



Yellowstone National Park © NPCA

FACT SHEET

National Parks in Idaho

California National Historic Trail • City Of Rocks National Reserve • Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve • Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument • Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail • Minidoka Internment National Monument • Nez Perce National Historical Park • Oregon National Historic Trail • Yellowstone National Park

Idaho's national parks range from the Hagerman Fossil Beds to Yellowstone National Park and make the state an amazing destination for those seeking some of the greatest natural wonders that our nation can offer.

California National Historic Trail - Multi-state trail carried over 250,000 gold-seekers and farmers to the gold fields and rich farmlands of California during the 1840s and 1850s.

City of Rocks National Reserve - Beginning in 1843, City of Rocks was a landmark for emigrants on the California Trail and Salt Lake Alternate Trail and later on freight routes and the Kelton, Utah, to Boise, Idaho, stage route. The area's historical and geological values, scenery, and opportunities for recreation led to its designation as City of Rocks National Reserve in 1988.

Craters of The Moon National Monument & Preserve - Contains three major lava fields covering almost half a million acres and a quarter million acres of sagebrush steppe grasslands. The Craters of the Moon lava field spreads across 618 square miles and is the largest young basaltic lava field in the lower 48 states. Sixty distinct lava flows form the Craters of the Moon lava field ranging in age from 15,000 to just 2,000 years old. This lava field contains more than 25 volcanic cones.

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument - Contains the largest concentration of Hagerman Horse fossils in North America. The Monument is internationally significant because it protects the world's richest known fossil deposits from a time period called the later Pliocene epoch, 3.5 million years ago. These plants and animals represent the last glimpse of time that existed before the Ice Age, and the earliest appearances of modern flora and fauna.

Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail - In 1804, Meriwether Lewis & William Clark began a voyage of discovery. They departed from Camp Wood located in what was to become Illinois. The President Jefferson had privately requested Congress to fund the expedition shortly before the Louisiana Pur-



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chase in 1803. They traveled over a three-year period through lands that later became 11 states. Most of the 3,700 mile-long trail follows the Missouri & Columbia Rivers.

Minidoka Internment National Monument - Five miles of barbed wire fencing and eight watch towers surrounded the administrative and residential portions of the relocation center, which was located on 950 acres in the west-central portion of the reserve. Built by the Morrison-Knudsen Company, construction began June 5, 1942, and the relocation center was in operation from August 10, 1942, to October 28, 1945.

Nez Perce National Historical Park - The 38 sites of Nez Perce National Historical Park are scattered across the states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana, and have been designated to commemorate the stories and history of the Nimiipuu, or Nez Perce people, and their interaction with explorers, fur traders, missionaries, soldiers, settlers, gold miners, and farmers who moved through or into the area.

Oregon National Historic Trail - As the harbinger of America's westward expansion, the Oregon Trail was the pathway to the Pacific for fur traders, gold seekers, missionaries and others. Beginning in 1841 and continuing for more than 20 years, an estimated 300,000 emigrants followed this route from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon, on a trip that took five months to complete.

Yellowstone National Park - The world's first national park, established in 1872. Nearly 10,000 hot springs and geysers, such as Old Faithful, are evidence of one of the world's largest active volcanoes. These spectacular features bemused and befuddled the park's earliest visitors. Fur trappers' fantastic tales of cauldrons of bubbling mud and roaring geysers sending steaming plumes skyward made their way back east.

Key Issues Facing National Parks in Idaho

Taking care of America's national parks should be a national priority. With the 100th birthday of the National Park System approaching in 2016, it is more important than ever to address the ongoing problems that our parks are facing. The National Park Service is suffering from an operations funding shortfall now estimated at \$750 million annually. In addition, several billion dollars are needed to protect archaeological sites and historic buildings, and repair the extensive backlog of maintenance projects. Many park friends in Congress have spent years highlighting the fiscal crisis in America's national

parks. The Administration and Congress responded in fiscal year 2008 with a \$122 million increase in the budget for park operations. This is a strong first step in our parks and improving the experiences of visitors. The FY 2008 budget also launched the National Park Centennial Challenge, which will help restore the parks for their 100th birthday and for generations to come. In addition to the operational shortfall, the National Park Service has a \$1.9 billion land acquisition backlog consisting of over 11,000 tracts of land and covering more than 1.8 million acres. In many instances, failure to acquire these lands makes operating the parks more complex and costly. Unfortunately, funding for national park federal land acquisition has declined dramatically in recent years, from \$130 million five years ago, to only \$21 million in the fiscal year 2009 request.

- There is currently no trail-wide inventory of the archaeological resources found along the Lewis & Clark Trail, which cuts through Idaho. As a result, it is impossible for trail staff to accurately assess the threats faces and to adequately protect them from destruction, desecration, looting, and vandalism.
- NPCA estimates that federal funding now covers only about 70 percent of Yellowstone's fixed costs. Entrance fees have risen and Yellowstone has even begun charging the public to participate in some popular ranger-led day hikes.

Park Visitation in Idaho

In 2006, the national parks of Idaho welcomed 435,800 visitors (exclusive of Yellowstone visitation of nearly 2.9 million in total).

Budget Information

In fiscal year 2008, the operations funding for the national parks in Idaho is \$38.2 million. For fiscal year 2009, the Administration is proposing a 4 percent increase, which would bring operations funding to \$39.9 million.

Contact Information

For more information on the national parks in Idaho, please contact NPCA Senior Regional Director Tony Jewett at 406-495-1560 or NPCA Legislative Director Blake Selzer at 202-223-6722, ext. 250.

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NPS Unit	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Enacted	FY06 Enacted	FY07 Enacted	FY08 Enacted	FY 09 Requested	% Change FY07-08	% Change FY08-09
City of Rocks N Res	\$309	\$305	\$313	\$312	\$312	\$311	\$474	0	52
Craters of the Moon NM	\$981	\$976	\$1,003	\$1,124	\$1,145	\$1,476	\$1,605	29	9
Hagerman Fossil Beds NM	\$517	\$683	\$702	\$713	\$728	\$778	\$793	7	2
Minidoka Internment NM	\$180	\$178	\$183	\$186	\$190	\$224	\$443	18	98
Nez Perce NHP	\$1,738	\$1,730	\$1,778	\$1,918	\$1,966	\$1,958	\$1,990	0	2
Yellowstone NP	\$27,669	\$28,093	\$29,868	\$30,605	\$31,431	\$33,489	\$34,601	7	3
All Idaho parks					\$35,772	\$38,236	\$39,906	7%	4%

All dollar amounts in thousands



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