



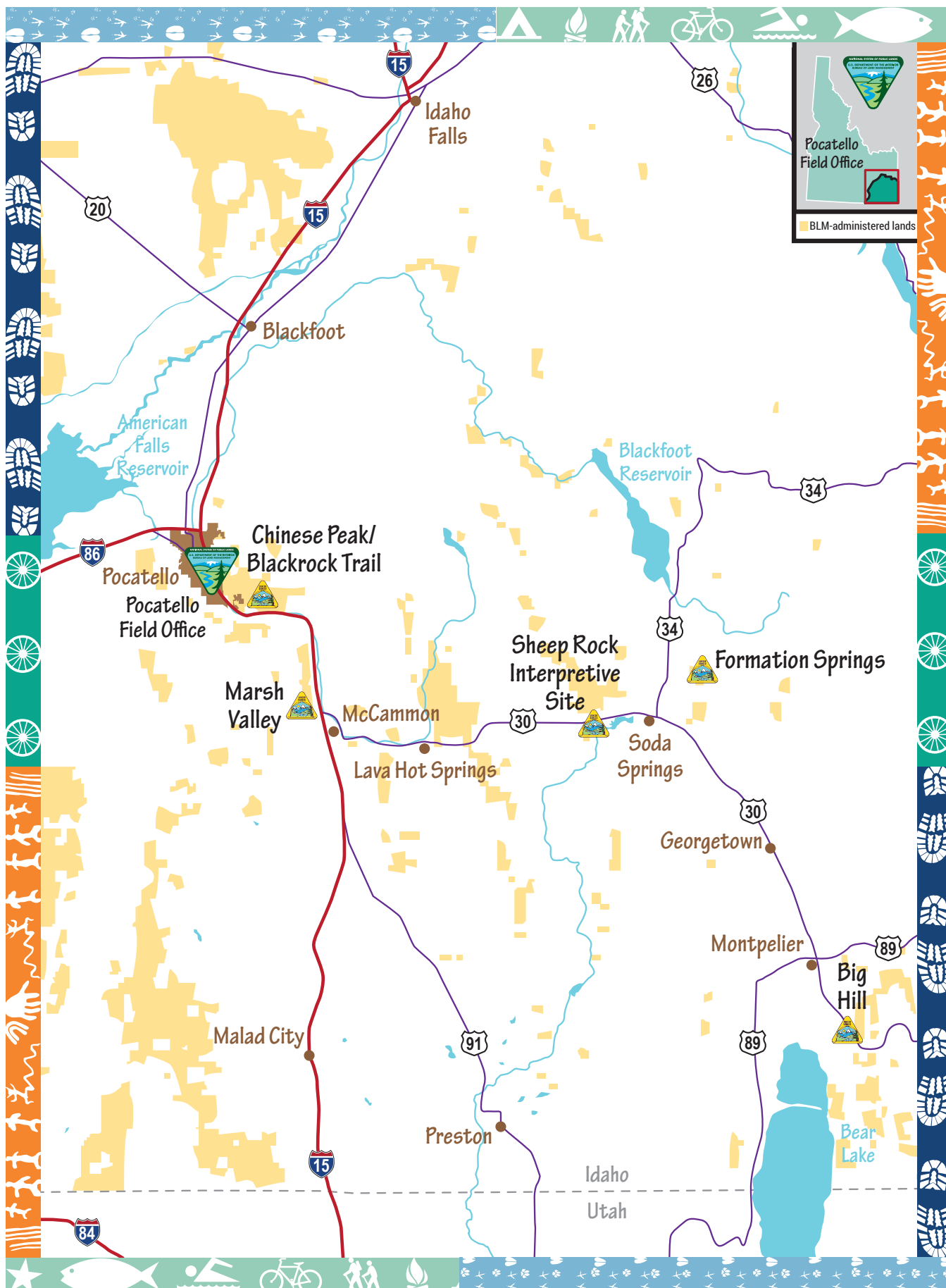
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management



# *Discover Areas* of the Pocatello Field Office






**JUNIOR  
RANGER**





BLM/ID/GI-13/002+8367+REV17

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# Welcome



Hello Junior Ranger! Get ready to have some fun. In this activity book you will learn some cool things about southeast Idaho. The Pocatello Field Office manages about 610,000 acres of public land that consist of vast forests, high-elevation deserts, and numerous waterways. As you trek through this area of Idaho, you will come across historic landmarks, fascinating geological features, beautiful rivers, numerous campgrounds, and cool recreational trail systems. Earn your Junior Ranger certificate and award by exploring the places in this book and completing the activities. Maybe take some time to do this on a Saturday afternoon with your family or on a school fieldtrip with your class. Once you complete 10 of the 15 activities, read and sign the pledge in the back of this booklet, and mail it or bring it to the Pocatello Field Office to receive your Junior Ranger certificate and award.



If sending the pledge by mail, send to the following address:

Bureau of Land Management  
Pocatello Field Office  
4350 Cliffs Drive  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204

Nature is a great place to learn as long as you know how to be kind and safe. During your adventure, remember the two following tips.

**Be Kind to Nature:** If you see a wild animal, stay quiet, and watch it from a distance. If you see or have any trash, pack it out in your backpack. If possible, pick up trash that you find and remove it from the area.

**Explore the Outdoors Safely:** Before setting off on your journey, bring your water bottle with you. Your adventure may be hot and dry at certain times of the year, and there is no water on site. Watch your footing. Rocky trails are common in this area. Also, look out for rattlesnakes.



# What Are Public Lands?



Public lands are set aside for everyone to use! The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages more than 245 million acres of public land, mostly in the Western United States. The public lands are in many types of environments, such as forests, mountains, deserts, grasslands, tundra, lakes, and rivers.

Many different activities happen on public lands. Sometimes wild horses live on these lands. Sometimes oil and coal come from these lands. Sometimes historical landmarks are taken care of on these lands. But one of the most fun things is using the lands to enjoy outdoor activities. People can go camping, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, rock climbing, boating, and much more.

Since public lands are available for everyone to use, everyone must use the lands responsibly and be good stewards of the land. We all have to work together to take care of the land so that future Junior Rangers can enjoy the land too.



# Area 1: Trail Blazers,

## Chinese Peak-Blackrock Trail System

The Chinese Peak-Blackrock Trail System contains about 40 miles of designated routes and is available to ATV riders, mountain bikers, hikers, and others. The trails have also been used for an extreme horse race called the Buskin Challenge. The trail system winds its way down through mountain maple, sagebrush, and numerous types of grass. The fall colors can be phenomenal with vivid reds, yellows, and oranges around every corner. The trail system is closed to motorized and mechanized (bicycles) travel November 16 through April 14 to protect the winter habitat of numerous animals and to protect the trails from erosion. Hiking is allowed year round.

**Directions:** From Pocatello, take Interstate 15 south to the Pontneuf Area exit. Drive east on S. 5th Ave. about a mile, and turn north onto Blackrock Rd. Follow this road into Blackrock Canyon for about 1.5 miles to the first parking area with restrooms and picnic tables. Another parking area is located further up the road.

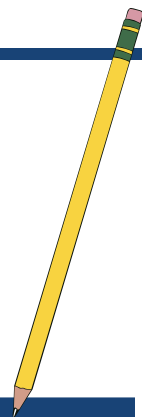
### Activity 1, Find Your Way

When hiking trails, it is important to know where you are and where you are going. A trail map can help you find your way. Help this Junior Ranger find his way from the Blackrock trailhead to Chinese Peak. While you are hiking, share the trail with others and pick up trash along the way.



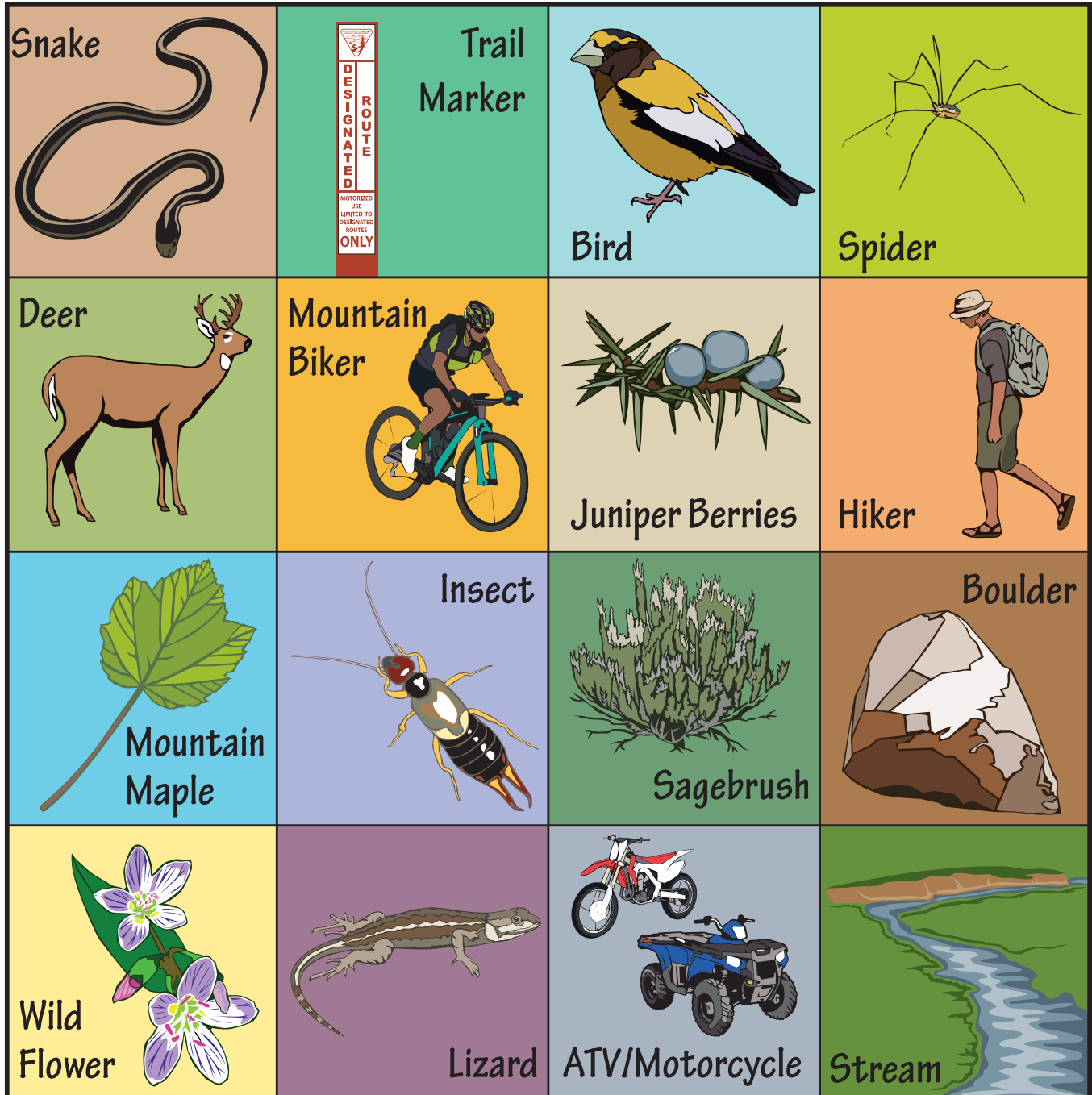
## Activity 2, Draw the View

From the top of Chinese Peak, you can see for miles. In fact, this viewpoint served as a fire lookout for many years before phones and other forms of technology became more efficient at reporting wildfires. The City of Pocatello is located just below, and looking further northwest, you can see desert buttes and remains of lava domes from extinct volcanoes. Now that you are at the top, draw what you see!



## Activity 3, Bingo in Nature

Trail systems throughout the Pocatello area are full of wildlife and plants. As you hike the area, cross off the items on the bingo board as you see them on the trail. When you complete a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal), say “Bingo!”



### Leave No Trace ☼ Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Use a map so you don't get lost.
- Bring a variety of clothes to protect you from cold, heat, or rain.
- Bring plenty of food and water.



## Area 2: Blast from the Past



Archaeologists look at artifacts and sites to investigate how people lived in the past. An artifact is any object that was made by or altered by humans. This includes things like pottery, arrowheads, and other stone tools. The context of the artifact is very important to the archaeologist. Context is the exact location, surrounding, and relationship to other artifacts in which the artifact was found. An artifact without its context is like having only one piece of a puzzle or an incomplete picture.

Some archaeological sites you might find while exploring the Pocatello Field Office include rock art, Native American campsites, historic mining sites, historic trails, and homesteads. Arrowheads and other historical artifacts are protected by law and should stay where they are found. Never remove or harm artifacts and archaeological sites. Instead, take a photo, draw a picture, or write down a memory.

### Activity 1, Archaeology Exam

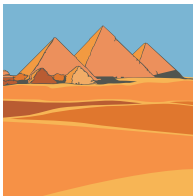
Based on what you've learned so far about archaeology, test your knowledge by reading each numbered item and then choosing true or false. You can review your answers and the explanations that go with each answer in the answer key in the back of this booklet.



1. Archaeologists dig up dinosaur fossils.

☐ True

☐ False



2. Archaeological sites are only found in places like Egypt where you can see the pyramids.

☐ True

☐ False



3. On the job, an archaeologist spends the whole day digging sites.

☐ True

☐ False



4. Archaeological sites should not be disturbed, and artifacts should be left where they are found.

☐ True

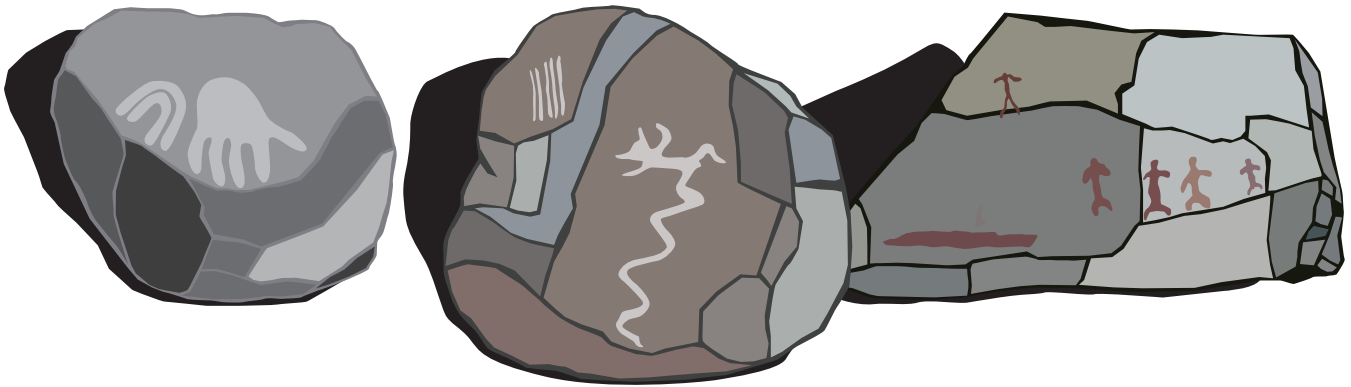
☐ False



## Activity 2, Rock Art Interpretation

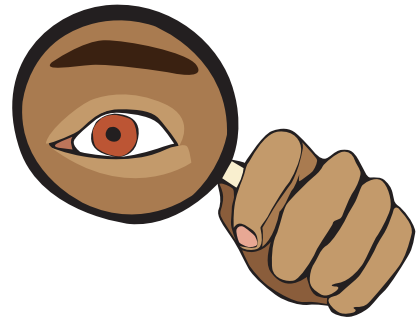
In the areas around and south of Pocatello through Marsh Valley, you might find rock art on the boulders and basalt cliffs. There are two kinds of rock art found here in Idaho—pictographs and petroglyphs. Pictographs are painted onto the rock, and petroglyphs are carved into the rock. Around Pocatello, you are more likely to find petroglyphs. If you find a petroglyph or pictograph, take a photo. Never climb on, touch, or mark or paint over rock art.

Look at the examples below, and write down what you think these petroglyphs say about the past.

[illegible]

### Activity 3, Word Sleuth

An archaeologist is kind of like a history detective, finding clues about the past from evidence collected in the present. Unscramble each of the words below. Use the letters that appear in the circles, and unscramble them to learn an important phrase.



T T R Y P O E

○ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_

S T R O H Y I

\_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_

C A E V

\_ \_ \_ \_ ○

K C R O T R A

\_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_

A T R I L

○ \_ \_ \_ \_

H S E O U

○ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○

P N A L T

○ \_ \_ \_ \_

N O B I S

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

R R A W O

○ \_ \_ \_ \_

H S I F

\_ \_ \_ ○ \_

U H N T

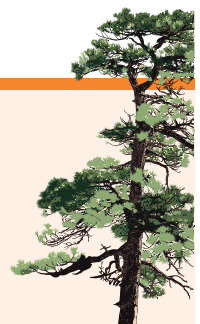
\_ \_ \_ \_ ○

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_



#### **Leave No Trace** ❁ **Leave What You Find**

- Leave an area the same way you found it so the next person can enjoy it too.
- Treat living plants with respect, and never cut into a living tree.
- Leave natural objects and historical items as you found them.



# Area 3: Tally Ho! Westward We Go!

## Oregon-California Trail

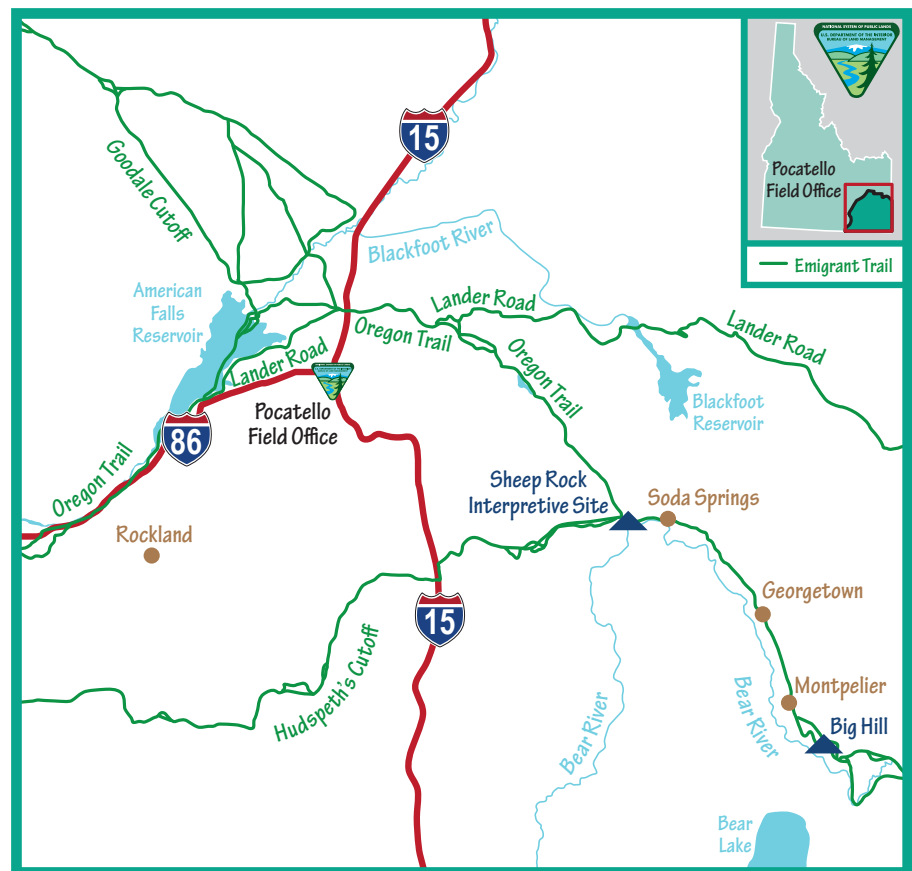


The Oregon and California National Historic Trails pass through the Pocatello Field Office. Some of the national trails' alternate routes also run through the field office, such as Hudspeth's Cutoff and Lander Trail. These national historic trails pass through six states and served as a route for emigrants heading to the West beginning in the 1840s. Two major landmarks near the trails lie on BLM land: Big Hill and Sheep Rock.

### Big Hill

Located between the Idaho-Wyoming border and Montpelier, Idaho, is a place that was known to emigrants as Big Hill. This part of the trail crosses the Sheep Creek Hills and was used by both emigrants headed to Oregon and those headed to California. The trip down Big Hill was very difficult since it was one of the steepest portions of the entire trail.

The hill can be viewed from an Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway pulloff located southeast of Montpelier on U.S. Highway 30.



### Sheep Rock

Sheep Rock, also known as Soda Point, towers 1,200 feet above the waters of the Bear River. It was a landmark to emigrants on the Oregon-California Trail. The Bear River begins in the Uinta Mountains of eastern Utah, but at Sheep Rock the river makes a sudden U-turn and heads south to the Great Salt Lake. Emigrants often mentioned Sheep Rock in their journals. Sheep Rock marked the junction of the main route of the Oregon-California Trail and Hudspeth's Cutoff, which was a shortcut less than a mile west of Sheep Rock.

Sheep Rock can be viewed from the Pioneer Historic Byway interpretive site on BLM land just off U.S. Highway 30, approximately 5 miles west of Soda Springs, Idaho.



## Activity 1, California Dreamin' Maze

Emigrants traveled to the West for numerous reasons. Some wanted to settle new land. Some wanted to explore and experience adventures. And some wanted to start a new life on the frontier. The emigrants could choose numerous paths on the Oregon-California Trail to reach their destinations. Some routes were more dangerous but reduced the time it took to get to their final destination. Help the settlers face the dangers of the trail and make it from Sheep Rock to California, which is where they want to start a new life panning for gold.



## Activity 2, In a Settler's Shoes

Put yourself in a settler's shoes. Imagine you are a settler in 1840, and everything you own is with you as you're traveling on the Oregon-California Trail. You are leaving from the Eastern United States with your family to start a new life on the frontier in the West. Settlers didn't have computers or cell phones. The ability to send emails and text messages was unimaginable. There were specific stagecoaches that delivered letters, but even mail took a lot longer to reach its destination than it does today. Write a letter to one of your friends, and tell them what traveling on the trail is like. Tell them how you feel and the hardest parts about traveling on the trail.



A large rectangular area with a textured, aged parchment background. It contains 15 horizontal blue lines for writing, spaced evenly across the page.



## Activity 3, Be Aware of Your Surroundings

Emigrants traveling on the Oregon-California Trail experienced many dangers. Sometimes they faced robberies, severe weather, illness, and wild animals like mountain lions. Also, food was sometimes hard to come by, and the travelers had to be sure not to accidentally eat poisonous plants. The travelers had to pay attention and be aware of their surroundings all the time. The following words are some of the places and things you would see along the Oregon-California Trail. Find and circle the words.

L	F	N	R	M	N	U	H	S	W	S	K	S	L	F
O	B	O	Q	E	R	O	R	M	O	P	A	N	H	A
P	A	S	R	D	V	E	G	D	N	G	N	I	S	A
O	J	T	U	T	V	I	A	E	J	S	I	A	T	F
J	M	N	F	I	H	S	R	T	R	A	M	T	A	Y
C	N	A	R	C	P	A	N	R	U	O	A	N	R	K
D	O	L	P	R	K	B	L	O	A	D	L	U	S	E
N	Y	P	I	D	G	B	R	L	G	E	S	O	R	I
A	I	N	R	O	F	I	L	A	C	A	B	M	W	B
L	G	S	N	A	K	E	S	H	N	R	W	C	I	K
S	E	E	R	T	E	J	E	E	O	Y	M	G	E	T
R	E	H	T	A	E	W	X	Z	X	R	H	N	R	F
O	F	P	E	F	C	O	U	M	U	I	S	A	A	J
S	H	E	E	P	R	O	C	K	L	Y	I	E	I	X
O	G	A	E	S	A	J	Q	L	K	L	Z	J	A	C

ANIMALS  
BEAR RIVER  
BIG HILL  
CALIFORNIA

FORT HALL  
HORSE  
LAND  
MOUNTAINS

OREGON  
OXEN  
PLANTS  
RIVERS

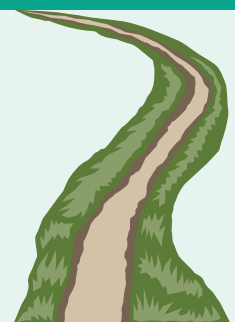
SHEEP ROCK  
SNAKES  
SODA SPRINGS  
STARS

TRAIL  
TREES  
WAGON  
WEATHER



### Leave No Trace ☼ Choose the Right Path

- Stay on the main trail. Don't use shortcuts to get up or down switchbacks.
- If there is no trail, try to walk on the bare patches of soil, or step on rocks. Many plants will not survive if stepped on.
- Try to find campsites that are already used instead of creating new ones. Good campsites are found, not made.



# Area 4: The Fabulous Formation Springs



Formation Springs is one of several mineral springs located northeast of the town of Soda Springs, Idaho, and at the base of the Aspen Mountains. The cold, crystal clear springs flow into the pools and creek system. The springs also deposit large amounts of minerals, which create unique rock formations called travertine.

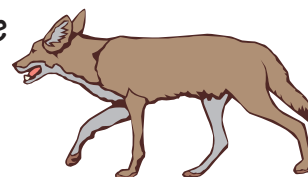
**Directions:** From Soda Springs, take ID-34 E/E. Hooper Ave for approximately 2.8 miles. Turn right onto Trail Canyon Road, and continue for about 1.8 miles. Turn left near the signs to Formation Springs and park.

## Activity 1, Who Made That Track?

Many birds and other wildlife are attracted to the habitat surrounding Formation Springs because it provides a great source of drinking water, plants, shelter, and food. When animals drink near the edge of water, they often leave tracks behind. By drawing a line, match the track on the left with the animal that made it on the right.



Coyote



Deer



Elk



Fox



Hawk



Owl



Rabbit



Squirrel



## Activity 2, Can You See Me?

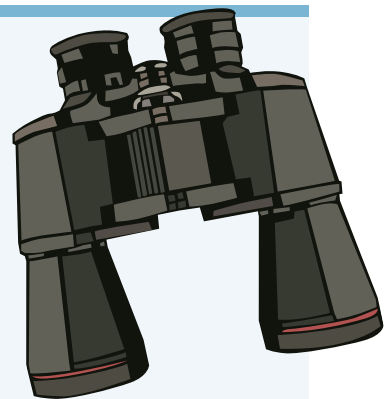
When the colors, patterns, or body shapes of an animal allow it to blend into the background, it is called camouflage. Camouflage makes animals harder to see. This helps them escape predators or hunt more efficiently. Circle the camouflaged animals you find in the environment below.



Who's Hiding? Chicks • Deer • Elk • Coyote • Hawk and fledglings • Lizard • Moose • Owl • Snake • Skunk

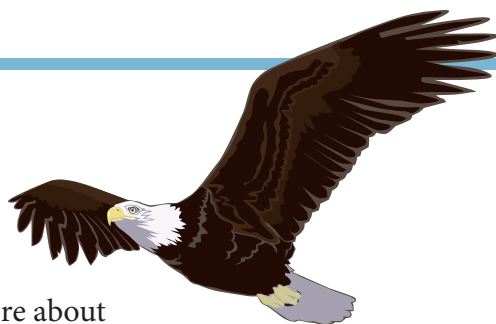
### **Leave No Trace** ❁ **Respect Wildlife**

- Observe animals from a distance, and never approach, feed, or follow them.
- Human food is unhealthy for all animals, and feeding them starts bad habits.
- Never touch a wild animal, even if it looks hurt. The best way to help is to tell a ranger or responsible adult.
- Control pets at all times (or leave them at home) so they don't bother wildlife.



### Activity 3, On the Search for Treasure

What does Formation Springs look like to an eagle?  
From this aerial view you can see its distinct features.  
Follow the clues on this photograph to find the hidden treasure  
on the ground. Start by reading the information sign to learn more about  
Formation Springs. Hint: If you're looking for the treasure don't cross over the water.



Write down what you found:

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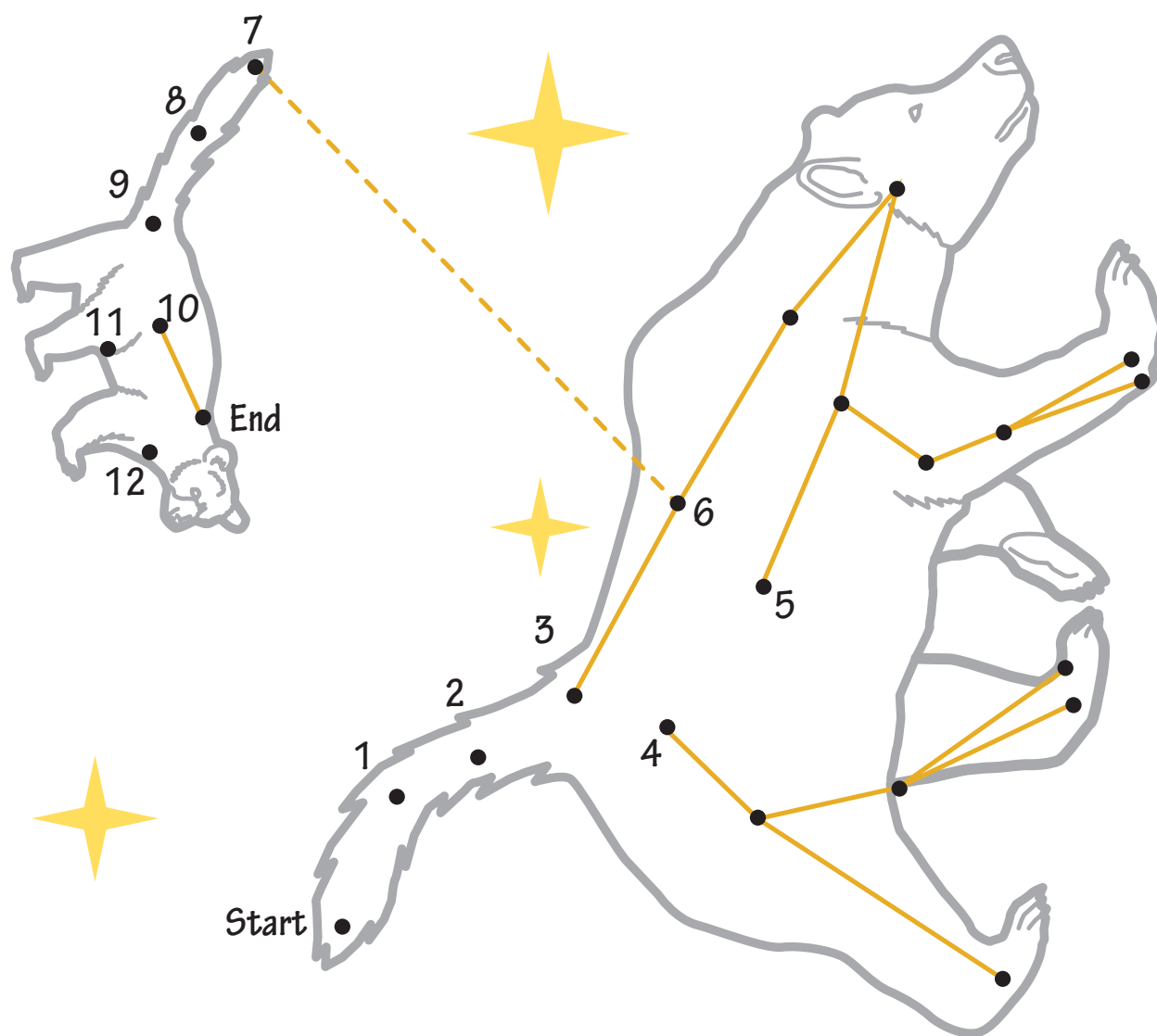
# Area 5: Get Packing, Go Camping



There are a lot of campgrounds to explore in the Pocatello Field Office, with nearly 100 campsites. Each campground has cool activities to try like fishing, hiking, biking, swimming, enjoying s'mores, and seeing stars. A list and map of BLM campsites in the Pocatello area can be found at [www.blm.gov/id](http://www.blm.gov/id).

## Activity 1, Connect the Stars

You can enjoy the stars at any of the BLM's campgrounds. Notice how many more you can see and how much brighter they are away from the city lights. Have you ever tried to find constellations in the night sky? A constellation is a group of stars that makes a shape in the sky, and many of them have cool stories behind them. Connect the dots below to see what this famous constellation looks like in the night sky. Check out a book in your local library to learn more about the many constellations.

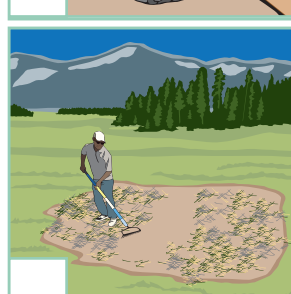
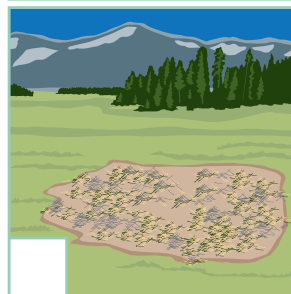


## Activity 2, How to Use Fire Responsibly

It's fun to sit around a campfire with your family while camping. The fire provides light and warmth, and, most importantly, it can be used to cook food and roast s'mores. However, fire can be dangerous if not properly watched and managed. In this activity, write the number of the safe campfire step in the picture that shows what the step says.

### Steps for a Safe Campfire

1. Call before you go! Call the local fire district to see if campfires are allowed where you are going.
2. Bring a shovel or rake and a bucket of water to keep handy in case some fire escapes the fire pit.
3. Choose a place that is away from dry logs, steep slopes, dry grass, leaves, bushes, or overhanging branches.
4. Clear all leaves and forest floor litter away, down to the bare earth, for at least 5 feet around the fire.
5. Dig a shallow pit in the center of the cleared area, and surround it with rocks.
6. Keep extra wood, paper, your tent, and any other items that can burn away from the fire.
7. After you light the fire, throw the hot match into the fire (not on the ground).
8. Never leave a campfire burning when no one is there to watch it. Even a small breeze could cause the fire to spread.
9. When you are done, put the fire out completely. Start by drowning the fire with water.
10. Then stir the fire with a shovel and drown it with more water, continuing until the fire is out—COMPLETELY OUT!

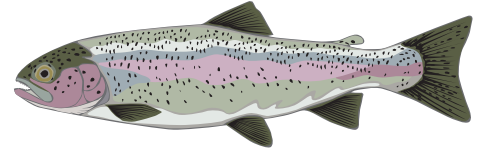


## Activity 3, Fishing for Clues

The Pocatello Field Office has many rivers, lakes, and reservoirs for you to enjoy, such as Blackfoot Reservoir, Hawkins Reservoir, Bear Lake, Oneida Narrows, Snake River, and Blackfoot River. These popular locations provide plenty of fishing opportunities. Fishers can catch trout, carp, whitefish, or even bass, depending on the location. To identify some of our local fish, unscramble the fish names next to their pictures.

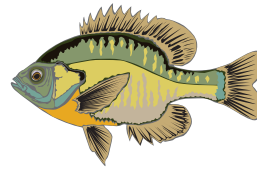
WNRIBAO TURTO

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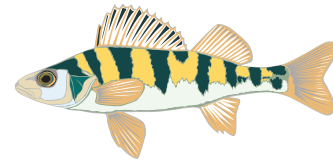
GLLBEIUL

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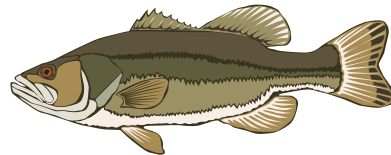
CHPER

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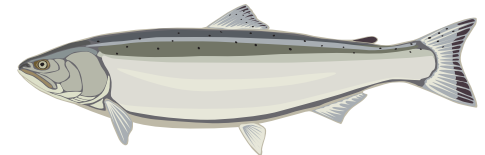
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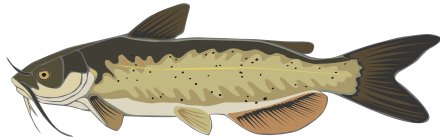
CHOO NLMAOS

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SCHATFI

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### **Leave No Trace ☼ Be Kind to Other Visitors**

- Make sure the fun you have outdoors does not bother anyone else.
- Remember that others are there to enjoy the outdoors too.
- Listen to nature.
- Avoid making loud noises or yelling.
- You will see more animals if you are quiet.







## Junior Ranger Pledge

As a Bureau of Land Management Junior Ranger, I promise to:

Do all I can to help preserve and protect  
the natural and cultural resources on our public lands,

Be aware of how my actions can affect  
other living things and the evidence of our past,

Keep learning about the importance of nature and our heritage,

And share what I have learned with others!

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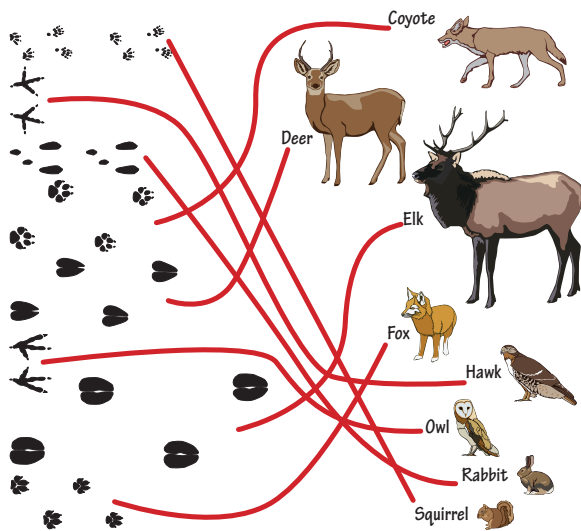
Date

Ranger Signature





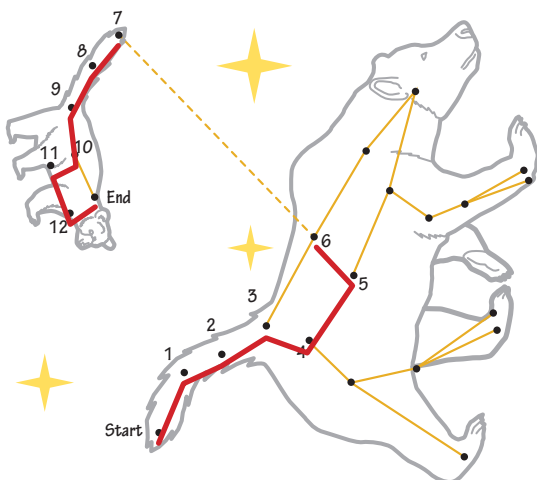
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Area 5, Activity 2, How to Use Fire Responsibly -  
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RAINBOW TROUT  
BLUEGILL  
PERCH  
BASS  
COHO SALMON  
CATFISH





You can watch YouTube videos about Big Hill, Sheep Rock,  
the Blackrock-Chinese Peak Trail System, Pocatello campgrounds, and more at  
[www.youtube.com/user/BLMIDAHO/](http://www.youtube.com/user/BLMIDAHO/).

