Idaho Oregon
Snake River Water Trail

Reach Maps
There's nothing . . . absolutely nothing . . . half so much worth doing as simply messing around in boats.

Kenneth Grahame,
The Wind in the Willows
REACH 3
CJ Strike to Swan Falls

Legend
◆ Point of Interest
水务 Launch
- River Miles

Land Ownership
State
NPS
BLM
Private
USDA
USFS

1 inch = 1 miles

Reach 3 Start Reach 2 End
Locust Park
Scout Park
CJ Strike Dam
REACH 3
CJ Strike to Swan Falls

Legend
- Point of Interest
- Boat Launch
- River Miles

Land Ownership
- State
- NPS
- BLM
- Private
- USDA
- USFS

1 inch = 1 miles
People have floated, camped, fished and farmed along the Snake River for at least the last 11,000 years. We can be certain that not all of these people referred to this miraculous, western waterway as the Snake River. Just during the last 250 years the river we call the Snake has had a surprising array of names.

Currently, it is believed that the Snake River was named for the people that lived along its reaches, most likely Shoshoni Indians. Plains Indians to the east referred to these nomadic bands as the “Snake”.
Idaho State Historical Society Reference Series indicates that Blackfeet found Shoshoni sticks with snake heads painted on them in 1784 which may have contributed to the term “Snake”. The conventionalized sign language used by Indians to designate these people is a sort of snake-like motion and the Plains Siouan language term for the people along the Snake River was snake or rattlesnake. Regardless, as explorers ventured west into the land of the “Snake” they followed their river.

Spring snow melts of the Two Ocean Plateau in Yellowstone National Park are responsible for the Snake and Missouri Rivers. Together they constitute over 5000 miles of American riverways flowing into two oceans. Rills of Wyoming, runoff destined to be the Snake River, capture each other, filling Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park. Lake water spills through Jackson Hole, flows west through Wyoming’s Snake River Canyon and exits at Alpine Junction. Idaho catches the Snake at Palisades Reservoir.

As the Snake River flows east it captures the Henry’s Fork, the Teton River, the Portneuf River and the Raft River. On its lower course it captures the Bruneau River, the Malad River, the Boise River, Owyhee River, Malheur, Payette, Weiser and Burnt Rivers. After capturing the Salmon, the Grande Ronde and Clearwater Rivers, it joins the Columbia River on its way to the Pacific. The Snake River flows 1,040 miles through four western states. It drains about 108,000 square miles, gouging the deepest canyons in North America.

On a parallel course of thought, the time line of human occupation along the Snake River begins with broad spectrum foragers, semisedentary foragers and eventually equestrian foragers or bison dependent tribes. French expeditions failed twice, in the late 1700’s, to contact the “Snake” Indians. The French sought the Snake River as a convenient way to the Pacific Ocean. After Louisiana was transferred to the United States, the Lewis and Clark Expedition succeeded in exploring the lower Snake River. The Astor Expedition, John C. Fremont, Benjamin Bonneville, the British Northwest Company and Hudson Bay Company sent large expeditions along the Snake River in search of furs and precious metals. In the middle 1800’s the Oregon Trail which followed much of the Snake River through Idaho brought a major influx of Euro-American settlers to the State.

The modern history of the Snake River is studded with dams. Dams for irrigation of agricultural areas and dams for the generation of hydroelectric power are found all along the course of the Snake River. Arguably, dams created the economy of modern Idaho. Tamed reaches or wild, cradled in steep canyons or spread across fertile valleys, the nation’s fourth largest river, The Snake, is the life vessel of Idaho.

### Other Names for the Snake River:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paiupa</th>
<th>Yampa-pah</th>
<th>Po-og-way</th>
<th>Road River</th>
<th>Sagebrush River</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barlow’s Fork</td>
<td>Lewis Fork</td>
<td>Lewis River</td>
<td>Mad River</td>
<td>Saptin River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoshone River</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REACH 7
Marsing to Homedale

Legend
- Point of Interest
- Boat Launch
- River Miles

Land Ownership
- State
- NPS
- BLM
- Private
- USDA
- USFS

1 inch = 1 miles

Island Park Boat Ramps
Reach 6 End Reach 7 Start