

## DESCRIPTION OF SITES

**SITE 1.**—Wood River, 6 miles above Ketchum, Idaho, at Forest Camp in Sawtooth National Forest on U.S. Highway 93. A broad river valley closely forested with spruce and fir is set in rolling open hills, patched with timbered areas and interspersed with open grasslands. The stream is clear and gentle in gradient and is easily accessible along most of its length from the paved highway which goes up the valley. Several forest campgrounds exist and a considerable length of the valley is within the National Forest.



**SITE 2.**—Salmon River, a quarter of a mile above Stanley, Idaho, on U.S. Highway 93. A broad nearly treeless valley, surrounded by low hills, is traversed by a large clear stream of very uniform gravel bed. The stream is nearly straight and is lined in some places by willow brush. Some low forest-covered hills can be seen in the distance. The valley contains some ranches and sporadic settlements. Access to the river is extant for some miles from the paved highway which goes along the valley.

**SITE 3.**—Middle Fork Salmon River at Dagger Falls, Idaho, in Challis National Forest, at end of a side road off the road between Cape Horn and Warm Lake. In a gorgelike valley bottom, a large clear river courses between rock outcrops and tumbles over gravel or bedrock riffles or falls. Though the enclosing mountains are many hundreds of feet high, the views are confined by heavy spruce and fir timber and are restricted mostly to view of nearby hilltops only. The gravel forest road dead ends at the river site, where there is a forest campground. At some seasons of the year, salmon can be observed leaping the falls in migration. The site is a launching place for river boat expeditions.





SITE 5.—Hells Canyon of the Snake River, below Hells Canyon Dam. In broad green smooth pools alternating with sharp rapids, the very large river flows between rocky spurs which nearly everywhere reach to the water's very edge. The rough and bare spurs rise in cliffs and steps upward at a steep angle from the river to what seems immense heights. On bends in the canyon and where one can look up steep tributary valleys, far vistas of still higher cliffs and mountain tops are visible. The immense river is nearly dwarfed by the imposing rock palisades, colored in the dark tones of basalt and reddish metamorphic rock. Clusters of trees and open patches of grass hang on steep scarps or on local level ramparts. Access through much of the distance is by trail cut in the steep hillside rock and by obscure roads leading to a few widely scattered ranches.

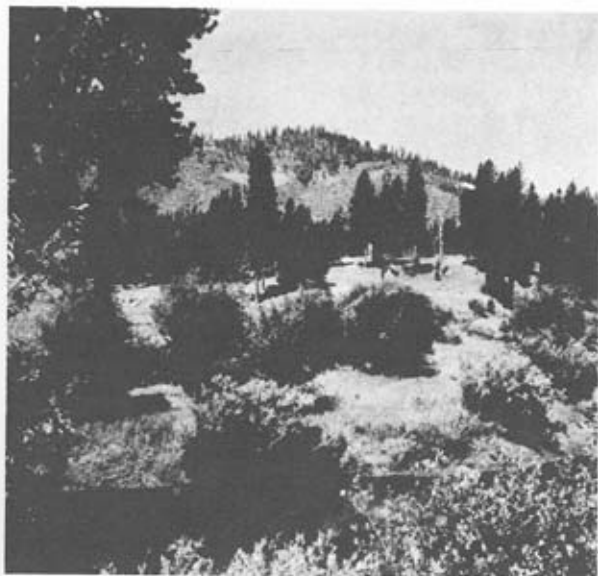


SITE 4.—South Fork Salmon River, near Warm Lake, Idaho, at campground. In a broad open valley, a nearly clear stream flows between borders of willow, alder, and fir woods and is incised about 8 feet below the general valley floor. Distant forested hills are visible. Except for its incised position below the grasscovered terrace, the river is accessible from the road which follows the valley.

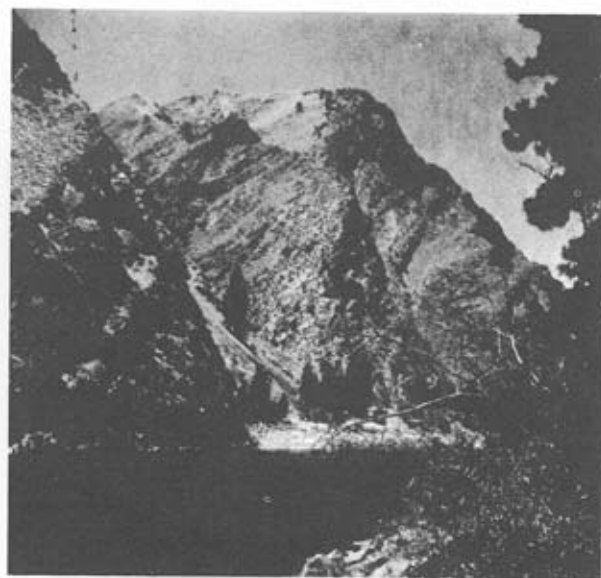


SITE 6.—Weiser River at Evergreen Forest Camp on U.S. Highway 95, south of Pine Ridge, Idaho. A small boulder stream of cloudy water flows in a narrow, brush-enclosed notch surrounded by low hilltops completely forested in cutover and second growth fir and spruce. A well-traveled, paved highway goes along the valley cut into the hillside. Views are absent owing to confining adjacent hills and heavy timber.

SITE 7.—Little Salmon River, 6 miles north of New Meadows, Idaho, on U.S. Highway 95. A shallow, turbid, and algae-infested stream curves in a meandering and partly braided course through a wide, flat valley floor. Vegetation on the nearby low hills is mixed between pine and grass and there are open views of more distant hillsides of low mountains covered by scattered timber.



SITE 8.—Little Salmon River, below Boulder Creek, 4 miles south of Pollock, Idaho. A nearly clear river alternates between bouldery pools and sharp rapids in a shallow but narrow valley bounded by completely forested hillslopes. Access is available for long distances through the paved highway which follows the valley.

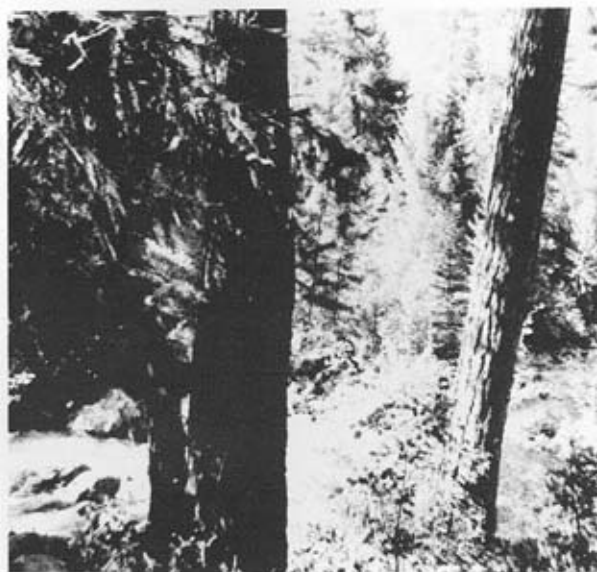


SITE 9.—Salmon River, 2 miles below Riggins, Idaho, near U.S. Highway 95. A broad, deep, nearly clear river of deep green flows smoothly between rugged cliffs and rock slopes pitching sharply down to the water's edge with only occasional gravel beach. The cliffs rise tier on tier in treeless giant steps. Small narrow valleys notching the rock slopes hold ribbons of pine and fir. The valley, despite its steep sides, is wide enough to provide long vistas to distant and even higher mountain tops. The paved highway goes down the valley on a terrace some 40 feet above the river.



SITE 10.—Salmon River at Carey Falls, 20 miles above Riggins, Idaho. A large clear green-hued river tumbles over big rapids alternating with fast pools. A mixed fir and open grass parkland rises steeply from the water's edge and broad V-shaped valleys open long vistas to forested peaks in the far high horizon. So steep and high are the sides of the main valley that the nearby mountain tops are hidden, but long vistas in several directions display ever more distant mountain crests in receding waves of horizons. An unpaved road winds dangerously along a cut in the steep mountainside and narrows to a single track which ends at Carey Falls.

SITE 11.—French Creek, 1 mile above mouth where it joins main Salmon River and at place where the road up French Creek leaves the valley and enters the switchback zone up the mountainside. A narrow, steep-sided, forested valley hides a rushing torrent. Near the stream no concept of the depth of valley or height of mountains can be gained for there are no lookout openings. An unpaved road steeply follows up the valley and then turns into narrow and precipitous switchbacks up the mountain, where the road is labeled "single lane, no turnouts."



SITE 12.—North Fork Payette River, near Smiths Ferry, on State Highway 15. In a forested, broadly open valley a swift, somewhat murky river of high gradient tumbles in a nearly continuous rapid. A railroad, powerline, and paved highway follow the river closely. No distant mountains are visible despite the broad openness of the valley.