



November 21, 2016

House of Representatives
State of Idaho

Dear Supt. Holmes

In an effort to increase public awareness of Idaho culture, history and natural beauty, we are again encouraging school districts throughout Idaho to observe IDAHO DAY in 2017 and every year thereafter. Because March 4 falls on a Saturday, celebrations will be held on Friday, March 3. This year's theme will be, "IDAHO THE BEAUTIFUL."

Please encourage your schools and teachers to recognize the day in some unique way. Even an announcement on the intercom with some inspirational Idaho thought would be beneficial. The more our young people learn about Idaho, the more they will desire to promote her well being.

Celebrations nourish the human spirit. How blessed we are to live in Idaho. Her name conjures up images of wide open spaces, lonely winding rivers and mountain peaks slowly fading into sunset. Romance lies in her name. Freedom lies in her name.

Sincerely, Linden Bateman

Love Idaho



43 Facts about the 43rd State

Celebrate Idaho Day – March 4th

Idaho's History

- On August 12, 1805, members of the Lewis and Clark expedition were the first white men to enter what is now Idaho and placed the first American flag into Idaho soil.
- Idaho was the last state discovered by Europeans.
- Assistance provided by the Shoshone and Nez Perce Indian tribes made it possible for the Lewis and Clark expedition to pass through Idaho.
- President Abraham Lincoln signed the act creating the Idaho Territory on March 4, 1863. William Wallace, Idaho's first governor and later delegate to Congress, was invited by President Lincoln to attend Ford's Theater.
- Idaho entered the Union as the 43rd state on July 3, 1890.
- Kullyspell House, a trading post on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille, was the first building erected in Idaho. (1809)
- The Cataldo Mission, near Kellogg, is the oldest building standing in Idaho. (1853)
- The first water rights filed upon Snake River water was entered by the Eagle Rock and Willow Creek Canal Company on June 11, 1880.
- The Great Seal of Idaho was designed in 1890 by Mrs. Emma Edwards Green, the only state seal designed by a woman.
- The first alpine chairlift was used in Sun Valley in 1936. The fee was .25 cents per ride.

Idaho's Geography & Outdoor Gems

- Idaho has 83,557 square miles, about the size of Great Britain, and has a population of 1.6 million.
- Idaho's mountains rise to a height of 12,662 feet. Lewiston has the lowest elevation at 756 feet. Mt. Borah is Idaho's highest mountain and was once located three miles under water.
- Idaho has 3,100 miles of rivers, more than any other state; there are over 2,000 lakes.
- The city of Lewiston has the farthest inland sea port on the Pacific Coast of the United States.
- Idaho has more roadless alpine wilderness areas than any other state except Alaska.
- Hells Canyon (a mile deeper than the Grand Canyon) is the deepest gorge on the North American continent.
- 63% of Idaho is public land.

Turn the page for more interesting facts about Idaho. ➡

- The Salmon River has no dams and is the longest stream lying wholly within one state.
- Bruneau Dunes State Park contains North America's tallest single structured sand dune, measuring 470 feet high.
- Higher than Niagara, Shoshone Falls, on the Snake River near Twin Falls, plunges over a rim nearly a thousand feet wide and drops two hundred and twelve feet down.
- The "Craters of the Moon" National Monument presents a volcanic landscape that played a pivotal role in the first successful moon landing.
- The Hagerman Fossil Beds hold some the best preserved prehistoric horse fossils in the United States.
- The Shoshone Ice Caves present an elaborate network of lava tubes that have been iced over by air currents making it one of Idaho's natural wonders.
- Henry's Fork is arguably the single most proclaimed fly fishing trout stream in the United States.
- Idaho has the largest nesting area in the world for eagles, hawks and falcons.
- Elk River is the home of the Idaho Champion Western Red Cedar Tree, the largest tree in the state. Estimated to be over 3,000 years old, this giant is more than 18 feet in diameter and stands 177 feet tall.
- Idaho lies halfway between the equator and the North Pole.

Idaho's People & Places

- According to FBI statistics, Idaho has one of the lowest crime rates west of the Mississippi.
- Idaho has five Native American tribes: Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute.
- Television was invented in Rigby, Idaho, by Philo Farnsworth.
- Boise hosts the largest Basque population in America.
- Oakley has more 19th century homes per capita than any other town in Idaho.
- The Statehouse in Boise is geothermally heated from underground hot springs.
- The Perrine Bridge in Twin Falls is the only man made structure in the United States where base jumping is allowed year-round without a permit.

Idaho's Industry, Commerce & Agriculture

- Idaho's big money makers (industry) are: agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, timber and mining.
- The National Reactor Testing Station near Idaho Falls became the world's first site to use nuclear fission to produce electricity.
- Electrical power rates in Idaho have been the lowest in America.
- Idaho is the leader in producing lambs as well as one of the top wool producing states in the nation.
- Idaho has the second largest unbroken stretch of irrigated farm land in the United States.
- Idaho is the largest producer of small seeds in America: alfalfa, onions, carrots, beans, clover, etc.
- Roughly 85% of all commercial trout produced in the U.S. come from Hagerman Valley.
- Known as the Gem State, Idaho produces 72 types of precious and semi-precious stones, more than any other state.
- Idaho is the number one producer of potatoes, barley, trout, Austrian winter peas and lentils.

BIRTH OF IDAHO

By Representative Linden Bateman

The early settlement of Idaho's rugged and isolated frontier landscape was marked by hardship, confusion, uncertainty and sometimes chaos. Members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the first white men to enter Idaho, found the Lolo Trail to be the most perilous stretch of their journey. They may have perished without aid from the Shoshone and Nez Perce Indians.

Idaho was a place to pass through, and not to settle until 1860 when a group of Mormon farmers founded Franklin, Idaho's first town. Thinking they were in Utah, the settlers were actually in Washington until the Idaho territory was founded in 1863 from parts of Washington Territory, all of Montana and most of Wyoming. Gold had been discovered in Northern Idaho, the Boise Basin and in Western Montana bringing thousands of settlers into the region. This led President Abraham Lincoln to sign the act creating Idaho Territory at 4:00 a.m. on March 4, 1863.

Idaho was chosen as a name for the new territory by senators Henry Wilson of Massachusetts and Benjamin Harding of Oregon, who thought Idaho was an Indian word for "Gem of the Mountains", later also interpreted to mean "Sun Coming over the Mountains". Fond attachments to these interpretations linger even though historians now know that Idaho is a made-up name not derived from any Indian language.

The name Idaho conjures up images of wide open spaces, lonely winding rivers, and mountain skies slowly fading into sunset. Romance lies in her name. Freedom lies in her name.

The early years of territorial government were strenuous and sometimes chaotic. After being appointed by President Lincoln, Idaho's first Governor William Wallace spent most of his eleven month term traveling to the remote new capitol at Lewiston where he organized the government. Idaho's second governor, the colorful Caleb Lyon signed legislation moving the capitol to Boise due to population growth in the region, but then fled, fearing a lawsuit brought by outraged citizens in Lewiston. For two months Idaho had no governor. Clinton DeWitt Smith was appointed acting governor, but died of alcoholism seven months later.

The next acting governor, H.C. Gilson stayed in Idaho long enough to steal the entire state treasury of \$41,000. Caleb Lyon then returned only to be dismissed for being too friendly with Indians. He fled Idaho again taking with him \$46,000 in Indian Agency funds. David Ballard, Lyon's replacement was nearly driven from office by Confederate sympathizers before being rescued by federal troops from Ft. Boise.

Only 17,000 people lived in Idaho in 1870, but mining activities continued to develop along with farming, ranching and forest industries which brought new settlers to the Territory. The population doubled after the railroads arrived during the 1870's and early 1880's and the mighty Snake River was now poised to provide water to transform arid landscapes into an agricultural paradise gilded in a thousand shades of green. Statehood beckoned, yet one major crisis lay ahead.

During territorial days the northern and southern sections of Idaho began to drift apart. With its mining and timber industries, and communications to eastern Washington, the north seemed to have little in common

with the agricultural south. No road connected the two sections until 1919. Things reached a crisis in 1887 when Congress actually passed legislation which would have dismantled Idaho, giving the northern section to Washington and the south to Nevada, which had been losing population as a result of declining mining industry.

Determined not to allow the dismemberment of Idaho, Territorial Governor Edward A. Stevenson telegraphed President Grover Cleveland urging that the legislation be vetoed. Stevenson was a pioneer farmer from the Payette Valley who loved Idaho.

For two days the destiny of Idaho rested with Grover Cleveland who eventually pocket vetoed the bill. When it seemed likely that Congress would reintroduce the bill during its next session, Governor Stevenson traveled to Washington and helped convince Congress to drop the legislation. Idaho was saved and went on to become America's 43rd state, one hundred and twenty-five years ago in 1890.

Last year the Idaho Legislature established an official IDAHO DAY to be celebrated this year and every year on March 4th. Idaho Day honors those pioneers and statesmen who launched the first lonely assaults on the sagebrush wilderness and whose energy, faith and devotion founded a state and helped to mold the rugged sense of independence which still marks our people today.

Thank you Grover Cleveland, Edward Stevenson and all the pioneers who helped to create our beloved state.