



The Owyhee Uplands Backcountry Byway Guide IDAHO / OREGON



Off the Beaten Path

BLM Backcountry Byways serve a unique niche in providing an “off-the-beaten-path” adventure through landscape settings as diverse as the West itself. The BLM currently manages 54 designated National Back Country Byways totaling approximately 2,952 miles in 11 western states.

The Owyhee Uplands Backcountry Byway, known locally as the Mud Flat Road, is the primary access to central Owyhee County. From there, many other roads and primitive vehicle routes access more remote areas including four Wilderness areas and three Wild and Scenic Rivers.



Sunrise at Big Jacks Creek Wilderness, courtesy Ammon Wilhelm



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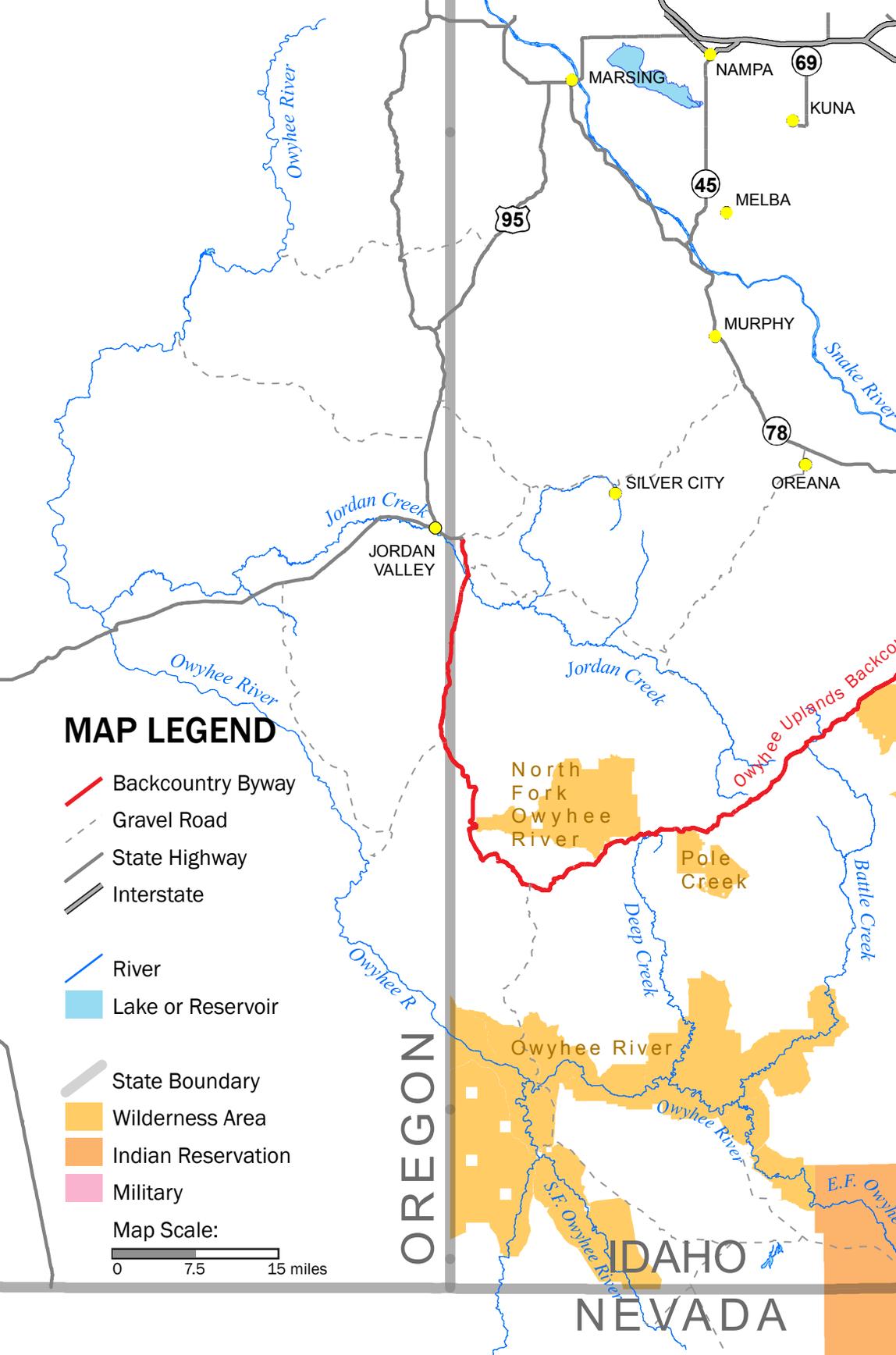
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Cattle drive in a blizzard south of Bruneau © Jerry Kencke

CONTENTS

Byway Overview Map.....	1
Before You Go.....	3
Byway Mileage Chart.....	12
Byway Mileage Map.....	14
Start Your Trip.....	16
Three Forks.....	19
North Fork.....	20
Wilderness Areas.....	23
To the West.....	26
Junipers and Aspen.....	28
Cultural Sites.....	30
Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	32
Bluebirds and Mahogany.....	34
Little Jacks Creek.....	37
Poison Creek.....	40
End of the Trail.....	44
Birding Checklist.....	46
References.....	48



MAP LEGEND

- Backcountry Byway
- Gravel Road
- State Highway
- Interstate

- River
- Lake or Reservoir

- State Boundary
- Wilderness Area
- Indian Reservation
- Military

Map Scale:
0 7.5 15 miles

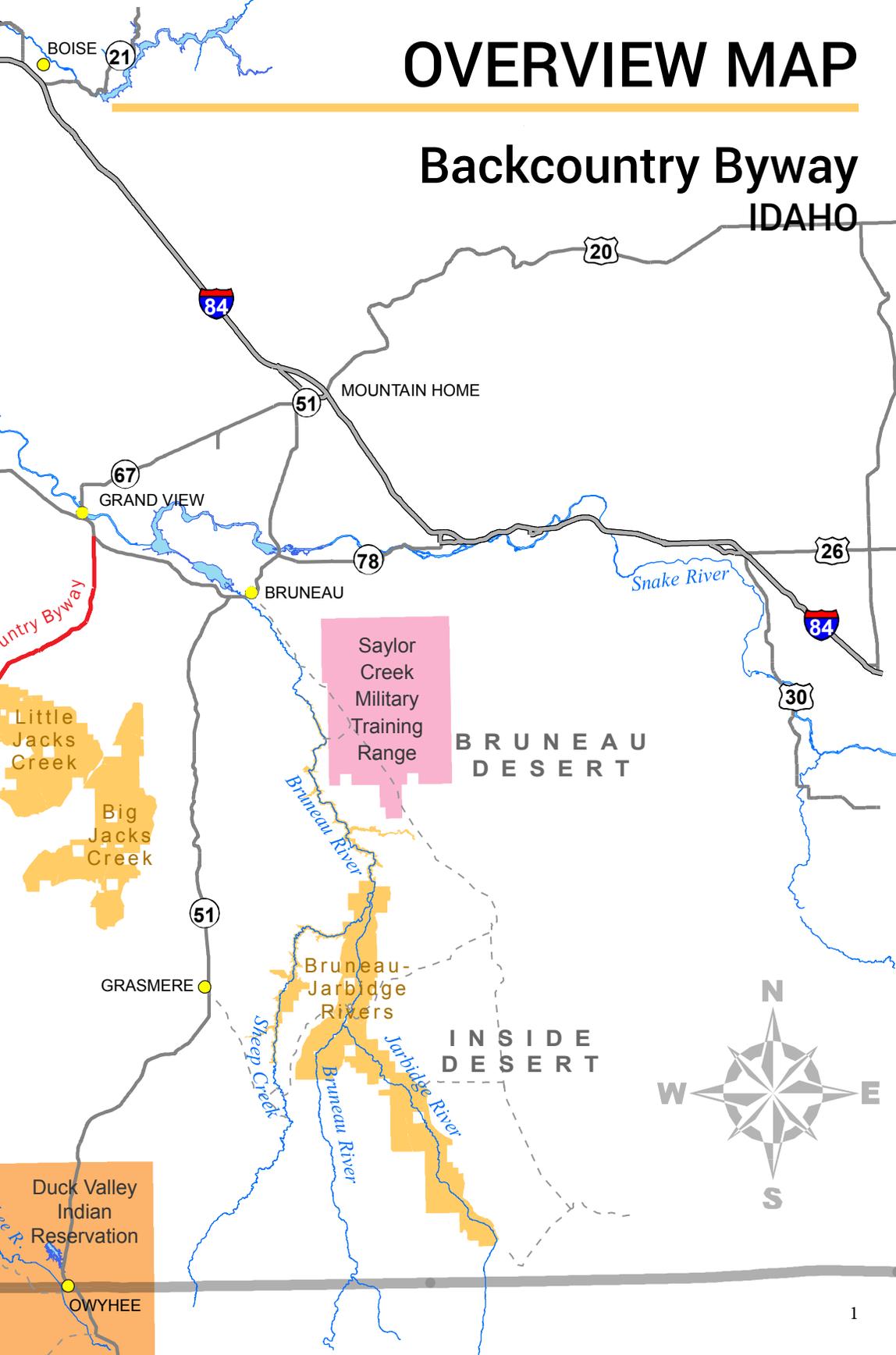
OREGON

IDAHO
NEVADA

OVERVIEW MAP

Backcountry Byway

IDAHO





Mountain bikers on Jacks Creek Road check out the wilderness map.



Remnants of ancient Lake Idaho can be seen in the Poison Creek drainage.

BEFORE YOU GO

Get There

The Byway can be reached from Highway 95 through Jordan Valley, Oregon (80 miles southwest of Boise) or from State Highway 78 near Grand View, Idaho (70 miles southeast of Boise). The Byway traverses 91 miles in Idaho and 12 miles in Oregon. A round-trip excursion on the Byway from Boise takes a full day. There are no services along the Byway, however services are available in Jordan Valley and Grand View.

Travel the Byway

The Byway is a graveled road that is mainly one and one-half lanes wide. It can be traveled by most passenger vehicles during the summer. The road traverses relatively flat to gently rolling topography, but short grades of up to 12% are encountered in a few places. The Byway is usually impassable from late November through April due to snow. Precipitation can make the road treacherously slick, so use caution during inclement weather. Due to the fragile nature of the soils and vegetation, keep all vehicles on the roadway. Traveling on an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) is not allowed on the Byway. All motorized vehicles must have registered license plates.

Be Prepared for the Desert

Plan ahead to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. Be sure someone knows of your travel plans because cell phone coverage is not available along most of the route. Take these supplies:

- Plenty of gasoline
- Bottled water; do NOT drink from streams without treating the water
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight
- A properly inflated spare tire, lug wrench and jack
- Extra food and clothing for inclement weather
- Camera, binoculars and field guides
- GPS and map (see next section on private land)

BEFORE YOU GO

Please Respect Private Land

Many parcels of private land are located along the Byway. Please respect private property by having the right maps and equipment to avoid trespassing. Take a Surface Management Status Map (the Triangle 1:100,000 scale map) which shows land ownership. It is available from BLM offices.

Please Practice Outdoor Ethics

LEAVE NO TRACE

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



TREAD LIGHTLY

- Travel only in areas open to all-terrain vehicle use
- Minimize wheel spin
- Slow down when sight lines are poor
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers
- Don't mix riding with alcohol or drugs
- Buddy up with two or three riders, reducing vulnerability if you have an accident or breakdown

tread lightly![®]

ON LAND AND WATER



See Attractions

This is high desert scenery at its finest. From Jordan Valley, you'll pass irrigated hay meadows along Jordan Creek, and then climb into the mountains through stands of juniper and mahogany. You'll journey across broad, rim-rocked plateaus that are covered with sagebrush and bunch-grass, spotted with aspen, and dissected by the canyons of the Owyhee River. The horizons are framed by the Jarbidge, Bull Run, Santa Rosa, Steens and Owyhee Mountains. The Canyonlands are known for solitude, but during fall in particular, be prepared to see others.

You will pass through many distinct, vegetative zones. Take time stop, look at, touch, smell, and listen as you experience the Owyhee Uplands.



Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany (Cercocarpus ledifolius)

Many geocaches are located along the road. Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. The Byway aka Mud Flat Road is a very popular destination for geocaching. Roadside caches can be found nearly every mile along the byway. For more information please visit www.geocaching.com

BEFORE YOU GO

Learn Some History

The landscape you will see is part of the homeland of the Shoshone, Bannock and Paiute Tribes. Their ancestors occupied the Great Basin, including parts of Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and California, for at least 10,000 years before the arrival of Euro-Americans. The traditional lifeways and values of these people were and are inseparably linked with the land and resources. A vast amount of knowledge passed from one generation to the next through oral tradition.

Living in small bands of several families, their lives followed seasonal rounds as they harvested and stored edible plants, roots, fish, and game. Fish and roots were the staple food of the people in the Great Basin, not merely a substitute when meat was scarce. The harvest of camas and fish brought individuals together from all areas of the Northwest around the Boise, Payette, and Weiser Rivers. Tribal people gathered at the Boise River until the 1860s to dance, trade, and gamble for a month or two each year in an unbroken tradition connected with harvesting camas and salmon.

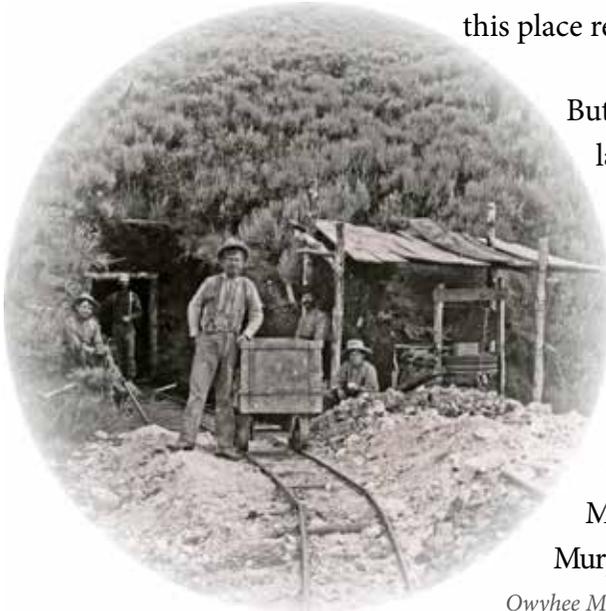
The Tribes first loved this land with its deep gorges, table-top plateaus, and craggy mountains. Then it was gold that lured men to place, along the “Dry Trail.” Next it was sheep and finally cattle. Livestock is what kept men, women and their families attached to this big, mostly barren land that would later become Owyhee County.

Miners laid aside their picks and shovels and many turned to raising livestock to earn their living. By 1888, more than 100,000 cattle roamed Owyhee country. Murphy and Horn alone had 12,000. Grayson and Company tended 16,000. And maybe the biggest ranch operation of the day, Scott and Company, counted 18,000 head of cattle. Some of the herds were driven to Owyhee country all the way from Texas. The cattle kings took pride as their herds, and pocketbooks, swelled.

The winter of 1888-89 was brutal. Water holes and creeks were topped by a thick layer of ice. Even the mighty Snake River froze over, and when cattle ventured forth, many of them fell through the ice and drowned. But the stockmen learned from the tragedy—they developed meadows to raise more hay for feedings as a hedge against the harsh winter months. The industry in Owyhee country began to come of age.

The end of the 19th century was a colorful and often contentious time in Southwestern Idaho, with an assortment of true characters—horse thieves and squatters, rustlers, renegade shearers and permanent settlers who would add an air of respectability to the area—a doctor, a dentist, a lawyer, schoolteachers and preachers. Still, the land and people remained tough and sometimes without mercy.

Through the years, much has changed in this open, wild land. It has been discovered by some as a recreational paradise that is both beautiful and foreboding. All-terrain vehicles navigate trails across the flatlands; hikers follow paths across the desert and drop into the deep canyons; hunters stalk big game; and kayakers float the Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers and their tributaries in the spring. Yet much is still the same as one-hundred years ago: livestock, agriculture and their affiliated businesses even now form the backbone of local economies. The Shoshone-Paiute are here and this place remains their sacred homeland.



But more than anything else, the land remains as it has long been: isolated, starkly scenic, extreme and unforgiving. It's what makes the Owyhee country unique.

For more information, visit the Owyhee County Historical Society Museum at 17085 Basey Street in Murphy or www.owyheemuseum.org.

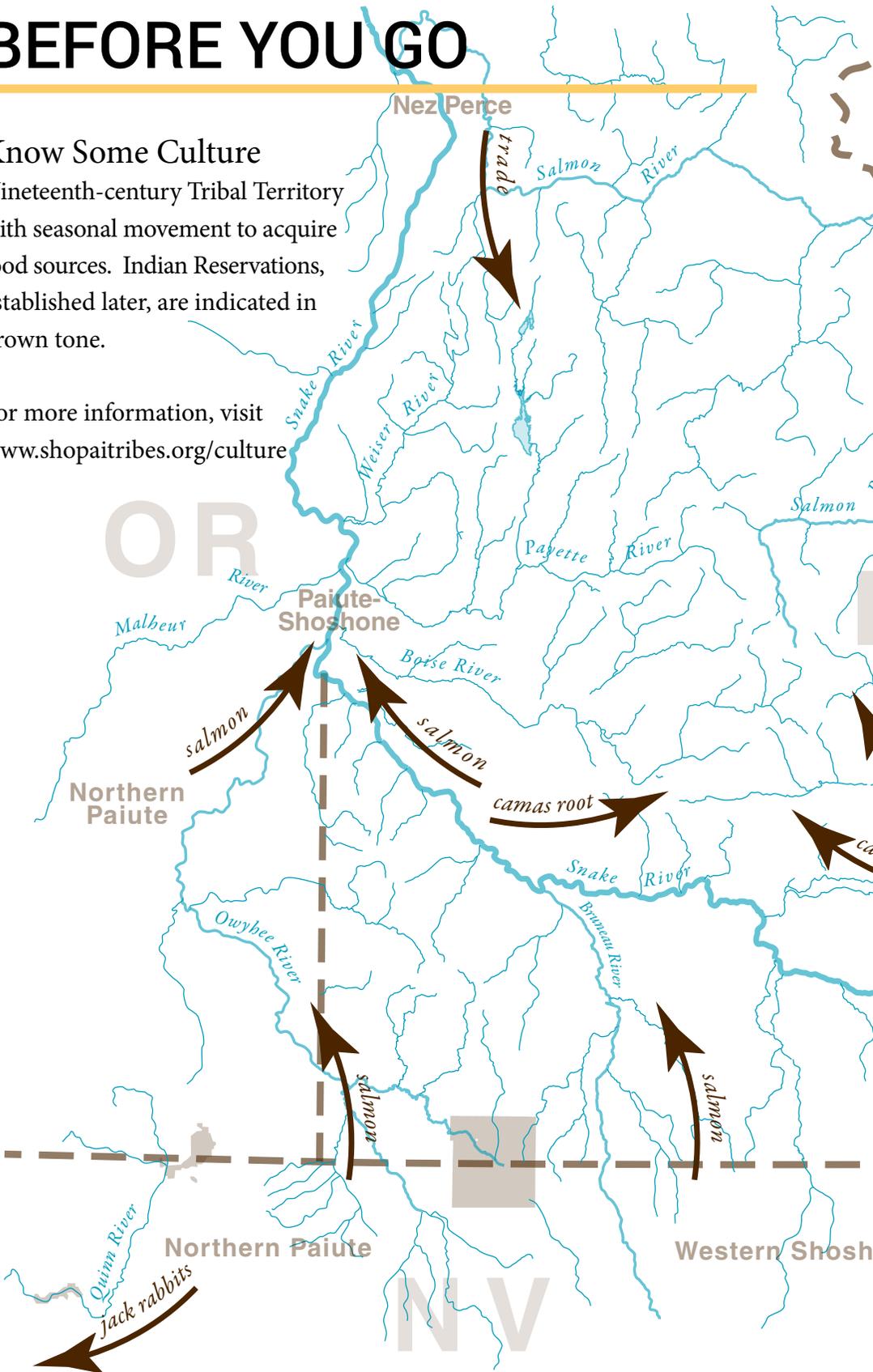
Owyhee Mine, courtesy Idaho State Historical Library

BEFORE YOU GO

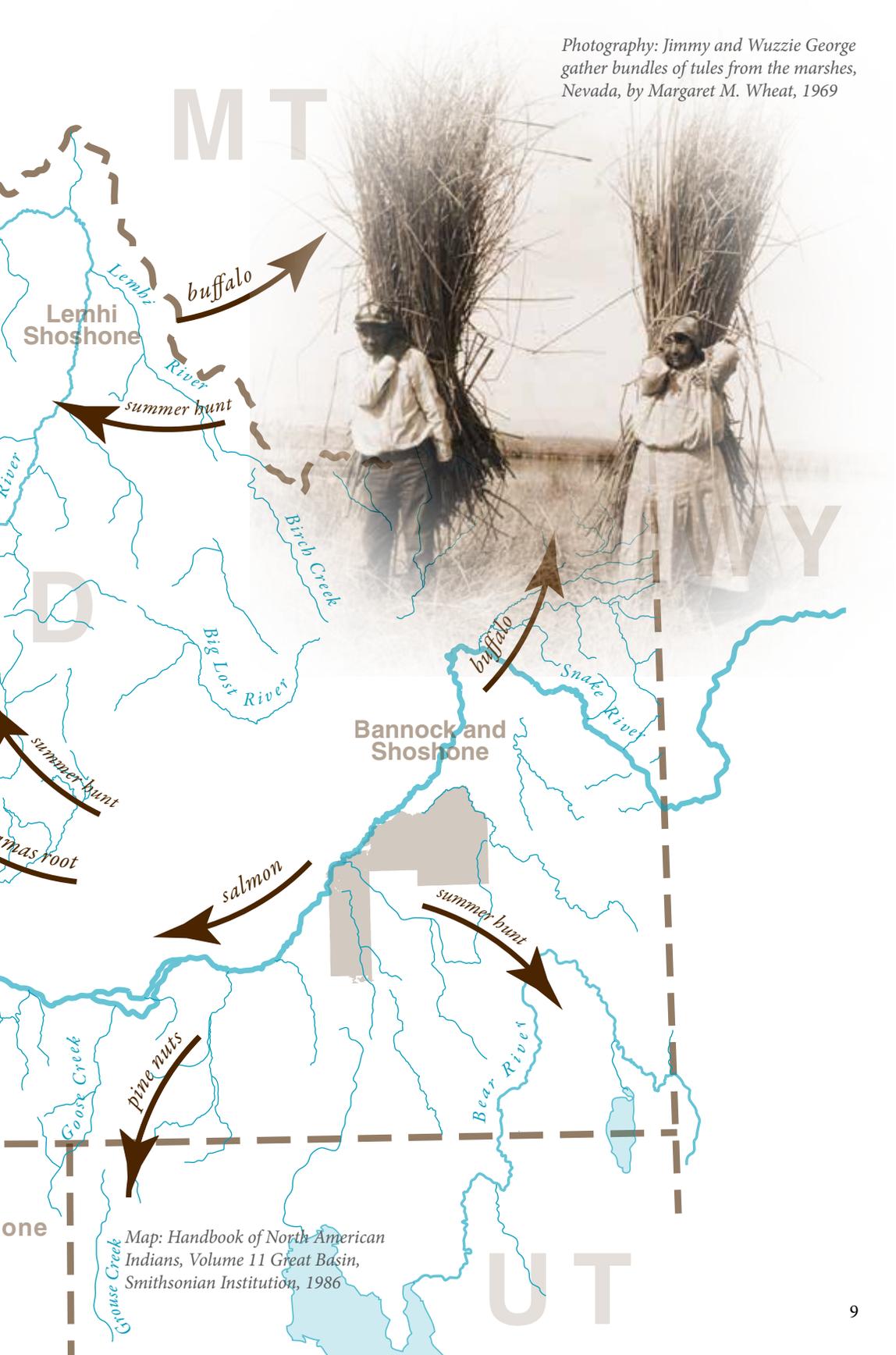
Know Some Culture

Nineteenth-century Tribal Territory with seasonal movement to acquire food sources. Indian Reservations, established later, are indicated in brown tone.

For more information, visit www.shopatribes.org/culture



Photography: Jimmy and Wuzzie George gather bundles of tules from the marshes, Nevada, by Margaret M. Wheat, 1969



MT

Lemhi Shoshone

Lemhi River

buffalo

summer hunt

Birch Creek

Big Lost River

Bannock and Shoshone

buffalo

Snake River

summer hunt

mas root

salmon

summer hunt

pine nuts

Goose Creek

Bear River

one

Map: Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 11 Great Basin, Smithsonian Institution, 1986

UT





BYWAY MILEAGE CHART

Mileage via Jordan Valley, OR	Mileage via Grand View, ID	Latitude	Longitude	Points of Interest
0	102.7	42.9738	-117.05314	Begin
2.9	99.8	42.961055	-117.007022	Intersection of Byway and Pleasant Valley Road
14.0	88.7	42.808277	-117.026249	Idaho Oregon Stateline
14.7	88.0	42.799479	-117.03125	Basalt rock outcrops
18.8	83.9	42.743233	-117.038194	View of South Mountain
22.0	80.7	42.69931	-117.035765	Three Forks Junction
23.2	79.5	42.682995	-117.027128	Idaho Oregon Stateline
25.1	77.6	42.662493	-117.003696	Dougal Reservoir
30.6	72.1	42.597625	-116.992119	Start of North Fork Owyhee River Rim
31.3	71.4	42.593333	-116.981249	North Fork Recreation Site and Access point to Wilderness
32.7	70.0	42.589457	-116.990081	Owyhee Plateau Overlook
37.2	65.5	42.556584	-116.949771	Graves Creek Reservoir
41.6	61.1	42.517751	-116.89921	Cottonwood Creek
41.9	60.8	42.51731	-116.894002	Owyhee River Wilderness Kiosk
51.3	51.4	42.56358	-116.753769	View of Stoneman, Current, and Deep Creeks
51.9	50.8	42.568574	-116.746874	Stoneman Creek
52.5	50.2	42.572528	-116.735549	Nickel Creek Cherrystem
53.4	49.3	42.570459	-116.719991	Current Creek

Mileage via Jordan Valley, OR	Mileage via Grand View, ID	Latitude	Longitude	Points of Interest
56.2	46.5	42.581385	-116.676077	Deep Creek
59.4	43.3	42.584531	-116.622359	Pole Creek Wilderness
64.1	38.6	42.603828	-116.551414	Mud Flat Administrative Site
68.1	34.6	42.627433 (edge)	-116.487879 (edge)	Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany
73.7	29.0	42.684905 (edge)	-116.420932 (edge)	Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany
75.5	27.2	42.699788	-116.396497	Battle Creek
77.1	25.6	42.709	-116.37108	Summit Springs Saddle
81.1	21.6	42.739577	-116.314359	Little Jacks Creek Wilderness Shoofly Hiking Trail
82.6	20.1	42.756929	-116.297724	Poison Creek Picnic Area
85.9	16.8	42.782801	-116.243159	Salt desert shrubs
87.2	15.5	42.798214	-116.228899	Mud Flat Road and Oreana- Poison Creek Cutoff Junction
93.2	9.5	42.837113	-116.12191	Oolite Trail
94.0	8.7	42.841755	-116.110392	Turmes Ranch
94.1	8.6	42.842126	-116.107074	Small Cemetery
95.2	7.5	42.851984	-116.091438	Mud Flat Road and Shoofly Cutoff Road
102.7	0.0	42.960441	-116.077206	Mud Flat Road and Hwy 78

Please refer to the mileage map on page 14 for location.

MILEAGE MAP

SILVER CITY

JORDAN VALLEY

Mile 0 (102.7)

Mile 2.9 (99.8)

Mile 14.0 (88.7)

Mile 14.7 (88.0)

Mile 18.8 (83.9)

Mile 22.0 (80.7) THREE FORKS JUNCTION

Mile 23.2 (79.5)

Mile 25.1 (77.6)

Mile 30.6 (72.1)

NORTH FORK

Mile 32.7 (70.0)

Mile 31.3 (71.4)

Mile 37.2 (65.5)

Mile 41.9 (60.8)

Mile 41.6 (61.1)

North Fork
Owyhee River
Wilderness

Byway = Mud Flat Rd.

Mile 51.9 (50.8)

Mile 51.3 (51.4)

Mile 52.5 (50.2)

NICKEL CREEK

Mile 53.4 (49.3)

Mile 56.2 (46.5)

POLE CREEK

Mile 59.4 (43.3)

Pole
Creek
Wilderne

Jordan Creek

N Boulder Creek

Rock Creek

Deep Creek

OREGON
IDAHO

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OWYHEE UPLANDS BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY

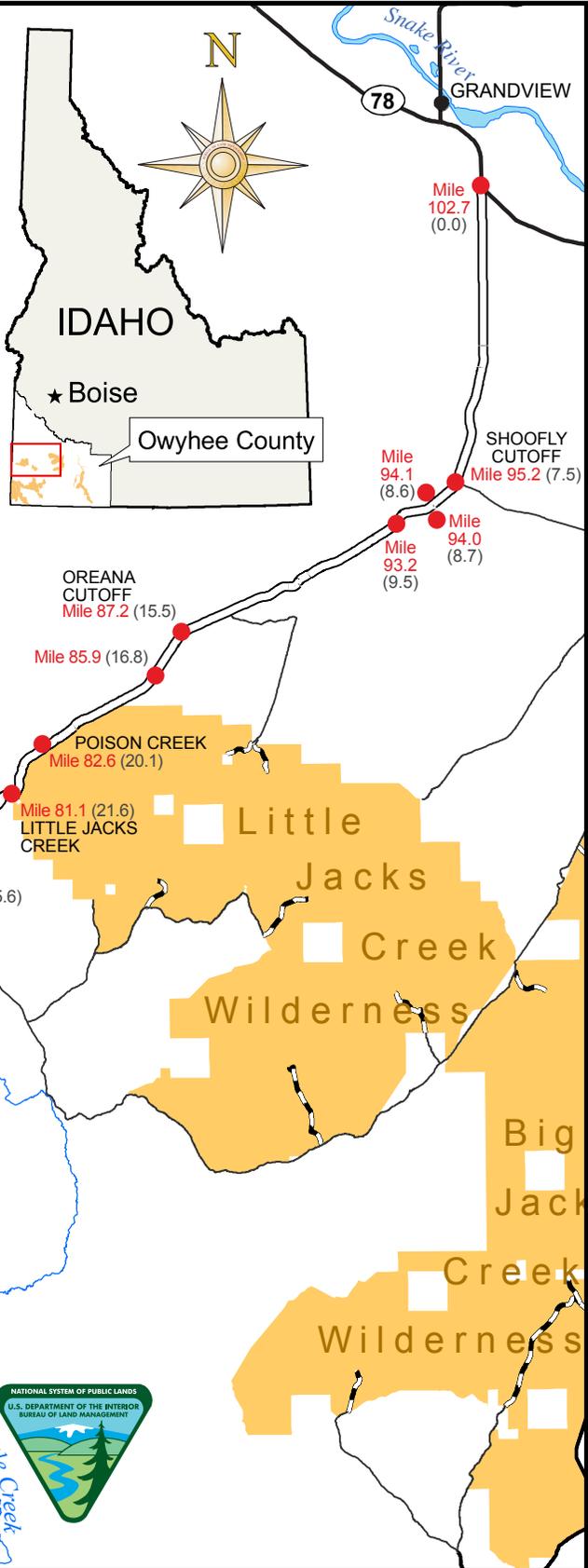
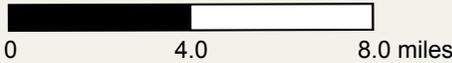
aka Mud Flat Road

-  Backcountry Byway
-  State Highway
-  Primitive Road
-  Cherrystem Road

 Mileages from Jordan Valley
(Mileages from Grandview)

-  Wilderness
-  River or Stream

Map Scale



START YOUR TRIP

From Jordan Valley, Oregon at the west end of the Byway:

Mile 0 (or Mile 102.7 beginning at Highway 78 south of Grand View on the east end of the Byway) Begin in Jordan Valley, Oregon by turning left (east) at the blinking light onto Yturri Boulevard. Mileages begin at this intersection.

Travel east along Jordan Creek with its isolated ranches nestled between sagebrush-covered hills. South Mountain rises above the valley to the south.

Euro-American settlement of the area started with the discovery of gold on Jordan Creek in 1863. The creek and the town are named after Michael Jordan, leader of the original prospectors to the area, who died in a fight with Native Americans in 1864. Jordan Valley began as a supply depot for the Owyhee mines. Cattle ranches soon developed to supply meat to the miners. The Byway was originally a wagon route that provided access to the more remote ranches in the county.

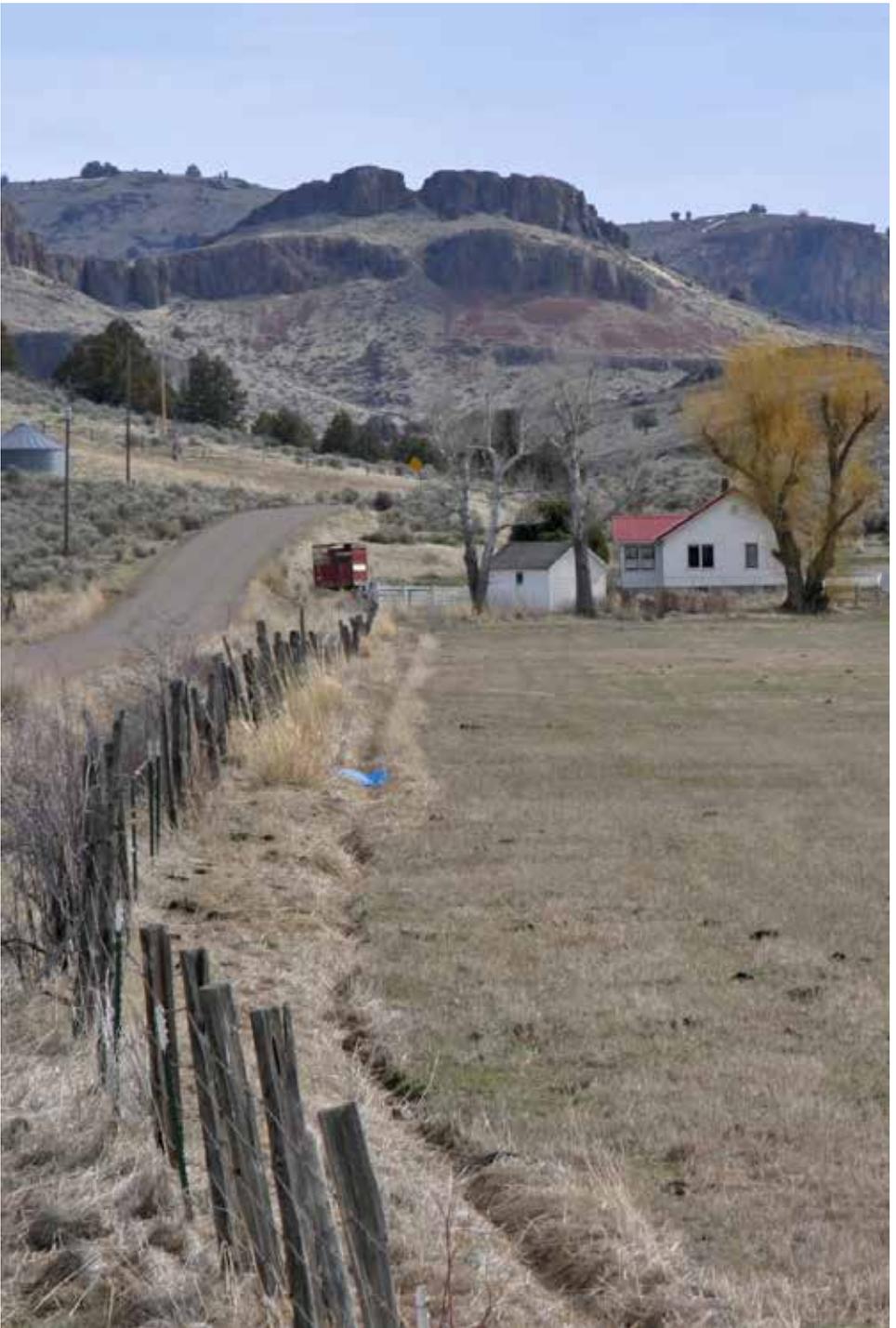
2.9 Miles (Mile 99.8) Stay right on Pleasant Valley Road.

7.3 Miles (Mile 95.4) Stay right on Juniper Mountain Road.

14.0 Miles (Mile 88.7) The Idaho-Oregon state line.

14.7 Miles (Mile 88.0) Notice the rock outcrops on the right side of the road. They are a volcanic rock called basalt. The Owyhee Uplands are largely composed of basalt and rhyolite rocks resulting from volcanic activity that began about 17 million years ago and ended about 2 million years ago.

18.8 Miles (Mile 83.9) Near the Idaho-Oregon state line, low sagerush covered hills extend along the west flank of South Mountain. Juniper woodlands occasionally reach the road.



The beginning of the Byway east of Jordan Valley, Oregon. Please respect private property along the route by taking a surface management map and/or locating yourself on the maps provided in this guide.



Sagebrush communities (sagebrush, shrubs and bunch grasses) provide essential habitat for many important wildlife species such as pronghorn antelope, pygmy rabbits, sage grouse and migratory birds.

THREE FORKS JUNCTION

The sagebrush-steppe landscape is a dry habitat characterized by several types of sagebrush, shrubs, and bunchgrasses. This habitat has declined substantially in recent decades across rangelands of the western United States, due to a variety of factors such as climate change, spread of weeds, and increased wildfire. However, the Owyhee Uplands comprise one of the largest areas of unfragmented sagebrush-steppe in the West.

22.0 Miles (Mile 80.7) Three Forks Junction—from this point you can take a 20-mile side trip and overlook the confluence of the North Fork, Middle Fork and Main Owyhee Rivers. Be sure you have sufficient fuel and time to make this one hour excursion. It should not be attempted during the wet season. Turn right and travel 9.5 miles to a junction. Turn left and drive 2.7 miles to a cattle guard and the rim of the Owyhee Canyon. Park your vehicle before the cattle guard and walk to the rim of the Owyhee Canyon. Three Forks confluence is one of the few boater take-outs when floating the upper Owyhee River system.



Camping at Three Forks confluence

NORTH FORK

23.2 Miles (79.5 Mile) Mud Flat Road crosses the Idaho-Oregon state line.

25.1 Miles (Mile 77.6) Private water impoundments like Dougal Reservoir provide habitat for a variety of waterfowl including Canada geese, tundra swans, western grebes, and many duck species. The area around the reservoir is a mix of public and private land, and there is no public motor vehicle access to the reservoir off of the Byway.

30.6 Miles (Mile 72.1) At the rim of the North Fork Owyhee River canyon, old-growth stands of stunted gnarly juniper pepper a boulder rubble and rock outcrop landscape.

30.6 to 31.3 Miles (Mile 72.1 – 71.4) Dropping into the North Fork Owyhee River Canyon, you can camp or picnic at the   North Fork Recreation Site (31.3 miles). The kiosk provides a map and information on the wildlife and history of the area. Campsites include picnic tables, fire grates and vault toilet. The next vault toilet is about 50 miles east at the Poison Creek Recreation Site.

North Fork Recreation Site is also a launch site for kayakers seeking to float the North Fork Owyhee River. The rapids (Class IV) are continuous for almost the entire length of the river. The 18 mile trip has an average gradient of 46 feet per mile ending at Three Forks. A flow of about 2,000 cfs at Rome on the main Owyhee is probably a minimum flow for a trip down the North Fork unless you are using a small craft (packraft) configuration.

Rivers flowing through the high desert provide more than water for wildlife. The narrow band of vegetation along rivers, the riparian zone, helps reduce erosion and improve water quantity. It provides shade which cools water temperatures. Riparian areas with a mix of shrubs and bank-stabilizing sedges are critical for maintaining food, shelter and oxygen for fish.



North Fork, Owyhee River



The redband trout is listed as a species of special concern by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.



View from the canyon rim of the North Fork, Owyhee River

WILDERNESS AREAS

31.3 Miles (71.4 Mile) You are in close access to the North Fork Owyhee Wilderness which is 44,676 acres. This wilderness exhibits some of the most diverse habitats in Southwest Idaho, including riparian areas, grassland, sagebrush uplands, and juniper woodlands. The wilderness also supports known occurrences of three rare plants: short-lobed penstemon (*Penstemon seorsus*), dimeresia (*Dimeresia howellii*) and thinleaf goldenhead (*Pyrocoma linearis*). Pleasant Valley Creek cuts a canyon northwesterly through the middle of the Pleasant Valley Table as it drains to the North Fork Owyhee River. The wilderness also contains the 300-foot deep Current Creek canyon that flows south into Deep Creek and the Owyhee River Canyon.

On March 30, 2009, Congress passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (The 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act) (Public Law 111-11). Section 1503 of the The 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act designated the following six wilderness areas in Owyhee County, Idaho:

- Big Jacks Creek Wilderness Area,
- Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness Area,
- Little Jacks Creek Wilderness Area,
- North Fork Owyhee Wilderness Area,
- Owyhee River Wilderness Area, and
- Pole Creek Wilderness Area

The six wilderness areas total approximately 517,000 acres and are collectively and informally known as the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness Areas. Please refer to the six wilderness areas on the Overview Map.

R 3 W

R 2 W

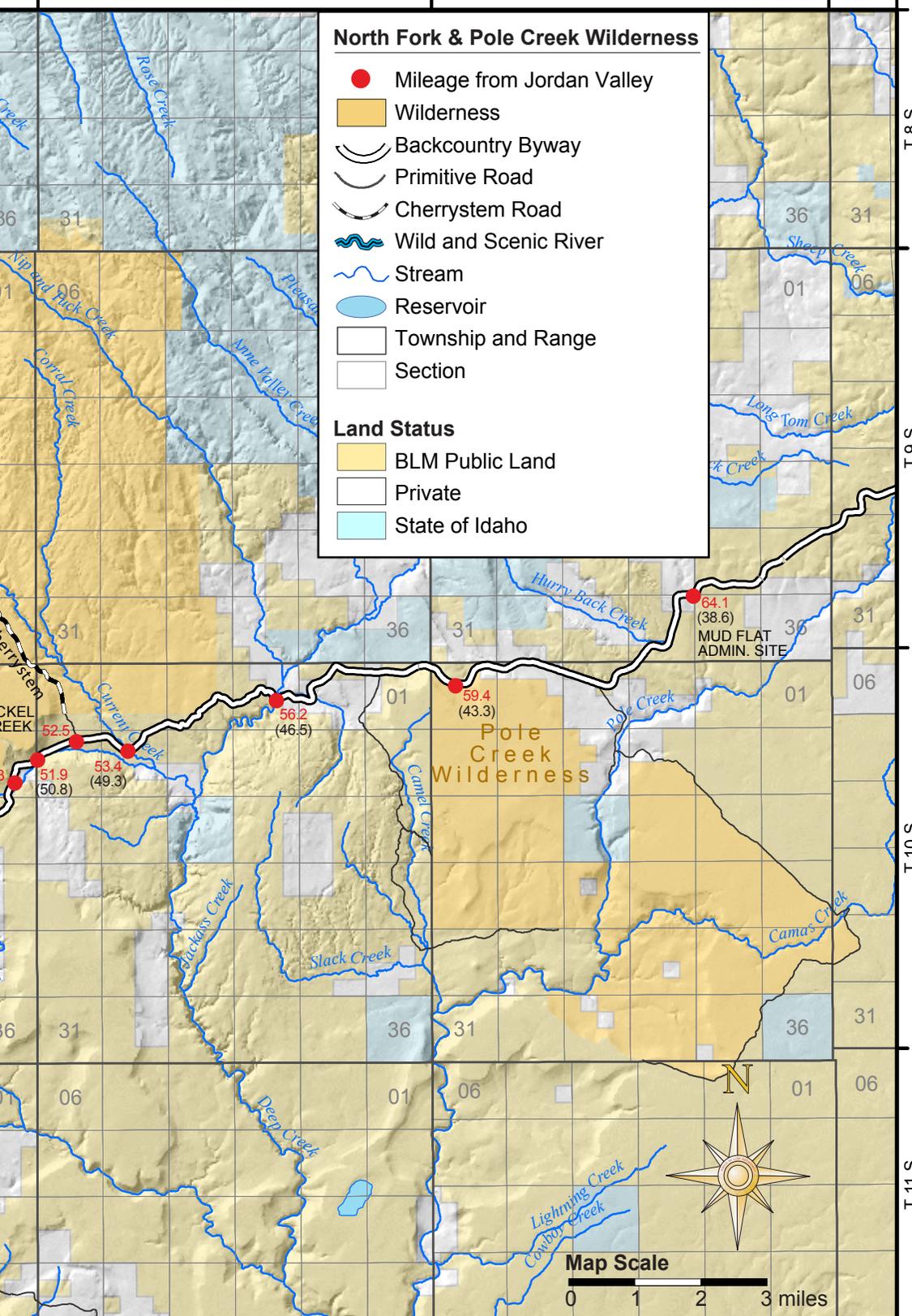
R 1 W

North Fork & Pole Creek Wilderness

- Mileage from Jordan Valley
- Wilderness
- Backcountry Byway
- Primitive Road
- Cherry System Road
- Wild and Scenic River
- Stream
- Reservoir
- Township and Range
- Section

Land Status

- BLM Public Land
- Private
- State of Idaho

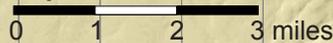


64.1
(38.6)
MUD FLAT
ADMIN. SITE

Pole
Creek
Wilderness



Map Scale



R 3 W

R 2 W

R 1 W

T 8 S

T 9 S

T 10 S

T 11 S

TO THE WEST

32.7 Miles (Mile 70.0) Looking westward, a massive plateau is cut by the narrow, meandering gorges of the Owyhee River system. Nearly a million years ago, extraordinary high water levels caused ancient Lake Idaho to spill over and collapse its northern shoreline. The lake drained out through Hells Canyon in a cataclysmic flood event. As the water level dropped, the Owyhee, Bruneau, and Jarbridge Rivers, and their tributaries, began to erode upstream, or headward, carving deep canyons in the thick layers of rhyolite and basalt. About one fifth of the world's population of California bighorn sheep live in and around these deep canyons. The plateau is framed by the Steens Mountains in Oregon and Santa Rosa Mountains in Nevada.

37.2 Miles (Mile 65.5) Graves Creek Reservoir.



JUNIPERS AND ASPEN



Old-growth juniper have survived the elements including wildfire for over 500 years.

38.3 to 51.9 Miles (Mile 50.8 to 64.4) Along the roadside on rocky, fire-resistant sites are the twisted forms of old-growth juniper which have survived the elements and wildfire for over 500 years. Western juniper woodlands, specifically young junipers are increasing in the sagebrush-grass openings. Good examples of this can be seen at 43.1 miles and 46.5 miles.

Without active management, juniper woodlands continue a natural

progression from shrubland to woodland. The BLM is attempting to use prescribed fire and thinning of juniper in some areas to maintain the openings for sagebrush and grass as a way to maintain sagebrush-steppe habitat for the Greater Sage-grouse.



Left: Juniper berries are modified cones.

41.6 Miles (Mile 61.1) Cottonwood Creek is often the site of frog egg sacs in the spring. April is the best time to view these jelly-like egg-sacs.



41.9 Miles (Mile 60.8) Junction with the rough four-wheel-drive road that crosses Juniper Mountain (6733'). There is a kiosk here.

51.3 Miles (Mile 51.4) Look down the drainage of Stoneman Creek to Current and Deep Creeks in the distance. Stands of aspens off to your right turn a luminous gold during the fall season. In the arid West, aspen stands are second only to riparian areas in habitat importance. Aspen stands have a rich understory of wildflowers and provide important habitat for a variety of nesting birds and pollinating bees. Aspen is very fire dependent. Aspen stands regenerate primarily from the suckering that results from soil heating associated with fire. In the absence of fire, aspen stands decay and conifers expand and crowd them out.



Juniper and aspen trees along Stoneman Creek drainage.

CULTURAL SITES

51.9 Miles (Mile 50.8) Beavers were reintroduced to Stoneman Creek in 2000 to restore the natural setting. They have thrived creating a number of beaver dams. The dams raise the water table leading to an increase in native vegetation that attracts songbirds and other wildlife. Riparian habitats comprise less than 2 percent of the arid landscape, but 60 percent of Idaho's land birds are associated with them.



The Nickel Creek Cherrystem provides wilderness access.

52.5 Mile (Mile 50.2) Nickel Creek Cherrystem and North Fork Wilderness Kiosk—a cherry stem route is usually defined as a dead-end route where the boundary of the wilderness area extends up one side of the route, around its terminus and down the other side. All cherrystem routes are signed and open to motorized and mechanized transport unless posted otherwise. Please stay on established cherrystem routes to protect adjacent wilderness.

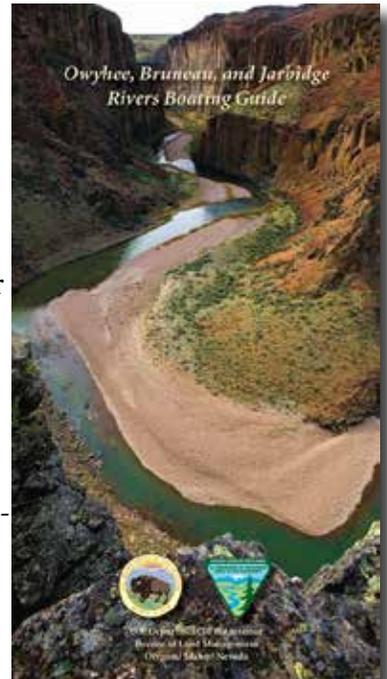
53.4 Miles (Mile 49.3) Current Creek—the sagebrush plateaus teeming with wildlife, streams filled with fish, and camas meadows, made the Owyhee Uplands an attractive land for ancestors of the Shoshone and Northern Paiute Indian tribes. The region also offers evidence of the Euro-American exploration and settlement: homesteads, cabins, rock walls, cairns, historic cowboy and shepherd camps, and Basque carvings on trees and rocks.



Respect and enjoy historic and pre-historic sites or artifacts by leaving them in their place.

Cultural resources are fragile and irreplaceable. The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 and the Antiquities Act of 1906 protect them for the benefit of all Americans. Do not destroy or remove your American heritage. Please enjoy but leave homesteads and artifacts as you find them.

56.2 Miles (Mile 46.5) From here, Deep Creek flows south for 32 miles to join the East Fork of the Owyhee River. Deep Creek is considered a Class II run recommended for kayaks and small craft. The average gradient is 23 feet per mile. The various forks of the Owyhee and its tributaries form a vast complex of deep, sheer-walled canyons popular for remote and challenging Spring-time white-water boating. More information is in the *Owyhee, Bruneau, and Jarbidge Rivers Boating Guide* at your local BLM office or on-line.



WILD & SCENIC RIVERS



The Bruneau River is one of sixteen designated as Wild and Scenic in 2009 by Congress.

Congress established the Wild and Scenic River system to protect rivers (or river segments) in their free flowing condition. In addition to free flowing, a river must have one or more “outstandingly remarkable values”, including scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values.

The The 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act designated 16 Wild and Scenic River segments, totaling approximately 324.5 miles. Thirteen of the river segments, totaling about 317miles, are designated as wild, while three segments, totaling about eight miles, are designated as recreational.

The 16 The 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act designated segments are:

- Battle Creek
- Big Jacks Creek
- Bruneau River
- Cottonwood Creek
- Deep Creek
- Dickshooter Creek
- Duncan Creek
- Jarbidge River
- Little Jacks Creek
- N. F. Owyhee River
- Owyhee River
- Red Canyon Creek
- Sheep Creek
- S. F. Owyhee River
- W. F. Bruneau River
- Wickahoney Creek

59.4 Miles (Mile 43.3) The Pole Creek Wilderness Area contains historic, cultural, scenic, and wildlife values. Many of the historic sites are associated with early homesteading and Basque settlement. The wilderness area incorporates portions of the National Register Camas and Pole Creeks Archaeological District. The area also supports various sensitive species, including populations of Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*), greater sage-grouse, Mud Flat milkvetch (*Astragalus yoder-williamsii*), and Bacigalupi's downingia (*Downingia bacigalupii*).



The Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*) is a rare amphibian in this part of Idaho.

BLUEBIRDS & MAHOGANY

64.1 Miles (Mile 38.6) Mud Flat Administrative Site was originally established as Camp Mud Flat, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, used in the summers of 1940 and 1941. Very little of the original camp remains: concrete building pads, a ditch, a rock dam, and numerous rock lined paths. It currently houses scientists and employees working on research and public land projects during the field season.

66.0 to 78.0 Miles (Mile 24.7 to 36.7) The Al Larson Bluebird Trail was started back in 1977 with 25 bluebird boxes installed along the Byway between Nickel Creek and Pleasant Valley. By 1991 a total of 370 bluebird boxes had been installed. Look for white boxes on posts along either side of the road, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile apart.

68.1 to 73.7 Miles (Mile 29.0 to 34.6) As you travel northeastward, the juniper woodlands eventually give way to a high, rolling plateau blanketed with sagebrush and bunchgrass interspersed with pockets of Curl-leaf mountain mahogany. The landscape has the appearance of an African savannah. Vistas to the south are framed by the Jarbidge and Bull Run Mountains of northern Nevada.

Curl-leaf mountain mahogany is an evergreen tree that rarely exceeds 25 feet in height. It is extremely hard and heavy with gnarled trunks and twisted branches. It thrives in shallow soils of rocky, mountainous areas. Curl-leaf mountain mahogany is one of the most valuable plants for deer and elk providing one of the best sources of protein. Native Americans used mahogany sticks to uproot camas bulbs in the spring and burned its wood for warmth.

75.5 Miles (Mile 27.2) Battle Creek is named for a fight between Bannock Indians and Euro-Americans that occurred near the creek in July 1864. Among those killed was Michael Jordan for whom Jordan Valley, Oregon, and Jordan Creek are named.



Idaho's state bird, the Mountain Bluebird, is using its box to nest, courtesy Charlotte Wasyluk



Curl-leaf mountain mahogany typically grows in rocky mountainous areas in shallow soils.

R 1 E

R 2 E

R 3 E

Little Jacks Creek Wilderness and Poison Creek

- Mileage from Jordan Valley
 - Stream
 - Wilderness
 - Reservoir
 - Backcountry Byway
 - Primitive Road
 - Cherrystem Road
 - Wild and Scenic River
- Land Status**
- BLM Public Land
 - Private
 - State of Idaho

T 6 S

T 6 S

T 7 S

T 7 S

T 8 S

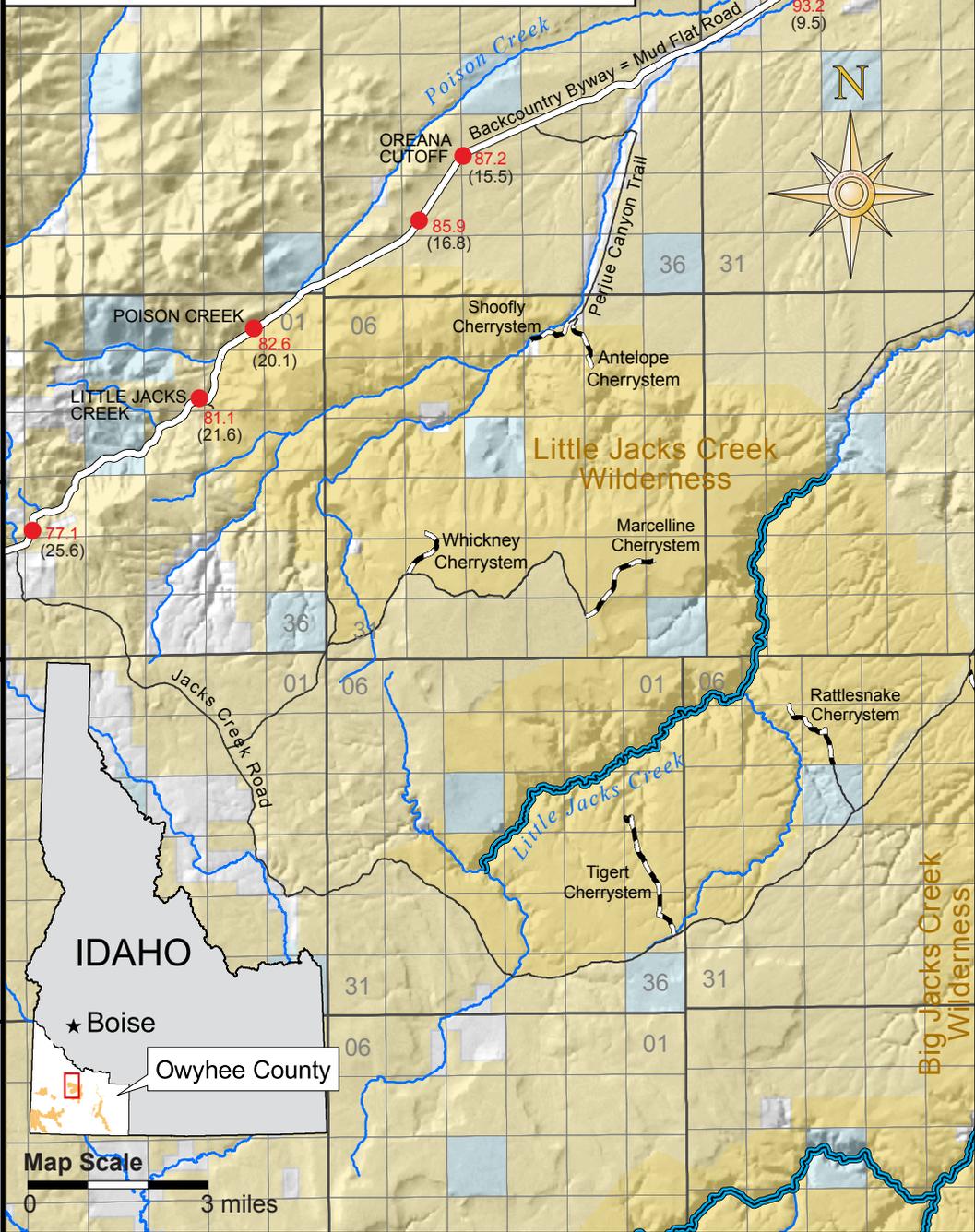
T 8 S

T 9 S

T 9 S

T 10 S

T 10 S



IDAHO

★ Boise

Owyhee County

Map Scale

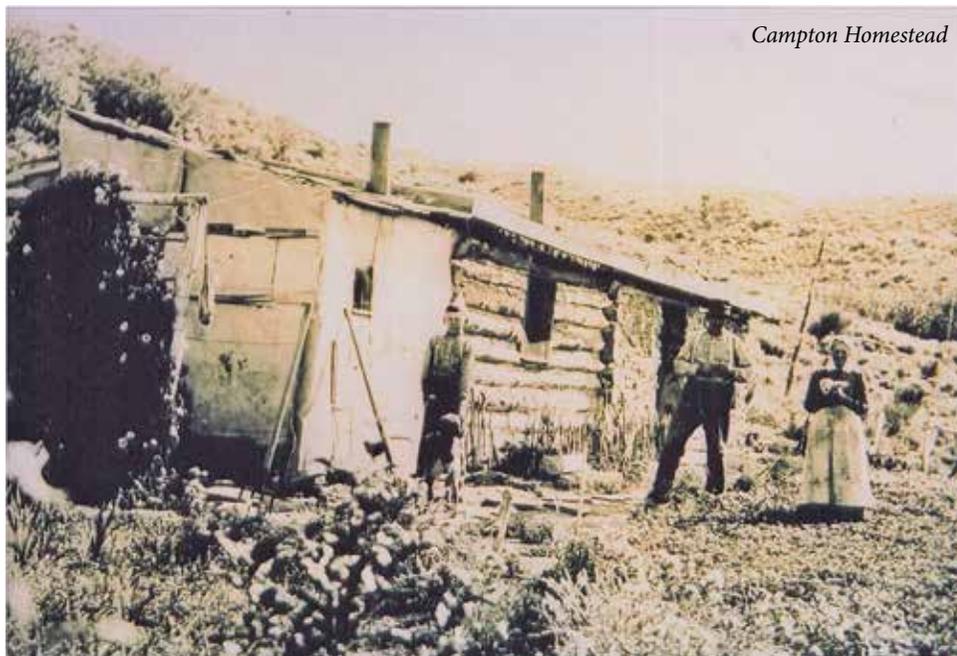


R 2 E

LITTLE JACKS CREEK

77.1 Miles (Mile 25.6) - Leaving the Owyhee River drainage behind, cross a saddle at 6133' and descend through the steep Poison Creek drainage. The water course is lined by willows, aspens and cottonwoods.

81.1 Miles (Mile 21.6) Pass by Little Jacks Creek Wilderness—the Little Jacks Creek area is popular for hiking, backpacking, fishing and nature observation. Little Jacks Creek is the closest BLM wilderness to Boise and the urban areas of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho, and receives a higher volume of recreational use than the other wilderness areas. The Little Jacks Creek Wilderness supports a population of California bighorn sheep.



TH At this same location the Perjue Canyon Trail is a 6.1 mile trail that passes by the remains of several old homesteads including the Campton Homestead about a half mile from the trailhead/parking area. The hiking trail is the longest established trail in the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness areas. A parking area with a pedestrian fence (stile) gives access to this wilderness trail where mechanized or motorized uses are not allowed.





POISON CREEK



Salt Desert Shrub landscape along the Byway (Mudflat Road)

82.6 Miles (Mile 20.1) Poison Creek Recreation Site has a vault toilet and 5 picnic sites with tables.



85.9 Miles (Mile 16.8) Cross an expansive salt desert shrub landscape. Salt desert shrubs occurs in areas that have less than 10” of precipitation each year. The soils are commonly sandy or saline. A variety of shrubs include shadscale, budsage, fourwing saltbush, spiny hopsage, Wyoming big sagebrush, horsebrush, and greasewood.

The salt desert shrub habitat is generally more open than the sagebrush landscape, with larger spaces between shrubs and bunchgrasses. It is home to rare migratory songbirds such as the loggerhead shrike, sage sparrow, and black-throated sparrow.

87.2 Miles (Mile 15.5) At the junction of Mud Flat Road and Oreana-Poison Creek Cutoff junction, drive straight to reach Highway 78.

Biological soil crusts can be found under the salt desert shrubs in this area. They are composed of intertwined, living organisms and plants that grow above the soil surface. They are made of cyanobacteria, green algae, soil lichens, mosses, and microscopic fungi which improve soil stability, productivity, and moisture retention. They moderate surface temperature extremes and enhance seedling establishment which are critical to the health of the desert.

93.2 Miles (Mile 9.5) Oolite Hiking Trail and Interpretive Site–this is a fun stop for any age group. The hike is not too strenuous and a mile roundtrip. Oolite (egg stone) is limestone composed of tiny ooids, which form when calcium carbonate precipitates in concentric layers around individual grains of sand. The limestone hills off to the west are deposits from ancient Lake Idaho which covered from present-day

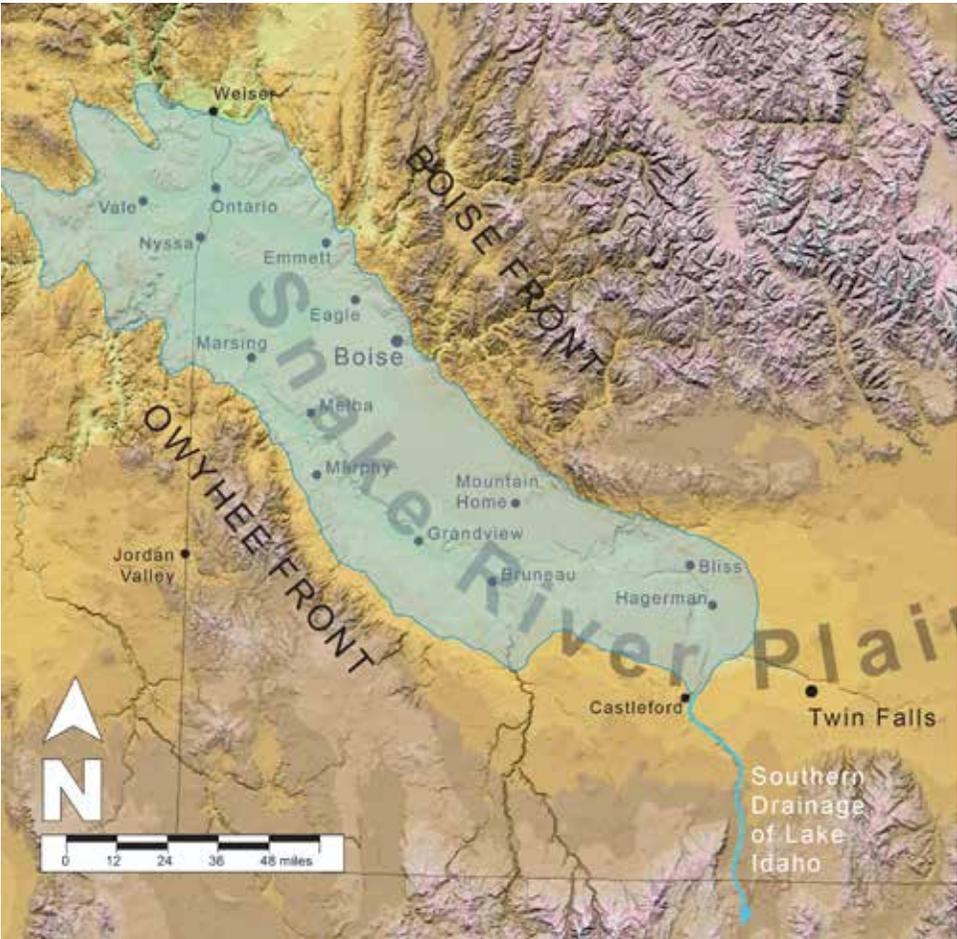


White-margined wax plant (Glytopleura marginata)

Hagerman, Idaho to Vale, Oregon. It filled the Snake River valley from the Boise Front to the Owyhee foothills with thick layers of ash, clay, silt, sand, and gravel. Fossilized plants, fish, clams, snails, and mammal bones are common in these old lake sediments. The unique lakebed soils in this zone support a diverse array of rare plants. These include the white-margined wax plant, white eatonella, rigid threadbush, Mulford's milkvetch and cowpie buckwheat.



Cowpie buckwheat
(*Eriogonum shockleyi*)



Lake Idaho rose to 3800 feet above sea level about 4 million years ago and drained south into Nevada streams and marshes near Hagerman. A diverse set of animals, including the Hagerman horse, Pygmy muskrat and giant beaver lived in these wet areas.

94.0 Miles (Mile 8.7) Turmes Ranch—the Turmes family settled here in 1880. They planted an orchard, had a large garden, and raised hay and grain. They also operated a “way station” for travelers for many years. The old stone buildings are still standing.

94.1 Miles (Mile 8.6) The small cemetery up on the hill across the road from the ranch is the resting place of members of the Turmes family and several others. Rest in peace.

95.2 Miles (Mile 7.5) Shoofly Cutoff Road provides access to Highway 51. The distance to Highway 51 is approximately 10 miles.

102.7 Miles (mile 0.0) - The Byway ends at Highway 78. Turn left onto Highway 78 and travel west approximately 2 miles to Grandview. From Grandview turn right and follow Idaho Highway 167 9.9 miles to Simco Road. Turn left on to Simco Road and proceed 19.9 miles to I-84 West towards Boise. *Happy Trails to you until we meet again!*



Turmes Ranch is private property.

END OF THE TRAIL



Turmes Family Cemetery

DIG ME A GRAVE IN THE OWYHEES

This song was written by Bud Baltazor, Owyhee mustanger, c. 1940s

Dig me a grave in the Owyhees,
Out where a tired man can rest.
Bury my saddle beside me,
With a corn liquor jug on my chest.

Hide me away in the Owyhees.
Don't put no stone at my head.
Hide me where my wife can't find me,
And I'll be in peace when I'm dead.

I'll take my saddle mustangin'
Drink from my jug when I'm dry.
It's dig me a grave in the Owyhee,
But don't throw me in til' I die.

Oh, bury me out in the Owyhees,
Where wild horses walk over me.
Their echoing tread pass over my head,
I'm a mustanger from the Owyhees.

Where the wild mustangs prowl and the coyotes howl.
Birds will make music for me.
Where the long shadows fall and the turtle doves call,
I'll rest there forever in peace.



BIRDING CHECKLIST

Bird species you may see:

- ___ Golden Eagle
- ___ Prairie Falcon
- ___ Red Tailed Hawk
- ___ Ferruginous Hawk



- ___ Wilson`s Phalarope
- ___ Wilson`s Snipe
- ___ Brewer`s Sparrow
- ___ Chipping Sparrow
- ___ Green-tailed Towhee
- ___ Lark Sparrow
- ___ Sage Sparrow
- ___ Song Sparrow
- ___ Vesper Sparrow
- ___ Mountain Bluebird
- ___ Gray Flycatcher
- ___ Black-throated Gray Warbler
- ___ Yellow-breasted Chat
- ___ Rock Wren

Idaho Birding Trail website:
fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/ibt

Prairie Falcon courtesy Larry Ridenhour

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*Daisy Aster and Minnie Houten
gathering wild onions, 1969
by Margaret M. Wheat*

