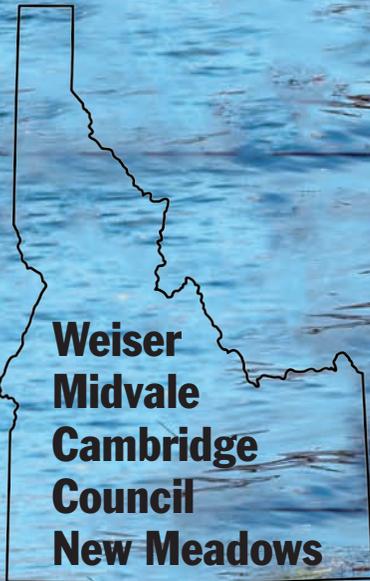


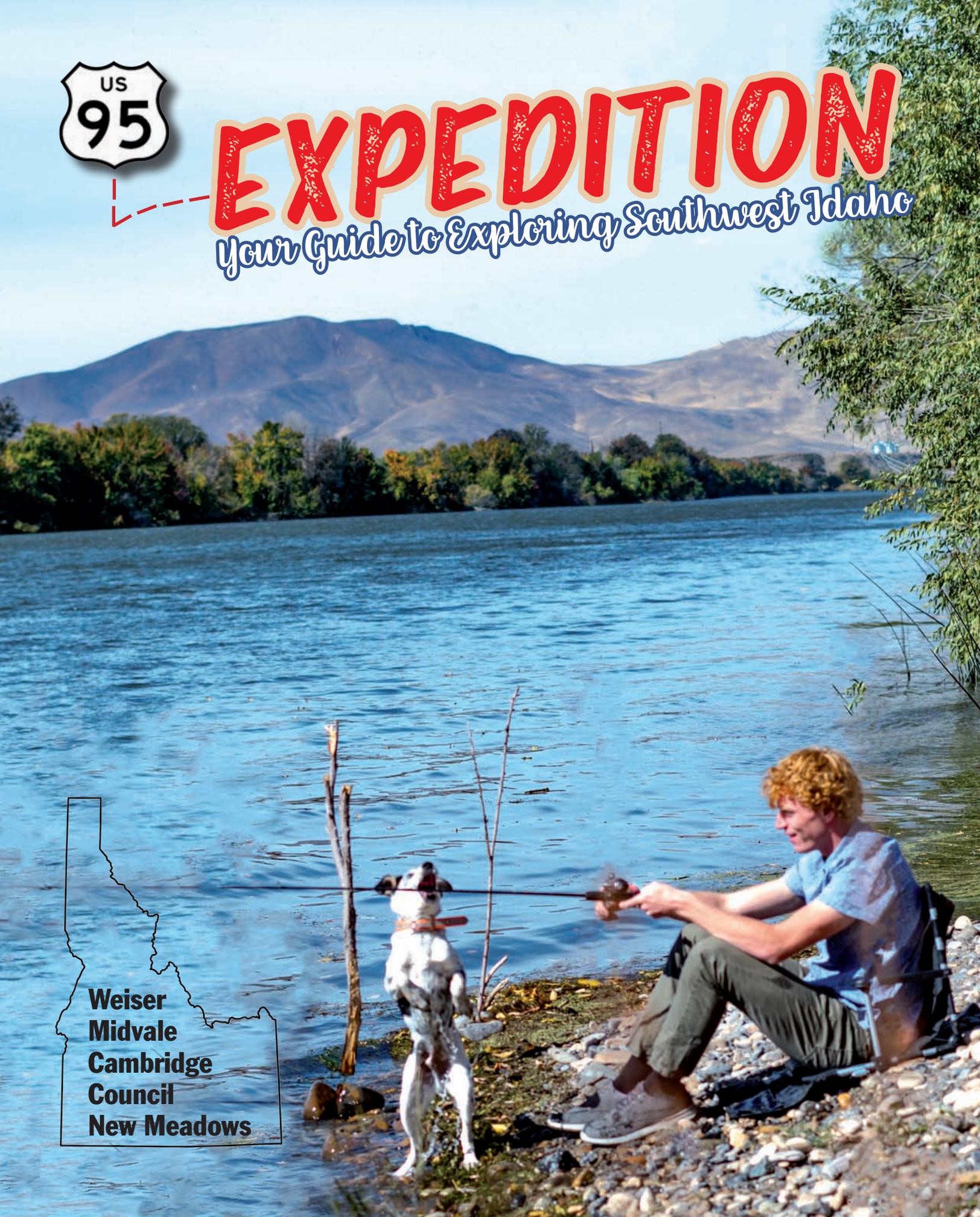


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# Contents



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### **WEISER**

A community known for its world famous fiddle festival is a destination with a lot of things for visitors to see and do. Check out the history as you shop and stroll around downtown or visit one of the best small-town museums around.

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### **MIDVALE**

The Midvale mercantile is the hub of this small Idaho town located along U.S. Highway 95. The friendly folks that live here invite you to stop for a spell. Take a dip in the city pool or picnic in the city park.

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### **CAMBRIDGE**

Known as the gateway to Hells Canyon, Cambridge fills up with visitors every June for Hells Canyon Days. It's the one weekend of the year when parking spots are scarce. It's also a great access point to jump on the Weiser River Trail.

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Cover photo by Nicole Miller of Hayden Wilson-Palmer fishing on the Snake River west of Weiser.

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### **COUNCIL**

Council is surrounded by outdoor recreation in all directions. After a day hiking, biking, fishing or hunting, stop by a local restaurant in town to recharge for the next adventure. Check out the music festival and many other events.

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New Meadows is located in one of the most picturesque valleys in Idaho. Breathe in that fresh mountain air. Play a round of golf on the championship-caliber course and then soak at Zims Hot Springs.

2019

EXPEDITION



WELCOME to Southwest Idaho



Mann Creek Reservoir  
Weiser, Idaho

**Welcome to the 2019 EXPEDITION Adventure Guide, your informed source of places to go and things to do in this remarkable part of Southwest Idaho.**

The adventure begins where the Weiser River and Snake River converge along this beautiful stretch of Highway 95. Outdoor adventures and events abound in every direction, showcasing the unique communities of Weiser, Midvale, Cambridge, Council and New Meadows.

This region of Idaho shares its border with eastern Oregon and the communities of Huntington, Baker City, Halfway and Oxbow – forming a number of expeditious loops offering a diverse variety of activities.

**Whether you call this area home or are visiting for the first time, the adventures you will find in the communities surrounding Highway 95 are sure to surprise you.**

From the high desert, to the dense mountain forests, to the deep river canyons and the rivers and streams flowing in between, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

From historic sites and landmarks to museums and libraries, each community offers ways to enrich your mind or escape to the great outdoors.

The calendar beginning on page 22, is your guide to area events from music festivals to theater productions. Fun can be found year round.

Whether you call this area home or are visiting for the first time, you'll discover there's lots to see, do, experience, and remember with a new adventure always awaiting.

Welcome to this special part of Idaho. We're glad you're here.

  
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[www.fiddlecontest.org](http://www.fiddlecontest.org) or

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**W**eiser is an Idaho gem and a great place to start an outdoor adventure – or hang around town and eat, shop and see the local sights.

Weiser (wee-zur) is both a destination that boasts a calendar full of events and a full-service community of 5,500 friendly folks with every amenity for visitors heading to points north on U.S. Highway 95.

It's a prominent spot on the map for music fans with a world famous fiddle contest and a popular three-day music festival along the picturesque Weiser River every June.

The hometown Weiser Valley Roundup is three days of thrills and spills at the Fred Hust rodeo arena. The rodeo celebrates its 75th anniversary this July with a special show.

The city's rich history is on display downtown. A selfie in front of the Pythian Castle on East Idaho Street is a must for visitors. The iconic building dates to 1904 and the interior is being repurposed as a folk arts school.

Just around the corner on State Street is the old Union Pacific railroad depot, a building on the Historic Register that was saved from the

wrecking ball by some civic-minded residents in the 1980s. The Star Theater is another downtown landmark that has seen some wonderful renovations in recent years and is planning to host even more events.

A hub of commerce in the region, the benefactors of Weiser's early 20th century prosperity built some beautiful homes that continue to charm. The Galloway House is emblematic of the stately homes that line quiet neighborhood streets not far from Weiser's downtown.

The Four County Art Guild is active in promoting the visual arts in Weiser. Art created by members can be found in businesses around town. The art in public places can be viewed on a self-guided art walk around town. Brochures with directions can be found in many businesses.

Weiser also has an impressive museum worth visiting called the Snake River Heritage Center. It's an easy five-minute drive from downtown to the museum located in Hooker Hall, one of a number of buildings that once made up the Intermountain Institute.

The Intermountain Institute offered frontier



The SNAKE RIVER HERITAGE CENTER is Weiser's local history museum and is located in Hooker Hall at the site of the former Intermountain Institute. This place has a great story to tell. Come and see the many artifacts.

students a curriculum rich in the humanities, art, music, debate and literature, along with industrial arts. The institute buildings include a Carnegie Library that today is a private home.

Prominent Hooker Hall features four floors and a bell tower with four new clock faces. A 240-seat auditorium inside the hall features exceptional acoustics and is the venue for many local productions and concerts.

Weiser also features a number of well-kept city parks, a municipal pool that is open for use by Memorial Day and a well-stocked community fishing pond. The city owned Vendome Events Center offers convention and meeting space downtown.

Want to get out of town for some outdoor recreation? Pick a direction and go.

There's Mann Creek Reservoir 15 miles north of town – a fast and easy getaway for a day on the water with boating, fishing and camping. A popular day-use beach can be found at the east end of the reservoir. Boat ramps are located at the north. Look for the sign on U.S. Highway 95.

The start of the 84-mile Weiser River Trail is well marked with a trailhead at the end of East Main Street. The trail gradually climbs at an imperceptible grade passing through Midvale, Cambridge and Council with unmatched scenery the entire length. Pick your non-motorized mode of transportation and hit the trail.

Looking for some off-road fun? The Weiser Dunes is an OHV riding area located along the Snake River on the Idaho-Oregon border about 13 miles west of

*Continued on page 8*



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Continued from page 7

Weiser. The 130 acres of sand dunes offer opportunities for motorcycles, OHVs, and dune buggies to explore sand trails, hill climbs, and open areas. The main parking area is large enough to accommodate large trailers and campers. There are no fees to ride here but machines must have a current Idaho OHV registration sticker. Camping is allowed but the only facility is a vault toilet.

Developed camping is available 7 miles further down Olds Ferry Road at Steck Park. The campground is located on Brownlee Reservoir and offers shaded campsites, potable water, an RV dump station, and two boat ramps. Steck Park is a fee campground.



Left - Tubing on Mann Creek Reservoir. Above - ATVing at the Sand Dunes west of Weiser.



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Photo by Nancy Grindstaff

The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest is celebrating its 67th year of bringing the best fiddlers from all over the country to Weiser. Above, Katrina Nicolayeff won the Grand National Champion title in 2018.

## *Fiddling around in Weiser – June 12-22*

Weiser, Idaho, is celebrated as the "fiddling capital of the world" for one week each year.

The top fiddlers from all over the country come to compete in the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest during the third full week in June.

The city of Weiser began sponsoring an annual festival in 1953. Over the years, the event has become one of the most prestigious and widely known fiddling contests in the country.

The contest also owes its success to the hundreds of volunteers who come together each year to support the "National Finals of Fiddling."

This year's week of fiddling competition starts on Monday, June 17, and ends on the night of June 22 with the naming of the 2019 national grand champion.

The contest typically attracts 200 or so talented fiddlers of all ages

to compete in the judged events, including small fry, juniors, adult, seniors and a special division for the national grand champion contestants.

Fiddlers vie for prize money, awards and the coveted titles that come with being judged as the best of the best.

Each contestant plays three tunes on stage – a hoedown, a waltz and a tune of their choosing. Each fiddler gets four minutes to play three songs. Winners move on to the next round during the week hoping to make the finals.

The twin fiddling and swing fiddling competitions are back by popular demand. Judges in the swing fiddling division typically look for swing feel, creativity, overall ability and impression.

The twin fiddling category went away for a few years due to a drop in participation before it also was

brought back by popular demand to the NOTFC in 2015.

With two fiddlers playing at the same time, it's a harmonic sound with acoustic depth. One fiddler takes the melody and one plays the harmony.

The music really starts in Weiser on Saturday, June 15, with the banjo contest outdoors on the lawn at Beardsley Hall next to the Snake River Heritage Center. The banjo contest continues on Sunday, June 16, and attracts the best pickers in the region who play a truly American style of music.

Winners in the various categories receive a cash prize, plaque and a homebaked berry pie of their choice.

During fiddle week, Weiser's parks are filled with free entertainment, vendors, carnival, an annual parade, kids day downtown and much more.



Photo by Jodi Doggett

# Midvale welcomes you!

**T**wenty-one miles north of Weiser along Highway 95, you'll enter the town of Midvale, Idaho.

As you slip into town after a long glide down Midvale Hill you'll see the Country Coffee Cabin restaurant on the right and an espresso window making it a perfect place to either grab a refill on the go, or stop and stay for some classic homemade

cooking and check out their unique collection of gifts.

The 2010 census listed this area's population at just over 600, making it the perfect place to see nature

and people at their friendliest.

In the center of town, you'll find the Centennial

is east of Highway 95 and the trail is between the highway and the town. Park anywhere, being mindful of local traffic flow.

You'll also find yourself in the town's business center. There's a mercantile for your provisions, gifts and items you may have forgotten to pack. Tin Pan Alley is a venue for events and get-to-

gethers and a guest house can sleep up to 18 people. Slim's Tavern is a full bar and grill. There is also a library, post office, and even a public swimming pool.



Pioneer Memorial in Midvale City Park near the Weiser River Trail parking area. The trail runs parallel to Highway 95 through town. The body of the town



Photo by Sarah Imada

# Jump in! The water's fine

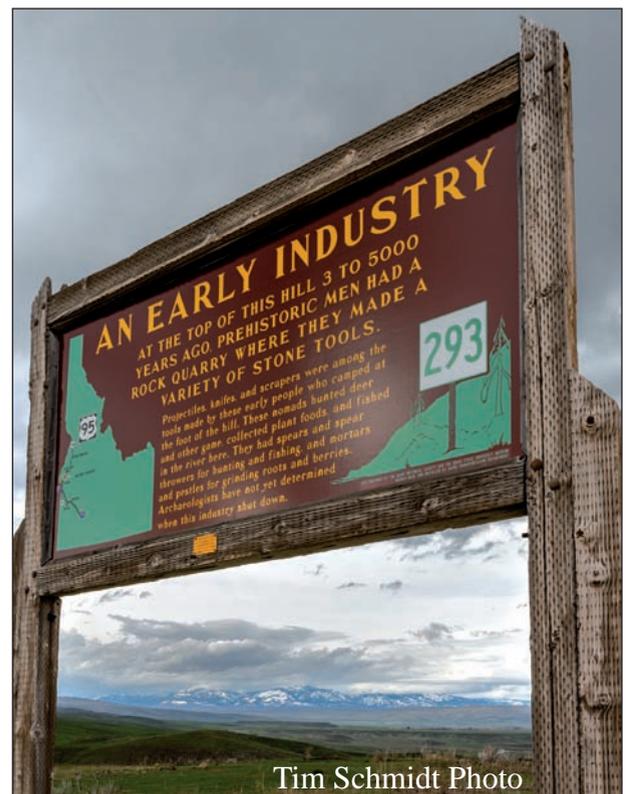
The city's swimming pool is a great place for summertime fun for all ages! The pool is open from Memorial Day weekend through the start of the school year, with general swim hours from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and adult and family swim time is from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The cost can't be beat at a low \$3 per day! The pool is also available for group rentals on Sundays.

Midvale's pool stays strong thanks to Midvale's Fourth of July activities. Festivities kick-off with a parade at 11:30 a.m., and is followed by a community celebration featuring a barbecue, duck race and raffles hosted by the Midvale swimming pool board to raise funds for the operation of the pool.

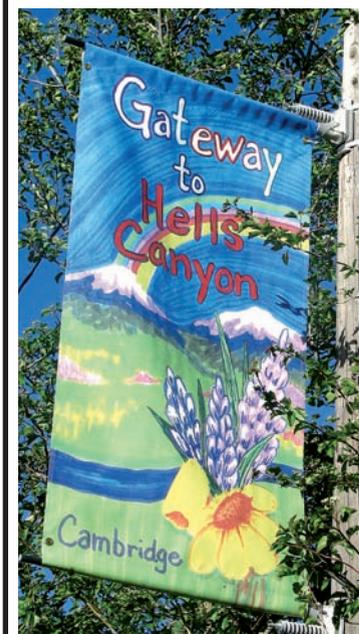
Agnis Keithley Park has restroom facilities and is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The park is located next to the Weiser River Trail right off Highway 95.

From here, you can take a side trip, for bird watching or fishing at Crane Creek Reservoir, camping and the nearby Spring Creek Campground, or continue north along Highway 95 to Cambridge.

Above - Weiser River at the Midvale Bridge  
Below - Historic marker on the top of Midvale Hill.



Tim Schmidt Photo



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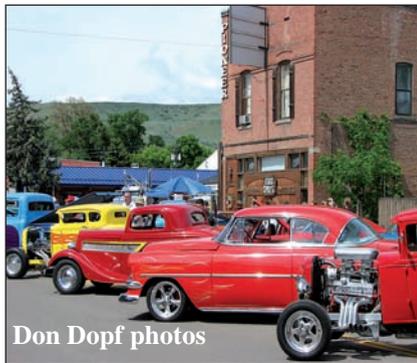
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# Cambridge

## *Gateway to Hells Canyon and much more*



Don Dopf photos



Cambridge is a friendly, welcoming, shade tree-lined community tucked into the west end of the Upper Weiser River valley between Cuddy Mountain, which raises its forested head to the north, and Hitt Mountain/Sturgill Peak which commands the west.

The Weiser River flows south through town and is joined by three creeks coming in from the west. Cambridge is the supply point for numerous ranches and farms all through the green valley and has that quintessential small town friendliness that welcomes visitors like long-absent friends.

The railroad has not run through town since 1997 and the old rail-bed was rail-banked and now continues as the Weiser River Trail. It is a non-motorized trail that runs 84 miles from Weiser, Idaho to New Meadows, Idaho.

This beautiful little city celebrates the honor of being the official gateway to Hells Canyon National Recreation Area with Hells Canyon Days. The event, with street vendors, a "Show

and Shine" car show, a bull-riding-only rodeo called "Bullarama," antique power show, community breakfast, open pit barbecue, live music and many other attractions takes place the first weekend in June.

The town fills with spectators and fun-lovers as Cambridge plays host to the Washington County Fair and the Cambridge Rodeo at the county fairgrounds and adjacent Cambridge rodeo arena. The rodeo is held over the last three days of the fair.

The Cambridge Volunteer Fire Department puts on a fantastic fireworks display to celebrate the Fourth of July. The display is held at the high school athletic field, with the show starting at dusk.

Right along Highway 95, you'll find a multitude of businesses that offer great places to grab a bite to eat, purchase camping supplies, top off the gas tank, or find unique local handmade treasures. The library and museum are also both right along the main road.



Don Dopf photo

Tower Park located just off the main street on the road to Hells Canyon has public restrooms and is a favorite gathering place for local events.

If you plan to stay awhile, you can park your RV or find a comfortable bed at the Frontier Motel. Enjoy their pool and spa and you are sure to be included among their happy guests counted on their welcome sign each year. Take advantage of their shuttle service to Hells Canyon and other local sights.

A few miles outside of Cambridge is a wonderful, natural hot springs that early residents discovered and that has been developed.

Mundo Hot Springs is a relaxing place to soak and maybe get a bite to eat.

In the early 1960s Idaho Power built three dams on the Snake River creating Brownlee Reservoir, Oxbow Reservoir and Hells Canyon Reservoir. Cambridge serves as the eastern entrance to all three of these destinations.

In the fall an annual Rush Creek Stampede is held to benefit Cambridge schools and options include a half marathon, 5k run and a one mile fun walk/run along a beautiful looping course on Rush Creek Road at the foot of towering Cuddy Mountain.

Whether you're in search of a Gateway to outdoor adventure, or a charming and friendly community, you'll find that the small town of Cambridge has a lot to discover.

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## **FISHING:** *Grab a pole. They are biting...*

From trickling streams and rushing rivers to the tranquility of still ponds and reservoirs, the waters of the region are a great place to cast a fly or dunk a worm.

Whether, you're an experienced fly fisherman, a boat angler, or you are just getting your feet wet, the area abounds with opportunities to catch trout, crappie, bass, catfish, and even experience the thrill of catch and release of the largest and longest living freshwater fish in North America: Sturgeon.

The region along highway 95 has a variety of stops ideal for any angler starting in Weiser.

### **Weiser Community Pond**

This community pond offers an easily accessible shoreline and dock fishing near the Weiser River. The pond is stocked in the spring with trout. There also are bass and crappie.

### **Steck Park**

Steck Park offers access to the Brownlee Reservoir on the Snake River from the Idaho side of Hells Canyon. The park is at the southern end of the 56 mile long reservoir, not far from Weiser.

### **C. Ben Ross Reservoir**

The reservoir is a great place to hook a large-mouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, smallmouth bass and kokanee salmon. The fishing is fantastic but the bird watching is even better.

### **Lost Valley Reservoir**

Lost Valley Reservoir is a favorite place to pick huckleberries, hunt morel mushrooms, and of course go trout fishing. The best time to fish for trout is early in the summer because the reservoir is often drawn down by the end of the summer.



### **Hells Canyon – The deepest gorge**

Have you seen it? The Snake River, literally snaking its way across the state, heading north of all things in this defining and rugged stretch shared by Eastern Oregon and West Central Idaho.

The stretch of the Snake River through Hells Canyon – free-flowing through the deep gorge, surrounded by towering granite and basalt walls – was once called the Grand Canyon of the Snake River, long before it was dubbed “Hells Canyon.”

Hells Canyon is one of the most remote places in the Pacific Northwest you can dare to venture into.

Its remoteness is overwhelming at first, but once you get your first good breathe of fresh air, it's addicting.

The Hells Canyon National Recreation Area is 652,488 acres straddling the canyon, from the peaks of Idaho's Seven Devils Mountains on the east, to Oregon's rimrock and mountain slopes on the west. This national showcase contains acres of beauty and adventure, where one's senses can run as wild as the landscape. During the summer months, visit Hells Canyon Creek visitors center just below Hells Canyon Dam, the entrance to the wild and scenic part of the Snake River.

For even more adventure, take guided jet boat tour or rafting trip in the canyon or book a fishing charter.



## **HIKING AND LOOKOUTS:** *Spectacular views...*

For those up for a little hiking off the beaten path, the Payette National Forest offers several hiking trails. If you're up for a climb, there are even more picturesque views to discover at some of the area lookouts.

North of Weiser off Forest Road No. 600, Sturgill Peak lookout offers striking views in any direction with an elevation of 7,589 feet. The structure at the peak was originally built in 1932 and is still staffed during the summer. To get there head north along Mann Creek 16.5 miles to the lookout.

A little ways off Highway 71 on your way to the Hells Canyon area, you can find the unique Brownlee Historical Pioneer Burial Site and Cambium Peeled Tree. From here you can head to forest road No. 044 and the Brownlee Trailhead. The trailhead provides for numerous options for hiking in the Cuddy Mountain area.

On the west side of Highway 71 is the Hitt Mountain area that can be accessed from the Mill Creek Road, Forest Service Road No. 008.

A little further west, and before you reach the summit, is the Middle Fork Brownlee Creek Road that leads to the Benton Saddle Trailhead and Pine Grass Trailhead.

For a longer day trip leading to two amazing views, check out Horse Mountain Lookout and Sheep Rock.

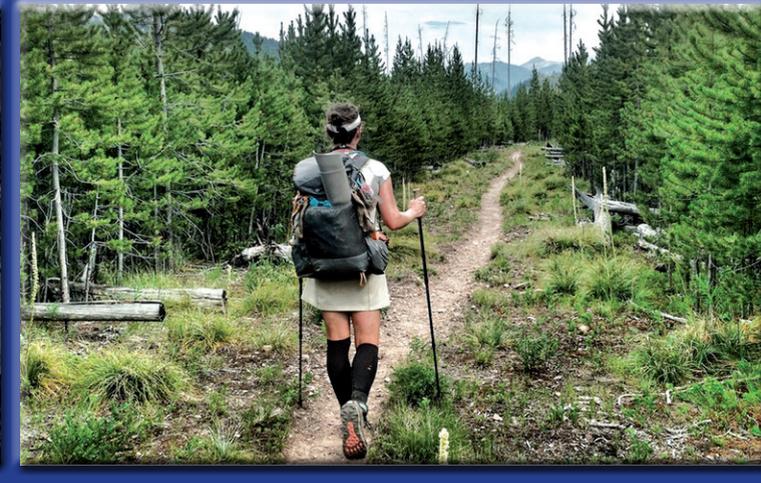
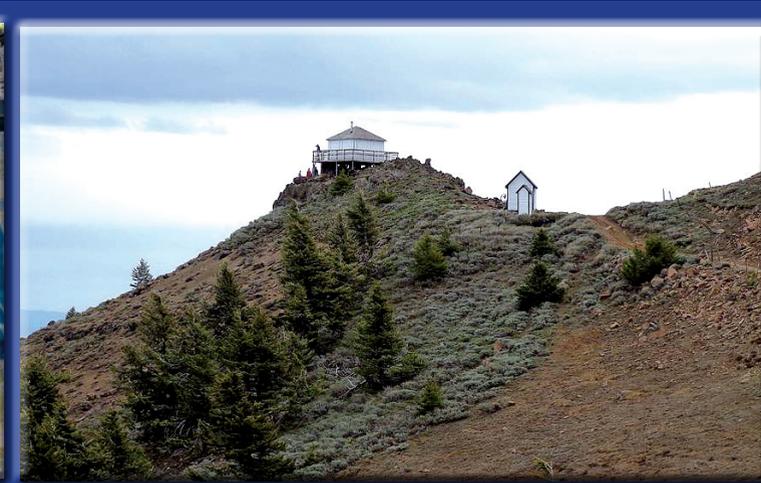
The Sheep Rock area provides spectacular mountain scenery. You can access several trails from the Sheep Rock parking lot.

Sheep Rock and Horse Mountain Lookout can be reached from Council via Forest Road No. 002. At the town of Bear continue on Forest Road No. 002 to the old mining town of Cuprum. Two miles beyond Cuprum take Forest Road No. 106 approximately 3 miles to the Horse Mountain Road junction. Road No. 108 will take you to Horse Mountain Lookout, while Road No. 106 will take you to Sheep Rock (5 miles).

For an overnight adventure, contact the Payette National Forest Service for the availability of Buck Park Cabin. The cabin sits at an elevation of 7,280 feet within Buck Park and can accommodate a maximum of three people. Metal cots are provided, but guests must bring their own sleeping bags. A wood stove is provided for heat and cooking. No plumbing or electricity is available. A vault toilet is located outside.

Guests must bring water, food, bedding and firewood. The cabin sits near small Rush Lake, which offers fishing opportunities. Hornet and Lower Hornet lakes are a short distance away. Hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and off-road enthusiasts will find several motorized and non-motorized trails in the surrounding area.

From the town of Council, Idaho, drive 12 miles northwest on Council-Cuprum Road 002 (paved), then 12 miles southwest on Buck Park Road 055 (gravel and native surface, high clearance needed, four-wheel drive strongly recommended, trailers not recommended), then 0.2 miles south on Buck Park Spur. Expect large rocks and a narrow one way road. Buck Park is 1.5 hours drive from Council.



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Cambridge residents Carisa Webster and Bron Leuthold with Jack the border collie, who collects tips from visitors and gets a treat as a reward.



## Meet Jack, a border collie who works for tips

While Cambridge, Idaho, is known to be one of the friendliest communities in the upper portion of Washington County, there is one special resident that has a unique talent that will put a smile on your face and maybe even a few less dollars in your pocket.

Jack, a border collie, is Bron Leuthold's furry companion who has become well-known in the community of about 318 folks as a tip-getting canine.

Leuthold purchased the Office Bar five years ago. He first found out about this trick some years ago while visiting Idaho City. There was a border collie that would persuade patrons to give him a tip and in return get a treat from the server behind the bar.

So when Leuthold bought the Cambridge tavern, Jack and he got to work learning the trick. After a couple quick lessons Jack was on his way to getting all the treats he desired.

If he knows there is a weak mark he is going to hit them up first, but if he doesn't recognize a new patron he will go poke them with his nose in the behind to get their attention.

The newbie just thinks, oh how cute this dog is and he wants to be friends. But Jack has other things on his mind and sometimes doesn't want a pat on his head but a dollar to take to the server for a delicious treat. If at first Jack doesn't succeed he will be back with another nose poke. After a few pokes and an ex-

planation from the locals, Jack gets his needed dollar and heads back for his well deserved treat.

One year there was over 2,000 bicyclists riding through Cambridge with the Cycle Oregon organization heading up Highway 71 towards Hells Canyon. A fire stopped them in Cambridge and Jack had a huge captive audience to visit with. Being the only source of entertainment at the time, Jack enjoyed a lot of treats to say the least.

Jack who is now 13 years old has been Bron's furry companion since he was 8 weeks old. And according to Leuthold he has proof that you can teach an old dog a new trick.

"It is fun for the whole family as long as you are 21," said Leuthold.

Leuthold has renovated the 1907 bar into a non-smoking establishment. He serves food and has annual events with live music and karaoke.

The people in our communities both shape and exemplify our small town life. If you're lucky, you'll take the time to get to know some of these people. And if you are truly lucky, go meet Jack. Jack may be a dog, but those who know him, count him among their favorite Cambridge residents.

And if you happen to forget to shut the door on your way out, Jack has you covered, he will do the honors of helping you out.

# Weiser River Trail – 84 miles of adventure

The Weiser River Trail can be picked up in each town between Weiser and Council. It includes many miles of riparian habitat, an additional 1,400 acres of wildlife habitat, and provides access to 16,000 acres of BLM and State of Idaho lands currently otherwise inaccessible to the public.

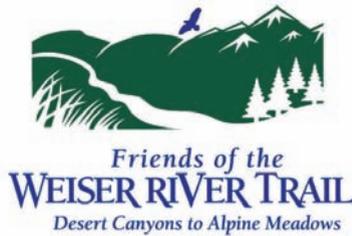
Wildlife often seen along the trail include deer, elk, heron, bear, raptors and wild turkeys. The setting in the lower (southern) part of the canyon is rolling hills and open canyons topped with black lava cliffs, while the northern portion is forested.

The southernmost trailhead is accessed in Weiser on East Main Street. This area is horse-friendly and improvement plans call for horse corrals and hitching rails and a horse path alongside the first paved mile of the trail.

In Midvale, the trail runs parallel to Highway 95 and is easily accessible. Recent improvements include new restrooms adjacent to the trail and an information kiosk. There is plenty of parking near the

trail to stop and begin a biking or trekking adventure on the trail north or south.

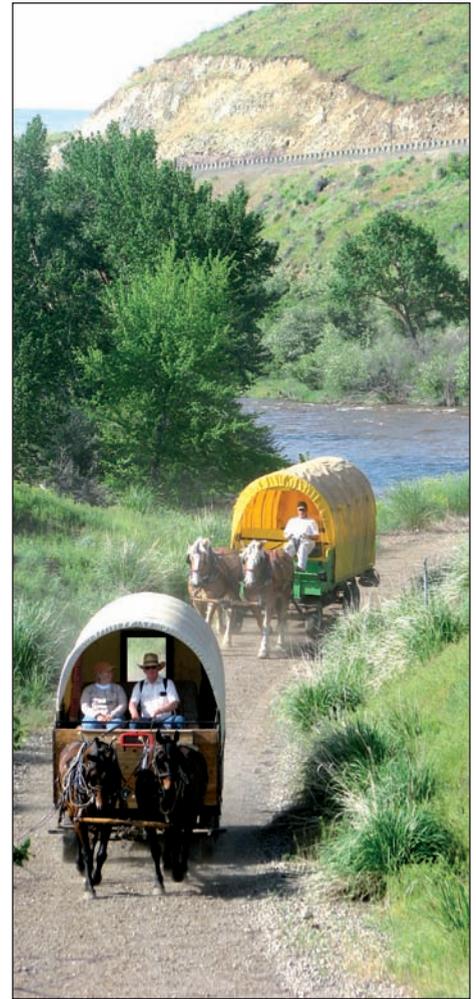
After a fun day on the trail, there is a bed and breakfast adjacent to the trail that provides comfy lodging to rest up for the next day's adventure. The nearby Midvale Mercantile is a great stop for provisions.



The easiest trail access point in Cambridge is at the Washington County Fairgrounds. To reach it, continue north on Highway 95 to an intersection where the highway turns east. There is a kiosk there with a map and picnic facilities.

Between Goodrich and Council there is a spot on the west side of Highway 95 where the trail comes out of the Weiser River Valley and runs parallel to the highway and on into Council.

From Council, the trail heads north at an easy grade through some truly scenic country. Take in that mountain air and enjoy the solitude. The trail ends after 84 miles, just south of New Meadows from the first trailhead in Weiser.



Recapturing that pioneer spirit, covered wagons depart from Weiser each Memorial Day weekend for a trek up the trail to Council.

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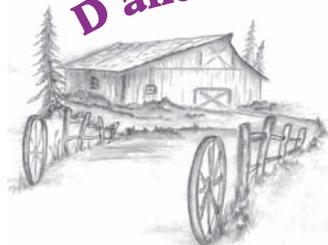
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OPRD - Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
 IPC - Idaho Power Company  
 USFS - US Forest Service  
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New Meadows

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To Riggins, Whitebird, Grangeville & Lewiston

To 350 & Joseph

To Baker City

To Boise & Ontario

To Ontario

To Payette

To Payette

# Events



## TOP TO BOTTOM

Onion  
Skin  
Players;  
Fiddle  
Festival;  
Hells  
Canyon  
Days  
Show  
and  
Shine



## MARCH

**The Onion Skin Players** take to the stage at the Star Theater in downtown Weiser. The troupe has been producing a melodrama for 30 years every March. Boo and hiss at the villain. Cheer for the hero.

## APRIL

**The Weiser River Trail relay 50k Ultra** brings teams of runners from all over the region to run segments on the trail. Or run the entire 50k. Either way, it's a fun event and the scenery is spectacular.

## MAY

**Wagons Ho!** Want to catch a glimpse of how people traveled in the frontier West? Covered wagons pulled by sturdy steeds head up the Weiser River Trail every Memorial Day weekend starting at the trailhead in Weiser. The wagon train passes through Midvale and Cambridge. May 24-27

**Hells Canyon Days** brings a lot of folks to Cambridge for the weekend celebration. There is something for everyone to see – a collector's farm toy show at the high school, show and shine on the main drag and much more. It's an easy walk to see the sights. May 31-June 1

## JUNE

**National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest** puts Weiser on the music map as the best fiddlers in the country compete for prize money, trophies and coveted titles. From small fry to seniors, there is a division for everyone. The finale is Saturday night when judges select the National Champion. Visit the camp areas of Stickerville and Fiddletown to take in the nightly jams. Check out the carnival and vendors in the park and the parade and kids day in downtown Weiser. It's a week of fun in Weiser. June 17-22

**35th annual Council Quilt Show** will feature some amazing textiles will be on display. They are functional works of art and some will be for sale. One lucky raffle winner will take home the "Grandma's Kitchen" quilt. The show celebrates the art of quilting and will be held at the Council Elementary School. June 19-July 5

**The Weiser River Music Festival** is three days of nonstop live music with the Weiser River as the backdrop. This year's headliner band is Leftover Salmon, a festival favorite from Colorado. Great music, great vibe, lots of fun and it's all outdoors in a field. Camping and RV parking, along with vendors, and just two minutes from downtown Weiser. June 20-22

## JULY

Weiser pays tribute to veterans every **July 4th** with a short parade to veterans park. The day devoted to celebrating America's birthday ends with a spectacular fireworks display put on by the firemen with Weiser City Fire and Rescue near the golf course.

**Porcupine races** bring out the crowds on July 4th in Council. Some communities have greased pig events, but this one is a bit different. The critters are herded to the finish line. The entire town turns out for this world championship, along with plenty of visitors.

**The Weiser Valley Roundup** is Weiser's hometown rodeo and it is three days of thrills and spills. The Idaho Cowboy Association-sanctioned event attracts top cowboys and cowgirls hoping to cash in on the prize money. There are covered grandstands and concessions on site. The rodeo celebrates 75 years in 2019, and the governing board has some special events planned at the Fred Hust Arena. July 11-13

**The Washington County Fair** in Cambridge is the charming sort of rural fair that every town wishes they had. There's the kids showing off their livestock project and plenty of premium ribbons on entries in the exhibit hall. Walk around and see everything up close. The fair ends with a rodeo at the fairgrounds arena and the annual livestock sale. July 29-Aug. 3

## AUGUST

**The Court Street Cruise** pays homage to the glory days of American automotive dominance, when Detroit



**TOP TO BOTTOM**  
Meadow Valley Days;  
Rodeo; Court Street  
Cruise; Mud Drags



produced the tire-burning, piston-pounding, V-8 powered hot rods that put the "motor" in "motor city." Members of Weiser's Court Street Cruisers car club organize the event every August at City Park. The grass becomes a large parking lot of polished vintage cars and hot rods. Aug. 3

## SEPTEMBER

**Meadow Valley Days** in New Meadows is the place to be over Labor Day weekend. The mountain community has been celebrating its heritage every Labor Day for more than 50 years with a weekend of fun activities. There is lots to do with a car show, parade, barbecue, arts and crafts fair and logging contests.

**The Idaho Sawtooth Bluegrass Association Festival** brings talented musicians to Weiser every September. Bluegrass is a uniquely American style of music that brings various influences together. The fall bluegrass music festival will be held at the historic Slocum and Hooker Hall in Weiser. The event will feature a bluegrass band stage show, instrument workshops and of course jamming.

## OCTOBER

It's time to get down and dirty at the annual **Mud Drags** in Weiser, a wildly popular event for both spectators and competitors. The mud will be flying in every direction at Mortimer's Island in Weiser as competitors race side by side through the deep goo. Organizers added ATVs and snowmobile racing on the mud track. Bring a lawnchair, sunscreen and bug spray. Oct. 3

**The Weiser River Trail Bike Trek** happens every October, a nice time of year to be on the trail. The non-profit Friends of the Weiser River Trail sponsors the ride. The October Trek is a two day, fully supported bike ride of the entire 84 miles of the trail. This year's ride will take place on Oct. 5-6

Runners and walkers are welcome in all events at the annual **Rush Creek**

Continued on page 24

**Stampede.** The half-marathon follows a beautiful loop through the Rush Creek Valley. The course rolls through ranch land towered over by magnificent Rush Peak. The 5K and half-marathon end at the school. A delicious post-race meal will be served. Proceeds from the Stampede go to the Upper Country Education Foundation (UCEF), a non-profit organization.

## NOVEMBER

Talented artists from the region display their works at the **Cambridge Art and Craft Sale** each November. The sale is sponsored by the Hells Canyon Art Guild and held at the fairgrounds in Cambridge. It's a fall favorite event as the holiday season gets started.

**Weiser Little Theater** presents a fall play every year in Weiser. The production runs nightly for two weeks and dinner and show nights and dessert and show nights are offered. It's small town theater at its finest with exceptionally talented actors.



The annual **Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar** in Weiser is the opportunity to do some serious holiday shopping under one roof at the Vendome Events Center. The annual arts and crafts sale is a weekend event that brings droves of shoppers through the doors every year looking for those unique and special gifts. The sale also is a fundraiser for both the Friends of the Library and the Four County Art Guild.

## DECEMBER

The highlight of the Gala Evening during the annual **Festival of Trees** in Weiser is the auction that follows dinner, when bidders spend big bucks for a good cause and to take home a decorated Christmas tree. The Festival of Trees is the Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation's biggest fundraiser of the year. On Friday of festival week, the Weiser Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual nightlight parade. Santa brings his magic dust to light up the Christmas tree and fireworks follow. Both events are family favorites during the holiday season.

*Tim Schmidt*  
PHOTO

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## Council, the little town at the bend in the road

**C**ouncil is the largest city and the county seat of Adams County. The name "Council" came from early pioneers who would see large groups of Native Americans gathering in Council Valley. Many came from all over the Northwest to meet.

Early pioneers worked the land by raising cattle and sheep, farming, logging and mining. Today you will still find an abundance of cattle and sheep ranches and farms. Logging and mining are also still a way of life.

The views are spectacular in just about every direction you look. In the spring, the wildflowers are brilliant in color.

In Council, you can camp, fish, hunt, hike, swim, horseback ride, and pick huckleberries. Mushroom picking is also popular from spring to fall, with morels being the favorite by most. Bird watching is also a popular hobby, and it is possible to find a vast variety of birds to identify on any sunny day.

Council's climate makes it perfect for gardening and although, winters are far less severe than the nearby mountain communities of New Meadows and McCall, one doesn't have to go far to find snow for cross country skiing or snowmobiling.

Council has several places for the traveller

to stop and enjoy. Those looking for a bite to eat or a few supplies will find a small well-stocked grocery store. Council Mountain Coffee has coffee, ice cream and delicious baked goods, and there is a variety of restaurants including Shy Simons pizza and Incahoots BBQ.

The Council visitor center is located at 105 N. Dartmouth in an old Forest Service Building and operated by the Council Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service. It is open Thursday through Sunday, 12 noon through 4 p.m. through Labor Day.

Those looking for a little recreation might enjoy the Council Greens – which offers a nine-hole course and driving range.

Downtown Council offers two beautiful parks. The Town Square Park offers restrooms, shaded picnic areas, Wi-Fi and bike racks. While Courthouse Hill Park is a great place for tent camping.

A farmers market is held every Friday afternoon starting in May and running through October. The market offers a wide variety of produce, meat, eggs, canned food items, baked goods and arts and crafts.

*Continued to page 26*

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Continued from page 25

Another lesser known fact about Council is that it is the proud hometown of NFL Superbowl champion, Matt Paradis. Paradis, a 2008 graduate of Council High School, played 8-man football for the Lumberjacks before walking onto Boise State's football team.

With fun events throughout the year ranging from farmer's markets, the Adams County Rodeo, the Council Mountain Music Festival, the Fall Council Valley Heritage Festival, the lighted Christmas Parade and Craft fair, and the one of a kind world famous Independence Day Porcupine Races, Council is the perfect destination for your next mountain getaway.

## The 4th of July and the World Championship Porcupine Race



Visitors to Idaho are in for a most interesting time should they find themselves in Council during the July 4th celebrations.

Or better yet, **plan** on being there, and only there will you see the World Championship Porcupine Race.

Each porcupine has two handlers. The handlers are the men and women responsible for racing the porcupines. And also for catching the porcupines the night before.

Council has a long history of throwing spectacular Independence Day bashes – going all the way back to 1909, when over 3,000 people lined the streets to observe our nation's birthday.

But could anyone have known in 1971 that they would soon have the one and only World Championship Porcupine Race on their hands?

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# Welcome to Council, Idaho



Annual Music Festival



Adams County Rodeo

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## Council Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber office is currently located  
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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 527 • Council, ID 83612

(208) 566-1025 • [councilchamber@ctcweb.net](mailto:councilchamber@ctcweb.net)

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# welcome

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## A Crossroad in the Meadowlands

**M**eadows Valley is the local name for this large, spectacularly scenic meadowland located in the heart of Idaho's rugged west-central mountains.

The Little Salmon River slowly winds through the pastures and wetlands of Meadows Valley and provides ample opportunities to spot bald eagles, moose, elk, and sandhill cranes.

Located at the busy crossroads of State Highway 55 and U.S. 95, New Meadows is more than just a gas station stop for road-wearers. As a gateway to four seasons of outdoor adventures – including cycling, hiking, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, and even log burling competitions – this small, friendly

town is worth a stop and stay. In the summer, drive eight miles southwest of New Meadows to Lost Valley Res-

ervoir, where you can cast for trout, ply the smooth waters in a canoe, or camp near the quiet shores.

reputation for the “Best Snow in Idaho.”

After a day of outdoor excursions, explore the city of

New Meadows, which offers a quiet, low-key friendliness that embodies a small-town atmosphere.

Enjoy clean, affordable lodging at the historic Hartland Inn or stay and play at the beautiful MeadowCreek Golf Resort.

For a little more refined recreation, try a round of golf at MeadowCreek Golf Resort two miles north of town and, coincidentally, at the 45th Parallel, the halfway point between the equator and North Pole ([www.meadowcreekgolfresort.com](http://www.meadowcreekgolfresort.com)).

*Continued to page 30*



The golf course weaves in and out of the pine trees and across the verdant meadows offering changing scenery and stimulating golf at every turn.

In addition to golf, the Osprey complex features a heated swimming pool, cafe and snack bar, barbecue facilities, tennis and pickleball courts.

In the winter months there's groomed cross-country ski trails, snowshoeing, sledding and snowmobiling.

The town also has a public library, a bank, a post office, a medical clinic, auto repair and tire service shops, a recycling center, churches, restaurants and bar, a hardware store, a salon/spa, a school with athletic fields, and a city park with a playground.

Take a stroll back in time at the newly restored historic railroad depot just west of City Park. The depot was the original "end of the line" of the Pacific and Idaho Northern Railway from Weiser built in 1911. It served as a farm-to-market railroad until 1940, and thereafter was used to transport lumber and livestock until 1979.



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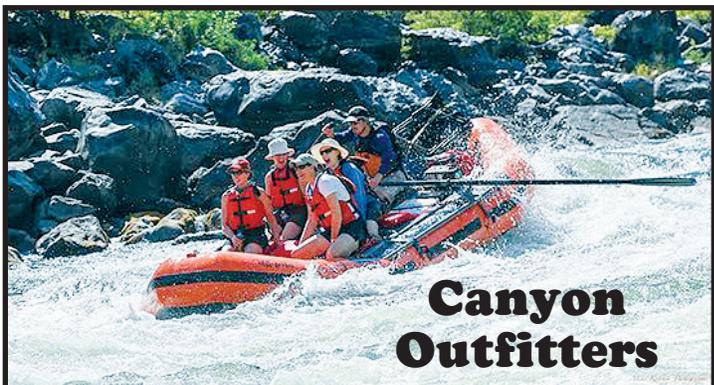
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