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# Idaho Profile

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*Tetonia*

Photo Courtesy of Idaho Tourism



## Idaho Facts

- Name:** Originally suggested for Colorado, the name “Idaho” was used for a steamship which traveled the Columbia River. With the discovery of gold on the Clearwater River in 1860, the diggings began to be called the Idaho mines. “Idaho” is a coined or invented word, and is not a derivation of an Indian phrase “E Dah Hoe (How)” supposedly meaning “gem of the mountains.”
- Nickname:** The “Gem State”
- Motto:** “Esto Perpetua” (Let it be perpetual)
- Discovered By Europeans:** 1805, the last of the 50 states to be sighted
- Organized as Territory:** March 4, 1863, act signed by President Lincoln
- Entered Union:** July 3, 1890, 43rd state to join the Union
- Official State Language:** English

## Geography

- Total Area:** 83,569 square miles (14th in area size)
- Water Area:** 926 square miles
- Highest Elevation:** 12,662 feet above sea level at the summit of Mt. Borah, Custer County in the Lost River Range
- Lowest Elevation:** 770 feet above sea level at the Snake River at Lewiston
- Length:** 164/479 miles at shortest/longest point
- Width:** 45/305 miles at narrowest/widest point
- Geographic Center:** Settlement of Custer on the Yankee Fork River, Custer County
- Number of Lakes:** More than 2,000
- Navigable Rivers:** Snake, Coeur d’Alene, St. Joe, St. Maries and Kootenai
- Largest Lake:** Lake Pend Oreille, 180 square miles
- Temperature Extremes:** Highest: 118° at Orofino July 28, 1934;  
Lowest: -60° at Island Park Dam, January 18, 1943
- 2020 Population:** 1,839,106 (*U.S Census Bureau*)

## Official State Holidays

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>New Year’s Day</b>                             | January 1                   |
| <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. / Human Rights Day</b> | Third Monday in January     |
| <b>Presidents Day</b>                             | Third Monday in February    |
| <b>Memorial Day</b>                               | Last Monday in May          |
| <b>Juneteenth Day</b>                             | June 19                     |
| <b>Independence Day</b>                           | July 4                      |
| <b>Labor Day</b>                                  | First Monday in September   |
| <b>Columbus Day</b>                               | Second Monday in October    |
| <b>Veterans Day</b>                               | November 11                 |
| <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>                           | Fourth Thursday in November |
| <b>Christmas</b>                                  | December 25                 |

Every day appointed by the President of the United States, or by the governor of this state, for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday. Any legal holiday that falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be a holiday and any legal holiday enumerated herein other than Sunday that falls on Sunday, the following Monday shall be a holiday. §73-108, Idaho Code.

## Climate

Idaho's climate is diverse. It is influenced by Pacific weather patterns, which help moderate temperature extremes. Generally, the northern part of the state has greater precipitation than either southwestern or southeastern Idaho. The southern part of the state has warmer summer temperatures than the north and is drier throughout the year. Southeastern Idaho, however, tends to be cooler than the west and drier than the north. Idaho's growing season varies from about 200 days near the city of Lewiston to very brief at high altitudes. Idaho has no hurricanes, and tornadoes are extremely rare. Winds may accompany cold fronts and thunderstorms, but hail damage in the state is very small compared to that which occurs in the central United States. Geographically representative climate examples are:

	Elevation	Annual Mean Precipitation	Mean Snowfall	July Avg High Temp	Jan Avg Low Temp	July Avg Afternoon Humidity
<b>Boise</b>	2,840	15.1 in.	21.3 in.	88	23	30%
<b>Idaho Falls</b>	4,730	6.96 in.	16.9 in.	86	14	36%
<b>Lewiston</b>	1,440	14.2 in.	10.2 in.	84	27	45%
<b>Pocatello</b>	4,450	11.26 in.	31.6 in.	87	18	34%
<b>Twin Falls</b>	3,670	9.30 in.	17.3 in.	90	24	28%

Source: 2021 U.S. Climate Data

## Automobile License Plates

The state of Idaho issued its first plates in 1913, with the price determined by the value of the vehicle. There were only 2,083 plates issued that year (each vehicle receiving a single plate). Motorcycles were not issued an actual license plate. Instead, the owners simply painted their registry number, state, and year of manufacture on the rear mud guard. In 1917, motorcyclists received their first actual motorcycle plates. Back then, if a license plate was lost, the motorist could purchase a blank replacement plate that was flat where the numbers would typically be embossed. The owner could then hand paint the license plate number in the flat area. Perhaps that is where Idaho's creative license plate designs first began.

Idaho has a long history of creative plate designs, in fact, it pioneered the concept. In 1928, Idaho became the first state in the nation to feature a graphic on a license



plate by proudly displaying an impressive Idaho potato that filled the entire plate. The 1940 plate commemorated 50 YEARS OF STATEHOOD, and from 1941 to 1946 the words SCENIC IDAHO appeared on Idaho plates. 1947 plates proclaimed the state a VACATION WONDERLAND! The 1948 plate highlighted our most famous product as WORLD FAMOUS POTATOES. In 1953 and 1956, the slogan was modified to read WORLD FAMOUS POTATO, but was shortened to FAMOUS POTATOES in 1957.

Displaying Idaho's passion for the outdoors, and skiing in particular, the 1947 plate featured a ski jumper. But in 1948 and 1949, the famous potato returned, this time in the form of a decal, complete with a pat of butter. From 1958 through 1968 the plates alternated between a green background with white letters to a white background with green letters. From 1968 through

1990, the standard plate format had a white background with green lettering. The award-winning 1991 issue (a modification of the optional Centennial plate) really showed the capabilities of modern vinyl graphic technique, featuring a panoramic scene of pine trees and mountains under a blazing red Idaho sky.

The following types of license plates are available in Idaho: Scenic Idaho, Centennial, Radio Amateur, Classic, Motorcycle, Purple Heart, National Guard, U.S. Military Veteran, Old Timer, Street Rod, Medal of

Honor, Military Veteran Motorcycle, Pearl Harbor Survivor, Former Prisoner of War, Armed Forces Reserve, Agriculture, Appaloosa, Boy Scouts of America, Capitol Commission, Collegiate, Corvette, Famous Potatoes, Firefighter, Historic Lewiston, Lewis and Clark, Police Officer Memorial, Motorcycle Safety, School Transportation Safety Awareness, Snowmobile, Snowskier, Sawtooth, Timber, Youth, White Water Rafting, Wildlife - Bluebird, Trout and Elk.

Source: *Idaho Motor Vehicle Division*  
[itd.idaho.gov/dmv/](http://itd.idaho.gov/dmv/)

## Automobile License Prefixes by County

<b>Ada</b>	1A	<b>Butte</b>	10B	<b>Gem</b>	1G	<b>Minidoka</b>	2M
<b>Adams</b>	2A	<b>Camas</b>	1C	<b>Gooding</b>	2G	<b>Nez Perce</b>	N
<b>Bannock</b>	1B	<b>Canyon</b>	2C	<b>Idaho</b>	I	<b>Oneida</b>	1O
<b>Bear Lake</b>	2B	<b>Caribou</b>	3C	<b>Jefferson</b>	1J	<b>Owyhee</b>	2O
<b>Benewah</b>	3B	<b>Cassia</b>	4C	<b>Jerome</b>	2J	<b>Payette</b>	1P
<b>Bingham</b>	4B	<b>Clark</b>	5C	<b>Kootenai</b>	K	<b>Power</b>	2P
<b>Blaine</b>	5B	<b>Clearwater</b>	6C	<b>Latah</b>	1L	<b>Shoshone</b>	S
<b>Boise</b>	6B	<b>Custer</b>	7C	<b>Lemhi</b>	2L	<b>Teton</b>	1T
<b>Bonner</b>	7B	<b>Elmore</b>	E	<b>Lewis</b>	3L	<b>Twin Falls</b>	2T
<b>Bonneville</b>	8B	<b>Franklin</b>	1F	<b>Lincoln</b>	4L	<b>Valley</b>	V
<b>Boundary</b>	9B	<b>Fremont</b>	2F	<b>Madison</b>	1M	<b>Washington</b>	W

## State Song

The music for the Idaho state song, composed by Sallie Hume Douglas, was copyrighted on November 4, 1915, under the title “Garden of Paradise.” In 1917, McKinley Helm, a student at the University of Idaho, wrote the verse which became the chorus of the Idaho State song, and Alice Bessee set the words to the music. The song was popular then, and Alice Bessee had no idea of its origin.

This song won the annual University prize for that year, and eventually became the University alma mater. Albert J. Tompkins, Director of Music in the Boise Public Schools, wrote a set of verses for the song. In 1931, the 21st Session of the Idaho legislature designated “Here We Have Idaho,” previously known at the University of Idaho as “Our Idaho,” as the Idaho state song.

# HERE WE HAVE IDAHO

Verses by: ALBERT J. TOMPKINS

Chorus by: MCKINLEY HELM

Music by: SALLIE HUME-DOUGLAS

You've heard of the wonders our land does possess its beautiful valleys and hills-- - The

ma-jestic forests where nature abounds We love every nook and rill And here we have

I - da - ho Win-ning her way to fame Sil-ver and gold in the sun-light blaze And

ro-mance lies in her name Sing - ing we're sing-ing of you Ah, proud-ly too, All our lives

thru, we'll go sing - ing, sing-ing of you, sing-ing of I - da - ho.

You've heard of the wonders our land does possess,  
It's beautiful valleys and hills;  
The majestic forests where nature abounds,  
We love every nook and rill.

Where ideals can be realized;  
The pioneers made it so for you and me.  
A legacy we'll always prize.

## CHORUS

And here we have Idaho,  
Winning her way to fame;  
Silver and gold in the sunlight blaze,  
And romance lies in her name;

Singing, we're singing of you  
Ah, proudly too, All our lives thru,  
We'll go singing, singing of you,  
Singing of Idaho.

# Idaho State Emblems

## State Amphibian: Idaho Giant Salamander



It took five years for fourteen-year-old Ilah Hickman to successfully lobby for the **Idaho giant salamander** (*Dicamptodon aterrimus*) to become the official state amphibian, which the legislature adopted as of July 1, 2015. As the name suggests, the Idaho Giant Salamander is the largest salamander found in the state of Idaho, where it lives almost exclusively. Over their lifetime, these salamanders will metamorphose from a larva to a terrestrial adult, or will mature into an adult but retain the larval form,

such as keeping their gills. This is known as paedomorphism. They have robust bodies and heads and can grow to lengths of 33cm (~13 in). Terrestrial forms of the Idaho Giant Salamander have a marbled pattern of dark spots or blotches on a tan or copper ground color. However, larval forms are a solid dark gray color. Idaho Giant Salamanders are generally found in moist coniferous forests. The transformed adults are secretive and seldom found in the open, but can be found in moist areas such as under logs and bark. Adults breed in headwaters and mountain streams, and the larvae may remain in these habitats their whole lives.

*Description courtesy of Dr. John Cossel and Ilah Hickman*

*Photo courtesy of Dr. John Cossel*

## State Bird: Mountain Bluebird



The **Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia arctica*) was adopted as the state bird for Idaho by the legislature in 1931. The Bluebird is 6 to 7 inches long and is a member of the Thrush family. Male Bluebirds are a pale sky blue over most of their body, darker on their back. Females are blue-grey with blue wings and tail, duller than the male. Juvenile birds have blue wings with the tail area duller than the adult male, a white eye ring and spotted underparts. Mountain Bluebirds live in open grasslands and nest in holes in trees, crevices and nesting boxes. They have a zig-zagging flight pattern that easily identifies them.

*Photo courtesy of: Jack Trueblood*

## State Dance: Square Dance

The 1989 legislature designated the **square dance** as the American Folk Dance of Idaho. Two of the most commonly cited ancestors to modern square dance are the English Morris dance and the French Quadrille. It is the Quadrille that most point to as the grand-daddy of our modern square dance. One of the earliest records of this type of dance in America is contained in the works of John Playford, a musician and dancing master. His book, “The English Dancing Master - Plaine and Easy Rules for the Dancing of Country Dances, with Tunes to Each Dance” was published in seventeen editions between 1650 and 1728 and contained 918 dances. As the pioneers moved westward, many of the dances were lost or forgotten, but many were preserved, particularly in the southern Appalachians where the running set established itself as one of the deep taproots of western square dance. The running set even had a caller — America’s only unique contribution to the square dance.



## State Fish: Cutthroat Trout

The **Cutthroat Trout** was designated the state fish by the 1990 legislature. The Cutthroat, along with the Rainbow and Bull Trout, is native to Idaho. The body color varies with the back ranging from steel gray to olive green. The sides may be yellow brown with red or pink along the belly. The Cutthroat name comes from the distinctive red to orange slash on the underside of its lower jaw. The scientific name for Cutthroat Trout, *Oncorhynchus clarki*, is in reference to William Clark who first described in detail the Cutthroats of the Columbia River. His partner Meriwether Lewis earlier encountered Cutthroats near the great falls of Montana’s Missouri River in July of 1805. Cutthroat species found in Idaho are the Westslope Cutthroat which is found in northern and central Idaho and the Yellowstone Cutthroat which is found in southeastern Idaho.



*Photo courtesy of: Tom Davenport, Layton UT*

## State Flag

A silk flag, with a blue field, 5 feet 6 inches fly, 4 feet 4 inches on pike is bordered by gilt fringe 2 ½ inches wide, with the Great Seal of Idaho in the center. The words “State of Idaho” are embroidered in gold block letters two inches high on a red band below the Great Seal. Adopted by the 1907 legislature.



## State Flower: Syringa



The **Syringa** (*Philadelphus lewisii*) was designated the state flower of Idaho by the legislature in 1931. The species name honors Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis & Clark expedition. Lewis wrote of the plant in his journal. It is a branching shrub growing 3 to 10 feet tall, with clusters of white, fragrant flowers. The blossoms are similar to the mock orange. It grows in open coniferous forests, at forest edge and in moist draws in

drier regions providing good coverage for wildlife. Native Americans used its branches for bows, arrows and cradles.

## State Fossil: Hagerman Horse Fossil



The 1988 legislature designated the **Hagerman Horse Fossil** as the official state fossil. Originally described as *Plesippus shoshonensis*, subsequent research found that the Hagerman horse is the same as a previously described species and it is now known as *Equus simplicidens*, making it the earliest-known representative of the modern horse genus *Equus*. It is now believed to be more closely related to the living Grevy's Zebra in

Africa than to horses. A rich fossil bed 3.5 million years old, which has yielded over 130 complete horse skeletons, was discovered in the 1920s near Hagerman and is said to be the best known Pleistocene-epoch fossil site in the world.

*Photo courtesy of: Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument*

## State Fruit: Huckleberry



Several **huckleberry** species are native to Idaho, all belonging to genus *Vaccinium* section *Myrtillus*. The most common and popular is the black or thin-leaved huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*). Plants grow slowly, taking up to 15 years to reach full maturity. Black huckleberries produce single plump, dark purple berries in the axils of leaves on new shoots. They depend on an insulating cover of snow for survival during winter and have not

been successfully grown commercially. Black huckleberries grow at elevations between 2,000 and 11,000 feet with many productive colonies between 4,000 and 6,000 feet. Black huckleberries usually grow from 1 to 6 feet tall and produce berries up to 1/2 inch in diameter. Huckleberries are a favorite food of bears.

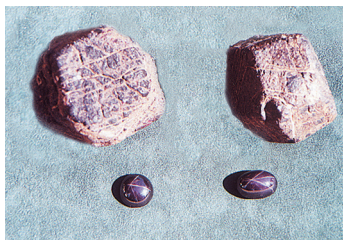
*Photo courtesy of: Danny L. Barney, Ph.D., University of Idaho*



## State Gem: Idaho Star Garnet

Adopted by the 1967 legislature, the **Idaho Star Garnet** is known worldwide by collectors. Garnets are complex silicates, related to Quartz, and found almost exclusively in Idaho in Latah and Benewah counties. Star Garnets are a natural stone, not synthetically produced. Star Garnets are more rare than either Star Rubies or Star Sapphires. Normally the star in the Idaho Garnet has four rays, but occasionally one has six rays as in a Sapphire. The color is usually dark purple or plum and the star seems to glide or float across the dark surface. The star is caused by intrusions of the mineral rutile.

*Photo courtesy of Stewart's Gem Shop, Boise*



## State Horse: Appaloosa

Historians believe the Nez Perce and Palouse tribes of Washington, Oregon and Idaho were the first tribes to breed horses for specific traits - intelligence, speed and endurance. White settlers call these horses "Palouse horses." Over time they came to be referred to as "a Palousey" and the "Appalousey." During the Nez Perce War of 1877, **Appaloosa** horses helped the non-treaty Nez Perce, under the guidance of Chief Joseph, elude the U.S. Calvary for several months. The coloring of the Appaloosa coat is distinct in every individual horse and ranges from white blanketed hips to a full leopard. Adopted by the 1975 legislature.

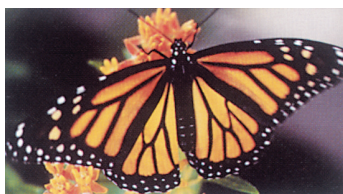
*Photo courtesy of: Don Shugast & The Appaloosa Horse Club*



## State Insect: Monarch Butterfly

The **Monarch Butterfly** (*Danaus plexippus*) was adopted as the state insect by the state legislature in 1992. Early settlers to North America from Europe, particularly those from Holland and England, named the butterfly "Monarch," after King William, Prince of Orange, stateholder of Holland and later named King of England. The monarchs' color suggested the name. The Monarch Butterfly is a great migrator, traveling many miles during its lifetime, which can be from a few weeks up to a year. Monarchs range in mass from .25 to .75 grams (a dime has a mass of 2.3 grams). Males are usually larger than females. Female Monarchs lay eggs on the underside of milkweed plants. The larvae then feed on the plants. Monarchs go through a complete metamorphosis in 3 to 6 weeks.

*Photo courtesy of: Faye Sutherland, Boise*



## State Raptor: Peregrine Falcon



The **Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*) was adopted as the state raptor for Idaho by the legislature in 2004. The scientific name comes from the Latin words *falco*, meaning hook-shaped (*falcate*) and may refer to the beak or claws, and *peregrinus*, meaning to wander. Peregrines have also been called Duck Hawk, Great-footed Hawk, and Wandering Falcon. The Peregrine Falcon has a body length of 15 - 20 inches, a 3 1/2 foot wingspan, and weighs 1 1/4 - 2 3/4 pounds. The Peregrine Falcon has one of the most global distributions of any bird of prey. This falcon is found on every continent except Antarctica, and lives in a wide variety of habitats from tropics, deserts, and maritime to the tundra, and from sea level

to 12,000 feet. Peregrines are highly migratory in the northern part of their range. Boise is home to the World Center for Birds of Prey, The Peregrine Fund's world headquarters. Visit them on the web at [www.peregrinefund.org/world.html](http://www.peregrinefund.org/world.html) or visit in person at the Velma Morrison Interpretive Center.

*Photo/description courtesy of: The Peregrine Fund*

## State Tree: Western White Pine

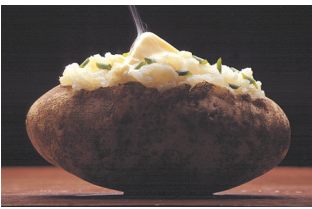


The **Western White Pine** (*Pinus Monticola pinaceae*), our state tree, is probably most notable since the largest remaining volume of this timber in the United States grows in the northern part of Idaho. White Pine has many fine qualities such as straight grain and soft even texture. Idaho's state tree grows to 175 feet with a trunk diameter from 5 to 8 feet. The largest western white pine in the world stands 219 ft. high near Elk River, Idaho. Adopted by the 1935 legislature. According to the legisla-

tive bill, it was promoted by "members of Ellen Wright Camp, Franklin County Chapter, Daughters of Pioneers."

*Photo courtesy of: Idaho Forest Products Commission*

## State Vegetable: Potato



Idaho's unique environment provides nearly perfect growing conditions for **potatoes**. The soil, water, clean air and climate in Idaho contribute to those consistently high-quality potatoes that have made Idaho famous for so many years. Idaho's rich volcanic soil is ideally suited for potatoes. Warm, sunny days, cool nights and water from melting snow in nearby mountains make the perfect combination for growing the world's best potatoes.

*Photo/description courtesy: Idaho Potato Commission*

## History of the Great Seal of the State



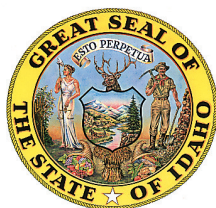
### Seal for Idaho Territory 1863

No official record remains of the adoption of the first Great Seal of Idaho when it became a territory in 1863. The design is attributed to Silas D. Cochran, a clerk in the office of the Secretary of State.



### Idaho's Final Seal Before Statehood 1890

Dissatisfaction with the official seal caused Governor Caleb Lyon to present a seal of his own design which was accepted by the Idaho Territorial Legislature on January 11, 1866. This, too, was controversial and was redrawn several times. Nevertheless, it was used until Idaho became a state in 1890.



### State Seal Now in Use

In 1957, the thirty-fourth session of the Idaho legislature authorized the updating and improvement of the Great Seal in order to more clearly define Idaho's main industries, mining, agriculture and forestry as well as highlight the state's natural beauty. Paul B. Evans and the Caxton Printers, Ltd. were commissioned to revise the seal. This painting by Paul B. Evans officially replaced the original design by Emma Edwards

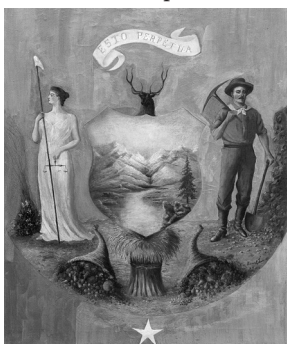
Green and is designated as the "Official Copy." The official Great Seal of the State of Idaho can be seen in the office of the Secretary of State.

## Only Great Seal Designed by a Woman

Idaho became a state on July 3, 1890 and that same summer a talented young woman came to the state capitol at Boise to visit relatives. Emma Sarah Etine Edwards

(later she married mining man James G. Green) was the daughter of John C. Edwards, a former Governor of Missouri (1844-48) who had emigrated to Stockton, California where he acquired large land holdings, a beautiful French Creole wife, Emma Catherine Richards, and became Mayor of Stockton, in about that order. Emma, eldest of a family of eight, was exceptionally well educated for a woman of that period and when she dropped into Boise, it was on her way home from a year spent at art school in New York.

However, what was to be a very short visit turned into a lifelong stay, for she fell in love with the charming city and its people and opened art classes where the young pioneers of the community learned to paint.



Shortly after her classes started, she was invited to enter a design for the Great Seal of the State of Idaho.

Acting on Concurrent Resolution No. 1, adopted by the First Legislature of the newest state in the union, a committee was appointed from that body and instructed to offer a prize of one hundred dollars for the best design submitted.

Artists from all over the country entered the competition, but the unanimous winner was young Emma Edwards, who became the first and only woman to

design the Great Seal of a State. She was handed the honorarium by Governor Norman B. Willey on March 5, 1891. The state flag also carries the seal centered on a deep blue background.

Emma Edwards Green had no children of her own, but assisted in rearing a nephew,

Darell B. Edwards, a distinguished Oakland attorney. Ralph Edwards of "This is Your Life," also a nephew, shows a valid artistic strain flourished in the Edwards family. Mrs. Green died in Boise January 6, 1942. She was buried beside her husband in Oakland, California.

## The Idaho State Seal

*By Emma Edwards Green*

Before designing the seal, I was careful to make a thorough study of the resources and future possibilities of the State. I invited the advice and counsel of every member of the Legislature and other citizens qualified to help in creating a Seal of State that really represented Idaho at that time. Idaho had been admitted into the Union on July 3rd, 1890. The first state Legislature met in Boise on December 8, 1890, and on March 14th, 1891, adopted my design for the Great Seal of the State of Idaho.

The question of Woman Suffrage was being agitated somewhat, and as leading men and politicians agreed that Idaho would eventually give women the right to vote, and as mining was the chief industry, and the mining man the largest financial factor of the state at that time, I made the figure of the man the most prominent in the design, while that of the woman, signifying justice, as noted by the scales; liberty, as denoted by the liberty cap on the end of the spear, and equality with man as denoted by her position at his side, also signifies freedom. The pick and shovel held by the miner, and the ledge of rock beside which he stands, as well as the pieces of ore scattered about his feet, all indicate the chief occupation of the State. The stamp mill in the distance, which you can see by using a magnifying glass, is also typical of the mining interest of Idaho. The shield between the man and woman is emblematic of the protection they unite in giving the state. The large fir or pine tree in the foreground in the shield refers to Idaho's immense timber interests. The husbandman plowing on



the left side of the shield, together with the sheaf of grain beneath the shield, are emblematic of Idaho's agricultural resources, while the cornucopias, or horns of plenty, refer to the horticultural. Idaho has a game law, which protects the elk and moose. The elk's head, therefore, rises above the shield. The state flower, the wild Syringa or Mock Orange, grows at the woman's feet, while the ripened wheat grows as high as her shoulder. The star signifies a new light in the galaxy of states. . . . The river depicted in the shield is our mighty Snake or Shoshone River, a stream of great majesty.

In regard to the coloring of the emblems used in the making of the Great Seal of the State of Idaho, my principal desire was to use such colors as would typify pure Americanism and the history of the State. As Idaho was a virgin state, I robed my goddess in white and made the liberty cap on the end of the spear the same color. In representing the miner, I gave him the garb of the period suggested by such mining authorities as former United States Senator George Shoup, of Idaho, former Governor Norman B. Willey of Idaho, former Governor James H. Hawley of Idaho, and other mining men and early residents of the state who knew intimately the usual garb of the miner. Almost unanimously they said, "Do not put the miner in a red shirt." "Make the shirt a grayish brown," said Captain J.J. Wells, chairman of the Seal Committee. The "Light of the Mountains" is typified by the rosy glow which precedes the sunrise.



*Lewis & Clark Statues*

Photo Courtesy of Idaho Tourism

## The Lewis and Clark Trail Across Idaho

Lewis and Clark led an expedition from St. Louis in 1804 to explore the headwaters of the Missouri, which through the Louisiana Purchase had just become part of the United States. Their purpose was to take boats as far as they could up the Missouri, and then to cross the Continental Divide to the Columbia. At that time, no white man had seen Idaho, which was in the unexplored southern Columbia interior that belonged to no one. (Or at least if anyone had seen Idaho, he did not bother to say much about it.) So, when four members of the expedition, including Meriwether Lewis, ascended the Continental Divide, August 12, 1805, and reached the region later known as Idaho, the story of the white man in Idaho began.

Lewis and Clark had expected to pack their gear across the divide between navigable waters of the Missouri and of the Columbia with little difficulty. In this they were disappointed. The mountains of Idaho turned out to be the major obstacle in their entire journey, and they were fortunate indeed to get through before early winter snow blocked their passage.

Not long after he crossed into Idaho,

Lewis succeeded in making contact with the Lemhi Shoshoni, who agreed to come with their horses to move the expedition's supplies across to Salmon River. When Lewis' detachment and the Shoshoni band got back to the main expedition, they discovered that Sacajawea, their Shoshoni interpreter who had been captured in 1800 by other Indians and taken east, was a member of that same Lemhi band, which now was led by her brother. While Lewis and the main expedition were hauling their equipment over the Continental Divide, Clark and a few men went ahead to see if the expedition could expect to build boats and float down the Salmon. He did not have to go too far into the canyon to tell that it was far rougher than any country he had ever seen—and the Indians assured him that he had seen nothing yet in the way of rugged canyons. So Lewis and Clark had to trade for Shoshoni horses and to go north 160 miles to the Lolo Trail over a route that an elderly Shoshoni guide led them. Then, when they reached Lolo Pass on September 13, 1805, they found that they had made a great unnecessary detour to the south in searching out the headwaters of the Missouri. But, at last they were on their way to the Columbia.

Early winter snow made the trip over the Lolo Trail a hard one. And lack of game reduced them to eating horses for subsistence part of the time. Eventually, though, Clark's advance party reached a Nez Perce village on Weippe prairie, September 20, and obtained three horse loads of salmon and roots to send back to the main expedition. Then, upon reaching the forks of the Clearwater below Orofino, the party made dugout canoes and floated down to Snake River, the Columbia, and finally to the Pacific before winter set in.

Returning across the Lolo Trail in the spring of 1806 proved to be difficult. After recovering the horses which they had left in care of the Nez Perce Indians for the winter, the impatient explorers had to camp for a month or more near Kamiah waiting for the snow to melt on the upper trail, and then they started off too soon. Finally, with essential help from Nez Perce guides, they managed to complete their eastbound trip across north Idaho. Although they reported that they had been able to get from the head of navigation on the Missouri to the head of navigation on the Columbia, and that a

road could be built to connect the two, they had not found a very practical early route across Idaho—at least in comparison with other routes that soon were discovered. But they had established friendly contact with the Indians of north and south Idaho, and had prepared the way for the fur trade which was to bring white explorers to all parts of Idaho.

**REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL READING:**

Thwaites, Reuben Gold, editor Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806 (New York: Dodd, Mead, & Company, 1904), 7 volumes.

De Voto, Bernard Augustin, editor, The Journals of Lewis and Clark (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1953), 504 pages. A condensation of the Original Journals.

Fisher, Vardis, Tale of Valor (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, 1958), 456 pages.

Gass, Patrick, Gass's Journal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1904), 298 pages.

*Source: Reference Series #49  
Idaho State Historical Society*

## Lewis and Clark Timeline

- January 18, 1803 President Thomas Jefferson requested funds for expedition
- February 28, 1803 Congress appropriates \$2,500 for expedition
- June 19, 1803 Lewis makes offer to Clark to join the expedition
- Summer of 1803 Lewis presides over preparations for expedition
- August 31, 1803 Lewis and eleven member crew depart down the Ohio River
- October 15, 1803 Lewis joins Clark in Kentucky
- December 1803 Winter quarters set at Camp Wood, Illinois
- May 10, 1804 Expedition leaves St. Charles, Missouri, the westernmost United States village
- August 20, 1804 Sergeant Floyd dies, the only member of expedition to die during the trip
- November 2, 1804 Set winter camp among the Mandans and Hidatsas at Fort Mandan
- February 11, 1805 Sacagawea gives birth to Jean Baptiste Charboneau
- April 7, 1805 33 members of expedition head west; remainder take keelboat to St. Louis
- August 12, 1805 Lewis crosses Lemhi Pass into present-day Idaho
- August 13, 1805 Encounter 3 Shoshoni women and 1 unfurled flag outside of United States
- August 17, 1805 Sacagawea recognizes her brother, Chief Cameahwait
- August 19, 1805 Clark conducts reconnaissance of Salmon River

- September 4, 1805 Expedition crosses Continental Divide at Lost Trail Pass
- September 13, 1805 Expedition reenters Idaho at Lolo Pass
- September 20, 1805 Clark and advance party enter the Weippe Prairie and meet the Nez Perce
- September 26, 1805 Start building canoes near present day Orofino
- October 10, 1805 Canoes reach Snake River and leave Idaho
- November 7, 1805 Expedition reaches Pacific Ocean, “We are in view of the Ocean”
- November 24, 1805 Expedition votes on location of winter camp, select south side
- December 7, 1805 Fort Clatsop site selected
- December 23, 1805 Expedition members move into Fort Clatsop in what is now Oregon
- March 23, 1806 Expedition leaves Fort Clatsop and begins return journey
- May 5, 1806 The Corps of Discovery reenter Idaho and camp near mouth of Potlatch River
- May 14, 1806 Party makes camp at “Camp Chopunish” along the Clearwater River near present day Kamiah
- May 27, 1806 Sergeant Ordway and three men head for Indian fishing grounds on Snake River
- June 2, 1806 Ordway party returns from Snake River and the Camas Prairie
- June 9, 1806 Party departs for the Lolo Trail
- June 17, 1806 Expedition finds deep snow and conducts their only retreat
- June 24, 1806 Expedition departs Weippe area in the second attempt to cross the trail
- June 28, 1806 Expedition reaches Lolo Pass and leaves Idaho
- July 3, 1806 Party splits in two; Lewis heads east along the Blackfoot River; Clark heads south
- July 26, 1806 Lewis’ group kill two Blackfeet attempting to steal horses; only hostile deaths on the trip
- The two groups rejoin in present day North Dakota
- September 23, 1806 The expedition returns to St. Louis.
- 1807 Sargeant Patrick Gass’ journal published. Meriwether Lewis appointed Governor of Upper Louisiana
- October 9, 1809 Meriwether Lewis dies at age 35 in Tennessee
- December 20, 1812 Sacagawea dies at Fort Manuel, age about 25 (c.1788-1812)
- 1822 William Clark appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs by President Monroe
- 1838 William Clark dies at age 68 in St. Louis, Missouri
- May 16, 1866 Jean Baptiste “Pomp” Charboneau dies in Danner, Oregon
- April 2, 1870 Last living member of the expedition, Patrick Gass, dies at age 99

*For Additional Information on the Lewis and Clark Expedition:*

[www.lewisandclark.org](http://www.lewisandclark.org)

[www.visitnorthcentralidaho.org/](http://www.visitnorthcentralidaho.org/)

[lewis-clark.org/](http://lewis-clark.org/)

## Origins of Sacajawea's Name

Sacajawea is an English word of Hidatsa language derivation. A great deal of confusion has arisen concerning its origin. No really satisfactory explanation has been substantiated, largely because Lewis and Clark did not offer more than a vague suggestion, referring to her once as a bird woman whatever that was.

For that matter, they generally did not comment upon linguistic origins of other names of members of their expedition either, and no one would have expected them to. They lived in an era when standard spelling of English words was beginning to come into fashion, but their journals (which they did not prepare for scholarly publication) contain considerable variety, including different forms for Sacajawea's name. When a published account of their expedition appeared in 1814, Sacajawea was adopted. This became her English name, although Sacajawea never became aware of that. She did not survive a stay at Fort Manuel in 1812, so she had no opportunity to see that publication. What name she used in 1812 went unrecorded, but it most likely was not Sacajawea anyway.

Whether Sacajawea had any idea at any time that she was referred to by an Hidatsa term for some variety of bird also is unclear and certainly is undocumented. Several problems account for this situation. Shoshoni and Hidatsa personal name practices differ so much from English and French systems that such a problem could not have been explained to her in 1805 or 1806 even if anyone had wanted to. Sacajawea did not speak English or French then, and had to converse with her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau, in Hidatsa which for her was a foreign language that she may have resented anyway. But Lewis and Clark obtained her identification as something like Sacajawea

from an Hidatsa source, in this case sa kaa ka wiiya (a highly simplified transcription provided by Norman Bowers, a thoroughly competent Hidatsa linguist), which still can be recognized as their term for some kind of bird. Lewis and Clark learned of this designation through their Hidatsa



interpreter Sacajawea's French husband, Toussaint Charbonneau. She may or may not have responded to such a name, but transcripts of ordinary conversation to determine that issue are unavailable. Since she could not communicate with expedition members anyway, except through non verbal means, she would have had a hard time identifying her name in alien conversation that she did not understand.

Sacajawea is not a Shoshoni word, and French and English people would have had no way of discerning any Shoshoni name that she might have used even if they had wanted to.

Charbonneau's source for his wife's name cannot be ascertained. Several options are possible. Sacajawea most likely would have had more than one childhood Shoshoni name, and various bird (as well as animal) names often were used for young Shoshoni children. (She could have suggested a bird name to Charbonneau, which she would have had to have done in Hidatsa, because Charbonneau did not know Shoshoni. But no evidence supports this kind of explanation. It is only a conceivable, but undocumented, possibility.) Or her Hidatsa captors might have employed a crow, hawk, robin, eagle, or similar designation for her. This alternative certainly is credible, but also is undocumented. Charbonneau at least used an Hidatsa form that, he told Lewis and Clark, referred to Bird Woman. Another possibility, about equally plausible, is that Charbonneau named her Bird Woman. That



would not have conformed to Shoshoni tradition better than any other explanation, but Charbonneau presumably had not studied Shoshoni tradition. Shoshoni women generally took a new name when they married, and Charbonneau or Sacajawea may have arranged that upon her assignment to Charbonneau. Neither one would have had much incentive to retain a name her Hidatsa captors used, and Sacajawea, in particular might have objected to an alien name. An additional variation is that Sacajawea may have selected some variety of bird without consulting Charbonneau or anyone else. She would have had to tell Charbonneau that in Hidatsa if she did so, but that cannot be verified either. She had at least one or more Hidatsa names, but whether her Hidatsa captors ever called her Sa kaa kaa Wiiya cannot be established. Sacajawea and her Shoshoni people had no term for birds that French and English explorers referred to generically, and such a European language name would be total nonsense in their conception.

A variety of legends, mostly twentieth century, grew up concerning Sacajawea, and some of these dealt with her name. But irresponsible twentieth century attempts to tamper with a long established standard English spelling of Sacajawea's name have lacked linguistic merit, although they continue to distort many accounts of her career. If Sacajawea had been an Hidatsa rather than a Shoshoni woman, efforts to replace her English name of 1814 with a more accurate Hidatsa form of 1804 might have been more plausible. Unlike large numbers of her people, Sacajawea preferred to settle down in an Anglo French society after 1806, and certainly wanted to have nothing more to do with her Hidatsa captors. Inflicting a more authentic Hidatsa name upon her scarcely can be defended as an appropriate activity for twentieth century Lewis and Clark historians.

*Written by Dr. Merle Wells*

*Source: Reference Series #910*

*Idaho State Historical Society*

## Creation of the Territory of Idaho

Prior to 1868 the region destined to become Idaho passed through several territorial reorganizations. For five years (from August 14, 1848 to March 2, 1853) it was included in Oregon Territory. Then it was divided between Washington Territory and Oregon Territory until February 14, 1859. Oregon then became a state, and the entire Idaho area was attached to Washington. At that time, the land that became Idaho was expected to remain unsettled for another 50 years or so. That would have been some time into the twentieth century. Then an unexpected Idaho gold rush, a year after Oregon's admission to the Union, changed the whole situation. Miners came by the thousands, and within two years the Idaho mines (as the country was known in 1862) had gained a population a lot greater than the older settlements of Washington.

When gold was discovered at Pierce, September 30, 1860, the eastern part of Washington Territory (which included all of what is now Idaho) was undeveloped

politically. The Idaho portion made up part of Spokane County, which no one had yet bothered to organize. Anticipating the Clearwater gold rush, the Washington legislature established Shoshone County, which included all the country south and east of Lewiston. In the territorial election of July 8, 1861, Shoshone County cast the largest vote in Washington, and in 1862 the Salmon River gold rush made Florence by far the biggest community in the territory. Older, more stable settlements such as Olympia and Seattle just did not compare with Florence that season. Mineral discoveries in Boise Basin, August 2, 1862, set off an even bigger gold rush to a region decidedly farther from the original settlements of western Washington. Something had to be done to provide better government for the new mining regions. Four different plans were advanced. Each was designed to fit the ambitions of one of four different communities in Washington: Olympia, Vancouver, Walla Walla, and Lewiston.

Lewiston wanted a new territory that would take in Washington east of the big bend of the Columbia River. If such a territory were to be established, Lewiston would have been a natural choice for capital. An editorial in Lewiston's pioneer newspaper, the *Golden Age*, expressed extreme dissatisfaction with Washington's government as administered from Olympia in the fall of 1862:

"Of what use to us is a capitol of Washington Territory located at Olympia on the forty-ninth parallel. During four months of last year no communication could be had with the place at all. Its distance is between seven and eight hundred miles, interspersed with huge forests, roaring rivers, and rocky bound shores of ice, with impassable barriers of snow. One of the editors of the *Washington Statesman* was elected to the Legislature by the voters of Walla, and before he left to perform those legislative duties for his constituents, he made his will, settled all of his worldly accounts, and bid his friends adieu until next summer, and perhaps forever."

Olympia actually was not quite as far north, or quite as far away, as the *Golden Age* made out. But many people in Lewiston strongly supported the plan for making a new territory, and a citizens' meeting there firmly endorsed the project, December 28, 1862. Walla dissented. Division of Washington Territory would leave Olympia capital of the western part, and make Lewiston capital of the new mining territory that would be established. Walla preferred to keep Washington territory intact. As a compromise, after the Boise gold rush got underway, Walla was willing to return to Washington's original boundaries which included the country later to become North Idaho and western Montana. Rapid growth of the mining population was expected to lead to Washington's admission as a state in another year or two, and Walla fully expected to be state capital.

Most of the Idaho miners—at least the ones that voted in the 1862 election—had favored candidates who endorsed Walla Walla's preference. The Washington legis-

lature chosen that year opposed the plan to set up a new mining territory of Idaho, and Walla expected to become capital of Washington just as soon as reapportionment of the legislature could give control of the territory to the mining counties, which clearly had the majority of the population. West of the Cascades, Vancouver preferred an arrangement which would have kept enough of eastern Washington to advance Vancouver's claim to be territorial capital. Lack of a wagon road across the Cascades forced traffic from Puget Sound to come through Vancouver to reach eastern Washington. Thus Vancouver aspired to become territorial capital as a compromise location between the two sections.

On Puget Sound, Olympia wished to retain its status as capital. In order to prevent the mining counties from gaining a legislative majority and from taking the capital to Walla, Olympia decided that the mining region would have to be set aside as a separate territory. At the same time, Olympia wished to keep the slower growing farming areas of eastern Washington. That way state admission would not be delayed too long, and Washington would be no smaller than was absolutely necessary to preserve Olympia's power.

Olympia won the fight. A new mining territory of Idaho emerged from eastern Washington, with Lewiston on its western boundary. In this boundary settlement, Olympia and Puget Sound had enough strength to hold down Vancouver and Walla once the mining counties were taken out of Washington. A. G. Henry, an Olympia agent and Washington surveyor general, recommended the line which congress adopted and which continues to separate Idaho and Washington to this day. Of the four alternate boundary and capital city arrangements, Olympia's prevailed only after a hard battle.

Those who worked in Olympia's interest—to keep the eastern agricultural lands in Washington, but to put the new mines in Idaho—had plenty of strength in the United States Senate but faced a hard time in the House of Representatives. The chairman of the House committee preferred to restore

Washington's original 1853 boundaries, and to establish a new mining territory of Montana for the Boise region and for the upper Missouri mines which now are in Montana but then were in Dakota. This proposal passed the House, February 12, 1863. Yet it looked entirely too risky to the Olympia forces, and the last night of the session, they got Congress to amend the boundaries to include all the Idaho mines that Olympia wished to exclude from Washington. Olympia's agents quietly had built up enough strength in the House that they were able to gain concurrence in the senate amendments which changed the boundary and restored the name "Idaho" to the new mining territory.

The last morning of the session—March 4, 1863—President Abraham Lincoln approved the proposal, and Idaho became a territory of the United States. Exceeding Texas substantially in size, Idaho originally included all of present Montana, along with practically all of Wyoming as well. That arrangement was a mistake. A large mountain block divided the population of the new territory of Idaho into three distinct sections. Each of them was relatively inaccessible from the others, and in 1864, Congress de-

ecided to set up a new territory of Montana, taking the northeastern part of Idaho for the purpose.

That got rid of one of the three disconnected sections, but left the other two in Idaho, still separated by a difficult mountain barrier. The remainder of the original eastern Idaho was returned temporarily to Dakota when Montana was established, May 26, 1864. Finally, when construction of the Union Pacific railroad made possible the creation of Wyoming, July 25, 1868, Idaho received its present boundaries. By that time, the territory of Idaho had been in operation for a number of years, and the foundations for a new commonwealth had been laid. When Idaho became a state, July 3, 1890, the 1868 boundaries became permanent.

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Photo Courtesy of Jodi Doggett



# Idaho Day

*“The name Idaho invokes images of wide open spaces, lovely winding rivers, and mountain skies fading into sunset. Romance lies in her name. Freedom lies in her name.”*

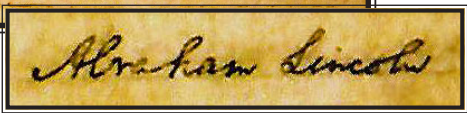
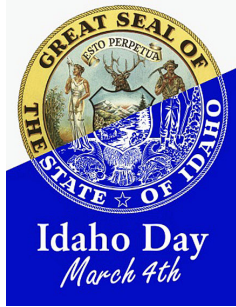
*~Representative Linden Bateman*

The connection between the founding of Idaho and President Lincoln stirs the imagination, especially among school children. Realizing this, and that the spirit of community service grows stronger when Idaho’s citizens become more fondly attached to our state’s heritage, the Legislature created an official “Idaho Day” in 2014, to honor President Abraham Lincoln’s creation of Idaho Territory on March 4, 1863. Though Idaho became a state on July 3, 1890, Idaho lawmakers opted to commemorate Idaho’s origin as a territory, choosing March 4th as the day of celebration each year. This date works particularly well since both the Legislature and public schools are in session, providing those institutions with the opportunity to sponsor Idaho Day activities.

Provisions of the Idaho Day Act require that, “The Governor of the State of Idaho shall issue a proclamation each year marking Idaho Day. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall conduct appropriate ceremonies and programs on Idaho Day

to honor Idaho’s heritage. The Idaho State Historical Society shall conduct appropriate activities and be encouraged to create exhibits commemorating Idaho Day.” To honor the satin blue in Idaho’s flag, members of the Idaho legislature and staff initiated a tradition of wearing blue to celebrate Idaho Day. One hopes that this lovely tradition will spread throughout the state, for this noteworthy celebration of Idaho history.

Celebrations nourish and inspire the human spirit. The Idaho Day Act ensures such a celebration by declaring that, “It is the purpose of this act to provide the mechanism through which state and local agencies of government, historical societies, schools, colleges and universities, Native American tribes, service organizations, clubs, the media and Idaho citizens in general can educate others about Idaho, her culture, her resources, her history and her greatness.” This declaration grants Idaho Day a remarkable purpose. For, the more we learn about Idaho, the more we will love her, and the more we love her, the more we will want to serve her.



*Text and images for Idaho Day Courtesy of Representative Linden Bateman*

## Idaho State Capitol

Boise, in the southwestern Idaho area known as the Treasure Valley, became the territorial capital in 1865 and the state capital when Idaho was admitted to statehood in 1890.

### Territorial Capitol

Boise was not Idaho's first capital city. In March 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln signed the law that created Idaho Territory, he left the task of choosing a temporary capital to William Wallace, a personal friend he appointed to serve as first Territorial Governor. Wallace chose Lewiston, then a booming supply point for the mines of north Idaho. The new legislature would select the capital's permanent location. By 1864, gold discoveries in the Boise Basin had shifted the population south,

and following a heated debate, the second Territorial Legislature chose Boise as the permanent capital. For the next twenty years, government proceedings took place at various locations throughout the city. In 1885, the thirteenth Territorial Legislature approved construction of a centralized government building. Erected between Jefferson and State and Sixth and Seventh streets, the building was designed by noted architect Elijah E. Myers, a prolific designer of American capitol buildings

### Idaho's Second Capitol Building

By 1905, the Capitol building's lack of amenities and limited space prompted the state legislature to fund construction of a new Capitol. Construction began in 1905 and was completed in two phases. Phase one, which included construction of the central section and dome, was completed in 1912. The new Capitol and its surrounding grounds occupied two blocks and were originally located between two early Boise landmarks—the Territorial Capitol and Central School. Both buildings were de-

molished during phase two (1919–1921) to make way for the addition of the east and west wings. Remodeling projects during the 1950s and 1970s accommodated a growing state government, but crowding, failing mechanical systems, and decades of hard use eventually left their mark on the aging building. The state of Idaho recognized the need to save the historic Capitol by restoring it and maintaining the building as a working seat of government.

*Capitol Rotunda*

Photo Courtesy of Idaho Tourism





Idaho State Capitol

Photo Courtesy of Taner Oz

## Creating a Vision for the People—The Architects

For the 1905 Capitol building design, the Capitol Commission held an open competition and selected Tourtellotte & Company, a well-known Boise firm. John E. Tourtellotte, a Connecticut native, began his career in Massachusetts before heading west in 1889. Less than a year later he arrived in Boise and began working as a contract architect. Tourtellotte's partner, Charles Hummel, was originally from Germany, where he received his architectural training. He worked in Switzerland before immigrating to the United States in 1885, eventually arriving in Idaho in 1895, and becoming Tourtellotte's partner in 1903. The successful partnership continued for many years, even after

Tourtellotte relocated to Portland, Oregon. Following the deaths of both Tourtellotte and Hummel in 1939, the firm continued as Hummel Architects.

Tourtellotte was inspired to create a building that emphasized natural light and used it as a decorative element. He used light shafts, skylights, and reflective marble surfaces to capture natural sunlight and direct it to the interior space. For Tourtellotte, light was a metaphor for an enlightened and moral state government. The original design created an architecturally pleasing building that incorporated the materials and technologies of the day into a working Capitol.



*Capitol West Side*

Photo Courtesy of Taner Oz

### Building and Architectural Details

Large “marble” columns support the rotunda. They are not solid marble but have a finished surface composed of scagliola—a mixture of gypsum, glue, marble dust, and granite dyed to look like marble. Scagliola originated in Italy during the sixteenth century and grew in popularity because polished marble, though popular, was expensive and heavy.

In addition to scagliola, true marble is also used extensively throughout the building. White marble with green veining, called American Pavonazzo, can be seen on the columns of the central portion of the building. Brocadillo marble, a greenish-white marble with green veining, was used for the wainscoting and upper wall panels of the staircases. The floors throughout the

building are comprised of four different marbles from four different quarries and locations. The gray patterned marble is from Alaska, the red stone from Georgia, the green stone from Vermont, and the black stone from Italy.

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## Garden Level & Atrium Wings

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In the original design, the central rotunda area of the garden level was a dark and often damp basement. The building restoration has transformed the area into the central welcoming place for visitors, with an interpretive exhibit, gift shop, and visitor information desk.

### GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

The Great Seal of the State of Idaho is inlaid on the floor of the central rotunda. The Latin motto *Esto perpetua* means “May it endure forever.” The miner represents the chief industry at the time the seal was created, while the woman holding scales represents justice, freedom, and equality.

### ATRIUM WINGS

From the central rotunda area, the underground atrium wings run east and west the distance of a full city block. These wings were constructed to provide additional space for legislative committee hearing rooms, where the public can participate directly in the legislative process. The wings

Classical architectural elements include Doric, Corinthian, and Ionic columns. Corinthian columns have decorative acanthus leaves at the top. Doric and Ionic columns are less ornate.

preserve the integrity of the building’s architecture and improve the functionality of the building. Glass skylights run the length of the central corridors and offer a view of the Capitol dome. These skylights—specially engineered and designed for this project—are consistent with the vision of the original architects and provide a seamless bond between the old and new. The skylights are made of fritted glass—a clear safety glass fired with a pattern of dots for the purpose of shading and lowering solar gain—making artificial light unnecessary in some corridors during the summer and some sunny winter days. Senate hearing rooms and offices are located in the west wing, and House hearing rooms and offices are in the east wing. A large 240-seat auditorium, shared by the Senate and House, is also located in the west wing. The west wing contains the original basement vault doors. These vaults were once used for record storage. All of the original vault doors remain in the building.

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## First Floor

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### THE ROTUNDA

The rotunda rises to an opening at the top of the inner dome called the oculus, or eye of the dome. You can see thirteen large stars, which represent the thirteen original colonies, and forty-three smaller stars, representing Idaho’s admission as the forty-third state in the Union.

The dome is actually two domes: an inner dome constructed of wood and plaster and an outer dome constructed of steel and concrete and roofed with terracotta tiles.

The center of the rotunda is ringed by eight massive steel columns clad in scagliola. These sixty-foot-high columns support the dome and surround the gray, black, and red compass rose medallion on the floor.

### THE TREASURER’S OFFICE

On the east side of the first floor is the Treasurer’s office. Inside, an original vault contains a large manganese steel safe made in 1905 and still used today.

The Manganese Steel Safe Company was founded in the late 1890s as Hibbard, Rodman and Ely Company. At a plant in New Jersey, the company specialized in the manufacture of safes made of manganese steel, including a model called the “cannonball.” The Hibbard, Rodman and Ely Company was so successful with sales of manganese steel safes that it changed its name to reflect the company’s success. The round, double-locked, tightly sealed cannonball safe is still considered one of the most secure models.



## LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Legislative Services Office (LSO), the nonpartisan support staff for the Legislature, also occupies the first floor. The LSO conducts bill research, drafts legislation, provides budget analysis, financial compliance audits, and technology support for the

Idaho Legislature.

An interesting feature of this floor is the elevator located outside the Legislative Reference Library. This private elevator transported judges to the Idaho Supreme Court Chamber, originally located on the third floor.

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## Second Floor

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### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Governor's suite, which includes a ceremonial office and working office for the Governor and offices for support staff, is located in the west wing. The governor's desk in the ceremonial office has been used by Idaho governors since 1919. Official portraits of the current governor and first lady grace the walls of the office. In 1911, the Legislature commissioned artist Herbert Collins to paint portraits of Idaho's territorial and state governors. The original twenty portraits, plus portraits of all governors who have served since 1911, are hung along the walls adjacent to the governor's suite.

The second floor also houses offices for the Attorney General on the north side of the building and the Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State in the east wing. The official copy of the Great Seal of the State of Idaho is kept in the reception area of the

Secretary of State's office.

In 1957 the Legislature commissioned Caldwell artist Paul B. Evans to update the state seal. Evans colorized and "streamlined" the seal. He added a border, sharpened some of the details, modified the female figure and modernized the miner's clothing. His revision of the 1891 design is the official seal used today.

The original furnishings for the offices, supplied by Wollaeger Manufacturing Company, were constructed of Spanish mahogany. Offices had both flat and roll-top desks made with brass bases on the legs and chairs finished to match the desks. Some five hundred pieces of original furniture remain in the building. For the 2009 restoration, furniture throughout the Capitol has been replicated or reproduced in the same style as the original.

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## Third Floor

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In the 1950s, the space above the stairs was enclosed, but during restoration the area was opened up as originally designed, to provide more natural light. Newly crafted marble balustrades were based on original designs. Drop ceilings, installed in the 1950s to hide cabling, have also been removed, re-creating the original ceiling and showcasing the decorative plaster.

The light shafts visible in the hallways originally helped cool the building, but by the 1970s they had lost their original function and served as pathways for electrical wiring. The original light shafts have been retrofitted to hide the new heating system and conduits. New wiring is hidden by backlit false walls that mimic the look of the original shafts.

### HOUSE AND SENATE CHAMBERS

The Idaho Legislature is a citizen legislature that meets annually in sessions that typically last from January through March. The House chamber is located in the east wing. The Idaho House of Representatives includes seventy members, two from each legislative district. The perimeter wall was added in the 1970s to improve acoustics, and the blue color scheme mimics the U.S. Capitol. The Senate chamber is located in the west wing. The Senate has thirty-five members, and the Lieutenant Governor—who is not a member—serves as Senate president, voting only to break a tie. The color scheme in the Senate chamber is red, also used at the U.S. Capitol. The furniture in the House and Senate chambers has been crafted to resemble the original desks while still accommodating modern technology.

## JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) is located in the former Supreme Court chamber at the north end of the floor. The Idaho Supreme Court met in this chamber from 1912 through 1970,

when it moved to a new building on Fifth and State streets. JFAC is comprised of ten members of the House of Representatives and ten members of the Senate. JFAC studies and recommends how the state budget will be allocated.

## Fourth Floor

Public galleries for the House and Senate are located on the fourth floor. The painted concrete floor, though not marble, mimics the colors and style of the marble floors below.

Two statues are located on the south side of the rotunda and flank the entrance to Statuary Hall. The George Washington Statue was carved from a single piece of pine by Charles Ostner, an Austrian immigrant. Ostner, working at night by candlelight and from a postage stamp size likeness of the President, took four years to carve the figure. The statue was bronzed and presented to the Idaho Territory in 1869. It was displayed on the Capitol grounds until 1934, when it was brought indoors due to weather damage. The statue was repaired, restored, and covered with gold leaf in 1966.

The second statue is a replica of Winged Victory of Samothrace. The original statue was sculpted about 400–300 BC on Samothrace, an island in the Aegean Sea. Lost for centuries, the sculpture was rediscovered in 1863 and sent to the Louvre Museum in France. Idaho received this replica from the Merci (thank you) Train, which was sent to the United States in 1949 by the people of France to express their appreciation for the food, medicine, fuel, and clothing Americans sent to France following World War II. Boxcars filled with gifts from the people of France were sent to the capital cities of each state. Idaho's boxcar included this replica of Winged Victory of Samothrace.

In Statuary Hall, the barrel ceiling, hidden from view for years, has been restored to its original beauty. When Statuary Hall is filled with light and air, it exemplifies the original interior design of the building.

## CAPITOL GROUNDS

The open and spacious lawn resembles the original 1905 Capitol landscape. Over time, numerous trees and bushes were planted on the grounds, eventually masking full view of the building. During renovation, many old and diseased trees were removed. The wood has been used to produce gavels, benches, and gift shop souvenirs.

The Capitol steps are the main ceremonial entrance where visitors are greeted and inaugurations are held. A replica of the Liberty Bell, molded in France, stands at the base of the stairs and was given to the state by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in 1950. Two giant spheres of Montana granite flank the thirty-three steps. Straight above the central steps, the bronze plated copper eagle perches atop the Capitol dome. It's difficult to guess its size looking upward from the ground, but it is 5'7" tall.

Erected in 1906, Pioneer Monument—located on the southeast grounds—honors pioneers of the Old Oregon Trail. The national movement to preserve the Oregon Trail was organized by Ezra Meeker, who travelled west to Oregon on the trail in 1852 by oxcart. In 1906, at age 76, he began work to preserve the trail and in time he followed the trail by auto and airplane. The Model 1840 cast-iron cannon is a seacoast gun used by the Confederacy in the Civil War and was purchased by State Treasurer S. A. Hastings and Senator William Borah.

Dedicated in 1927, the Steunenberg Memorial, south of the Capitol's main entrance in Capitol Park, honors Governor Frank Steunenberg, who served Idaho from 1897 to 1900 and was assassinated in 1905.

The Abraham Lincoln Statue, south of the Steunenberg Memorial, was originally placed on the grounds of the Old Soldier's

Home in 1915, approximately three miles west of the Capitol. When the Old Soldier's Home was demolished in the 1970s for construction of Veterans Memorial State Park, the Abraham Lincoln Statue was moved to the grounds of the Veterans Administration at the site of Old Fort Boise. An expansion project in 2008 led to the removal of the statue, which was placed at its current

location and rededicated in a ceremony on February 12, 2009.

The Grand Army of the Republic Monument (GAR), located on the northwest grounds, was donated in 1935 by the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the men of the Union Army who served in the Civil War.

## Capitol Mall

The capitol building sits in the southwest corner of the mall complex, which is bounded by Jefferson Street on the south, Eighth Street on the west, Washington Street on the north, and Third Street on the east. Since 1963 six new structures have been built in the complex. These include the State Library and Archives, the Supreme Court Building, the Pete T. Cenarrusa building, a five story parking structure, the Len B. Jordan Building, and the Joe R. Williams Building.

The mall area includes many older buildings as well: the Capitol Annex (old Ada County Courthouse), Marion Hall, and the Governor Alexander House built in 1897 by

Governor Moses Alexander.

All of the mall buildings are heated with geothermal water. Idaho's Capitol building is the only one in the United States heated by geothermal water. A pumping station in the parking lot north of the Len B. Jordan Building can provide enough hot water to heat 750,000 square feet of building space on all but the most severe winter days. The 3,000 foot well can produce about 1,000 gallons per minute of water at 165o F under natural artesian pressure. The system was first used in the winter of 1982 - 83, and was projected to save about \$150,000 per year in natural gas heating bills.

## Capitol Restoration

The nine-member Idaho State Capitol Commission was created in 1998 and charged with completing a master plan for the restoration/renovation of the State Capitol Building. The Legislature appropriated \$120,000, and the design team of CSHQA/Isthmus was competitively selected to develop a Master Plan, which was completed in 2000. At that time the design team estimated the total cost at \$64 million.

In 2001 the Legislature provided a one-time appropriation of \$32 million and authorized the Commission to issue bonds for the remaining \$32 million. However, in early 2002, as a result of projected shortfalls in state revenues, the Commission withdrew its request to issue bonds and returned the \$32 million appropriation to the State's General Fund. The restoration project was placed on hold.

Despite the delay, the Commission was able to preserve and restore the exterior envelope of the structure to protect the interior from further deterioration. Between

2001 and 2002 about \$1.5 million was appropriated for Phase I Exterior Renovation. The following year the Legislature appropriated nearly \$3 million to complete Phase II Exterior Renovation. All exterior work was completed Spring of 2006.

The 2005 Legislature revived hope for the interior restoration by extending the cigarette tax so that a portion of the revenue collected, beginning FY07, is deposited into the Permanent Building Fund. The annual amount, estimated at \$20 million, is earmarked for the repair, remodel, and restoration of the Capitol and state facilities pertaining to the Capitol restoration.

The 2006 Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution 47 authorizing the Capitol Commission and the Department of Administration to enter into agreements with the Idaho State Building Authority to finance the restoration and construction of two 2-story wings on each end of the Statehouse.

Subsequently, the ISBA secured \$120 million in bonds, the Idaho Div. of Public Works hired CSHQA as Architect/Engineer, Lemley/3D+I as agency for the owner, McAlvain/Hummel as design/build professionals to construct the core and shell of the new underground wings, and finally Jacobson-Hunt Joint Venture as Construction Manager-at-risk to lead the restoration's numerous specialty sub-contractors through this once-in-a-lifetime task.

In his FY08 budget, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter proposed that only the existing Capitol be restored, and not the addition of the 2-story underground wings. However, he and legislative leadership eventually negotiated a compromise to proceed with the addition of two single-story underground wings and to reassign the use of the first floor of the Capitol for use by the Legislature, rather than the Executive Branch.

The Capitol restoration work included the following: restore and refinish windows, repair marble flooring, repair decorative plaster, restore wood floors, refinish wood doors, restore hardware, replace/refurbish light fixtures, upgrade electrical, complete smoke and fire detection system, install fire sprinkler system throughout, improve exterior lighting, add emergency power generator, install new HVAC system, replace sewer piping, replace hot water system, improve exiting from basement, provide vertical circulation cores from the legislative chambers level to the new garden level wings, safer access to roof domes, add exiting hardware, provide accessible toilet rooms, and install ADA accessible elevator (gurney size).

The underground expansion provided approximately 25,000 square feet on each side of the Capitol, larger legislative hearing rooms and opportunities to move various functions out of the Capitol Building, such as large mechanical spaces, data centers, kitchens, and dining facilities.



*Idaho State Capitol*

Photo Courtesy of Taner Oz

## Idaho History Chronicle

**8,000 to 14,000 years ago:** Paleo-Indian big game-hunters, with Clovis (11,500 to 12,500 B.P), Folsom (10,500 to 11,000 B.P), and Plano (8,000 to 10,500 B.P) cultures.

**200 to 8,000 years ago:** Archaic-Indian culture, with permanent houses (5,000 years ago) and bows and arrows and pottery (300 to 1,500 years ago) coming into use.

**200 to 260 years ago:** Shoshone bands obtained horses for transportation but were decimated by smallpox spread from European sources.

**1743:** Discovery of the Rocky Mountains somewhere in the vicinity of Yellowstone Park made by Pierre De la Verendrye, while in search of a western sea.

### Northwest Territory 1803-1847

- 1803 The Louisiana Territory, which extended west of the Mississippi to Idaho, purchased by the United States from France for \$15 million.
- 1805 Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark enter area which would become Idaho at Lemhi Pass, and cross into north Idaho over the Lolo Trail August 12. Lewis and Clark canoe past Spalding October 8, meet with Nez Perce Indians at Weippe Prairie.
- 1806 Lewis and Clark spend more than six weeks with the Nez Perce Indians in the Kamiah area before returning eastward across the Lolo Trail.
- 1808 David Thompson commences fur trade near Bonners Ferry.
- 1809 David Thompson constructs Kullyspell House by Lake Pend Oreille, first non-native establishment erected in the Northwest, built for the Northwest Fur Company.
- 1810 Missouri Fur Company establishes Fort Henry near St. Anthony, first American fur post west of Rocky Mountains.
- 1811 Pacific Fur Company expedition, the Astorians, explore the Snake River Valley on their way to the Columbia River. Led by Wilson P. Hunt, the westward journey enters the Boise Valley.
- 1812 Donald Mackenzie establishes a winter fur trading post at Lewiston for the Astorians. Robert Stuart, on his return from Astoria, opens much of the Oregon Trail and is the first Euro-American to use South Pass (Wy).
- 1813 John Reid starts fur trading post on the lower Boise River, but Bannock Indians wipe it out in 1814.
- 1818 Donald Mackenzie makes first exploration of southern Idaho with his Snake River expedition of trappers. Treaty of Joint Occupation between Great Britain and the United States leaves Oregon Territory (including Idaho) open to citizens of both nations.
- 1819 Donald Mackenzie held a rendezvous with Native Americans on the Boise River. Adams-Onis treaty between Spain and the United States established Idaho's future southern border on the 42nd Parallel.
- 1821 Hudson's Bay Company and North West Company merged.
- 1822 William Ashley organized the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, which instituted the practice of annual rendezvous.
- 1823 Battle fought in Lemhi Valley between men of the Snake River country expedition and the Piegan Indians.
- 1824 Alexander Ross and Jedediah Smith lead separate expeditions in exploring much of the Salmon River country. Peter Skene Ogden begins trapping in Idaho. Russia cedes Northwest Territory to United States in a treaty.
- 1827 Rendezvous at Bear Lake for fur trading.
- 1829 Rendezvous held at Pierre's Hole, now known as the Teton Basin, where hundreds of mountain men and fur trappers congregated.

- 1830 Rendezvous with the Indians held on the Blackfoot River, where competition in fur trading became intensely keen.
- 1831 Fur trappers of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, led by Kit Carson, winter on the Salmon River.
- 1832 Captain B.L.E. Bonneville leads the first crossing of the Rocky Mountains in covered wagons. The company reaches the Lemhi River on September 19. Rendezvous at Pierre's Hole. Battle of Pierre's Hole occurs July 18 between American fur trappers and the Gros Ventre Indians.
- 1834 Fort Hall, established by Americans under Captain Nathaniel Wyeth, becomes a hub for trails and roads to the western parts of the United States. Fort Boise erected by the Hudson's Bay Company near the mouth of the Boise River.
- 1835 Reverend Samuel Parker, guided by Nez Perce Indians, selects sites for missions.
- 1836 Henry Harmon Spalding establishes a Nez Perce Indian mission near Lapwai, where he prints the Northwest's first book, establishes first school, develops Idaho's first irrigation system and grows the state's first potatoes. Eliza Spalding and Narcissa Whitman are first EuroAmerican women to cross the Continental Divide.
- 1837 First white child born in Idaho is Eliza Spalding born at Lapwai.
- 1839 Henry Spalding starts publishing the Bible in Lapwai on the earliest printing press in the Pacific Northwest. Chief Timothy, the first native Christian leader, baptized November 17.
- 1840 Father Pierre Jean de Smet begins missionary work in Idaho.
- 1842 Father Nicholas Point establishes the Jesuit Coeur d' Alene Mission of the Sacred Heart near Saint Maries. The Mission moves to a site near Cataldo in 1846, and is transferred in 1877 to Desmet where it stands today.
- 1843 Oregon Trail wagons entered Idaho near Montpelier, passed by Fort Hall, then westward south of the Snake River to the ford below Salmon Falls, then to Fort Boise, crossing the Snake River into Oregon.
- 1846 Sacred Heart Mission established on the Coeur d'Alene River. The United States acquires all land south of 49 degrees longitude by a treaty with Great Britain.

## **Oregon Territory 1848-1853**

- 1848 Oregon Territory established.
- 1849 Over 20,000 emigrants who join the gold rush come through southeastern Idaho on the California Trail. Heavy traffic continues on the trail for many years. U.S. Military post, Cantonment Loring, established near Fort Hall.
- 1852 French Canadians discover gold on the Pend Oreille River.

## **Oregon and Washington Territories 1853-1858**

- 1853 Construction of the Cataldo Mission completed. Washington Territory established. Idaho divided between Washington and Oregon.
- 1854 Twenty-one emigrants led by Alexander Ward massacred in Boise Valley by the Snake River Indians. This event leads to the closing of Fort Boise the next summer and Fort Hall in 1856.
- 1855 Salmon River Mission (Fort Lemhi) established by Mormon missionaries.
- 1857 Oregon's eastern boundary (Idaho's western boundary) established by Oregon constitutional convention.
- 1858 Bannock Indians attacked the Mormons at Fort Lemhi, killing two and driving the remaining back to Utah.

## Washington Territory 1859-1862

- 1859 Oregon admitted as a state, all of Idaho included in Washington Territory. Nez Perce Indian Reservation established.
- 1860 Idaho's oldest town, Franklin, is founded just north of the Utah border on April 14. Miss Hannah Cornish starts the first school for white children in Idaho. Gold discovered on Orofino Creek in August, leads to the establishment of Idaho's oldest mining town, Pierce. Mullan military wagon road built just north of Coeur d'Alene.
- 1861 Lewiston established as a service community for Idaho mines on May 13. Major mining strikes near Pierce, Florence, Idaho City and Silver City.
- 1862 Homestead Act established. First newspaper published in Idaho is the Golden Age in Lewiston. George Grimes and a party of prospectors establish the Boise Basin mines, leading to creation of Idaho City. Packer John's Cabin built between New Meadows and McCall. Gold discovered near present day Warren. Fort Lapwai established as a military post near Lewiston.

## Idaho Territory 1863-1890

- 1863 Massacre of Bear River, one of the West's largest Indian battles, is fought near present-day Preston. Idaho Territory organized, capital at Lewiston. President Abraham Lincoln signed the act establishing the territory on March 4. Soda Springs founded by Colonel Patrick Conner. Boise News of Idaho City issues first copy September 29. Mining begins in the Owyhees. Fort Boise established at Cottonwood Creek by Major Pinckney Lugenbeel and the U.S. Cavalry. The townsite of Boise laid out by merchants under the lead of Cyrus Jacobs. First general election held October 31. First county established: Owyhee County, December 31.
- 1864 A resolution to make Boise the capital passes December 7. Public school system established for the territory. Ben Holliday establishes Overland stagecoach line. The Idaho Statesman begins tri-weekly publication in Boise. Ada, Alturas, Boise, Idaho, Kootenai, Lah-Toh, Nez Perce, Oneida and Shoshone counties created.
- 1865 Boise becomes the capital of Idaho. J.M. Taylor and Robert Anderson erect bridge across Snake River near present day Idaho Falls. Boise-Rocky Bar stage begins operations, later extended to Silver City.
- 1866 Gold discovered at Leesburg in Lemhi County. Survey of public lands begun, L.F. Cartee surveyor. Congress passes Federal Lode Mining Act. State of Columbia proposed by the Idaho Legislature in a petition to Congress, to include all the lands in western Montana, northern Idaho, and eastern Washington. Telegraph connects Virginia City, Montana and Salt Lake City, Utah on November 2.
- 1867 Gutzon Borglum, Mount Rushmore sculptor, born in Bear Lake County March 25. Episcopal Bishop Daniel S. Tuttle arrives in Boise October 12. Idaho Legislature repeals oath of allegiance to U.S., a riot commences and Federal troops are called out. Lah-Toh County abolished, territory annexed to Kootenai County. Fort Hall Indian Reservation established by proclamation, for Shoshoni. Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation also established.
- 1869 Statue of George Washington, carved from native wood by Charles Ostner, is unveiled on the capitol grounds at Boise. Idaho State Law Library established. Placer gold strike made at Oro Grande. Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads complete transcontinental railway at Promontory Summit, Utah on May 10, improves transportation to Idaho. Chinese workers flock to Idaho mines. Fort Hall Indian Reservation set aside by President Ulysses S. Grant for Shoshonis and Bannocks of southern Idaho. First telegraph office established at Franklin, linking the town with Salt Lake City. Lemhi County created.

- 1870 Idaho population: 14,999 later census figure shows 17,804 as Utah-Idaho border was not clearly established. Caribou gold rush in southeastern Idaho. Fort Hall established as a military post.
- 1872 U.S. Assay Office and Idaho prison completed. Strike drives Chinese labor out of Owyhee mines.
- 1873 Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation set aside by President Ulysses S. Grant for the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane Indians.
- 1874 First railroad in Idaho, Utah Northern reaches Franklin. Idaho's first daily newspaper, The Owyhee Daily Avalanche, issued at Silver City October 17. Telegraph reaches Silver City.
- 1875 Lemhi Indian Reservation set aside by President Ulysses S. Grant for Shoshonis, Bannocks, and Tukuarikas. Bear Lake County created. Bank failure ruins Silver City and South Mountain Mines.
- 1877 National Desert Land Act passed by Congress for reclaiming land by irrigation. Nez Perce Indian War: Battle fought at White Bird on June 17th, Battle of Clearwater fought July 11 and 12, fighting then moved into Montana. The war ended on October 5th with the surrender of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce. Duck Valley Indian Reservation set aside by President Hayes for the Western Shoshonis and Paiutes.
- 1878 Bannock Indian War: Bannocks were led by Chief Buffalo Horn, and Paiutes led by Chief Egan. Battles fought at South Mountain and Bennett Creek. Fort Sherman, originally Camp Coeur d'Alene, established on Lake Coeur d'Alene.
- 1879 The Sheepeater Indian War: battles fought at Big Creek and Loon Creek. Indians surrender September 1. Utah Northern railroad completed within Idaho on its path from Salt Lake City to Helena, Montana. Cassia and Washington counties created.
- 1880 Idaho population: 32,619. Discovery of lead-silver lodes in the Wood River area, the rush to Bellevue, Hailey and Ketchum transforms southcentral Idaho. The Boise and Lewiston Independent School Districts created. North Idaho Annexation political party forms to counteract the powerful "Boise Ring."
- 1881 Historical Society of Idaho Pioneers forms to collect and preserve a reliable history of the early settlement of the territory. The Hailey Times begins daily publication. Wells Fargo office established at Challis. Custer County created. Earthquake centered 20 miles east of Mount Idaho August 9.
- 1882 Northern Pacific Railroad completed across the northern part of the Territory. Construction began on the New York Canal in Ada County. State's first electric light at the Philadelphia Smelter near Ketchum.
- 1883 First telephone service in Idaho commenced at Hailey October 1. Rexburg is founded. Oregon Short Line reaches Weiser, connecting Idaho to the Pacific Coast.
- 1884 Coeur d'Alene gold rush, followed by Tiger and Polaris mines opening lead-silver operations. The Oregon Short Line arrives in Ketchum August 19. Freight and passenger service begins on Coeur d'Alene Lake. Wallace is founded.
- 1885 The legislature approves construction of Territorial Capitol building at an expense of \$80,000. Test Oath Act adopted by legislature, designed to bar members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from voting and holding public office. Legislature locates insane asylum at Blackfoot. Famous poet Ezra Pound born at Hailey October 30. Bingham County created. Bunker Hill and Sullivan mines begin operation.
- 1886 Utah Northern merges with Oregon Short Line and joins Union Pacific system. Separate bills to annex north Idaho to Washington Territory pass each chamber of Congress, but are not reconciled. Construction on the Territorial Capitol completed. Nampa city platted.
- 1887 Wardner miner's union established after wage reductions at Bunker Hill and Sullivan mines. Compulsory education law passed. A bill to annex north Idaho to



- Washington Territory passes Congress, but is not signed by President Cleveland and does not become law.
- 1888 Ricks Academy, now known as Brigham Young University - Idaho, established in Rexburg. Latah County created by U.S. Congress.
- 1889 As a conciliatory move to keep north Idaho from seceding, the Territorial Legislature locates the University of Idaho at Moscow. Constitutional convention composed of sixty-eight members meets at Boise July 4 and after laboring twenty-eight days, forms and adopts constitution for the state of Idaho August 6. Constitution is ratified by the people on November 5 by a vote of 12,398 to 1,773. Electric light plant goes into operation at Hailey to supply power for territory's first electric lights. Fire in Hailey causes \$750,000 worth of damage. Elmore county created.

## State of Idaho

### 1890 - Present

- 1890 Idaho population: 88,548. Idaho admitted to the Union as the 43rd state on July 3, signed into law by President Benjamin Harrison. Great Northern Railroad completed across the northern part of the state. Congress passes Federal Forest Reserve Act. First legislative and statewide elections held. First session of the Idaho Legislature meets.
- 1891 Great Seal of the State of Idaho, a design drawn by Miss Emma Edwards, with the Latin motto "Esto Perpetua" adopted. Idaho forest reserves created. Boise's electric street railway commences operation on August 22. College of Idaho opens in Caldwell October 9. Canyon and Alta counties created. President Benjamin Harrison plants Water Oak on capitol grounds.
- 1892 High freight rates and low silver prices close Coeur d'Alene mines January 16. The Farmers Alliance and the Knights of Labor organize the Idaho Populist Party in Boise May 26. Martial law commenced in the Coeur d'Alenes on July 14 following the dynamiting of the Frisco Mill near Burke. University of Idaho opens October 3. Idaho Education Association organized. Timber and Stone Act passes Congress, paving way for commercial timber industry in Idaho.
- 1893 The "Panic of '93." Lead and silver prices collapsed, Coeur d'Alene mines shut down. Western Federation of Miners formed. Office of State Mine Inspector established. Idaho State Medical Society founded September 12. State Wool Growers Association started at Mountain Home September 25. First state game laws enacted. State Normal Schools (Colleges of Education) established at Lewiston and Albion. Legislature funds state wagon roads to connect north and south Idaho. Bannock and Fremont counties created.
- 1894 Albion Normal School opens January 8. Nez Perce Indian Reservation allotted to the Indians in parcels of 160 acres each, with the balance to be sold for the Indians' benefit. Congress passes Carey Act, first main Snake River project in Twin Falls. Gold discovered in the Thunder Mountain country.
- 1895 Comprehensive irrigation law, providing for uniform use of public water, enacted on March 9. Lincoln and Blaine counties created.
- 1896 Lewiston Normal School dedicated June 3. Idaho becomes first in the nation in production of lead. Montpelier bank robbed by Butch Cassidy August 13. Idaho Legislature calls on Congress to extend the right to vote to women. Idaho Republicans split, Silver Republicans endorse William Jennings Bryan for President. Clashes between sheep and cattle industries culminate in the murder of sheepherders allegedly by "Diamondfield" Jack Davis. Cassia County created.
- 1897 President Grover Cleveland establishes Bitterroot Forest Reserve which includes much of north Idaho. Legislature acts to protect bison within the state. State Board of Medical Examiners established to regulate the practice of medicine.

- 1898 First Idaho regiment of military volunteers called into service for the Philippine insurrection of the Spanish-American War. Fort Hall Indian Reservation allotted to the Indians.
- 1899 Position of State Fish and Game Warden created. Governor Steunenberg calls in federal troops to suppress riot in the Coeur d'Alene mining district following the dynamiting of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan concentrator.
- 1900 Idaho population: 161,772. New York Canal completed. Democrats, Silver Republicans and Populists arrange party fusion for 1900 election. Idaho State Dairymen's Association organized. Idaho Falls incorporated.
- 1901 The Free Traveling Library (now known as the Idaho State Library) established. The Academy of Idaho (now Idaho State University) opens in Pocatello.
- 1902 After concluding that "Diamondfield" Jack Davis had been convicted by mistake, in a case growing out of the most notable incident of the Idaho sheep and cattle wars, the State Board of Pardons freed him. National Reclamation Act passed, providing for federal aid for irrigation.
- 1903 Idaho's hunting and fishing licensing system began. The Idaho Industrial Training School founded at St. Anthony as a reform school for children. First Carey Act land opening at Shoshone. President Theodore Roosevelt plants maple tree on capitol grounds.
- 1904 City of Twin Falls platted. Chief Joseph dies September 21. Milner Dam on Snake River opens Twin Falls area to irrigated farming.
- 1905 \$350,000 appropriated for construction of a new capitol building in Boise, actual construction cost exceeded \$2,000,000. Insane asylum established at Orofino. The first train arrives at Twin Falls August 7. Sawtooth National Forest created. Former Governor Frank Steunenberg assassinated December 30.
- 1906 Steunenberg assassin Harry Orchard implicates three leaders of the Western Federation of Miners in the plot. The largest sawmill in the United States begins operation at Potlatch. Pioneer Monument at capitol grounds erected. "Steward Decree" adjudicates water rights along the Boise River.
- 1907 William E. Borah elected to the U.S. Senate, where he gains an international reputation during thirty-three years of service. William D. Haywood is found not guilty of conspiracy and the assassination of Frank Steunenberg, at the end of an internationally celebrated trial, Harry Orchard sentenced to life in prison for the assassination. Idaho State Flag adopted. Idaho State Historical Society founded. Bonner and Twin Falls Counties created. Weiser baseball player Walter "Big Train" Johnson signs with the Washington Senators.
- 1908 Under President Roosevelt's forest reserve policy, one-half of the state is organized into National Forest reserves.
- 1909 Idaho adopts direct primary and local option over regulation of liquor. Minidoka Dam completed. State Parks established at Heyburn, Shoshone Falls and Payette Lake. Allotment of Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. Provisions for rural high school districts established.
- 1910 Idaho population: 325,594. Devastating forest fire consumes one-sixth of north Idaho's forests, destroying many communities, which leads to adoption of public/private partnership in spotting and fighting forest fires.
- 1911 State banking and highway district laws enacted. Buckeye tree planted on the capitol grounds by President William Howard Taft October 9. Search and seizure law enacted for enforcing liquor laws. Idaho State Sanitarium (now known as the Southwest Idaho Treatment Center) located at Nampa. Adams, Bonneville, Clearwater and Lewis Counties created.
- 1912 Revised revenue laws enacted, providing a new system of assessment, equalization, levy and collection of taxes. Constitutional amendments adopted authorizing initiative, referendum, and recall. State Board of Education established to supervise all levels of education within the state of Idaho.

- 1913 Public Utilities Commission established. Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa founded. First motor vehicle laws enacted by the legislature. Comprehensive system of revenue for state, county, municipal and school purposes enacted. School for the Deaf and Blind opens in Gooding. Franklin, Gooding, Jefferson, Madison, Minidoka and Power Counties created.
- 1914 Moses Alexander first elected Jewish governor in the United States.
- 1915 Arrowrock Dam completed. Columbia and Snake River improvements for navigation to Lewiston completed. Second Idaho Regiment of Infantry Volunteers organized into service at the call of President Woodrow Wilson for the Mexican Border War. The Academy of Idaho (now Idaho State University) becomes the Idaho Technical Institute. Idaho Horse and Cattle Association organized, later to become the Idaho Cattlemen's Association. Benewah, Boundary, Gem and Teton Counties created.
- 1916 Constitutional amendment for statewide prohibition ratified. State highway program begins as part of the national good roads movement.
- 1917 Statewide prohibition goes into effect January 1. Workmen's Compensation System and State Insurance Fund established. Annual state fair established at Boise. Ricks Academy becomes a college and is accredited by the State Board of Education. Butte, Camas, Payette and Valley Counties created. The battleship Idaho launched.
- 1918 Non-Partisan League takes over Idaho Democratic primary September 3, subsequently Idaho's primary nominating system is abandoned for twelve years.
- 1919 Administrative consolidation enacted by legislature. Functions of fifty-one departments, boards and bureaus placed under nine administrative departments responsible to the governor. Bureau of Highways created to inaugurate a state highway system. Bureau of Constabulary organized May 18, with Department of Law Enforcement. First Music Week held in Boise. Lava Hot Springs established by Department of Public Welfare. City of Jerome incorporated. Jerome, Clark, and Caribou counties created.
- 1920 Idaho population: 431,866. Agricultural prices begin to deteriorate, creating a crisis which continues through the 1920's. Whitebird Hill grade, connecting north and south Idaho opens. State Capitol completed. Idaho Wheat Growers Association formed. Constitutional amendment increases State Supreme Court from three to five members. Philo Farnsworth, 15-year-old student and inventor from Rigby, develops concepts which lead to invention of television and earn him the name "Father of Television."
- 1922 State budget system established. Radio broadcasting begins in Idaho with station KFAU located at Boise High School under the direction of Harry Redeker.
- 1924 Craters of the Moon National Monument established. Black Canyon Dam completed.
- 1925 Union Pacific Railroad begins mainline service to Boise. State Forestry Board established. William E. Borah becomes Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.
- 1926 The Idaho State Chamber of Commerce organized. Federal air service came to the Northwest with a Pasco, Washington to Elko, Nevada flight with a stop in Boise.
- 1927 American Falls Dam completed. Perrine Memorial Bridge at Twin Falls completed. Palisades Reservoir created. Idaho Technical Institute in Pocatello redesignated the University of Idaho Southern Branch.
- 1928 Restoration of the "Old Mission" church near Cataldo begins. Commercial radio broadcasting begins in Idaho with the purchase of KFAU from Boise High School and renamed KIDO.
- 1930 Idaho population: 445,032.

- 1931 The direct primary restored for statewide offices. State income tax adopted. U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the state Legislature, creates the Idaho Primitive Area. Legislature adopts “Here We Have Idaho” as state song, the syringa the official flower, and the Mountain Bluebird the state bird.
- 1932 Nonpartisan election of judges to Supreme Court and District Courts enacted. The Idaho Code annotated published. Association of Idaho Veterans of Foreign Wars organized. Boise Junior College opens.
- 1933 School Equalization Law adopted. North Idaho Junior College established at Coeur d’Alene.
- 1934 Sandpoint Bridge completed. Taylor Grazing Act passes U.S. Congress. Central and northern Idaho experience large mining developments for gold and silver. Idaho becomes first in the nation in silver production.
- 1935 Statewide prohibition repealed and State adopts Liquor Dispensary system. Indian children begin integration into public school system. State employment service established. Two percent sales tax enacted, but rejected by voters in referendum in 1936. Legislature provides for purchase of the site of Spalding Mission as a state park. Martial law declared in Teton County to put down a rebellion of pea pickers.
- 1936 Sun Valley established as a ski resort by the Union Pacific Railway in September. World’s first ski chair lift opens in Sun Valley. Martial law declared in Clearwater County during I.W.W. lumber strike. Celebration held in Lewiston to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Spalding Mission. In March, William E. Borah became Idaho’s first Presidential candidate.
- 1937 Open primary system does away with requirement for declaration of party affiliation.
- 1938 Paving of the north-south highway (U.S. 95) completed. Fish and Game Commission established by initiative. Idaho Senator James P. Pope sponsors Agricultural Adjustment Act.
- 1939 State Junior College district law enacted. Idaho State Police established March 13. Joe Albertson opens his first supermarket in Boise.
- 1940 Idaho population: 524,873. Senator William E. Borah dies January 19. Legislation creating a position of Comptroller to be appointed by the Governor, and taking away many powers of the State Auditor, ruled unconstitutional by the Courts.
- 1941 Gowen Field completed south of Boise and becomes a military air base. J.R. Simplot food dehydrator begins operations in Caldwell.
- 1942 Farragut Naval Training Station established at Lake Pend Oreille. A Pocatello army air base and gun relining plant established. Japanese-Americans placed in internment camp at Hunt. Two anti-liquor initiatives rejected by the voters. Mountain Home Air Base site was approved.
- 1944 Mountain Home Army Air Field officially opened.
- 1945 State Tax Commission established. Idaho’s first phosphate processing plant constructed by the J.R. Simplot Company.
- 1946 Most recent Idaho Code published. A teacher’s retirement system established. Election of Idaho’s governor and other state officials for four-year terms begins. Two anti-liquor initiatives and an antigambling initiative defeated.
- 1947 A state school reorganization plan enacted. University of Idaho Southern Branch at Pocatello becomes Idaho State College. State Board of Corrections established. Idaho State Archives established.
- 1948 Bureau of Reclamation begins plans to construct a Hell’s Canyon dam in the Snake River for flood control. Idaho Senator Glen Taylor runs for Vice-President on Progressive Party ticket.
- 1949 National Reactor Testing Station near Arco established.
- 1950 Idaho population: 588,637. State Highway Department established with provisions for nonpolitical administration.

- 1951 National Reactor Testing Station becomes site of the world's first use of nuclear fission to produce electricity. Experimental Breeder Reactor No. 1 is later designated a National Landmark. State teacher's colleges at Lewiston and Albion are closed.
- 1952 Anderson Ranch Dam completed. In August, Presidential candidate Dwight Eisenhower visits Boise and a rally for his candidacy is held on the Capitol steps. The rally was the largest held to date on the Capitol steps, with estimates varying between 20 and 30 thousand attending.
- 1953 Television comes to Idaho with KIDO-TV (now KTVB) in Boise July 12. C.J. Strike Dam dedicated. Supreme Court rules against Idaho law legalizing slot machines and other lottery devices.
- 1954 Submarine reactor tested and perfected at the National Reactor Testing Station. Voters approve initiative to regulate dredge mining.
- 1955 State Department of Commerce and Development established. Lewis-Clark Normal School opens at Lewiston. Lucky Peak Dam dedicated July 6. The Atomic Energy Commission lights Arco with electricity generated by atomic energy.
- 1956 Construction of Palisades Dam completed. Construction in Idaho of the National Interstate Highway System commenced. Constitutional amendment ratified to permit a governor to succeed himself for reelection.
- 1958 Boise-Stanley Highway Association established. Voters defeat "Right to Work" initiative.
- 1959 Brownlee Dam completed by Idaho Power Company, one of three dams built on the lower Snake River.
- 1960 Idaho population: 667,191. Seven month strike at Bunker Hill Mine. July and August forest fires in Hells Canyon and Idaho City area. State employee group insurance system established.
- 1961 Oxbow Dam completed on Snake River. W.A. Harriman and E. Rolland Harriman provided that their holdings at Railroad Ranch eventually become a state park, providing that the state establish a professionally managed park system. Ernest Hemingway dies in Ketchum July 2.
- 1962 Lewis and Clark highway (U.S. 12) in the Lochsa Canyon completed.
- 1963 Legislative Council established. Idaho State College in Pocatello attains University status. Lewis-Clark Normal becomes a four year college. Horse Racing Act, to permit pari-mutuel betting, becomes law over Governor's veto (first override in twenty years). Idaho celebrates Territorial Centennial.
- 1964 Combined convention and primary system implemented, parties attempt to restrict the number of state primary candidates appearing on the ballot. Federal Court ends Bible reading in Boise public schools.
- 1965 State parks department, water resource board, and personnel system created. Nez Perce National Historic Park established in north-central Idaho. Boise Junior College given 4-year status as Boise College.
- 1966 Governor Smylie defeated for 4th term. Voters uphold 3 percent sales tax in referendum. Northern Pacific ends passenger service between Lewiston and Spokane.
- 1967 Legislative Compensation Commission established. International Boy Scout Jamboree held at Farragut State Park.
- 1968 Hell's Canyon Dam completed.
- 1969 Annual legislative sessions commence. Boise College was brought into the state system of higher education as Boise State College
- 1970 Idaho population: 713,015. Voters reject proposed revision of Idaho Constitution. Voters pass strict legislative pay initiative. National Farmers Organization stages 120 vehicle caravan to Boise to protest potato prices.
- 1971 Legislature enacts a stream protection law. Last log drive on the Clearwater River. Rail passenger service ends May 1 for all places in Idaho except Sandpoint. Fire destroys \$25,000 worth of property during a riot at the Idaho State Penitentiary.

- 1972 New Idaho Uniform Probate Code goes into effect. Idaho voters return to open primary system. Sawtooth National Recreation Area established, including the Sawtooth Wilderness Area. Dworshak Dam completed. Constitutional amendment adopted requiring state government reorganization into no more than 20 agencies. Fire at the Sunshine Mine in Kellogg takes the lives of 91 men.
- 1973 U.S. Congress passes a bill to replace the deteriorating American Falls Dam.
- 1974 State agencies reorganized into 19 departments. Kootenai Indians in northern Idaho declare war on the U.S. government to gain money and land. Voters pass the Sunshine Initiative to require lobbyist registration and political campaign disclosure. Boise State College attains university status as Boise State University.
- 1975 Presidential Preference Primary to be held on the fourth Tuesday of May adopted. White Bird Hill bypass opens June 16. Legislature passes Local Planning and Zoning Act. New prison opens south of Boise. Port of Lewiston opens to ocean-going shipping.
- 1976 Hells Canyon bill creates the scenic Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, and bans construction of hydroelectric projects in the canyon. Senator Frank Church becomes a candidate for President, the first Idahoan since William E. Borah in 1936. The 310 foot high Teton Dam collapses in southeastern Idaho, killing 11 and forcing 300,000 people to flee their homes. Constitutional amendment creates Citizens Committee on Legislative Compensation. The Public Utilities Commission rejects proposal by Idaho Power Company to build an electric coal-fired power plant between Boise and Mountain Home.
- 1977 Governor Cecil D. Andrus resigns to become Secretary of the Interior. Legislature rescinds their 1972 ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Many Idaho counties declared disaster areas due to severe drought. Boise, Nampa, Mountain Home, Shoshone, and Pocatello become stops on Amtrak's Seattle-Ogden line.
- 1978 President Jimmy Carter floats the River of No Return in central Idaho. Voters pass initiative limiting property taxes to 1 percent of market value. Pocatello businessman Bill Barlow wins U.S. Supreme Court decision against Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- 1979 An investigation by the Idaho Statesman reveals that plutonium had been injected into the Snake River plain aquifer at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Senator Frank Church becomes Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.
- 1980 Idaho population: 944,038. An 18 hour riot at the Idaho State Prison results in \$2 million in damages. Mount St. Helens erupts, covers north Idaho with volcanic ash. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, by executive order, expands the Birds of Prey Natural Area from 31,000 to 482,640 acres. Congress approves the Central Idaho Wilderness Act, establishing the 2.2 million acre River of No Return Wilderness. Congressman Steve Symms defeats Senator Frank Church in the most expensive campaign in Idaho history with over \$4 million spent by the candidates and independent committees.
- 1981 Senator James McClure becomes Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Keith F. Nyborg, a rancher from Ashton, is appointed ambassador to Finland by President Reagan. "Rabbit Drives" in southeastern Idaho create controversy between animal protection groups and farmers whose crops are devastated by wild jack rabbits. Gulf Resources and Chemical of Houston, Texas announced the closure of the 98-year-old Bunker Hill Mine and Smelter in Kellogg.
- 1982 Legislature outlaws insanity plea for defendants - first in nation. Voters pass record eight constitutional amendments and three initiatives. Governor John Evans puts most state employees on 4-day work week for two months to lower projected budget deficit. Harriman State Park dedicated July 17. Fugitive Christopher Boyce, convicted of selling national security secrets to the Soviet Union, is captured near Bonners Ferry.

- 1983 Legislature imposes temporary 4 1/2 percent sales tax to cover state deficit. Eagle Island State Park dedicated June 25. State Supreme Court declares current legislative apportionment unconstitutional because it divides counties. Several north Idaho local governments pass resolutions to secede from southern Idaho and form a new state. An earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale kills two Challis children and causes four million dollars worth of damage October 28. The quake, centered in the Lost River Valley, was the largest in the continental United States in 24 years and left a 10-foot high, 15 mile long shear.
- 1984 Supreme Court imposes 42 member Senate, 84 member House in Legislative Redistricting Plan. Christin Cooper of Ketchum wins silver medal in the women's giant slalom at the Olympic games in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. Harmon Killebrew of Payette is inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Permanent sales tax set at 4 percent. Legislature approves Education Reform bill, allocating \$20 million to improve teacher salaries statewide. Former Senator Frank Church dies April 7. U.S. Representative George Hansen defeated for reelection by Richard Stallings in closest Idaho congressional race in history - 170 votes. Populist Party sues for and obtains ballot status on November 6 General Election. Wallace celebrates centennial. Idaho Power Company and the State of Idaho reach agreement on Snake River Basin water rights.
- 1985 Shortest Legislative session in 12 years - 66 days. Department of Commerce established. National Governor's Conference held in Boise. Jimmy Jausoro, a Basque musician from Boise is one of 12 folk artists nationwide (and the first Idahoan ever) to receive a prestigious 1985 National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Pocatello citizens vote to remove council-manager system of city government in June. Potlatch Corporation closes lumber mills at Lewiston and Jaype (near Pierce), affecting 1,200 workers. Over six million acres of Idaho rangeland are sprayed with pesticides to battle grasshopper infestation.
- 1986 Claude Dallas, convicted in 1982 for killing two Idaho Fish & Game Wardens, escapes from the Idaho State Penitentiary March 30. He is recaptured March 8, 1987 outside a convenience store in Riverside, California. Voters retain right-to-work law in referendum; also approve state lottery initiative. Barbara Morgan of McCall becomes NASA's Teacher in Space designee.
- 1987 Permanent sales tax at 5 percent. Legislature passes mandatory daycare licensing and tort reform legislation. Dry winter leads to severe summer drought.
- 1988 Voters pass constitutional amendment removing prohibition against legislature authorizing a state lottery. Governor Andrus begins temporary ban on shipments of nuclear waste into Idaho.
- 1989 First state lottery tickets sold July 19th. Worst forest fires since 1910, burn thousands of acres in south central Idaho, partially destroying town of Lowman.
- 1990 Idaho Population: 1,006,749. Idaho celebrates Statehood Centennial - July 3. Idaho State Senate split - 21 Democrats and 21 Republicans.
- 1991 Kirby Dam collapses near Atlanta, cutting off electrical power to residents and dumping arsenic, mercury and cadmium into the Middle Fork of the Boise River. Drought persists through fifth consecutive year. Sockeye salmon listed as threatened under the ESA.
- 1992 Fire on the second and third floors of the State Capitol on January 1st caused 3.2 million dollars in damage. Worst forest fire season in Idaho's recorded history. Randy Weaver and Kevin Harris surrender to federal officials on August 31st following a shootout and eleven day standoff at Weaver's Boundary County cabin that left one U.S. Deputy Marshal and Weaver's wife and son dead. Linda Copple Trout becomes the first woman appointed to the Idaho Supreme Court. Snake River Chinook salmon listed as threatened under the ESA.
- 1993 Normal winter and spring precipitation help to alleviate the drought. Kevin Harris acquitted of all charges and Randy Weaver convicted on minor charges

- following a 60-day federal trial stemming from the 1992 shoot-out with federal officials in Boundary County.
- 1994 Ezra Taft Benson, native of Whitney, Idaho, died on May 30. Benson had served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1953 to 1961 and head of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since 1985. Summer wildfires burn approximately 750,000 acres. Picabo Street wins silver medal in downhill skiing during the Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway. Idaho ranks third nationwide in percentage population growth after the state added another 33,000 residents.
- 1995 Phil Batt sworn in as the first republican governor in twenty-five years. Legislature creates the Department of Juvenile Justice. Nuclear waste agreement signed. First year of five years in a row of normal or above normal water/snowpack.
- 1996 Major flooding in north Idaho. President Clinton visits Boise to discuss flooding.
- 1997 New Year's day floods in the Weiser and Payette River drainages of southwestern Idaho. Town of Banks condemned by federal government following mudslides.
- 1998 Picabo Street wins gold medal in giant slalom at Olympic winter games.
- 1999 First shipment of nuclear waste leaves INEEL for permanent storage at the federal Waste Isolation Pilot Project in New Mexico.
- 2000 Idaho Population: 1,211,537. Largest wildfires in recent history, 559,183 acres burn in Salmon-Challis National Forest, Payette National Forest and Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Falls District.
- 2001 Idaho filed suit against federal Grizzly Bear reintroduction plan. U.S. Dept of Labor grants \$1 Million to aid displaced Jaype mill workers. Twenty-four Idaho counties declared drought disaster areas. Governor orders 2% holdback for state agencies and 1.5% holdback for public schools in response to softening economy. Sawmill closings in Cascade and Horseshoe Bend leave only one mill south of the Salmon River. Largest salmon runs since 1978.
- 2002 Closure of the potato processing plant in Heyburn.
- 2003 Longest legislative session in history - 118 days. Sales tax goes to 6 percent. Expansion of Boise municipal airport.
- 2004 On July 3rd Governor Kempthorne dedicated the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery. 612,786 ballots were cast in the November 2004 General Election, the highest number ever. J.R. and Esther Simplot donate residence above Bogus Basin Road to state as mansion for the governor, giving Idaho an official governor's residence for the first time in 15 years. The Idaho National Guard's 116th Brigade Combat Team called up for yearlong mission in northern Iraq, about 1,700 Idaho soldiers are part of the 4,300 member brigade.
- 2005 90 Marine Corps reservists in Company C, 4th Tank Battalion, 5th Marine Division based at Gowen Field deployed to Iraq. About 15 Boise-based Army reservists with the 321st Engineer Battalion based in Fort Lewis, WA. are in the Middle East. 100 members of the 124th Wing of the Idaho Air National Guard, including more than 20 members of the 189th Airlift Squadron, deployed to assignments in the Persian Gulf. Nez Perce water agreement passed Congress and Idaho legislature. This legislation ratifies a 30-year agreement, which calls for the Nez Perce to drop their claims to nearly all the water in the Snake River Basin. In exchange, the Tribe would have annual rights to 50,000 acre-feet of water from the Clearwater River, plus \$80 million in cash. Hydrologists with the Idaho Department of Water Resources say lack of precipitation could make 2005 one of the worst on record. Sales tax reverts to 5 percent on July 1st.
- 2006 In January, Albertsons. Inc. agreed to sell the company to Minnesota-based Super-Valu Inc. and CVS Corp. During the Legislative Session, homeowner's property tax exemption was raised from \$50,000 to \$75,000. In March, President Bush nominates Governor Dirk Kempthorne to be U.S. Secretary of Interior. Following confirmation hearings in May, Kempthorne headed to Washington, leaving Jim Risch at the helm in Idaho. In June, the Idaho Shakespeare Festival celebrated the opening of its 30th season. In August, Cabela's opened its first store



- in Boise. Governor Risch called a special session of the Legislature to increase sales tax and revise the way the public schools are funded, the legislation passed. In November, the Rolling Stones play a sold-out show at the Idaho Center. Also in November, Boise State Broncos end their regular season with a 12-0 record, landing them a place in the Fiesta Bowl.
- 2007 Boise State Broncos won the Fiesta Bowl. Senator Larry Craig’s arrest becomes the biggest news story of the year. Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter and lawmakers temporarily halt work on the Idaho Capital expansion until a compromise is reached to scale back the underground wings to half their original size.
- 2008 Barack Obama visits Boise in February and draws a crowd of 14,000. Federal protections for gray wolves were lifted in March, but a federal judge ruled the delisting plan flawed in July. At the end of the year the future of wolf management was still uncertain. Sales slumped for auto dealers as gasoline prices reached \$4 per gallon over the summer. The dour economy resulted in at least 44,000 workers without jobs in November. A record 667,506 Idahoans cast ballots in the November General Election.
- 2009 The continuing recession topped headlines in 2009. Tamarack Resort closed ski operations to the public in February due to its ongoing solvency problems. The legislative session was the second longest in state history, 117 days. Idaho was joined by Montana in opening the first gray wolf hunts in the lower 48 states after the animal was removed from the endangered list.
- 2010 The economy was again the top news story for the second year in a row. In March, Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter was the first Governor in the nation to sue the federal government over provisions in nationwide health care reform. In August wolves were re-listed on the endangered list after a US District Judge ruled the federal government erred by delisting gray wolves in Idaho and Montana. A road permit ignited an uproar, with the first megaload ConocoPhillips trucks traveling along Highway 12 from Lewiston to Billings, Montana.
- 2011 The most hotly debated topic was education reform during the Legislative Session. There were three bills passed, one affecting teacher contracts and negotiations, one regarding performance pay, and one regarding technology and online classes for students. Opponents of the education reform laws organized and collected signatures to place referendums on the 2012 General Election Ballot. Corrections Corporation of America had numerous complaints about staffing and management of the private prison that they run for the State. Lewiston’s only sawmill was acquired by one of the nation’s largest lumber manufacturers, Clearwater Paper for approximately \$30 million the week of Thanksgiving.
- 2012 The second Redistricting Commission produced unanimous support for a new 35 district legislative plan in 16 days, Plan L93. Hecla Mining Company announced in January that it would close the Lucky Friday silver mine in Mullan for a year to clean its main shaft as required by federal regulators. Job losses had a significant impact on the local economy. On February 3rd, Micron Technology Chairman and CEO Steve Appleton died in a small plane accident in Boise. Voters at the 2012 General Election voted on three referendums to reject the education laws that were passed by the Legislature; all three laws were rejected. In December Idaho Falls based Melaleuca broke ground on a new 371,000 square foot headquarters.
- 2013 Idaho celebrates its Territorial Sesquicentennial – 150 years since Abraham Lincoln created the Idaho Territory. In January, State Controller Brandon Woolf launched “Transparent Idaho,” a website that provides public access to a vast amount of state data. In compliance with the federal Affordable Care Act, Idaho launches Yourhealthidaho.org, the state’s insurance exchange. Pete Cenarrusa, who served 9 terms in the Idaho House, and who was the Idaho Secretary of State for 36 years, died on September 29th. He is Idaho’s longest serving elected official, representing the people of Idaho for 52 years.

- 2014 “Add the Words” activists, who seek to add the words “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the Idaho Human Rights Act, protest repeatedly throughout the legislative session. The Legislature passes two controversial bills – the “Ag-Gag” bill, and the “Guns on Campus” bill. The “Ag-Gag” bill is a legislative effort to prevent interference or injury to agricultural production. The “Guns on Campus” bill allows for the carrying of concealed weapons on college campuses. Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter signed both bills into law. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, of Sun Valley, was released from being a Taliban hostage on May 31st. District and circuit courts overturn Idaho’s ban on gay marriage, which Idaho appeals to the US Supreme Court. Former Governor John V. Evans died on July 8th. Mr. Evans spent 32 years in public service, as an Idaho senator, as the Mayor of Malad, as Lieutenant Governor, and as Governor.
- 2015 Idaho sees its worst fire season since 1926, with wild fires burning over 800,000 acres. The National Register of Historic Places adds the Ernest Hemingway House in Ketchum. The “Ag-Gag” law from the previous year is found unconstitutional by the U.S. District Court. President Barack Obama signs the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and the Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act into law, designating three new wilderness areas. Boise author Anthony Doerr wins the Pulitzer Prize for fiction with his novel, “All the Light We Cannot See.” Governor Otter calls a special session of the Idaho Legislature to address the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, which ultimately passes both the House and the Senate.
- 2016 Idaho enacts S1389, making it legal to carry a concealed gun in cities, without a permit. The Navy and U.S. Department of Energy announce plans to build a \$1.6 billion nuclear waste facility near the Idaho National Laboratory, designed to handle spent fuel from nuclear-powered warships. Paying homage to Evel Knievel and his failed attempt, stuntman Eddie Braun successfully jumps the Snake River Canyon. Harvested from the Payette National Forest near McCall, an 80-foot Englemann spruce is selected to serve as the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.
- 2017 With revenue projections for Fiscal Year 2018 representing the seventh consecutive year of economic growth in the state, the Legislature to increased funding for Idaho public schools by approving a 2018 General Fund increase of 6.3% for K-12, 6.7% for community colleges and 2.7% for 4-year colleges and universities. Transportation infrastructure damaged due to the harsh winter of 2016-2017, as well as long-term transportation projects, were addressed by authorizing up to \$300 million in GARVEE bonds, providing approximately \$15.2 million in sales tax revenue for a new Transportation Expansion & Congestion Mitigation Program, and extending for two additional years the transportation Strategic Initiatives Program. The sales tax on groceries was repealed as well as the grocery tax credit, which will give taxpayers a reduction of approximately \$79.3% in taxes on groceries.
- 2018 With passage of federal tax reform, the Legislature’s tax package had a fiscal impact of approximately \$129.5 million less revenue to the General Fund. For the fourth year in a row, the Legislature increased the General Fund appropriation for K-12 education by more than \$100 million. Revenue projections for fiscal year 2019 represent the eighth consecutive year of economic growth in Idaho. The FY 2018 forecast was revised upward to \$3.63 billion, reflecting a 5.3% revenue growth over actual FY 2017 collections.
- 2019 Newly-elected Governor Brad Little gave his first State and budget address to a joint session of the Legislature on January 7, 2019. With the approval of a voter initiative (Medicaid expansion) passed at the 2018 general election, the Legislature approved funding for the expansion. The Legislature adopted an agreement between various stakeholders governing water users in the Boise River Basin. Campaign finance laws were strengthened and urban renewal laws were

revised requiring voter approval for the construction or remodel of a municipal building or multipurpose sports stadium complex. K-12 education budget was increased by \$100 million as well as fully funding the Governor's K-3 literacy initiative recommendation at \$13.1 million, bringing the new total K-3 literacy to \$26.1 million. FY 2020 revenue projections represent the ninth consecutive year of economic growth. The FY2019 forecast was revised upward to \$3.75 billion, reflecting a 0.5% revenue growth over actual FY 2018 collections.

2020 The ending days of the 2020 session saw the Legislature work under national and state emergency declarations issued by the President and the Governor to combat COVID-19. The Legislature added an advanced professional compensation rung to the career ladder and provided additional funding for teacher pay under the career ladder. Statewide ballot initiative rules were adopted that all initiatives now require a fiscal impact statement and must be limited to a single subject. The Public Shooting Range Fund was established to provide financial assistance to develop and improve ranges. Clarified certain public records request requirements and provided an exception regarding legislative communications. Revised sales tax distribution to the Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation Fund and established a Bridge Maintenance and Replacement Program Fund. Approved a bill that prohibits the use of electronic devices while driving a motor vehicle. FY 2021 revenue projections represent the tenth consecutive year of growth in the state. FY 2020 revenue forecast was revised upward to \$3.96 billion, representing 6.1% revenue growth over FY 2019 collections.

2021 The legislative session concluded in a unique manner on May 12, in that the Senate adjourned sine die while the House recessed, making it possible for the House to call the Senate back to work sometime later in the year. FY 2021 revenue projections increased for the eleventh consecutive year. The FY2021 forecast was revised upward to \$4.25 billion, or 5.5% above FY 2020 revenue collections. The Legislature provided a one-time \$220 million rebate based on individual income taxes as part of a tax package.



*Twin Falls Milling and Elevator*  
Photo Courtesy of Idaho State Historical Society



*2016 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree*

Photo Courtesy of Architect of the Capitol