



**HARRIMAN STATE PARK
OF IDAHO**

Master Plan

August 2002

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ASSOCIATES



The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation mission as defined by the Idaho Legislature

To formulate and put into execution a long-range, comprehensive plan and program for the acquisition, planning, protection, operation, maintenance, development and wise use of areas of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historic, archaeological or scientific interest, to the end that the health, happiness, recreational opportunities, and wholesome enjoyment of life of the people may be further encouraged.

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Harriman State Park of Idaho Master Plan



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my appreciation to the following members of the Harriman State Park of Idaho Citizen Advisory Committee for their teamwork and assistance in this effort: **Tom Angell, John Becker, Brent Bell, Joel Bingham, Gale Burns, Gary Burraston, Tamra Cikaitoga, John Councilman, Vernon Hixon, Donald Knickrehm, Norman Kramer, Laura Lenhart, Eugene Purser, Fred Sica, Bradford Shaw, Charlie Sperry, and Whit Whitham.**

I would also like to express my appreciation to the following IDPR Planning Review Team members: Director **Rick Collignon**, Region 6 Board Member **Doug Hancey**, Acting East Region Manager **Marty Gangis**, East Region Manager **Garth Taylor**, Park Manager **Keith Hobbs**, Design Planning Supervisor **John Crowe**, Off Highway Recreation Coordinator **Steve Frost**, and former Comprehensive Planning Supervisor **Dave Okerlund** for their assistance and support in this effort. Special thanks are due Park Manager Keith Hobbs for the many meetings and presentations he assisted with.

Thanks to Harriman State Park of Idaho staff members **Theresa Perry, Mick Blackburn, Steve Marsh** and **Darla Cutler** for their input into the plan and for administering the visitor survey.

I would like to recognize the many **park visitors** who participated in the state park visitor survey and the many **eastern Idaho residents** that responded to the human dimensions survey. I would also like to thank the many **members of the public** and **recreation interest groups** who contributed ideas and input throughout the planning process.

Thanks to the **Best Western Cotton Tree Inn** of Idaho Falls, **Ashton Public Library** and **Island Park Ranger District** for providing us facilities to meet in and gather input from the public. Thanks also to IDPR East Region Administrative Assistant **Nikki Hugues** for all her help in setting up meetings on the eastern side of the state.

I would like to thank **Spatial Dynamics**, Boise, for providing the GIS mapping of Harriman State Park of Idaho.

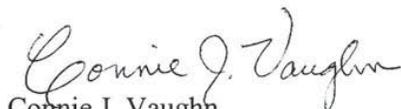
Thanks to the **University of Idaho**, and especially **Dr. Steven Hollenhorst** of the College of Natural Resources, for designing and administering the human dimensions survey for Harriman State Park of Idaho.

I would like to thank the **Fremont County Planning & Zoning Commission** and the **State Historic Preservation Office** for reviewing the plan.

Thanks to Outdoor Recreation Data Center Coordinator **Rick Just** for helping keep the public informed of upcoming plan activities through news releases and placing updates about the plan on IDPR's web page.

I appreciate the work of our master plan consultants **Shapins Associates**, Boulder, Colorado, whose team consisted of **Ann Moss**, Principal; **Jerry Shapins**, Principal; **Bob Walsh**, Senior Planner/Landscape Architect; and **Michael Graves**, Landscape Architect. I would also like to recognize the contribution of **Kathy Muir**, IDPR Desktop Publishing Specialist, who formatted the document and added graphics.

And finally, thanks to the members of the **Idaho Park and Recreation Board** for their contribution to this effort at the April 30, 2002 and August 13, 2002 board meetings.



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Planner

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Introduction

The Future At A Glance

The following is an excerpt from the 1998 Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Planning Assessment and Policy Plan (SCORTP). This document is the most comprehensive source of Idaho information on outdoor recreation and tourism available. It was designed by a multi-agency planning team to assist in the decision-making needs of a variety of tourism providers. These “mega-trends” will have an impact on everything we do. These insights are particularly timely and relevant with regard to the economy of the region in which Harriman State Park of Idaho is located.

“Changing industries and life-styles in Idaho, the Northwest and many other rural or predominately lesser-developed natural environment areas are contributing to a shift in natural resource use and management—away from traditional commodity values to amenity values. As the industries of these areas change to manufacturing, information, service and recreation-based industries, the need to manage growth, preserve or enhance living environments and manage for amenity values is becoming increasingly important. While these changes will impact traditional commodity or extractive resource industries, other forces and changes in values and product demand outside of the areas, as well as changing technology within these industries, will create major shifts in how we use and value our

natural resources.

“Conflict resolution, resource use and management trade-offs, limits of acceptable change, human carrying capacities, limits of growth and sustainability will be paramount issues in natural resource management in the future. These challenges will occur within and between all natural resource uses and values. They will intensify among various recreation and tourist uses and values. The opportunities for teaching, research and outreach to better meet these challenges will grow dramatically in the next five to ten years.

“Teaching the citizens of the world to be better stewards of the environment, as well as broadening their horizons and enriching their lives through understanding the natural and human environments in which they live and visit, will become increasingly important in the future. These tasks or opportunities will require environmental communications in both formal and informal settings. They will entail effective and meaningful communications with advocates and adversaries of natural resource use and management, environmental education for school children and adults of all ages, and natural and



human history interpretation for visitors to the world's special places.



“Tourism is the fastest growing economic activity in Idaho. . . Today, nearly one out of every fifteen people in the world work in a job which serves the needs of people who travel away from home. The

positive and negative impacts from tourism in rural places such as Idaho, much of the West and vast areas throughout the world, will intensify over the next five to ten years. Maximizing these benefits while minimizing or mitigating the costs are vital to the health and well-being of these places and the people who live and visit in them. Tourism can help many rural communities to diversify or supplement other industrial activities. At the same time, it will require proactive management to minimize the social and environmental costs which may come with increased tourism. People will discover Idaho and other natural environment-based areas as desirable places to visit and live in increasing numbers. The challenge for many of these places is not whether or not to have tourism but to have it on their terms. This will require careful planning, development and management guided by a well educated leadership armed with the most current information and innovation.”

Park and Recreation Planning and Development In Idaho: An Overview

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, 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 Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. 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 park 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. Few responsibilities of a state park system are more important than 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 *Master Plan Guidelines* document adopted by the Board. Planning shall be in conformance with the Idaho State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan (SCORTP).

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

In all stages of planning, and in the allotment of priorities, the use of existing water-based areas for recreational development shall be emphasized.

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, which 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

The mission of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is to “formulate and put into execution a long-range, comprehensive plan and program for the acquisition, planning, protection, operation, maintenance, development and wise use of areas of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historic, archaeological or scientific interest, to the end that the health, happiness, recreational opportunities and wholesome enjoyment of the life of the people may be further encouraged.”

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 all new development.

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

Direction

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation has adopted the following directives.

1. Utilize innovation and new technology in energy conservation relative to park and recreation areas and facilities. This would include project elements that would demonstrate innovative and cost-effective on-site generation of energy that is not dependent on extractive fuels, e.g., solar hot-water systems and active solar-heat

systems. It also includes project elements which demonstrate innovative and cost-effective methods of conserving energy through the design of sites and buildings, i.e., the use of natural features such as the sun, wind, landscaping, and topography to passively heat, cool, and illuminate. (Executive Order 96-18.)

2. Initiate life cycle costing as a technique whereby the long-term maintenance and operating costs of a building or product are considered in addition to its original purchase price or construction costs. (Executive Order 94-11.)

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 statements, and the initiatives of the agency strategic plan.

Agency Mission

The mission of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is found in Idaho Code Section 67-4219. This section of code states that the agency is to “formulate and put into execution a long-range, comprehensive plan and program for the acquisition, planning, protection, operation, maintenance, development and wise use of areas of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historic, archaeological or scientific interest, to the end that the health, happiness, recreational

opportunities and wholesome enjoyment of the life of the people may be further encouraged.”

The Harriman State Park of Idaho master plan provides a long-range comprehensive plan that allows for both protection and use of the scenic and special places found within the park. It provides for recreational opportunities compatible with the park’s Natural Park classification and recognizes the historic and cultural value of the ranching heritage of the Railroad Ranch and the surrounding area.

Agency Vision

IDPR’s vision states, *“We are innovators in outdoor recreation, committed to excellent service and resource stewardship. We foster experiences that renew the human spirit and promote community vitality.”*

The Harriman State Park of Idaho master plan is innovative in its approach to provide an expansion of recreational opportunities for the public while still protecting the quiet places and special resources that people value. Through multi-agency partnerships, recreational uses are dispersed throughout a larger area; and through managed uses, resource impacts are minimized. The proposed trail linkages between the park, community, and recreation corridor will encourage recreationists to explore areas beyond where they’ve set up their recreation base. The intent of this master plan is to create at Harriman a place where people enjoy memorable experiences that cause them to want to return again and again.

Agency Strategic Plan

The agency strategic plan, *Horizons: Strategic Direction for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation 2001 – 2005*, was adopted by the Idaho Park and Recreation Board on August 4, 2000. From that document, the Board has developed 6 strategic initiatives. They are:

- Work Process – Improve the alignment of our work processes, communication and budget.
- Parks/Programs – Upgrade the quality and variety of facilities, services and opportunities in existing parks and programs.
- New Opportunities – Create new recreational trailways, parks, programs, opportunities and public access.
- Education – Develop cost effective strategies to meet our historical, cultural and natural resource education mission.
- Stewardship – Stress resource stewardship.
- Debt service – Service our accumulated capital debt and meet obligations.

This master plan specifically addresses the initiatives dealing with Parks/Programs, New Opportunities, Education, and Stewardship through the creation of an upgraded park entry and visitor center, new trail and trailhead opportunities, expanded emphasis on resource education programming and facilities, and development of natural and cultural resource plans to provide direction in resource stewardship.

IDPR Agency Vision
“We are innovators in outdoor recreation, committed to excellent service and resource stewardship. We foster experiences that renew the human spirit and promote community vitality.”





Born in 1848 to a poor Episcopal minister, Edward H. Harriman determined not to spend life in poverty. He quit school at 14 to work as an office boy on the New York Stock Exchange. Eight years later he held a seat on the Exchange and became one of Wall Street's ablest brokers.

In 1879 Harriman married Mary Averell, daughter of the president of the Ogdensburg & Lake Champlain railway. It was a good introduction to railroading.

The Union Pacific Railroad was in miserable shape by the 1890s. In debt for hundreds of millions of dollars with outdated equipment and declining shipments, the line went bankrupt. In 1896, Edward Harriman, a man of modest wealth and near anonymity, announced plans to become UP's chairman, a pronouncement hardly anyone noticed. But people should have paid heed, for Harriman was determined. He contributed \$900,000 to the line's reorganization in return for a director's seat. Within a year he served on the executive committee. More important, he purchased thousands of "worthless" shares of Union Pacific stock, the basis of a vast personal fortune. By 1899, the UP miraculously showed profits. As company revenues rose, so did Harriman's wealth, and he left an estate worth \$70 million.

In one of the shortest wills in the history of such fortunes—nineteen words—Edward left everything to Mary, who overnight became one of the world's wealthiest women. More conservative than her husband, she was an astute businesswoman and caring philanthropist. In a will almost as brief as Edward's, she left her fortune to her children.

Preliminary Policy Statements: Harriman State Park of Idaho Master Plan

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:

1. 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.

2. The master plan will follow the direction outlined in the agency's current strategic plan.
3. The master plan must comply with the provisions of the *Fremont County Comprehensive Plan* and *Fremont County Development Code*, and be approved by the Fremont County Planning and Zoning Commission.
4. 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 Citizens Advisory Committee will be an integral component of the planning process.
5. 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.
6. 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*.
7. The master plan will

identify and promote recreational activities, compatible with the park's classification, that address the region's recreation needs as identified in the most recent *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan (SCORTP)*.

8. 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.
9. The master plan will recognize and adhere to the conditions of the gift deed from E. Roland and W. Averell Harriman, which set aside the property as a state park.
10. The master plan will recognize that the historic ranch building complex has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district, and the draft master plan must be submitted to the State of Idaho, acting through its State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, for its review and approval.
11. The master plan will recognize all existing easements, leases, contracts, agreements and permits that are currently in effect at Harriman State Park of Idaho.

Summary of Input

There were many working meetings to gain input from department staff, the public, and local officials during the planning process. The meetings, field trips and open houses, which were vital to the planning process, are described in this section.

Preliminary Open House

An open house was held at the park on July 21, 2001 to announce the upcoming master plan process. Visitors were offered free park entry and hourly tours of the historic buildings to encourage attendance. Park and planning staff were on hand to discuss the master planning process and timeline. Citizen advisory committee applications were made available to attendees.

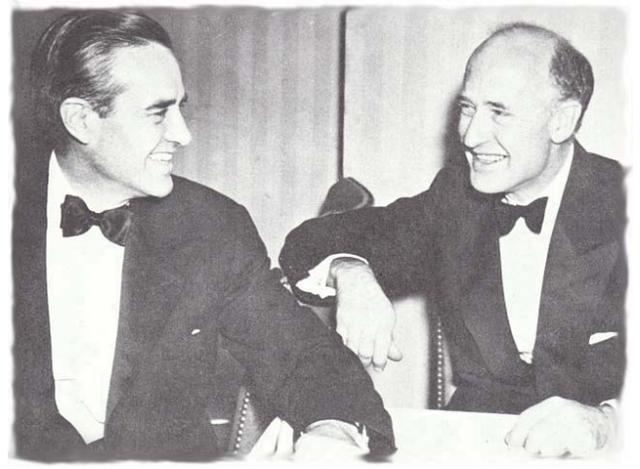
The Planning Review Team
The Planning Review Team (PRT) provided

Long before Mary Harriman's death, sons Averell and Roland began careers as American leaders of business, government and philanthropy.

Averell Harriman became Union Pacific's chairman in 1932. Business acumen increased his wealth, but politics brought Averell fame. He served as ambassador to the Soviet Union and Great Britain, Secretary of Commerce, Governor of New York, U.S. envoy to the Paris Peace Talks during the Vietnam War and advisor to President Carter.

Roland Harriman spent most of his life in banking, but when Averell resigned as Chairman of the Board at Union Pacific to become Secretary of Commerce, Roland replaced him, retaining the chairmanship until 1969. Roland made his greatest mark, however, in philanthropy. For years he served as trustee for the Boys Club of New York and the American Museum of Natural History. President Truman appointed him president of the American Red Cross in 1950 and Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon reappointed him.

The Harrimans valued nature. Edward loved to hunt, fish, hike, ride and swim. In New York he purchased a 20,000-acre estate to preserve as a wooded retreat surrounding his house. Descriptions of the Railroad Ranch intrigued him. He purchased one lot of the ranch, but never had a chance to see it before he died. Averell was the first Harriman to visit, stopping in 1909 while working for a Union Pacific survey crew. In 1911, Mary Harriman, along with children Carol, Averell and Roland visited the ranch. Years later, Roland reminisced "it was a matter of love at first sight for all of us. The glorious scenery and weather, the fishing, the hunting, the horseback riding and learning the lore of cattle handling all combined to lure us back there summer after summer."



a conduit for department leadership input, review, concurrence and support of the master plan process and products as they evolved. The PRT met at the park on August 1-2, 2001 to review the master plan process, provide input on park significance; provide input on their issues, concerns, desired experiences and opportunities at the park; and to select members for the master plan's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The PRT assisted at the public input workshops held in September 2001. The PRT met with the CAC in Idaho Falls on January 12, 2002 where they developed the three potential management concepts. Members of the PRT attended the public open houses on the master plan management concepts held in February 2002. Their last meeting with the CAC was on April 6, 2002 where they jointly crafted a preferred management concept.

The PRT for this planning effort was appointed by Director Rick Collignon and included: Director Rick Collignon, Acting East Region Manager Marty Gangis, East Region Manager Garth Taylor, Park Manager Keith Hobbs, Region 6 Board Member Doug Hancey, Design Planning Supervisor John Crowe and Off Highway Recreation Coordinator Steve Frost. Project manager for this master plan was Connie Vaughn.

Staff Input Workshop

Harriman State Park of Idaho staff met on August 1, 2001 to provide input on park significance, as well as their issues, concerns, desired experiences and opportunities at the park.

The Citizen Advisory Committee

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was a 15-member committee selected from among 25 applicants. Committee members included: Tom Angell, Brent Bell, Joel Bingham, Gale Burns, Gary Burraston, Tamra Cikaitoga, John Councilman, Vernon Hixon, Donald Knickrehm, Norman Kramer, Laura Lenhart, Eugene Purser, Bradford Shaw, Charlie Sperry (later replaced by Fred Sica and then John Becker) and Whit Whitham.

The first meeting of the CAC was at an orientation session and tour held at the park on August 25, 2001. They next met to participate in the September 2001 public input workshops held in eastern Idaho and Boise. The third and fourth gatherings of the CAC were with the PRT at the development of the 3 management concepts in January 2002 and the crafting of a preferred management concept in April 2002. Many of the CAC also attended the public open houses on the management concepts in February 2002.

Public Input Workshop

Public input workshops were held at Idaho Falls, Harriman State Park of Idaho, Ashton, and Boise on September 10, 11, and 20, 2001. The workshop at the park was held from 2:00-4:00 p.m. All other workshops were held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The purpose of the meetings was to obtain input on park significance from the public and to discover their issues, concern, desired experiences and opportunities in regard to the park. A total of 63 people attended the four public input



workshops. An additional 46 individuals submitted written input.

Human Dimensions Survey

The University of Idaho conducted a survey of eastern Idaho residents during the fall of 2001. The survey inquired about preferred recreational pursuits, number of visits to Harriman State Park of Idaho, personal park significance, and desired experiences and opportunities at the park. Four hundred ten residents responded to the survey.

Summary of Input

The following summarizes what we heard from the public, park staff and planning team members during the input phase of the planning process.

Park Significance

General themes of park significance among the input sources included:

- ◆ Wildlife
- ◆ Scenic beauty
- ◆ Ranching heritage
- ◆ Open space
- ◆ Solitude/tranquility/retreat
- ◆ Recreational opportunities (fishing, trails, lodging, year-round use)
- ◆ Family outings
- ◆ Outdoor education
- ◆ Research opportunities
- ◆ Other nearby recreation opportunities
- ◆ Local economic impact (fly fishing)
- ◆ Uniqueness of the park as part of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

Issues, Concerns, Desired

Opportunities and Experiences

Issues of concern (in no particular order) included:

- ◆ Preservation of the natural and cultural resources, including the park's ranching heritage;
- ◆ Maintenance of the current recreation experience along the river corridor;
- ◆ Difficulty finding the park with current signage;
- ◆ Difficulty finding facilities within the park;
- ◆ Lack of an adequate visitor center/initial visitor contact point;
- ◆ Confusing park orientation;
- ◆ Lack of identification of all park properties;
- ◆ Lack of park promotion/public awareness;
- ◆ Staff housing in the historic ranch complex;
- ◆ Pressures to provide more services/increase usage, yet preserve the special qualities of the park;
- ◆ Lack of outdoor education facilities;
- ◆ Snowmobiling pressures in the Island Park area;
- ◆ Compliance with the Harriman gift deed;
- ◆ Competition with the private sector;
- ◆ Utilization of park lands other than the home ranch (Harriman East, spring site and Sheridan Ranch);
- ◆ Conflicts between fishermen and boats on the river, specifically from Last Chance to Osborne bridge—some requests to prohibit boating, some requests to allow boating;
- ◆ Misconception that the park is still a financial "drain" and the cost per visitor is higher than average;



- ◆ Dust on park roads;
- ◆ Lack of, or poor, picnic facilities;
- ◆ Small constituent base for the park;
- ◆ Lack of a natural resource management plan;
- ◆ Concerns over noxious weeds;
- ◆ Management of wildlife and potential overpopulations;
- ◆ Human/wildlife interactions and impacts;
- ◆ Forest management;
- ◆ Cattle grazing—some want more, some want less;
- ◆ Cataloging and preservation of artifacts;
- ◆ Preservation of the cultural landscape;
- ◆ Public understanding of the unique gift of Harriman State Park of Idaho;
- ◆ Revenue needs;
- ◆ Jones House as a warming hut—expensive to operate, public would like it open more;
- ◆ Equestrian overuse of trails;
- ◆ Specific user trails (horses, hikers and bikers may not always mix)
- ◆ No clear interpretive philosophy or interpretive timeframe of the home ranch;
- ◆ Historic buildings should be used for interpretation, not lodging;
- ◆ No overdevelopment of the park to create a “theme” park or another Yellowstone;
- ◆ Maintenance of the wildlife refuge;
- ◆ Enough camp sites already in Island Park;
- ◆ Concentrate dorm use and kitchen facilities in the same area;
- ◆ Grooming of cross-country ski trails during mid-week;
- ◆ Incorporation of Native Americans into the interpretive theme of the park;
- ◆ Concern that all user groups will be heard;
- ◆ Pressure for commercial development/loss of open space;
- ◆ Fence and ditch maintenance;
- ◆ Better groomed skate ski trails;
- ◆ “No lodging, no yurts, no campgrounds, no exceptions”;
- ◆ Invest in state and local visitor centers rather than building a new one, i.e., Ashton visitor center, Mesa Falls, Last Chance;
- ◆ All new park buildings reflect current historic buildings;
- ◆ Determine carrying capacity for humans and animals;
- ◆ Do not use logging roads as trails;
- ◆ Develop a recognizable logo for the park;
- ◆ Need additional restrooms;
- ◆ Need parking closer to historic buildings;
- ◆ Colleges have dormitories, ranches call the same building a bunkhouse, change the name;
- ◆ Restore/protect Sheridan Creek;
- ◆ Don’t plow the road into the historic ranch buildings in the winter;
- ◆ Access/entry fee at Osborne bridge;
- ◆ Trail signage;
- ◆ Need to establish a “Friends of Harriman State Park” for those who may wish to make bequests or contributions to the park;
- ◆ Security for elk calving grounds;
- ◆ Incorporation of financial planning in the master plan;
- ◆ Protection of the world-renowned wild trout fishery;
- ◆ The historical ranch complex should be alive with people, not a “museum;”
- ◆ Pressure to open Golden and Silver lakes to fishing;
- ◆ Protection of trumpeter swan nesting grounds;

- ◆ IDPR management of Last Chance fishing access;
- ◆ Protection of dark sky.

Desired opportunities and experiences (in no particular order) included:

- ◆ Hiking/backpacking trails;
- ◆ Fishing opportunities;
- ◆ Wildlife viewing;
- ◆ Visiting cultural/historical sites;
- ◆ Camping—backcountry, yurt, RV;
- ◆ Horseback riding, both private and commercial;
- ◆ Cross-country skiing;
- ◆ Nonmotorized boating;
- ◆ Mountain biking;
- ◆ Opportunities for senior citizens;
- ◆ Additional recreation opportunities such as more fishing (on ponds and lakes, and for children), more cross-country ski trails (Thurmon Ridge), more summer trails into the Forest Service/refuge area;
- ◆ Longer equestrian trails and additional equestrian facilities, such as campsites;
- ◆ Group and individual picnicking;
- ◆ Trail links to neighboring communities and/or recreational areas;
- ◆ A clearly defined visitor/orientation program area;
- ◆ More disabled and senior citizen accessibility;
- ◆ An outdoor education facility;
- ◆ Observation towers/blinds for bird/wildlife watching;
- ◆ Additional yurts and overnight lodging facilities;
- ◆ Artist in residence program;
- ◆ Special events in the park (historic, fly fishing, free ski day, etc.);
- ◆ “Marriage” of Harriman with the local business community and USFS campground;
- ◆ Watchable wildlife and photography opportunities;
- ◆ Historic reenactments—haying with beaver slide, cattle roundup, etc.;
- ◆ Continue rental of Ranch Manager’s house;
- ◆ Access to Fish Pond with a connection to the home ranch;
- ◆ Connect to Sheridan ranch via trails;
- ◆ Research and education facilities;
- ◆ Overnight experiences for students;
- ◆ Addition of camper cabins in the park;
- ◆ Partner with the Audubon Society for birdwatching opportunities;
- ◆ Winter camping;
- ◆ Yurt system;
- ◆ Working historic ranch (animals for viewing—traditional farm);
- ◆ Facility for retreats;
- ◆ Access for pets;
- ◆ Ski and snowshoe races;
- ◆ Challenging snowshoe trails;
- ◆ Year-round fishing;
- ◆ Elder hostel program for education, solicit volunteer instructors, college internship;
- ◆ Programs through colleges addressing forest and range management;
- ◆ Alternate fee structures, e.g., per person rather than per car entry fee, sliding price scale (mid-week, off-season) for overnight use, annual or daily fishing tag, rod fee for fishing Golden Lake, develop a Fremont County park pass for Mesa Falls, Henrys Lake, Harriman and fishing access at Osborne bridge and Last Chance;
- ◆ Increase year-round use on the river for swan management;

- ◆ Let Flying J put in a truck stop;
- ◆ Continue uses such as logging, grazing, etc. (showcase/ demonstration practices of grazing—shift cattle grazing emphasis from revenue to education);
- ◆ Increase visitation opportunities to Sheridan ranch;
- ◆ Look at airport possibility to let more people have access to park;
- ◆ Jr. Ranger program;
- ◆ Evening programs;
- ◆ Volunteer/service opportunities;
- ◆ Mentoring institute for Big Brothers/Big Sisters;
- ◆ Allow competition for a concessionaire-owned and operated resort that includes a food service or dining facility;
- ◆ Shop;
- ◆ Large winter parking area near the park boundary for snowmobilers;
- ◆ Accessible fishing sites;
- ◆ Soup and sandwich concession in the Jones House in the winter;
- ◆ Oil park road from entry to parking lot;
- ◆ Warming hut along the Harriman-Brimstone connector trail;
- ◆ Exchange of Sheridan Ranch for U.S. Forest Service lands;
- ◆ Nature interpretive trail for students;
- ◆ Reconstruct the original big shop/blacksmith shop;
- ◆ Catch and release fly fishing regulations on Sheridan Creek.

127 Comments sought on draft of Harriman Master Plan

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a meeting concerning the Harriman Park Master Plan at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Island Park Ranger Station. Similar meetings will be held in Idaho Falls Feb. 20 and in Boise Feb. 19.

Members of the citizens advisory committee in charge of recommending an action plan to Parks and Recreation will present a draft of their ideas to the public at the meetings. Folks will then have an opportunity to make comments on the commit-

tee's ideas, Keith Hobbs, manager of Harriman Park, says.

"The meetings are to let the public take a look at what the committee's come up with," he says. The committee will consider the comments and include them in its recommendation to Parks and Recreation.

The new master plan is being written to establish guidelines for the future use and development of Harriman Park.

For more information on the meeting, call Harriman Park at 558-7368 or e-mail har@idpr.state.id.us.

- ◆ Simpler self-pay envelope;
- ◆ Dorm rental for family reunions;
- ◆ Build a commons/ kitchen facility for the dorm;
- ◆ Open ranch bunkhouse and use in conjunction with cook house;
- ◆ Cross-country ski, snowshoe, sled and bicycle concessions;
- ◆ Moderate-sized gift

Input received was used to formulate the management concepts, which led to the eventual formulation of park goals and objectives.

Management Concepts Open House

Public open houses were held in Boise, Idaho Falls and Island Park on February 19, 20 and 21, 2002 to introduce the management concepts and seek written comments. Copies of the management concepts

information booklet (see Appendix 4) were mailed, with a solicitation for comments, to the Harriman State Park of Idaho master plan mailing list.

A total of 42 written comments were received on the three management concepts. Nine of the comments spoke in favor of management concept

Open houses set for Harriman

By J.D. EDLEFSEN
Staff writer

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking public review of the draft master plan for Harriman State Park at a series of open houses to be held in Island Park, Idaho Falls and Boise.

The plan addresses additional lodging, concessions, camping opportunities and a couple of changes proposed in fishing regulations among its many park goals for the next 20 years.

Interested persons are encouraged to stop in during the open house in their area and talk with staff about the draft plan.

Saturday the public can stop by the open house at

Harriman State Park in Island Park from 3-7 p.m. The Idaho Falls open house runs from 3-5 p.m. Friday at the Best Western Cotton Tree Inn, 900 Lindsay Blvd. The open house in Boise will be held Thursday.

Individuals may stop in at any time during an open house to talk with staff and comment on the park draft master plan. And written comment received by July 31 will be used in the presentation of the final master plan to the Idaho Park and Recreation Board at its summer Board meeting.

The master plan will determine the use and management of Harriman Park for the next 20 years.

This round of meetings is the second in the process.

Hearings on three alternatives were conducted earlier this spring.

As a result of testimony made at those hearings, the staff has come up with a draft plan. It roughly follows the third alternative presented to the public in April.

The preferred proposal calls for a multi-entity partnership in which Harriman is a mid-point in the Henry's Fork-Mesa Falls recreation corridor. Partners include the Forest Service and other governmental agencies and non-profit groups.

The corridor extends from the Buffalo River in the Henry's Fork to Bear Gulch south of Mesa Falls.

See Open page 3A



Silver Lake at Harriman State Park is one focal point of the park. Hearings on a proposed master plan for the park are planned. Staff photo by Michael Lewis.

#1, four comments spoke in favor of concept #2, ten comments spoke in favor of concept #3 and nineteen comments spoke to issues in the management concepts, but did not express specific support for one management concept over another.

The public brought forward a number of comments and ideas that they believed had not been considered in the formulation of the three management concepts and asked to have them considered as the preferred management concept was developed. New comments/ideas received were as follows:

Park Entrance and Fee Collection

- ◆ Fee boxes, not donation boxes
- ◆ Raise entry fee
- ◆ Add a fee to fish
- ◆ Add a fee for each private horse using park trails
- ◆ Have aggressive fee collection at all entrances
- ◆ Increase the annual fee
- ◆ Limit the number of people permitted to enter the park (establish carrying capacity)
- ◆ Have no manned fee stations/all self serve
- ◆ Add a boat launch fee (Osborne Bridge and Riverside)
- ◆ Add a walk-in fisherman's fee
- ◆ Tax local merchants to add to the park budget

Access, Circulation and Parking

- ◆ Keep all roads unpaved
- ◆ Include no equestrian trailhead at the visitor center
- ◆ Have no snowmobile parking at East Harriman, instead move to the north just off Highway 20 at the existing parking area and make that a trailhead

Education and Interpretation Facilities/Programs

- ◆ Don't enlarge the gift shop or add food machines at the visitor center
- ◆ Add wagon and tractor rides
- ◆ Add events for the art of ranching, old time ranching music, dancing at Mesa Falls
- ◆ Have a benefit auction of donated Harriman art
- ◆ Improve use and display of historic artifacts
- ◆ Add interpretive displays (e.g., noxious weeds, animal tracks, benefits of bats)
- ◆ Add star gazing from a platform viewing area
- ◆ Conduct a pre-history survey and specific pre-history plan before constructing trails
- ◆ Create a snowmobile map showing use and off limit areas

Natural and Cultural Resources

- ◆ Collaborate with the Forest Service to develop a vegetation management plan for timber and grazing (park and surrounding area)
- ◆ Build more bat houses
- ◆ Create an aggressive noxious weed program
- ◆ Limit grazing at Harriman more
- ◆ Create grazing programs and/or fencing to protect stream banks and aquatic resources
- ◆ Have no grazing on Harriman Ranch

Recreational Opportunities

- ◆ Picnicking
 - No picnicking with river views
 - Include more than 1 group shelter in the park
 - Add a picnic area at Fish Pond
 - Put a picnic shelter in the forest between the dude barn and Ranch View parking instead of at Ranch

View

- ◆ Fishing
 - Extend to Nov. 30
 - No year around fishing
 - No fishing between February 15 and June 15
 - No fishing at Fish Pond
 - Fish Pond managed under catch and release regulations (barbless artificial lures and flies only)
- ◆ Boating
 - No boating/floating through the ranch
 - Enact a permit policy for the handicapped only to float through the ranch
 - Decertify guides with boats through the ranch
 - Limit the number of boats/ floating devices
- ◆ Trails and Related Facilities
 - Only unpaved trails for community trail linkages
 - Make trail linkages to Harriman non-motorized
 - Add skate ski trails
 - Add classic ski trails
 - Prepare the leaking ditch downstream of Last Chance for trail access
 - Emphasis hike and bike trails over equestrian trails
 - Allow leashed dog access, at least on trails that connect to other agency and community trails
 - Keep the Jones House as a warming hut
 - Improve trail signage
 - Provide a trail link to the Bechler Area (Yellowstone) to Mesa Falls (e.g., Box Canyon to Henry's Lake to Firehole)
 - Expand the trail to link from Harriman to Henry's Lake

- ◆ Equestrian Facilities
 - No horse concession, just private horses
 - Move the equestrian facility if cooking is added at the dormitory
 - No horses in the "main ranch area"
 - Make the horse concessionaire more responsible for trail maintenance
- ◆ Lodging/Camping
 - No camping in the park
 - No campground at Harriman East
 - No RV camping in the park
 - Don't improve Riverside campground
 - Expand Buffalo campground
 - No overnight lodging in the park
 - No additional lodging in the park
 - No lodging at the Cattle Foreman's house
 - Continue winter lodging (Yurts)
 - Complete the financial information to support the increased lodging before any occurs.
- ◆ Food Service
 - No dining facility that competes with private enterprise
 - No commercial lodging, food, retail
 - Construct one or two buildings in location where historic structures existed

Maintenance and Operations

- ◆ No trade or loss of any Harriman lands
- ◆ No land exchange (e.g., Sheridan Ranch) that might marginalize biological integrity of Upper Henry's Fork watershed
- ◆ Do land exchange for Last Chance

- ◆ Add additional staff
- ◆ Keep employees in historic structures as exists/not visitors
- ◆ Add staff housing in historic structures/not visitors
- ◆ Do not lose staff housing for visitor lodging

Other

- ◆ Provide restrooms when building is locked in ranch compound
- ◆ Provide restrooms for winter (Mesa Falls and Harriman)
- ◆ Preserve the dark sky environment/limit lights
- ◆ Specifically identify how each building will be used
- ◆ Expand the plan to Targhee Pass
- ◆ Expand the management plan to include Island Park Reservoir, Henrys Lake State Park and the commercial development area in Island Park

Draft Master Plan Open House

Public open houses were held in Boise, Idaho Falls and at Harriman State Park of Idaho on June 20, 21 and 22, 2002 to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on the draft master plan for Harriman State Park of Idaho. Draft summary brochures were provided as handouts to participants at the open houses. Summary brochures contained the park's mission and vision statements from the draft master plan, as well as the preferred management concept, goals, objectives and the Existing and Proposed Land Uses, Facilities and Services map. Summary brochures were also mailed, with a solicitation for comments, to the Harriman State Park of Idaho master plan mailing list and all residents of the Pinehaven subdivision.



Copies of written comments received are found in Appendix 7.

Fremont County Planning and Zoning Commission

Staff presented the Harriman State Park of Idaho draft master plan to the Fremont County Planning and Zoning Commission on June 17, 2002 at the Commission's regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The plan was favorably reviewed. A letter from the Commission may be found in Appendix 6.

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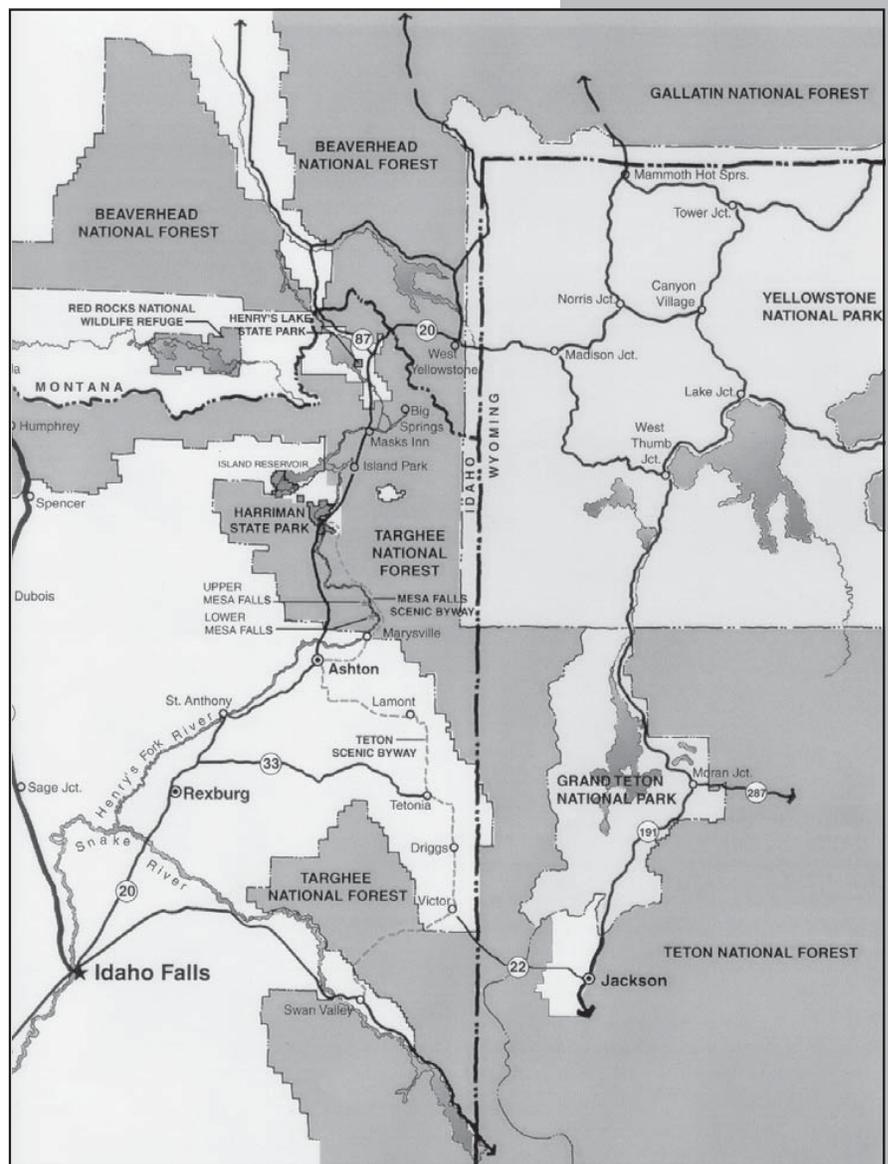
Local Context

Location and Geographic Overview

Harriman State Park of Idaho is located in Fremont County in southeast Idaho along the Henrys Fork of the Snake River. Situated halfway between Idaho Falls, Idaho and Bozeman, Montana, the park lies 30 miles west of Yellowstone National Park. The 11,700-acre park is surrounded primarily by the Targhee National Forest and a small Idaho Department of Lands property. Private land within the town of Last Chance can be found along the northeast boundary of the park. U.S. Highway 20, a major north-south highway corridor linking Idaho Falls and West Yellowstone, bisects Harriman State Park of Idaho separating the main Railroad Ranch from Harriman East. In addition to the main Railroad Ranch and Harriman East, two other former Harriman properties are included as part of Harriman State Park of Idaho. These properties are located northwest of the Railroad Ranch and include Section 16 (Spring Site) and the Sheridan Ranch. Section 16 straddles Thurmon Ridge and is the location of the ranch's water supply spring. This site is accessed by way of Green Canyon Road. The Sheridan Ranch site is located on the west side of Thurmon Ridge northwest of Section 16. This ranch property is also accessed by way of Green Canyon Road.

Harriman State Park of Idaho is located in a region that is world-renowned for its incredible scenery and range of recreation opportunities. Yellowstone and Grand Teton, two

of this country's most visited national parks, are within a two-hour drive of Harriman. Highway 20 serves as a major link between the town of West Yellowstone and Interstate 15. I-15 is the primary connection north to Yellowstone for several regional population centers including Boise, Twin Falls, Pocatello, and Salt Lake City. In addition, almost every motorist between Portland, Oregon and Phoenix, Arizona travels Highway



20 en route to Yellowstone. Regional airports in Twin Falls, Idaho; Yellowstone, Wyoming; Jackson, Wyoming and Belgrade, Montana provide air transportation within a two-hour drive of the park. Due to Harriman State Park of Idaho's location along these main transportation corridors, millions of potential visitors pass the park each year.

The park is situated on the floor of a 23-mile-wide caldera. This circular formation is the remnant of a gigantic volcano that erupted 1.3 million years ago. Thurmon Ridge provides one of the few distinguishing features of this ancient volcano. Meandering nine miles through the park meadows and forests flows the Henrys Fork. This picturesque northern tributary of the Snake River is known throughout the country as an outstanding fly fishery. The Henrys Fork watershed is bounded by the Centennial Mountains (part of the Continental Divide) to the north, the Yellowstone Plateau and Teton Range to the east, the Big Hole Mountains to the south, and the Snake River Plain to the west.

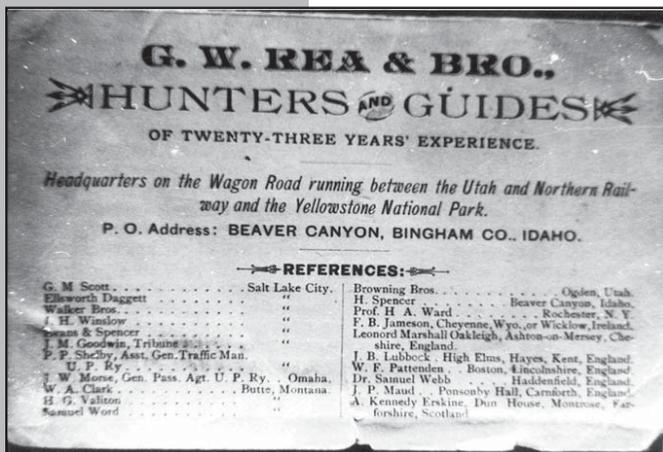
the north. Harriman State Park of Idaho is located within this transition area and includes characteristics of both landscapes. The town of Ashton, located 18 miles south of Harriman, is an agricultural community renowned as the seed potato capital of the world. The rural character of this community is being altered by residential development. To the north of Harriman State Park of Idaho, the town of Island Park is spread out along a 30-mile stretch of Highway 20. The commercial strip, catering primarily to tourists en route to Yellowstone, defines the character of this community. Residential subdivisions are located behind these businesses nestled within the pine forest. Development on the southern and western periphery of the park has been much less extensive.

Regional History and Economy

Harriman State Park of Idaho is located in a region of rich natural resources that has drawn people throughout its history. The Island Park area was a gathering place for indigenous people and a land of opportunity for early settlers. The region's extensive natural resources, including fish, wild game and lumber, have attracted trappers, settlers and, most recently, tourists.

For hundreds of years, the Shoshone, Bannock, Lemhi and Tukuarika - largely nomadic people - inhabited the Island Park area in the summer to hunt, fish and gather roots and berries. Typically, these people spent the winter in the lower elevations of the Snake River Plain. They followed the Great Bannock Trail that connected the Snake

The diverse landscape of Fremont County transitions from rolling fertile farmland to the south, to high country meadows and dense lodgepole pine forests to



River Plain to the Yellowstone Country. For the most part, this trail follows the Henrys Fork and passes just north of Harriman State Park of Idaho.

John Colter is believed to be the first Euro-American to travel in the Island Park area. Colter left the Lewis and Clark expedition on the journey home and spent several years in the Yellowstone area. His visit to the area is believed to have occurred in 1807 or 1808, about the time his account of the Yellowstone Territory was described.

In the 1830's and 40's, the first Euro-Americans began to arrive in this area. Primarily mountain men, these hearty souls endured long winters trapping the region's abundant animals. As the fur trade expanded, more and more fur trappers began to converge on this region. Estimates project 75,000 beaver pelts were harvested each year in the region. By the late 1840's, many of the fur-bearing animals had been depleted in many parts of the west, including Island Park. The Henrys Fork was named after Andrew Henry; whose Missouri Fur Company established a post near present-day St. Anthony.

A 30-year quiet period occurred between the decline of the fur trade and the onset of homesteading activities. By the 1880's the Island Park area began to attract settlers seeking opportunities in the region's natural resource based industries. The economy of the region was built upon occupations such as fishing, ranching, logging and agriculture. Visitors en route to Yellowstone began passing through

the area, and by 1872, the first stage from Island Park to Yellowstone began operating. Soon Island Park's reputation as a hunting and fishing center grew. Wealthy trophy hunters from the east and Europe began visiting the area. In 1889, President Theodore Roosevelt killed a buffalo in Island Park.

With the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1905 and the completion of the railroad to West Yellowstone in 1908, tourism in the area grew exponentially. In July 1908, Theodore Roosevelt combined the Henrys Lake Forest Reserve with the Yellowstone Forest Reserve to form the Targhee National Forest, thereby protecting the area from future developers. Still, numerous resorts and outdoor clubs were developed in and around Island Park during this time. Soon wealthy eastern families began to build summer homes. Before long, Island Park was an established community and a bustling summertime recreation destination. The region's firm economic base in ranching, dairying, logging and fish farming, along with the railroad connection, brought stability and prosperity to the area.

The Union Pacific abandoned the



The Union Pacific has had many "shields" or logos throughout its history. The first was the 1897 Harriman Shield. This 1904 Harriman Shield was the second in a long series of designs. It is the shield the railroad bore at the time of E.H. Harriman's death in 1909.

Livestock Buyer's Prayer (1950)

O Lord, help me, a trader in sheep and kine. It's a rough life, but a man has to earn a living some way.

Help me have more courage. When I get a hunch the market's going higher, please make me go ahead and buy. I knew these calves were too cheap when you could buy them for 23 cents. It was all I could do to hold myself when lambs were bringing 21 cents. But I just plain didn't have enough nerve to go ahead. Now look at me, I've just been making wages all year instead of getting rich.

Help me stay in good health. Running up and down these roads all the time dodging oil field trucks, farmers with trailers full of hogs and so forth is a dangerous life. Also, help me avoid ptomaine poison in all the joints I have to eat in. Help me stay out of lawsuits, fistfights and arguments over weighing conditions. Protect me against dust pneumonia, slamming gates and kicking cattle.

When I'm receiving stock that is higher at delivery time than when I bought them, please make the seller deliver all he agreed to do. When I'm receiving stock that is losing money, please keep the seller from bringing in those of his neighbors and kinfolks.

If there is such a thing as a sucker, let me get my share of him. Help me stay out of the way of so many people that are smarter than me.

Give me more powers of persuasion, so I can talk these ranchers into being a little easier on me, talk my banker into paying my drafts, and convince my wife there's a future in this business, even if it means being away from home all the time.

Help me keep my mouth shut so I won't have to pay so many commissions. And above all, give me nerve enough to buy when they're cheap and sense enough to sell when they're as high as they're going to get. That way, maybe some day I can get in the ranch business myself, which looks to me like the best end of the business.

Amen.



railroad between Ashton and West Yellowstone in 1979, although passenger service had been discontinued 20 years earlier. By then, visitors were traveling by automobile, so the loss of the railroad didn't alter the tourism industry.

The Island Park of today closely resembles the Island Park of the early 1900's. The proliferation of the automobile gave further impetus to the development of Island Park as a recreation destination. Over the years, there has been a steady decline in the farming, logging and cattle raising industries. This economic base has been replaced by tourism and outdoor recreation.

Park-Community Relationship

Harriman State Park of Idaho sits on the southern edge of Island Park, its local community. Last Chance, the southern-most commercial area of the 30-mile-long community can easily be seen across the meadow from the historic ranch buildings in the park.

Island Park is a community that values its natural resources. Much of its economy is based on the enjoyment of those resources. In recent years, Island Park has transitioned from a one-season recreation area to a year-round vacation community.

Both the park and the community share a common vision. It can be found in Island Park's comprehensive plan. It is the vision of "a peaceful,

rustic retreat from urban life.”

Park Chronology

July 1902 – The Island Park Land & Cattle Company (IPL&CC) was incorporated in Salt Lake City with five shareholders, each one received one share of stock. The original shareholders included Silas W. Eccles, president; William H. Bancroft; Harry B. Tooker; James M. Anderson; and William M. Bradley.

1906 – Solomon, Morris (Murry) and Daniel Guggenheim purchased lots from the IPL&CC at the Railroad Ranch.

1908 – Edward H. Harriman purchased Murry Guggenheim’s lot at the Railroad Ranch, but died before having an opportunity to visit the ranch.

Fall 1909 – Silas Eccles arranged for the Harrimans to purchase the 325-acre Robert Osborne farm.

1911 – Daniel Guggenheim sold his one-fourth interest in the Railroad Ranch holdings and one share in the IPL&CC to Mary H. Harriman, giving the Harrimans 1 of the 5 shares.

1915 – W. Averell Harriman acquired a second share in the IPL&CC and, in doing so, half interest in the Railroad Ranch after the death of William Bancroft.

November 3, 1949 – Solomon Guggenheim, owner of 3 of the 5 shares in the IPL&CC died and bequeathed his interest in the Idaho ranch to his two daughters, Barbara

Obre and Eleanor May, Countess Castle Stewart.

April 29, 1954 – Barbara Obre and Eleanor May sold their three shares in the IPL&CC to the Harrimans, giving them controlling interest in the Railroad Ranch.

1954 – Charles S. Jones, then president of Richfield Oil, became a financial partner of the IPL&CC as a shareholder and minority owner of the company and the Railroad Ranch.

Late 1950’s – E. Roland and Gladys Harriman met Governor & Mrs. Robert E. Smylie at a Boise Red Cross benefit. The two families became close, life-long friends.

October 1959 – On a trip to eastern Idaho, Governor Smylie met with Roland Harriman at the ranch and the two discussed the idea of the Railroad Ranch becoming a state park.

Spring 1961 – Charles Jones sold his interest in the IPL&CC to the Harrimans, making them sole owners of the ranch.

December 4, 1961 – Roland and Averell Harriman and Governor Smylie signed a gift deed transferring the



Governor Smylie speaks at the Harriman State Park dedication ceremony



Initial staking of the new park's access road.

Railroad Ranch and all the Harrimans' shares in the IPL&CC to the State of Idaho to become Harriman State Park of Idaho. The actual transfer of the property was to take place after the deaths of Roland and Gladys Harriman.

May 1976 – Roland Harriman's health was failing rapidly. Former Idaho Governor Smylie, now acting as the Harrimans' attorney for the Railroad Ranch donation, traveled to New York at the Harrimans' request to expedite the donation prior to their deaths.

Fall 1976 – The entire herd of Railroad Ranch cattle was sold and the ranch crew disbanded. Each ranch hand was given 2 horses as a gift from the Harrimans.

December 1, 1976 – Governor Cecil Andrus announced the upcoming culmination of the Railroad Ranch donation to the State of Idaho.

April 1, 1977 – Most of the Harriman family interest in the ranch and IPL&CC was transferred to the State of Idaho.

April 1977 – Gene Eyraud, Harriman State Park of Idaho's first park manager, reported to work at the park.

October 1977 – The last share of the IPL&CC was presented to Governor John Evans.

1978 – The park's first General Operation and Development Plan was prepared by John Rutter.

1979 – The domestic water system to the ranch complex was upgraded.

1980 – The park's new access road was built and the old ranch access road was removed and reseeded. Construction was completed on the dormitory. The dorm was initially used by Youth Conservation Corp members working out of Harriman State Park of Idaho.

1981 – Construction began on the park's new visitor and support facilities, which included the park entrance sign; park headquarters; Sage Flats fishing access road, parking, restroom and interpretive kiosk; dorm parking lot; Ranch View parking, restroom, information kiosk, river overlook, interpretive walkway and panels; paved pathway from Ranch View through the historic buildings; and interpretive kiosk in the historic building complex. Also constructed at that time were the maintenance shop and vehicle shed; two staff residences; the ranch complex sand mound wastewater treatment system; the greywater wastewater treatment system; septic systems for park

headquarters, the shop and headquarters-area residences; and the water system and electricity to park headquarters, shop and headquarters-area residences.

1981 – Silver Lake dam underwent renovation.

July 17, 1982 – Harriman State Park of Idaho officially opened to the public with a large ceremony at the park attended by a sizeable crowd of celebrants including Governor Smylie and Averell Harriman's daughter Kathleen Mortimer, who came to represent the Harriman family.

Winter 1982 – Harriman State Park of Idaho was open for its first cross-country ski season.

Summer 1983 – The first horse concession began operation in the park.

Fall 1985 – The historic horse barn was the first of the historic structures to be stabilized under park management.

1986 – Fencing was placed along 8 miles of the Henrys Fork through the park to protect the riparian habitat.

Late 1980's – The Harriman State Park of Idaho cross-country ski program acquired its first snow cat groomer.

Fall 1992 – Major siltation occurred in the Henrys Fork as a result of a drought-related drawdown of the Island Park Reservoir that released thousands of tons of

sediment into the river.

1995 – The Boys House was remodeled for use as an educational and meeting facility.

1996 – New spillways for Golden and Silver Lakes were constructed.

December 20, 1996 – The ranch complex at Harriman State Park of Idaho was listed as an historic district on the National Register of Historic Places as the Island Park Land and Cattle Company.

Spring 1998 – The Ranch Manager's House was refurbished and opened for overnight lodging.

1998 – Planning began on the reintroduction of Yellowstone cutthroat trout into Golden Lake and the upstream tributaries of Thurmon Creek.

October 29, 1999 – Gene Eyraud, first Harriman State Park of Idaho manager, retired from the Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation.

November 14, 1999 – Keith Hobbs was appointed as the new manager for Harriman State Park of Idaho.

Late 1990s – The restoration of Sheridan Creek project was begun with the Henrys Fork Watershed Council.



Kathleen Mortimer, daughter of Averell Harriman, speaks at the Harriman State Park of Idaho dedication ceremony.



2000 – The historic auto garage and cow barn facilities were stabilized.

January 2001 – Yurts were added to Harriman's facilities for overnight visitors.

Spring/Summer 2001 – The intersection of Green Canyon Road with Highway 20 was moved several hundred feet south and a new parking lot/day use facility was added at the Osborne boat launch.

July 21, 2001 – An open house was held at Harriman State Park of Idaho to announce the beginning of the master plan process for the park

August 1-2, 2001 – Master plan planning review team staff and park staff workshops were held at Harriman State Park of Idaho to obtain input regarding the park's significance, as well as staff's issues, concerns, desired opportunities and experiences in regard to the park.

September 10, 11 and 20, 2001 – A series of public meetings were held at

Idaho Falls, Harriman State Park of Idaho, Ashton and Boise to obtain input from the public regarding their feelings about the park's significance, as well as their issues, concerns, desired opportunities and experiences in regard to the park.

2001-2002 – The Harriman Dining Cottage was stabilized, receiving a new roof, logs and foundation.

January 12, 2002 – The joint Harriman State Park of Idaho Citizen Advisory Committee and staff Planning Review Team met to formulate three management concepts from the input received at the staff and public input workshops.

February 19-21, 2002 – A series of public open houses were held in Boise, Idaho Falls and Island Park to obtain comment from the public on the three proposed management concepts for Harriman State Park of Idaho.

April 6, 2002 – The joint Harriman State Park of Idaho Citizen Advisory Committee and staff Planning Review Team met to craft a preferred management concept for Harriman State Park of Idaho, taking into consideration the 3 management concepts formulated at the January 12 meeting and the comments received from the public.

April 30, 2002 – The draft Harriman State Park of Idaho master plan was presented to the Idaho Park and Recreation Board for its review, possible revision, and preliminary approval at its quarterly meeting in Nampa.

June 17, 2002 - The draft master plan was presented to the Fremont County Planning and Zoning Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting in St. Anthony.

June 20-22, 2002 - A series of public open houses were held in Boise, Idaho Falls and at Harriman State Park of Idaho to obtain comment from the public on the draft master plan.

August 13, 2002 - The final Harriman State Park of Idaho master plan, including comments made on the draft plan, was presented to the Idaho Park and Recreation Board for its approval at its quarterly meeting in Coolin, Idaho. The Board approved the master plan as presented, but directed staff to take some time to work with the U. S. Forest Service to develop a better management strategy for addressing the impacts of unrestricted dispersed camping currently taking place, as well as addressing the need for providing a wider range of RV camping opportunities at existing campgrounds, within the Henrys Fork/Mesa Falls Corridor. The Board acknowledged strong support from the RV users for a wider range of camping opportunities in eastern Idaho and specifically the Island Park area. However, while reserving the opportunity to look at the East Harriman property as a site where IDPR could potentially help meet camping needs by constructing a campground with a limited number of sites, the Board encouraged staff to look at the proposed East Harriman camping area as an alternative to be actively pursued only after 2005, and directed staff to first work with the U. S. Forest Service to explore other alternatives to meeting the needs of RV users in the Henrys Fork/Mesa Falls Corridor.

October 3, 2002 - The Idaho Park and Recreation Board provided additional guidance on the use of the camping area identified in the Harriman State Park of Idaho Master Plan for the East Harriman Fish Pond site at its quarterly meeting in Boise, Idaho. The Board members clarified that while they supported and encouraged staff to work with the U.S. Forest Service and other public land agencies to expand the range of camping opportunities available to the public in the Henrys Fork/Mesa Falls Corridor, they wanted to make it clear that their action at the August meeting did not suggest or recommend that they or the staff believed Fish Pond was the appropriate location for developing an RV campground. However, they reaffirmed their interest in the possibility of accommodating some level of overnight use in conjunction with improvements planned for the day use fishing access at the Fish Pond site in East Harriman. To guide the appropriate use envisioned by the Board, a workgroup, including the Region VI Board member, was formed to review the Fish Pond site and make recommendations on the appropriate level of overnight use of the area as well as review other alternative sites in the Henrys Fork/Mesa Falls Corridor that could be improved to address the need for developing a wider range of RV camping opportunities.

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Resource Inventory

Climatological Summary

Harriman State Park of Idaho
Latitude 44.15' N
Longitude 111 W
Elevation 6,140'

Introduction

Fremont County's climate is considered arid to semi-arid and varies considerably because of topography and variations in elevation of the surrounding mountain ranges. In general, the climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool, moderately wet winters. Higher elevations including Harriman State Park of Idaho, fall into the cold, snow forest climate. Here, the more mountainous areas receive substantial precipitation that accumulates throughout the winter. Lower areas fall into the steppe climate, which are characterized by summer dryness.

Prevailing westerly winds that draw storms from the Pacific Ocean influence the weather in this region. This same pattern typically results in clear dry air masses in summer.

Temperature

The Island Park area's average annual daily high temperature is 51 degrees; the average annual daily low temperature is 22 degrees. Annual high and low temperatures range from 90 degrees F in summer to -20 degrees F in winter. While cool temperatures can occur throughout the summer, the average summer high temperature is 63 degrees. The

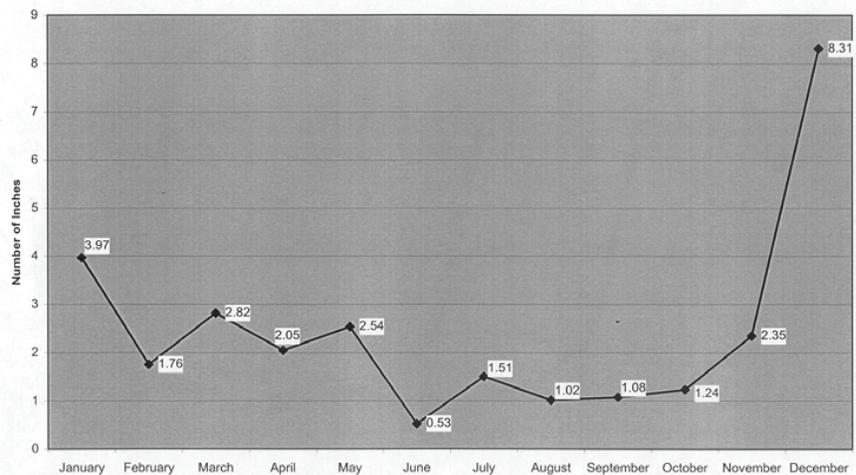
region averages 43 frost-free days per year, which results in a relatively short growing season. Occasionally arctic air masses spill over the Continental Divide and cover eastern Idaho. When skies clear and winds subside in such air masses, subzero nighttime temperatures are likely, especially over snow-covered surfaces.

Precipitation

The mountain ranges over which moisture-bearing Pacific winds must flow, exercise great control over the distribution of precipitation. The windward slopes of these barriers and areas extending several miles upwind generally receive the greatest amounts of rain and snow. Precipitation at lower elevations is more uniform throughout the year.

The Island Park area receives an average of 29 inches of precipitation each year. Most of this precipitation falls in winter from December thru April. The average annual snowfall is

Monthly Precipitation Summary
Island Park, Idaho



207 inches. Typically the maximum snow-pack is achieved in the month of March, when average snow depths reach 50 inches. In most years the snow starts to accumulate during November and can be found at higher elevations through June.



July and August are typically the driest months of the year, receiving less than 1.5 inches of precipitation. While precipitation is infrequent during the summer

months, fog develops most evenings, but usually burns away by 9 or 10 o'clock each morning.

Regional Geology

Compared to the surrounding mountain ranges, the geology that exists within Harriman State Park of Idaho is dominated primarily by volcanic formations of more recent origin. Due to its young age, the landscape is not characterized by broad glacial valleys and associated alluvial floodplain river systems that typify most watersheds in the Rocky Mountains. Broad, flat plateaus and plains characterize the ancient landscape.

The park itself is located on the edge of an ancient caldera (collapsed volcano). The volcano's last eruption is believed to have occurred 650,000 years ago. The remnant 18-mile-long, 23-mile-wide caldera is one of the most symmetrical

found on earth. Thurmon Ridge forms a portion of the western rim of this formation. Most of the park occupies the floor of the nearly flat crater surface. This underground "hot spot" of volcanic activity is believed to have moved northeastward through the region to Yellowstone. Currently there is no volcanic or thermal activity in the Island Park area.

The Island Park areas lies between the basalts of the Snake River Plain and the more recent rhyolite flows of the Yellowstone Plateau. Within Island Park area are three smaller calderas, formed as the "hot spot" moved eastward.

The Henrys Fork is bounded by the Continental Divide to the north, the Yellowstone Plateau and Teton Range to the east, the Big Hole Mountains to the south, and the Snake River Plain to the west. Elevations range from 6,000 feet along the Henrys Fork at Harriman East to 6,700 feet along Thurmon Ridge near the Spring Site. The Henrys Fork meanders across the nearly level crater surface at a gentle gradient until it reaches Mesa Falls 15 miles downstream. Here the river drops 114 feet and 65 feet at a series of waterfalls.

Soils

The soils found throughout Harriman State Park of Idaho are primarily of volcanic origin. These soils coupled with the climate provide a rich environment for plants. A thick organic soil profile supports a variety of plants, ranging from wetland plants and grasses to conifer forest.

The soils found near the western end of the park are comprised primarily of

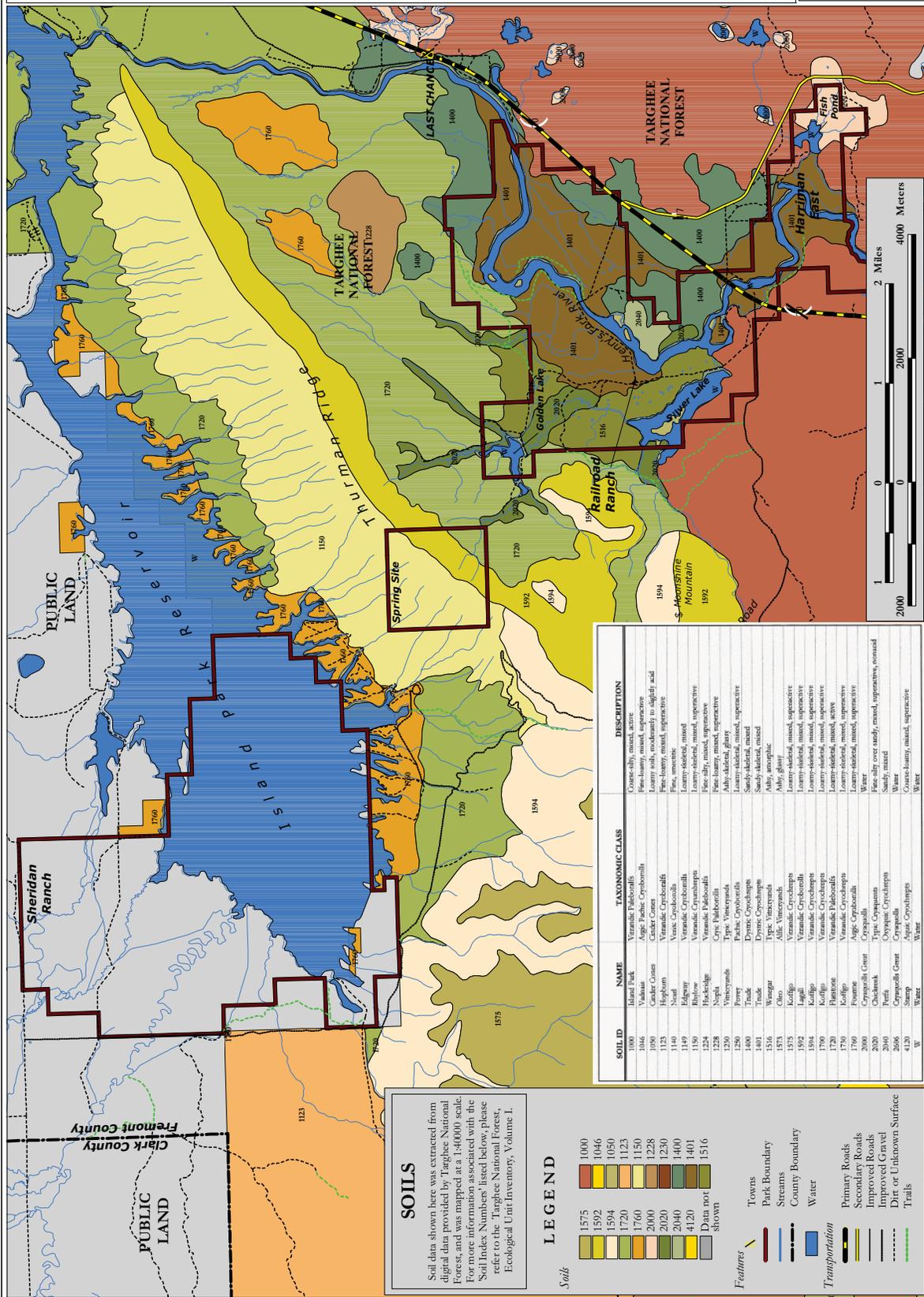


HARRIMAN STATE PARK Soil Inventory

MAP 3-B



Prepared May 2001
SPATIAL DYNAMICS



SOILS
Soil data shown here was extracted from digital data provided by Targhee National Forest and was mapped at a 1:64,000 scale. For more information associated with the Soil Index Numbers listed below, please refer to the Targhee National Forest, Ecological Unit Inventory, Volume I.

LEGEND

Soil Index Number	Color
1575	Light Green
1592	Light Yellow
1594	Light Orange
1720	Light Green
1123	Light Yellow
1150	Light Orange
1760	Light Green
1228	Light Yellow
2000	Light Orange
2020	Light Green
2040	Light Yellow
2040	Light Orange
4120	Light Green
1401	Light Yellow
1516	Light Orange
Data not shown	Light Green

- Features**
- Towns
 - Park Boundary
 - Streams
 - County Boundary
 - Water
- Transportation**
- Primary Roads
 - Secondary Roads
 - Improved Gravel
 - Dirt or Unknown Surface
 - Trails

SOIL ID	NAME	TAXONOMIC CLASS	DESCRIPTION
1000	Island Park	Vermadic Paleoborolls	Coarse-silty, mixed, active
1046	Vadonis	Agric Paleic Cryoborolls	Fine-loamy, mixed, superactive
1090	Gander Creek	Vermadic Cryoborolls	Loamy silt, moderately to slightly acid
1123	Hopbush	Vermadic Cryoborolls	Fine-loamy, mixed, superactive
1140	Stead	Vermadic Cryoborolls	Fine, association
1150	Bluff	Vermadic Cryoborolls	Fine, association
1150	Rhlow	Vermadic Cryoborolls	Loamy-skeletal, mixed, superactive
1228	Hickidge	Cytic Paleoborolls	Fine silty, mixed, superactive
1228	Nepha	Cytic Paleoborolls	Fine loamy, mixed, superactive
1280	Henry	Typic Vitrerolls	Loamy-skeletal, mixed, superactive
1280	Truckee	Typic Vitrerolls	Loamy-skeletal, mixed, superactive
1401	Truckee	Dystric Cryoborolls	Sandy-skeletal, mixed
1401	Truckee	Dystric Cryoborolls	Sandy-skeletal, mixed
1516	Wingard	Typic Vitrerolls	Ally, anorthic
1575	Ohio	Ally Vitrerolls	Ally, gleyic
1575	Koffigo	Vermadic Cryoborolls	Loamy-skeletal, mixed, superactive
1592	Lagall	Vermadic Cryoborolls	Loamy-skeletal, mixed, superactive
1594	Koffigo	Vermadic Cryoborolls	Loamy-skeletal, mixed, superactive
1720	Flattrock	Vermadic Paleoborolls	Loamy-skeletal, mixed, active
1760	Koffigo	Vermadic Cryoborolls	Loamy-skeletal, mixed, superactive
1760	Footnote	Agric Cryoborolls	Loamy-skeletal, mixed, superactive
2000	Cryopolls	Cryopolls	Water
2020	Chickadee	Typic Cryopolls	Water
2040	Cryopolls	Cryopolls	Water
2066	Cryopolls	Cryopolls	Water
4120	Strapp	Agric Cryoborolls	Coarse-loamy, mixed, superactive
W	Water	Water	Water

rhyolitic ash. Rhyolitic domes and lava flow were extruded along Thurmon Ridge after the collapse of the volcano shield. Due to the young age of the caldera, very little erosion has occurred within these soils.

Soils on the eastern end of the site are also comprised of rhyolitic ash, although their origin is from the Yellowstone Plateau.

Unconsolidated alluvial, aeolian and glacial deposits cover substantial portions of the park, particularly the large flat areas along the Henrys Fork between Osborne Bridge and Last Chance.

Please refer to the Soil Inventory Map for the locations of these soils.

- ◆ **Chickreek Series** – The Chickreek series consists of moderately deep to sand and gravel, poorly drained soils formed in diatomaceous earth and silty alluvium over sandy and gravelly alluvium on flood plains, outwash plains and in low lying basins. Permeability is slow in the surface and upper substratum layers and very rapid in the lower layers. Slopes range from 0 to 1 percent. (Soil Map ID #2020)
- ◆ **Flatstone Series** – The Flatstone series consists of very deep, well drained soils occurring on the sideslopes of undulating to rolling tablelands and on caldera floors. These soils formed in local alluvium and residuum from loess, volcanic ash rhyolite tuff. Slopes are 4 to 15 percent. Flatstone soils have moderate permeability. (Soil Map ID #1720)

- ◆ **Lagall Series** – The lagall series consists of very deep, well-drained soils on canyons, dissected tablelands, escarpments of plateaus, foothills and mountains. These soils formed in local alluvium or colluvium derived from mixed sources. Lagall soils have moderate permeability. Slopes are 4 to 70 percent. (Soil Map ID #1592)
- ◆ **Island Park Series** – The Island Park series consists of very deep well drained soils occurring on caldera floor and dissected tablelands. These soils formed in mixed loess and volcanic ash over residuum from basalt. Slopes are 0 to 20 percent. Island Park soils have moderate permeability. (Soil Map ID #1000)
- ◆ **Rhylow Series** – The rhylow series consists of very deep and well-drained soils on tablelands, canyons, foothills and mountains. Slopes are 4 to 70 percent. These soils formed in local alluvium and colluvium derived from loess, volcanic ash and igneous rocks. Rhylow soils have moderately rapid permeability. (Soil Map ID #1150)
- ◆ **Trude Series** – The Trude series consists of very deep, well-drained soils that formed in gravelly outwash. Permeability is moderately rapid in the upper part and very rapid below. They are on terraces and outwash plains and have slopes of 0 to 4 percent. (Soil Map ID #1400 and 1401)
- ◆ **Winegar Series** – The Winegar series consists of moderately well drained soils on ground moraines. Slopes are 4 to 15 percent. These

soils formed in glacial till derived from mixed volcanic bedrock. They are influenced by loess and volcanic ash. Winegar soils are moderately deep to dense basal till. Permeability is moderately slow. (Soil Map ID #1516)

- ◆ **Fourme Series** – The Fourme series consists of very deep, well drained soils with moderately slow permeability in the upper part and very rapid in the lower part that formed in alluvium derived dominantly from quartzite, limestone and sandstone. They are nearly level to sloping, alluvial fans, fan terraces and outwash plains and have slopes of 0 to 4 percent. (Soil Map ID #1760)
- ◆ **Perfa Series** – The Perfa Series consists of very deep, moderately well drained soils on outwash plains and in drainage bottoms of dissected tablelands. Slopes are 0 to 4 percent. These soils formed in mixed alluvium. Perfa soils have moderate permeability in the upper part and very rapid permeability in the lower part. (Soil Map ID #2040)

- ◆ **Koffgo Series** – The Koffgo series consists of very deep, well-drained soils on canyonsides, tablelands, plateaus, foothills and mountains. They formed in slope alluvium, colluvium or residuum derived

from mixed sources. Slopes are 2 to 70 percent. Permeability in the surface is moderate and moderately rapid in the subsoil and substratum. (Soil Map ID #1594)

Water Resources

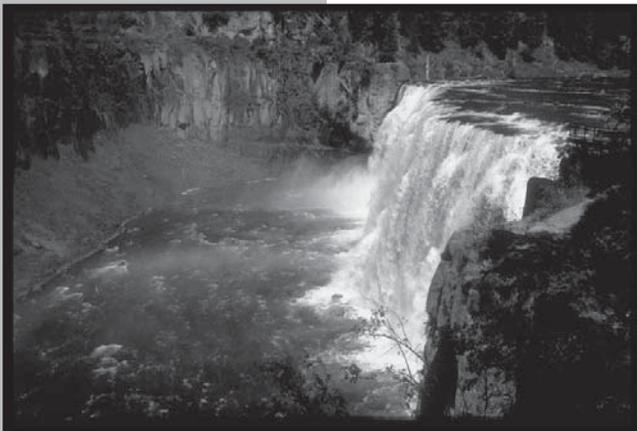
Unlike many areas in the western U.S., water is abundant in the Yellowstone Plateau. Numerous springs, both hot and cold, as well as active drainages result in high water yields and high water tables. The Island Park area, including Harriman State Park of Idaho, typically yields 21 inches of water per year.

Water in the form of a river, in addition to numerous creeks and ponds, can all be found within Harriman State Park of Idaho. The park's position on the caldera floor, and its location along the Henrys Fork, results in numerous springs and drainages within the site.

Rivers

The Henrys Fork flows north to south across the Island Park basin until it joins the main Snake River south of Harriman State Park of Idaho near Rexburg. This wide, placid river meanders through the park's open meadows, creating a picturesque setting for the ranch complex. Several miles south of Harriman, the river becomes swift and turbulent before dropping over Upper and Lower Mesa Falls. The Henrys Fork is a major recreation draw for the region, in addition to being an important source of irrigation for area agriculture.

The Henrys Fork contains one of the



Upper Mesa Falls

largest concentrations of groundwater springs in the world. Big Springs, located 25 miles northeast of the park, is the primary hydrologic source of the river, accounting for 75% of the river's annual flow. Henrys Lake to the north is a secondary hydrologic source for the river. Creeks originating from warm springs, flow into the river helping maintain a temperature just above freezing. As a result, most of the river remains ice-free all winter.

Creeks

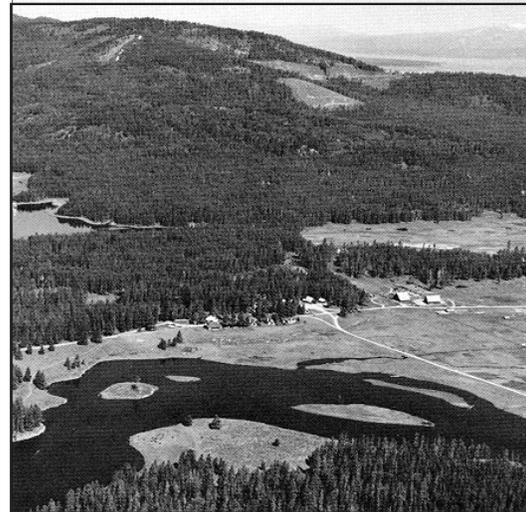
Thurmon Creek – the principal tributary stream of Railroad Ranch - flows from springs located along Thurmon Ridge. Because this stream receives water from springs and groundwater, biologically it is highly productive water and supports an array of organisms. Thurmon Creek is the primary water source for Golden and Silver Lakes as well as most of the wetland areas found along the west side of Railroad Ranch.

Lakes and Ponds

Throughout Harriman and the surrounding Targhee National Forest there are dozens of lakes and ponds. Many of the larger lakes in the area are man-made including the four largest within the park - Island Park Reservoir, Golden Lake, Silver Lake and Fish Pond.

Island Park Reservoir is a roughly 10-mile-long and 2-mile-wide, shallow reservoir occupying the southern half of the Sheridan Site northwest of the Railroad Ranch. This reservoir is fed by the Henrys Fork and several smaller streams including Sheridan Creek and Ice House Creek, which run through Harriman-

owned property. During the summer when the water level is high fishing, boating and camping are popular activities. By late summer the water level drops considerably pushing these activities further to the east towards the Island Park dam.



The dams that form Golden and Silver Lakes were constructed for private fishing. These lakes range from a half-mile (Golden) to a mile (Silver) in length. Both lakes are fed by the numerous springs and drainages that flow to Thurmon Creek. Fish Pond, located on Harriman East, is also spring-fed and plays host to a variety of aquatic plants and fish.

Wetlands

Due to the abundance of springs and the shallow water table, there are numerous wetland areas found throughout the park. Most of these wetlands occur along Thurmon Creek and below the dam on Harriman East. The Henrys Fork has also created significant wetland areas along its banks and on depositional islands. Within these wetlands a diverse array of riparian plant associations can be found that support a variety of wildlife. These wetland areas are very fragile and quite susceptible to change as a result of human activities and influence.

The Harriman Expedition to Alaska

In 1899, upon advice from his doctor, E.H. Harriman set about to plan an excursion to Alaska. What started out as a family getaway became one of the most important explorations of that region of the nineteenth century.

The Harriman Alaska Expedition (H.A.E.) set sail from Seattle aboard the luxury steamship *George W. Elder*, which had been chartered and refurbished for the excursion. The party of 46 traveled to Alaska and back again in the space of two months. The roster included 11 members of the Harriman family, 23 scientists, 3 artists, 2 physicians, 2 preparators, 2 photographers, 2 stenographers and 1 chaplain.

Just two months prior to the expedition, E. H. Harriman met with C. Hart Merriam, head of the U.S. Biological Survey, in Washington, D.C. and told him of his plans to travel to Alaska. It was Merriam who, during that short period of time, assembled the nation's leading scientists and most respected scholars to join the expedition party. His team of zoologists, paleontologists, botanists, geologists, mining engineers, ornithologists, foresters, journalists and artists included such noted scientists as William Healey Dall, the nation's top expert on Alaska; Grove Karl Gilbert, eminent explorer-scientist of the American West; John Muir, famed naturalist and Merriam himself. The *Elder* was much like a floating university during the course of the expedition. It made numerous stops along the Canadian and Alaskan coast during the journey for exploration and study.

As a result of the Harriman Alaska Expedition many new discoveries were made. In the fields of botany and zoology, seven volumes of reports were produced containing descriptions of hundreds of new species. Much was learned about glaciers and glacial processes through the work of G. K. Gilbert. And between 1904 and 1914, Merriam edited and published a multi-volume series of reports from the expedition.



of the park. Interspersed with the pine are occasional climax forest of

Vegetation

The vegetative cover in and around Harriman is comprised of open meadows and grasses in the lower areas, transitioning to sagebrush steppe and juniper along dryer slopes with pine, fir, and spruce forest dominating the upland areas. The general composition of vegetation is natural and appears to be following normal successional patterns. The park's attraction to wildlife is due in large part to the diversity of vegetation. The park offers a total environment of plants and animals living together in a community where each plays a vital role in the existence of the other.

Forests within the park cover approximately 1,000 acres. Within these forests the most common tree is the lodgepole pine, which makes up about 80% of the forest. These pines are tall, straight and usually grow in very dense stands. Lodgepole pine forests are found throughout the Railroad Ranch and Harriman East sections

Engelmann spruce and Douglas fir. These forests are found primarily along the west side of Thurmon Ridge. Small stands of aspen can also be found in this area, although fire suppression has resulted in a steady decline of this species.

During the late 1970's and early 80's, pine beetle infestations killed large stands within the forest. To combat this problem, the affected trees were removed. The tree removal resulted in extensive and somewhat random clearings within the forest. These are particularly apparent on the north side of Harriman East, where distinct edges between affected and non-affected areas can be seen. As the forest matures and the age of trees become more diverse, the affected areas will become less apparent.

Shrubs are numerous and vary drastically with the habitat. Sagebrush and rabbitbrush are common in the dryer sections of the park. This plant community is located primarily along the east and west sides of Highway 20 and to a greater extent on the Sheridan property.

Willows can be found in moist areas along the Henrys Fork and around ponds and wetland areas.

The meadows north of the Railroad Ranch are inhabited with a mix of native grass species and introduced agricultural species. Cultivated crops and past grazing practices have replaced much of the native grass and steppe communities. These areas have also experienced a marked increase in the spread of invasive noxious weeds.

The more common plant species found at Harriman State Park of Idaho include the following:

Wetland Areas

Sedges (*Carex spp.*)

Willows (*Salix spp.*)

Grassland and Shrub Steppe

Wheat Grass (*Agropyron spp.*)

Rabbit Brush (*Chrysothamnus spp.*)

Needle Grass (*Stipa spp.*)

Bitterbush (*Purshia tridentata*)

Idaho Fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*)

Service Berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

Big Sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentata*)

Upland Forest

Rocky Mountain Juniper

(*Juniperus scopulorum*)

Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*)

Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmanni*)

Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Wildlife

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in which Harriman State Park of Idaho is located is one of the most diverse and ecologically rich in the world. The relatively pristine environment found within the park affords unique opportunities to observe wildlife in its natural habitat.

Large portions of the park are located within a 16,000-acre wildlife refuge. This refuge, established by the Harriman family and the U. S. Forest Service, aims to preserve the natural habitats. Hunting within this

wildlife refuge is strictly prohibited. As a result, wildlife flourishes and is a major attraction of the park.

Big game found within the park includes: bear, moose, elk, deer, pronghorn antelope and coyotes. On rare occasions mountain lions and grizzly bear have been seen in the area. The range of these mammals is quite large. Generally these animals are intolerant of man's presence so their occurrence within the park is not really known. The primary limiting factor for big game within the park is winter range. The moose are better adapted to snow than other large mammals. As a result, they can be seen throughout the year feeding on aquatic plants located along rivers and ponds. Generally the pronghorn antelope are confined to the sage environment of the Sheridan Ranch site.

Within the park, dozens of smaller mammals roam at will. Porcupine, badgers, weasels, snowshoe hare, marmots, chipmunks, muskrats, skunks and an occasional mink can be found. In the past there were many beavers, but now they are absent. The reason for their absence hasn't been determined. Marmots are numerous in the Railroad Ranch building complex. Many can be found living under vacant buildings and near barns and sheds.

Fishing is what attracts the largest number of visitors to



the park. The Henrys Fork is considered to be one of the finest trout streams in North America. At one time the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout was the predominant fish species in the river and surrounding streams. Today, invasive or introduced species like redband rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout are more common. Efforts are currently being undertaken to reintroduce the cutthroat and to improve the fish's reaches and stream habitats.

Birds are some of the most significant and attractive wildlife found at Harriman State Park of Idaho. The abundant aquatic plants and fish make the park ideal habitat for waterfowl. The height of the bird activity occurs in late spring. The park is best known for its resident population of trumpeter swans. These magnificent white birds, once endangered, have increased their numbers through conservation. The tri-state (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) population of trumpeter swans does not migrate and are much less common than their Canadian counterparts. Efforts have been undertaken to increase the tri-state population of trumpeter swans.



Typically several dozen unmated swans frequent Silver Lake during the summer. Each year a few mated pairs nest along the park's ponds, producing three to ten cygnets. These birds are very vulnerable to human intrusion and require

isolation during the nesting period. As a result, the park has established seasonal restrictions to protect the trumpeter swan.

During the winter months, as Silver and Golden Lakes freeze over, trumpeter swans in the park migrate a short distance to the Henrys Fork. Here they are joined by several hundred swans from Canada and the Red Rock Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Montana. The park is located within the seasonal migration range of these birds. Unfortunately the vegetation along the Henrys Fork has been adversely impacted due to this influx. As a result, hazing and relocation efforts have been undertaken to reduce swan numbers or to alter their habits.

There are other rare or threatened bird species that inhabit the park, including the sandhill crane and the longbilled curlew. The park is home to a variety of shorebirds including great blue heron, common snipe, and sandpipers. Raptors are also numerous including bald eagles, golden eagles and hawks. More common birds include pelicans, ducks (mallard, bufflehead, gadwall), geese, owls, and numerous song birds.

In addition to birds, the ranch buildings at Harriman are home to a large population of bats. In the summer, bats can be found in or around most of the historic structures. The bat guano that covers walkways and screens each morning is evidence of this animal's nocturnal activities.

Issues of Special Concern

Threatened, Endangered, or Rare Species

Idaho currently classifies grizzly bears as a threatened species, making it illegal to take or possess bears except under certain circumstances. Although extremely rare in the Island Park area, Harriman State Park of Idaho is believed to be within the grizzly's range. A Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan has been developed by the state in an attempt to change the status of the grizzly bear.

Although once widespread, Yellowstone cutthroat trout numbers have declined to the point where the subspecies has been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Genetically pure, Yellowstone cutthroat occupy only 10 percent of the streams where they were historically found. These fish are the only trout native to the Henrys Fork watershed. The decline of the Yellowstone cutthroat trout was caused primarily by hybridization with rainbow trout, competition with brook trout and the degradation and fragmentation of habitat.

Harriman State Park of Idaho, in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, has undertaken a cutthroat trout reintroduction program on Golden and Silver Lakes. This program was developed to foster a genetically pure population within Golden Lake and the upper reaches of Thurmon Creek.

Noxious Weeds

Idaho State Parks has implemented a noxious weed control program within Harriman State Park of Idaho. Several eradication measures are being utilized to suppress weed infestations. These measures include manual removal, biological control, controlled grazing and chemical application by park staff and county weed control crews.

The following list contains the most common noxious weeds found at Harriman State Park of Idaho and the approximate coverage of the infestation.

Leafy Spurge	Less than 1 acre
Spotted Knapweed	25 acres
Yellow Toadflax	3 acres
Yellow Thistle	Less than 1 acre
Canada Thistle	200 acres

Hydrology

Due to the high water table and abundance of springs located throughout the park, much of the land area within Harriman State Park of Idaho is not suitable for development. Extensive areas on either side of the Henrys Fork and most of Harriman East are located in lowlands where saturated soils prevent or at least constrain building and construction.

The Henrys Fork has experienced drought in its recent past. In the early 1990's, the river's aquatic resources were at an all-time low after experiencing 15 years of prolonged drought.

Flooding

While many of Harriman State Park of Idaho's facilities and structures are located in close proximity to the Henrys Fork, the flood hazard in this area is minimal due to the Island Park Reservoir Dam. This dam regulates flows within the river basin.

The potential for flooding from surface run-off is also remote due to the raised elevation of the ranch complex and the distance to major drainages in the area.

Water Quality

High value and importance are placed on clean water in the Island Park area. The fishery is a principal attraction for many visitors and a key resource, both natural and economic, for the community. A series of water quality studies were performed in the 1970s as a result of contaminated wells at Mack's Inn. Those studies discovered surface water contamination exceeding federal standards for recreational

waters in certain stretches of the Henrys Fork. Ultimately, the studies resulted in the construction of two central sewage systems. The first, the Mack's Inn-Island Park Village system was completed in 1982. It was then extended to Aspen Ridge in 1990. The second system, the Pond's Lodge-Last Chance system, went into operation in 1986. The 1971 and 1975 water quality studies also recognized a need for central sewage systems to be installed in the I.P. Bills Island area along Island Park Reservoir and along the north shore of Henrys Lake. In 1990, Fremont County won an award from the Pacific Northwest Water Pollution Control Association for its water quality protection efforts. Water quality issues, however, have not been fully resolved. As of 1997, the Mack's Inn-Island Park Village system had reached capacity and there were still incidents of well contamination being reported.

<u>NO</u>	<u>Claimant</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Use</u>
214118	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	Sheridan Creek	Irrigation
214119	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	Henrys Fork of the Snake	Irrigation
214120	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	Middle & E. Fork of Thurmon Creek	Irrigation
214029	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	East Fork of Thurmon Creek	Irrigation
214030	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	East Fork of Thurmon Creek	Irrigation
214031	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	West Fork of Thurmon Creek	Domestic
214040	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	North Fork of the Snake River	Storage & Rec.
214121	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	Ice House Creek	Irrigation
217144	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	Thurmon Creek	Irrigation
217145	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	Thurmon Creek	Storage & Rec.
217184	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	Thurmon Creek	Storage & Rec.
217274	ID Dept. of Parks & Rec.	Ground Water	Fire Protection
n/a	Idaho Park Foundation	Harriman East springs (3)	Habitat, Irrigation

Chart 3.1

Water Systems and Water Rights

There are numerous canals located on the park property, not all of which are used. These canals originate in one of four locations: the river near Last Chance, the river just above Osborne Bridge, from Fish Pond and from the Middle Fork and the East Fork of Thurmon Creek. The water sources provide irrigation, sustain wetland habitats and provide watering for stock.

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation currently controls the following water rights on the Harriman properties. (See Chart 3.1)

Scenic Inventory

The scenic resources at Harriman State Park of Idaho are exceptional and are some of the most impressive found in the region. Background views to the Tetons from Railroad Ranch and Harriman East are outstanding. These magnificent peaks provide a spectacular backdrop and can be seen from the ranch complex and from most areas along the Henrys Fork. Middleground views consists primarily of the densely forested slopes of the caldera rim and surrounding uplands. The meadows north of the ranch property also provide excellent middleground and foreground views looking to and from the ranch and Highway 20. The park offers a diversity of landscapes and scenic experiences including open grassland valleys and forested mountains set against high

snow covered mountain backdrops.

Several prominent view corridors can also be found atop Thurmon Ridge, along Green Canyon Road. This road provides an excellent vantage point looking east towards the Tetons and west over Island Park Reservoir.

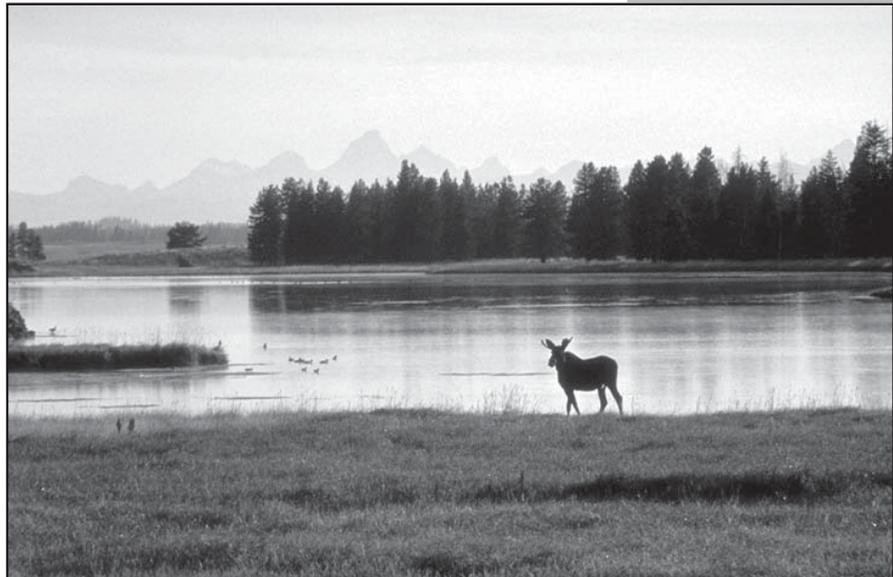


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Human Systems Survey

County Comprehensive Plans and Ordinances

Lands within Harriman State Park of Idaho lie wholly within Fremont County; therefore new development within the park comes under review by the Fremont County Planning and Zoning Commission in accordance with Section 67-6528 of the Local Planning Act.

Fremont County Comprehensive Plan

The Fremont County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1997. It is divided between the Island Park, North Fremont and South Fremont Planning Areas. Harriman State Park of Idaho falls within the Island Park planning area. The following policies from the Fremont County Comprehensive Plan address elements that should be considered in the Harriman State Park of Idaho master plan.

Policy 9. Maintain the Island Park Area's Natural Assets – It shall be the policy of Fremont County to maintain the natural assets upon which the resort economy and recreational amenities of the Island Park Planning Area are based. The county shall also direct development away from naturally hazardous areas.



Policy 11. Protect Visual Resources and Enhance the Community's Image – It shall be the policy of Fremont County to maintain and enhance the traditional resort character of the Island Park Planning Area by directing development away from visually sensitive areas and adopting design standards for commercial buildings and signs.

11.B The County will use its development code to encourage the provision of underground utilities wherever practical. See FCD VIII.HH.

11.C Fremont County will encourage the design of commercial areas, signs and buildings to be compatible with local tradition. This will be done through a combination of development code provisions and the publication of design guidelines.

Also located within the County Comprehensive Plan is the City of Island Park Comprehensive Plan. In it, the city states its vision as, "The City of Island Park should continue to be a peaceful, rustic retreat from urban life; with small-scale resorts and services for residents and visitors in appropriate locations; and abundant open space."

General guidance for land development activities is found in the accompanying Fremont County Development Code.

Associated Planning Documents

In August 1998, the Community Development Plan for Island Park was adopted, granting the city the status of a certified Gem Community. In the Island Park Community Development One-Year Action Plan, dated August 2001, there are two proposals that affect Harriman State Park of Idaho. The first proposal speaks directly to the preferred management concept outlined in this master plan. It recommends the hiring of a recreational planner to “research the feasibility of an Island Park network of bicycle and OHV trails that is property signed, maintained and

enforced for compliance.” Suggested partners for this project are Fremont County Parks & Recreation, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the Targhee National Forest. The second proposal deals with the possibility of a National Audubon Society nature center in the Island Park area.

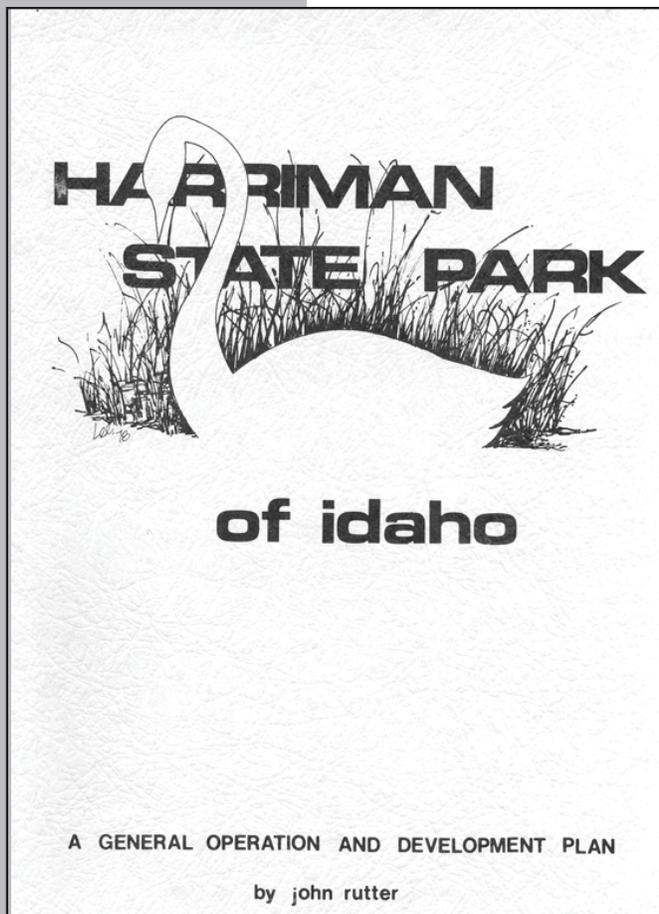
The action plan notes that it “may be the first step towards realizing a major visitor attraction at the north entrance to Harriman State Park.”

Initial Park Development Plan

Prior to the park’s opening in 1982, a General Operation and Development Plan was prepared by John Rutter. That plan was adopted in 1978. The area of consideration for the plan included the Railroad Ranch, Harriman East, the drainage into Silver Lake, the Thurmon Creek drainage, Coyote Gulch and Antelope Park, which is the basic ranch and adjacent leased Forest Service grazing land in the drainages flowing into the ranch from Thurmon Ridge. This was essentially the area E. Roland Harriman requested be established as a state park.

The 1978 plan noted the park’s wildlife, atmosphere of tranquility, natural beauty and renowned fishery as major characteristics of the park’s overall significance. The park was classified as a Natural Park; however, note was made of the “important cultural values which require different management, protection and interpretation” within the park at the ranch headquarters.

Included in the initial operation and development plan were sections addressing natural and cultural resources, interpretive programming and facilities, environmental issues of concern, vehicle circulation, maintenance



standards, grazing, concessions, research, staffing, employee housing, possible land exchanges and/or prioritized land acquisitions, and cooperative management with the Forest Service on lands surrounding the park.

The plan was conservative in many of its visitor use proposals. It recommended that “use of resources outside of the headquarters area should be approached cautiously until the effects have been observed and safe limits established.” Primary visitor activities recommended in the plan included: fishing, hiking, bird watching, general wildlife observation, limited picnicking, limited backpacking, walking and viewing, photography, interpretive programs and environmental center activities. Additional visitor activity recommendations included horseback riding and a small camping area near Fish Pond on Harriman East. Because of possible conflicts between skiers and the Trumpeter Swan, cross-country skiing was initially discouraged in the plan until such time as “research determines that the uses are compatible.”

A shuttle bus was proposed to provide access to ranch headquarters from a staging area off Green Canyon road in the southeast corner of the park. The plan recommended that no private vehicles, except employee and service vehicles, be permitted beyond the staging area during the normal travel season when the park is open to the public. The plan further recommended that a fee be charged for the shuttle bus ride to

all but school groups, disabled persons and senior citizens.

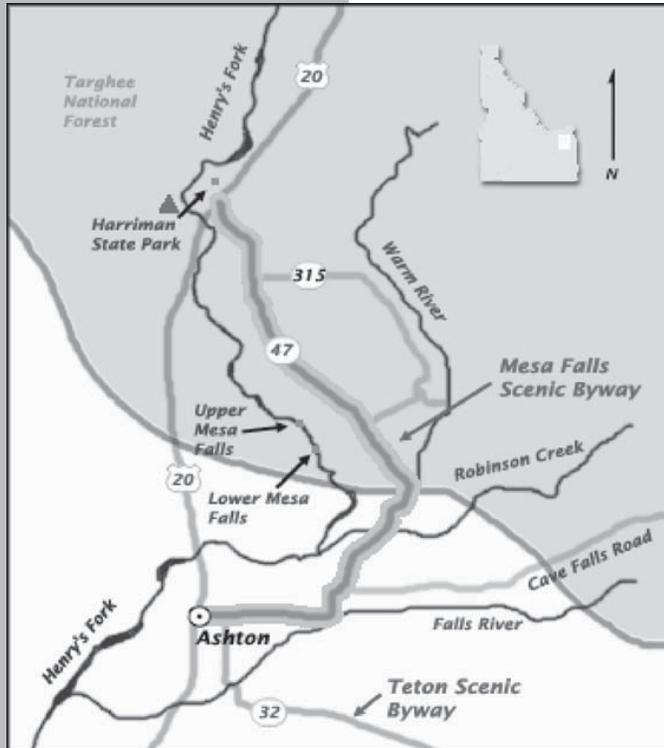
The plan called for maintenance of the rustic character of the ranch in all developments. It also placed heavy emphasis on environmental education. Developments were prioritized in a series of 14 packages.

Adjacent Land Ownership

Harriman State Park of Idaho is surrounded almost entirely by public land. (See Map 2-A.) The Idaho Department of Lands owns 240 acres north of the Henrys Fork that runs along a portion of the east boundary of the Railroad Ranch and the Harriman East property. It is bisected by U.S. Highway 20. The Department of Lands also owns a large parcel of land that lies adjacent to the west boundary of the Sheridan Ranch. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management owns much of the land along the northern boundary of the Sheridan Ranch, as well as nearly half of the land along the western boundary of Sheridan. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation owns the land at the bottom of the Island Park Reservoir to the east of the Sheridan Ranch site, as well as land along the shoreline to the south. The Targhee National Forest owns the vast remainder of public land surrounding the park. Private landowners adjacent to the park include the Pinehaven subdivision at Harriman East’s southern-most boundary on the west side of the Henrys Fork and a small piece of private land at Last Chance on the south side of the Henrys Fork to the north. At Sheridan Ranch, there are also private land ownerships

adjacent to the park on the east and a portion of the northern boundary.

Local Transportation Network



U.S. Highway 20, which traverses the United States from Boston, Massachusetts to Newport, Oregon is the major transportation arterial through the Island Park region. Highway 20 dissects the park and divides the Railroad Ranch from the Harriman East property. It is estimated that 2,000,000

vehicles travel this route annually, many of them on their way to or from Yellowstone National Park.

State Highway 47 is a 28-mile-long secondary road that travels from Ashton to a point just north of the Railroad Ranch entrance to Harriman State Park of Idaho. In 1989 it was designated the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway. Major reconstruction work was completed on the roadway in 1999.

Existing Utility Infrastructure

Potable Water Supply

All potable water at the site is supplied from the natural spring on

Thurmon Ridge. It is piped into the ranch complex and on to the park headquarters site through a gravity flow system.

Sewage Disposal

The buildings in the ranch complex are tied together on a sand mound wastewater treatment system located east of the dormitory parking lot. The headquarters building, maintenance shop and two residences near the shop are each on their own septic system with individual drainfields. The headquarters drainfield is located southeast of the building. The shop drainfield is located northeast of the building. The manager's residence drainfield is located east of the building and the ranger's residence drainfield is located south of the building.

Electricity

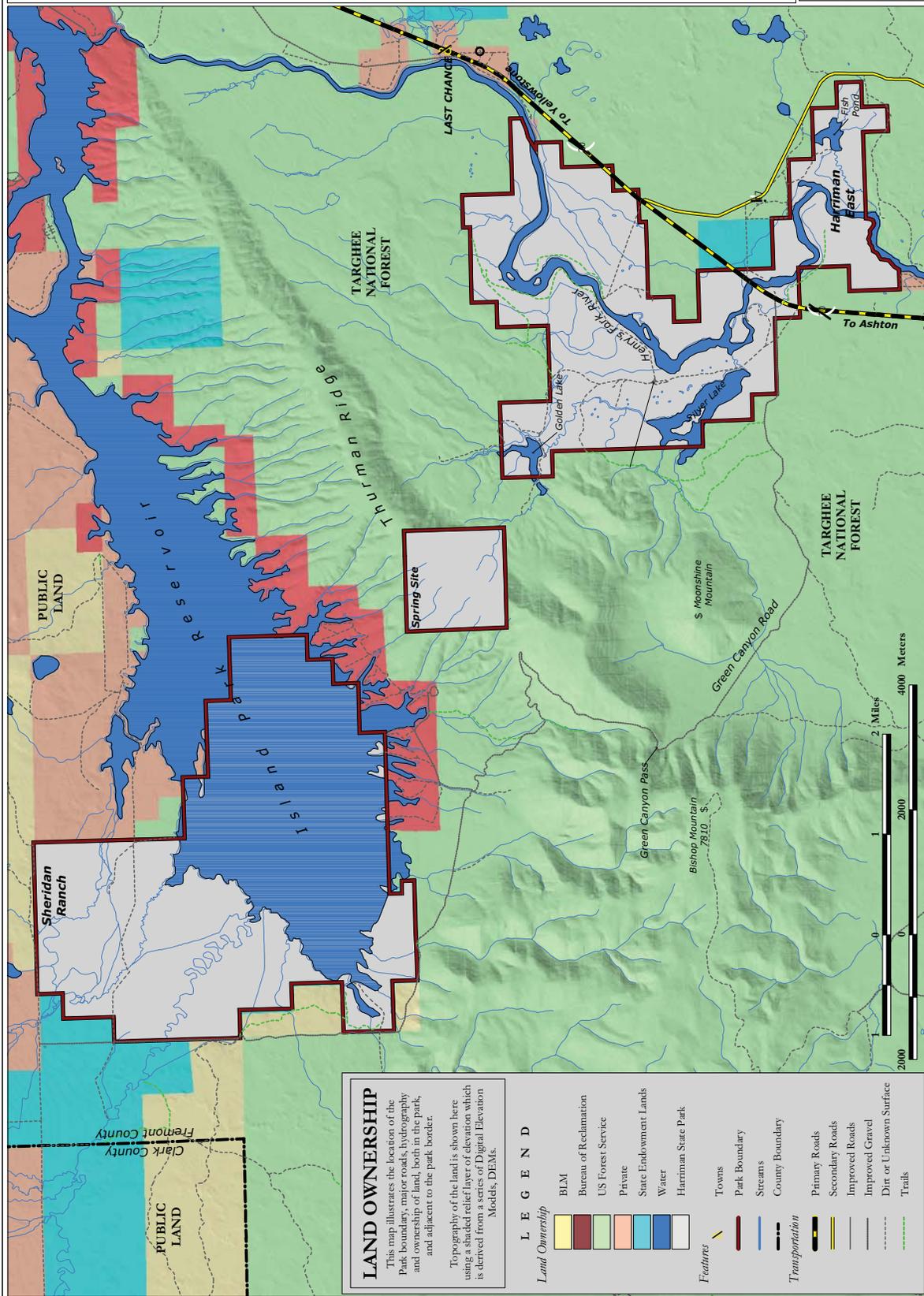
Electricity to the site is supplied by Falls River Electric Co-op. Power is supplied via an underground transmission line. There are 11 meters in the park, four in the park headquarters/administrative site, located at the headquarters/visitor center, park manager's residence, ranger's residence, and shop, and 7 in the ranch complex, located at the Ranch Foreman's House, Cattle Foreman's House, Ranch Office, Bunkhouse, Ranch View and 2 near the dormitory.

Telephone Service – Telephone service to the site is supplied by Fremont TelCom. There are two telephone lines – one voice and one fax/computer line – at park headquarters, one line each to the



HARRIMAN STATE PARK Land Ownership

MAP 2-A



LAND OWNERSHIP
This map illustrates the location of the Park boundary, major roads, hydrography and ownership of land, both in the park, and adjacent to the park border.
Topography of the land is shown here using a shaded relief layer of elevation which is derived from a series of Digital Elevation Models, DEMs.

L E G E N D	
Land Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLM Bureau of Reclamation US Forest Service Private State Endowment Lands Water Harriman State Park
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towns Park Boundary Streams County Boundary
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Roads Secondary Roads Improved Roads Improved Gravel Dirt or Unknown Surface Trails



two staff residences behind headquarters, and four telephone lines in the ranch building complex, one each at the Jones House, Ranch Office, Ranch Foreman's House and Cattle Foreman's House. There is also a pay telephone located at the park headquarters.

Facilities Inventory and Staffing

Park Headquarters/Visitor Center

The park headquarters building houses the administrative offices of the park and also serves as the year-round visitor center for the park. It provides restrooms, information services and a small retail area. The visitor center parking lot is the trailhead for winter cross-country ski activities.

Park Maintenance Buildings

The park maintenance area is located to the west of the headquarters building and is well hidden from the visitor use areas. This small complex is comprised of three buildings (shop, vehicle and equipment storage building, hazardous materials shed) and several fuel tanks.

Recreation Facilities

Harriman State Park of Idaho offers a wide variety of year-round recreational opportunities and experiences including fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, wildlife photography, limited snowmobiling and non-motorized boating on the Henrys Fork and Fish Pond.

Fly-fishing is certainly the most popular recreational activity in the park. Approximately seven miles of the Henrys Fork is located within Harriman State Park of Idaho.

Fishing regulations on the river allow for catch and release fly-fishing only. The Henrys Fork was voted by Trout Unlimited as the number one trout stream in the country. Generally the river attracts the more serious fly fisherman, although many ordinary anglers are drawn by the river's reputation.

To retain the natural character of the river, only a few facilities have been provided for fisherman. These include parking at the Sage Flat fishing access, Ranch View, Osborne boat launch and Last Chance, along with a few picnic tables, restrooms and regulatory signage. For the most part, these facilities have been deemed more than adequate by the fishing community. Most would like to see the fishing experience at Harriman State Park of Idaho remain as pristine as possible without the incursion of additional facilities.

Non-motorized boating is permitted on the Henrys Fork. Drift boats will float the Railroad Ranch stretch of the Henrys Fork. However, wade fishing is more popular because of the slow water. A boat launch is located on Harriman East. This facility is adjacent to Osborne Bridge and includes a boat ramp. Generally, boaters float to the U.S. Forest Service takeout at Riverside Campground. Another takeout point is located further downstream at East Hatchery Ford; however, boaters should take care to check water levels and the condition of the

river before proceeding beyond Riverside Campground.

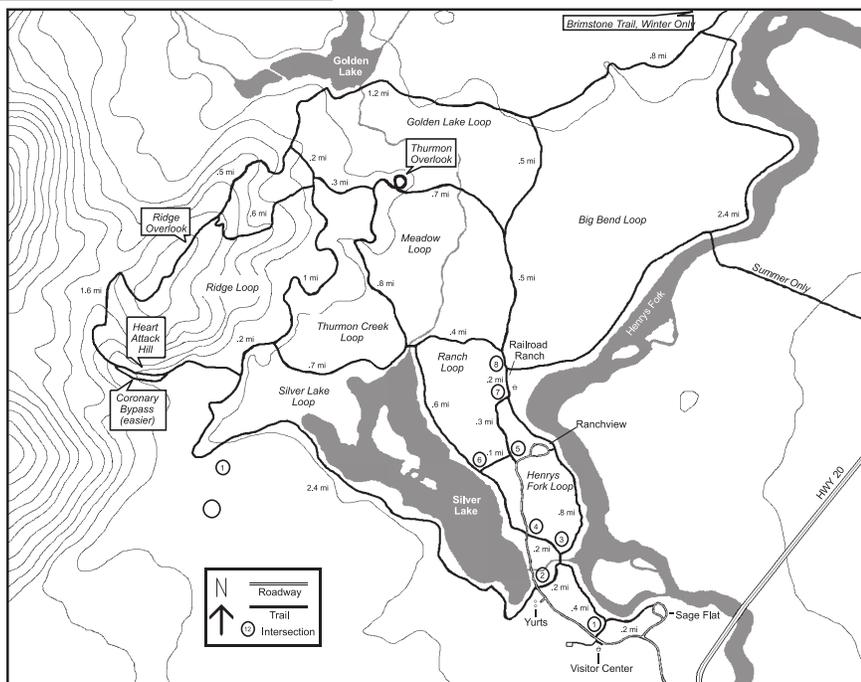
Fishing is also available at Fish Pond on Harriman East. This area receives limited use because it is relatively unknown and it is difficult to access. General fishing regulations apply in addition to permitted non-motorized boating. There are currently no visitor facilities at this site.

Over 20 miles of non-motorized multiple-use trails can be found within the park. These trails range from short half-hour strolls through the ranch complex to more strenuous loop trails accessing remote sections of the park and the adjacent Targhee National Forest. The park's trail system was designed with the wildlife refuge in mind. The trail system offers excellent opportunities to view and photograph wildlife, although efforts have been made to limit the encroachment upon sensitive wildlife areas.

Harriman State Park of Idaho trails are multi-use trails providing for all non-motorized traffic including summer and winter use. The trail system is used throughout the summer and fall by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Most of the equestrian use is through a private concessionaire operating out of the park. In addition to trails, related facilities include: regulatory and directional signage, footbridges, restrooms, and facilities associated with the horse concession (barns, corrals and hitching post).

Currently, no camping is available within the park, although Forest Service campgrounds are located adjacent to the park along the Island Park Reservoir near Sheridan Ranch and Harriman East. The park does provide overnight accommodations in two yurts located near Silver Lake, the 40-person dormitory that sits beside the dude barns at the southern-most end of the historic complex and in the ranch manager's house inside the historic complex.

Harriman State Park of Idaho is a major winter recreation destination in the region. Cross-country skiing at Harriman and snowmobiling in the nearby Targhee National Forest are popular activities. The season usually covers the period from December through March, however in some years November and April have snow conditions that make winter sports possible. The park offers groomed skate and classic cross-country ski trails ranging in difficulty from novice to expert. The 20-plus miles of nordic ski trails within the park link to approximately 15 miles of ski trails in



Non-motorized trail system

the surrounding Targhee National Forest. Parking for skiers is provided at the park headquarters building. Warming facilities are available in the Jones House and at the park headquarters building.

Snowmobiling is a very popular activity in the Island Park area. The Fremont County snowmobile program provides groomed snowmobile trails throughout the Targhee National Forest. There are over 600 miles of maintained trail connecting Island Park to West Yellowstone and the Continental Divide trail system. Currently the park provides a snowmobile access trail across Harriman East and along the north boundary of the Railroad Ranch. All other park trails are for non-motorized use only. Snowmobile parking is provided on Harriman East near the Osborne Bridge.

Current Park Staffing

The full-time Harriman park staff consists of one manager, one assistant manager, one ranger and one office specialist. Harriman State Park of Idaho also oversees the operation of Henrys Lake State Park. Full time Henrys Lake park staff consists of one ranger. During the peak use season (May – September) the park hires 7 seasonal staff members for Harriman, 8 seasonal staffers for Henrys Lake and 4 seasonal staffers for Mesa Falls as part of the cooperative management agreement with the Forest Service.

Existing Land Use Agreements

Gift Deed

Harriman State Park of Idaho was gifted to the State from E. Roland and

W. Averell Harriman on December 4, 1961. The donation from the Harrimans was subject to the following conditions:

1. The name of the park shall be called “Harriman State Park of Idaho.”
2. The Legislature was to establish a professionally staffed career “Park Service whose personnel shall be chosen on the basis of merit alone.”
3. The State was to pay Fremont County a sum of money in lieu of taxes equal to the sum which would have been paid had the property remained in private ownership.
4. Hunting, shooting and trapping by the general public were to be prohibited in the park.
5. Fishing shall be restricted to the use of dry and wet flies only.
6. The bird sanctuary between the Ranch Bridge and Osborne Bridge shall be continued in perpetuity.
7. The property in Lima, Montana that was also donated to the State of Idaho was to be sold and the proceeds used to benefit Harriman State Park of Idaho.
8. The park was to try to expand its boundaries to include “all lands west of the Snake River from the Osborne Bridge to the Island Park Reservoir Dam thence westerly to Green Canyon Road back to the point of beginning.” Within these same boundaries, hunting, shooting and trapping were to be prohibited.
9. Permission was given to “either directly or by concession make such provisions as may seem . . . proper for food, lodging and saddle horses within the park and may also make such arrangements



for forestry, agriculture and cattle raising.

10. Permission was also given to construct and maintain a small aircraft landing strip in the park.

11. E. Roland and Gladys F. Harriman were granted lifetime estates on the property.

A full copy of the gift deed may be found in the appendix, see Appendix 1.

Concessionaire

A concessionaire operates the public horse rides. The existing contract is for a 5-year term. It is due to expire in 2005.

Grazing Leases

Grazing leases have been issued for the Railroad Ranch, Harriman East and Sheridan Ranch units of the park. The Railroad Ranch lease, Lease #696-G-04 is a 10-year lease that will expire on December 31, 2004. It covers 2400 acres and is for an allotment of not less than 500 AUMs, with the maximum amount to

be negotiated. The Harriman East lease, Lease #61.2-G-09 is a 10-year lease that will expire on December 31, 2009. It covers 600 acres and is for an allotment of 650 AUMs. The Sheridan Ranch lease, Lease #697-G-98 is a 10-year lease that will expire on December 31, 2005. It covers 2800 acres and is for an allotment of 3600 AUMs.

Easements

The park holds a 20-year term easement from the Idaho Department of Lands for the concrete boat ramp in the Henrys Fork at the Osborne Bridge. It is Term Easement #6299. It was signed on June 21, 2001 and expires on June 21, 2021.

Historical and Cultural Resources

Due to the intact condition of the ranch complex, the historic buildings at Harriman State Park of Idaho provide an accurate depiction of the ranch and its structures as it was when the Harriman family occupied Railroad Ranch. Currently, seven of the historic buildings are used for interpretation. Extensive artifact collections have been preserved, many of which are on display. These artifacts include household items such as furniture, dishes and family memorabilia. The barns and sheds house other historic pieces such as machinery, wagons, mowers, rakes, plows, as well as tools, packing gear and camping equipment. Significant portions of the ranch are leased for cattle grazing. This activity, along with the horse concession, help to retain the historic character of the ranch.

Within the Railroad Ranch complex are several interpretive exhibits that describe aspects of the Harriman's life at the ranch and the ranching lifestyle. In addition to these exhibits, pamphlets with maps are available for self-guided tours of the ranch. These pamphlets offer a brief history of the ranch and provide a description of each building and its function. During the summer, staff-conducted interpretive tours are also given within the ranch complex.

Eco-heritage Tourism

Harriman State Park of Idaho has one of the most unique locations of eco-heritage tourism anywhere. The park is located in the center of an internationally renowned scenic, environmental and cultural resource area. The site and the surrounding region have a unique combination of natural and cultural resources that clearly embody a heritage area.

The National Park Service defines heritage areas as follows:

A heritage area is a region where natural, cultural and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make heritage areas representative of the state or natural experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in the regions. Continued use of heritage areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.

Harriman State Park of Idaho is an incredibly unique heritage resource area on its own merit, however when the park's context is taken into consideration, it clearly captures the spirit and intent for which heritage areas have been defined.

Because of the park's unique location and the significance of area attractions, it is not necessary for Harriman State Park of Idaho to absorb all the uses and activities on-site. Partnerships with regional entities can be established to provide for activities and services to expand the recreation and interpretive potential of the area without over impacting Harriman State Park of Idaho or other area resources.

Historical Buildings and Structures

The Railroad Ranch consists of 32 historic buildings that were built between 1902 and 1957. The historic ranch complex is comprised of dwellings constructed for the Harriman and Jones families, guests and staff. The ranch also contains structures typical of a working ranch including barns, sheds, shops and corrals. Most of the buildings are of log construction on stone foundations. Over the past several years many of the structures have undergone extensive restoration including: the replacement of foundations, upgraded plumbing and the stabilization of roofs and porches. As a result of intensive preservation efforts, the buildings have changed very little in the nearly 30 years since the Harriman family turned the property over to the State.

The historic ranch complex is comprised of the following buildings and building types:

Family/Guest Dwellings & Dining Facilities

Jones House – Charles Jones built this summer house in 1955 to accommodate his family and friends

when they visited the Railroad Ranch. The most modern structure in the ranch complex, the Jones House featured six bedrooms, four baths and

numerous spacious cabinets.

Boys House – The Boys House is the oldest building on the site, the original structure dating back to 1902. It was obtained by Mary Harriman just before 1917 and used as quarters for her “boys,” Averell and Roland. The downstairs once contained two large sitting rooms, a kitchen area, three bedrooms and a bath. The upstairs was remodeled in the 1950’s with rows of rafters and supports to help reinforce the roof against the snow load. The downstairs was remodeled in 1995 as an educational and meeting center. Public restrooms are located inside the Boys House.

Dining Cottage – The Dining Cottage was used by the Harrimans for guest housing, but primarily for

meal preparation and dining. The Harrimans brought their own domestic staff for their visits, and the bedrooms and bath upstairs were provided for their use. The Dining Cottage is open to the public on guided tours and contains furnishings left by Roland and Gladys Harriman.

Harriman Cottage – The seasonal residence of Roland and Gladys Harriman, this building was constructed on the site of Mary Harriman’s original cottage in 1947. It features a large front room with an immense stone fireplace, two bedrooms with private baths and fireplaces, and a separate tackle room for the gear of the avid fly fisherman and hunter. The interior furnishings were those left in the house in 1977. The house is open to the public on guided tours.

Honeymoon Hotel – Both the Guggenheim and Harriman families brought domestic help from the east for their summer visits. Solomon Guggenheim would house his servants in this building, which was once called Hotel d’Bum. When it was remodeled in 1951 to house a newly married ranch employee and his wife, it was appropriately renamed the Honeymoon Hotel.

Staff Dwellings & Food Preparation

Ranch Foreman’s House – While used as a residence, this 1917 house has been remodeled numerous times, and it has sheltered many different ranch employees. Its current use is for employee housing. It is not open to the public.



Charles and Jenny Jones, circa 1956.

Bunk House – The bunkhouse most often served as the residence for seasonal ranch employees. Very few stayed through the long winter, but in addition to the foremen, those remaining were allowed to bring their families and live in the bunkhouse, cookhouse or Honeymoon Hotel. The bunkhouse was remodeled in 1978 to accommodate workers from the Youth Conservation Corp.

Cookhouse – Several cookhouses were constructed over the years to feed the hungry ranch hands. This cookhouse, built in 1949, is complete with kitchen, dining area for 40, rooms for the cook and an upstairs apartment for the wintering families. The kitchen was remodeled in 1978 to conform to health regulations and is now a usable cooking facility for large groups.

Cattle Foreman's House – The cattle foreman's house, long known as the McGarry House, was built in the mid-1950's. Its most recent use has been for employee housing. It is not open to the public.

Ranch Office – The Railroad Ranch operation was overseen by a ranch manager who often worked or lived in this building. The furnishings left to the State included a large steel safe and a steel desk with tables dating back to the 1950's. Ranch records dating back to the creation of the Island Park Land and Cattle Company were kept in the office and are now part of the park archives.

Ranch Manager's House – This building originally served as shareholder Silas Eccles' clubhouse,

but in 1921, the building was remodeled as a residence for ranch manager James Anderson. Between 1929 and 1948, it was used strictly as overflow housing for the guests of Solomon Guggenheim. In later years, managers Dan Clark, Jr. and Ben Meese resided in the house and had it modernized. It features four bedrooms and a comfortable living room. Since 1998, it has been available for overnight lodging rental.

Barns and Sheds

Sheep Barn and Loafer Shed – A major sheep operation existed on the Ranch in the 1920's and 1930's. The first corral area and barn were used in later years as only a few sheep were kept for domestic needs.

Horse Barn – This structure was originally designed to house the large draft horses needed to pull equipment for the ranch operation. The stalls were built extra wide to hold up to eight work teams, plus there are two stud stalls to hold the stallions. Hay was stored in the upstairs loft, and saddles, bridles and other tack were kept in rooms downstairs.

Cow Barn – An elaborate dairy set-up designed for 24 cows is a unique feature of the Cow Barn.

Memories of Ranch Life in the Early 1900's

Rose Edginton worked for the Railroad Ranch from 1908 to 1921 as the ranch cook during the summers. With no electricity available at the time, meat was kept in the ice house and water was heated on the wood burning stove. Butter was churned from the ranch's dairy cows.

The gardens grew lovely during the summers. Weeds were no problem at all. The squirrels were the number one hassle. The women would wake up in the morning and attend to the garden ritual—shoot the squirrels with a 22 shotgun or trap them. The women were pretty good sharp shooters!

The vegetables were stored in an underground root cellar. Vegetables grown at the ranch included radishes, peas, onions, lettuce, cabbage and whatever else they could grow.

Rose would rise very early each morning to prepare the meals each day for the dudes, cowhands and families. The average wake-up time was 5:00 a.m.

Transportation during the winter was primarily by dog team and sled. During the summer, it was by horse and buggy.

The telephone came to the ranch in 1910. The wires were attached to the fences and trees.

During the quiet evenings gas lamps lighted the ranch. No one was outside after dark because of the bats. They were very heavy during those years. The quiet and solitude were not a problem. Folks were very good at entertaining themselves.



“Big Shop” was used as a park workshop and base of maintenance operation until it burned to the ground on January 28, 1980. Many antiques and much equipment was lost in the fire.

Unfortunately, records do not indicate whether a full-scale dairy operation ever existed at the Railroad Ranch.

Grainery – The Grainery was built elsewhere and relocated to its present location in 1952. As its name indicates, grains and salt were stored here.

Small Shop – The small shop was used for ranch storage and it also served as a tool shop. It may have originally been a bunkhouse, once located next to the present day Cookhouse. Apparently converted in 1935 to a shop, it was reinforced against heavy snowfall and moved to this location in 1952. Like many other ranch buildings, the small shop is heavily infested with bats and serves only storage purposes.

Equipment Storage/Tractor Shed – Since it was built, the large storage barn has been used to store haying mowers and rakes, snow scrapers, tractors, trucks and sleighs. The tractor shed was constructed to house a D-4 Caterpillar tractor, newly purchased in 1948.

Auto Garage – The auto garage originally served as a ranch shop but once automobiles became widely used in the 1930’s and 1940’s, it was enlarged to store various ranch vehicles.

Dude Barns – Located far from the operating ranch, the south and middle dude barns (originally owned by Solomon Guggenheim) and the north barn (owned by the Harrimans) were used to stable the owner’s personal horses. Carriage sheds once existed between the barns to store their various buggies. Winter snows in 1932 and 1952 damaged the sheds beyond repair, but all the barns were strengthened to withstand snow. In 1980 the north barn was replaced with a dormitory building designed as a group sleeping facility.

Ancillary Structures

Corrals and Scale House – This full corral system was designed to accommodate the great fall cattle drives. The many pens were used to sort the cattle according to age, sex and brand. The corrals are still used today, as the ranch lessees round up their cattle every fall.

Meat Smoker – The metal smoker was used to smoke meat for the ranch tables – primarily those of the owners and their guests.

Bat House – The Bat House was especially designed and built as an attempt to lure the bats away from the ranch buildings. Although the Bat House was even lined with bat guano (manure), to this date no bat has been known to take up

residence.

Ice House – From the inception of the Railroad Ranch until 1949, there was no electrical refrigeration in the buildings. Blocks of ice were cut on Silver Lake in December and stored in icehouses to satisfy year-round refrigeration needs.

In addition to the buildings in the ranch complex, several other historic elements lend to the character of Harriman State Park of Idaho. These elements include the signature Jack fences and wooden mailboxes found along Highway 20 that have become synonymous with the Railroad Ranch. The use of livestock for grazing and the horse concession also lend to the historic character of the ranch.

Archaeology

In 1966 an archaeological reconnaissance of the Railroad Ranch was prepared by the Idaho State University Museum. This study identified thirty-seven prehistoric campsites dispersed throughout the ranch property. Several of these sites were believed to be Clovis campsites that date 11,000 to 11,500 years ago.

The prehistoric people that lived at Railroad Ranch were likely hunters, fishers and gatherers living in small communities and moving from one location to another with each passing season. Numerous artifacts including spearheads, arrowheads, broken utensils and other relics have been found along the banks of the Henrys Fork.



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Recreation Supply & Demand

Area Market Breakdown

In 2001, the park hosted over 56,000 visitors. Of the visitors who came to participate in day use activities, 48% of them were Idaho residents and 52% were from out of state. Of the overnight guests at the park, 75% were from Idaho and 25% came from other states.

Among out-of-state visitors, western states were the most highly represented with Utah, California, Montana and Washington having the most visitors recognized in attendance at the park.

Area Population and Growth Projections

The population of the State of Idaho has been growing steadily throughout the decade of the 90's. Between 1990 and 1998, Idaho's growth rate ranked third in the nation. According to the March 2001 report of the U.S. Census Bureau, all but two counties in Idaho (Butte and Shoshone counties) saw a slight to dramatic increase in their populations. Ten counties, including Fremont County, saw an increase from very minimal numbers to up to 9.9%. Thirteen counties grew 10-19.9%. Thirteen counties grew 20-39.9% and six counties grew an astounding 40% or more during that ten-year period.

Fremont County's population has been growing steadily over the past 20 years. The actual percentage of growth for the period from 1990 to 2000 was 8.1%. The city of Island

Park grew by 35.2% from a population of 159 in 1999 to a total of 215 in 2000. This population number accounts for the year-round residents. The summer population is actually much larger.

Outdoor Recreation Activity Participation

National legislation passed in 1965 requires that each state prepare long-range outdoor recreation plans. In Idaho, the document is known as the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan (SCORTP). Idaho's plans have had substantial effects on recreation and tourism policies in the state.

The most recent edition, published in July 1998, identifies existing resources and systems, general outdoor recreation and tourism participation patterns and trends, issues and problems, and recommends strategic solutions to these

problems. The SCORTP is not a site specific detailing of facts and data. Local and regional planning, research and cooperation are strongly recommended in order to satisfy the



**Annual In-Community Outdoor Activity Participation
Region 6**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Walking	57
Sports	32
Exercise	13
Attending festivals, events, culture	16
Biking	9
Other recreation	11
Golf	12
Running	6
Swimming in pools	8
Tennis	2
Picnic, BBQ	5
Skiing, alpine	1
Boating	3
Motorized recreation	1
Fishing	4
Sightseeing	2
Snowmobiling	1
Snow play	2
Swimming in lakes	1
Camping, auto	2
Gardening	2
Hunting	1
Skiing, cross-country	1

Table 5.1

outdoor recreation and tourism needs of Idaho.

Idaho has been divided into seven travel planning regions to assist with the planning, funding, management and administration of recreation and tourism resources. Each travel region is identified with characteristics such as terrain or population that make its resources, needs and potential unique. Harriman State Park of Idaho is in Region 6, consisting of 6 eastern Idaho counties.

The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan's (1998) unit of analysis is the region, in terms of activity participation, facility use and other recreation planning variables. Table 5.1 shows generally how people in Region 6 spend their leisure time in their communities. Table 5.2 shows the out-of-community outdoor recreation participation of all Idahoans statewide.

**Annual Out-of-Community
Outdoor Activity Participation
Statewide**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Travel home	16
Attending festivals, events, culture	8
Fishing	8
Sightseeing	7
Sports	7
Camping, auto	4
Hunting	4
Skiing, alpine	4
Other recreation	4
Boating	3
Golf	3
Walking	3
Picnic, BBQ	2
Snowmobiling	2
Swimming	2
Biking	1
Camping, backcountry	1
Skiing, cross-country	1
Motorized recreation	1
Snow play	<1

Table 5.2

Area Recreational Opportunities

Harriman State Park of Idaho is located in a region that is known for its outstanding recreational opportunities, most notably fishing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and general sight seeing. Two of this country's most scenic and popular National Parks are within a two-hour drive of Harriman. These parks offer an array of outdoor activities and visitor experiences. In addition to the parks, the surrounding National Forests provide extensive opportunities for

hiking, biking, camping and picnicking.

The following major destinations are located within a half-day drive of Harriman State Park of Idaho.

Major Destinations

Yellowstone – Yellowstone National Park is America’s oldest and largest National Park. Established in 1872, the park covers 3,472 square miles of elevated plateau and high peaks. Classified in 1978 as a World Heritage site, the park offers incredible scenery, thousands of thermal pools, geysers and springs and a wide variety of wildlife including bison, bighorn sheep, elk, moose and pronghorn sheep. The park receives over 3 million visitors each year.

Grand Teton National Park – Grand Teton National Park, located south of Yellowstone, covers 485 square miles of towering peaks, glaciers and lakes. Ten mountain peaks tower more than a vertical mile above the valley floor. The park offers an array of recreational activities including more than 200 miles of trails, fishing, climbing, boating, whitewater rafting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, snowmobiling and ice fishing. The park receives over 2.5 million visitors each year.

Craters of the Moon National Monument – The lava fields at Craters of the Moon National Monument cover 618 square miles and are the largest basaltic lava fields in the conterminous United



States. This volcanic landscape contains more than 25 cinder cones with large central vents that were thought by early observers to resemble craters of the moon. Recently, the Monument has undergone a significant expansion after receiving several thousand acres of BLM land. The Monument receives more than 150,000 visitors per year.

Targhee National Forest – This 1.8 million acre National Forest borders Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. The Targhee National Forest includes canyons, high peaks, desert and numerous lakes and streams. More than 1,100 miles of trail for both summer and winter use can be found. Like Yellowstone, wildlife abounds. The spectacular Upper and Lower Mesa Falls are located within the forest, a short drive from Harriman State Park of Idaho. The Mesa Falls recreation area is jointly managed and interpreted by Harriman State Park of Idaho staff. Camping at Riverside campground and Island Park Reservoir are also available within the forest and are in

close proximity to Harriman State Park of Idaho. Presently the Forest receives over one million visitors each year.

Beaverhead and Gallatin National Forests, Montana – The

Beaverhead and Gallatin National Forests cover over 3 million acres of southwest Montana. Here glaciated peaks rise from broad valleys to form some of Montana’s most majestic ranges.

Both forests are popular outdoor recreation areas providing a wide range of year round activities.

In addition to the major attractions, several other recreational sites can be found in the region. The most significant of these attractions include:

Other Area Recreation Resources

Island Park Reservoir – Island Park Reservoir covers roughly half of the Sheridan Site along the southeast side of the property. The

large reservoir is a popular fishing, boating and water skiing destination. There are five boat launch locations and several campsites around the reservoir.

Henry's Lake State Park – This Idaho State Park lies in a high mountain bowl at an elevation of 6,470 feet along the Continental Divide near Yellowstone National Park. The park’s shallow lake is known for producing big trout. The lake is surrounded by the towering 8,000 to 10,000-foot Henry's Lake Mountains.

Henry's Fork – The Henry's Fork is a tributary of the Snake River and flows south from Big Springs to Rexburg. This blue-ribbon fishery is renowned as one of the best fly-fishing streams in North America. In addition to fishing, Big Springs National Water Trail offers 3 to 5-hour canoe/float trips along a five-mile stretch of the river.

Teton River Basin - East of Harriman State Park of Idaho, the Teton River flows through the scenic Teton Valley. Two-thirds of this mountain valley is pasture, open range, and lush irrigated fields bordered by rugged mountains and forested hills.

Jackson, Wyoming – The town of Jackson is a world-renowned resort. Jackson is located at the southern entrance to Grand Teton National Park. This community has become a center for cultural activity and recreation including fishing, climbing, boating, whitewater rafting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and snowmobiling. The



Henry's Lake

National Elk Refuge is located near town.

Grand Targhee, Big Sky, Pine Basin, Kelly Canyon and Sun Valley Ski Areas – Numerous small and world-class downhill ski areas are located within a half-day drive of Harriman State Park of Idaho.

West Yellowstone – As its name implies, West Yellowstone marks the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park. The town is a major tourist center offering a variety of recreation opportunities.

Big Springs – Big Springs is one of the largest springs in the United States. This spring marks the origin of the Henrys Fork. Here, water rises to the surface at a constant 52-degree temperature. The spring is a spawning ground for rainbow trout, although fishing is not permitted. It is also the location of Johnny Sack Cabin, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mesa Falls Scenic Byway – This 28-mile scenic road in the Targhee National Forest is located just east of Harriman State Park of Idaho. Upper and Lower Mesa Falls - two of the last undisturbed waterfalls of consequence in the west - are located along the byway. The Henrys Fork drops 114 feet at Upper Mesa Falls, and 65 feet at Lower Mesa Falls. These Forest Service recreation sites include parking areas, accessible restrooms, trails, boardwalks and viewing platforms. In the winter the road become a snowmobile route.

Teton Scenic Byway – This 69-mile scenic drive takes the visitor through the lush rolling farmland of eastern Idaho.

Idaho Falls – Idaho Falls is the hub of eastern Idaho. This community of 50,000 people is located along the Snake River. The town's most popular attraction is the 14-mile greenbelt that runs along the river. Along this urban trail the falls, which give the city its name, can be seen as well as an endless variety of migrating water fowl.

St. Anthony Sand Dunes – The St. Anthony Sand Dunes cover an area 35 miles long and 5 miles wide. These active dunes are composed of fine quartz sand carried by prevailing winds across the Snake River plain. The dunes range in height from 10 to 4 thousand feet.

How Averell Harriman Built Sun Valley

Starting as an axe man for the railroad at age 17, Averell Harriman made his first trip to Idaho and fell in love with the state. Later, as Chairman of the Board of the Union Pacific, he wanted to develop interest in the West that would both promote traffic for the railroad and the territory as well.

While traveling in Europe, he discovered the popularity of winter ski resorts like St. Moritz in the mountains of Austria. Although there were no ski resorts in the American West, there were lots of people skiing. Harriman felt that a ski resort should be developed in the West. He employed Count Felix Schaffgotsch, an Austrian resort developer to explore locations within the Union Pacific's territory. The search parameters for the resort included a "valley with sun pouring in and a dry climate—not too much snow, but enough for skiing." During his second month of exploration, Count Schaffgotsch called Averell Harriman to report, "I have found it!"

The search for Sun Valley began in January; it was located in February; Averell Harriman convinced the Board of Directors of the Union Pacific to build a million dollar hotel that spring; an architect was hired in May; ground broke by the end of the month; and the hotel was opened by Christmas of 1936.

The hotel, which looks like a wood structure, is really made of concrete. The Union Pacific Board of Directors were very concerned about hotel fires, so a new type of concrete was developed that looks like wood, but was fireproof, for the construction of the hotel. Averell Harriman also had amenities such as a heated outdoor pool for winter, and an outdoor ice-skating rink in the summer added to the hotel.

Sun Valley was the first ski resort to have a ski lift. It was invented by a Union Pacific engineer. He patterned it after the hanging hooks that brought bananas off the boats that he had seen in New Orleans. All these new ideas and inventions came about in the 8 months between the time that Averell Harriman convinced the Board of Directors that a ski resort was a good investment for the Union Pacific and Christmas 1936. And after all that hard work, on opening day the lodge was full of guests, but there wasn't enough snow! So the Union Pacific agreed to let the guest stay for free until it snowed enough to ski. Luckily, heavy snows fell later in the week and there was plenty of snow by New Year's Day 1937.



Averell Harriman, circa 1940

The dunes provide an outstanding venue for ATVs, dune buggies and motorcycle riding in addition to horseback riding. Sledding, tubing and snowmobiling are popular winter activities.

Current Park Visitor Profile

Two surveys were distributed to visitors during the course of the master plan process at Harriman State Park of Idaho. During the summer of 2000, visitors were given the standard state park Day Use Visitors Survey to complete. Seventy copies of that survey were returned. During the winter of 2000-2001, visitors were given the Harriman State Park Visitor Survey to complete. Forty-five copies of that survey were returned. Copies of both surveys are found in the appendix (see Appendix 5). By compiling the results of these two surveys together, it was hoped that a year-round profile of the current park visitor could be determined.

According to the surveys, 48% of

Harriman State Park of Idaho's visitors come from Idaho, 12% come from Utah and 9% come from California. The majority of all visitors are from the western United States. The eastern state with the highest percentage of visitors was New York (4%).

The largest majority of people heard about Harriman State Park of Idaho from a friend or relative (34%), while 21% of the visitors live nearby the park. When asked about their 3 favorite things to do in a park, visitors responded that hiking (15%), wildlife watching (14%) and fishing (13%) topped their list of preferences. Being with family and friends and cross-country skiing (9%) tied for fourth place in the list of favorite things to do.

When asked what additional services visitors would like to see offered in the park, the top answers included bike and boat rentals (tied at 13% each), cabins (12%), nature store (10%), education programs and more trails (tied at 9% each).

Visitor statistics showed 55% of the visitors were females and 45% were males. Nearly one-third of visitors (30%) were in the 45 to 54-year-old age range. The next highest percentage was the 15 to 24-year-old age range (15%), followed by the 35 to 44-year-old group (14%), then the 55 to 64-year-olds and 65+ (tied at 12% each), the 0 to 14-year-olds (11%) and the 25 to 34-year-olds (5%). Nearly half the visitors reported an annual family income of \$35,000-\$75,000.

Most visitors arrived in the park by



or before midday, with 28% arriving between noon – 2 p.m. and 25% arriving between 10 a.m. – noon. Fourteen percent of visitors reported their arrival between 2-4 p.m. and 13% said they came between 8-10 a.m. Ten percent of visitors arrived at the park between 4-6 p.m., 6 % arrived between 6-8 p.m. and the very early (before 8 a.m.) and very late (after 8 p.m.) arrivals both reported 2% each of the visitors. Thirty-six percent of the visitors said their trip to the park was a first time visit.

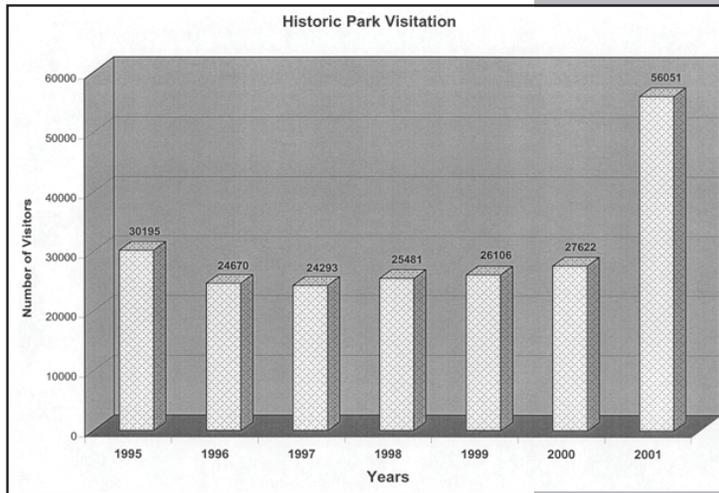
The largest percentage of visitors (14%) said that viewing wildlife was their primary attraction to the park. Fishing, scenery and park facilities all tied as the second place attraction to the park (10%).

Twenty-seven percent of park visitors described their group as a couple, while 26% said they came to the park as a group of friends. Nineteen percent described themselves as two parents with children and 12% said they came as extended family.

When asked to rate our park fees, 72% said they were about right, 13% said they were a little low, 5% said they were a little high, 5% said they were too low and 4% said they were too high.

When asked about customer service received from park staff, 69% of the visitors gave staff an “A” grade, 17% graded them as a “B,” 10% graded them as a “C,” 3% graded them as a “D,” and 2% gave them an “F.”

When asked about their level of satisfaction with the information



they received from the park or agency, 67% of the visitors gave an “A” grade, 20% gave a “B,” 8% gave a “C,” 3% gave a “D,” and 3% gave an “F.”

Looking at the condition of the natural areas of the park, 58% of the visitors gave them an “A” grade, 38% gave them a “B,” 3% gave them a “C,” and 1% gave an “F.”

When asked whether or not they felt safe in the park, 99% of the visitors said “yes, I feel safe” and 1% of the visitors said “I feel fairly safe.”

Historic Park Visitation Statistics

Visitation at Harriman State Park of Idaho from 1995 through 2001 was as follows.

1995	30,195 visitors
1996	24,670 visitors
1997	24,293 visitors
1998	25,481 visitors
1999	26,106 visitors
2000	27,622 visitors
2001	56,051 visitors

Park records speak of special events



in 1995, such as the National Envirothon, a national competition for high school students in a Natural Resources Conservation Service sponsored program being held at the park that year. However, there is no indication in the park's annual report for 1995 or 1996 that indicates why there would be such a large difference in park attendance from one year to the next, nor is there an indication in the historical data of the weather reports from 1995 and 1996 that would readily explain the 18% differential between the two year's attendance. In 1997, the park's visitor attendance continues to dip by another 2%, however, in the trends section of the Harriman State Park of Idaho annual report, park manager Gene Eyraud reported that "although the park showed a slight decline in attendance there appears to be an increase of trail use and a drop in the historic tours/Jones House Visitor Center use." He also noted "the horse concession has noticed the trend of more customers as returns and a

decrease in the number of drop-ins."

The 1998 report shows a 5% visitor increase and is the beginning of a steady increase in park visitation. The park's annual report for 1998 notes that the Harriman Futures Report "created a major focus change for the park toward developing a quality experience and generating revenue without impacting the natural resource values." It also reported that the Ranch Manager's House came on line as a park rental in May of that year. In 1999, park visitation rose by 2% as elements of the Harriman Futures Report continued to be addressed. Interpretive services were expanded at the park with the addition of the AmeriCorp program and winter programs were offered on Saturdays for children, as were guided ski trips.

Visitation in 2000 increased by 6%. The annual report targets no specific cause for the increase that year. The largest jump in visitation comes in 2001, when the numbers increase by 103%. The major reason for such a large increase is because of a change in the way of counting visitors. Staff switched from a visitor counting formula to an actual count of visitors in 2001. Thus, future years' visitation reports should reflect the higher numbers similar to those of 2001.

Projected Park Visitation

Visitation at Harriman State Park of Idaho is expected to increase in the coming years. In the last 10 years the Island Park community has grown

by 35% and Fremont County has grown by 8%. In the visitor survey taken at the park, 21% of the survey respondents said they live nearby the park. This population growth in the area, however, will not be the largest factor in increasing visitation.

Increased visibility of the park's entrance on the highway, additional overnight lodging opportunities and expanded trail opportunities will undoubtedly attract additional visitors to the park. It is expected that visitation at the park will steadily increase at a rate of 2-5% each year as current park patrons continue to visit the park and new visitors discover its treasures.



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Significance, Classification, Mission, & Goals/Objectives

Park Significance

Harriman State Park of Idaho has been referred to as the “crown jewel” of Idaho State Parks. The park’s establishment marks the beginning of the Idaho State Park system. The gift of the park to the State of Idaho is a testament to the Harriman family’s legacy of philanthropy and resource preservation. Harriman State Park of Idaho offers a unique combination of history, culture, environment and recreation.

The Railroad Ranch’s history is woven with the history of some of this country’s most wealthy and influential families. The ranch provides a glimpse of how American aristocracy like the Guggenheims and Harrimans lived and recreated. In addition, the ranch exemplifies the west’s ranching heritage. Here visitors can stay in historic accommodations and get a feel for what life was like in the early 1900’s.

The ranch’s location was selected for its spectacular setting and

scenery. Now visitors have a unique opportunity to recreate in these beautiful, serene surroundings. The Henrys Fork, which flows through the park, is nationally and internationally known as a fly-fishing “mecca.” This picturesque blue ribbon trout stream has been designated the best trout fishing stream in the West. In addition to fishing, the park also provides a diverse range of year-round recreational opportunities including multi-use non-motorized trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing, as well as picnicking and nature photography.

Harriman State Park of Idaho’s ecologically rich environment is located in an internationally renowned resource area (Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem). This designated refuge not only offers an incredible array of wildlife viewing opportunities, but it serves as a laboratory for conservation and research.

Park Classification

Park Classification System

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation has adopted a



classification system establishing four park categories (*IDPR, State Park Classification and Resource Area Designation System, 1999*). They are: Natural Park, Recreation Park, Heritage Park, and Recreation Trailway. Each classification has unique criteria, a distinct purpose, compatible uses, appropriate development intensity, and specific management principles. In determining the classification of a park, consideration is also given to any national, state and regional designations, which may already exist in regard to the park. A classification system allows the programming, orderly development and appropriate use of the park lands based on management policies.

Classification of Harriman State Park of Idaho

Harriman State Park of Idaho has numerous values, including historical, natural and recreational. The ranching heritage of the park represents a significant portion of its history. In fact, the ranch building complex has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district. However, it was the wildlife and the scenic beauty of the Railroad Ranch that brought the

Harrimans to Idaho, and likewise, it was the preservation of the wildlife and the scenic beauty of the ranch that caused them to donate it to the State of Idaho to

become a state park. Therefore, Harriman State Park of Idaho has been classified a Natural Park.

Natural Park Purpose

A *Natural Park* is established to maintain the ecological integrity of areas of Idaho possessing exceptional resource values that illustrate Idaho's natural history. A *Natural Park* provides for the use and enjoyment of these resources in a manner that will enhance the understanding, appreciation and stewardship of these resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Desired Visitor Experiences

Visitors to a *Natural Park* will be offered the opportunity to find solitude, a leisure atmosphere, observation/study of natural features, positive experiences in natural surroundings, and a friendly and safe environment. This includes the development of personal outdoor ethics, development of knowledge of natural processes, and opportunities for directed and/or independent study.

Resource and Site Qualifications

A *Natural Park* must contain natural resources of statewide significance. Statewide significance means that the unit contains unique, natural values of sufficient extent and importance to meaningfully contribute to the broad illustration of the state's natural history. These include natural (botanical, zoological, and geological) and scenic qualities, which are both beautiful and representative of the state.



A *Natural Park* should be sufficiently comprehensive to allow effective management of a community of indigenous flora and fauna. A *Natural Park* should also provide a variety of opportunities for public enjoyment in a natural setting with minimum negative effect to the resource.

A park may contain resource values other than those for which the park received its overall classification. These secondary resources should be of a lesser magnitude than the resources for which the park received its overall classification. The use and protection of these secondary resources will be addressed by subsequent resource area designations. The existence of these secondary resources should not unduly affect the determination of the overall park classification. *Natural Parks* should be established where significant and unique aspects of the state's natural resources exist.

Management Principles

Resource Management -

Management will be directed at maintaining the ecological integrity and interpreting the natural values of the unit. Management will seek to maintain balance in the ecological community and reestablish missing elements of that community, such as indigenous plant and animal life to the extent practical.

Compatible Uses - Visitor use includes both interpretation and outdoor recreation in a natural setting. In addition to being an outdoor classroom, a *Natural Park*

is a place for participating in those outdoor recreational activities which can be accommodated without detriment to the natural character and features of the park and do not detract in any

way from the natural scene. In the broad sense, park use falls predominantly in the aesthetic portion of the recreational spectrum. *Natural Parks* are not intended to accommodate all forms or unlimited volumes of recreation use. Compatible uses could include hiking, interpretive programming, nature study, individual camping, group camping, picnicking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, equestrian use, boating, swimming and other recreational pursuits which do not significantly degrade from the natural process or aesthetic qualities of the area.

Physical Developments - Facilities required for the health, safety, and protection of users, as well as those consistent with compatible uses shall be provided. Location, scale and design of all facilities shall be complementary to the environment and to the values being preserved. Facilities should support customer services, enhance the visitor's experience and provide for staff operational needs. Typical development might include: group campgrounds, individual campsites, lodges, marina facilities, boat





launches, swimming beaches, visitor/interpretive centers, program areas, trails, trailhead facilities, staff housing areas, maintenance yards, and other similar facilities.

Park Mission & Vision Statements

Whereas the vision statement provides a desired future condition of a park, the mission describes the park’s current focus. The mission statement is reviewed regularly by park staff to check that its focus is accurately described.

Park Mission Statement

“To conserve those natural and cultural resources of the park, and the surrounding refuge, that originally interested eastern investors to develop this western recreational retreat. To interpret those resources for all generations, showing the Harriman’s unique ‘Man in Harmony with the Land’ approach to management. To provide for the protection and safety of the visitors through professionally trained and skilled personnel.”

Park Vision Statement

“We envision Harriman State Park of Idaho to be a model of natural and cultural resource stewardship where high quality, experience-based outdoor

education and recreation opportunities abound. We envision expanded and enhanced recreational opportunities within the Henrys Fork/Mesa Falls Recreation Corridor, made possible through comprehensive recreational planning and the Island Park community trail linkages.”

Harriman State Park of Idaho Master Plan Goals & Objectives

The following goals and objectives for Harriman State Park of Idaho were developed from analyzing the mission and vision statements, the resource inventory, and the initial input from both the public and department staff. The goals and objectives were refined in response to public input received on the preliminary management concepts.

A. Visitor Contact and Distribution

Goal A1 – Enhance the park entrance and provide for fee collection.

A1.1 Designate the Railroad Ranch entrance as the “main entrance” of the park and provide it with the most extensive signing. Provide additional entrance, information and orientation signs at other areas of the park. Request additional signage from the Idaho Transportation Department be placed along Highway 20 for Harriman State Park of Idaho.

A1.2 Create a major park entrance at the intersection of Green Canyon Road and Highway 20 that will make passersby aware