



EXPEDITION

Your Guide to Exploring Southwest Idaho



**Weiser
Midvale
Cambridge
Council**



YEARLY EVENTS

FEBRUARY:
IDAHO SLED DOG CHALLENGE

APRIL:
WEISER RIVER 50K
ULTRA & REPLAY

MEMORIAL WEEKEND:
WAGON TRAIN

FIRST SATURDAY IN JUNE:
JUNE BIKE EVENT

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Find your destination in the Weiser River Corridor

Welcome to the Weiser River Corridor and thanks for picking up a copy of Expedition 2022, a publication of the *Weiser Signal American*.

You've never heard of the Corridor in name because we've just attached this much-needed moniker to an 84-mile area that stretches north from Weiser to Council along Highway 95.

Expedition 2022 is a guide to all of the sights, sounds, and destinations you will want to add to your travel itinerary. It includes recreation, dining, shopping, music and entertainment, and lots of history.

Within the magazine, you will find all the information you need to fill your day, or weekend, in each of the four featured towns.

It all starts with the Weiser River Trail

The towns of Weiser, Midvale, Cambridge, and Council are linked by the Weiser River Trail, which begins in historic Weiser, and follows the river past Council, just shy of New Meadows.

Accessible only by foot, bike, or horse, the trail cuts through 1,400 acres of riparian and wildlife habitat,

providing access to 16,000 acres of BLM and State of Idaho land that is otherwise inaccessible to the public.

Wildlife

Often seen along the trail is deer, elk, heron, bear, waterfowl, raptors, and wild turkeys. Common birds to watch for include the Western Tanager, Northern Oriole, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted Towhee, Black-Headed Grosbeak, and Great Blue Heron.

See Page 12-13 for access points to the trail in Weiser, Midvale, Cambridge, and Council.

Hells Canyon

Perhaps the biggest attraction in our neck of the woods is Hells Canyon, a 652,000-acre National Recreation Area that attracts thousands of visitors each year. Cambridge is the "Gateway" to Hells Canyon.

Once dubbed as the Grand Canyon of the Snake River, Hells Canyon is one of the most remote locations in the Northwest and is the deepest river gorge in North America.

Recreational opportunities abound, including boating, fishing, hiking, camping, and wildlife viewing.

See more about it on Page 21.



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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.

10

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.

14

CAMBRIDGE

Known as the gateway to Hells Canyon, Cambridge fills up with visitors every June for Hells Canyon Days. It's also a great access point to jump on the Weiser River Trail.

19

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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Photo by This and That Photography

Make yourself at home in Weiser

Weiser is a town of approximately 5,500 residents located about 15 miles north of Payette and 19 miles north of Fruitland. To get there from Boise, head north on I-84 and take Exit 3 to Fruitland. Follow Highway 95 north all the way to Weiser.

You will pass through Fruitland and Payette on the way, and miles of farmland, before crossing the bridge spanning the Weiser River. Drive a bit further and turn left on to Main Street to get to Weiser's downtown core where there is ample dining, historic sites, and shopping.

McDonald's will be on your right as you drive west.

A must-stop is Weiser Classic Candy, located at 449 State St. The shop is famed for its handmade candies and while there, you can pick up a deli sandwich and an ice cream cone.

After you have eaten, you can leave the car and begin walking around town, possibly visiting Station 30 Collectibles, which offers a trendy vendor mall experience, or Anita's Grab Store, which carries a wide selection of antiques and collectibles.



Looking for a good read? Visit Literary Paws book store. The store specializes in Idaho writers, from history to adventure, and vintage books.

While you are out and about, you might consider the Four County Art Guild's self-guided walking tour, featuring pieces created by local artists. Most businesses carry brochures that will show you where to go.

There are also historical sites to visit within

Continued on page 8



walking distance, including the iconic "Pythian Castle" and the Weiser Train Depot.

Inside the Pythian Castle is a large collection of rare and antique musical instruments and many other artifacts.

After your walk, you might want to

pick up some coffee at The Metropole.

It is also well worth your time to visit the Snake River Heritage Center/Museum in the northwest part of town. The museum features Native American and Holocaust-era displays, and much more.

Hopefully you thought to bring your golf clubs. Rolling Hills Golf Course is a public, 9-hole golf course located at 50 W. Indianhead Road at Weiser's northern edge.

The course dates back to the late 1940s and features rolling greens and a full bar.



The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest and Festival always takes place the third full week of June. The annual event, scheduled this year for June 21-25, draws the world's best fiddlers who perform live onstage. There will be vendors booths, a parade, and other activities.

If you have the urge to drop a line but don't want to go too far out of your way, visit the Weiser Community Pond, which features paved walkways and rainbow trout stocked by Idaho Fish & Game. There are also bluegill and bass.

The pond is located at the end of E. 4th St.

Mann Creek Reservoir provides another fishing opportunity. Located about 15 miles north of Weiser, it is stocked with rainbow trout and has other species such as largemouth bass and crappie. There are boat ramps and picnic areas.

Weiser is the gateway to the Weiser Sand Dunes, about 15.5 miles west of Weiser, across the Snake River from Farewell Bend, Ore. Steck Park is another five miles northwest and is located at the southern end of the 56-mile-long Brownlee Reservoir, which welcomes about 10,000 visitors per year. The park features boat ramps and two camping areas that include RV sites.

There is also an RV dump station in Weiser, located at the northwest corner of W. 9th and W. Idaho streets.





Hooker Hall home of
Snake River
Heritage Center
2295 Paddock Ave.



Slocum Hall home of
the National Oldtime
Fiddlers' Contest
2235 Paddock Ave.

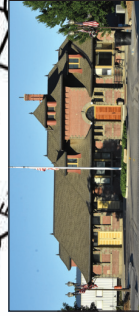


City of Weiser
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To Steck Park and
Sand Dunes
20 Miles

Take County Rd. 70 to Eaton Road
to Olds Ferry Road. Follow Olds Ferry
to your destination for fun

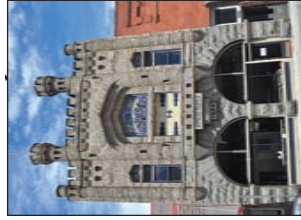
Weiser's Historic Train Depot
South end of State St.



256 E. Court St.
Washington County Courthouse and
James R. Johnston Justice Facility



Weiser Memorial
Hospital
645 E. 5th



Pythian Castle
30 E. Idaho St.

The Weiser River Trail
starts at E. 4th St. in
Weiser near the
Community Pond. It travels
north .22 miles to
Rebecca, 5.9 miles to
Presley Trailhead, 11.2
miles to Big Trestle, 18.2
miles to Sheep Creek and
31.8 miles to Midvale.



Weiser Community Fishing
Pond. 223 E. 4th St.

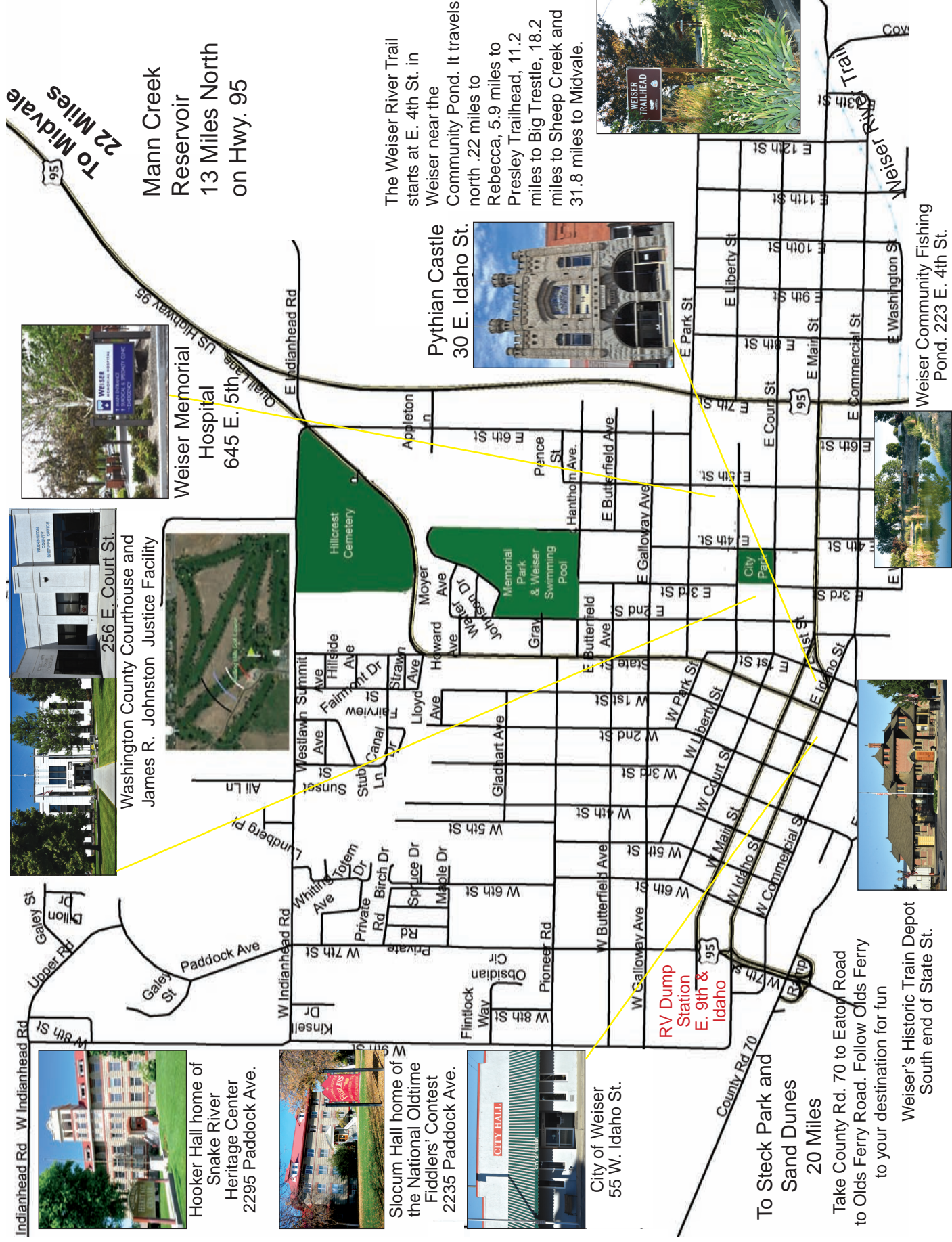




Photo by Jodi Doggett

Midvale welcomes you!

Midvale is one of the small towns hikers pass by along the Weiser River Trail, which extends from Weiser to a few miles east of New Meadows.

Whether taking the hike or driving through on Highway 95, Midvale serves as a great rest stop on the way to Cambridge, the "Gateway to Hells Canyon."

Stop in for supplies at the Midvale Community Mercantile, a bite to eat at the Country Coffee Cabin, or take a dip at the city's swimming pool.

General swim hours are 1-7 p.m., with adult and family swim time from 7-9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Sunday group



rentals are also available. At \$3 per day, you can't beat the price.

Midvale's pool traffic stays strong thanks to the City's Fourth of July activities, which kick off with a parade around 11:30 a.m., followed by a community barbecue, duck race and raffles hosted by the Midvale swimming pool board, which raises funds for pool operating expenses.

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

From there, visitors can take a bird-watching trip or go fishing at Crane Creek Reservoir, located about 12 miles south-east of Midvale. The 2,300-acre lake is filled with largemouth bass, crappie, catfish and sunfish. It has a boat ramp and over 15 miles of shoreline.

While there are no formal campgrounds, there are plenty of areas suitable for camping.



A photograph of the Veterans Memorial Hall in Nevada. The building is a single-story structure with a red-painted brick or concrete facade. The roof is dark grey. A large American flag flies on a tall pole to the left of the building. In the background, a tall, silver water tower stands against a clear blue sky. The building has several windows and a small entrance area. A sign on the building reads "NEVADA VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL". There are also some smaller signs and a plaque near the entrance. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

A large wooden sign for the 'AN EARLY INDUSTRY' exhibit at the Henry Ford Museum. The sign features a map of the Detroit area and text describing the exhibit's focus on the early industrial revolution.

A scenic view of a river flowing through a lush green landscape. The river is in the foreground, with a sandy bank on the left. The background features a dense line of green trees and a range of mountains under a clear blue sky.

Map Labels:

- US Highway 95
- Airport Rd
- Sage Creek Rd
- S Weiser St
- S Railroad St
- S School Rd
- Bonner Rd
- Widner Rd
- Farm To Market Rd
- Bruce Ln
- Valley Rd
- Snap Ln
- School Rd
- Private Rd
- E Bridge St
- N Weiser St
- Holmes Cir
- W Canary St
- Dymoke Ln

Landmarks and Distances:

- Weiser River in Midvale
Weiser River Trail kiosk located in Agnes Keithley Park
- Lee Williams Memorial Airport
- Crane Creek Reservoir
22 miles from Midvale via Farm to Market Road
- Travel 8.5 miles on Highway 95 to the Gateway to Hells Canyon in Cambridge



Cambridge



Photo by
Hells Canyon Adventures

Washington County Fairgrounds
located on Highway 95.
The Weiser River Trail kiosk
is located next to the fairgrounds



Weiser River Trail



The trail can be picked up in each town between Weiser and Council and is accessible only by foot, bike, or horse.

COMMON BIRDS WHICH CAN BE SEEN ALONG THE TRAIL INCLUDE WESTERN Tanager, NORTHERN ORIOLE, LAZULI BUNTING, SPOTTED TOWHEE, BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, AND GREAT BLUE HERON.

The Weiser River Trail includes many miles of riparian habitat, an additional 1,400 acres of wildlife habitat, and will provide 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, water fowl, raptors and wild turkeys.

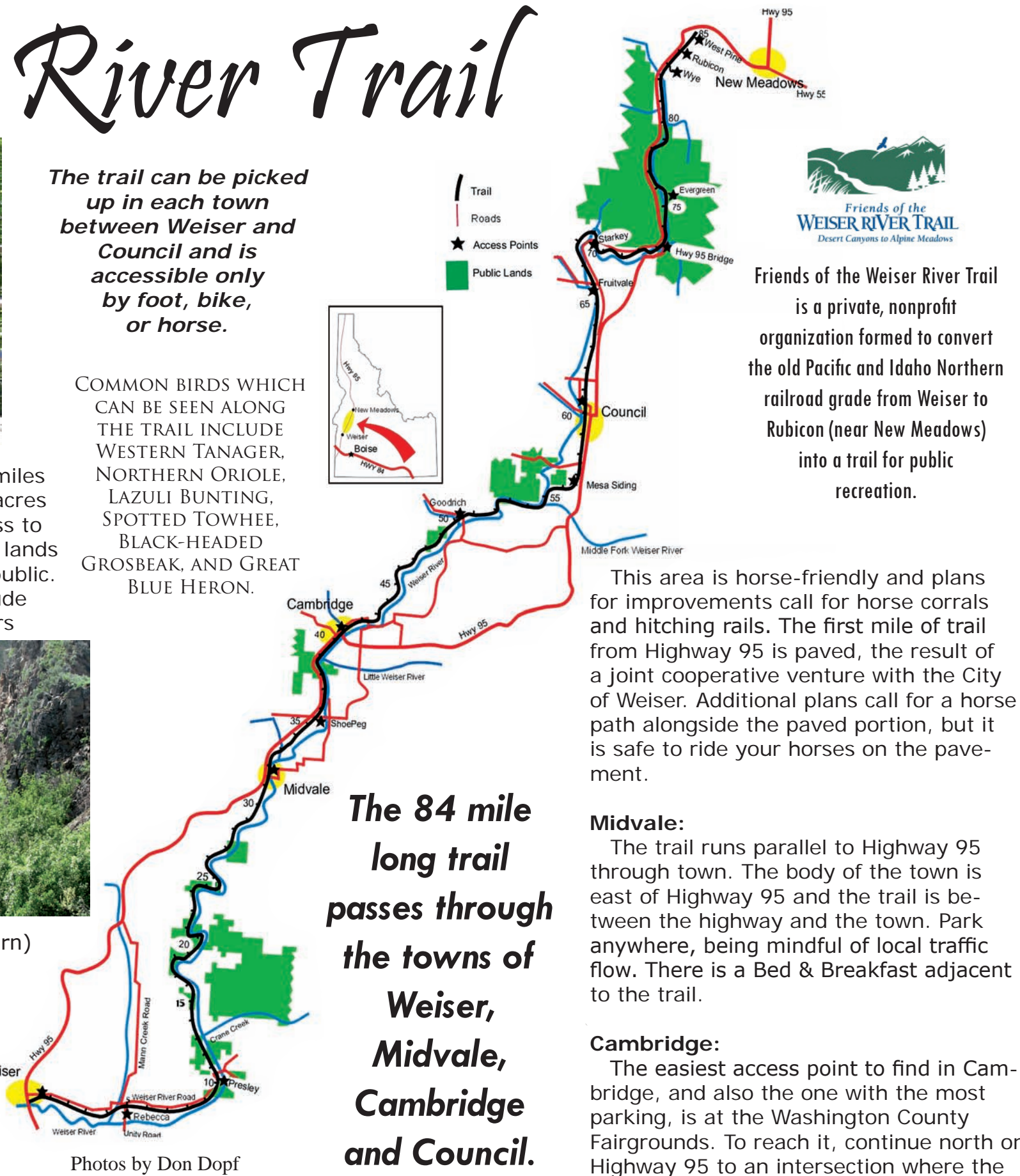
The setting in the lower (southern) part of the canyon is rolling hills and open canyons topped with black lava cliffs, while the upper (northern) portion is forested.



Weiser:

Pick it up in Weiser, the southernmost trailhead. Directions: from Highway 95 turn east on East Main Street (between the Maverik and Sinclair stations). In one-half mile you will be at the new Weiser trailhead.

Photos by Don Dopf



highway turns east. There is a kiosk here with a map and picnic facilities. There is one mile of pavement with a horse trail alongside.

Mesa Siding:

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 Highway 95 and on into Council. There is a small parking area just next to the trail on the downside of the hill just climbed from the Weiser Middle Fork Valley. As the landscape flattens ahead of you, watch the west side of the road for the trail to approach the road at a 90 degree angle. This is an alternative to Goodrich and still gives access to a beautiful stretch of trail to the south.



Photo by river guide Jake Miller

Cambridge

Gateway to Hells Canyon and much more

Cambridge, Idaho may be small in stature, but big in community pride and tourist accommodations.

Nestled between Cuddy Mountain to the north and the Hitt Mountains and Sturgill Peak to the west, the small, rural community is the jumping-off point to big fun and non-stop activity.

Known as the Gateway to Hells Canyon, the town itself is a tree-lined collection of businesses and shops that cater to the curious, history buff, spectator and the hungry.

The town's annual Hells Canyon Days kicks off the summer recreation season, offering

tourists and locals alike the chance to see classic cars and trucks at the Show & Shine car show, followed by an open-pit barbecue, rodeo and a concert that brings in big-name bands like Jason Boland and the Stragglers, Cody Canada and the Departed, Kenny Feidler and more.

The Cambridge Volunteer Fire Department puts on an annual Fourth of July fireworks display held at the high school athletic field, with the show beginning at dusk.

The events, as well as access to Hells Canyon, expands the population four-fold during the summer months.



Photo by Brandie Lincoln



Don Dopf photo



Bill Huck photo

Life is somehow constantly rejuvenated by the living waters of the Weiser River, which rolls through town and is joined by three creeks coming in from the west.

Up for a hike? The Weiser River Trail, which was once part of the rail line running from Weiser to New Meadows, follows the river and offers scenic views and wildlife encounters with deer, elk, rap-tors, bear and wild turkeys.

In the old days, Cambridge, with a current estimated population of about 320 as of 2019, was a resting point for a wagon train led by Tim Goodale in 1868. He helped build a wagon road across the mountains to the Snake River and Brownlee Ferry.

In those days, the Homestead Act brought settlers from the east, many of them with mining and agricultural interests, making Cambridge an important supply depot for freight coming from Boise City and eastern Oregon.

The activity eventually brought the railroad and the first train rolled into town in 1900, which solidified Cambridge as a true town.

The City has maintained its small-town charm ever since, preserving historical buildings, four of them on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Masonic Hall and the present museum, a former store, have also helped preserve the area history while keeping residents and visitors abreast of current events.

Right along Highway 95, you'll find a multitude of businesses that offer fantastic places to attack

your hunger, 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.

Stop to take a picture of your adventure at one of the many photo sets along the downtown corridor.

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.



Fish on...Sturgeon fishing in
Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

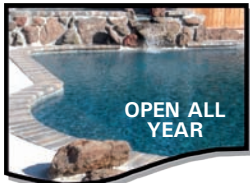


Photo courtesy of
Hells Canyon Adventures

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Photos by Geoff Cole

Adams County Rodeo



4th of July
Porcupine Races

Annual Music Festival



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Council, Idaho! Hike
or bike through the
evergreens along the
Weiser River!!

Council Farmers Market



Council Chamber of Commerce

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Geoff Cole©

Council, the little town at the bend in the road

Council lies 22 miles northeast of Cambridge and serves as the county seat of Adams County. The population was estimated at roughly 900 in 2019.

The town is known for many things, but it was put on the map when local Council High School football player Matt Paradis was drafted into the NFL after a successful career at Boise State University. Originally drafted by the Denver Broncos, he now plays for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Speaking of sports, Council is the home of a popular race that involves one of the more unique critters in the forest. Residents and visitors gather annually for the World Championship Porcupine races held as part of the city's Fourth of July celebration. Participants capture wild porcupines and, using a broom and bucket, carefully guide them down a set course. A purse of \$1,000 goes to top winners.

Fourth of July is a grand time in Council, the city gearing up Friday, July 1 with the Council Mountain Farmers Market followed by the Star Karaoke event held at City Park.

Saturday features a softball and Cornhole tournament, and the annual Independence Day Parade and Street Dance. Other events include a saw contest and kids carnival.

The Fourth of July isn't the only attraction in this rural town that once served as one of the area's many hubs for the mining and logging industries.

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy camping, fishing, hiking, swimming, horseback riding and wild huckleberry picking from spring to fall.

There is also a nine-hole public golf course and driving range.

Bird watching is also a popular hobby, and it is possible to find a vast variety of birds to identify on any sunny day.

The climate in the area 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, several restaurants and coffee spots.

If your mode of transportation is via airplane, Council has an airport located one mile northwest of Council. A courtesy car and courtesy bikes are available for those that fly in to come to town and patronize the local businesses.

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, noon to 4 p.m. through Labor Day.

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

A farmer's 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.

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.



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Having fun in Hells Canyon

The name connotes suffering, but the reality is that there is fun to be had in this beautiful landscape.

Thousands of visitors every year visit this roughly 652,000-acre National Recreation area, which borders Oregon and Idaho, and is the deepest river gorge in North America.

It was once called the Grand Canyon of the Snake River, long before it was dubbed “Hells Canyon.”

Managed by the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, parts of the area lie in Adams County in Idaho, and Baker County in Oregon.

It offers almost 900 miles of hiking trails, 17 campgrounds, including Pittsburg Landing, which has a boat launch and is the only area with RV camping on the Idaho side. There are seven on the Oregon side.

Cambridge is known as the “Gateway to Hells Canyon,” for visitors in Idaho, which draws thousands of recreationists to the small, rural town every year, primarily during the summer months.

The Snake River National Recreation Trail lies within the area along the Snake River, extending from Lamont Springs, downstream, to Pittsburg Landing.

The Snake River winds its way through the gorge, offering anglers and other recreationists a plethora of opportunities on the water.

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 breath of fresh air, it's addicting.

During the summer months, recreationists can visit the Hells Canyon



Hells Canyon Dam, where the river runs wild again after flowing through Brownlee Reservoir and Oxbow Dams. The National Recreation Area affords a plethora of activities or quiet time aside the campfire. *Photo courtesy of Hells Canyon Adventures*

Creek Visitors Center just below Hells Canyon Dam, the entrance to the wild and scenic part of the Snake River.

The surrounding area was the home of Chief Joseph's band of Nez Perce Indians. Other tribes, including the Shoshone, Bannock, North Paiute and Cayuse Indians, were frequent visitors

to the area. These tribes were drawn to the region by relatively mild winters, lush foliage and plentiful wildlife.

Today, walls of the canyon are like a museum, where pictographs and petroglyphs display fascinating evidence of the Native Americans' early settlements.

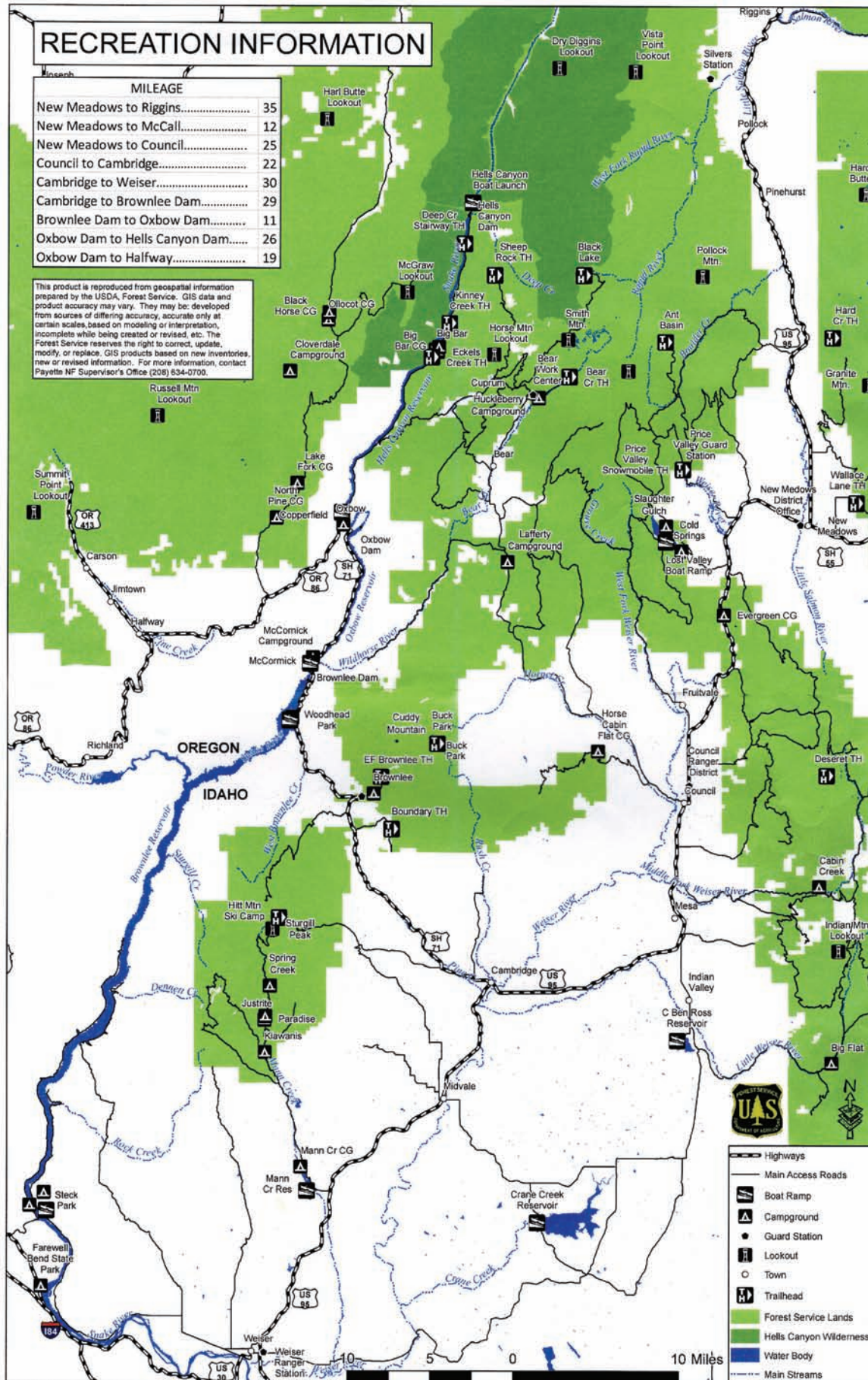


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Fun and Adventure

WEISER

- Start of the Weiser River Trail
- Visit downtown Weiser, enjoy candy, ice cream, shopping and more.
- Snake River Heritage Center
- National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest.
- Rolling Hills Golf Course.
- Camping, fishing and boating at Steck Park and Mann Creek Reservoir.

MIDVALE

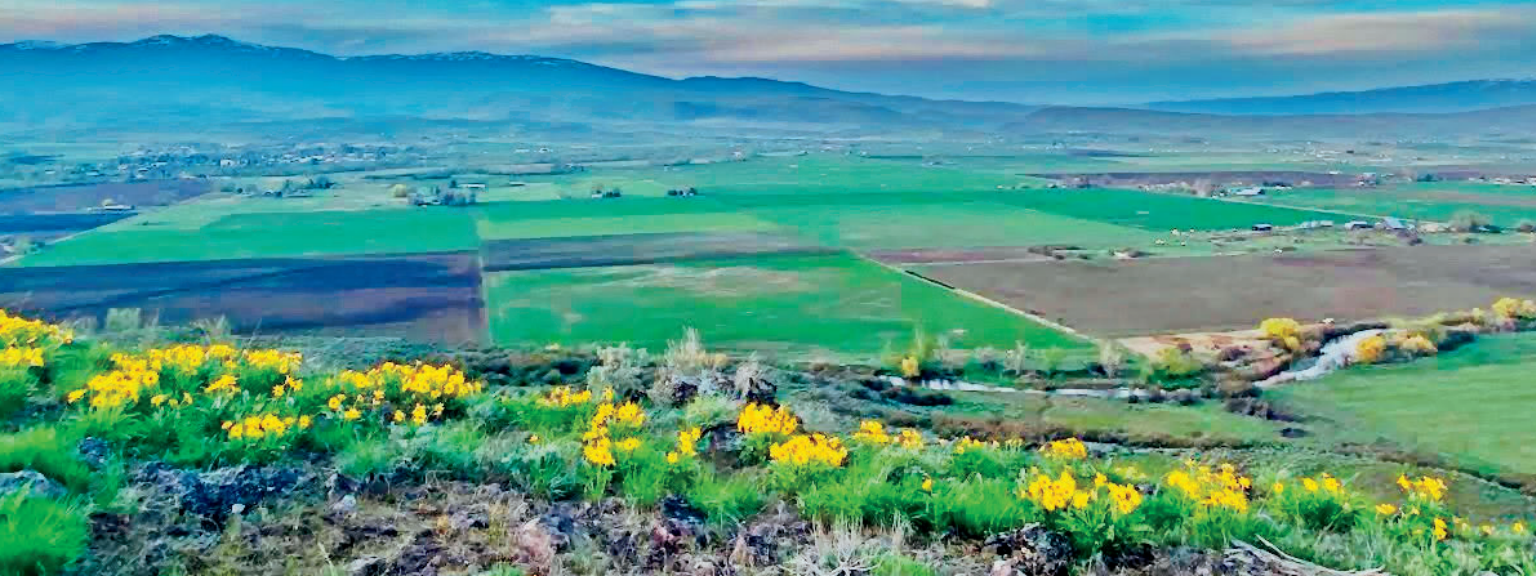
- Weiser River Trail access and Agnes Keithley Memorial Park.
- Public Pool
- Trailhead hostel.

CAMBRIDGE

- Gateway to Hells Canyon.
- Weiser River Trail access.
- Hells Canyon Days.
- Washington County Fairgrounds.
- Museum
- Shopping, dining, motel and shuttle service to Hells Canyon.

COUNCIL

- Weiser River Trail access.
- Public golf course.
- Dining.
- Visitors Center at old Forest Service building.
- Museum.
- Music festival.
- Porcupine race and lumberjack competition.



CAMBRIDGE, IDAHO

YOUR GATEWAY TO HELLS CANYON



LITTLE TOWN
BIG ADVENTURE!

