each listed building. This item includes the cost for providing facilities for administrative services at Bayhorse to the extent they can be provided within existing structures. These costs would not include cleanup of contamination prior to the beginning of any work. See Appendix III for key to buildings. Log structure F4: $25,000 to $30,000, Baker House F9: $35,000 to $50,000, Residential Structure F19: $25,000, Stone Structure F23: $10,000 to $15,000, Michael-Sargent Store F28: $75,000, Residential Structure F33: $5,000, Bayhorse Hotel F36:$80,000, Residential Structure F44: $5,000, Stone Wall F49: $8,000, Wells Fargo Building F52: $150,000, Residential Structure F59: $60,000, Concentrating Mill F60:$540,000, Mining Structure F65: $300,000, Commercial Structure F71: $75,000, Residential Structure F72: $2,500, Charcoal Kilns F76-F82: Stabilization of seven kilns $105,000 to $140,000, plus stabilization and reconstruction of one kiln: $50,000.	**$1.6 million. Likely to be done over a period of years concurrent with other projects as funding becomes available. Top priorities at this time are : the mill, the Wells Fargo stone work, and basic stabilization on the Baker House and the hotel.**
Trail Use Designation	This master plan will be finalized in July 2009. At the time of its development, the Challis National Forest was conducting a travel planning process that will result in the designation of trails by use type, the potential closure of some trails, and the possible enhancement of other trails through the creation of looping opportunities. IDPR has commented during that process, particularly regarding the need to clearly designate trail use type and provide looping opportunities. The exact configuration of the trail system in the planning area will not be known until late 2009. Once the authorized trails and use types have been designated, IDPR will assist the Forest with signing and trail maintenance to fully implement those components of the travel plan associated with the LYF planning area in order to increase the recreation opportunities envisioned in this master plan.	**$25,000**

Project	Need	Estimated Cost
Bayhorse Utilities	Water (both potable and for fire suppression), electricity, and communications are all needed. Bringing electricity 3.22 miles to the site would cost about $510,000 for an underground line and $170,000 for overhead lines. Telephone service would cost $60,000 to $80,000 Drilling a well would cost about $60,000. A storage tank to provide water pressure for domestic use and fire suppression would cost $15,000 to $30,000.	**$305,000 to $680,000**
Volunteer housing/Camping	The Interpretive Center currently has space for one Volunteer host pad which has full hook ups for electricity, water and sewer. There is room for up to four volunteer host pads around the cul-de-sac which could provide up to 8 additional volunteers.	**$14,000 to $36,000 per site**
Water Conservation	The water rights at the interpretive center are currently oversubscribed during the irrigation season. Expansion of the center will necessitate either the acquisition of additional water rights or the institution of aggressive conservation measures including new plumbing fixtures, a gray water reclamation system and exclusive use of native vegetation in landscaping.	**$80,000 to $180,000**
Collections Building	As the park has matured it has provide storage for local mining artifacts, many of which are quite large. The park currently displays these outdoors, in sheds and in small rooms with no dedicated storage facility. An additional facility is needed to meet park archival, storage, and curative needs. The facility would provide space for light and climate controlled archives, and provide secure storage for all matter of artifacts; paper, cloth, photographic, hard and soft items.	**$150,000**
Interpretive Center Expansion – the Getty Center	A 6,500 square foot addition to the existing visitor center. Interpret historic mining artifacts.	**$3 million**

Table continued on next page.

Project	Need	Estimated Cost
Campground	Although there are many recreational opportunities associated with Land of the Yankee Fork State Park, there is currently little revenue generated to augment park operations. Increasing revenue is key to the park's survival. The Land of the Yankee Fork area is about 310 square miles. There are 66 tent campsites operated by the Forest Service or BLM in that area. Adjacent to the area, in or near Challis and Clayton, there are an additional 25 tent sites and 165 RV sites operated privately. In the immediate area of Bayhorse, where increased use by motorized recreationists is likely to add to the demand for camping, there are only 17 designated campsites with some additional dispersed camping available. There is clearly a need for additional camping to accommodate RVs and motorcycle/ATV trailers. The best opportunity for providing additional camping is through a lease agreement with the Bureau of Land Management, which may have nearby property suitable for that purpose. Future development of a campground and associated facilities would be heavily dependent on a grant from the RV Fund.	**50 sites all RV with full hookups @ $40k to $60K per site =** **$2 million to $3 million** **To be implemented as opportunity presents**
Volunteer Campground	The US Forest Service provides a volunteer campground for the Dredge Association and Yankee Fork Interpretive Association volunteers at Bonanza. IDPR staffers are housed in a FS owned cabin in the volunteer campground. Adding electricity and telephone service would increase the park's pool of volunteers and allow better service to the public.	**Electrical: $60,000, Phone: $60,000**
Period Buildings Display	Land of the Yankee Fork has had to decline several important donations of historic buildings because of a lack of budget to adequately care for and stabilize them. The area in front of the visitor center could be enhanced by erecting a pseudo-ghost town that would allow people to experience actual historical buildings in a safe, controlled environment. While the real ghost towns of Custer, Bonanza and Bayhorse are central to the park's mission, they have relatively severe preservation restrictions placed upon them. Here at the visitor center the park can create a boom town with few restrictions.	**$20,000-$40,000** **Actual costs dependent on the size of donated structures and issues associated with stabilizing them on site.**
Custer City Utilities	A chronic need at Custer is electricity. Underground electrical and phone service would benefit the agency's abilities to provide services, security and visitor and staff safety.	**$60,000 to $100,000**
Tram Building	Building stabilization not including tram, or site cleanup costs.	**$180,000 to $420,000**

Trail Opportunities

Establishing and promoting trail opportunities are an important part of the success of Land of the Yankee Fork State Park. This master plan will be finalized in July 2009. At the time of its development, the Challis National Forest was conducting a travel planning process that will result in the designation of trails by use type, the potential closure of some trails, and the possible enhancement of other trails through the creation of looping opportunities. IDPR has commented during that process, particularly regarding the need to clearly designate trail use type and provide looping opportunities. The exact configuration of the trail system in the planning area will not be known until late 2009. Once the authorized trails and use types have been designated, IDPR will—depending on availability of funds—assist the Forest with signing and trail maintenance to fully implement those components of the travel plan associated with the LYF planning area in order to increase the recreation opportunities envisioned in this master plan. At the time this plan was written, the trail opportunities depicted on the following two maps were those available to the public.

Land of Yankee Fork State Park
Trails System (South Half)

1:70,000

0 1 2 4 Miles

Land of Yankee Fork State Park
Trails System (North Half)

1:60,000

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

1.4 Proposed Land Acquisition

Nearly all land in the affected area is managed by the federal government or the State of Idaho. The eventual acquisition of property for a campground is desirable. The most likely scenario is that a suitable location would be identified on BLM managed ground, which opens up the possibility of property management by agreement or through a Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease.

Chapter 2: Planning Process

The Land of the Yankee Fork Master Plan follows the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation's State Park Master Plan Guidelines. The importance of various subsections vary depending on the nature of each park. Even so, each subsection is addressed and numbered to assure nothing is overlooked.

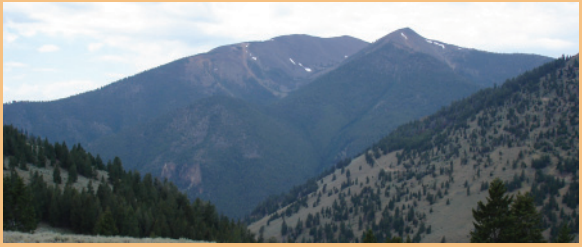
2.1 The Future at a Glance

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan (SCORTP) is Idaho's overarching guide to public outdoor recreation needs. The plan identifies recreation trends and the issues that most concern the public.

At the time of the development of the Land of the Yankee Fork State Park Master Plan, the 2006-2010 Idaho SCORTP was in use. That plan identified dramatic increases in participation levels for geocaching, disc golf, outdoor gathering activities (berries, mushrooms, etc.), photography, wildlife viewing, horseshoes, jet boating, snowshoeing, rock climbing, canoeing, ATV riding, walking for exercise and yurt camping.

Not every park provides a natural venue for every recreational activity, but these trends were taken into account in the development of this plan.

Any analysis of recreation trends is a rough tool forged from participation rates at a particular moment in time. That tool is more valuable if there are more data points along the timeline, but even then unforeseen events can change everything. Two things have arisen since surveys and public meetings were conducted for SCORTP in 2005 and 2006 that are likely to dramatically affect outdoor recreation. The first is a swing in the public perception regarding climate change. Although still debated on the margins, there is a growing belief that climate change is occurring



(Public Perception, Opinion and Understanding of Climate Change – Current Patterns, Trends and Limitations, Anthony Leiserowitz, United Nations Human Development Report Office, 2007). Second, the meteoric rise of gas prices in 2008 and the near collapse of the economy in the fall of that same year due to the mortgage crisis are likely to affect people's travel patterns at least in the near future.

2.2 Parks and Recreation Planning and Development in Idaho

Authority

In 1965, the Idaho State Legislature enacted legislation creating the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). The legislation reads, in part:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Parks and Recreation shall formulate and put into execution a long range, comprehensive plan and program for the acquisition or leasing, planning, protection, operation, maintenance, development and wise use of areas of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historic, archeological or scientific interest, to the end that the health, happiness, recreational opportunities and wholesome enjoyment of life of the people may be further encouraged.

The Idaho Park and Recreation Board is responsible for administering, conducting and supervising the IDPR. The Legislature has given the Board the power to:

- Make expenditures for the acquisition, care, control, supervision, improvement, development, extension, and maintenance of all lands under the control of the department.
- Appoint local or regional advisory councils to consider, study, and advise the department in the development, use and maintenance of any areas to be considered as future park sites.
- Cooperate with the federal government and local governments of the state for the purpose of acquiring, developing, extending or maintaining lands which are designated as state parks.
- Construct, lease or otherwise establish public parks or recreational facilities and services, and charge and collect reasonable fees to operate these facilities and services.
- Apply to any appropriate agency or officer of the federal government for aid from any federal program respecting outdoor recreation, and obligate the state regarding the responsible management of any federal funds transferred to it for the purpose of federal enactment.

Policy

The Idaho Park and Recreation Board has established operational policies to guide IDPR staff in the acquisition, planning, development, and protection of land for public outdoor recreation use. They are as follows:

Acquisition Acquisition of recreation lands is vital to the state park system and should occur in tandem with the needs of a growing population. Public use of these acquired areas should be made possible as soon as the department is able.

Planning To ensure people's recreating needs will be met by the state park system, there should be current and advance planning for recreation facilities and services. Such planning shall follow the IDPR's *Master Plan Guidelines*. Planning shall be in conformance with the supply, demand, and needs as outlined in (SCORTP).

A state park classification system was adopted to aid in the proper planning, development, and management of park lands. Four classifications were defined: natural, recreation, heritage, and recreation trailway.

The Department shall plan for appropriate conservation-education facilities and activities that will enhance the public's use and enjoyment of the system.

The Department shall plan for creative and informative interpretive programs. In the planning, development, and implementation of interpretive programs, the Department shall identify and emphasize the values that are of primary importance for each park.

Development Services and facilities shall be in accordance with the park classification and resource area designations (zoning) of each park. Considerations for facilities and service shall be:

1. Within the park system, provision shall be made for a wide range of interests and activities enjoyed by Idaho residents and tourists.

2. Each park will be developed for as many activities as is consistent with its classification, and will be managed to ensure the wise use and protection of the facility or resource.

3. To allow full park use by individuals who may or may not own recreational equipment, IDPR may consider the rental and sale of items appropriate in parks.

4. Park facilities developed to facilitate service and provide recreational opportunity shall be architecturally suited to the theme and purpose of the park.

5. No facilities or services shall be permitted within a park that encourages or contributes to rapid deterioration of the park environment or adjacent property.

6. Access for people with disabilities will be provided in compliance with current ADA standards.

Protection Lands acquired for the state park system should remain dedicated to that use and protected against exploitation.

Direction

The 2006-2010 Idaho SCORTP included a survey of Idahoans, asking them to rank issues in outdoor recreation on their importance. The following were ranked as their top ten issues:

- Protecting water quality.
- Protecting existing access to public lands.
- Controlling invasive species.
- Providing more spontaneous camping (reservations not required).
- Educating youth about natural resources and the environment.
- Providing additional access to public lands for outdoor recreation.
- Providing outdoor recreation education for youth.
- Creating more community parks.
- Educating adults about natural resources and the environment.
- Providing recreation safety instruction to youth.

2.3 AGENCY STRATEGIC PLAN CONGRUENCY ANALYSIS

Purpose
The following analysis was prepared, upon the conclusion of the planning process, to emphasize how the resulting park master plan is congruent with the agency's mission and vision statement, as well as the initiatives of the agency strategic plan.

Agency Mission
The mission of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is *"To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship."*

The Land of the Yankee Fork State Park master plan proposes new and enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities while protecting important resources from Idaho's mining heritage.

Agency Vision
The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation will live up to the trust of Idahoans by striving to understand the recreational needs of the people, practicing wise resource stewardship and carefully maintaining facilities. We will promote ethical behavior, safe practices and the sharpening of outdoor skills. While recognizing private property rights, the agency will protect access to public lands. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation will continue its role as a leader in outdoor recreation through partnerships, innovation and good work.

Throughout the planning process, IDPR has consulted Idaho citizens in a number of ways, such as public meetings, surveys and online comment opportunities. The need to practice wise resource stewardship and the importance of maintaining historical facilities was reiterated by the public and is an integral part of the plan, as is the promotion of ethical behavior and safe practices. IDPR has worked with and will continue to work with neighboring land owners and grazing lessees to

try to address their concerns. Partnerships, with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are particularly important to the success of Land of the Yankee Fork State Park.

Agency Strategic Plan

The Idaho Park and Recreation Board adopted the agency strategic plan, *Working for Recreation—The 2006-2010 Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan*, on April 25, 2005. From that document, the Board has developed 3 strategic initiatives. The initiatives and their objectives are charted on the following page, along with comments on how this master plan addresses each objective.

Focus on Core Responsibilities	
Consider the day-to-day management of our legislatively authorized parks and programs our first priority.	A master plan is the source document guiding management of a state park.
Devote a significant share of agency resources to improving the condition of our facilities.	The plan calls for the appropriate management of historical facilities and identifies the need to house and protect historical artifacts.
Determine what outdoor recreation facilities are needed by the public and determine the best way to see that they are provided.	This was determined through public meetings and online comment opportunities, as well as through SCORTP research.
Be responsive to scheduling resources to customer requests through an enhanced reservation system.	This objective is outside the scope of a master plan but has been reached by providing the reservation system.
Address the Issues Associated with Growing Demand	
Assure public access for outdoor recreation through key land acquisitions, easements, education and partnerships.	The acquisition of key properties associated with the Bayhorse townsite assures public access will continue and be enhanced. Through partnerships with federal agencies, IDPR will assure improved access to area trails and provide interpretation that will enhance visitor experiences.
Provide education, mediation and regulatory programs to enhance user opportunities and experiences.	The plan stresses the need for ongoing trail ethics education to assure trail opportunities remain available.
Seek ways to bring sustainable funding for outdoor recreation into alignment with demand.	The plan recognizes the need for revenue generation to help offset park operating costs.
Provide Outdoor Recreation Leadership	
Assume a leadership role in seeking partnerships with other agencies, NGOs and the private sector to enhance outdoor recreation.	The plan calls for working agreements with federal agencies and other partners. Because of the park's nature, it would be impossible to operate it without such partnerships.
Improve communication with the public and partners about outdoor recreation opportunities and issues.	During the planning process, every effort was made to inform the public of opportunities to participate. Once the plan is implemented, educational and interpretive activities on site and promotion of other area recreation opportunities will fill this role.

2.4 Preliminary Policy Statements

Prior to beginning the planning process, the following policy statements were developed to guide participants, to outline planning goals, to establish limits, to identify authorities from which approval must be obtained and to provide a yardstick to measure the success of the final product:

- The Master Plan will follow the *IDPR State Park Master Plan Guidelines* and be consistent with all policies adopted by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board.
- The Master Plan will follow the direction outlined in the agency's current strategic plan.
- The Master Plan must comply with the provisions of the *Custer County Comprehensive Plan*, and be approved by the Custer County Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Public involvement throughout the course of the master plan process will be pursued in an open, honest and fair manner, utilizing processes and techniques outlined in the IDPR *Public Involvement Guide*. A Stakeholder Advisory Team will be an integral component of the planning process.
- The Master Plan will inventory the existing natural systems, and cultural and historical resources within the park's boundaries to determine the limitations and opportunities presented by the site.
- The Master Plan will establish the classification of the park using the criteria outlined in the *IDPR State Park Land Classification and Resource Area Designation System*.
- The Master Plan will identify and promote recreational activities, compatible with the park's classification, and that address the region's recreational needs as identified in the most recent SCORTP.
- The Master Plan will explore and recognize the relationship between the park and the local community and be sensitive to the needs of the park's host community.

2.5 Summary of Public Input

The Review Teams

The Planning Review Team (PRT) is composed primarily of IDPR staff involved in the production of the plan and key agency administrators. The Stakeholder Advisory Team (SAT), which was selected by the PRT from applications and recommendations, consists mostly of area residents interested in park development. Federal and state partners participated on both teams as time allowed.

Planning Review Team Meeting One

In attendance for the first meeting of the Planning Review Team held September 25, 2008 in Boise, were Director Bob Meinen, Management Services Division Administrator Dave Ricks, Operations Division Administrator Dean Sangrey, Planner Andrew Conkey, Planner Connie Vaughn, Land of the Yankee Fork State Park Manager Dan Smith, Region Six Board Member Doug Hancey, East Region Manager Garth Taylor, East Region Engineer Tech Gary Rucker, Outdoor Recreation Analyst Jeff Cook, Planner Jeff Egan, Interpretive Specialist Kathleen Durfee, Engineer Rich Novotny and Planning Chief Rick Just.

Rick Just explained that Comprehensive Planning had been realigned to bring Connie Vaughn into the section and that the section now reports to Dave Ricks. This is to better utilize the talents of existing staff to develop park master plans. Mr. Just described the talents and expertise of Jeff Cook and Recreation Analyst Mary Lucachick, GIS map making and intimate familiarity of planning processes in Jeff's case; a scientific perspective and a vast network of contacts in other agencies in Mary's case.

With the continuing use of Connie Vaughn's expertise, Comprehensive Planning will strive to produce two park master plans, or updates to master plans each year. This aggressive schedule means that a draft master plan or final master plan will be presented at every regularly scheduled Board meeting.

LYF Master Plan

The master plan for Land of the Yankee Fork State Park will cover the entire park including the recently acquired Bayhorse townsite and related properties. Much of the park is not a physical entity, but a region roughly defined by a management agreement with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The region encompasses approximately 400,000 acres bounded approximately by the Custer Motorway from Challis to Custer on the North and Highway 75 from Sunbeam to Challis on the South, and including related sites at or near the ghost town of Bonanza.

Constraints

Ms. Vaughn described some of the known constraints of the plan, which include EPA/DEQ restrictions on public access to contaminated areas, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Forest Service and BLM, and the existence of protected status species in Bayhorse Creek.

Related Plans

Jeff Cook gave an overview of existing plans we need to be aware of, which included:

Challis National Forest Land Management Plan & Associated Amendments
The plan directs all natural resource management activities and establishes management standards and guidelines for the Challis National Forest.

Challis National Forest Travel Management Plan & Salmon-Challis National Forest Travel Management Plan (pending 2009)
The plan designates routes by use type and restrictions for recreation travel in the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Challis Resource Management Plan (BLM)
The plan is a general management plan that applies to BLM lands within the Challis Field Office area. The plan contains resource condition objectives, land use allocations, and other management actions and direction needed to achieve program or multiple use goals.

Challis Field Office Travel Management and Transportation Plan (BLM)
The plan designates routes by use type and restrictions for recreation travel in the Challis Field Office.

Custer County Comprehensive Plan & Zoning
The comprehensive plan designates zoning requirements for private lands in Custer County.

Salmon River Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan
This Salmon River Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan provides actions to do the following:

- Protect and preserve significant corridor assets.
- Develop new local economic development opportunities.

Custer County – Idaho Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan
The plan establishes a Wildland/Urban Fire Mitigation Program that promotes public policy and actions to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property and the environment from wildfires.

Sawtooth Society Plan
Developed by the Sawtooth Society.

Draft Survey

Mr. Just presented a draft survey that will be conducted as part of the process. The PRT reviewed the survey and made a number of suggestions. Most suggestions were the inclusion of many more potential outdoor recreation activities that might be appropriate in the park. The survey will be one element of the web-based public participation opportunity, the draft version of which Mr. Just demonstrated . The website is http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/aboutus/landoftheyankeeforkmasterplan.aspx

Stakeholder Advisory Team (SAT) Selection

The PRT discussed team membership, made recommendations and asked Mr. Just to create the SAT based on the availability of participants. As per the PRT, he will invite Mark Elsbree of the Conservation Fund to participate.

Mr. Just will also develop a list of ancillary stakeholders and send them information on how to keep up with the process and comment via the website.

Those who had already agreed to serve on the team included:
Custer County Schools Superintendent - Corby Gull
Historical Architect Fred Walters
Challis Chamber of Commerce - President Curt Thomsen
Custer County Commissioner (to be named)
Challis Hot Springs owner - Lorna Hammond

Idaho Heritage Trust Executive Director - Gaetha Pace
Bayhorse grazing lease holder - Howard Cutler
Custer County Economic Development Director - Jolie Turek
BSU Center for Idaho History and Politics- Nancy Tacke
Former outfitter - Tom Coates
The Rockworks - Kirk Hanson

Area Legislators have also been invited to serve.

Presidents of both the Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Association and the Yankee Fork Gold Dredge Association were invited, but are unable to participate.

The announcement recruiting SAT members did not make it in the Challis paper. Park Manager Smith was going to hand carry the news release to the paper with an extended deadline for applicants to assure that everyone in Custer County had an opportunity to apply.

Partners

The PRT determined that because of the park's unique relationship to its partners that Forest Service and BLM representatives would be invited to serve on the Planning Review Team rather than the SAT, which would normally be the case.

Planning Review Team Meeting Two

The meeting took place in Boise on October 16, 2008. In attendance for the second meeting of the PRT were Director Bob Meinen, Management Services Division Administrator Dave Ricks, Planner Andrew Conkey, Planner Connie Vaughn, East Region Manager Garth Taylor, Planner Jeff Egan, Interpretive Specialist Kathleen Durfee, Special Projects Coordinator Rick Cummins, Off Highway Vehicle Program Manager Troy Elmore, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Suzi Pengilly and Planning Chief Rick Just.

The group participated in a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis lead by Mr. Just. They identified the SWOT associated with Land of the Yankee Fork State Park. This resulted in ranked Opportunities and Issues that follow.

Opportunities

Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) in state park – new concept, new state park user group. Because of the nature of the park, this form of park user mobility will create some challenges to prevent loss of historical artifacts.

(Tie) Historic interpretation/Camping and lodging

(Tie) Area marketing initiative / Trail Heads – Hiking, OHV, Equestrian, Mountain Bike/ Heritage Recreation/ Sunbeam Resort / Mining Experience with possible mining industry support such as

naming opportunities/New kind of park – interpretive/trails/ /Strand property – camping, ATV

(Tie) Ghost towns/Concessions

(Tie) Implement Scenic Byways Plan/ History repository/ Many user groups – fishers, hunters, gathers, rock hounds, photographers, historians, hikers, OHV, wildlife view, tourism, bus tours, outfitters, floaters, school groups/ Bayhorse Lakes (USFS) – 2 lakes, , , camping / Economic growth/ Wildlife

(Tie) Big trail loops/Pelton wheel/Interpret Skylark Mine/Other agency resources/Other NGO and Corporation resources/Recreation education/Scenery/Foreign visitors/Tie in with float trips – Stanley/Diverse/Flexible state regulations

Issues

Buildings – what to do about them

The need for revenue generation

Lack of water rights

(Tie) Funding for Development and Operations/Lack of availability of utilities

(Tie) Storing historic artifacts/Lack of executive support/ limited ownership of land

(Tie) Environmental restrictions and hazards/Fire/Highway signing

(Tie) Mine safety/ Loss of oral history/ Entrance control/Visitor center identity

(Tie) Possible need to rework Memorandum of Agreement (MOUs) with Federal partners/ Perception of reviving failed OHV trail concept /Hunting/Orienting visitors at Sunbeam/Vandalism and Borrowing/Noxious weeds/Species of concern/Visitor safety/Clean-up vs. History/Onsite management/Liabilities/Size of site hard to administer/Remote

Other Issues and Opportunities

Issues and Opportunities would be discussed in detail at the October 16 meeting of the PRT. Those are likely to include:

The possibility of including a 2-3 day circle of trails. It was noted that the USFS has been responsive to IDPR's request for connectivity.

IDPR needs to strengthen its agreements with the USFS and BLM to include acknowledgement of IDPR's management of lands.

Land of the Yankee Fork staff could/should take a lead role on implementation of the Scenic

Byway Plan. This opens the door to potential funding sources.

The public perception of OHV opportunities, i.e., that this opportunity might be a revival of the defunct Lost River Trail proposal.

Ernie Lombard has located a Pelton Wheel that was once used at a nearby mine. This could be an opportunity for interpretation and—provided permitting is possible—an opportunity to power the Bayhorse site using either the old wheel or a new one constructed for that purpose.

Planning Review Team Meeting Three

In attendance for the third meeting of the PRT held December 11, 2008 in Boise, were Director Bob Meinen, Management Services Division Administrator Dave Ricks, Planner Andrew Conkey, Planner Connie Vaughn, Land of the Yankee Fork State Park Manager Dan Smith, Region Six Board Member Doug Hancey, Region Three Board Member Ernie Lombard, East Region Engineer Tech Gary Rucker, Outdoor Recreation Analyst Jeff Cook, Planner Jeff Egan, Interpretive Specialist Kathleen Durfee, Special Projects Coordinator Rick Cummins, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Suzi Pengilly, Preservation Planner Don Watts, Off Highway Vehicle Program Manager Troy Elmore, Outdoor Recreation Analyst Mary Lucachick, and Planning Chief Rick Just.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish a park mission statement, park classification and park goals and objectives, all of which appear in Chapter 5.

The Stakeholder Advisory Team/Public Input Workshop

Two public input workshops were held in Challis on November 12, 2008. The SAT was invited to the first meeting held in the afternoon of November 12th at the Land of the Yankee Fork State Park Interpretive Center. No members of the public, attended either workshop.

SAT members in attendance were Dick Nachbar, Bill Ebberts, Tom Coates, Colby Gull, Curt Thomsen, Jolie Torek, Gary Kimble, Boone Petersen, Howard Cutler and Kirk Hansen. Also in attendance were USFS Acting District Ranger Russ Camper, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Jeff Christensen, IDPR Management Services Division Administrator Dave Ricks, Park Manager Dan Smith, Interpretive Specialist Kathleen Durfee, and IDPR Planner Connie Vaughn. Planning Chief Rick Just facilitated the meeting.

The SAT went through a SWOT process identical to the one in which the Planning Review Team took part. The result was a similar set of ranked issues and opportunities which follows. The number following each statement below indicates support for each as measured by team member votes.

Opportunities

Economic development through tourism (21
Historic education and interpretation (21
Heritage tourism destination (12
Partnerships (8
Promote active mining industry (7
Beauty of area (7
Access to public land (7
Variety of activities (history, wildlife viewing, ATVs) (3
Expanded camping (3
Programs for Challis School District students (3
Special events/Displays (2
Big vistas (2
Dispersed recreation and exploration (2
More money for maintenance access (1
Park Manager

Issues

Weak economy (14
Potential for poor cooperation between partners and the community (9
Impact on county infrastructure, especially road leading to Bayhorse (8
Potential for special interest groups to oppose and delay (7
Need better marketing (7
Impact on private property (6
Large, remote site with limited access, a long distance between sites and intermingled ownership (5
Lack of developed capacity in the park for visitors (5
Existing agreements don't cover everything. Need more partners (4
Inadequate state funding and support (4
People management (camping, vandalism) (2
Potential negative impact on access (2
Potential for waning interest of IDPR (start fast, but move on to something else)
Poor buy-in from stakeholders
Potential of over-developing and loving it to death

Staff Input Workshop

On November 13, 2008 the planning staff members Rick Just and Connie Vaughn conducted a SWOT analysis with Land of the Yankee Fork State Park Staff. Staff in attendance were Park Manager Dan Smith, Interpretive Specialist Kathleen Durfee, Ranger Joni Hawley, Ranger Chuck Felton, Michelle Fox, Valerie Brown and Jan Haugh. Also participating were Region Six Park Board Member Doug Hancey, USFS Service Acting District Ranger Russ Camper, BLM Challis Field Manager Dave Rosenkrance, and Sacajawea Center Manager Angie Hurley.
Issues and opportunities identified and ranked by staff were as follows:

Opportunities

Many good partners (16
Historic education and interpretation (12
Diverse resources (11
Economic development through tourism, special designation/promotion, heritage tourism (10
Create guided tour opportunities of ghost towns and sites, horseback concession, geology, flora & fauna, ATV guides, river guides (10
Potential for expanding recreation opportunities (kayaking, rafting, quarry, zip line, inner tubes, canoes, ropecourse with a stamp mill theme, low climbing wall near quarry or at center)(7
Purchase RV campground across from center (7
Develop (sign) an organized trail system with loops, maps, "patterned" trails (European concept similar to passport promotion) (7
Knowledgeable staff offering goodcustomer service (5
Increased marketing (5
Beauty of area (4
Observatory (2
Local support, especially for children's programs (2
Collect money from out-of-state users at dump station (2
Cabins and yurts (2
Produce videos for visitors and to train staff (2
Great center, open for community use (could use a more versatile conference room)
Unique geology
Showcase for alternative energy on new and existing facilities
Createvisitor travel planning to encourage them to stay
Give visitors knowledge to share word of mouth
Potential for new funding sources (grants)
Encourage volunteers by providing better housing
Winter trail system

Issues

Lack of support within IDPR (funding priority, staff pay, perception the park isn't worthy because it doesn't bring in money, perception it might be a park that would be closed during budget cuts, loss of programs (training, displays) (20
Inadequate state funding and support (constantly being asked to do more with less) (14
Need better marketing (7
Fragile sites, time critical repairs needed (7
Large, remote site with limited access, a long distance between sites and intermingled ownership (6
Explain process, implement (4
Natural disasters, fire, flood, earthquake (4
Staff needs better communication technology, safety concerns (4
Competition for disposable income (3
Weak economy (3
Confused identity at center (museum, Visitor Center, interpretive center) (3
Lack of facilities (visitor contact sites, staff housing, artifact storage) (3

Need better maps, signs (3
Area Legislators won't fight for more resources (2
Mine safety (2
Lack of support from Department of Financial Mangement, Governor's Office and Joint Finance Committee (2
Locals against change
Staff needs to get out on trails, etc. so they can assist visitors with first-hand knowledge
Not everything that's old has historical significance
Lack of looped trails
Need better administrative agreements
Lack of services in local communities
Leadership changes in Federal agencies
Thompson Creek scales back or closes
Recreation safety
Vandalism

Identified Opportunities and Issues

In our scoping process for the Land of the Yankee Fork Master Plan, team members went through an exercise to identify issues and opportunities. First, planning staff gathered ideas from IDPR PRT members, which includes the agency Director, the Division of Operations Administrator, the Management Services Division Administrator, planners, engineers and other headquarters staff, as well as the Park Manager and the Park Interpretive Specialist. Second, we met with the SAT, which is comprised of neighbors and other citizens who have a particular interest in the management of the park. Finally, planners met with park staff and representatives from the BLM and USFS. Planning staff also held two public sessions in Challis and encouraged the public to participate in the same exercise. Although there was good participation from the SAT, no other area residents attended any of the sessions.

Participants in each session took part in a SWOT Analysis,where they identified Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats associated with Land of the Yankee Fork State Park. Each team ranked their answers, then IDPR planners combined those rankings. The combined product of the meetings follows.

Summary of Ranked Opportunities

1). **Economic Development through Tourism**
The potential for economic development through tourism was strongly recognized by all three groups. The term "heritage tourism" came up repeatedly. This term applied generally to park opportunities but also encompassed an undefined area that would probably include all of Custer County, but might go as far north as Salmon. Determining the boundaries of such an area is beyond the scope of this plan. However, Land of the Yankee Fork State Park would be an essential component of a heritage tourism designation. Land of the Yankee Fork State Park and IDPR would be expected to take a leadership role in marketing and branding.
Economic development could be enhanced by providing tours of historic sites with a small charge per person, and by facilitating a wider spectrum of recreation opportunities, including ATV riding, canoeing, rafting, tubing, zip lines, a ropes course and rock climbing.

2). **Interpreting History**
History education and interpretation was widely recognized as the very reason for the park's existence. Although additional recreational opportunities were identified for the park, history should remain its focus. The interpretation of active mining in the area would provide historical context and benefit the community and industry.

3). **Enhanced Trail Opportunities**
Enhanced trail opportunities, particularly for motorized recreationists, were identified by the three groups in many ways, including the development of looped trails from existing routes, providing more staging areas and trailheads, upgrading the signing on trails and creating passport-like opportunities for trails. It is important to maintain existing access to public land and look for opportunities to increase it. Connecting trails from Challis to Bayhorse are critical for local economic development, encouraging overnight stays, the purchase of meals and recreation gear and the potential rental of ATVs.

4). **Partnerships**
Partnerships were identified by all groups as both a potential opportunity and issue. It is clear that existing MOUs with the USFS and BLM will need to be rewritten if major changes in those relationships occur. Additionally, the need to formalize agreements with the county was identified. Cooperative agreements with cities, chambers of commerce, economic development and tourism organizations and others may be needed, particularly under a heritage tourism scenario.

5). **Lodging**
Development of IDPR lodging opportunities in association with the park would provide an ongoing revenue stream that would reduce the impact of park operations on the budget. An existing campground across US 93 from the Yankee Fork History and Interpretive Center is available for purchase. A land trade is underway that would result in the BLM assuming ownership of the Broken Wing Ranch near Bayhorse, which would open up the possibility of building an IDPR campground there in the future.

Summary of Ranked Issues

1). **Lack of Support, Financial and Available Resources**
A perceived lack of support for Land of the Yankee Fork State Park was far and away the biggest issue identified. This was reflected in comments from the SAT that they sensed little support from legislators and the governor. There was fear among staff that the weak economy might negatively affect the park through holdbacks, cutbacks or perhaps even closure. There was also a related skepticism that producing the plan would be pro forma; that it would be an end in itself. It is important to recognize the concerns of staff and residents and work to engate them in making planning efforts lead to real recreational opportunities and a resulting boost to the local economy. For that reason, monitored implementation is crucial.

2). **Disposition of Historical Buildings and Artifacts**
There is much concern from all three groups regarding the preservation of historical buildings associated with the park, particularly in Bayhorse. This plan must, at the very least, determine the direction IDPR takes, i.e., restoration, stabilization or natural deterioration.

3). **Negative Local Impacts**
Increased traffic on the gravel county road will bring with it additional expense to Custer County. That same traffic is a concern for the neighboring Petersen Family Trust, namely a potentially higher rate of vandalism. The bridge near the Petersen home is near the end of its functional life. Rerouting traffic east on the gravel road from Bayhorse to where the road meets State Highway 75 would make that point moot.

4). **Management of a Large Area**
The size of the area partially under the management of Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is a concern for all participants. Focal point sites are widely scattered making access time consuming in the main season. Heavy snows preclude access to most areas in the winter. The geography and topography of the park are equally challenging to visitors, making signs, maps and directions given by park hosts critical.

5). **Utilities**
Basic utilities are unavailable at the ghost town sites. This limits the potential for overnight stays, a staff presence, retail sales, etc. Spotty communications are a safety concern. Development is limited by a lack of water rights.

Summary of Input on the Draft Plan

In June, 2009 IDPR staff presented the draft Land of the Yankee Fork State Park to key officials in Custer County. Presentations were made to the Mackay City Council, Custer County Planning and Zoning, the Custer County Commission, Challis City Council and Stanley City Council.

At the direction of the Governor and Idaho Legislature, IDPR had just made major cuts in personnel funding and capital improvement system-wide. There was some discussion in the media regarding the potential need to close parks due to budget cutbacks. That issue came up during most of the meetings. Staff responded that while park closures were not as yet planned, a continuing reduction in tax collections could force a statewide holdback. Park closures would then be one of the options under consideration by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board.

The County Commission had some concerns about maintenance of the road leading to Bayhorse. Staff responded that IDPR would assist with road maintenance to the extent the agency was able, in light of possible reductions or elimination of funding for the Road and Bridge account. The Commission was adamant that signing be placed on the road at Bayhorse informing people towing trailers or driving RVs that the parking lot was their last chance to turn around and that the road from there to Bayhorse Lake was unsuitable for that type of vehicle.

The Challis City Council asked about which access point IDPR planned to use for Bayhorse, across the bridge or along the north side of the river. They indicated a strong preference for continued access across the bridge.

IDPR conducted two public open house sessions on June 8. Three people attended, two of them SAT members. The main concern expressed was over potential closure of the park.

On June 26, Land of the Yankee Fork State Park held a dedication ceremony of the Getty Corner at the interpretive center. Staff had draft master plans and highlight brochures available. On June 27 the park held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Bayhorse and conducted tours of the site all day. Planning staff set up a booth at Bayhorse and made brochures and draft plans available to all who attended. No written comments were received. Oral comments were positive.

Chapter 3: Local Context

3.1 Location and Geographic Overview

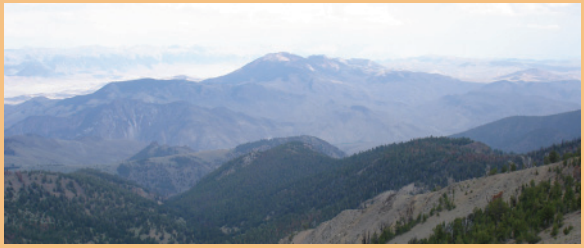
Location

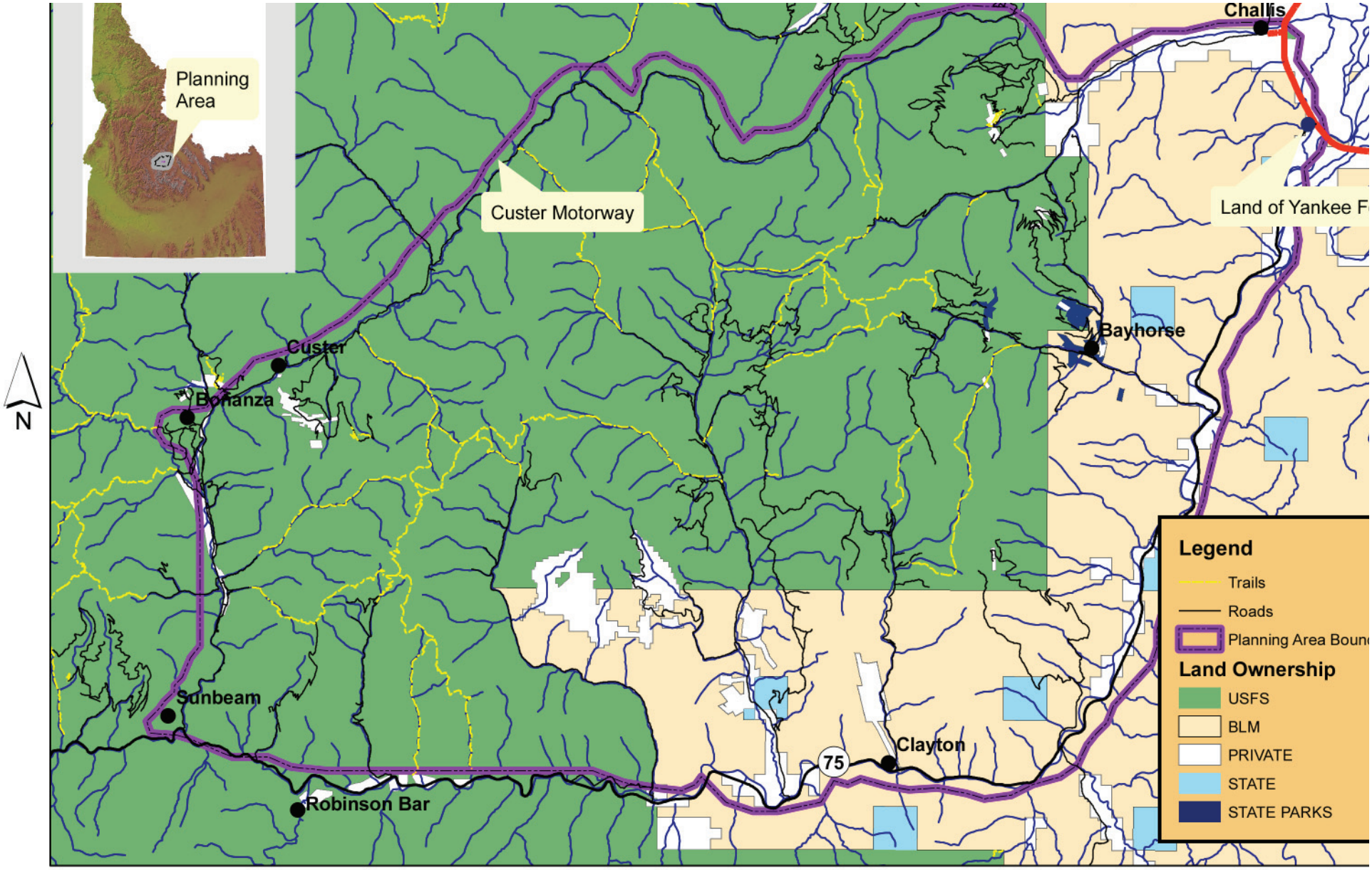
Land of Yankee Fork State Park is located in the Salmon River Mountains of Custer County in central Idaho (See map on following page). The three units of the park are located along State Highway 75 and the Custer Motorway. The Land of Yankee Fork Interpretative Center is located at the intersection of Highway 75 and U.S. Highway 93. The Bayhorse Unit is 7.6 miles southwest of the Interpretative Center along the Bayhorse Creek Road Forest Service Road #051. The Custer Town site is located 24 miles west southwest of the Interpretative Center along the Custer Motorway USFS Roads #013 and #070.

Geographic Overview

Land of Yankee Fork State Park units are located in or near Challis, Bayhorse, Custer, and Sunbeam. Challis and the former town sites are nestled on the southeastern edge of the Salmon River Mountains. The mountains are a part of the Idaho Batholith group and contain the headwaters of the Salmon River. Geologists estimate that the batholith was formed 100 to 75 million years ago. The Salmon River and its tributaries combined with the numerous high-mountain peaks form the landscape for the three park units.

The Visitor Center overlooks Round Valley and the Pahsimeroi Mountains. At the top of the Bayhorse town site, visitors have views of the Salmon River, White Clouds, and Pahsimeroi Mountains. The Custer town site is nestled near the headwaters of the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River.





ANALYSIS MAPS: Overview Map

Land of Yankee Fork State Park

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Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreati
Comprehensive Planning &

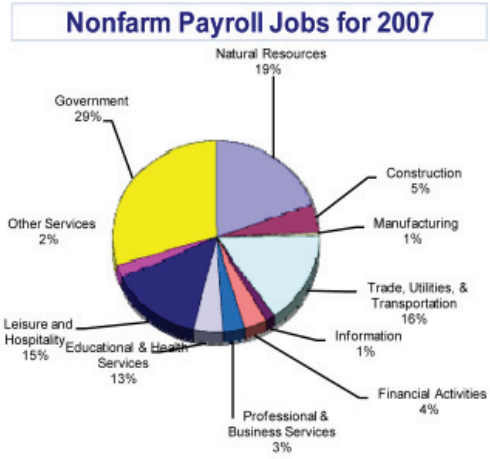
3.2 Economic Overview

Custer County ranks 38th in the state with a 2007 population of 4,166, averaging less than one person per square mile. According to the Idaho Department of Labor, the county reflects the fortunes of the mining industry. Population peaked in 1997, but since then Hecla Mining closed and Thompson Creek Mining, still considered one of the largest employers, began reducing its operations, the county saw its population fall 441 from the peak by 2005, but has since added 141 people. The county has been concentrating on economic development to diversify away from its dependence on mining. Economic developers are working hand-in-hand with government officials to attract new business and help existing ones expand in order to reverse, or at least slow, future decline.

Labor Force & Employment

Custer County recorded a higher unemployment rate than either the state or nation throughout the decade until 2003 when it began to match and then beat the national rate, now almost matching the state rate. The civilian labor force steadily decreased from 1997 to 1999 before picking up almost 700 workers during 2000 and 2001. The labor force dropped again in 2002 and has since seen a roller coaster effect. Since the county has few employers, changes such as mergers and changes in management can severely affect the workforce, many of which travel from other counties to work in Custer County. The county, so largely dependent on natural resources, quickly feels the effects of mine closures and forest fires.

As shown on the pie chart below, almost half the county's jobs are in government or natural resources. With only five percent of the land in private ownership, the Idaho Department of Fish & Game and the federal departments of Interior and Agriculture maintain employees to manage the land and resources. IDPR has three full-time employees and a limited number of part-time workers at Land of the Yankee Fork State Park. Trade is still a large industry as is leisure and hospitality with such locations as Redfish Lake, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, the Salmon River and Borah Peak, the highest point in Idaho, close by.



3.3 Regional History

The Land of the Yankee Fork planning area was well known to Native Americans. They hunted and fished there and lived, at least seasonally, in the area. But there is scant written history available about their lives in Central Idaho, almost as if they did not exist before trappers and miners came along. This gap in the historical record should be bridged to the extent it can be by working with tribal leaders on research projects and subsequent interpretation of Native culture. Park staff should make every effort to better understand and interpret what life was like for Natives prior to the mining boom and how that boom affected Natives. While telling the story of mining and the culture associated with it, it is important—in fact the very reason the park exists—we should not lose sight of the values put on the land by that displaced culture.

Michel Bourdon led a group of trappers from the Hudson Bay Company into the Challis Valley area in 1822 looking for beaver. Trapping and fur hunting continued in the surrounding mountain wilderness for about a decade until the resources were depleted.

Yankee Fork Mining District

In 1863, a group of 23 men left the Warren diggings for a prospecting trip along the upper tributaries of the south fork of the Salmon River. They forced their way through the mountains until they reached Stanley Basin, which was named in honor of the oldest man in their party, Captain John Stanley. Gold was found in two gulches, but the difficulty of bringing in supplies and the danger of Indian attacks caused the men to abandon their workings.

Four years later, a party of prospectors from Montana, led by Joel Richardson, reached a branch of the Salmon River which later they named Yankee Fork, in memory of their New England homes. These men did not remain long, the distance from supply points being too great, but their name for the tributary remained. This was the first known attempt of placer mining on the Yankee Fork.

In the spring of 1869, a party set out from Leesburg, Idaho, to prospect the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Their discoveries on Loon Creek led to the creation of Oro Grande, a mining camp that boasted five business houses. The town survived for three years, having a population ranging from four hundred to fifteen hundred. At first, gold dust was plentiful but soon the good placer ground worked out and the prospectors started looking for a new site in 1871. During the three years that Loon Creek flourished, $600,000 worth of gold was recovered. The first work that was successfully done on the Yankee Fork placers was in 1870, but their yield was comparatively small, estimated at $150,000.

In 1870, Captain D.V. Varney and Sylvester Jordan came to the Yankee Fork, located several claims and named the stream that empties into Yankee Fork, Jordan Creek. The whole of Jordan Creek for a distance of four miles was worked that season, but the claims did not pay, running from $3 to $4 per day to the man, while, wages were $6. A notable exception was the Red Rock Bar, located by Captain Varney near the mouth of the creek, which paid about $10 a day to the man. Miners

Early hydro mining on Jordan Creek.

stampeded toward the future site of Bonanza after the initial discovery was reported. John G. Morrison bought Varney's claim in 1872 and it became known as the Morrison Bar.

> *Yankee Fork – This camp is on a large stream of the above name – about seven miles from the Salmon River. Here we found about 50 or more miners – some of whom were opening their claims, others were running up and down the river, uncertain of what to do, and waiting the turn of events – a couple of weeks will tell whether there is a paying camp or not. The only company is the Discovery Company." (Idaho Statesman, August 1871.)*

Prospectors continued to arrive and by August 1871, there were more than 50 miners on Jordan Creek and Yankee Fork. Only the original claim proved profitable until, on July 28, 1875, William A. Norton, John S. Rohrer and Fred Phillips discovered a significant quartz claim which they named the Charles Dickens. This quartz ledge proved to have rich values in gold. In the first month, Norton, Rohrer and Phillips pounded out $11,000 - $20,000 worth in a hand mortar from selected specimens of ore. This discovery started the scramble for gold and silver. Mt. Estes, on the east side of Jordan Creek, held scores of claims, some with values up to $1,700 per ton. Reporting on the July 1875 Charles Dickens claim, the *Yankee Fork Herald* noted on Sept. 18, 1879, "The Tunnel is 435 feet in length. The walls are well defined. The vein averages five feet wide. A good track is laid all the way. Fifty feet from the mouth of the tunnel the ledge was struck and found from 2 to 4 feet wide."

The Charles Wayne was located the following May, and in August the Custer and Unknown were struck. James Baxter, Eldon Dodge and Morgan McKim located the General Custer Mine in 1876 and named it in honor of General George Armstrong Custer. Most Jordan Creek properties held fair values in gold and silver but were overshadowed by more lucrative claims on Mount Estes and Custer Mountain. Other discoveries soon followed and the mining district began making a name for itself as ore and specimens were exhibited in Salt Lake City and other parts of the country.

The usual life span of a placer camp was two or three years. In the case of the Yankee Fork district, the claims were scattered out for some 15 miles along Jordan Creek, thence into Yankee Fork, down to the Salmon River. No attempts were made at locating a town until February 1877. James McKim, I.S. Johnson and Eldon Dodge were chosen from among the miners present to locate the streets of a new town. Bonanza was chosen as a name for the new town, as everyone present at the meeting to form the new townsite believed that was what they had struck. McKim and Johnson had already built the first house on the new townsite the summer of 1876. The first mercantile establishment was opened by Colonel George L. Shoup and a partner. This business was a satellite of Shoup's larger establishment in Salmon, Idaho. Shoup would later become Idaho's last territorial Governor, its first state governor, and first US Senator.

Bonanza had a regular, rectangular grid of streets. It was laid out in a manner rarely found in Western mining camps. The Main Street had a wide double drive lined with a triple row of trees. There were many two-story buildings, a public well and a water system which provided water for drinking and fire protection.

The General Custer mine was so easily worked that two men could take out enough ore to keep the twenty-stamp mill running day and night. General Custer Mine eventually became Custer

Bonanza before dredging.

Mining Company, and the town of Custer soon followed. The remote mining town ultimately supported an extensive new mining district. The townsites were laid out by Mordoff & Blick, and lots were given to anyone who would erect a building on them. Custer was a long, skinny, one-street town. The first house, or cabin, on the present site of Custer was built in the spring of 1878, by Sam Holman and "Doc" Adair. The arrastra was started up on Lucky Boy in the early part of the same year.

> *The discovery of lucrative quartz lodes changed the nature of Yankee Fork mining. After 1876, most of the placer claims along Jordan Creek and the Yankee Fork, with the exceptions of very rich claims like that of John Morrison, faded into obscurity. The Yankee Fork made the transition from a placer mining district to an area of quartz activity. By its very nature, quartz mining was a larger and more permanent venture than placering. It required more expensive equipment, a larger capital investment, and a greater concentration of manpower than placer operations. Quartz mining was also not as seasonal as placering. Placer operations stopped when water froze or the creeks ran low. While quartz activity usually slackened during midwinter, it was not bound nearly as much by the vicissitudes of weather. All these characteristics of quartz mining encourage a degree of stability and permanence. "History of the Yankee Fork Mining District, Custer County, Idaho" by Nancy Carol Luebbert*

The *Yankee Fork Herald* began publication in July 1879 with Mark W. Musgrove as editor. In the issue of August 28, 1879, it contains the advertisements of nine saloons, three hotels, two doctors and five lawyers in Bonanza. The leading gambling house advertised thus: "Classy & Hogle, Bonanza City, Idaho, WE ARE HERE." Tradition has it that the tables in this establishment saw as much as $30,000 at once, and that Mr. Norton could lose money here as fast as he could dig out on Dickens Hill.

Elizabeth Agnes "Lizzie" King was one of Bonanza's most colorful personalities. Lizzie is buried at Boot Hill next to her two husbands. Lizzie and Richard King lived in Bonanza where Richard worked in real estate. A heated argument with a business partner left Richard dead from a gunshot and Lizzie alone. Charles Franklin, a close friend of Lizzie and Richard, helped Lizzie through her mourning and the two of them purchased a gravesite for Richard and two more next to it, presumably for themselves. Soon, Charles began courting Lizzie and a wedding seemed eminent. During this time Lizzie built and operated a dance hall where Robert Hawthorne worked. To everyone's surprise, Lizzie married Robert, who was a newcomer to Bonanza. Six days after their wedding, both were found shot to death and they were buried next to Richard King. Soon afterward, Franklin left the area for a secluded cabin near Stanley where, years later, he was discovered dead. Clutched in his hand was a locket which held the picture of Lizzie King.

Alvah P. Challis and associates founded the town of Challis in 1878. Within two years, it had a population of 500 and was located in the center of a rich mining district. As the mines drew greater numbers of people to the area, a more accessible and central government became necessary, and the Idaho Territorial Legislature, on January 8, 1881, created the new county of Custer. Challis became the county seat. Previous to this, the area was in Lemhi and Alturas counties.

Early drawing of Custer.

The Utah and Northern Railroad was completed to Blackfoot early in the spring of 1879. This brought the Yankee Fork mines within one hundred and ninety miles of rail transportation, while the Bay Horse District was forty miles nearer. During this year, people came to the area by the hundreds and Challis, Custer City, Bonanza and other mining camps grew accordingly. A few years later, the Oregon Short Line built tracks from Blackfoot to Mackay. This railroad was a great benefit, but reached only one of the mining districts, Lost River.

From 1870 to 1879, all supplies for the mining communities on the Yankee Fork were brought in and the ore was sent out by pack trains. The nearest freighting road, 35 miles away in Challis, led to the Northern Railroad terminus at Blackfoot. Bonanza was the stopping-off point for pack trains making trips between the Yankee Fork mines and Challis and Ketchum. The first trail into the Yankee Fork was constructed over the Loon Creek Summit from Oro Grande on Loon Creek. The Hay Trail was constructed between Bonanza and the Stanley Basin through Sawmill Creek and was the only access to Custer and Bonanza prior to the construction of the Challis-Bonanza Toll Road.

In 1879, Colonel William Berelie Hyde and George Grayson of San Francisco gained undisputed rights to the General Custer Mine for $200,000 and formed the Custer Mining Company. In order to bring in heavy machinery for their planned stamp mill, the Custer Mining Company, under the leadership of stockholder George Hearst, began to construct a toll road from Custer to Challis. Alexander Toponce, personal friend of Hearst, and a crew of 90 men started work on the toll road in July and finished in October. Two crews were kept at work, one at each end of the road. The first stage with its load of passengers slid into Bonanza on runners, January 26, 1880. Heavy equipment for the General Custer Mill came over the toll road in June 1880.

By December of that year the mill was in operation. George Hearst of San Francisco and Lloyd Tevis, president of Wells Fargo and Company, were some of the prominent stockholders in the Custer Mining Company. Hearst's interests in gold mining areas of California, Nevada, Utah, Montana and South Dakota added to his fame and fortune. With this man as one of the stockholders in the Custer Mining Company, the mine was an assured success. He later purchased the San Francisco Daily Examiner which served as the beginning of the Hearst empire, later headed by his son, William Randolph Hearst.

The daily stage that ran over the toll road cost passengers $5 for a one-way trip. The stage took 8-9 hours and had three changes for fresh horses. Leaving Bonanza, they changed first at the Eleven-Mile Barn, next at Toll Gate and last at Slab Barn on Pine Summit. Two stopping places were run by Fannie Clark.

While the General Custer Mill was under construction in 1880, the packers packed a fly wheel ten feet in diameter with a ten-inch rim for a Corliss steam engine which was to be installed in the mill. To perform this feat, the wheel was packed in two sections – each half being slung between six mules. (The wheel weighed several hundred pounds). On the trail, a storm came up, and lightning struck one-half of the wheel and killed all six of the mules packing it. Six more mules were hurried to the scene, the wheel was removed from the dead mules, re-slung between the live ones, and the trip was made to the mill without further mishap.

Miners at the Lucky Boy, August 1902.

The packers also packed the first cable for the tramway which was to be used to transport the ore down to the General Custer Mill from the mines on Custer Mountain. The cable was extremely long and heavy. Twelve mules were lined up in tandem, the cable was unwound from its spool and slung alongside and around the packstring of animals, and then it was tied securely on each side of each mule to each pack saddle. This distributed the weight evenly enough, but every time the train had to cross a gully, the lead and rear animals received the brunt of the load, including the weight of the other mules. Once or twice when this happened, two or three of the animals in the middle were swung in mid-air and caused the packers quite a few anxious moments.

At the General Custer Mill, the management offered their thanks for a job well done. The packers merely shrugged their shoulders and replied, "It's all in a day's work." That night they went out and celebrated their day's accomplishment in their own way. (Land of the Yankee Fork – Esther Yarber)

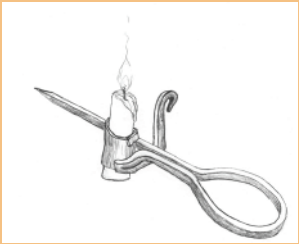
In 1880 the Custer Mill was built to process ore from the mines in the area and operated until 1904. It is estimated that between eleven and twelve million dollars of gold were recovered during this period. Active mines furnishing ore to the mill were: General Custer, Lucky Boy, Fourth of July, McFadden, Sunbeam, Charles Dickens, and Montana; all located near Custer.

The mill was a dry crushing reduction plant operated by steam power, with twenty steel stamps for crushing the ore and six 500-gallon settling pans. A complete water system provided fire protections. A 3200 foot gravity-operated, semi-automatic tramway brought ore from the mine on Custer Mountain down to the mill. The entire plant was large, modern, and costly. Custer Company stockholders were confident enough of the General Custer lode to sink hundreds of thousands of dollars into its development.

The General Custer property merited the huge initial investment. Milling 900 tons of ore a month, the mill produced close to $1,000,000 in its first year of operation. The cost of milling was relatively high at $25 a ton. However, since the General Custer vein could essentially be quarried rather than mined, mining costs were low. At the end of the General Custer mill's first year, the Yankee Fork Herald noted, "Owing to the small expense incurred in mining the quartz and getting it to the mill, the profits are large – about 50 per cent of the gross receipts." The General Custer's early huge profits became legendary. (Luebbert)

Tragedies in the mining districts were many and of various types. One of the most notable occurred on February 2, 1890 when the daughters of Nels and Mary Johnson were killed as a snow slide came crashing down Baldy Mountain and collided with the Johnson home. The house was picked off its foundation, spun around and sent sailing across the Yankee Fork River, finally to lodge behind the Custer Mining Company Stable. A large tree stump, carried by the snow, crushed part of the house killing the three young girls. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were pulled from the debris alive but Mrs. Johnson, six months pregnant, was seriously injured. The three Johnson girls, Olga, age 10, Annie, age 6, and Josephine, age 4, were buried on a hillside near the middle of town as snow slides prevented the mourners from reaching the cemetery. Later, the Custer

Miner's Candle.



School was built near the graves. At the same time another slide entered the H. Levinson house. Mr. Smith who had moved into the house that day, barely escaped as the slide struck the house. The upper limit of Custer town site was marked by the General Custer Mill and related offices and company residences on the east side of the Yankee Fork. The flat where the mill was located also had company offices, storehouses, bunk and boarding house and some company owned residences. Centauraus' summer dairy was at the upper end of town on the west side of the creek. Private homes ran down to the school. Chinatown, some 1000 feet below the main section of town, marked Custer's lower limit.

Residents of Custer passed a law forbidding any Chinese to live within the town limits, thus Chinatown developed southwest of Custer. Even thought the townspeople of Custer proper excluded the Chinese as neighbors, they were not opposed to using and supporting the businesses and services they provided. In 1880, Mrs. Sam Kee was the only Chinese woman in the newly formed Custer area. By 1900, according to the census, 21 single Chinese men and two couples were living in the Custer area and listed their occupations as 16 cooks and seven laundry people. Other services offered by the Chinese community ranged from the raising and selling of pigs, chickens and vegetables to providing hot baths for the miners. Bonanza hosted a larger Chinese population.

With the pressures of the Opium Wars, internal violence, overpopulation, shortages of land, crop failure, severe floods and earthquakes, Chinese families often sent a male relative to America for work, expecting him to return years later and enhance the family situation from his newly gained wealth. Their intent to return home and not become permanent citizens made them "sojourners," meaning they only intended to be temporary residents.

In Custer as in other mining towns, it was customary to prohibit the Chinese from mining in workable claims, delegating them to abandoned, low-grade properties. Claims worked by the Chinese can be readily identified by the neat piles of boulders arranged along the stream banks, because they carefully washed each stone as they moved along.

Mining almost came to a standstill in the 1890s. Ore values dropped as miners struck greater depths. The decreasing assay values and increased operating costs caused the failure of promising ventures. For a time it looked like the days of mining were at the end. Speculation and rumors flew when two Salt Lake City, Utah, stockholders in the Lucky Boy mine paid a visit to Custer. The Lucky Boy had been overshadowed by richer mines but gained importance toward the end of 1894. After two years of bargaining, the Lucky Boy Gold Mining Company, composed of Salt Lake City capitalists, headed by the McCornick banking house, gained title to the General Custer and Charles Dickens mines as well as the General Custer Mill. Notices published in Ketchum and Salt Lake City newspapers announced the reopening of the mines and repairs took place on the mill. The General Custer Mill, upgraded and renewed, produced $4,000 in gold-silver bullion a day. Soon 200 men were employed and businesses took advantage of the boom and those flocking to the district. The Silver Messenger of September 17, 1895 noted that five saloons were open and prosperity continued as the number increased to eight by January.

Lee Laundry in Challis.

Two years later, the mill was completely renovated and converted from a dry-crushing mill to the more modern, less expensive wet-crushing process. The mill became more efficient and saved 68% of the ore's assay values. The only remaining original equipment was the huge roasters and Corliss steam engine. A cyanide plant was added in the summer of 1899 to extract gold and silver left in the mill tailings.

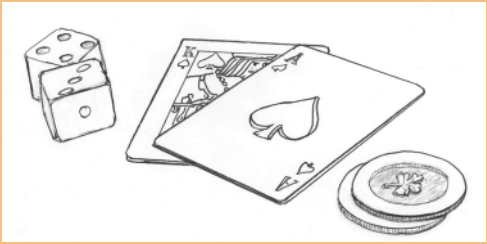
Mining continued into the early 1900s when it was no longer economical. Fires had destroyed much of Bonanza by this time and most residents had relocated to Custer or other areas. Many of the mines had depleted the best reserves and despite new owners and attempts to revive the glory days, mining on the Yankee Fork abruptly ended as it began. Residents searched for new areas to seek their fortunes and many moved to Challis.

Custer's civic character changed from 1895 to 1904 from an exuberant boom camp to a more settled community. The proportion of families and oldtimers in the population rose. The business community adapted to the changing populations. The number of saloons shrank down to a still healthy four; the number of mercantile stores and specialized shops increased. The summer of 1899 found a more sedate Custer with "five saloons, four stores, one livery stable, and three hotels." In 1900 Custer's business community was roughly the same, with four saloons, three mercantile stores, one livery stable, one hotel, three rooming houses, a butcher, blacksmith, restaurant, carpenter, ice house, stage depot, two barber shops, and several prostitutes.

Most businessmen stayed in Custer for years and became pillars of the community. Mr. and Mrs. William Dunn presided over the Nevada Hotel, Custer's only hotel, from the 1880s until Mrs. Dunn's death in 1908. Mrs. Estella Burton ran a rooming house and restaurant until her death in 1903. William Casto operated a saloon with different partners, including Ruben Jones, "Red" McGee, and a Mr. Shepard. Ed Jones gravitated between running a mercantile store and a saloon, while Mr. Booth was in charge of a general store for over a decade. Julius Cross and his wife ran a general store and post office in Custer. Kenneth McKenzie operated a saloon and a livery stable for over a decade. The Dearden and McGowan families spawned some of the county's most successful businessmen. Separately, together, or with other partners over more than a decade, brothers Frank and George Dearden, George McGowan and his brother Arthur McGown controlled a butcher shop, saloon, slaughterhouse, and mercantile store in Bonanza, and a saloon, butcher shop and mercantile store in Custer. (Luebbert)

The District experienced its greatest activity prior to 1900, although the General Custer mill operated most of the time until 1905. After that, mining operations were unimportant until 1907 when the Golden Sunbeam was opened on a large scale, a mill built and a hydroelectric plant installed on the Salmon River. In 1911, however, this enterprise also was temporarily abandoned, leaving the entire District inactive.

The total production of the Yankee Fork District is estimated at $12,000,000 [about $254 million in today's dollars] two-thirds of which is credited to the General Custer vein. The remaining one third was derived from the Lucky Boy and the rest principally from Charles Dickens, Golden Sunbeam, Montana, Morrison and McFadden properties.



The General Custer, Lucky Boy and Charles Dickens veins contained about 85 ounces of silver to one of gold. These properties produced three fourths of the total amount from the District. The Montana and Golden Sunbeam contained much more gold than silver, but their combined production was less than a million dollars. In the other veins in the camp, silver exceeded gold in amount. Thus considered, it is estimated that about 40% of the total production of Yankee Fork District has been from gold and the remainder from silver. (FS Binder – Custer 1, 2 & 3.)

For a time Custer residents that remained at the town after 1905 prospered from other mining discoveries at Thunder Mountain and Loon Creek. Touted as one of the gateways to the Thunder Mountain mines, businesses catered to those making the 70 mile trip. The Thunder Mountain boom inspired an increase of prospecting along the route. The Loon Creek area, where mining initially began in the district, was once again revived when prospector poet, Clarence E. Eddy, located the Lost Packer mine. This discovery prompted more prospecting and created a small rush. Eddy sold his discovery and served on the board of directors for companies which some said were set up to exploit other discoveries which he had made.

The Golden Sunbeam Company pulled together plans for an electric power plant and speculation began to grow. Idaho State Mine Inspector Robert Bell noted in 1908, "This property has developed in a magnificant (sic) manner during the year and promises to continue a large and steady producer for a long time in the future." Prominent speculators were comprised of Yankee Fork and Salt Lake City residents, Ravenel Macbeth, William Oster and the McCornicks. The new mines were not worth their speculated value and soon the company was dissolved.

Custer and Bonanza retained a minimal population during this time and continued to provide news, supplies and supporting businesses. Establishments remained in Custer and Bonanza as it was easier and cheaper to make deliveries to the new mines than erect new buildings and hire employees. After closure of the Lucky Boy, Custer could not support its own business establishments and only by serving the surrounding area in Bonanza, Custer, Sunbeam and Loon Creek could Custer's stores survive. Custer changed from a mining town to a supply town.

One last attempt was made to make the Custer Mountain claims profitable. The Oxarna Company, a coalition of Ohio capitalists and Yankee Fork residents, was formed in 1906. Men were hired to enlarge the Fourth of July mill from a ten to a twenty stamp mill, and to cut and haul wood. George Coryell and his younger brother Reginald were chief supporters of the Company. Progress was steady until a shift in superintendents. In 1908, Karln Neitzer became the superintendent and overextended the operations. After just four months on the job, he managed to incur a large debt that the board of directors refused to cover. The Oxarna ceased their operations.

Small mining claims did have some success during this time and some of the notable ones include James Cearley's Runover claim on Horse Hill, about half a mile from Bonanza. In 1907 there was a flurry of excitement as Cearly found an incredible rich pocket that supposedly assayed over $7000 per ton. The area had previously been searched by other Yankee Fork miners such as Dudley Varney, Lew Clawson and Clarence Eddy, but nothing profitable had been discovered.

Birthday party at Cookie Pfeiffer's home in Custer, 1897.

Custer's Ravenel Macbeth immediately snatched up the property. Macbeth took as much easy money as he could out of the claim, hiring six men to mine throughout the winter. Undoubtedly realizing form the start the short life the Runover would have, Macbeth concentrated on publicizing the mine to outside capitalists rather than developing it himself. He told the Salt Lake Tribune, "We keep a man on the ground [of the Runover] constantly with a .30-30 Winchester. We have taken out about $25,000 worth of the ore in eight days… I will say that it beats anything I have ever seen. It looks bigger to me than Goldfield." Macbeth's exaggerations convinced few people. In mid-1908 he sold a quarter interest in the Runover for $5000, a small sum considering the fabulous prices paid for most Yankee fork mines. The exhausted Runover vein was never head of again. (Luebbert)

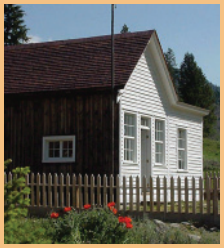
The mining district came to life again in the 1930s as some reworked the tailings left behind at the various mine sites and mill. Families moved into the abandoned buildings at Custer and Bonanza and managed to survive. Many of the buildings at Custer are wall-papered with newspaper from this time period; a testament to hard times and resourcefulness.

In the hard economic times Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp F-83 was stationed at Bonanza from 1933-1941. They also operated from CCC spike camps at Challis, Loon Creek, Clayton and Stanley. While on the Yankee Fork, the CCC men engaged in road and campground construction and fire suppression in the Challis National Forest. The camps flourished until the start of World War II, 1941-1945. Among their projects were construction of the Bonanza Guard Station and the Loon Creek Ranger Station and rebuilding the Jordan Creek Road and the toll road between Custer and Challis. The Toll Road became the "Custer Motorway." The narrow, dirt route can still be traveled by pickups and other high-clearance vehicles during late spring through early fall. It is not recommended for low-clearance autos, motor homes or travel trailers.

Interest in dredging the Yankee Fork developed as early as 1899 when business groups bought up placer claims along the creek. Funding and machinery were finally brought to bear when interest picked up again in the early 1930s when the price of gold was raised. The Yankee Fork Placer Company revived an earlier dredge plan and dug a pond near Ramey Creek, built a work camp nearby, and brought in a diesel powered dredge in 1932. The equipment was inadequate for the job, however, and the Yankee Fork Placer Company failed and the dredge was removed.

Dredge testing was undertaken in 1939 by a new concern, the Silas Mason Company and later its subsidiary, the Snake River Mining Company. The testing consisted of excavation of lines of cores to bedrock spaced at 100 to 300 foot intervals across the width of the tested area with the rows spaced a quarter mile apart. The testing crew camped in tents and later moved to the bunk house and cookhouse built earlier near Ramey Creek. In 1940 preparations began for the arrival of a custom-built dredge with the construction of the work camp. The cabins, a bunkhouse, frame shop, and office at the mouth of Ramey Creek were equipped with electricity and septic systems. A large pond was excavated with heavy equipment to hose the dredge that was shipped by rail to Mackay and trucked from there to the Yankee Fork. The dredge was shipped in pieces and assembled on-site with the equipment running regularly by fall. Operations continued until December of 1941 when the equipment was closed down by ice. World War II restricted operations and in October 1942 the dredge was parked near Jerrys Creek. Mining resumed in

Pfeiffer house today.



1945. By 1947 the dredge was upstream from West Fork and south of Bonanza. A bedrock reef prevented access to better paying ground causing the Snake River Mining Company to end operations in 1947.

The operation was sold to the Warren Dredging Corporation, a company partially owned by J.R. Simplot in 1949. The challenge of dredging over the bedrock reef near Bonanza resulted in a dam constructed to bring the water level up and another dam below the dredge. The company continued to work Jordan Creek in 1951 and ended its work permanently in 1952. The dredge was moved to its present location in 1954. (Yankee Fork Dredge Tailings Restoration Survey)

The floating dredge, built to recover an estimated $11 million, actually extracted slightly more than $1 million of gold and silver from 6.33 million cubic yards at a cost exceeding the value of the metals. The bucket line had 71 8-cubic-foot buckets and could dig to a depth of 35 feet. The dredge required 11 feet of water to float. It is one of the largest self-powered dredges ever in Idaho at 112 feet long, 54 feet wide, 65 feet high, weighing 988 tons.

The Yankee Fork area history was revived by Art McGown Jr., as he collected many interesting relics which he called his "conversation pieces." He inspired his parents, Art (Tuff) & Edna McGown who also shared a love for the area and the scattered artifacts, to begin thinking of a way to display and preserve the history of the Custer area. Tuff bought the Custer School House and he and Edna began work on the summer project fixing the leaking roof, adding windows, cleaning and making building repairs. By the summer of 1962, others were donating objects and articles such as pictures, early-day newspapers, books and business ledgers. In 1963, the book, Land of the Yankee Fork by Ester Yarber with the assistance of Tuff and Edna McGown was published and brought more people to explore the Yankee Fork area. In 1965, Tuff began negotiations with the USFS to take over the museum. In 1966, Tuff suffered a severe heart attack in June and the keys were permanently turned over to the Forest Service. Tuff was unable to return to Custer and passed away in December of 1966. His wife Edna continued to volunteer at the site for a time.

Bayhorse Mining District

After initial discovery in 1864, Bayhorse later became one of the richest mining districts in Idaho. The surface ore assayed $50 to $900 in silver a ton. Despite the harsh terrain, dramatic elevation change and difficult winters, determined prospectors filled the area looking for riches. W.A. Norton, Robert Beardsley and J.B. Hood located the first mines in 1872.

The Beardsley brothers owned the Beardsley Mine overlooking the town of Bayhorse, four miles up Bayhorse Creek. The creek enters the Salmon River eight miles west of Challis. In 1880, the Beardsley mine was producing well. Omaha Smelting and Refining Company of Omaha, Nebraska, erected a smelter to turn the ore into silver bullion. The smelter and associated sawmill drew some 75 residents. The smelter provided substantial savings to the miners. Previously, ore was shipped to Salt Lake City, Utah. Bayhorse was 150 miles from the railroad, a long distance for ore wagons. The smelter's first 10-day run produced $50,000 in silver bullion.

Bayhorse smelter.

About the same time the Beardsley's made their claim, Tim Cooper, while hunting for big horn sheep, shot and killed a large ram that fell on a shale rock outcrop. Where the ram fell, the rock showed great color. It assayed high in silver, so Cooper named the claim the Ramshorn Mine. Among other filings were Skylark, Excelsior, Riverview, Pacific, Democrat, Utah Boy and Post Boy. Ramshorn became one of the longest running mines in Idaho.

Within two months, men, machinery and houses were springing up. The town of Bayhorse had begun. By 1881, the Ramshorn employed 60 men, and Riggs's pack train of 60 mules packed supplies to the mines and returned with ore for the smelter, which ran full blast by 1882. In the same year, two prominent stage line operators, John T. Gilmer and O.J. Salisbury, purchased the Ramshorn, and enlarged the smelter at Bayhorse to a capacity of 30 tons. In 1883, a tramway was built to carry ore from Skylark, then to Ramshorn and on to the canyon floor where the tram house straddled the creek. The ore was shipped from the tram house to the smelter by wagon.

Nine charcoal kilns were constructed and then fed by wood that was cut three miles up the canyon and floated down a flume. Typical of most mining areas, there were more men hauling charcoal and operating the mill and smelter than there were mining the ore.

In 1885, strife developed when the Clayton Mercantile Company, owners of the Skylark Mine, sued the Ramshorn claiming the latter's miners were undermining into their property. The dispute was settled in the Mercantile's favor for $50,000.

The *Blackfoot Register* reported that Cornelius (Con) Sullivan opened the first saloon, even setting up a bar in front of the unfinished building, "using two saw horses, boards and a white tablecloth." Robert Deardon was the first to import a billiard table for his saloon. At its peak, Bayhorse had 300 residents and consisted of saloons, boarding houses, a Wells Fargo office, Wesley Smith's meat market, G.T. Barbough's general store and Mrs. Muloany's large boarding house "to accommodate her increasing patronage." Misses Alice and Tillie Housen kept "a neat boarding house where rooms are always furnished the best." Mr. Hall held contracts to "supply the smelter with 180,000 bushels of charcoal and employ(ed) 18 men."

In 1884, the smelter put in steam to operate the machinery because of the uncertainty of water power. Two refining furnaces were built to separate the lead from the precious metals and retain it, for the ores were lean in lead which was necessary for the proper functioning of the furnaces. By 1895, the smelter – which operated from July to early November – was running on coke shipped from Ketchum in the Wood River Valley.

The Ramshorn was productive until 1888. The charcoal kilns were abandoned in 1896 as newer, more efficient means of removing metals were discovered. Bayhorse had an interesting problem in 1897, according to the county newspaper: "A town 12 miles from Challis, in Bayhorse District, (Has) two names, a striking flight from the depth of the common and vulgar to the height of the aesthetic. Originally known as Bayhorse, Uncle Sam refused to enter it on his post office rolls, and so now it rejoices under the classic appellation of Aetna." Aetna must have come from a claim in the area, but the name stuck, if only with the U.S. Post Office. Some residents wrote the name Aetna as "Etna." Fire struck the town in 1889 destroying a stage company, barn, dining hall and

two dwellings. Soon after, people began to move on to other areas. By 1898, there were only 50 registered voters in Bayhorse. After 1908, when the price of silver dropped to an unprofitable level, the town as such was deserted. Some of the residents, including a large colony of Italians, moved to the Yankee Fork District to work for the Golden Sunbeam Company.

A serious revival of activity occurred in 1912 under a new company, with five mines in the Bayhorse district accounting for $67,000 of precious metals. After World War I, Bayhorse appeared to experience a revival of its former prosperity; the school reopened, and the Post Office (Aetna) continued. Production of the Ramshorn increased tenfold over preceding years, averaging more than 5,000 tons of crude ore annually. By 1926, water shortages had slowed operations, and falling metal prices made production impractical.

Mining activity was limited during the depression of the 1930s. In 1933, the Ramshorn Mines Company did not have sufficient funds to pay taxes or the watchman who had been hired to guard their property. The company partners, who included George Hearst, Harry L. Tevis, and Benally Haggin along with President O.J. Salisbury, agreed to lease the entire Ramshorn Mine to William B. Swigert of Challis. Due to the lack of necessary funds, the Ramshorn Mines Company had to borrow money from the stockholders. Money problems continued to plague the company and they decided to sell equipment and mill parts.

In 1936, the production of crude ore fell to 133 tons, the lowest level since 1916. During World War II, the district was stimulated by the mining of zinc which was needed for the war effort. In 1945, a diamond drill exploration was undertaken to investigate the extent of the lead-silver-zinc ore bodies in the Pacific Mine. In 1950, Bayhorse Mines, Inc. was formed, but it was dissolved in 1977 after a series of unsuccessful attempts at mining in the Pacific and Ramshorn mines. In the 1960s, mining emphasis shifted towards Fluorspar. Fluorspar is the commercial name for fluorite, a mineral that is calcium fluoride, Ca F2. The name is derived from the Latin word *fluere* (to flow), and refers to its low melting point and early use in metallurgy as a flux. Fluorite is also used in ceramics.

Bayhorse has an extensive vein of high quality fluorite that extends from Bayhorse to Meyers Cove. Thoughts of mining fluorite for use as a flux, ceramics and ceramic engine blocks initiated the interest. The mineral was shipped to Salt Lake City, Utah for processing. Due to the cost of freighting the product, it became uneconomical to mine; it was cheaper to ship product into the United States from Mexico. The fluorite deposit is thought to have measured reserves in excess of 3.2 million short tons of 36% CaF2.

Discoveries of a significant reserve of Fluorspar on Keystone Mountain led to the exploration by the American Metal Company of Colorado to seek deposits in the Bayhorse claims. Dooley Wheeler discovered fluorite deposits in the Hoosier-Silver Creek claims in the bottom of Bayhorse Creek Canyon. In 1957, Bunker Hill Company explored in the Beardsley and Pacific Mines, but work discontinued in three to four months after exposing only low-grade fluorite and silver-lead mineralization. During the 1950s, as many as 25 people lived there; but by the late 1960s, there was only one – a caretaker.

Nevada Hotel at Bayhorse.

The Skylark Mine was adjacent to the Ramshorn. Ten separate claims originally comprised the operation. It was discovered in 1877 by the Omaha Smelting and Refining Company. The Ramshorn Mining Company bonded the property but lost interest when sufficient ore was not discovered. Soon after, richer material was located at the site, and by 1886, the Skylark had produced 130,500 ounces of silver and 3,000 pounds of copper. Operations continued until 1902. Total production by this time was valued at almost $3 million.

Beardsley Mine, northeast of Bayhorse on an eminence overlooking the town site, was controlled by the Ramshorn Mines Company. Mineral value was not the only attraction of the mine; it afforded fine specimens of ruby, silver, wire silver and the finest crystallized carbonates. The mine produced silver, lead and small amounts of gold and coppers intermittently from 1880 to 1917, but there was only modest activity after 1880.

Pacific, Silver Brick and Hoosier Mines comprised the three claims of the McGregor group on the north side of Bayhorse Creek. Work began in 1881 and continued into the early 1900s.

Riverview, one of the oldest claims, was two miles above the mouth of Bayhorse Creek on its south side. This claim, owned by the Aetna Mining and Investment Company, was staked in 1877 and produced 130 tons of ore averaging 130 ounces of silver to the ton. It operated off and on from 1880 to 1917, and its total revenue amounted to almost half-a-million dollars.
Before the Bayhorse smelter was built in 1882, Bayhorse sent its silver ore to Clayton, Ketchum and Salt Lake City, Utah for processing.

> *The old red-shirted days, like those of earlier Bayhorse, Bonanza and Oro Grande, when not less than 15 saloons were considered necessary to life, have given place to times in which we thrive with fourteen times less whiskey, and some even venture that we could get along without it entirely. (The Silver Messenger, November 22, 1910.)*

Crystal

Located at the mouth of the East Fork of the Salmon River, Crystal City in 1884 was one of the largest towns in Custer County. Crystal City lost out to Challis in the popular vote by only three votes for the county seat in 1881. .

Crystal City started as a small freighting settlement in 1880 when it was the end of the wagon road from Ketchum up over Trail Creek to Big Lost River and down Road Creek to the East Fork of the Salmon River. Later, the road was extended to Clayton so that supplies could be freighted into the mines.

Clayton

Clayton, known initially as Kinnikinic for the nearby creek of that name, is on the north side of the Salmon River, some 23 miles upstream from Challis. It came into existence in 1877 with the development of mines on Kinnikinic Creek, Squaw Creek and East Fork. A large smelter was

constructed overlooking the Salmon River and operated from 1880 to 1904, processing ore from surrounding mines. Prospects were so encouraging that the Challis newspaper, *The Silver Messenger*, even moved from Challis to Clayton for a time. The town was named for J.E. Clayton, Atlanta, Idaho, who chose the mill sites.

The nearby Red Bird Mine on Squaw Creek was discovered in 1878, but six years lapsed before any major work was done. Omaha and Grant Company purchased the property, including the 10 claims; their mining operation continued until 1904. Attempts were made to revive the mine from 1912 to 1914, but failed. In 1924, Ford Motor Company gained control of the Ella and Redbird Mine operations and installed new machinery, but after a two year extensive drilling campaign, work was suspended.

Clayton Silver Mine – lead, silver, copper and zinc – was one of the last mines to be producing. The property was worked in the late 1870s and 1880s but was later abandoned. It was relocated in 1926 and restarted in 1929. In 1936, a hydroelectric plant powered by a Pelton waterwheel was built on Kinnikinic Creek and, from 1934 to 1986, some 25-30 men were employed each year.

For 52 years, through two wars, labor strife, a devastating earthquake on October 28, 1983, and fluctuating silver prices, Clayton Silver Mining Company was in production until June 1986. The shifting earth caused the mine to fill with water. Miners fought an uphill battle as more than 2,500 gallons of groundwater per minute flowed into the mine for several days. Previous to the earthquake, 1,000 gallons per minute entered the mine. Eventually, the rate of water coming into the mine slowed but did not revert to previous levels. The increase in water flow and the pumping costs became one of the major factors in the decision to close the mine. Today, where once the old smelter stood, now stands a grassy baseball field and town park.

Sunbeam

Five miles up Jordan Creek, the town of Sunbeam developed slowly, dependent as it was on Custer for supplies. The population, 89 in 1910, never topped 120. There were two streets. Mine buildings and company bunkhouses were across Jordan Creek. The main street, on the Custer to Loon Creek road, was two miles long. The Lake Hotel, operated by F.A. Saucier and S.C. Miller, was at the lower end of town near the schoolhouse. Two miles upstream, appropriately encircled by pines, stood Mrs. Louise LaSalle Harvey's Pine Grove Hotel and Saloon, which opened in 1906.

In 1903, the Golden Sunbeam Mining Company acquired several claims and started operations. Water power was used to crush their ore so operating expenses were lower than mills using steam. This company prospered for a number of years. In 1908, the company was paying its miners $3.50 to $4.00 per day which was more than the wages at other mines.

In 1909, Gold Sunbeam and North Sunbeam companies merged to form the Sunbeam Consolidated Gold Mines Company. C.E. Gable immediately started working on his long-time dream of having electricity transmitted to the mine. The Sunbeam Dam on the Salmon River, just a few yards above the mouth of the Yankee Fork, was completed in April 1910. Poles were erected and power lines were strung from the plant to

Remains of the Sunbeam Dam.

the mill site 15 miles away. A telephone line also was installed with an extension into Bonanza. No electricity or telephone lines continued on to Custer. The switch was flipped on May 3, 1910, and electricity became the power to operate the machinery. A new mill was constructed with all new machinery, and the Sunbeam Mill started full operation in April 1911. Regrettably, the mill shut down a month later because of financial problems. It had cost huge amounts of money to build the dam and bring power to the community, and the ore was deteriorating in value. The mill's income was not enough to pay off the debts, and a sheriff's sale concluded the dramatic plans for Sunbeam and the entire Yankee Fork. With this closure, the last of Custer's merchants closed down and left the Yankee Fork.

The Sunbeam power plant was never used after 1911. In 1920, fish ladders were constructed to allow migrating fish to travel over the dam barrier. Caretakers lived near the dam and maintained it for a number of years. After the death of Lou Cruthers, the last caretaker, the dam's fish ladders fell into disrepair. Rather than build new fish ladders, the dam was partially breached in 1933 or 1934 to allow salmon and other migrating fish to continue their run up the Salmon River.

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3.4 Park-Community Relationship

Land of the Yankee Fork is located in Custer County in Central Idaho with Custer City being the geographical center of Idaho. Our communities of Challis, Stanley, Mackay, and Clayton, are based on self-reliance, the outdoors, ranching and resource extraction. With a very low human population, Custer County residents traditionally base their recreational pursuits on consumptive sports like hunting and fishing. It is one of the few places where fire-wood cutting is considered a recreational activity. Camping, hiking, bird-watching, and other non-consumptive activities are done while engaged in hunting and fishing. River rafting is a popular activity but many of the local people only float when there are fish to catch. Many visitors are interested in the hunting and fishing as well and the spring Steelhead fishing and fall hunting seasons are the busiest times of year for tourism in the area.

The area is beautiful with a wide variety of ecosystems from river bottoms to high desert to high alpine forests and meadows. Federal lands dominate Custer County with 96% of all lands publicly managed. The Lost River and Salmon River Ranges surround Land of the Yankee Fork,

Land of the Yankee Fork State Park Interpretive Center, Challis.

with the Sawtooth range to the west. The Middle Fork and Main Salmon Rivers flow nearby and the Yankee Fork empties into the Main Salmon at Sunbeam. Many smaller tributaries flow into the Salmon and provide abundant fishing opportunities. Both the Middle Fork and Main Salmon are nationally designated Wild Rivers.

The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness boundary is only 15 miles from the Custer Motorway and provides the largest wilderness area in the lower 48 states. Wilderness hiking, camping, and site seeing are popular with visitors, but recreational use on federal lands outside the wilderness area is much higher.

Land of the Yankee Fork has big game populations that include mule and whitetail deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, pronghorn antelope, black bear, cougar, and soon, wolves. Most of the area is open to hunting with the exception of developed camping and historic sites.

There has been a steady increase in motorized recreation with the inception of the 4 wheel ATV. These vehicles allow older and less fit individuals to get into the mountains for recreational opportunities that have traditionally been limited to roaded areas, or to those individuals who are in physical good shape or those who own horses and who possess the knowledge and ability to use them in a back country situation. The historic mining influence on the area is huge with small and large mine claims scattered though out the mountains. These mines have left a legacy of many, mostly poorly maintained roads and trails that lead to interesting, fun-to-rediscover historic relics. Many of these sites are only easily accessible to those with an ATV or motorcycle.

Land of the Yankee Fork has always been a partnership-reliant state park. Initial efforts to create the park hinged upon these partnerships. Land of the Yankee Fork State Park has been officially partnered with the USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Other partners include Challis School District, North Custer Historical Assn, Clayton Historical Association, the Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Association, the Yankee Fork Dredge Assn, the Sacajawea Center, Challis Area Chamber of Commerce, Stanley Chamber of Commerce, Custer Economic Development, Mackey Mine Hill Association, Lost River Economic Development, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Deptartment of Environmental Quality, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Idaho Department of Transportation Scenic Byway program, Veterans of Custer County, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association, the North American Sheep Foundation City of Challis and Custer County.

The community is generally very supportive of the Land of the Yankee Fork. The park shares resources with appropriate groups. The staff is involved in the community. Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is active in the Challis Area Chamber of Commerce and Challis Arts Council. The park employs local youth at Custer, local interpreters at the Visitors Center and all staff make Custer County their year-round home.

Land of the Yankee Fork is a partnership effort between IDPR and the two major federal land managing agencies in the area, USFS and the BLM. This partnership cooperates to provide consistent visitor interpretive services striving to illustrate the colorful history of Custer County, while encouraging visitors to preserve and protect our natural and historic resources. These partnerships remain strong and are the centerpiece of our management style.

Harriman State Park Manager Gene Eyraud pitches in to get the visitor center ready for its grand opening, 1992.

3.5 Park Chronology

The Land of the Yankee Fork is a relatively new park within the Idaho State Park System. The park held its grand opening on June 21, 1992 as the Idaho Centennial State Park. Land of the Yankee Fork was established to help stimulate economic growth in Custer County, Idaho by providing a high quality visitor experience that relates strongly to the local traditions and history related to early mining efforts.

The following is a chronological list of creating the Land of the Yankee State Park

1987

- IDPR asked for and received funding from the Idaho Centennial Commission to do a study that would result in the selection of a Centennial state park.

1988

- The concept of developing a park in Central Idaho devoted to preserving and interpreting Idaho's mining heritage was approved by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board and Idaho Centennial Commission.

1990

- In January, the Idaho Park and Recreation Board voted to name the Centennial state park "Land of the Yankee Fork." Other names considered were "Ghosts of Gold" and "Old Prospector."
- Funding for Idaho's Centennial Park was appropriated by the Idaho Legislature.
- IDPR was not able to secure the Bayhorse property at its appraised value from the mining company that owned it. The Board decided to continue with the other elements of the Centennial park proposal, which included interpretation of the Yankee Fork Dredge, the townsites of Custer and Bonanza, and the development of a mining interpretive/history center near Challis.
- Ground breaking for the new interpretive center takes place on August 1.

1991

- Manager Rick Brown hired and moves to Challis – Rick's office is in the Challis National Forest Office
- Full time staff hired
- Operations begin in Custer with 5 seasonal staff
- Visitor Center construction begins
- Sunbeam interpretive overlook developed
- MOU signed with SNRA, Challis NF, Friends of Custer Assn, Dredge Assn,

Grand opening of the visitor center in 1992. Manager Rick Brown, Board Chair Glenn Shewmaker, Director Yvonne Ferrell, Representative Kitty Gurnsey and Senator Atwell Parry cut the ribbon.

1992
- Grand opening of LYF Visitor Center – June 21.
- Sunbeam Interpretive Overlook finished
- McKenzie House in Custer renovated
- LYF Shop and Manager's Residence completed

1993
- MOU with BLM signed
- Keith Hobbs is hired as LYF Interpretive Specialist
- *Custer Motorway* and *Gold Fever* Videos produced
- Raines Cabin in Custer restoration is begun
- Custer Motorway Interpretive signs designed

1994
- Icehouse in Custer restored
- Raines Cabin restoration completed
- Motorway Interpretive sign installation begins
- Grooming Program in Stanley operated out of LYF

1995
- Seismograph installed – display begun
- Stanley OHV Trails compliance managed by LYF

1996
- Pole shed is built to house the Stanley Groomer

1997
- Marty Gangis is the new manager at LYF
- YCC Campground in Bonanza is renovated
- Empire Saloon restoration begins
- Passport in Time Program surveys all of Custer
- Bison Kill Site Trail project begins
- Gold Panning display at LYF VC is installed
- Seismograph display completed

1998
- Christmas Tree Program at LYF is begun
- Empire Saloon restoration is complete

Pfeiffer house in Custer, circa 1990.

1999
- Pfeiffer house in Custer restoration begun
- Carriage House in Custer restored
- Custer Days Special event is started

2000
- Kathleen Durfee begins as LYF Interpretive Specialist
- Custer Days cancelled due to fire danger
- Custer Collection moved to LYF VC due to fire danger and theft
- New walking guide to Custer is developed
- Panels developed for BLM's Bayhorse Campground
- Lost River Trail Concept first proposed

2001
- Rankin Fire threatens Custer – Custer closed mid August
- Majority of Custer Collection stays in LYF VC for security purposes
- Custer Day reinstated
- Lost River Trail goes to scoping status

2002
- State Parks Sign Shop installed at LYF Shop
- Getty Collection is brought to LYF increasing collection by 40%
- Lost River Trail program formally proposed

2003
- MOU with BLM expires
- Corner Development project is proposed
- Lost River Trail program subject to intense public scrutiny

2004
- Bayhorse offered for sale by Umont
- Outdoor interpretive display developed for large mining and agricultural artifacts.
- Dan Smith hired as LYF Manager
- MOU with USFS revised

2005
- Numerous Bayhorse tours given
- Corner Project bidding process for fencing,
- Lost River Trail System proposal dropped due to public opposition
- Arco begins trail planning using Lost River concept as starting point
- IDPR meets with USFS and BLM to reinvent workable trails program in Custer County
- MOU with BLM revised

Pfeiffer house in Custer restored.

2006

- Seismograph display broken down and removed
- Bayhorse purchase partially consummated
- Terragraphics hired to perform detailed cleanup plan
- Brownfield grant approved for Bayhorse cleanup
- Veteran's of Custer County propose building a memorial at the interpretive center
- Custer Day has over 600 visitors
- Corner Project Rail fencing and berms erected, artifacts placed
- Volunteer effort expands – first year of leasing the Strand Campground across from the visitor center to house volunteers
- Potato Fire threatens Custer – all volunteers evacuated in 2 hours. Custer closed for season August 1

2007

- Ramshorn and Skylark Parcels in Bayhorse drainage sale completed
- Sacajawea Center proposed as unit of State Park System
- Veterans of Custer County go to Idaho Park and Recreation Board with formal memorial proposal
- Idaho Outfitters and Guides Assn (IOGA) and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) propose sheep viewing station along Bison Kill Trail
- Bayhorse Ranger position created
- Custer Day hits 700 visitor mark
- Salmon River Scenic Byway Comprehensive Management Plan complete – results in $30,000 Grant to park
- Corner Project trail interpretive signing complete

2008

- Corner Project picnic shelters complete
- Land of the Yankee Fork Master Planning process begins
- Trail Ranger position created
- Sacajawea Center MOU signed
- Bayhorse cleanup begins in May and is finished Nov 1

2009

- Ramshorn/Skylark Brownsnfield Grant approved
- BLM and USFS Travel Plans approved
- Land of the Yankee Fork State Park Master Plan published
- Bayhorse opens to the public

Idaho Park and Recreation Board Member Ernest Lombard near Bayhorse, 2006.

Chapter 4 Resource Inventory

4.1 Climatological Summary

Located in Round Valley, Challis, elevation 5,280, is a small mountain community surrounded by the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, the Salmon River and three magnificent ranges of the Rocky Mountains; the Salmon River Range, the Lost River Range, and the White Cloud Peaks.

According to the Western Regional Climate Center, Challis gets just over 7 inches of rain and 17 inches of snowfall per year. The number of days with any measurable precipitation is 64. Challis has approximately 110 frost free days during the growing season. Daily temperatures can fluctuate up to 40 degrees year-round. Due in large part to the high elevation, even after a hot summer day, the evenings cool down to a comfortable temperature. For gardening, Challis is Zone 3 / 4. The temperature and precipitation specifics are shown in the chart below.
Period of Record: 1/ 1/1895 to 6/30/1996 Challis Monthly Climate Summary

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Average Max. Temperature (F)	30.3	37.7	47.5	58.3	67.5	75.8	85.3	83.6	73.8	61.1	43.9	32.1	58.1
Average Min. Temperature (F)	8.7	14.9	22.5	30.1	37.9	44.7	50.3	48.2	40.2	31.3	20.8	11.3	30.1
Average Total Precipitation (in.)	0.50	0.41	0.43	0.56	1.06	1.10	0.63	0.59	0.67	0.47	0.41	0.54	7.38
Average Total Snow Fall (in.)	4.4	3.1	2.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	2.4	4.1	17.1
Average Snow Depth (in.)	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Winter in Bonanza, 1910.

According to the USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan: FY 2007–2012**,** **"**The Earth's climate is undergoing a period of relatively rapid change both in temperature and in the variability of climate patterns. Climate change will impact forest, range, and human well-being by potentially altering the ability of ecosystems to provide life-supporting goods and services. The implication for natural resource management is to be flexible and adapt management strategies to help mitigate the effects of climate change. In short, we need to develop new knowledge so that we can manage for future change, ensuring the continued provision of goods, services, and values from forests and rangelands."

Bonanza sits at approximately 6410 feet. Custer sits at around 6490 feet. Neither have National Weather Service information. No data are available from the Western Regional Climate Center. Historical data suggests that both locations received heavy snowfall, and experienced cold winters. There is little or no travel by automobile during the winter in this area. Summers are more temperate due to the elevation with hotter days and a mountain cooling effect at night.

The climate in the Yankee Fork is one of extremes, from summer temperatures reaching 100 degrees to winters bringing deep snows and freezing temperatures for nearly half of the year. Summers are dry followed by a wet season, mostly in the form of snowfall, from November through March, with temperatures averaging a maximum of 46 degrees Fahrenheit (F) to minimum of -2 degrees F. Mean maximum temperature in July is 85-88 degrees F and mean minimum temperature in January is 5-8 degrees F. (Mauser, 2003)

4.2 Geology and Soils

Custer County, like most of central Idaho, has a complex and varied geological past. Rocks in the county range from very old Pre-Cambrian times (600 million or more years old) to Quaternary age (2-3 million years old). Processes are just as diversified, with ancient ocean bottoms in contact with metamorphosed ore-bearing rocks, topped with recent volcanic eruptions, and overlaying slates and sediments, all carved and sculpted by rivers, glaciers, and winds.

Three major processes determined Custer County geology:

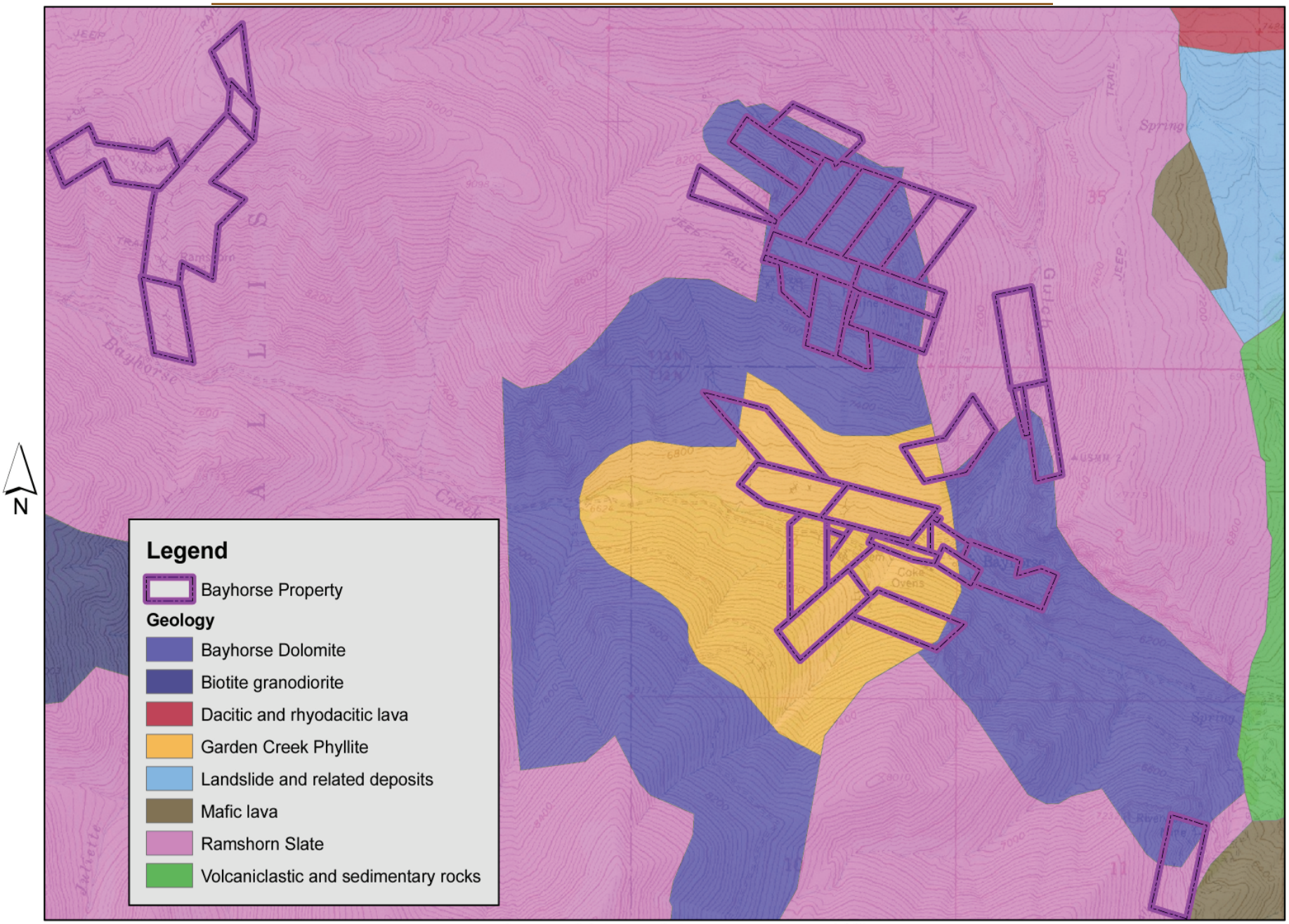
- Tectonic plate movement
- Volcanic and magmatic events
- Meteorological and glacial activity

An ancient sea that deposited thousands of feet of limestone-forming sediments once covered Custer County. Tectonic forces alternately compressed and stretched the land to create mountain ranges and valleys. Magmatic activity added to the complexity. Hot fluids instigated the deposit of mineral-rich seams.

Ranges like the Lost River Range are largely layered limestone, compressed and uplifted by the same forces that created the Basin and Range Geologic Province of Nevada and western Utah. The Lost River, Lemhi, and Beaverhead Ranges are the northernmost part of this Province. The jagged granitic peaks of the Sawtooth and White Cloud Ranges are known as the Idaho Batholith, originally molten, but slowly solidified far below the surface before isostatic rebound thrust them upward. The White Knob Range near Mackay and the Salmon River Mountains west of Challis are metamorphosed ancient rocks whose histories are clouded by repeated churnings over the eons that created rich ore pockets of many valuable minerals.

The geology of the county created the extensive mining activities that have contributed so much to the economy, culture, and characteristics of the county and state. Several large mines with decades of production have been a mainstay of economics in the county: Yankee Fork, north of Stanley, and Bayhorse, south of Challis were early rich gold and silver mining areas. The Alder Creek Mining District near Mackay produced copper and other metals for nearly a century, and Clayton produced millions of dollars in silver over many years. Currently, the Thompson Creek Molybdenum Mine south of Challis is an active open pit operation. Numerous smaller, short-lived mining operations extracted lead, zinc, iron, tungsten, and other metals. Various semi-precious stones are extracted in the county although not at commercial levels.

Soils in the area are predominantly derived from the pale gray granitic bedrock of the Idaho Batholith which underlies the region. Older rocks between Sunbeam and Challis are folded Paleozoic formations, now largely buried under pale Challis volcanics, mostly rhyolite, which erupted about 50 million years ago. Gold was concentrated on bedrock in the stream bed as the Yankee Fork cut downward. When the stream reached bedrock level, it widened, leaving a narrow, rich pay streak meandering through the valley (Maley 1987:204). Placer miners worked to reach the deeper gravels and the bedrock surface beneath them (Alt and Hyndman 1989:229- 230). (Mauser, 2003)



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ANALYSIS MAPS: Geology

Land of Yankee Fork State Park

Bayhorse Unit

Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst
Comprehensive Planning & Review

The ghost town of Bayhorse is north of Sun Valley on highway 75, west of the Salmon River. Initially it was thought that Bayhorse would become a booming gold mine, but instead only a small amount of gold was found. A rich silver vein was discovered in the early 1870s, with the most productive years being the 1880s and 1890s before the vein started to play out. Silver mining operations continued until 1915 when the town was abandoned, and the mine shut down.

Geology Terms Important to the Planning Area

Bayhorse Dolomite:

Named for its exposures on Bayhorse Creek, it is best exposed near the Bayhorse townsite. Thickness varies from less than 500 ft to 1800 ft which is attributed to its gradational contact with underlying Garden Creek Phyllite and erosional unconformity with overlying Ramshorn Slate. Varies from fine-grained limestone to silty/sandy limestone, to dolomitic limestone, to limy shale. The upper part is massive, dark-gray, fine-grained dolomite. Age is probably Late Cambrian and/or Early Ordovician.

Biotite granodiorite:

Biotite granodiorite is widespread over a vast area in central Idaho and is the principal granitic rock exposed in outcrop. The biotite granodiorite is light gray, medium to coarse grained, and equigranular to porphyritic. The age of the biotite granodiorite is not well established, but the unit probably was intruded between about 85 and 70 Million years ago.

Dacitic and rhyodacitic lava:

Dacite is an igneous, volcanic rock with a high iron content. It is intermediate in compositions between andesite and rhyolite. Rhyodacitic lava is a silica-rich, highly viscous magma.

Lavas with composition of rhyodacitic to dacitic have silica contents between those of basalts (low silica) and rhyolites (high silica). Most flows travel less than 10 km from their source and have steep sided flow fronts. The flows often exhibit block-and-ash features, where over steepened lava flanks cool and collapse into a pile of rubble during flowage.

Garden Creek Phyllite:

Slate is the parent rock for phyllite. As slate becomes more deeply buried underground and pressure and temperature continue to rise, chlorite and mica crystals recrystallize into larger crystals. Phyllite is considered to be a product of low-grade metamorphism. It is transitional between slate and schist.

The only recognized occurrences are in the Garden Creek and Daugherty Gulch valleys and along canyon walls in the Bayhorse anticline where the anticline has been breached by Bayhorse Creek. Thickness is estimated to be 1,200 to 1,400 ft on the north side of Bayhorse Creek. Presence of dark carbonaceous

material and iron-sulfide suggest anaerobic environment not hospitable to living organisms. Assigned to Middle Cambrian.

Landslide and related deposits:

Term used to delineating potential slope-stability problem areas and the resulting formation.

Mafic lava:

Most mafic minerals are dark in color and include basalt and gabbro. Mafic lava flowed, as opposed to erupting violently.

Ramshorn slate:

Extends in a band 2 to 5 miles wide from Mill Creek south past Clayton, a distance of 20 miles. Composed of dark-green to purple slate that has well-developed cleavage with local lenses of limestone and quartzite. Basal conglomerate approximately 500 ft thick of well-rounded 3 inch pebbles of quartz and quartzite in a siliceous matrix exposed in north part of quad near Daugherty, Garden, and upper Rattlesnake Creeks. The thickness is estimated at 2,000+ ft. Early Ordovician age.

Volcaniclastic and sedimentary rocks:

Volcaniclastic is a nongenetic term for any fragmental aggregate of volcanic origin and containing more than 30% volcanic clasts and less than 70% other types of clastic and/or biogenic material. Sedimentary rock is formed by deposition and consolidation of mineral and organic material and from precipitation of minerals from solution. The processes that form sedimentary rock occur at the surface of the Earth and within bodies of water. Rock formed from sediments covers 75-80% of the Earth's land area, and includes common types such as limestone, chalk, dolostone, sandstone, conglomerates, some types of breccia, and shale.

Information regarding the Bayhorse area was described in the document Preliminary Site Assessment Bayhorse Mining Area, Custer County, Idaho, Maxim Project No. 4540045.100, the text of which follows.

"The Bayhorse Mine is a large, irregular shaped parcel of approximately 162 acres located along both sides of Bayhorse Creek. There are three lobes of the Bayhorse Mine property. The area south of Bayhorse Creek consists of prospects, adits and waste rock dumps. The bulk of the mining occurred in the north portion of this lobe, near Bayhorse Creek. Ore appears to have been moved to an ore chute located in the northeast lobe of the property. A series of five domed stone charcoal kilns are a striking attraction, located along Bayhorse Creek road in the central portion of the property. The northeast lobe contains a smelter and mill with buildings remaining in generally good condition. The Bayhorse townsite, consisting of numerous buildings in varying states of preservation is also in this area. The northwest lobe of the Bayhorse property contains several large waste rock dumps. It appears that a rail system was in place to move this material from this area to the smelter to the east. However, only a few traces of the rail remain.

"The Bayhorse mining area is located at the northern end of the Bayhorse Mining District in Custer County, Idaho (Mitchell, et al, 1986). The mines and prospects in this area were developed in silver-copper-lead-zinc vein and carbonate replacement deposits hosted by lower Paleozoic dolomites, phyllites, and slates (Fisher, 1995a).

"The Paleozoic sedimentary sequence is part of a Basin and Range fault-bounded block exposed east of the Upper Cretaceous Atlanta Lobe of the Idaho batholiths (Fisher, 1995a). The units within this block have been tightly folded and faulted. The Bayhorse mining area is situated along the axis of one of these folds, the N-S trending Bayhorse Anticline (Hobbs, 1985b). The rock units exposed in the anticline are, from oldest to youngest: the Cambrian Dolomite of Bayhorse Creek, the Cambrian Garden Creek Phyllite, the Cambrian – Lower Ordovician Bayhorse Dolomite, and the Lower Ordovician Ramshorn Slate (Hobbs, et al 1991). The contact between the Bayhorse Dolomite and the Ramshorn Slate is a major erosional disconformity which is characterized by a zone of brecciated, vuggy, deeply weathered material as thick as 200' which probably represents paleokarst topography (ibid.). This zone serves as the major host for the Pacific and Beardsley-Excelsior and Riverview mine deposits. The Ramshorn Slate is locally being mined as ornamental stone and is the host for the Ramshorn-Skylark mine deposits.

"The entire Paleozoic structural block is overlain by the Middle Eocene Challis Volcanic Group. This sequence ranges from basalts to rhyolites and comprises a sequence of flow, breccias, and tuffaceous deposits which originated from a caldera complex north of Bayhorse Creek and blanket the area on all sides (Hobbs, et al, 1991).

"Mineral deposits in the Bayhorse area generally occur as veins, disseminations, and massive replacements of carbonate strata by sulfide ore minerals (Hobbs, et al, 1995). Locally, the ore bodies include breccias filling and replacement of breccias fragments. Where deeply weathered and oxidized, the sulfides have been converted to masses of granular carbonates and sulfates of lead and zinc with silver chloride. Deposits in the district have been dated at 95 million years (Fisher, 1995a) and are considered to be related to the Idaho batholiths (late Cretaceous in age). Additional mobilization of ore-bearing fluids during Eocene felsic stock and dike emplacement associate with the Challis Volcanic Group has been suggested (Hall, et al, 1995).

"The Bayhorse mining area deposits were first noted in 1864 by a prospector traveling through the mountains along the Salmon River (Idaho State Historical Society, 1980). In 1873, the first lode claim was located, and in 1877 a major lead-silver vein was discovered at the Ramshorn Mine. By 1878, a considerable rush to the area had begun and the Beardsley Mine had gone into production. In 1880, a thirty-ton smelter was constructed, and within two years charcoal kilns were constructed to provide the smelter with a local fuel source. By this time, the town of Bayhorse had a population of about 3000 and had a complex of substantial, permanent buildings. In 1883, an aerial tramway was constructed at the Ramshorn mine to transport ore down to wagons which served the smelter (ibid).

"Full production at the smelter was limited, however, first by the depletion of the major lead lodes, and transportation problems, and eventually by changes in tariff policies and declining silver prices. The smelter was closed in 1889, reopened briefly in 1893, and 1894, but by 1897

was permanently closed and later dismantled (Idaho State Historical Society, 1980). Production continued from the Bayhorse mines until 1925, with ore being transported to the smelter in Clayton, Idaho. The Bayhorse post office was shut down in 1927 and the town was soon abandoned (ibid).

"Activities by lessees continued through the 1930s and early 1940s. A reexamination of the area in the 1950s indicated that the Bayhorse area mines could be reopened profitably. Claims were consolidated and a new company, Bayhorse Mines, Inc. began to operate the property under lease (DEQ, 2003). A mill was constructed and limited operation began in 1951. In 1959, Umont Mining entered into lease and option agreements and conducted exploration activities until 1962. Interest in fluorite reserves prompted further exploration of the area in the 1970s and 1980s (ibid.). Umont is presently the owner of record for the patented claims in the Bayhorse Mining Area (IDPR, 2004)." *Note, IDPR purchased the property from Umont in 2007*.

"Total production for the area has been estimated at more than $10 million (Alt, et al, 1989), including approximately 200 oz. gold, 6.3 million oz. silver, 6.6 million lb. copper, 37 million lb. lead and 39,000 lb zinc (Fisher, 1995b).

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4.3 Wildlife

Wildlife residing in the area bordered by the Custer Motorway to the north and west, and State Highway 75 to the south and east includes deer, elk, moose, antelope, mountain goats and sheep, upland game birds, waterfowl, eagles and other raptors, songbirds, cougars, bobcats, lynx, wolves, bears, wolverine, badgers, porcupines, skunks, marmots, trout, salmon, and multitudes of smaller animals. These species can be observed throughout the area. The following is a list of species observed or assumed to occur by reason of an indicator such as a nest or den.

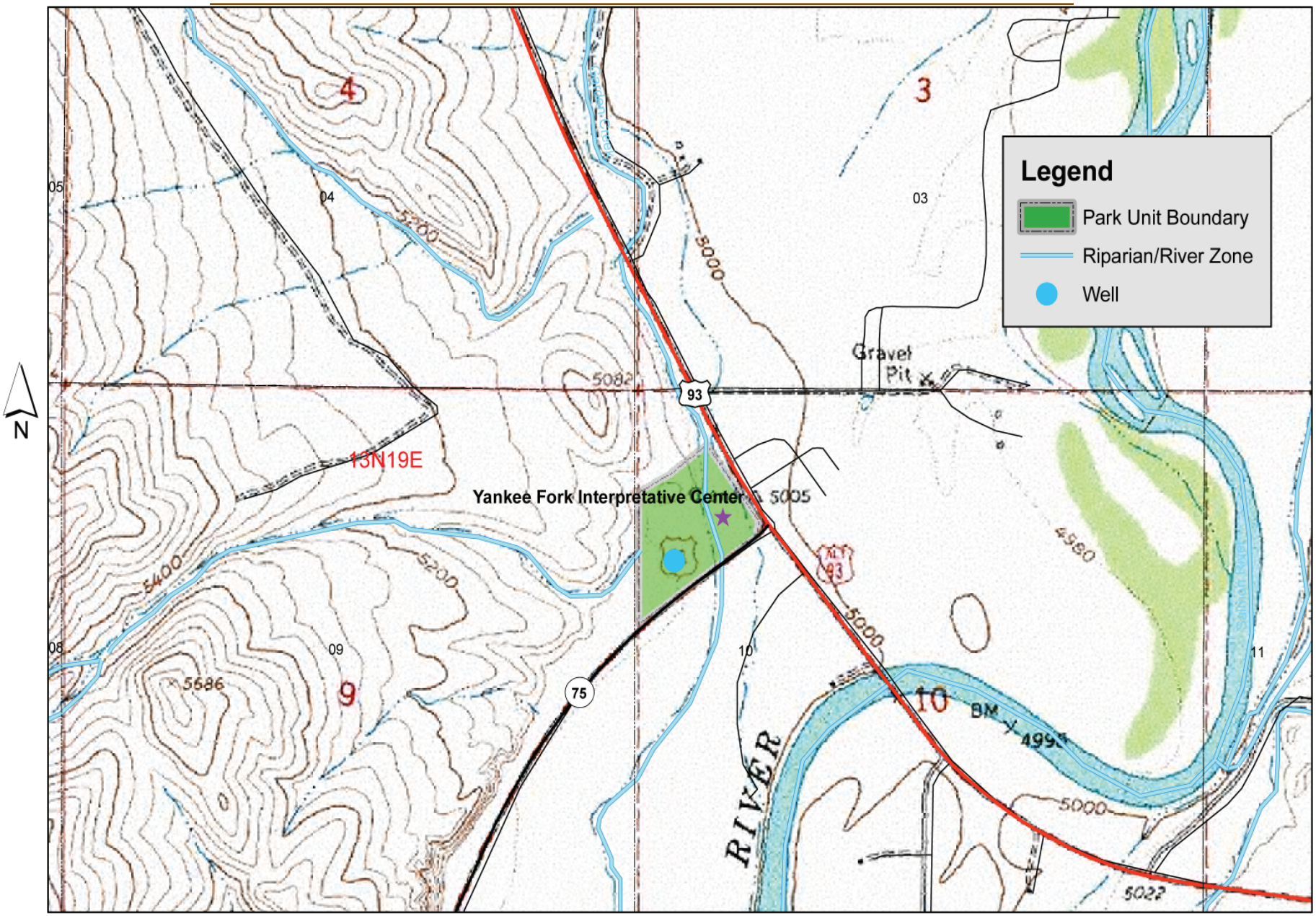
Rubber Boa - Charina bottae
Sagebrush Lizard - Sceloporus graciosus
Western Terrestrial Garter Snake - Thamnophis elegans
Long-toed Salamander - Ambystoma macrodactylum
Pygmy Rabbit - Brachylagus idahoensis
Little Brown Myotis - Myotis lucifugus
Inland Tailed Frog - Ascaphus montanus
Peregrine Falcon - Falco peregrines
Osprey - Pandion haliaetus
Bald Eagle - Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Northern Flying Squirrel - Glaucomys sabrinus
Golden Eagle - Aquila chrysaetos
Long-billed Curlew - Numenius americanus
Pileated Woodpecker - Dryocopus pileatus
Blue Grouse - Dendragapus obscures
Red Fox - Vulpes vulpes
Osprey - Pandion haliaetus
Wolverine - Gulo gulo
Lynx - Lynx Canadensis
Northern Mockingbird - Mimus polyglottos
Lesser Goldfinch - Carduelis psaltria
Columbian Ground Squirrel - Spermophilus columbianus
Long-tailed Vole - Microtus longicaudus

4.4 Unit Topography and Physiography

Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is located in the Rocky Mountain physiographic province. The park is almost entirely mountainous, with scattered flatlands found along the Salmon River Canyon. Elevations at the park range from 5,000 feet at the Interpretative Center to almost 10,000 feet at the top of the Ramshorn Mine. Slopes range from less than five percent at the Interpretative Center to more than 80 percent near the Pacific and Ramshorn Mines near Bayhorse. The park's major physiographic features are the Salmon River Mountains and the Upper Salmon River and its tributaries. The Interpretative Center overlooks Round Valley which is one of the few large valleys near the park.

There are three small water bodies in the planning area. They are Bayhorse Lake, Little Bayhorse Lake, and Buster Lake at the head end of Garden Creek which is the water supply for the city of Challis. There are other small ponds, all of which are managed by the federal government. In the alpine areas, there are numerous meadow areas, which are seasonally wetted.

IDPR manages properties along Bayhorse Creek and the Yankee Fork where there are some small riparian area associated wetlands. Beardsley Creek, which flows into Bayhorse Creek, is an intermittent stream with wetlands along the valley sides and channel bottom. IDPR has several state and federal partners, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fisheries group, called NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), or NMSF for short. IDPR works with its partners to insure that its management activities meet the federal and state management goals including the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act for any actions IDPR takes in or near wetlands or riparian areas. IDPR recently put bridges across Bayhorse Creek, and prior to that went through the consultation process to insure that spawning habitat for the anadromous salmon and steelhead trout was protected, as well as habitat for the endangered species, bull trout.



ANALYSIS MAPS: TOPOGRAPHY & PHYSIOGRAPHY

Yankee Fork Unit

Land of Yankee Fork State Park

1:14,000

Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst
Comprehensive Planning & Review

4.5 Soils

Soils in Custer County can be grouped into six general groups:

- Loess
- Old alluvial
- Bottomland
- Sloped alluvial
- Mountain rangeland
- Mountainous areas.

Within these six groups are many soil series that are further separated into mapping units.

The NRCS has not inventoried all of the area within the study boundary. The appendix I includes the relevant soil map with key. The electronic version of this plan will link to the full technical reports.

4.6 Unit Upland and Wetland Vegetation Inventory

Forest lands usually occupy northerly aspects, particularly at lower elevations which receive less precipitation (because of greater moisture retention on north slopes). Approximately 85% of forest lands are dominated by pure stands of Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), with small inclusions of lodgepole pine (Pinus contorta), subalpine fir (Abies lasiocarpa), Engelmann spruce (Picea engelmannii), whitebark pine (Pinus albicaulis) and limber pine (Pinus flexilis). Low elevation woodlands are occasionally comprised of pure stands of Rocky Mountain juniper (Juniperus scopulorum). Quaking aspen (Populus tremuloides) and black cottonwood (Populus trichocarpa) occupy sites where surface or subsurface water occurs. Whitebark pine is dominant in high elevations at or near the upper limits of forest vegetation. It often occurs in association with subalpine fir at these elevations, and both tree species often exhibit deformation caused by wind and driven snow. Whitebark and limber pines are probably the oldest trees in the study area with some trees exceeding 1,000 years. Pure stands of lodgepole pine are found in elevations immediately below the subalpine zone with the largest stands occurring in the Thompson Creek area. An infestation of mountain pine beetle (Dendroctonus ponderosae) during the late 1990s and early 2000s killed much of the lodgepole pine in the study area, as well as causing mortality of whitebark pine and limber pine.

Whitebark pine forests are declining across most of their range in North America because of the combined effects of three factors:

1)several major mountain pine beetle epidemics that occurred over the last 70 years
2) effects of an extensive and successful fire exclusion management policy, and most importantly

3) extensive invasion of the exotic white pine blister rust fungus (Cronarium ribicola).

The loss of whitebark pine would be serious for upper subalpine ecosystems because it is considered a keystone species across most of its range.

Although this species has limited use as a commercial timber species because of its diminutive stature, gnarled growth form, and remote setting, it produces seeds that are highly prized for food by many species of wildlife, most importantly the Clark's nutcracker (Nucifraga columbiana). The Clark's nutcracker plays a critical role in the whitebark pine regeneration process because this bird is essentially the only dispersal vector for the heavy, wingless seed. Whitebark pine also protects snowpack in high-elevation watersheds and delays snowmelt, providing high quality water to valleys below throughout the summer.

Engleman spruce dominates some areas around riparian zones, usually in association with subalpine fir. Both of these species will occur sporadically throughout higher elevation Douglas-fir stands, and their infrequent occurrence at lower elevations usually suggests the presence of subsurface moisture.

Low elevation Douglas-fir forests are characterized by open, savannah-like stands of Douglas-fir where regeneration is uncommon and the understory is comprised of grasses (primarily bluebunch wheatgrass (Agropyron spicatum) and Idaho fescue (Festuca idahoensis)) and shrubs. The most common shrub species associated with these dry forest sites are common juniper (Juniperus communis), mountain snowberry (Symphoricarpos oreophilus), and curl-leaf mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus ledifolius).

Noxious Weeds

IDPR has a certified weed sprayer that works closely with the BLM and the Custer County Weed program to address noxious and nuisance weeds in the areas IDPR manages. At the approximately 500 acre Bayhorse site, there is an infestation of yellow toadflax that is being controlled by spraying through a cooperative arrangement with the BLM. Staff is on the alert for new infestations, however, this is the only known noxious weed population on IDPR property.

4.7 Issues of Special Concern

The Idaho Fish and Game Department (IDFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) maintain the list of special status/endangered species.

Two animals are listed under the Endangered Species Act in Custer County; gray wolf (non-essential, experimental population) and lynx (threatened), and four fish:
Chinook salmon (threatened)
sockeye salmon (endangered)
steelhead (threatened)
bull trout (threatened).

The IDFG has identified five special status plants within the project area. These are species of Element Occurrences in the project area or intersecting the project area. An Element Occurrence is defined as an area of land and/or water in which a species or natural community is or was present. These plants are:

Astragalus amblytropis (Challis Milkvetch) (12 Element Occurences). See also:
http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/tech/CDC/plants/vascular_plants_status_a- d.cfm

Astragalus aquilonius (Lemhi Milkvetch) (3 Element Occurences). See also:
http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/tech/CDC/spp_accounts_plants/astaqu.cfm

Eatonella nivea (White Eatonella) (2 Element Occurences). See also:
http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/tech/CDC/plants/vascular_plants_status_e-m.cfm

Oxytropis besseyi var. salmonensis (Challis Crazyweed) (1 Element Occ.). See also:
http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/tech/CDC/plants/vascular_plants_status_n-r.cfm

Thelypodium repandum (Wavy-leaf Thelypody) (13 Element occurrences). See also:
http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/tech/CDC/spp_accounts_plants/therep.cfm

Water Rights

IDPR has one water right, at the visitor's center in Challis. It is Idaho Water Right No. 72-0747, with a licensed date of 10/18/1991 for .05 acres from groundwater. Currently, IDPR uses additional water to drip irrigate approximately 20 trees and bushes on a daily basis throughout the growing season. Water is also supplied to an RV dump station which is used regularly from April to October. It should be a priority of the agency to secure adequate water rights to support these uses.

4.8 Scenic Inventory

Photos of the planning area are scattered throughout this publication along with historical photos to provide visual interest and document existing conditions.

4.9 County Comprehensive Plans and Ordinances

Units comprising Land of the Yankee Fork State park lie wholly within Custer County; therefore new development within the park comes under review of the Custer County Planning and Zoning Commission in accordance with Section 67-6528, Idaho Code of the Local Planning Act.

Custer County Comprehensive Plan

The Custer County Comprehensive Plan was adopted February 25, 2004 and revised on December 11, 2006. The following objectives and policies from the Custer County Comprehensive Plan address elements that should be considered in the Land of the Yankee Fork State Park master plan.

Article IV. Land Use
Section 4. LAND USE CATEGORIES

Policy G - SPECIAL LAND USE CATEGORIES
The county may establish special land use categories to address unique characteristics of the land or environment.
Special use categories may include public lands, floodplains and other areas of critical concern such as historical sites, geographic features, and natural resource areas. One such category will delineate the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) in the western part of the county.

Section 5. NIGHT SKY PROTECTION MEASURES
It shall be the policy of Custer County to adopt appropriate night sky protection measures which encourage all land uses outside the limits of any incorporated cities or areas of city impact to shield outdoor lighting fixtures and devices in such a manner that light rays emitted directly or indirectly are projected at least fifteen degrees below a horizontal plane running through the lowest point on the fixture where light is emitted.

Article VIII. NATURAL RESOURCES
Objective b. - Develop overall strategies for the protection of the water supply. Encourage on site drainage and erosion control to protect water resources. Encourage development designs to allow for natural drainage of snowmelt.
Objective c. - Encourage best management practices on all lands within the county.
Objective d. - Maintain and increase access to public lands through cooperation with the BLM and USFS.
Objective e. - County planners will play an active role in the development of public land use policies required by state and federal agencies to ensure the lowest level of adverse impact.

Article IX SPECIAL AREAS/SITES

Objective 3b. - Hold state and federal agencies with management responsibility over public lands in the county accountable to state and federal regulations regarding preservation of local history and culture.

4. SPECIAL AREAS/SITES LISTING

- Coke ovens near Bayhorse

- Custer Motorway: Custer to Challis.
- Ghost Towns: Custer, Bayhorse, Bonanza.
- Historic cemeteries: Challis, Mackay, Battleground (Mackay Reservoir), Houston, Chilly, Bayhorse.
- Historic mine sites: Bayhorse, Clayton, Mackay, Custer, Wildhorse, Patterson and Bonanza.

Article XI RECREATION
Objective 3 a. Keep and maintain established services and recreation areas.

Objective 3b. Protect public access to recreational areas, including streams, lakes, rivers, trails, and roads on public land.

Objective 3c. Seek support in recreation areas from appropriate state and federal agencies for services such as emergency medical services (EMSs), Search and Rescue, fire protection, and law enforcement.

Objective 3d. Encourage expansion of public and private recreational areas and facilities.

5. RECREATION LOCATIONS

- Bayhorse Lake Campground
- Custer Motorway
- Historic Towns of Custer and Bonanza
- Yankee Fork Gold Dredge
- Yankee Fork Interpretive Centerf.
- Sunbeam Dam

4.10 Associated Planning Documents

Land Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest

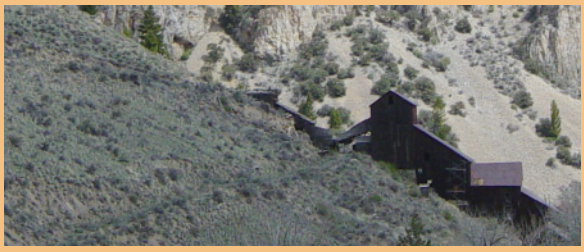
The Challis National Forest Land Resource Management Plan was approved in June 1987. The Custer townsite, Bonanza townsite, Custer Motorway, and Yankee Fork Dredge are within the Challis National Forest. The Bayhorse Unit is half surrounded by the Challis National Forest and half surrounded by the lands managed by the BLM Challis Field Office. The plan indentifies resource management practices and provides broad direction for dealing with National Forest uses and activities.

The following goals, objectives, standards and guidelines should be considered in the Land of the Yankee Fork Master Plan.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES
General Goal 1
Coordinate with State, Federal, Indian Tribes, and local agencies, and user groups for all planning and resource development activities as appropriate.

Recreation Goal 1
Provide developed outdoor recreation opportunities for the general public.

Recreation Goal 2
Emphasize dispersed area recreation over developed site recreation.



Recreation Goal 3
Provide a broad spectrum of dispersed recreation opportunities.

Objective 2- Review the Challis National Forest Travel Plan annually.
Objective 3 – Develop agreements with outside groups to provide maintenance on 10 percent of the Forest trails by 2000.

Recreation Goal 7
Identify, protect, interpret and manage the significant cultural resources on National Forest lands.
Objective 2 – All land-disturbing activities will be preceded by a cultural resource inventory.

Wildlife and Fish Goal 1
Provide habitat to ensure viability and recovery of Threatened and Endangered and Forest Service Sensitive plants and animals.

Wildlife and Fish Goal 2
Maintain or improve current productivity level of wildlife and fish habitat.

Range Goal 3
Maintain noxious weed control program at or above current level.

Soil, Water and Air Goal 1
Provide soil and water guidance to other resource activities to project or improve water quality and soil productivity.

Soil, Water and Air Goal 3
Improve watershed condition on the Forest.

Forest-wide Management Direction, Standards and Guidelines

Recreation Standards and Guidelines

Recreation Developed Sites—Where demand exists, and use is compatible with surroundings; developed campgrounds will accommodate recreation stock or OHVs). Unloading ramps, hitchracks, etc., will be provided.
Dispersed Sites—ORV closures should be adequately signed.
Off-Road Vehicles—Sign to clearly indicate whether an area or trail is open, closed, or restriction to ORV use.
Off-Road Vehicles—Designate unrestricted ORV use areas, specific ORV travel routes, and promote public awareness and utilization through the Travel Plan.

Management Unit Direction
Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is covered by two Management Units in the Challis Land and Resource Management Plan. Those management units are Management Unit # 6 Yankee Fork and Management Area #10 Bayhorse.

Management Unit # 6 Yankee Fork
Management will emphasize dispersed recreation opportunities, minerals activities, timber production, and enhancement of anadromous fish habitat.
Recreation Emphasize a wide spectrum of outdoor recreation activities. Protect and preserve cultural and historic sites or features.

Soil & Water Maintain or improve water quality and soil productivity.
Minerals Exploration, location, leasing and development of energy and non-energy mineral resources will be coordinated with other resources. Recognize the high locatable mineral occurrence and probable future development.

Management Area #10 Bayhorse
Recreation Provide for a wide spectrum of outdoor recreation activities, emphasize dispersed recreation, protect and preserve cultural and historic sites or features.
Standard AO1 Operate Bayhorse Campground at reduced service through 1996
Wildlife & Fish Maintain or improve habitat conditions and diversity for MIS elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Maintain aquatic habitat conditions for resident fisheries.

Soil & Water Maintain or improve water quality and soil productivity.
Guideline F09 Evaluate reclamation needs on old abandoned mining activity and develop action plan by 1996.
Minerals Exploration, location, leasing and development of energy and non-energy mineral resources will be coordinated with other resources. Recognize the high locatable mineral occurrence and probable future development.
Lands J18 Obtain needed rights-of-way for Road #40051 and Trail #4206.
Facilities L01 Reconstruct Bayhorse Road #40051-2 by 2000.

Challis Field Office Resource Management Plan

The Challis Resource Management Plan (RMP) was approved in July 1999. The Bayhorse townsite and Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretative Center have BLM lands surrounding the immediate area. The BLM land also provides essential route connections between the Interpretative Center and Bayhorse. The Resource Management Plan (RMP) contains the resources condition objectives, land use allocations, and other management actions and direction needed to achieved program or multiple use goals.

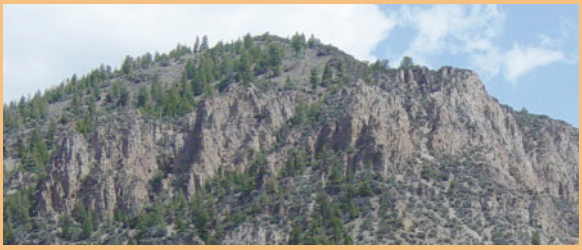
The following RMP direction should be considered in the Land of the Yankee Fork Master Plan.
Cultural Resources
Goal #1 "Identify and manage cultural resources"
Goal #2 "Increase public awareness and appreciate"
Goal #3 "Identify and manage Native American traditional cultural values"

Floodplain/Wetland Areas
Goal #1 "Maintain or improve values of floodplain/wetland areas"
Goal #2 "Prevent loss of resource values of springs and seeps"

Minerals – Energy and Non-Energy Leasable, Saleable and Locatable
Goal #1 "Manage oil, gas, and geothermal mineral development"
Goal #2 "Manage saleable and non-energy leasable mineral development"

Minimum Streamflow
Goal #1 "Acquire adequate minimum stream flows"

Noxious Weed Infestations
Goal #1 "Reduce new infestations"



Goal #3 “Control existing infestations”

Off-highway Vehicle Use
Goal #1 “Provide OHV opportunities; manage impacts to resources”

Recreation Opportunities and Visitor Use
Goal #1 “Project recreation values in SRMAs (Special Recreation Management Areas) and along Highway 93”
Goal #2 “Provide interpretative services”
Goal #3 ‘Provide recreation opportunities in ERMA (Extensive Recreation Management Areas)

Riparian Areas
Goal #1 “Achieve proper function condition”
Goal #3 “Manage for no net loss of riparian and floodplain habitat”

Transportation
Goal #1 “Provide an adequate road and trail system”

Visual Resources
Goal #1 “Maintain or improve visual quality, establish Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes”

Water Quality
Goal #1 “Improve and maintain water quality”

Wildlife
Goal “Improve wildlife habitat”

Salmon River Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan

The Salmon River Scenic Byway extends from the Stanley Valley to Lost Trail Pass following State Highway (SH) 75 and U.S. Highway (US) 93. The Byway has been officially recognized as a “scenic route” since 1977. The Salmon River Scenic Byway Advisory Committee sponsored the Corridor Management Plan. The plan is a local effort of residents, officials and agencies to balance the byway experience and capitalize on local economic development opportunities. The plan was published in August 2007. Land of the Yankee Fork State Park and its various units are located in the Scenic Byway Corridor. The Sunbeam Dam Interpretative Site and the Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretative Center are identified as sites in the plan. The plan identifies projects for these two sites. High Priority Projects for the Sunbeam Interpretative site include Byway guide signs and repairs to the stone stairways and site stonework. Medium priority projects are highway sign upgrades, Custer Motorway Road improvements, and expanded interpretative signs. The Lemhi-Custer Museum Cooperative identifies Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center as a high priority project. Medium priority projects at the site include a bighorn sheep observation station and support for the development of this master plan.

Historic kilns at Bayhorse.

4.11 Initial Park Development Plan

This is the first formal plan for the park.

4.12 Land Ownership, Jurisdiction and Use

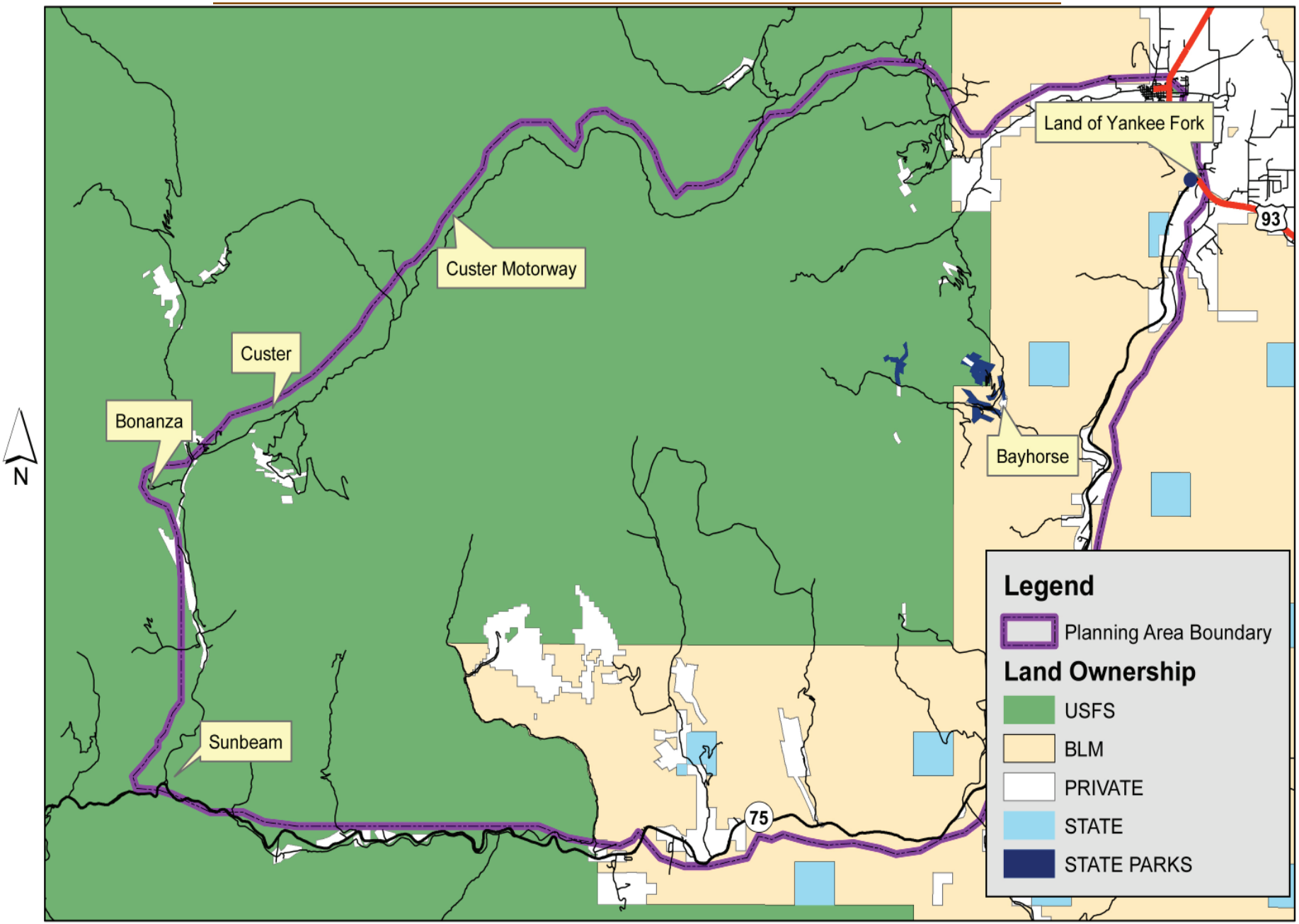
Park Land Base
Land of the Yankee Fork State Park consists of three focus areas spread along the Custer Motorway and State Highway 75. Traveling east to west, the areas are Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretative Center, Bayhorse, and the Custer and Bonanza townsites. The planning area consists of 228,000 acres of land.

The USFS is the largest landowner in the planning area. The USFS manages almost 152,000 acres of land. BLM manages almost 60,000 acres on the eastern and southern portions of the planning area. Private lands total about 13,000 acres. The State of Idaho Department of Lands owns almost 2,400 acres scattered mostly within BLM managed lands. IDPR owns a total of 574 acres in the planning area. The Land of Yankee Fork Interpretative Center was acquired through a warranty deed. In 1990, Robert and VVS Webster sold the Interpretative Center Parcel (22.81 acres) to IDPR.

The Bayhorse Unit consists of eight different mining claims totaling 548 acres in and around the ghost town of Bayhorse. The claims were acquired through a warranty deed from Umont Mining Inc. in 2007.

The Custer and Bonanza townsites along with the Yankee Fork Dredge and the Custer Motorway are jointly managed by the USFS and the IDPR under a 2004 MOU between the Salmon-Challis National Forest and the IDPR. The agencies form a partnership that provides for operation, maintenance, and interpretation along the motorway, in the townsites, and at the dredge.

Adjacent Landowners
The focus areas of Land of the Yankee Fork are bounded primarily by federal lands and private property. The Interpretive Center is bounded by BLM lands on the west and private Lands on the east. Those lands are used primarily for agricultural or grazing. The Bayhorse Unit is surrounded by BLM and National Forest lands. The Custer/Bonanza townsites are surrounded by National Forest lands with a few scattered private in-holdings.



ALYSIS MAPS: Land Ownership

Land of Yankee Fork State Park

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

1:200,000

Yankee Fork Unit

Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst
Comprehensive Planning & Review

4.13 Local Transportation Network

U.S Highway 93 and State Highway 75 provide the major transportation routes to the planning area. Both highways are a part of the Salmon River Scenic Byway. The Custer Motorway provides access to the townsite of Custer. The motorway is also a part of the Salmon River Scenic Byway.

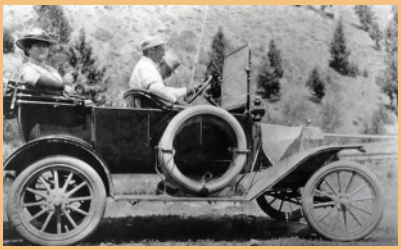
U.S. Highway 93 is a North-South transportation route. Entering in Idaho near Jackpot, Nevada, it travels through the south central and eastern parts of the state, leaving Idaho at Lost Trail Pass.

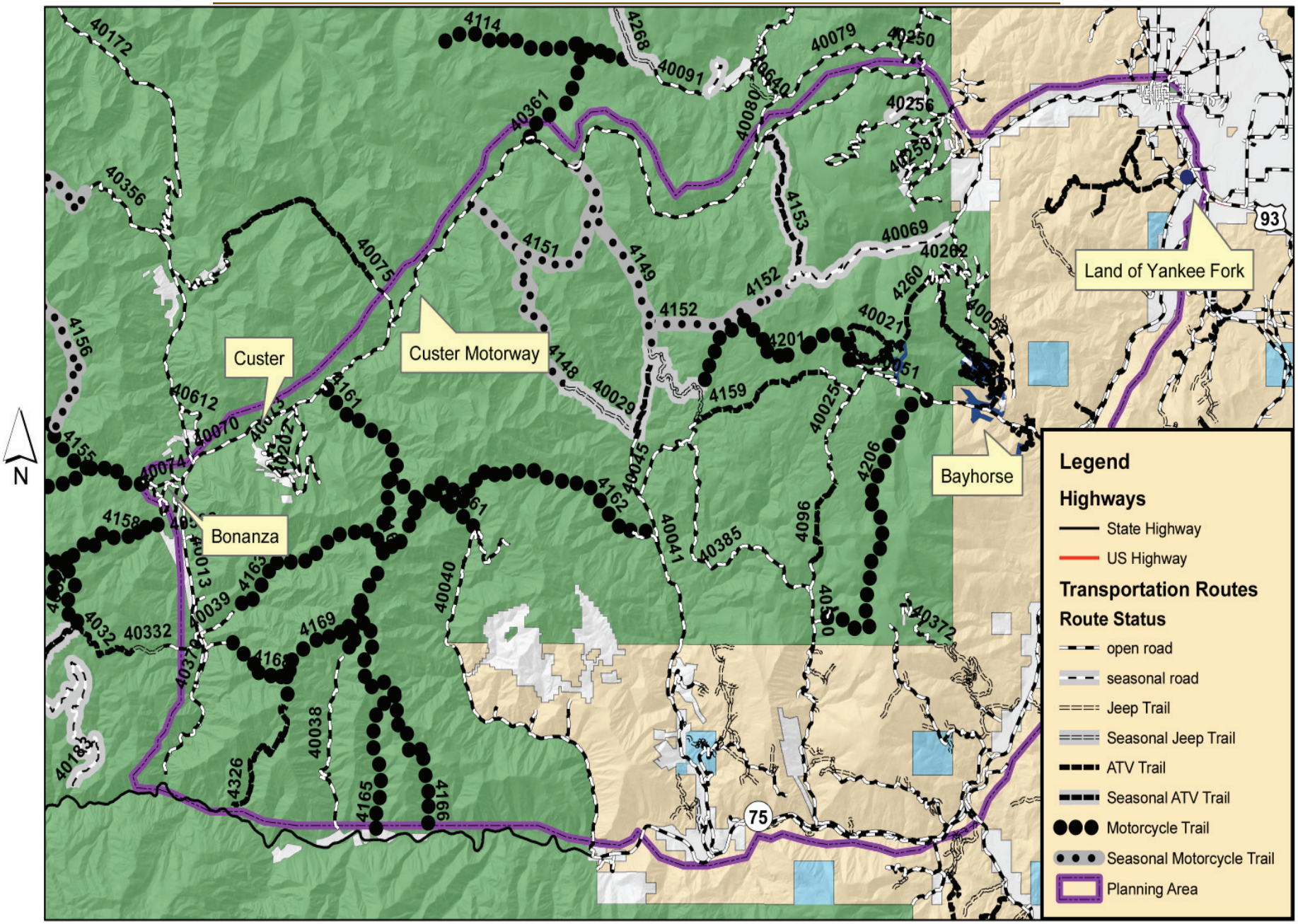
State Highway 75 is also a North-South transportation route. It starts at Shoshone, Idaho and travels through the Wood River Valley and Stanley Basin before entering the Salmon River Canyon. It follows the Salmon River Canyon down to Challis, terminating where it intersects with U.S Highway 93.

The Custer Motorway is a part of the original toll road accessing the Yankee Fork country. The motorway is a narrow, dirt route that can still be traveled by pickups and other high-clearance vehicles during late spring through early fall. It is not recommended for low-clearance autos, motor homes or travel trailers.

Bayhorse Road is a county-maintained road up to the Forest boundary and provides access to the Bayhorse unit. The road is single-lane native surface route that can be traveled by high-clearance vehicles during the late spring through early fall. It is not recommended for low-clearance autos, motor homes, or travel trailers. The road is sometimes rough for high-clearance vehicles up to Bayhorse and Little Bayhorse Lakes.

The planning area contains several USFS and BLM roads and trails. These roads and trails provide access to numerous historic and scenic destinations, as well as looping opportunities for trail-based recreation activities.





ANALYSIS MAPS: Local Transportation Network

Land of Yankee Fork State Park

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

1:200,000

Yankee Fork Unit

Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst
Comprehensive Planning & Review

4.14 Utility Infrastructure

Bayhorse

Water- There is currently no domestic potable running water at the BayHorse town site, the Beardsley or Pacific mine sites.
Sewer- There is a new (installed fall 2008) CXT 2 hole ADA restroom located at the Bayhorse Town site. There are no Restroom RR facilities at the Beardsley or the Pacific mine sites.
Communication- there are no phone lines to Bayhorse.
Power-There is no power at Bayhorse.

Custer town site

Power-There is a 2000 watt diesel powered generator and the museum has solar powered lights.
Sewer-there are vault toilets at the town site.
Water: there is a non-potable water supply.

Custer Dredge

Power-there is a gas powered 1000 watt generator for lighting at the site.
Sewer- vault toilets available
Communication- there is a phone line.
Heat- propane tank on site.
Water-there is no domestic potable water at the dredge.

Bonanza

Water- there is potable water to Bonanza via a 4 inch gravity line from a spring supplied holding tank about 1/3 mile away.
Sewer- There are flush toilets, septic tank and drain field.
Power- Within ½ mile of volunteer campground.

Land of Yankee Fork Visitor Center

Sewer-Manager residence has a 1000 gallon septic tank and drain field.

The visitor center (VC), shop and 1-RV host site are on a septic system that includes a 3,500 gallon septic tank and a 3,500 gallon dosing tank. The drain field extends out southwest of the visitor center and has adequate room for expansion if needed. The capacity of the existing septic system is 1,750 gallons per day, estimated use at peak facility usage is 700 gallons per day.

RV dump site located at north end of VC parking has a 2,000 gallon septic tank and a 4,000 holding tank.

Water-There is a single domestic well located at the VC that supplies potable water to VC, shop, manager residence and irrigation.

Due to well water supply issues, extensive analysis and evaluations have been done in the early 1990s. Recommendations were made and those options have been explored in recent years to rectify the problem with no firm resolve. To meet any future demand increases, it would require additional reserve tanks in the pump house, an additional well or another water source for irrigation.

Due to inadequate water supplies for fire suppression in the VC, there was a 25,000 gallon reserve tank, that is supplied by the existing well, installed to accommodate these requirements.

Power-An evaluation was done by an Electrical Engineer to verify an adequate electrical power supply coming from the transformer located near the VC. The evaluation concluded there is adequate power for future VC expansion. There is a smaller transformer located at the end of the cul-de-sac, near the manager residence, to provide electrical power for up to 3 future residences. There is an existing 225 amp panel at the VC. Future expansion would require a larger panel. There is an existing 125 amp panel in the shop. Future expansion would require a larger panel. 3.15 Facility Inventory, Analysis and Staffing

Communications-There is a telephone line.

4.15 Facility Inventory

While the vast majority of these lands are managed by the USFS and the BLM, IDPR has established MOU with each agency to cooperatively manage portions of these lands for the public benefit. Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is, therefore, a park based on partnerships. The area managed as Land of the Yankee Fork is over 400 square miles in area, while IDPR owns only 569 acres in fee title.

Yankee Fork Visitor Center

This facility functions as the park's main administrative site and visitor center. The center orients visitors to the park and provides interpretation of extensive artifacts. Small artifacts are stored or displayed in the center, while larger artifacts are available for viewing outside, displayed along footpaths. The 3500 sq/ft visitor center includes a theatre, exhibit hall, reception area, gift shop and staff offices. Also on the 21 acre site are outdoor displays of mining equipment, the park shop, a small shop for producing signs for agency-wide use, artifact storage, vehicle parking, two pump houses and a manager's residence. There are eight buildings on the site, three picnic shelters, an interpretive kiosk, a bridge over a canal that intersects the property, two trails, wood rail fencing, a large paved parking area for visitors, two graveled parking areas for staff, one volunteer host pad with electricity, water and sewer, sidewalks from the visitor parking area to the center, two septic systems, an RV dump station, and many interpretive signs and displays.

Yankee Fork Visitor Center.

Custer Motorway

The Custer Motorway is a back country byway run in partnership with the USFS. IDPR helps manage the motorway in a variety of ways, primarily through a series of interpretive signs along the road. This site is historically significant for a variety of reasons. First it was the original pack trail from Challis to Custer, Bonanza and the Stanley basin. The route was then developed into Idaho's first toll road by Alex Topance who charged users for the right to transport material. A variety of services were developed along the motorway to serve the traveling public. These included tollgates, hotels, horse stables, and stage stations. Travelers often stayed several days to enjoy the hospitality of these stops along the way. After Custer and Bonanza went bust in the early 1900s and the road along the Salmon River was built, the old Toll Road became less traveled and the stations along the toll road went out of business.

In the 1930s the CCC worked on what is now the Custer Motorway Back Country Byway. The CCC did extensive improvements, built bridges, campgrounds, and brought the road to current standards.

The Custer Motorway is cooperatively run with the USFS. The USFS owns the roadway and is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the road surface. They also manage and maintain the campgrounds and historic sites along the way. IDPR maintains the interpretive signs along the Motorway jointly with the USFS, and develops programs and brochures to help interpret the significance of the Custer Motorway.

Custer

Custer is the best preserved of three ghost towns in Land of the Yankee Fork. It has had extensive upkeep and renovation to the various buildings there. Many artifacts are stored and displayed at Custer. Volunteers from the Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Association staff the gift store, provide overnight security, perform interpretive services, and greet visitors. IDPR and USFS staff manage the interpretive programs and maintain the site.

The main buildings at Custer include the Empire Saloon, the Custer Schoolhouse, and the McKenzie, Tully, Raines, and Pfeiffer cabins. What are popularly called the assay office, and transportation shed still stand although their original uses are not known. The site includes an extensive outdoor display of early mining equipment. There are restrooms, picnic and parking areas in Custer. The county road that runs through the town leads to the Custer Motorway.

Yankee Fork Gold Dredge

The Yankee Fork Gold Dredge is one of the largest gold dredges still existing in Idaho. The Yankee Fork Dredge ran in the 1940s and early 1950s. It was abandoned where it sits in 1953. Later the dredge was donated to the USFS which still owns it. The Yankee Fork Gold Dredge Association runs tours of the dredge from Memorial Day to Labor Day. USFS and IDPR staff help out guiding tours as necessary during special events and school tours and provide maintenance of the dredge.

White Valley CCC Camp Tents.

There are interpretive signs, tour brochures, and on site interpretive exhibits at the dredge, where the USFS also maintains a walking path and bridge with hand rails, a restroom, and a parking area.

Bonanza

Bonanza was the first town on the Yankee Fork River. Established in 1877, it was the largest town in Custer County for about three years until the town of Custer came along. Bonanza is in poor condition with a very few original buildings left. The main attractions at Bonanza today are two cemeteries and the Bonanza group campground. The USFS maintains the Bonanza Guard house and storage sheds.

Bonanza Group Campground

The Bonanza Group Campground is operated by the USFS and is open to public groups by reservation only. It operates from May 30 – Sept 10 annually. It has several campsites, restrooms and group picnic facilities.

Volunteer Campground

USFS provides a volunteer campground at Bonanza for the Dredge Association and Yankee Fork Interpretive Association volunteers. IDPR seasonal employees are housed there in a cabin. There are laundry facilities, showers, restrooms, a generator and about 30 campsites at the volunteer campground. It is not open to the general public.

Bonanza Cemetery

This cemetery features interpretive signing that gives details about those interred there, where information is available.

Boot Hill Cemetery

This cemetery is smaller than the main Bonanza Cemetery, but is the resting place of the town's more notorious residents, including Elizabeth "Lizzie" King and her two husbands - all of whom were murdered.

Sunbeam

Sunbeam is still shown as a town site on many maps although it only had a post office during the dredging days of the 1940s. It is at the junction of the Yankee Fork Road and Highway 75. Sunbeam has an interesting history and some very significant artifacts including the Sunbeam Dam, and Sunbeam Village Resort. The USFS owns the land at Sunbeam Village Resort while the buildings are privately owned. It is operated under a concession agreement that is currently under legal receivership. The bank has foreclosed on the private landowner putting all the buildings up for sale. Buildings include a store/restaurant, several cabins and a small campground. There is electricity and water on site. A rental rafting company currently operates out of several of the cabins

IDPR and the Sawtooth National Forest developed a highway rest stop along the river side of Highway 75 at the site of the old Sunbeam Dam. Remnants of the dam can be viewed there and there are restrooms and an interpretive kiosk with several signs.

Yankee Fork Dredge.

Bayhorse

The Bayhorse townsite is about four miles up Bayhorse Creek from the junction of Bayhorse Road and Highway 75. Bayhorse was established in 1877 and was the site of the major silver discoveries in central Idaho. Many mines were established nearby and the town soon grew to include a mill and smelter. Bayhorse went through many changes in its short lifetime due to fluctuating silver prices and smelter wars. The quality of the ore varied by mine and distances to smelting facilities were long. Bayhorse was essentially a ghost town by 1910 but some mining continued through the 1970s. IDPR purchased Bayhorse and some of the associated mines in 2006 and 2007 from Umont Corporation which had owned the town site and mines since the early 1950s. The intent is to develop this site into a historic/motorized recreation site to draw visitors interested in the historic resources, scenic views, and abundant wildlife in the area. The extensive road system left by the silver miners will be used to provide access for ATVs and motorcycles and will be open to other uses as well.

There are seven primary buildings still in existence at Bayhorse. The Mill remains and is in good condition for its age. The "Wells Fargo" stone building, the Baker Boarding House and the Bayhorse hotel are still standing but they are significantly deteriorated. There are many ruins and remains of other buildings along what was the main (and only) street in the town. The nearby Bayhorse Charcoal Kilns have partially collapsed, but are restorable.

Nearby mines include the Pacific, the Ramshorn, the Riverview, the Excelsior, the Beardsley, and the Skylark. All of these mines are linked by mining roads that are well suited for ATV travel. Several of the mines have buildings associated with them and all have numerous artifacts scattered near them. Open adits and shafts are readily apparent and pose a safety and health concern. Most of the mines have elevated levels of lead and arsenic in the soils and waste rock dumps near the mine openings. Cleaning up the sites to provide for visitor safety is a priority. IDPR has been using the federal Brownfield grants program to good effect. Clean up has taken place at the Beardsley and Pacific mines and the Bayhorse town site. Clean up is scheduled on the Skylark Mine for 2010. Using the Brownfield funding, IDPR has developed the parking area in Bayhorse, installed a vault toilet, put in walking paths, fenced the town site, built two bridges across Bayhorse Creek, and fenced and covered portions of the upper mine sites at the Beardsley and Pacific mines with clean fill.

Staffing

All park staff members are involved in park-wide projects although some are assigned a primary duty station other than the visitor center. All staff are expected to help in any project that requires extra efforts such as special events, large maintenance projects, minor housekeeping, etc. The staff currently consists of:

Park Manager: Responsible for oversight and supervision of all aspects of the park, including acquisition and development, budgeting, planning, day-to-day operations, and visitor services. This position has law enforcement duties.

Bayhorse, 2008, showing recently installed fencing and parking lot.

Interpretive Specialist: Responsible for supervising all interpretive programming, special events, planning, collection management, gift shop management, sign shop design and visitor services.

Park Ranger – Full Time: Responsible for all park maintenance, vehicle maintenance, historic preservation, planning, special projects, sign shop production and visitor services. This is the lead ranger position. The incumbent aids and guides other rangers. This position has law enforcement duties.

Park Ranger – Seasonal – Bayhorse: Responsible for all aspects of Bayhorse development, maintenance, historic building stabilization, trail maintenance, grant writing and visitor services. Supervises seasonal staff at Bayhorse in partnership with the lead ranger. This position has law enforcement duties.

Park Ranger – Seasonal – Trails program: Responsible for trail maintenance, vehicle maintenance, trail and travel planning, visitor services. Supervises seasonal trails staff in partnership with the lead ranger. This position has law enforcement duties.

Seasonal Collection Management Staff: Responsible for proper care of objects, archives, photos, and other artifacts in the collections both private and public. These staffers record, research, measure, photograph, draw and restore all the historic objects in our collection. They enter all records into the Past Perfect Collection Management computer program. They have visitor services responsibilities and assist in special events at times.

Seasonal Visitor Services Staff: Responsible for greeting visitors, handling gift shop sales and reporting, giving interpretive programs, showing videos, cleaning and maintaining an inviting environment for visitors. They develop interpretive programming, assist in special events and sell OHV stickers.

Seasonal Maintenance Staff: Responsible for general maintenance of all facilities, mowing grass, vehicle maintenance, fencing, historic stabilization, cleaning and maintaining an inviting environment for visitors. They run all manner of power tools and equipment and assist in special events at times.

While maintenance staff members have the primary maintenance duties, all staff have maintenance requirements in their job descriptions.

Seasonal employees at visitor center.

4.16, Existing Land Use Agreements

Since Land of the Yankee Fork is based on partnership it has several land use agreements, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), leases and easements.

MOU – Forest Service

This MOU delineates the relationship between IDPR and the USFS. Essentially, this MOU allows IDPR to partner with the USFS to provide interpretive and planning efforts across the area defined as Land of the Yankee Fork on Forest Service lands. This creates the partnership that allows IDPR to help manage Custer, the Dredge, Bonanza, Sunbeam, and the Custer Motorway. It also allows IDPR partnership in the trails program to maintain and operate motorized recreation on Forest Service lands.

MOU- BLM

The MOU with BLM is broadly written to allow cooperation between IDPR and the BLM in any area of the Challis Field Office of BLM. Under the MOU, IDPR has cooperated on such issues as Sage Grouse habitat, interpretative work, trails and travel planning, educational outreach, and land management particularly at the Challis Bison Kill site.

Ramshorn Rock Quarry Lease

When IDPR purchased the Ramshorn mine in 2007, a private business was operating a rock quarry on the site to extract flagstone. Rockworks Company is owned and operated by Kirk and Gerry Hansen. IDPR agreed it would honor the lease that Umont Mining Company had given them. In 2007, IDPR and the Department of State Lands negotiated a new mining lease with Hansens with all royalties coming to IDPR.

Utility Easements

There are two utility easements across IDPR lands at the Visitor Center. One is to the Custer Electrical Coop for an electrical line and the other is to the Gini Ditch Company for their irrigation Ditch that crosses the property.

Road Easements

The Bayhorse road crosses IDPR property near the town site. This is a county road with no formal easement but has been maintained by the county for over 50 years so is covered as a prescribed easement to the county. In addition, the trail system to the Pacific Mine is part of the BLM and USFS travel plan. IDPR intends to allow access on these roads for management purposes to any of our partners.

4.17 - Historical and Cultural Resources

This section of the plan lists the well-known historical and cultural resources within the planning area. Because of the sensitive nature of sites yet to be studied, their location is not included.

Custer Motorway
Custer Cemetery
Custer Townsite – Listed on National Register of Historic Places
Bonanza Townsite
Boothill Cemetery
Bonanza Cemetery
Bonanza Brick Kiln
Yankee Fork Gold Dredge
Dredge Tailings
Dredge Camp
CCC Campground
Bonanza Guard Station
Sunbeam Resort
Sunbeam Dam
Indian Riffles
Clayton Townsite
Clayton Smelter
Crystal Townsite
Bayhorse Townsite – Listed on National Register of Historic Places
Bayhorse Mines
Bayhorse Kilns
Little Bayhorse Brick Kiln
Challis Bison Kill Site – Listed on National Register of Historic Places

4.18 - Archaeology

This section reviews archaeological studies that have been performed in the planning area and identifies pertinent archaeological finds.

The following is from a BLM Challis Field Office background document on archaeology (L. Clark, 1997, C. Hearne 2007).

"[American Indians] inhabited central Idaho for thousands of years prior to European contact. The [Land of the Yankee Fork] area lies near the boundaries of three distinct cultural areas, the Plains, the Great Basin, and the Columbia Plateau, and falls within the area occupied by the Northern Shoshoni and Bannock. Steward (1938), describes the people who lived in the central mountains of Idaho as Tukudeka or Sheepeater Indians (referring to their reliance on hunting bighorn sheep) and Agaiduka or Salmon Eater Indians. Steward (1938), estimated the total population

Wrapping artifacts at Custer.

of Sheepeater's as about 1200 persons in a subsistence area of some 27,000 square miles, or 1 person to 22.5 square miles. One village listed by Steward (1938) was located in the mountains north of Clayton. There were about 30 families within this village that wintered together. Steward (1938) also mentions a group of families living near the mouth of the East Fork Salmon River. Ethnographic accounts suggest that during the summer months, groups of two to three families gathered plants and hunted game around the headwaters of the Salmon River, East Fork Salmon River, and the Salmon River Range (Steward 1938)

"The local [American Indian] population developed a seasonal subsistence cycle as much as 8000 years ago that consisted of short term seasonal base or field camps located on large rivers and major tributaries, to gather resources for food, clothing, shelter, and medicine. According to Steward (1938), the Sheepeater Indians subsisted on seasonal procurement of seeds, roots, mountain sheep, deer, and salmon.

"In 1868, two treaties were signed with the Indian tribes of this area: the Treaty with the Eastern Band of the Shoshoni and Bannock, 1868 (commonly referred to as the Fort Bridger Treaty) and the Treaty with Shoshones, Bannocks, and Sheepeaters, September 24, 1868. The Fort Hall Reservation was established in southeastern Idaho by the Fort Bridger Treaty. The Treaty with the Shoshones, Bannocks, and Sheepeater Indians was never ratified by the United State Congress and in 1889 an agreement was signed with these Tribes that eventually removed most of the Indian people living with the Yankee Fork area to the Fort Hall Reservation.

"Fur trapping and exploratory expeditions in the early 1820s marked the first European presence in the Land of the Yankee Fork area. A major Euro-American population expansion occurred in the 1860s when gold was discovered. Small ranches and farms soon appeared in the arable valleys to meet the needs of the miners. Mining communities, now seen as ghost towns, also sprang up to serve the burgeoning mining industry. Custer County was created in 1881 and the boom continued until the early 1900s. While prospecting for gold and silver continue to be of great interest in the 1920s cattle and sheep ranching operations became the primary economic focus during the settlement and homestead period (1880s to present).

"Some areas of the Land of the Yankee Fork area have been inventoried for cultural resources. These inventories have identified numerous cultural resource sites, but work to provide a comprehensive assessment of cultural resources has not been completed at this time. Most of the archeological site excavations within the Yankee Fork Historic area involve small scale testing projects. The Challis Bison Kill Site (Butler 1971) is one of the large-scale, data recovery excavations. There are numerous known and recorded cultural resource sites that represent a variety of types and chronological periods. Together these sites represent an almost continuous human occupation from at least 11,000 years ago to the present. Some sites are considered eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Sites already listed include: Challis Bison Kill Site, Bayhorse Mining District and Custer Historic District.

"The type of sites and their distribution found within the Land of the Yankee Fork Historic Area are divided into historic or cultural contexts. Contextual themes and dates as described are derived from the 1995 Draft Idaho Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan prepared by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

Prehistoric

Paleo-Indian (12,000 B.P. – 8,000 B.P.)
Archaic (8,000 B.P. – 1500 B.P.)
Late Prehistoric (1500 B.P. – A.D. 1700)
Protohistoric (A.D. 1700 – A.D. 1805)

"Activities represented in the majority of sites with the historic area occur after the arrival of European populations in the 1800s. About one third occur prior to the arrival. Archeological records provide information to allow the thought that the mountains and valleys located north of the Snake River Plain held the major areas of prehistoric utilization in central and eastern Idaho. Archeological studies indicate at least 11,000 years of human presence.

"Sites include lithic scatters, quarry sites, rock shelters, talus pits, rock structures and piles, pictographs, and large game traps. A big game hunting focus is suggested by the tools and features found and appear to have persisted throughout the prehistoric period and into protohistoric times. Prehistoric archeological sites are composed of deposits containing a variety of stone artifacts, some pottery, floral and faunal remains, and features such as hearths and activity area. Information derived from archeological records can contribute important information on environmental change, resource procurement chronology, cultural affiliation, exchange networks, settlement patterns, subsistence pursuits, and technology.

"The sites are situated across a variety of landscapes with most occurring near water sources (Chatters 1982; Epperson 1976; Vaughn 1980, 1981). Some believe that most activity took place during the fall, winter and early spring seasons when bighorn sheep and anadromous fish were available for large-scale exploitation (Epperson 1976).

Historic

"Sites found within the historic area include components of historic mining district, ghost towns, stage and freight road remnants, homestead, cemeteries, cabins and household refuse dumps. The history of Euro-American settlement of the region is generally a result of mining operations and agriculture. Research implications for these types of resources primarily relate to the economy of ranching and mining in a remote part of the arid west and the infrastructure of the social and economic support systems. Travel routes in the form of trails and wagon roads, as well as components to larger mining operations, all help to identity the character of the historic period.

Agriculture

"Some agriculture sites are found in the historic area in places that are relatively flat and arable. These sites are generally the result of raising livestock cattle and sheep. Homestead complexes, irrigation ditches, flumes, and refuse dumps are the most common site types found.

Architecture

"Architectural buildings found within the historic area are commonly of log construction and are associated with mining, homesteads, stage stops, and livestock camps. Within the historic mining camps, frame structures, board and batten, and rock masonry are found.

Machinery
"Remnants of past mining adventures are found throughout the area. One of the largest is the Yankee Fork Gold Dredge.

Challis Bison Kill Site
"The Challis Bison Kill Site is one of such documented sites within the historic area. The site was discovered by John Ivie of Challis in early February of 1970. Later that same year in August, the site was excavated by Idaho State University. Their discoveries led them to believe that the site was a Bison Jump. Items recovered from the site included stone tools, arrow heads, glass trade beads and animal bones. Investigators concluded that a herd of perhaps 30 buffalo were killed at the site. Several years later, the University returned to the area and excavated a small rock overhang near the site. The overhang yielded evidence that the site had been used on different occasions over the last 5,000 years. Beginning in 2000, remains of the original excavation have been re-analyzed using new methods. The results indicate that the site is much older and used more intensively than previously thought. Before the re-analysis of the items, based on the information recovered, it was thought that the site was used between 1840 and 1880. Recent radiocarbon analysis of the bone fragments recovered from the site indicates the bison died in about 1212 AD. Research at the Challis Bison Kill Site is ongoing and will continue as funding is available."

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Cultural Resources Report Narrative for the Yankee Fork Dredge Tailings Survey. Report completed by: Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. Seattle, Washington, March 2003. Authors: Laurie Mauser and Christian J. Miss. Principal Investigator: Christian J. Miss.

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Chapter 5: Recreation Supply and Demand

5.1, Area Market Breakdown

In 2008, visitor logs at the Land of the Yankee Fork Intereptive Center showed that most Idahoans coming to the site were from four geographic locations: The Upper Snake River Valley (29%), the Treasure Valley (24%), Custer and Lemhi counties (15%) and the Magic Valley (9%). Although visitors come from surrounding states and several foreign countries, visitors from the Idaho locations predominate. Surveys being conducted in the summer of 2009 will provide additional visitor data for the park.

5.2 Area Population and Growth Projections

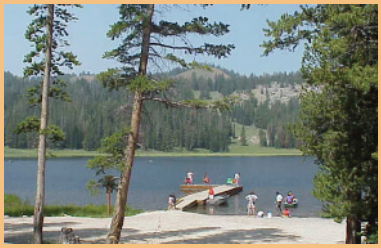
According to the Census Bureau, Custer County's population has remained virtually static in recent years with a population of 4,342 in 2000 and an estimated population of 4,166 in 2007. Land of the Yankee Fork State Park serves area schools and is one of many options for recreation in the local area. The bulk of those coming to enjoy the park are likely to be from outside the local area so nearby population changes will have little effect.

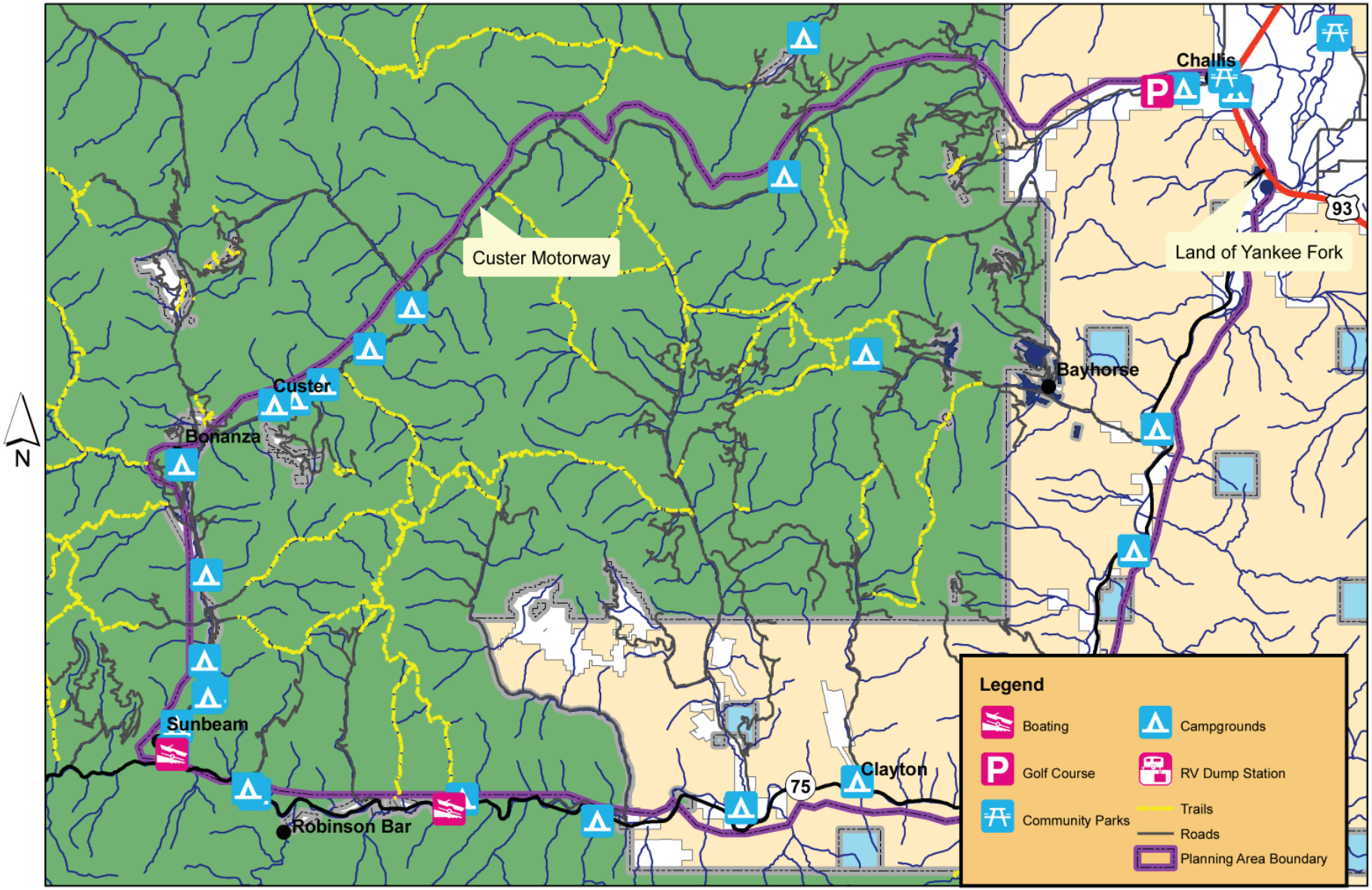
5.3 Outdoor Recreation Activity Participation

Adult activity participation rates in this planning region vary only little from statewide rates. They are somewhat higher than state averages for fishing on lakes and rivers from non-motorized boats and float tubes. The rates in the region are also a bit higher for fishing from the banks of rivers. Participation rates for riding motorbikes in this region is the highest in the state, with 18.3% of the adult population participating in the sport, compared with 14% statewide, according to the 2006-2010 Idaho SCORTP. At the same time, ATV riding is only slightly higher than the state average at 34.5% of the adult population. Participation in four-wheel driving is also the highest in the state, with 44.1% of adults saying they participate at least occasionally. Watching wildlife other than birds and fish is the highest in the state, at 66.6%. Viewing fish is nearly four points higher than the state average at 40.3%. Camping rates for the region are slightly higher than state averages for both RV and tent camping. The region leads the state in participation in walking for exercise and in hiking.

It must be noted that Idaho's Planning Region Six is the largest in the state, running from Salmon and Challis on the north to Idaho Falls and Rexburg in the southeast. Geographical variations across the region offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities. One cannot assume that a statement about recreation participation that may apply to Idaho Falls also applies to Challis. As stated in the previous section, the market for Land of the Yankee Fork State Park is largely from outside its own region. The park is a resource of statewide significance and staff should keep in mind that its primary purpose is to serve that larger pool of Idahoans and out-of-state visitors.

Recreationists on Bayhorse Lake.





ANALYSIS MAPS: Recreation Map

Land of Yankee Fork State Park

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

1:200,000

Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst
Comprehensive Planning & Review

5.4 Area Recreational Opportunities

Recreation opportunities in the planning region are mapped on the facing page.

5.5 Current Park Visitor Profile

Due to budget constraints, IDPR has not conducted an in-depth survey of Land of the Yankee Fork State Park visitors since 1999. At that time 53 % of visitors were from Idaho, and 19 % from California, with the remainder from other states or foreign countries. A 2005 visitor count put the percentage of in-state residents at the park at 65 %.

In 1999, 56 % of park visitors were female, 44 % male. At that time those 55-64 comprised 28 % of visitors, while those 65+ accounted for 21 % of visitation. Visitation is clearly skewed toward older customers. Those self-described as couples made up 45 % of the visitation, while families with children were at only 19 %.

5.6 Historic Park Visitation Statistics

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
30,098	32,787	20,432	53,373	35,990

Getting an estimate of visitation at Land of the Yankee Fork is challenging because of the open nature of the site. Figures are mostly from the Interpretive Center counter. The large drop in visitation in 2006 was typical system wide because of reporting issues with the reservation system vendor and should not be taken as a reflection of actual conditions.

5.7 Projected Park Visitation

With the addition of the Bayhorse site to the offerings of the park, IDPR expects a significant increase in visitation. History buffs will have a new opportunity at Bayhorse as will recreationists. After one or two years of operation, IDPR will be able to better project future visitation. At this time we believe an increase of 25 % the first year is a conservative estimate.

Chapter 6: Park Significance, Classification, Mission and Goals

6.1 Park Significance

Land of the Yankee Fork State Park was created to celebrate Idaho's 1990 Centennial as a tribute to the state's mining heritage. Interpretation of that history and preservation of key sites and cultural artifacts remain important values for the park today. With the acquisition of property associated with the town of Bayhorse, IDPR now has an opportunity to encourage the appreciation of Idaho's mining heritage by making remote sites more accessible to recreationists, particularly those who travel via OHV.

6.2 Park Classification

Originally envisioned as a Heritage park devoted to preservation and interpretation of historic buildings and sites, the acquisition of the Bayhorse property with its associated trail opportunities has brought another major element to Land of the Yankee Fork. Because of the importance of the recreation opportunities offered at this site, the Idaho Park and Recreation Board created a new park classification, namely Heritage/Recreation to better reflect the dual need for recreation development and preservation of an important heritage resource.

6.3 Mission Statement

To preserve and interpret the heritage of central Idaho by ensuring recreational access to historical and natural areas.

6.4 Park Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 – Develop revenue generation opportunities for the park and community to ensure preservation of the historical, archaeological and natural resources of the park.

Objectives:

- IDPR will stabilize key structures to significantly protect them from the elements and may seek to restore and preserve selected structures.
- Collect and archive original artifacts and documents.
- Follow the United States Secretary of the Interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties.
- Partner with the Idaho State Historical Society and other preservation groups.
- Protect view sheds.
- Protect and learn from identified Native American sites.
- Work with IDFG and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep to assure that park operations do not interfere with species health.
- Sell ore samples.
- Work with mining industry to prepare for interpreting contemporary mining in the future.
- Develop a marketing plan.
- Develop a business plan.
- Explore concession opportunities.
- Continue to profit from mining royalties.
- Develop overnight opportunities.
- Begin charging a motorized vehicle entrance fee (MVEF) at Bayhorse.
- Solicit donations for the use of the dump station at the Interpretive Center.
- Explore the feasibility of developing alternative energy resources in the park.
- Charge admission in expanded center.
- Explore the feasibility of offering zip line and ropes course recreation.

Goal 2 – Provide interpretation of the historical, natural and cultural resources of the park.

Objectives:

- Instill in park visitors the value of protecting historic sites by developing a sense of ownership.
- Develop and implement an interpretive plan.
- Integrate the Native American story into park interpretation through partnerships with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.
- Maintain and enhance a professional interpretive staff.
- Recruit and utilize volunteers.
- Develop educational materials.
- Pay special attention to the needs of youth
- Design activities for inclusion on the Be Outside website.

Goal 3 – Provide recreational opportunities and trail access for motorized and non-motorized park users.

Objectives:

- Provide adequate trailhead parking.
- Provide trail loops whenever possible.
- Provide a user-friendly map.
- Develop and implement a signing plan.
- Seek opportunities to increase overnight stays.
- Identify opportunities for guided services.

Goal 4 – Partner with others to provide high quality recreational experiences.

Objectives:

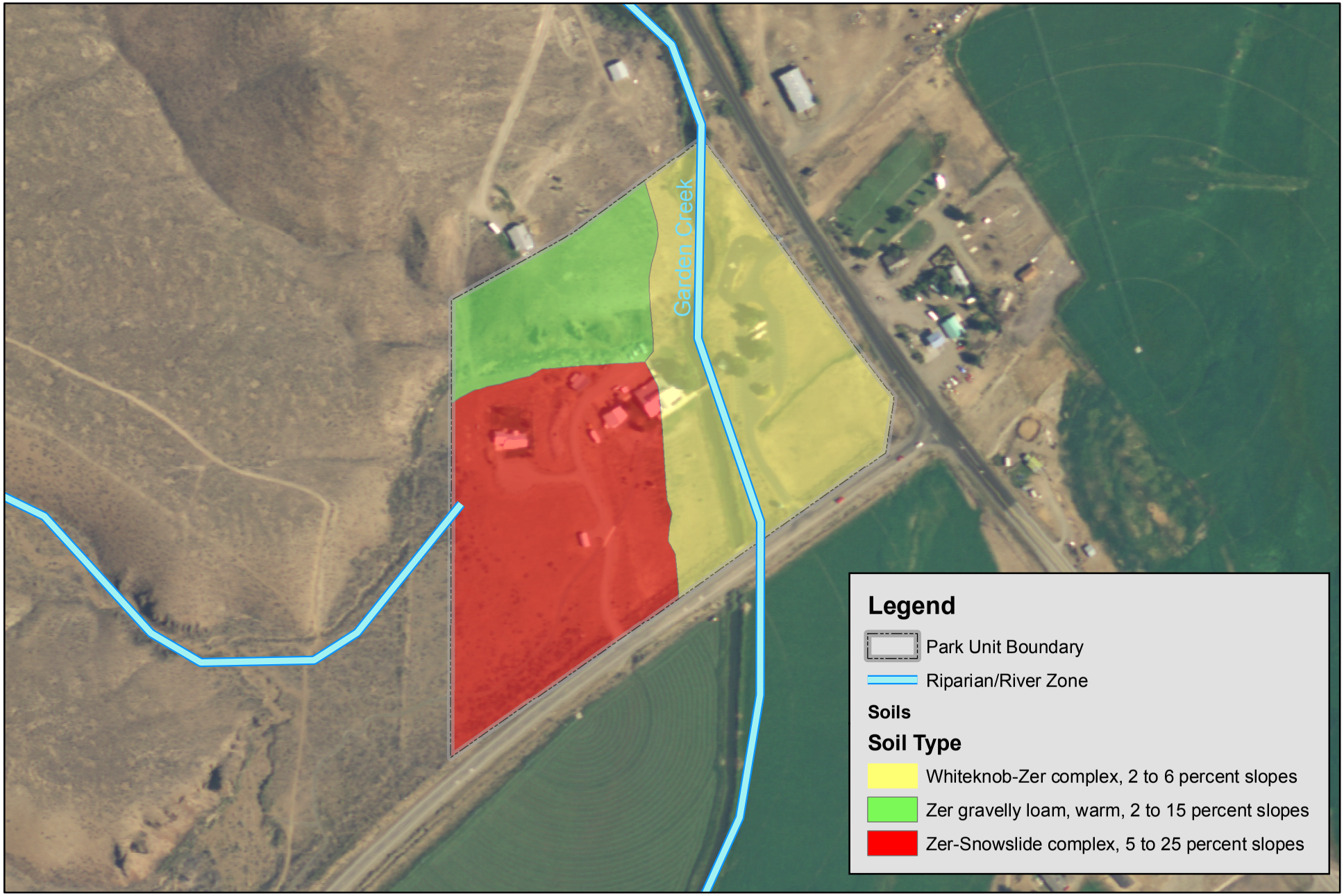
- Rewrite the existing agreements with the BLM and USFS to reflect management changes such as the acquisition of Bayhorse.
- Formalize current relationships with Land of Yankee Fork Historical Association and Yankee Fork Gold Dredge Association.
- Cultivate friend groups.

Goal 5 – Provide a safe environment for public recreational and educational experiences.

Objectives:

- Provide staff presence.
- Post informational and warning signs.
- Secure unsafe adits.
- Complete, continue and follow through with environmental cleanup.
- Stabilize and secure historic structures.
- Identify hazards.
- Identify communication nodes.
- Develop an emergency response plan.

Appendix I



ANALYSIS MAPS: SOILS

Land of Yankee Fork State Park

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

1:4,000

Yankee Fork Unit

Jeff Cook, Outdoor Recreation Analyst
Comprehensive Planning & Review

Appendix II

Appendix II

Resource Area Evaluation Table

Resource Area Evaluation Criteria and Management Objectives	Restricted Use Area	Natural Area	Conservation Area	Historic Area	Recreation Area	Service/Support Area
Qualitative Value of Area Resources	Unique, exceptional, or hazardous resource value	Pristine, natural integrity; significant resource value	Varied resource value	Exceptional or significant resource value	Low to moderate resource value	Low resource value
Value of Area for Active Recreation	No active recreational value	Low to moderate active recreational value	Moderate active recreational value	Low to moderate active recreational value	Diverse, significant and high active recreation value	Low active recreational value
Degree of Educational Opportunity Present	Unique or exceptional opportunity	Significant educational opportunity	Moderate educational opportunity	Unique or exceptional educational opportunity	Moderate educational opportunity	Varied educational opportunity
Resource Area Characteristics	These areas are isolated, relatively inaccessible. Sound levels range from free of all but natural sounds to industrial noise levels.	These areas are secluded, with subdued noise levels and a serene, peaceful environment.	This transition area is characterized by dispersed, sporadic activity. Noise levels vary from relatively quiet to fairly noisy, depending upon the occasion.	Although able to accommodate groups of visitors, these areas are quiet, passive and thought-provoking.	These areas are public and dynamic. They are readily accessible, busy, crowded, noisy, and characterized by almost continuous activity.	Service Support Areas providing visitor services are readily accessible, busy, noisy, and characterized by continuous daytime activity.
Typical Activities Within the Area	Guided interpretive walks, scientific study or mineral extraction.	Hiking, wildlife watching, photography, small group interpretive walks, cross-country skiing, dispersed picnicking, boating activities that do not degrade the environment or detract from the desired visitor experience.	Natural Area activities, plus mountain biking, picnicking, X-country skiing, fishing, dispersed swimming, boating, special events	Personal inspection, photography, historic research, small group interpretive walks, special events	Natural and Conservation Area activities, plus developed camping, group sports, developed picnicking, boat launching/mooring/ beaching, swimming, beach activities, non-motorized trail use, motorized trail use, outdoor interpretive programming, recreational housing, overnight lodging	Admission/registration, fee collection, visitor information, retail sales, staff offices, indoor/outdoor interpretive programming, concession operations, developed moorage, developed parking, staff housing, maintenance/ storage, fueling, utility stations
Acceptable Level of Resource Impact	Either extremely low or very high resource impact	Low resource impact	Low to moderate resource impact	Low resource impact	Moderate to high resource impact	High resource impact
Anticipated Degree of Human Contact	Visitors may be accompanied by park staff.	Visitors may occasionally encounter individuals or small groups seeking a similar experience.	Visitors to these areas will frequently encounter other individuals and groups of park users.	During periods of peak use, visitors to these areas are almost certain to encounter other visitors seeking the same experience.	During periods of peak activity, visitors are certain to encounter many other visitors engaged in a wide variety of recreational and social activities.	During daylight hours, visitors are certain to encounter many other visitors seeking services and engaged in a variety of recreational and social activities.
Primary Area Management Objectives	Limited or prohibited access to resources	Preserve as near-natural; protect the resource from degradation, inappropriate development and over-use	Provide use and protection; establish use limits for conservation	Preservation paramount; provide opportunity for interpretation and education	Provide recreational opportunities; no irreparable resource damage	Efficient, economic and safe support

Appendix III

Preliminary Evaluation
of
Bayhorse Town site Historic Structures

Prepared for
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

By
Frederick L. Walters
Historical Architect
Cambridge, Idaho

2007

This report was prepared for Idaho Parks and Recreation as part of a planning and management development process for the recently acquired historic mining town site of Bayhorse in central Idaho. The focus of this document is a preliminary evaluation of building condition and general recommendations on measures in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The evaluation is based on visual assessment only. No analytical assessment or destructive testing was undertaken.

The development process for this new historic park is a preliminary stage and will be evolving over the next year. The recommendations presented herein are initial judgments based on the history of the structures, their significance to the site, and a broad vision of the park's future management. The building site numbers refer to established designations consistent with the archeological report and historic context report (" F1" references to "Feature No 1). This provides a common platform among all disciplines (See Site Map in Appendix No. 1). [1] Cost estimates are "Order-of-Magnitude", based on professional construction contracts. In several instances, additional costs would be required for engineering and architectural planning.

Like many of the West's historic mining towns, Bayhorse experienced the cycle of "booms and busts" throughout its history. From its initial establishment as Idaho's first lead/silver smelter recovery operation, to each new campaign of renewed mining hope, new buildings were added and the old remodeled. The extant structures at Bayhorse represent three campaigns of mining activity, but the remains of the buildings (those with some semblance of a roof) and the ruins (those without roofs) are primarily from the original establishment of the town site. These structures, along with the vast amount of undisturbed archeological material, and the fact that it began the era of smelter operations in the state, make it one of the most valuable historic mining sites in Idaho.

Residential Structure Ruin (Site F4)

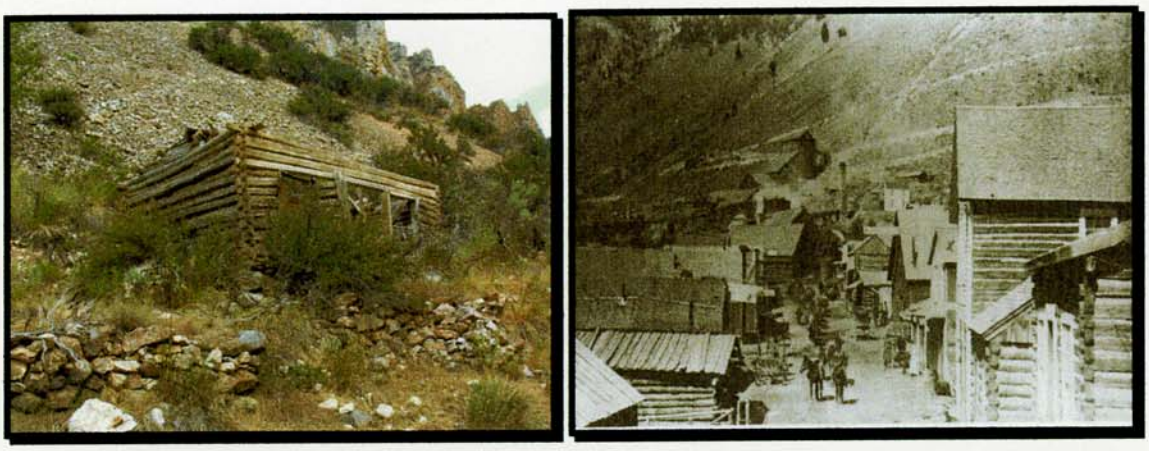


Figure 1: The residential structure ruin (Site F4) is the first building on the right of the historic photograph dated circa 1887.

Significance:

As can be seen in the historic photograph above, the early Bayhorse town site predominately consisted of log structures. Located among the residential section at the south end of the village, the ruin of this structure provides scale, construction method, and character of an early mining dwelling.

Condition:

The structure is in a partially collapsed state. While missing the roof, integrity still remains with the log walls; several of the rafters of the side gabled roof and sections of the board roof are present.

Recommended Treatment:

The recommended treatment is to stabilize the building as a ruin, retaining the walls, some roof rafters, and sections of the rear addition.

Estimated Cost: $25,000 to $30,000

Residential Structure (Site F9)

Figure 2: The image on the left is the Baker House in 1887, while the image on the right is from 2007.

Significance:

This early residential structure originated as a single story log structure with a rear addition. Sometimes prior to circa 1887 (based on construction and historic photograph) a second story was added, accessed by an exterior stairs on the north side of the building. The structure is the only complete surviving residential building from the early period of Bayhorse.

Condition:

The building is in very poor condition. The failure of the roof has lead to deterioration of structural elements in the second floor walls and deeper into the structure. For all practical purposes, the roof structure is gone, the second floor sidewalls are without integrity, and foundation assemblies must be assumed to be deteriorated.

Recommended Treatment:

Though in very poor condition, this structure does reflect living conditions of the early settlement period and retention of the basic elements of the structure and envelope should be preserved. Any reasonable retention of the shape and form of the building will require a combination of stabilization, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. It will be a matter of interpretation and safety as to the eventual depth of intervention. Some form of temporary internal shoring and reconstruction of the roof will be required as an initial phase of a preservation program.

Estimated Cost: Initial phase of basic stabilization: $15,000 to $20,000
Potential final treatment: additional $20,000 to $30,000

Residential Structure Ruin (Site F19)

Figure 3: View of the structure in 2007

Significance:

This is one of several log structure ruins. The basic building originated with the earliest period of settlement at Bayhorse (1880's). The logs are hewn both exterior and interior, and the remains of rafters indicate a shallow pitch side gabled roof. Alterations and additions have accumulated around the building.

Condition:

The structure is in a partially collapsed state. While missing the roof, a certain degree of integrity still remains with the log walls; several of the rafters of the side gabled roof and sections of the board roof are present.

Recommended Treatment:

The recommended treatment is to stabilize the building as a ruin, retaining the walls, some roof rafters, and sections of the rear addition.

Estimated Cost: $25,000

Structure Ruin (Site F23)

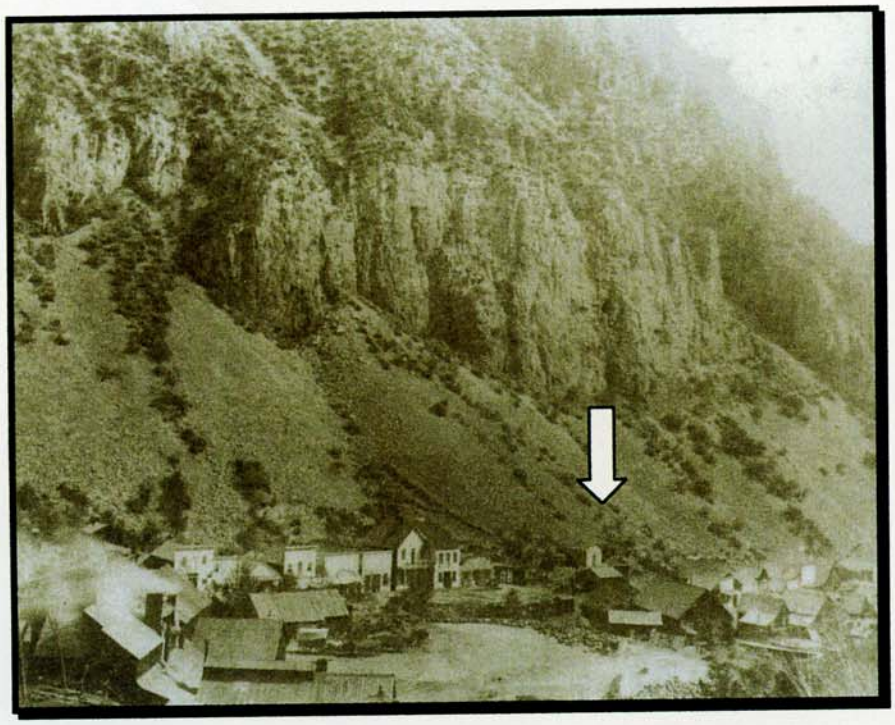


Figure 4: View of the Village of Bayhorse circa 1887 with stone structure noted at the upper edge of the town site.

Significance:

This stonewall ruin is the remains of what could have been a jail. This conclusion is based on the presence in the collapse rubble of sidewall lintel and sill window stones with holes for vertical steel bars. To date, no historical documentation has been located that references a jail in Bayhorse, nor mentions any level of law enforcement. The structure was well constructed around circa 1885with fine cut stone on the front elevation and a large well-set lintel over the central door. The walls measure nearly 24 inches thick. The construction indicates a level of craftsmanship associated with a planned permanent facility. Whether this structure was associated with a public function (law enforcement) or a private function for secure storage is unknown at this time.

Condition:

All the stonewalls of this 16' x 20' structure have collapse save for the front wall and small section of return walls at the corners. The gable slopes of the upper wall are badly eroded and losing integrity. The depth and fine workmanship of the lower areas of the wall are currently providing the integrity for stability.

Recommended Treatment:

The recommended treatment is stabilization of the standing stonewall ruins through a course of pointing/grouting and resetting of loose stone. Those walls collapsed to rubble to remain on the ground.

Estimated Cost: $10,000 to $15,000

Commercial Structure Ruin (Site F28)

Figure 5: The right side of this circa 1887 photographs shows the Michael-Sargent store building.

Figure 6: The image on the right is of the structure in 1982, while the image on the right is from 2007.

Significance:

This ruin is the remains of one of the earliest commercial structures in Bayhorse. The initial structure, still discernable among the rubble, was a hewn log building of three sides. The sidewall logs terminated at the front of the original building into vertical

posts. The sidewalls logs were tenoned and set into a continuous mortise in the squared columns at the front corners. Such construction was often associated with a form of timber frame for the front wall covered with vertical board and batten. Very early on in the history of the structure, rubble stone walls were added around the side and back walls, and a twelve foot stone addition was added to the front of the building, along with a shed roof wood framed addition to the south. This new stone front was finely crafted, with well cut and fitted rubble coursing, a double door central entry, with matching side windows, stone relieving arches over lintel stones. The wall featured a stepped parapet front.

This structure was a prominent commercial building and lasted through the many lean and prosperous times of Bayhorse.

Condition:

Save for the small early shed addition to the south, this building has experienced a complete collapse of the west and north walls, bringing down the roof and scattering front wall stones around the site.

Recommended Treatment:

The recommended treatment for this structure is to stabilize it as a ruin. The stabilization would entail rebuilding a portion of the front stonewall, resetting the north log wall, and inserting a reconstructed intermediate timber frame at the line of the original building and the front stone addition.

Estimated Cost: $75,000

Residential Structure Ruin (Site F33)

Significance:

There is little known about this structure. It appears to have been moved onsite as it sits on a simple pier foundation. The style and character are of 1920-1930 vintages, much along the lines of the 1920 structures built at the Red Bird mine. It is suggestive of mine work during the Great Depression period. It depicts perhaps the last fading effort of Bayhorse occupancy. The building is a vestige of a minor chapter for the site.

Condition:

This simple framed building has a roof of capped mineral sheet in very poor condition. The roof sheathing and portions of the roof structure have suffered deterioration. Windows are missing and doors broken.

Recommended Treatment:

To retain this structure, a minimal intervention of new roofing material, roof structure repair and closure to entry is recommended. Little should be invested beyond what is needed to reduce the rate of deterioration.

Estimated Cost: $5000

Commercial Structure Ruin (Site F36)

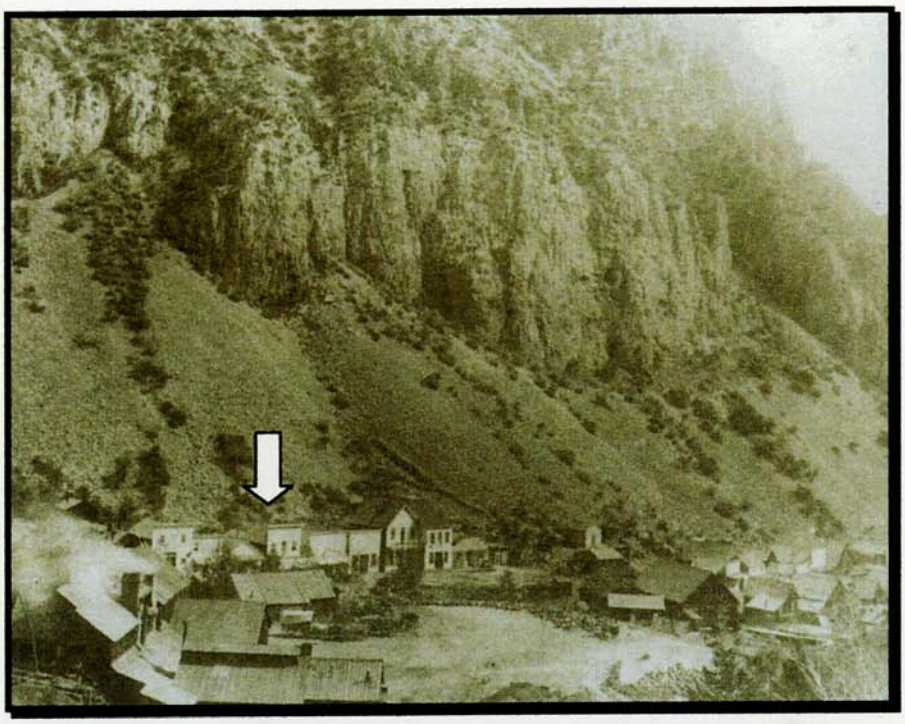


Figure 7: One of several buildings called the Bayhorse Hotel, later the Vance Hotel, circa 1885

Figure 8: The image on the left is from August 2007, while the image on the right shows the structure in the summer of 1982.

Significance:

This structure is significant for it's early associated with the village of Bayhorse and for the remarkable amount of original historic fabric still extant in the structure. The early

history of the structure is well documented, operating as a hotel during the peak of mining activity. While its later use and is less known, little alteration appears to have occurred. The original main entry doors, along with a good number of original windows are still in the structure. The front elevation siding is true original weatherboard (no taper to the siding boards, but uniform in thickness). In addition, behind the later applied interior finish materials are the original interior horizontal finish boards with original coats of paint. Given these conditions, one would strongly assume additional study would provide more details to original construction, space, function, and decoration of a mining camp hotel.

Condition:

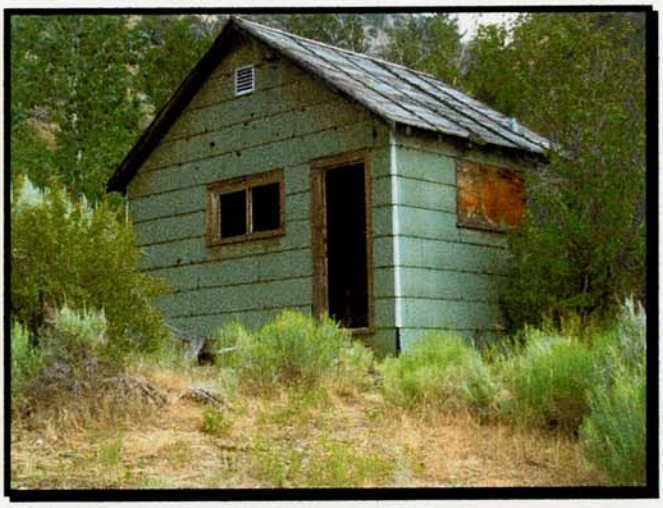
The building is in poor condition. It is a 1 1/2 story balloon frame construction and, where visible, the 1st floor wall framing and 2nd floor joists appear is serviceable condition. It is strong suspected though that the lower ends of the wall studs are deteriorated along with the 4 x 6 and 4 x 8 sill beams. The real problem is the roof frame is collapsing and an excessive amount of moisture is penetrating the structure. Winter snow loads have torn the rear addition off the back wall and exposing structure to the weather.

Recommended Treatment:

A significant degree of intervention will be required to just stabilize structure for snow load and secure the exterior envelope, but the degree of original historic fabric provides a valid reason to pursue this work. The treatment would entail certain elements of stabilization, rehabilitation, and some reconstruction, though limited. The goal would be to achieve a sound structural frame and weather-tight envelope. Any further restoration or work is not envisioned.

Estimated Cost: $80,000

Residential Structure Ruin (Site F44)



Significance:

This structure is simply utilitarian building that appears to have been moved to the site sometime in the 1920's or 1930's. It does not offer much in understanding the history of Bayhorse other than its presence is most likely associated with minor mining during the Depression.

Condition:

The small-framed building appears sound except for open doors and windows, and a poor roof covering.

Recommended Treatment:

Stabilize and leave simply by closing window and door to weather, and installing a new mineral cap sheet roof.

Estimated Cost: $5000

Stone Wall Ruin (Site F49)

Significance:

The context of this stonewall remnant is not precisely understood. The wall is nearly 40 long. An 1895 surveyor's report on the patent application of the site identifies the "Wells Fargo" building (F52) as a "store", and the survey plat indicates a very large wing attached to the south. This stonewall may have been original part of the "Wells Fargo" building, or a separate building. Additional investigation and archaeology will be required to further understand this stonewall remains.

Condition:

The section shows very fine workmanship in setting a stonewall, with precise cut corners, smoothed face texture, and defined coursing. The arris of the window or door opening are very well formed and the joints are relatively tight. A seasoned mason constructed this wall.

The dirt/lime mortar joints need to be repointed, some areas grouted, and the upper wall stone reset.

Recommended Treatment:

The recommended treatment is to stabilize and retain this stonewall as an element of early construction. Later archeological investigations may provide a better understanding of its place and use within the mining site.

Estimated Cost: $8000

Mining Structure (Site F52)

Significance:

Perhaps the most intriguing site at Bayhorse is the stone structure commonly called the "Wells Fargo" building. This structure is two stories, with a grade floor and a basement, and a rear addition off the basement built into the hillside. The exterior walls are 24 inches, the interior timber columns 12 " x 12" and the floor joist 3" x 12". It was made to store and support very heavy floor loading. The front gable building is uncoursed squared rubble with three brick arched openings, a central double door and flanking full height windows. All these opening had steel fire doors. The wood wall plates at the roof eaves were secured into the masonry walls by "tie-down" bolts. There is evidence of a shed addition to the south elevation, where a side door is present in the stonewall. On the north elevation, three small arched window opening are present high above floor level and they have steel interior security plates.

Condition:

In general, this structure is remarkable sound for its age and lack of care. The biggest problem is the poor state of the roof, which in turn has caused mortar erosion along the top of the south elevation wall. Typical of early stone construction, the wall consists of two distinct wall sections, bonded at periodical intervals with through stones. The intermediate cavity was filled with loose rubble and mortar. The erosion of the mortar at the top of the wall has caused the sections of the wall to separate, which allowed the roof plate to dislodge and move outward – literally allowing the gable roof to separate at the ridge.

Similar loss of mortar is occurring on the north side. Notable areas on the upper portion of the wall interior show signs of excessive moisture penetration.

This structure does offer opportunities for visitor interpretation once improvements have been made.

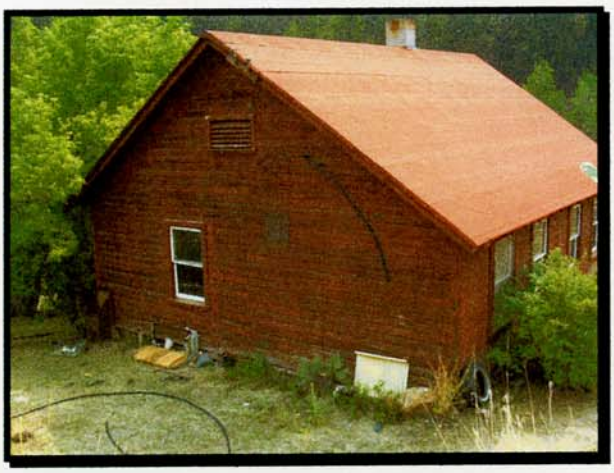
Recommended Treatment:

The recommended treatment for this structure is a combination of wall stabilization and rehabilitation of the roof covering and structure. It will require removal of the current metal roof, temporary support of the roof framing, rebuilding the upper sections of the south stonewall, and reconstruction of the roof. In addition, sections of the north and east walls will require intensive repointing and grouting to insure integrity of the wall. If the building is going to be used for visitor services, then the front board wall needs to be rebuilt.

The cellar-like rear addition will also require rebuilding the roof structure and a new metal roof. While the interior was inaccessible, it is anticipated that substantial stone repair will be required for visitor access. Otherwise a sound roof could protect it for many years.

Estimated Cost: $150,000

Residential Structure (Site F59)



Significance:

The novelty "drop-siding", scale and mass, along with the functional room arrangements suggest this plain gable residential structure dates from the 1920's. This was a time of renewed interest in Bayhorse mining.

Condition:

The building is basically sound as a framed structure. The roofing is rolled mineral cap sheeting and in poor condition. Leaking is occurring to the interior of the building. Some foundation/pier settlement is happening on the south elevation.

Recommended Treatment:

The recommended treatment is rehabilitation. This structure can be made functional with improvements to both the interior and exterior. It most logical use is for an on-site caretaker or watchman. The features and finishes of the structure can be rehabilitated. The challenge for this building will be utilities in the form of power, water, and waste disposal. Propane can provide refrigeration and heat; power could be provided through solar, wind, or small-head hydro, and a new septic could be installed, depending on site analysis. It seems the most difficult may be a reliable and potable source of water. The cost estimate below includes a certain allowance for these utilities, but they can vary considerably depending on site conditions. Other requirements for utilities are envisioned for interpretation and visitor amenities, and such sources may be combined to serve this structure.

Estimated Cost: $60.000

Concentrating Mill (Site F60)

Figure 9: View of the concentrating mill structure circa 1882.

Figure 10: View of the concentrating mill structure 2007

Significance:

The 1882 Gilmer and Salisbury concentrating mill is the dominant structure of the Bayhorse site. It is the iconic shape and mass is symbolic of western mining camps. Built on a hillside to take advantage of gravity, raw ore entered the upper portion to begin a process of crushing and separating valuable minerals from waste rock. After an initial crushing to storage bins, the ore passed through the stamp mill, through sluice boxes and settling tanks, from which it went to the concentrating tables called "Frue Vanners". Vanners, as they were commonly called, were mechanical shaking tables. Once the ore was concentrated it was delivered to the smelter for reduction.

Except for the initial ore bins, no original machinery is left from the original mill operation. In the 1920's, the mill was remodeled as part of changing the operation to a flotation method of ore recovery. The stamps were removed, more efficient crushing equipment installed, and settling tanks installed. The large funnel shaped tanks presently in the floor of the former concentrating level of the mill appear to be "Callow Settling and Pulp Thickening Tanks" used in the flotation process. [2] The concentrated ore was dried and classified (graded), and then shipped to a smelter from recovery and refining.

Beyond the associated process, the mill has significance for its traditional method of construction. Typical of mill construction, the structural frame was post and beam, utilizing well executed mortise, tenon, and scarf joinery. Foundations were finely crafted either dry stone, or mortared masonry, often utilizing clay mortar. Fabricated timber trusses incorporated steel tension rods and inset bracing. Roofs were of purlin and rafters. Much of this construction is still extant as are the levels and floors associated with the mill process.

Finally, the mill expresses historical information even when the machinery is not present. The mill is 38 feet wide. A standard battery of 5 stamps takes roughly 14 feet of width for machinery and support framing. Thus, while written documentation states the mill had 30 stamps, it simply is not possible given the room. With the two existing foundations, it seems most probable that the mill only contained 10 stamps.

Condition:

The mill can only be said to be in fair condition. A number of serious issues are affecting the basic structure and stability of the building.

A combination of latter site alterations and lack of attention to surface drainage of snowmelt has led to erosion and undermining of portions of the north foundation. Starting as the highest point of the uphill wall of the mill, site drainage is going under the mill, beneath the ore bin, and exiting through and over the stone foundation. Given the steep hillside site, gravity adds force to the water flow. In addition, construction

additions above the original mill site, presumed to be associated with later crushing operations for the flotation process, have altered site drainage with collapsed debris.

Figure 11: Image on the left shows alluvial material washing at the base of the original stamp mill foundation; the image on the right shows a collapsed section of the foundation of the concentrating level.

A second concern with the mill is loss of metal roofing sections in various locations. This allows direct moisture access to the interior of the structure.

A third concern is associated with alterations to the structural frame. In changing and updating mill process, critical beams and columns were removed (cut out), along with associated bracing. This has altered the stability of the building. In certain cases, other forms of support have been attempted, from merely logs propped under floors to the use of bridge girders. Preservation of the mill will ultimately require a structural engineering analysis and restoration of critical load paths within the building.

Recommended Treatment:

The recommended treatment for the mill building is a combination of stabilization, restoration, and reconstruction. A basic visitor usage and interpretive program will be needed as part of this process. Once stabilized, the building is flexible enough to interpret several milling process, but structural planning will require at least the character of heavy machinery that might be associated with an interpretive experience.

Estimated Cost:

Basic structural stability and envelope repair: $450,000
Engineering and Architectural Planning for Stabilization: $90,000

Mining Structure (Site F65)

Significance:

There is virtually no direct mention of this structure in the historic documentation. There is though some circumstantial evidence that provides at least a reasonable function; further investigation will be needed to confirm such a use.

Local Custer County historians refer to this structure as the "dryer" building. In a flotation recovery process, "drying" refers to particulate settling from water to concentrate ore. This structure could have been associated with the flotation process established at Bayhorse in the 1920's. The building is located on the site of the original smelter. While its design is similar to a smelter building, its size and orientation do not match that of the smelter building. In addition, its construction and interior sheathing of "bead-board" is more suggestive of the early 20th century.

The distinct feature of the structure is the monitor roof, that raised portion along the ridge where windows allowed for light and ventilation, was a common design element of many industrial structures associated with mining processes.

Condition:

The structure is in poor condition. Many temporary props and shoring columns have been inserted throughout the build for structural support. The grade around the building is above the foundation level in many places. Attempts in the recent past have been made to secure the roof through application of sections of mineral cap sheets, though not very successful. Windows and door are in poor condition or non-existent.

Recommended Treatment:

Being the closest structure to the future parking lot, this structure has been envisioned as a possible visitor orientation center. Rehabilitation of this structure for such use will require considerable intervention while character defining features and historic fabric. New foundations and substantial rebuilding of the structure system, along with envelope treatments, windows and doors, plus modest system requirements, will all be needed. This will be a major rehabilitation effort.

Part of the cultural landscape and personal experience of Bayhorse are the piles of debris, abandon machinery, building in various states of deterioration, and the general clutter and scatter of no longer used items. To the many potential visitors unfamiliar with such conditions, a degree of orientation and transition is required. Given the current park plan, this building is a good candidate for such a function.

Estimated Cost: $300,000, including design fees.

Commercial Structure Ruin (Site F71)

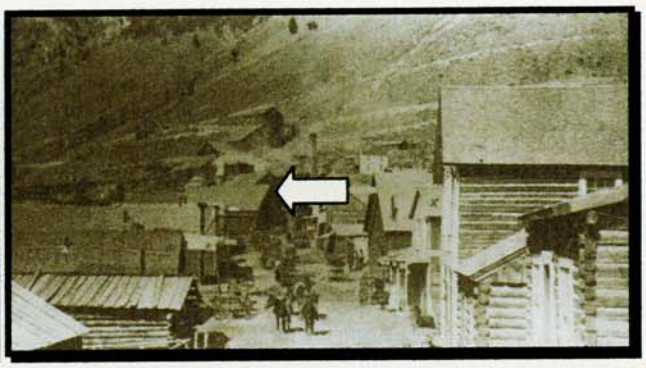


Figure 12: The image on the left is the building as it is today; the image on the right is looking north along the main street of Bayhorse, circa 1887; the building is at the far corner of the street.

Significance:

This building is significant because it appears to have been an original Bayhorse town site structure. Remains of the building, though altered, still show evidence of a gable hay door on the northeast wall, and a 42" door on the rear elevation. The front door was 8 feet wide. Though circumstantial, 42" wide doors were a fairly standard for a single stock door, and 8 feet wide standard for a harness team. Combined with the hay door in the gable, and it suggests the building may have been a livery stable, or barn associated with stock. Later in its existence, a false front was constructed and the roof and three sides of the building covered with flattened tin sheets.

Condition:

This 1 1/2 story round log structure has rotated and collapsed over on its side. The primary cause of this failure appears to be the undermined foundation at the west corner during spring runoff. Any thoughts on re-establishment of integrity of this structure will require addressing either re-channeling the confluence of Beardsley Gulch and Bayhorse Creek, or construction of a wing-wall or rip-rap protection for the building site. Assuming this is successfully addressed, substantial amounts of what appears to be the basic building structure (i.e. walls logs, loft cross beams, rafters) seem to be in reasonable condition for re-use. Some new logs and lumber would be needed.

Recommended Treatment:

A course of action for this building is determined by the treatment of the stream flow. If nothing is done with the stream configuration, then the building should just be left for a ruin, and interpreted as such. If the stream conditions are improved, then the principal

form of the building could be resurrected as a form of standing, but unimproved structure as a feature of the landscape.

Estimated Cost: $75,000, not including environmental assessments and compliance (if required) for stream work, or engineering design of stream work.

Residential Structure Ruin (Site F72)

Significance:

This is one of several log structure ruins of an early residential/commercial building from the earliest period of settlement at Bayhorse (1880's). The logs walls are composed of hewn logs (both sides) with later exterior vertical furring strips and horizontal siding. The remains of cut board rafters indicate a medium pitch side gabled roof. Both early and later alterations and additions have accumulated around the building.

Condition:

The structure is in a totally collapsed state. The wall has fallen inward while the fold of the deteriorated roof has pushed the south wall outward. Portions of wooden additions lie about the site.

Recommended Treatment:

The recommended treatment is to leave these remains as a ruin in its current state. One of the experiences that should be considered in an abandon mining camp is the character that deteriorated structures within the cultural landscape.

Due to unsafe conditions of the structure, public access should be limited by a simple single wood or steel rail with signage. Complete fencing is not advocated.

Estimated Cost: $2,500

Charcoal Kilns Ruins (Site F76-F82)

Figure 13: View of the ruins of the stone charcoal kilns on the west side of Bayhorse Creek, August 2007

Significance:

An economical fuel source of a smelting operation was critical to the success of the development. Of equal importance was the ability to manufacture the charcoal during inclement weather. Introduced in the Far West around 1872, the conical masonry kiln became an essential feature of smelter site. Originally numbering nine (9), these kilns supplied the fuel for the Bayhorse smelter. The required vast quantity of trees needed for the kilns transformed surrounding landscapes, extending the impact of the smelter process for miles around.

Condition:

Presently, there are seven (7) stone kilns remains left. There is no complete kiln structure intact. The kilns were conical in shape, measuring around 25 feet in diameter and probably just a little less in height. The walls are un-coursed rubble stone and roughly 24

Appendix No. 1

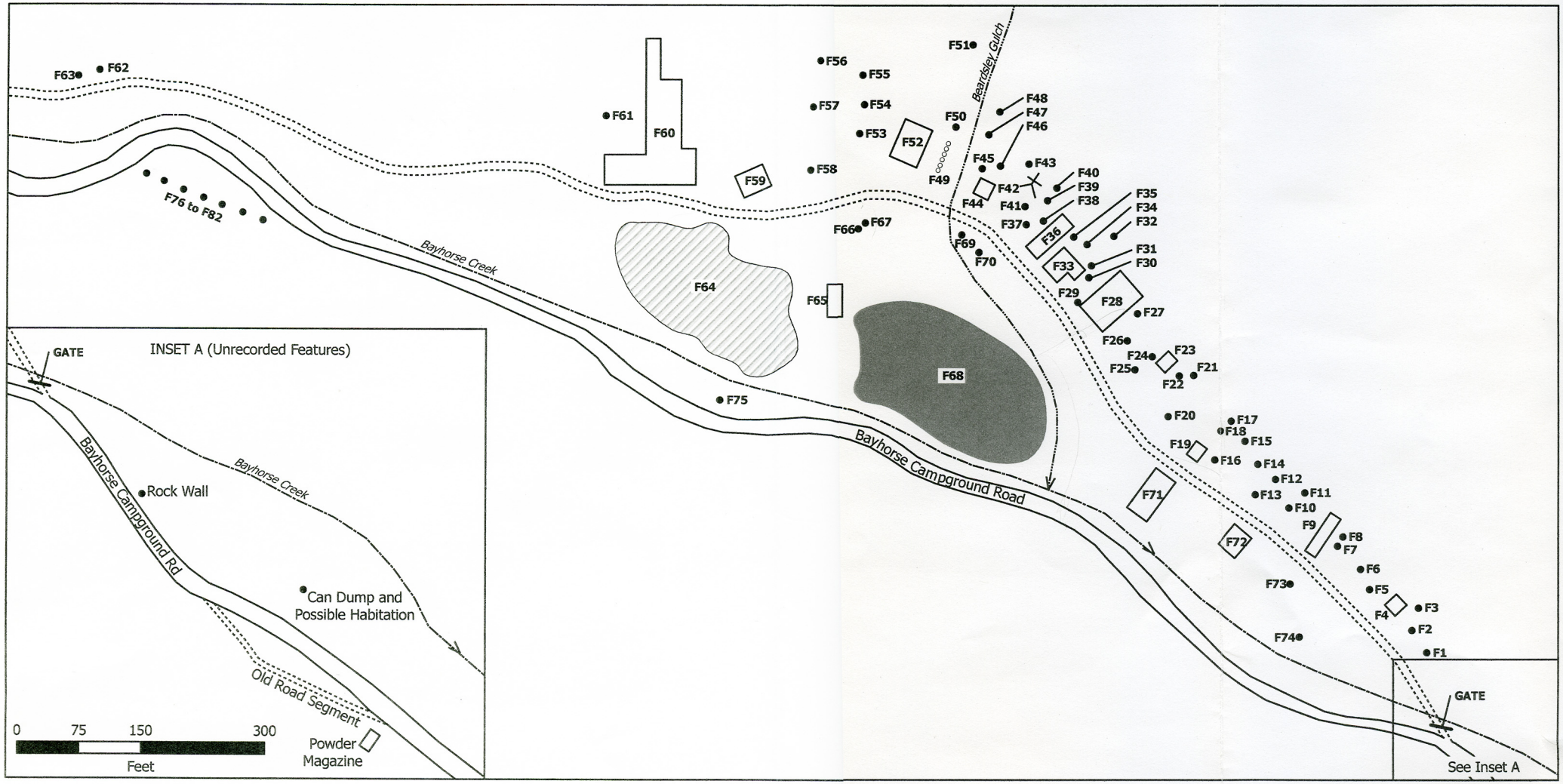
Site Map

prepared by

RTI, Inc

of

Surveyed Bayhorse Town Site
2007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F76 to F82
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Bayhorse Creek
Bayhorse Campground Road
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INSET A (Unrecorded Features)
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Rock Wall
Can Dump and
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Old Road Segment
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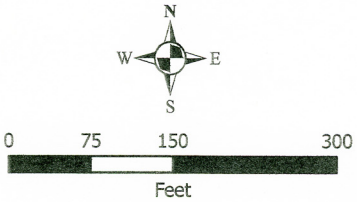
BAYHORSE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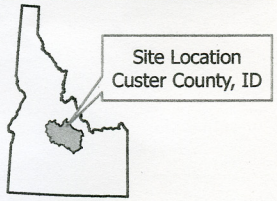
Site Location
Custer County, ID

Endnotes

[1] See *Archaeological Survey of Idaho Site Form Inventory of Bayhorse Townsite*, prepared by Renewable Technologies, Inc., on file with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, 2007; *Historic Context Statement for the Bayhorse Townsite*, prepared by TAG, Inc., 2007, on file with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

[2] See The Mining Camps Speak, Beth and Bill Sagstetter, Benchmark publishing, Denver, Co, 1998, page 73.

Appendix IV

Glossary

Adit: A horizontal or nearly horizontal passage driven from the surface for the working or dewatering of a mine. If driven through the hill or mountain to the surface on the opposite side, it would be a tunnel.

Aerial Tramway: A system where ore buckets are hung from a suspended cable that travels downhill. Ore is put in the buckets at the top of the tramway, and either gravity or a motor moves the cable and the ore to the bottom of the hill where the buckets are unloaded.

Alloy: A compound of two or more metals.

Amalgam: An alloy or union of mercury with another metal.

Arrastra: A circular rock-line pit in which broken ore is pulverized by stones attached to horizontal poles fastened in a central pillar and dragged around the pit. Also spelled arrastre.

Assay: A chemical test performed on a sample of ores or minerals to determine the amount of valuable metal contained.

Assay Value: The value of an ore as determined by assay results; the amount and worth of metals or minerals in a sample.

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

Concentration: The grinding of ore and removal of waste rock. This process "concentrates" the amount of valuable metal in the remaining ore.

Crosscut: A passage that crosses a vein of ore. A crosscut usually is built to connect to another tunnel or is used as an air vent. A crosscut is the opposite of a drift.

Dredge: A large floating machine used in underwater excavation for precious minerals and gold in canals, rivers, and harbors.

Drift: A horizontal passage that follows an ore vein.

Flotation: A milling process in which valuable mineral particles are induced to become attached to bubbles and float as other sink.

Flux: Any chemical or rock added to an ore to assist in its reduction by heat. In metal refining, a material such as sand, ash or dirt is used to remove undesirable substances.

Flume: An inclined channel, usually of wood and often supported on a trestlefor conveying water from a distance to be utilized for use in placer mining.

Fool's Gold: Iron pyrite which is a glittery, golden mineral that is sometimes mistaken for gold.

Head Frame: A tall wooden or steel structure above a mineshaft used to hoist ore buckets up and down.

Hydraulic Mining: Mining by washing sand and dirt away with water that leaves the desired mineral. The process by which a bank of gold-bearing earth and rock is excavated by a jet of water, discharged through the converging nozzle of a pipe under great pressure, the earth or debris being carried away by the same water, through sluices, and discharged on lower levels into the natural streams and water courses below.

IDPR: Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Leaching: The separation, selection, removal, or dissolving-out of soluble constituents from a rock or an ore body by the natural action of percolating water.

Lode: A vein of rich ore in solid rock.

Mill: A building where concentrated ore is treated and processed in some way to capture the valuable minerals.

Mine: An opening or excavation in the ground for the purpose of extracting minerals; a pit or excavation from which ores or other mineral substances are taken by digging.

Mineral: A natural compound formed through geological process. Examples of minerals include salt, silver, gold, and lead.

Mining: The science, technique, and business of mineral discovery and exploitation.

Ore: A metal or mineral-bearing rock.

Refine: To free from impurities or to purify.

Riffles: The lining of the bottom of a sluice, made of blocks or slats of wood or stones, arranged in such a manner that chinks or slots are left between them, into which heavy mineral grains fall and are held for recovery.

Shaft: A vertical hole in the ground used to access the underground workings of a mine (see head frame).

Slag: A substance formed in any one of several ways by chemical action and fusion at furnace operating temperatures: (1) in smelting operations, through the combination of a flux, such as limestonewith the waste portion of the ore; or (2) in the refining of metals, by substances such as lime added for the purpose of effecting or aiding the refining.

Sluice box: A long, inclined trough containing riffles in the bottom that provide a lodging place for heavy minerals in ore concentration. The material to be concentrated is carried down through the sluices on a current of water. Sluice boxes are widely used in place operations for concentrating gold and minerals from stream gravels.

Stamp Mill: A mill that crushes ore with heavy iron stamps that are lifted by cams and then dropped.

Tailings: The crushed remains of rock with the valuable minerals removed. Tailings are the result of milling.

Tunnel: A horizontal or nearly horizontal underground passage that is open at both ends.

USFS: United State Forest Service

Vein: A layer or seam of minerals lying within a zone or belt of the same material but surrounded by different neighboring rock and other formations.

Waste rock: Non-ore bearing rock that has been removed by diggingor by blasting during mining. Waste rock piles are often found near adits.