

SETTLEMENT OF SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO, WITH REFERENCE TO FISHERIES RESOURCES

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When European-Americans arrived in what became southeastern Idaho, they began living in an environment that Indians had been using for probably 10,000 years. Because no single location offered sufficient resources year round, native people migrated seasonally, making a living without diminishing the resources of any single area. Archaeological evidence indicates that the native people of eastern Idaho relied on aquatic resources, primarily whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*), and salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.). The first permanent European-American settlements in Idaho Territory date to the 1860s, when members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints moved northward from Cache Valley, Utah. Large-scale settlement of Idaho and the other western states came with the introduction of the railroad. In 1874, the first railroad, the narrow gauge Utah Northern, entered Idaho Territory at Preston. By 1880, the railroad had reached the Montana border. In 1885, the entire 245 miles of narrow gauge track from Pocatello to Silver Bow, Montana was widened. Other railroads later linked outlying cities, including Mackay (1901) in the Sinks Drainages. The railroad brought not only people and economic expansion; it also brought nonnative fish. Historical records indicate that trout were not native to the Big Lost River, but in 1896 or 1897 wagons went from Mackay to Blackfoot to get fish that had been transported there by train. These fish were stocked into the Big Lost. In June 1914, the railroad brought 100,000 trout to Mackay for introduction into Warm Springs Creek, a Big Lost tributary.