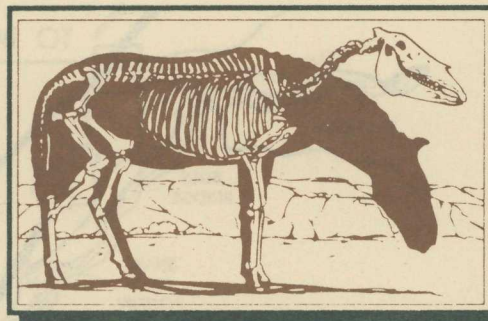


Idaho's HAGERMAN VALLEY



HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Located on high bluffs above the Snake River and with a commanding view of the town of Hagerman, the Sawtooth Mountains, and the sagebrush country of the Oregon Trail, this Monument is a new addition of the National Park System. It was authorized by Congress in November, 1988 to preserve the outstanding Pliocene (ply-o-seen) fossil sites of the region. These fossils, some as old as 3 1/2 million years, are of animals now largely extinct. They lived here when the environment was much different, a land dotted with lakes and marshes. This much wetter landscape supported animals similar to our peccaries, beavers, and otters, plus various birds, fish, mastodons, sabre-toothed cats, and zebra-like horses, all now extinct. However, it is the horse, the *Equus simplicidens* (e-quus sim-plis-i-dens), for which the Hagerman Fossil Beds are most famous. It is the Idaho State Fossil, and was first described by the Smithsonian expedition in the early 1930's and found at the now famous "horse quarry" in the northern end of the Monument. Over 150 individual horse fossils have been found, plus thousands of additional specimens representing more than 90 distinct species.

Fossils are the remains or evidence of animals or plants that have been preserved naturally. The study of fossils is called paleontology (pay-lee-un-tahl-uh-gee), and to paleontologists the Monument is "a valuable storehouse" for future study. The National Park Service manages the Monument to preserve the resource and make it available for scientists, students, and park visitors to see fossils in their natural state; learn about life in the past, and become familiar with the science of paleontology.

The Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument Headquarters is in the town of Hagerman opposite the high school; the Monument itself is located across the Snake River. The National Park Service is currently in the process of planning to determine the future needs for the development of the Monument. Only a few small signs indicate the boundary of the Monument and access is very limited at the present time. The trail to the horse quarry is difficult to access and unmarked. **COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF FOSSILS IS PROHIBITED**, but you are welcome to hike, explore, and to ask questions. There are no facilities, such as restrooms, picnic tables, camping areas, or trash receptacles at the Monument. Some activities are scheduled during the summer season. For information contact a park ranger at (208) 837-4793, P.O. Box 570, Hagerman, Idaho 83332.

HAGERMAN VALLEY/THOUSAND SPRINGS SCENIC ROUTE - U.S. 30: The Hagerman Valley of the Snake River, extending to Bliss Dam on the west and north, to Crystal Springs on the east, and to Balanced Rock on the south, is a major recreational area and scenic attraction of south central Idaho. It is a land of water, with hot and cold springs and rivers, volcanic lava flows, deep box canyons, fossil beds, mine diggings, and vast rock formations. It is the canyon of the mighty **Pohogawa**, River of the Sage Plain, as the Indians called the Snake River, with its rapids, whirlpools, and waterfalls and associated wildlife. It is a land of melon farming, waterfowl, deer, and trout. It is a land of hot summers and mild winters, a land that has served the Indian, the emigrant, the settler, and the farmer and rancher for hundreds of years.

The heart of the Hagerman Valley is the **Snake River Canyon**. For fisherman, water skiers, boaters, bird watchers, and white water enthusiasts, the Snake is one of the premier rivers of the west. Its high, palisaded walls are a majestic site for

rafters and kayakers as they tumble over boiling rapids or lazily drift through the quiet stretches; its cold, clear water provides the fisherman with unexcelled trout and sturgeon, plus opportunities for bluegill, bass and catfish.

Experienced boaters, or those travelling with a licensed guide, can run the section known as the **Hagerman Run**, starting below Lower Salmon Dam and ending 6.5 miles downstream at the Bliss Bridge. On the way they will pass the mouth of the Malad River below **Malad Gorge State Park**. The Gorge is spectacular - for 2 1/2 miles the Malad River flows past 400 foot high walls. Boaters on the Snake may see deer, ducks and geese, herons, terns, eagles and many other raptors as they pass the only structure in Idaho designed by **Frank Lloyd Wright**, a unique house (private residence) perched high on a bluff overlooking the river. They will also see outstanding examples of intense lava flows, proof of the volcanic activity that gives much of southern Idaho its dramatic beauty.

It was the **Bonneville Flood** of 15,000 years ago that made the greatest impact on the Valley's landscape. This flood gouged out canyons, moved house-sized boulders, and left enormous sand bars. There are uncounted numbers of rock "melons" spread throughout the Valley, with many stationed in the serene **Melon Valley**, giving silent testimony of the colossal flood.

Much of the scenic beauty of the Hagerman Valley can be seen by following the aptly-named "**Thousand Springs Scenic Route - U.S. 30**" from Buhl to Bliss. Frequent informational signs along the way describe important historic or geologic sites.

Three hot springs, **Banbury**, **1000 Springs Resort**, and **Miracle** have facilities for swimming, bathing, camping, and picnicking. There are seven **Idaho Power Parks**, as well as state parks at **Crystal Springs** and **Niagara Springs** all located along the Snake River; and **Salmon Falls Creek** near **Balanced Rock**. **Balanced Rock** itself attracts thousands of visitors each year. Perched on a rock pedestal, it dominates the canyon near the creek. Its overgrown mushroom-like shape suggests that at any moment it could collapse into tons of jagged rocks.

From out of the canyon walls everywhere, water gushes from the great Snake River Aquifer that gives the Hagerman Valley its name, its greenery, its character, and its agriculture. It is also here that the cold spring water permits trout farming on a scale similar to the potatoes and sugar beets raised nearby on irrigated land.

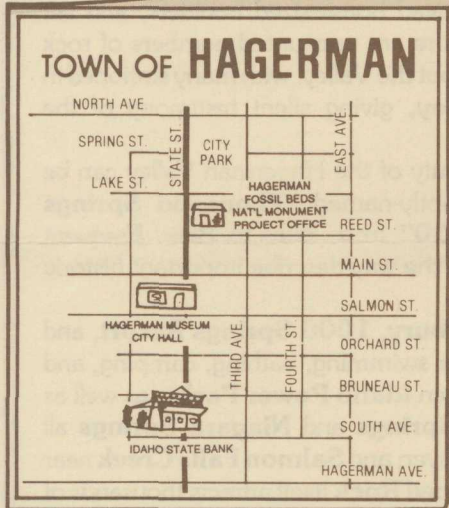
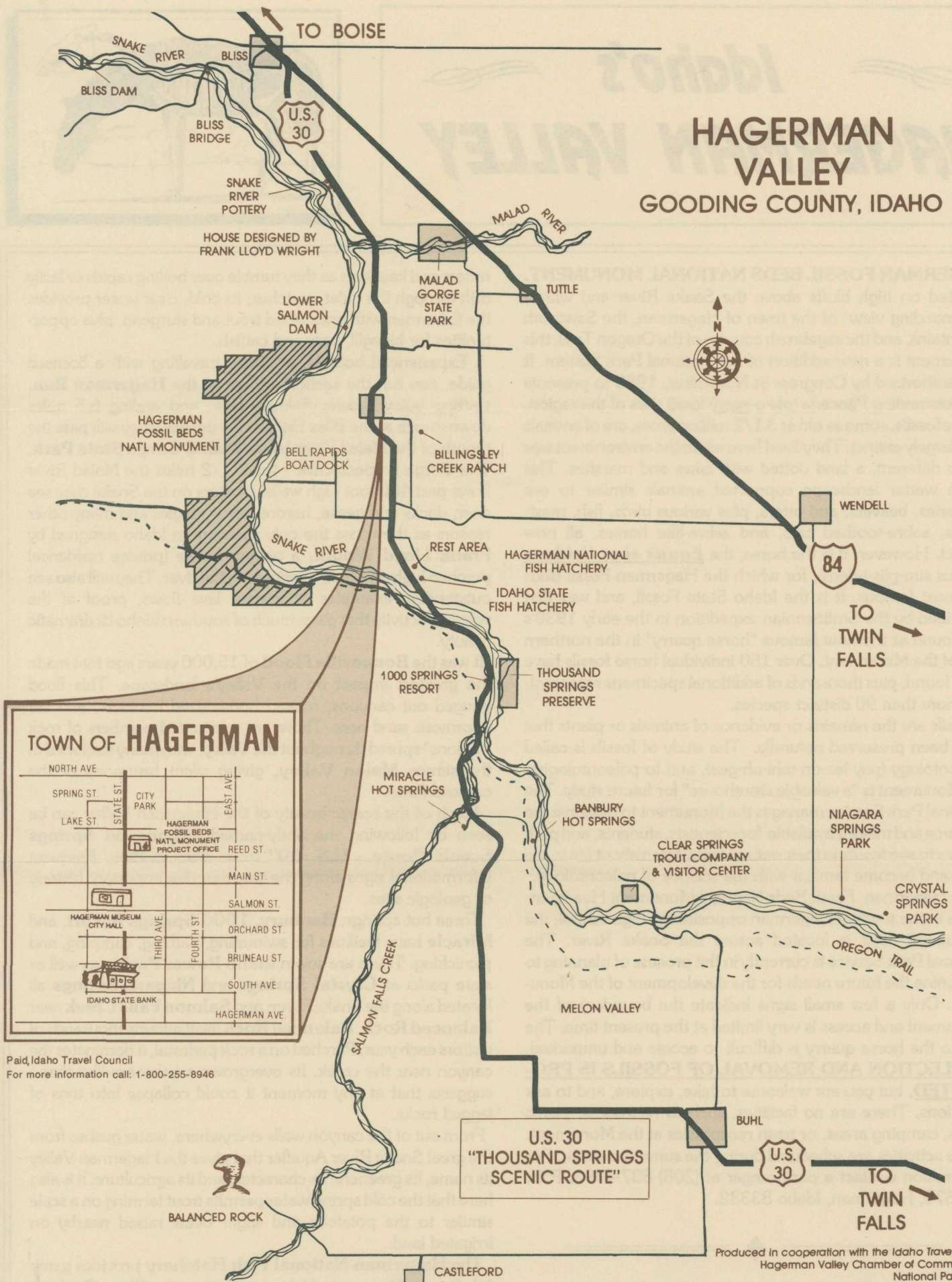
The **Hagerman National Fish Hatchery** provides game fish for stocking many Idaho waterways; the **Clear Springs Trout Company**, with its outdoor, self-guided tour at the new Visitor Center, gives visitors a chance to see sturgeon and rainbow trout through underwater viewing glass. The nine foot, decades old, sturgeon alone is worth the visit!

And there are still other sights and experiences to be found in the Hagerman Valley. **Billingsley Creek Ranch** is Idaho's leading breeder of thoroughbred and quarter-horses, **Snake River Pottery** with its wheel-turned earthenware is the oldest pottery in Idaho, **Rose Creek Winery** produces award winning wines that can be tasted at its Visitor Center, and the **Idaho State Bank** is housed in a building whose history is a microcosm of the town of Hagerman itself.

Start your tour of the **Hagerman Valley in the town of Hagerman** at the **Hagerman Historical Society Museum** (208) 837-6288 or 837-6456, where a complete mounted skeleton cast of **Idaho State Fossil Equus simplicidens** is on display, or at the **Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument Project Office** (208) 837-4793.

HAGERMAN VALLEY

GOODING COUNTY, IDAHO



Paid, Idaho Travel Council
 For more information call: 1-800-255-8946

Produced in cooperation with the Idaho Travel Council,
 Hagerman Valley Chamber of Commerce and
 National Park Service