

City of Rocks National Reserve Foundation Statement

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Foundation Statement Overview

Purpose of the Foundation Statement

The Foundation Statement is used to guide current and future planning and management of City of Rocks National Reserve (Reserve). The Foundation Statement contains a description of the Reserve's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, primary interpretive themes, special mandates, and the legal/policy requirements for administration and resource protection. The primary advantage of developing a Foundation Statement is the documented understanding of what is most important about the Reserve that provides the basis for future planning and decision-making.

Elements of a Foundation Statement

The legislation that created the City of Rocks National Reserve guided the planning team in understanding and documenting why Congress and the president created the Reserve. The Foundation Statement defines each of the following elements:

Purpose

The purpose is a statement of why Congress and/or the president established the reserve as a unit of the national park system. The purpose statement provides the most fundamental criteria against which the appropriateness of all planning recommendations, operational decisions, and actions are tested. The purpose of the Reserve is based its enabling legislation and legislative history.

Significance

Guided by legislation and the knowledge acquired through management, research, and civic engagement, statements of significance define what is **most important** about the reserve's resources and values. In developing the significance statements, the planning team focused on the attributes that make the Reserve's resources or values important enough to be included in the national park system. City of Rocks National Reserve contains many significant resources, but not all these resources contribute to why the reserve was designated.

The purpose and significance statements are used to guide all planning and management decisions to ensure that the resources and values that Congress and the president wanted preserved are the reserve's first priority.

Fundamental Resources and Values

The City of Rocks National Reserve works to ensure that those resources and values that are fundamental to maintaining the Reserve's significance are preserved for public enjoyment. Understanding the resources and values that support each significance statement will provide managers and planners with a focus on what is truly most important about a park. If the fundamental resources and values are degraded, then the significance of what is **most important** about the reserve may be jeopardized.

Defining the fundamental resources and values does not preclude the consideration of other important resources and values. The National Park Service planning process calls for a rigorous analysis of the impacts of proposed actions on all components of the environment, particularly those resources and values determined to be so important nationally or locally that they are protected by law.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The analysis articulates the importance of each fundamental resources and values, their current conditions, potential threats, and the issues that need consideration in planning and management. Included in the analysis is the identification of relevant laws and NPS policies related to the preservation and management of the resources. In addition, the stakeholders who have a substantial

interest in the preservation or management of a particular resource are identified. This section of the Foundation Statement will require periodic reviews and updates as monitoring and research improves our understanding of each fundamental resource and value.

Primary Interpretive Themes

Primary interpretive themes describe what needs to be interpreted to provide visitors with opportunities to understand and appreciate the purpose and significance of the Reserve. The themes are the key stories and concepts of the reserve. The development of primary interpretive themes provide the foundation on which the reserve's educational and interpretive program is based.

Special Mandates

Special mandates are legal requirements and administrative commitments that apply to the Reserve. These special mandates may include direction from Congress or formal agreements with other public or private entities. The special mandates are identified to ensure their consideration in all planning and decision making about the national reserve.

Descriptions and Location of City of Rocks National Reserve

In the Albion Mountains of the Northern Great Basin, City of Rocks National Reserve is a unique geologic area with granite pinnacles and monoliths. This area has long been an oddity and wonder, especially for passing emigrants of the California Trail (1843-1869). One emigrant artist, James F. Wilkins, named the area that contained these geologic features - City of Rocks in 1849.

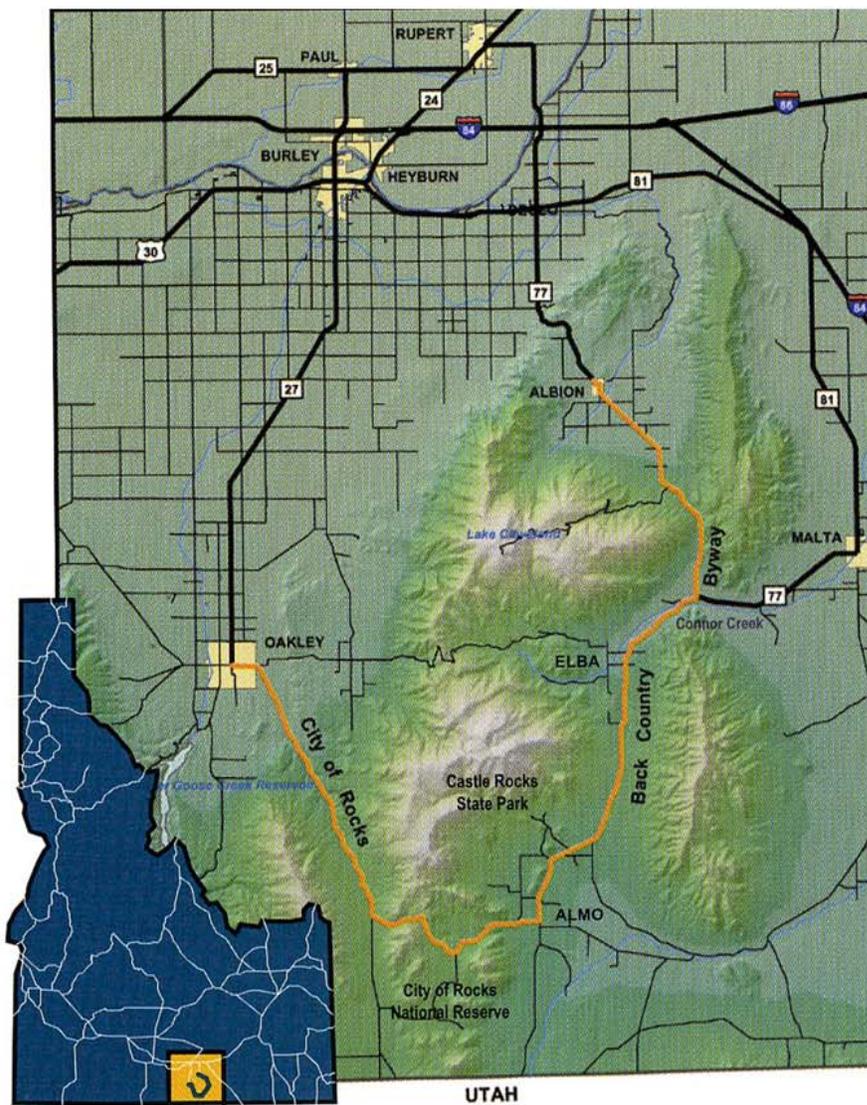
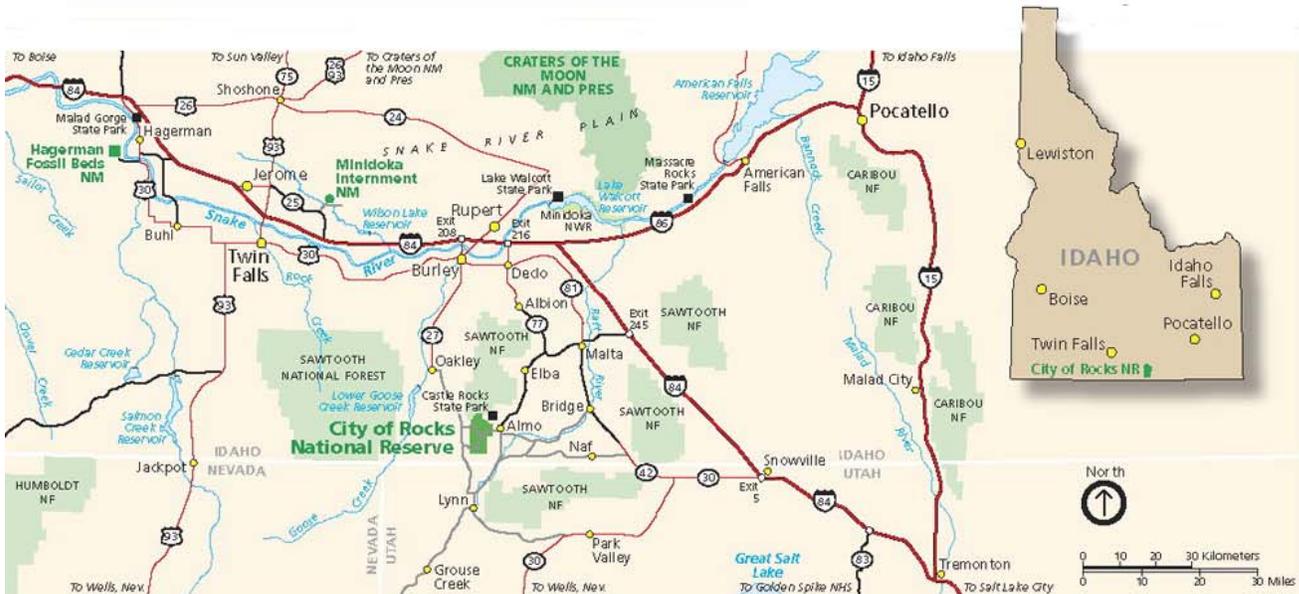
By the 1870s only a few ranchers and farmers had settled in the surrounding area (including Almo, Idaho and Junction Valley, Idaho). As early as the 1920s, City of Rocks has been recognized as an outstanding landscape worthy of the status as a national monument due to its unique cultural resources, scenic quality and potential for high quality recreation. In 1964 it was designated a national historic landmark. In 1974 it received designation as a national natural landmark, and Section 36 was transferred to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation from the Department of Lands.

The National Park Service (NPS) studied the area periodically throughout the 1970s and 80s. City of Rocks National Reserve was created November 18, 1988, by Public Law 100-696, Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988. This act drew a 22 mile boundary around lands owned or managed by the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and private individuals. After the approval of the *1994 City of Rocks National Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan*, the Park Service officially transferred on-site management of the reserve to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation on May 2, 1996.

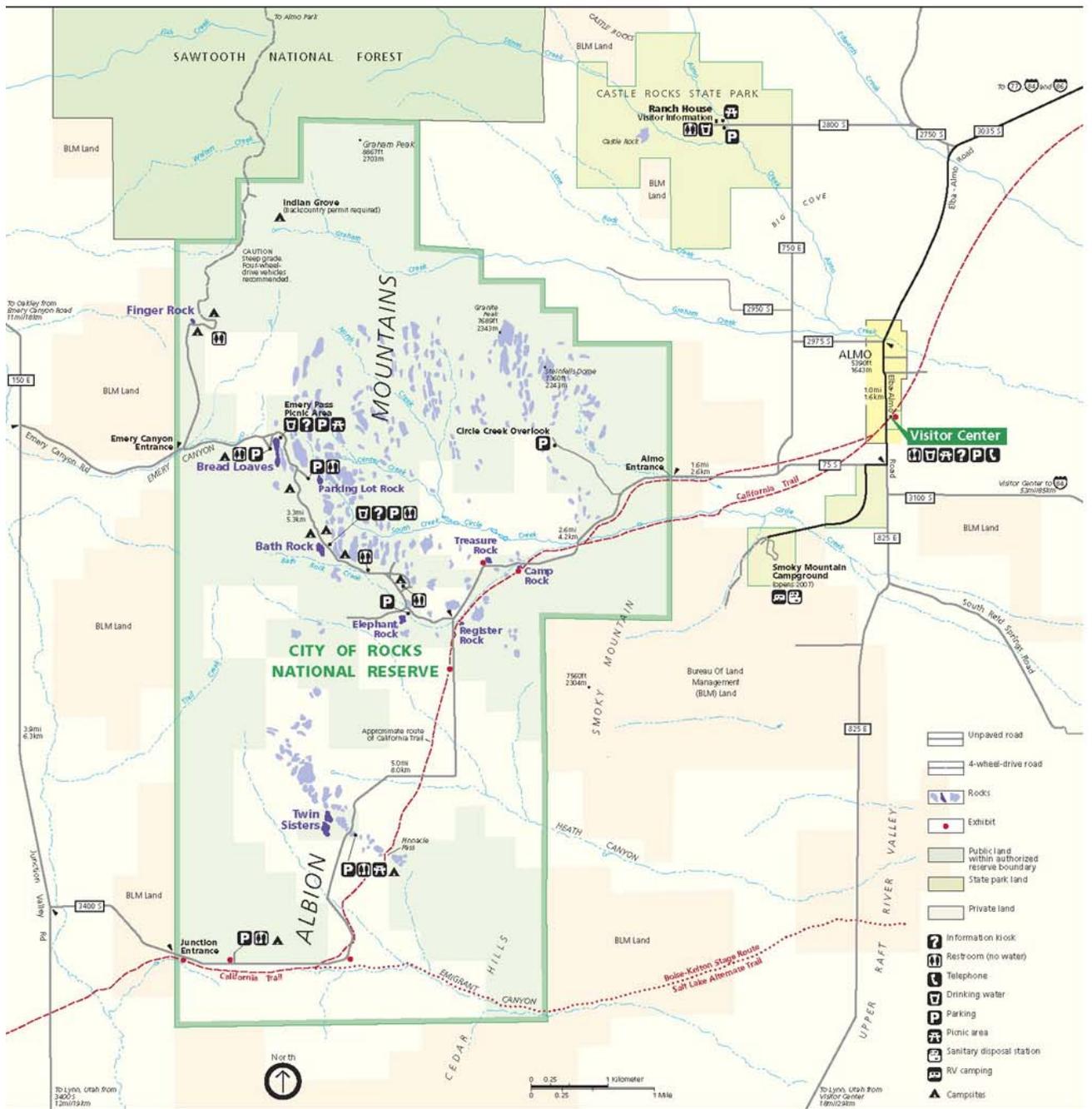
These 14,407 acres preserve and protect a 6.2 mile segment of the congressionally designated California Historic Trail and the surrounding cultural landscape. That landscape also includes a portion of the Salt Lake Alternate (of the California Trail), Mormon Battalion Trail, Kelton-Boise Stage Route, remnant trail ruts, and emigrant signatures written with axle grease. Other cultural resources include prehistoric artifacts, homesteads, irrigation and ranching improvements, and mica mines. The grazing of cattle on private lands in the reserve and on seven authorized allotments continues today. Elevation in the reserve ranges from 5,720 feet (East Entrance) to 8,867 feet (Graham Peak). Total relief is 3,147 feet. The geologic features have become world renown for rock climbing and academic study. The natural resources are diverse. Vegetation communities include sagebrush steppe, piñon-juniper woodlands, mountain mahogany woodlands, and higher forest communities of aspen, sub-alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and limber pine. There are more than 498 species of plants, 130 birds, 5 amphibians, 14 reptiles, and 56 mammals documented or expected in the reserve. Idaho's only known population of cliff chipmunks is in the reserve and on adjacent lands. Other fauna of note include mountain lion and big-horn sheep, which have been reintroduced a few miles north, but on rare occasions are observed within the reserve.

Today the Reserve offers camping, climbing, hiking, backpacking, equestrian riding, mountain biking, sight-seeing, and much more. About 80,000 visitors pass through the reserve annually, primarily between April 1 and October 30. Many come from the metropolitan areas of the Wasatch Front in Utah or the populated areas of southern Idaho (Boise, Twin Falls, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls). Nearly every state is represented in visitor registers and on camping receipts — with Wyoming, California, Colorado, and Oregon most frequently listed. Foreign countries (about 15 to 20) are also represented annually. Although the Reserve is open year-round, the roads are often impassable in winter.

Map - Regional Area and City of Rocks Back Country Byway



Map - City of Rocks National Reserve



Purpose of City of Rocks National Reserve

City of Rocks National Reserve was created to preserve and protect through cooperative efforts the scenic qualities and attributes of the California Trail landscape, historic rural setting, and granite features, while interpreting its values and managing recreation.

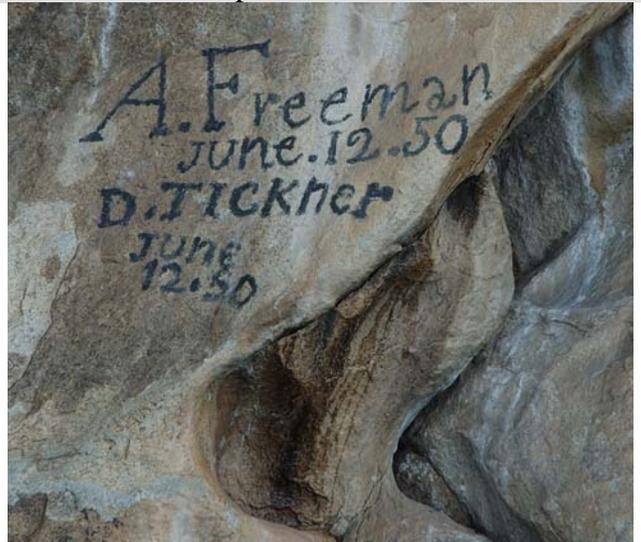
Statements of Significance and Primary Interpretive Themes

City of Rocks National Reserve — Significance Statement 1

As part of the largest overland emigration route in American history, the Reserve preserves the most intact and authentic setting of the California Trail. City of Rocks served as a landmark and critical refuge that inspired numerous written accounts of the landscape.

Primary Interpretive Theme

City of Rocks was a major landmark for emigrants traveling along the California Trail. City of Rocks provided rest and inspiration for the many weary travelers who were heading for Granite Pass and ultimately for California or Oregon.



City of Rocks National Reserve — Significance Statement 2

The Reserve has a timeless natural quality and protects and preserves outstanding scenery set among sculpted granite monoliths framed by the Albion and surrounding mountains.

Primary Interpretive Theme

The timeless scenery of City of Rocks National Reserve is broad and expansive yet accessible and personal. People develop a personal relationship with this landscape as evidenced by pioneer journals and comments from modern-day visitors.



City of Rocks National Reserve — Significance Statement 3

The Reserve embraces the western rural setting by preserving remnants of traditional occupation, transportation, and land use of prehistoric and historic peoples.

Primary Interpretive Theme

The rural historic setting of City of Rocks National Reserve and the surrounding area reflects the traditional western rural lifestyles of the people who live here.



City of Rocks National Reserve — Significance Statement 4

The Reserve is a dramatic geologic landscape with naturally sculptured spires and domes that evoked emotional responses as recorded in emigrant diaries and from visitors of today.

Primary Interpretive Theme

Erosion of a cross-jointed granite pluton has resulted in the formation of a maze of spires and domes that are noted for their impressive scenery, stark silence, and inspirational qualities.



City of Rocks National Reserve — Significance Statement 5

The Reserve preserves an uplifted and eroded landscape that reveals geologic structures, igneous intrusions, and a rare exposure of some of the oldest and deepest crustal metamorphic rocks in the western United States.

Primary Interpretive Theme

The uplifted and eroded rocks at City of Rocks National Reserve are like an open window into the earth where visitors and scientists can view tectonic (ancient geologic) events that raised the mountainous interior of the western United States and surficial processes that are shaping the current landscape.

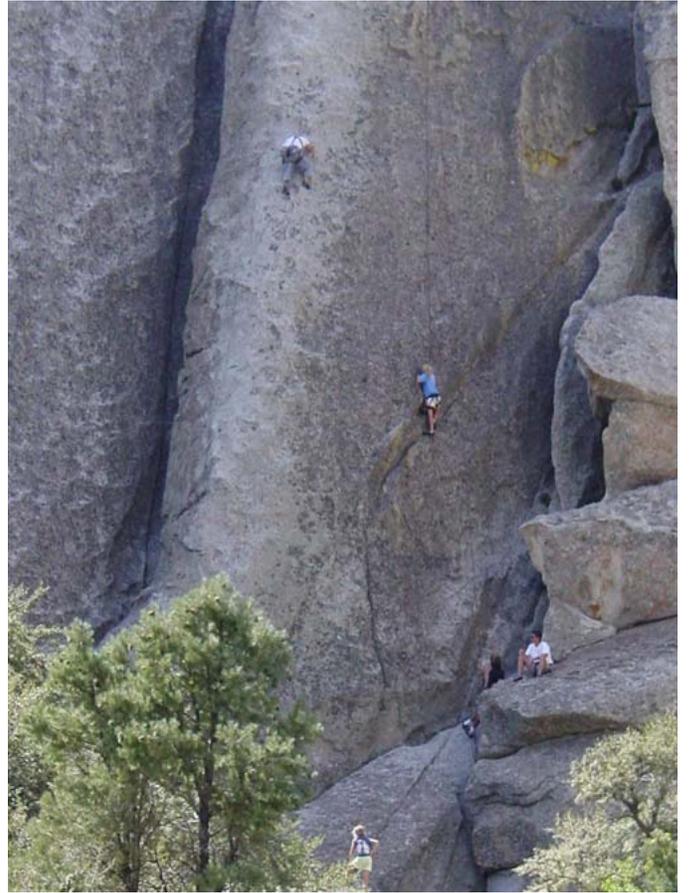


City of Rocks National Reserve — Significance Statement 6

The Reserve provides one of the highest quality granite face-climbing areas in the United States.

Primary Interpretive Theme

People come from around the world to experience the challenge of climbing the rocks in a quiet and scenic western setting.



Fundamental Resources and Values

The following fundamental resources and values are critical to maintaining the significance of City of Rocks National Reserve. The fundamental resources and values are listed along side the significance statement that they support.

Significance Statement 1	Associated Fundamental Resources and Values
<p>As part of the largest overland emigration route in American history, the Reserve preserves the most intact and authentic setting of the California Trail. City of Rocks served as a landmark and critical refuge that inspired numerous written accounts of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1) California Trail remnants and artifacts, such as wagon ruts, inscriptions, and encampments 1.2) Diaries, art, and other written records documenting the experiences and thoughts of emigrants passing through City of Rocks 1.3) Historic vegetation communities (1840-1870) observed by the emigrants 1.4) Granite landforms that provided landmarks and inspiration for the emigrants (e.g., naming of rocks) 1.5) Watering sources (springs and streams) that supported the emigrant’s experience 1.6) Archives of the Reserve that document the signatures, historic vegetation communities, and emigrant encampments
Significance Statement 2	Associated Fundamental Resources and Values
<p>The Reserve has a timeless natural quality and protects and preserves outstanding scenery set among sculpted granite monoliths framed by the Albion and surrounding mountains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1) Unobstructed views of the natural landscape, which includes towering rock pinnacles, vegetative patterns, and changing elevation 2.2) Dominance of natural sounds such as birds/wind (soundscapes) 2.3) Clear atmospheric conditions that provide for pristine airsheds and clear night skies
Significance Statement 3	Associated Fundamental Resources and Values
<p>The Reserve embraces the western rural setting by preserving remnants of traditional occupation, transportation, and land use of prehistoric and historic peoples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1) Remnant structures and features of the historic City of Rocks stage station along the historic Kelton-Boise route 3.2) Structures and features associated with historic land uses of the Reserve are evidence of ranching, mining, and dryland farming 3.3) Natural landscape of what is now City of Rocks National Reserve was used for thousands of years by different peoples
Significance Statement 4	Associated Fundamental Resources and Values

<p>The Reserve is a dramatic geologic landscape with naturally sculptured spires and domes that evoked emotional responses as recorded in emigrant diaries and from visitors of today.</p>	<p>4.1) Rare geologic landscape of densely-spaced granite spires and domes enclosed within a mountain basin</p>
<p>Significance Statement 5</p>	<p>Associated Fundamental Resources and Values</p>
<p>The Reserve preserves an uplifted and eroded landscape that reveals geologic structures, igneous intrusions, and a rare exposure of some of the oldest and deepest crustal metamorphic rocks in the western United States.</p>	<p>5.1) Geologic structures and rock types that provide opportunities for scientists and visitors to observe and understand tectonic (ancient geologic) events that raised the mountainous interior of the western United States and surficial processes that are shaping the current landscape</p>
<p>Significance Statement 6</p>	<p>Associated Fundamental Resources and Values</p>
<p>The Reserve provides one of the highest quality granite face-climbing areas in the United States.</p>	<p>6.1) World class climbing area due to the combination of excellent quality granite, a preponderance of easy to moderate well protected climbs, and a naturally quiet and austere western setting.</p>

Analysis of the Fundamental Resources and Values

1.1) California Trail	
California Trail remnants and artifacts, such as wagon ruts, inscriptions, and encampments	
Importance of this Resource	The remnants and artifacts of the California Trail are evidence of a nationally significant event. The preserved resources demonstrate the stories and facts that support the primary interpretive themes of the Reserve. These cultural resources distinguish this national park system unit from the countless miles of trail corridor that no longer provide actual evidence, bolstering their integrity and national significance.
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>The California Trail remnants and artifacts, such as wagon ruts, inscriptions, and encampments, are still obvious and recognizable. These cultural resources are well documented and investigated with ongoing study and research of the landscape and archeological resources that provide a baseline of information. The associated fundamental resources continue to degrade due to the forces of nature and will not remain into perpetuity, especially signatures and wagon ruts.</p> <p>The potential threats to the California Trail remnants and artifacts, such as wagon ruts, inscriptions, and encampments, include vandalism, cattle grazing, weather and erosion, incompatible private land uses, and visitor use impacts.</p>
Stakeholders	State Historic Preservation Office — mission is to document and protect the historic values of Idaho Oregon-California Trail Association — a nonprofit organization advocating for preservation of the trails National Trails System – Intermountain Region – National Park Service administrators of the California National Historic Trail
Laws and Policies	<p>Archeological Resources <i>Source:</i> National Historic Preservation Act; Archeological Resources Protection Act; the <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>; Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (1995); NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>; NPS “Cultural Resources Management Guideline” (DO-28, 1996)</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> Archeological sites are identified and inventoried and their significance is determined and documented. Archeological sites are protected in an undisturbed condition unless it is determined through formal processes that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable. When disturbance or deterioration is unavoidable, the site is professionally documented and excavated and the resulting artifacts, materials, and records are curated and conserved in consultation with the Idaho state historic preservation office (and American Indian tribes if applicable).</p> <p>Cultural Landscapes According to the National Park Service’s “Cultural Resource Management Guideline” (DO-28), a cultural landscape is a reflection of human adaptation and use of natural resources and is often expressed in the way land is organized and divided, patterns of settlement, land use, systems of circulation, and the types of structures that are built. The character of a cultural landscape is defined both by physical materials, such as roads, buildings, walls, and vegetation, and by use reflecting cultural values and traditions.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470); Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s implementing regulations regarding the “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800); <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i> (1996); NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>; NPS “Cultural Resources Management Guideline” (DO-28, 1996)</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> Cultural landscape inventories are conducted to identify landscapes potentially eligible for listing in the national register and to assist in future management decisions for landscapes and associated resources, both cultural and natural.</p> <p>The management of cultural landscapes focuses on preserving the landscape’s physical attributes, biotic systems, and use when that use contributes to its historical significance.</p> <p>The preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of cultural landscapes is undertaken in accordance with the <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guideline’s for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i>.</p>

Historic Structures

Source:

National Historic Preservation Act; the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*; *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*; Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (1995); NPS *Management Policies 2006*; NPS "Cultural Resources Management Guideline" (DO-28, 1996)

Policy Direction:

Historic structures are inventoried and their significance and integrity are evaluated under National Register of Historic Places criteria. The qualities that contribute to the listing or eligibility for listing of historic structures on the national register are protected in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (unless it is determined through a formal process that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable)

1.2) Written Records	
Diaries, art, and other written records documenting the experiences and thoughts of emigrants passing through City of Rocks	
Importance of this Resource	Diaries, art, and other written records document the emigrant’s experiences and history. They provide a tangible and personal evidence of a nationally significant event with specific reference to and enlightenment on the cultural landscape of the Reserve. These historic resources demonstrate and document the facts, stories, and experiences that support the primary interpretive themes. They distinguish this site, expressing the important and uniqueness of this location from the many miles of other segments of the California Trail corridor. Importantly, these fundamental resources connect the human experience with the tangible features of the Reserve. Replication of selected historic resources for distribution provide for extended educational opportunities and opportunities for visitors to “take away” part of this American experience.
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>The diaries, art, and other written records documenting the California Trail experiences are housed in museums, libraries, and private collections. As additional resources surface overtime, they are documented and republished in a useable form.</p> <p>There are not enough trained specialists in the preservation and handling of cultural artifacts and archives. In addition, the Reserve lacks the funds and personnel to tie current research with accurate interpretation of these unique resources.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>State Historic Preservation Office — mission is to document and protect the historic values of Idaho</p> <p>Oregon–California Trail Association, a nonprofit organization advocating for preservation of the trails</p> <p>Access Fund — interested in climbing and recreation issues related to the Reserve</p> <p>Cassia County Historic Society – preserving and interpreting local history</p> <p>National Trails System – Intermountain Region – National Park Service administrators of the California National Historic Trail</p>
Laws and Policies	<p>Museum Collections</p> <p><i>Source:</i> National Historic Preservation Act; American Indian Religious Freedom Act; Archeological and Historic Preservation Act; Archeological Resources Protection Act; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>; NPS “Cultural Resources Management Guideline” (DO-28, 1996)</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> All museum collections (objects, specimens, and manuscript collections) are identified and inventoried, catalogued, documented, preserved, and protected, and provision is made for access to and use of these items for exhibits, research, and interpretation. The qualities that contribute to the significance of collections are protected in accordance with established standards.</p>

1.3) Historic Vegetation	
Historic vegetation communities (1840-1870) observed by the emigrants	
Importance of this Resource	The vegetation communities of the Reserve demonstrate the resources that emigrants had available to them for fuel, food, and feed for livestock. The vegetation helps visitors to the Reserve better envision and understand the historic experience and provides essential habitat for the abundant wildlife species that emigrants encountered.
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>The vegetation communities that were observed by emigrants have been degraded and altered; the plant species are generally the same, but the composition has changed. In addition, natural conditions such as climatic changes and encroaching pinyon-juniper forests are additional threats.</p> <p>The vegetation communities as observed by the emigrants in the 1840s to 1870s are also threatened by the lack of natural fire, which has been caused by fire suppression policies and overgrazing of domestic animals.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Domestic grazing permittees Property in-holders and adjacent private ranchers and other land owners Bureau of Land Management Idaho Fish and Game Department Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation</p>
Laws and Policies	<p>Cultural Landscapes (see description in section: 1.1 California Trail)</p> <p>Ecosystem Management <i>Source:</i> NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (sections 1.5, 4, 4.1, 4.1.4, and 4.4.1)</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> The national reserve is managed holistically, as part of a greater ecological, social, economic, and cultural system.</p> <p>Natural Resources <i>Source:</i> NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>; NPS-77 “Natural Resources Management Guideline”</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> The national reserve will maintain as parts of the natural ecosystem, all native plants and animals in the national reserve.</p> <p>Threatened and Endangered Species <i>Source:</i> Endangered Species Act; equivalent state protective legislation; NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>; NPS-77, “Natural Resources Management Guidelines”</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> Federally listed and state-listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats are protected and sustained. Native threatened and endangered species populations that have been severely reduced in or extirpated from the national reserve are restored where feasible and sustainable.</p> <p>Endangered Species Act establishes U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service as the lead agencies for endangered species. Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (1973), federal agencies must consult with the two agencies regarding any actions that may adversely impact endangered species. Under Section 10, the two agencies can authorize the take of endangered species for certain actions.</p>

1.4) Landmarks	
Granite landforms that provided landmarks and inspiration for the emigrants (e.g., naming of rocks)	
Importance of this Resource	The granite landforms of the Reserve are important because they are able to visually communicate to visitors the experience and setting that the emigrants found at the City of Rocks. The granite towers will continue to serve as landmarks for the route of the California Trail long after the wagon ruts have disappeared. The rock towers served as a canvass upon which the emigrant signatures were written. Most importantly, the assortment of granite spires and domes had defined the area that became known as City of Rocks.
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	The conditions and trends of the granite landforms that provided landmarks and inspiration for the emigrants include chemical weathering and granular disintegration. The Twin Sisters are an example of how the landforms are being further protected from human caused impacts by closing these pinnacles to climbing activity. Scholarly research continues into the unique geologic and cultural landscapes dominated by the granite spires and domes of the Reserve. Threats to geologic landmarks and their surficial features could result from inappropriate climbing techniques and climbing on fragile features as well as vandalism.
Stakeholders	Domestic grazing permittees Property in-holders and adjacent private ranchers and other land owners Bureau of Land Management Idaho Fish and Game Department Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation NPS – National Natural Landmarks Program
Laws and Policies	Cultural Landscapes (see description in section: 1.1 California Trail) Geologic Resources <i>Source:</i> NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> ; NPS-77, “Natural Resources Management Guidelines” <i>Policy Direction:</i> The national reserve’s geologic resources are preserved and protected as integral components of the natural systems.

1.5) Water	
Watering sources (springs and streams) that supported the emigrant’s experience	
Importance of this Resource	The watering sources and springs at the Reserve help communicate the resources and stories associated with emigrants of the California Trail. It is these vital water resources that made City of Rocks a refuge in the desert. Also, water resources, critical for survival, are the primary reason why the Salt Lake Alternate of the California Trail trended considerably north in its route from Salt Lake City to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The water resource directly influenced the historic vegetation communities, attracted and concentrated wildlife that were hunted by the emigrants, and provided water for livestock.
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	The water resources of the Reserve are dwindling due to numerous factors such as: increased absorption by the encroaching juniper forest, livestock use, water diversion outside the national reserve, and years of domestic grazing. Active water management in the protected Circle Creek drainages is making improvements to the water resources of the reserve. The potential threats to the springs and streams include increased private water diversion and uses from outside the Reserve, unmanaged livestock access to the springs, sedimentation, and livestock and human waste contamination.
Stakeholders	Domestic grazing permittees Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Idaho Division of Water Resources Property in-holders and adjacent private ranchers and other landowners US Bureau of Reclamation
Laws and Policies	<p>Water Resources</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Clean Water Act; Executive Order 11514 “Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality”; NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>; NPS-77, “Natural Resources Management Guidelines”; Clean Water Act; Executive Order 12088, “Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards”; Rivers and Harbors Act</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> Surface water and groundwater are protected, and water quality meets or exceeds all applicable water quality standards. NPS and NPS-permitted programs and facilities are maintained and operated to avoid pollution of surface water and groundwater.</p>

1.6) Archives

Archives of the national reserve that document the signatures, historic vegetation communities, and emigrant encampments

<p>Importance of this Resource</p>	<p>The archives of the Reserve document the signatures, historic vegetative communities, and the encampments of the California Trail emigrants. These historic and documented resources protect the accumulated knowledge of historic events related to City of Rocks. The archives also maintain a record of the administrative history and various resource management actions that support cultural and natural resource preservation, land restoration, and other conservation strategies at the Reserve.</p>
<p>Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats</p>	<p>The archives of the Reserve continue to grow and will require an improved facility, trained personnel, and processing to achieve the Secretary of the Interior’s standards. The historic records and objects could age/deteriorate due to improper storage, inaccurate cataloging, and decreasing budgets for their preservation.</p>
<p>Stakeholders</p>	<p>State Historic Preservation Office — mission is to document and protect the historic values of Idaho Oregon–California Trail Association — a nonprofit organization advocating for preservation of the trails National Trails System – Intermountain Region – National Park Service administrators of the California National Historic Trail</p>
<p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Museum Collection <i>Source:</i> National Historic Preservation Act; Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act; Archaeological Resources Protection Act; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>; NPS “Cultural Resources Management Guideline” (DO-28, 1996); <i>NPS Museum Handbook</i></p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> All museum collections (objects, specimens, and manuscripts) are identified and inventoried, catalogued, documented, preserved, and protected, and provision is made for access to and use of these objects for exhibits, research, and interpretation.</p> <p>The qualities that contribute to the significance of collections are protected in accordance with established standards.</p>

2.1. Viewshed	
Unobstructed views of the natural landscape, which include towering rock pinnacles, vegetative patterns, and changing elevation	
Importance of this Resource	<p>Geologic landforms and scenic quality are two of four supporting significances listed in the enabling legislation in the creation of the national reserve. The unobstructed viewpoints at Circle Creek overlook and through Granite Pass allow visitors to experience a viewshed with relatively unaltered vegetative communities on the California Trail as encountered by emigrants in the 1840s to 1870s.</p> <p>Uniquely shaped granite monoliths protrude amongst diverse vegetation and elevations and provide an awe-inspiring image of the Albion mountain range. Sagebrush steppe, single-leaf pinyon and juniper, mahogany, aspen, and mixed conifer forests as well as riparian habitat provide a contrasting biotic diversity necessary for sustaining natural processes and the scenic qualities of the Reserve. In addition, the vegetative communities provide essential habitat for 130 birds species, 56 mammals, and 14 reptile and 5 amphibian species, all of which help create a natural quality that is unique to the national reserve.</p>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>Minimal development and rehabilitation of previously disturbed areas in the Reserve have allowed for park staff to maintain a relatively natural viewshed. Research projects are being conducted to investigate the vegetative communities that existed during the historic California Trail migration. This research will support management actions toward preserving the cultural landscape of the California Trail. Modern intrusions that do exist in the relatively unaltered viewshed include a county road, a power line that follows along the California Trail, a private residential house, a parking lot overlook, and campsites.</p> <p>Grazing livestock, dryland farming, mining, and fire suppression over the past century has altered the vegetative conditions including an increase in sagebrush and juniper/pinyon forests, a decrease in natural springs and healthy riparian habitats, and dispersal of nonnative plant species.</p> <p>Currently, efforts are made to mitigate potential impacts such as those of private in-holdings within the Reserve’s boundaries that can have very different land use objectives and philosophies than those associated with the Reserve.</p> <p>The potential for rezoning private land within and adjacent to the Reserve could permit new development that may affect the viewsheds. The Historic Preservation Zone which was designed to protect the historic rural setting within the Reserve, limits existing landowners to one residence and land use consistent with that of 1988 and earlier. However, the Historic Preservation Zone does not fully cover the Reserve (a portion of the southeast section of the Reserve was left out) which makes that part of the Reserve vulnerable for multiple uses, commercialization, inconsistencies in the ordinance, and failure to fully protect and preserve the historic and natural features in that area.</p> <p>Cultural landscapes and vegetation patterns could continue to be impacted by fire management, grazing of domestic livestock, and mining. In addition, development in nearby rock quarries could pose threats to its scenic quality as the quarries expand their operations.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Private landowners and permittees have a strong influence and interest in the scenic quality of City of Rocks National Reserve</p> <p>Cassia County – maintains a legal right-a-way that dissects the Reserve</p> <p>Bureau of Land Management and U.S.D.A. Forest Service (manage surrounding lands and are affected by activities in the national reserve)</p> <p>Local communities have a vested interest in activities that transpire in the Reserve; the local communities were fundamental in the push to create City of Rocks National Reserve</p> <p>National Trails System – Intermountain Region – National Park Service administrators of the California National Historic Trail</p>
Laws and Policies	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p><i>Source:</i> NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>; NPS-77 “Natural Resources Management Guideline”</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> The national reserve will maintain as parts of the natural ecosystem, all native plants and animals in the national reserve.</p>

2.2) Natural Sounds	
Dominance of natural sounds such as birds/wind (soundscapes)	
Importance of this Resource	<p>Contributing to the stunning scenery of the Reserve are the audible aesthetic sensations experienced by visitors. The reserve is referred to as the “Silent” City of Rocks, enjoyed for its namesake — silence. In addition to the natural quiet of the Reserve, there are many natural sounds such as birds singing, coyotes howling, crickets chirping, water gurgling and wind passing through the geologic formations and vegetation.</p> <p>Soundscapes are also an important dimension of the Reserve’s cultural landscapes. One can imagine in the quiet setting the creaking of passing wagon trains and the sounds of life on the California Trail (cattle grazing, dogs barking, music, voices) breaking the stark silence of the reserve.</p> <p>Silence and the natural sounds of the Reserve provide a serene setting for visitors to commune with nature, meditate, and experience a visual and audible solitude.</p>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>No current baseline inventory has been conducted to measure or record the sounds of the Reserve. The area surrounding the Reserve has remained rural and agricultural. High-level commercial and military overflights are present, but there is no collected data as to whether or not this activity is changing.</p> <p>There is likelihood of increased commercial and low level military overflights. There is also the potential for low-level air tours of the national reserve. Routine maintenance activities, such as road grading, road construction, and use of chainsaws, chippers, leaf blowers, and mowers could intrude on the natural soundscape. Visitor activities such as vehicle noise and development in and adjacent to the Reserve could also contribute to deterioration of the natural soundscape.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Audubon Society Climbing groups The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe National Outdoor Leadership School Idaho Outfitters and Guides – who are licensed to operate within the Reserve</p>
Laws and Policies	<p>Natural Soundscape <i>Source:</i> NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, DO 47, “Sound Preservation and Noise Management”; Executive memorandum signed by President Clinton on April 22, 1996</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> An important part of the NPS mission is to preserve or restore the natural soundscapes associated with national park system units. The sounds of nature are among the intrinsic elements that combine to form the environment of our national park system units. The National Park Service preserves the natural ambient soundscapes, restores degraded soundscapes to the natural ambient condition wherever possible, and protects natural soundscapes from degradation due to human-caused noise. Disruptions from recreational uses are managed to provide a high-quality visitor experience while preserving or restoring the natural quiet and natural sounds.</p>

2.3) Air Quality	
Clear atmospheric conditions that provide for pristine airsheds and clear night skies	
Importance of this Resource	The pristine air quality allows visitors to the Reserve to experience clear views, spectacular scenery, and dark night sky in conditions similar to those of emigrants traveling on the California Trail. Maintaining pristine airsheds ensures that pollution will not affect resources in the Reserve such as scenery, water quality, soils, vegetation, and wildlife. Clean air is important for the health of the surrounding local population and park staff and visitors to the Reserve.
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>Air quality in the Reserve is managed by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with oversight from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As of March 15, 2006, parts of four counties in Idaho had been designated as “nonattainment” for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulates. All other areas in Idaho, including the Reserve, were in attainment or were unclassifiable (insufficient monitoring data) for the six criteria pollutants: ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate (both fine particulate and ultra-fine particulate), and lead.</p> <p>Due to its proximity, the air quality in the Reserve is affected by air pollution from Utah. As of March 15, 2006 all or part of the following counties in Utah had been designated as nonattainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulates. This included Salt Lake, Utah, Weber, and Ogden counties. In addition, all or part of Salt Lake and Tooele counties were in nonattainment for both the primary and secondary standards for sulfur dioxide. Lastly, part of Utah County was in nonattainment for carbon monoxide.</p> <p>The National Park Service monitors ozone, wet and dry deposition of sulfur and nitrogen, and visibility at Craters of the Moon National Park and Monument. Additional monitoring is conducted by the USDA Forest Service and the Idaho State Department of Environmental Quality. In addition, passive ozone monitoring was conducted at the Reserve during summer 2004. An assessment of the potential for foliar damage from ozone in the Reserve was conducted in 2004 based on the sensitivity of native vegetation to ozone, the estimated exposure levels of ozone, and the environmental conditions that foster or inhibit gas exchange and the uptake of ozone by plants. The ozone risk was rated as moderate for the Reserve — the highest rating in the Pacific Northwest.</p> <p>According to National Park Service’s 2004 GPRA report, the 10-year air quality trend is deteriorating throughout the interior west. At Craters of the Moon, the nearest NPS monitoring site, ozone concentrations have been increasing. Deposition of ammonium is also increasing. There is not yet sufficient data to assess trends in visibility. (The 2005 draft report shows the same trends.)</p> <p>Both near and distant air pollutant emission sources could affect air quality at the Reserve. Vehicle traffic along the I-80 corridor contributes significant amounts of pollutants, and projections are for traffic, especially truck traffic, to increase over the next 10 years. The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory emits significant amounts of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, and is the highest emitter of hazardous air pollutants in the state. The city of Pocatello, Idaho has large mineral and chemical plants with significant emissions. There are two sugar beet processing plants in adjacent counties (Twin Falls and Minidoka Counties). In addition, mining operations and agricultural activities (including field burning), wind-blown dust from fields and roads and wildland fires contribute air pollution that could affect the national reserve. Distant sources, including urban pollution from Salt Lake City, coal-fired power plants, large gold mines in northeast Nevada, industrial facilities, and agricultural and wildland fires could also affect air quality in the Reserve.</p> <p>The short-term trends toward increased air pollution are expected to worsen due to increased population growth throughout the west, intensification of agriculture, climate change, and the large number of coal-fired power plants planned for the west including two in southeast Idaho. The City of Rocks National Reserve is a Class II area for air quality as designated under provisions of the Clean Air Act.</p> <p>Light scattering pollutants (haze) from near and distant air pollution sources could impact visibility in the national reserve. Resources that are potentially sensitive to pollution include scenery, water quality, soils, vegetation, and wildlife.</p> <p>The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is currently investigating the link between increased mercury concentrations in southeast Idaho and large reported emissions of mercury from three gold mines in northeast Nevada.</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition is increasing throughout the interior west, especially in the form of ammonium. Nitrogen acts as an unnatural fertilizer, altering soil nutrient cycling and vegetation species composition. Native plants that have evolved under nitrogen-poor conditions are replaced by weedy invasive species that are able to take advantage of increased nitrogen levels, which in turn increases the risk of wildfire. In addition, ozone pollution is increasing and poses a potential threat to vegetation. And, climate change is likely to exacerbate the effects of air pollution.</p> <p>Development within and immediately surrounding the Reserve is minimal. Future development on in-holdings in and adjacent to the Reserve depends on zoning regulations enforced by Cassia County. As development grows,</p>

	<p>the night sky could be impacted by surrounding light pollution. In addition, future development could impact the airshed through increased emissions from many sources such as traffic, wood-burning stoves, and industrial and other development.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Idaho Department of Environmental Quality - which routinely assesses outdoor (ambient) air quality to satisfy federal regulatory requirements and scientifically determine the quality of Idaho's airsheds.</p> <p>Local communities -that are interested in maintaining high level of air quality</p>
Laws and Policies	<p>Air Quality <i>Source:</i> Clean Air Act, NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>; NPS-77, "Natural Resources Management Guidelines"</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> Air quality in the park meets national ambient air quality standards for specified pollutants. The park's air quality is maintained or enhanced with no significant deterioration. Nearly unimpaired views of the landscape in and outside the national reserve are present. Scenic views are substantially unimpaired.</p> <p>Lightscape Management/Night Sky <i>Source:</i> NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> Excellent opportunities to see the night sky are available. Artificial light sources in and outside the Reserve does not unacceptably adversely affect opportunities to see the night sky.</p>

3.1) Stage Station	
Remnant structures and features of the historic City of Rocks stage station along the historic Kelton-Boise route	
Importance of this Resource	The City of Rocks stage station is one of only a few remaining stage stations in the United States that contain historic remnants and is along the Kelton-Boise route. This layover station, which included a blacksmith shop, is documented in historical photos and diaries.
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>The historic setting of the City of Rocks stage station has been preserved but is on private property and is not included in the county's Historic Preservation Zone. Remnants of the City of Rocks stage station dwellings are plainly visible. City of Rocks National Reserve continues to pursue purchase of the privately owned lands that contain this cultural resource.</p> <p>In addition, the deterioration of the historic features, potential for fire, and changes in landownership could all impact this cultural resource.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Owner of the property that contain cultural resources</p> <p>State Historic Preservation Office — mission is to document and protect the historic values of Idaho</p> <p>Oregon–California Trail Association — a nonprofit organization advocating for preservation of the trails</p> <p>Cassia County Historic Society</p> <p>National Trails System – Intermountain Region – National Park Service administrators of the California National Historic Trail</p>
Laws and Policies	<p>Cultural Landscapes (see description in section: 1.1 California Trail)</p> <p>Historic Structures (see description in section: 1.1 California Trail)</p> <p>Relations with Private and Public Organizations, Owners of Adjacent Lands, and Government Agencies <i>Source:</i> NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i></p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> The City of Rocks National Reserve is managed as part of a greater ecological, social, economic, and cultural system. Good relations are maintained with adjacent landowners, surrounding communities, and private and public groups that affect, and are affected by, the national reserve. The Reserve is managed proactively to resolve external issues and concerns and ensure that the Reserve values are not compromised.</p> <p>Because the Reserve is an integral part of larger regional environment, the National Park Service works cooperatively with others to anticipate, avoid, and resolve potential conflicts, protect national reserve resources, and address mutual interests in the quality of life for community residents. Regional cooperation involves federal, state, and local agencies, Indian tribes, neighboring landowners, and all other concerned parties.</p>

3.2) Historic Land Uses

Structures and features associated with historic land uses of City of Rocks National Reserve are evidence of ranching, mining, and dryland farming

<p>Importance of this Resource</p>	<p>The Tracy house ruins, corrals, fences, and stock ponds/irrigation system are preserved examples of early 20th century ranching. Remnants of mica mining activity are evidence of early 20th century mining activities in the Reserve. Cattle drives and grazing are historic ranching activities that continue within the Reserve. Failed attempts at dryland farming are also evident in the landscape.</p>
<p>Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats</p>	<p>The stone walls of a privately owned historic house exist in the Reserve. Remnants of stock pond/irrigation system, corrals, and wooden fences exist from the early 20th century. Remnants of a mining shaft and mining shacks demonstrate additional historic land uses in the Reserve. The Reserve’s staff is working to preserve these cultural resources, rehabilitate specific historic features of the stock pond/irrigation system, and close the mining shafts for visitor safety.</p> <p>Grazing viability declines because of juniper and sagebrush encroachment. Erosion could impact the dams in the stock pond/irrigation system so that rehabilitation could not occur. The loss of ranching activities in the Reserve could impact the historic western rural scene.</p>
<p>Stakeholders</p>	<p>Area ranchers – permittees within the national reserve Area residents – with an interest in maintaining historic land uses State Historic Preservation Office — mission is to document and protect the historic values of Idaho Adjacent land use management agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.</p>
<p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Cultural Landscapes (see description in section: 1.1 California Trail)</p> <p>Historic Structures (see description in section: 1.1 California Trail)</p>

3.3) Prehistoric	
Natural landscape of what is now the City of Rocks National Reserve was used for thousands of years by different peoples	
Importance of this Resource	<p>Archeological artifacts and features are the physical remains of past ways of living and provide evidence of people’s adaptations to their natural and cultural environment. Scientific investigations of these resources can (1) provide a historical narrative about culture and technological change that spans thousands of years, (2) provide regional and area-specific data about ecological changes including shifts in climate and biota, and (3) provide information about other topics concerning past relationships between people and their environment. The important resource characteristics that are of primary concern for management are as follows:</p> <p><i>Artifacts</i> (stone tools and debitage, ceramics, and perishable objects like bones and botanical remains) are the primary source of information used to reconstruct aspects of life in the past. This includes artifacts, field notes, and other documents (collections) stored in a repository for future research as well as artifacts that remain where they were deposited.</p> <p><i>Features</i> (hearths, stacked rocks, and dwelling floors) contribute data and insight about the past. Landscape features as they related to the human experience provide insight into decision-making processes of people who occupied the area in the past (barriers, shelter, and travel corridors and landmarks).</p>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>The current conditions of prehistoric sites in the Reserve are considered unknown, while historic sites (especially those related to the California Trail) are informally monitored and are generally stable.</p> <p>In 2005 findings and recommendations from an audit of the systemwide archeology database outlined deficiencies in information accuracy and integrity. These findings spurred a national mandate to correct the deficiencies at each park unit within an identified timeframe. City of Rocks National Reserve needs to complete site condition assessments for all sites found on NPS property by the close of fiscal year 2008 to comply with the third detail of the mandate. This detail states, “(3) Accurate and verifiable information about new site discoveries, site additions through land transfer into a park, site condition assessments, destroyed sites, and site losses through land transfer must be entered into the Archeological Site Management Information System (ASMIS) in a timely manner that is within three months of the date that the work was performed and before the end of the fiscal year in which the work was accomplished.” Apart from conducting condition assessments, there is also the task of entering backlogged sites into the database, cleaning up the existing ASMIS data to address data accuracy, and updating those records to reflect the new field requirements outlined by the standards committee in 2005.</p> <p>There have been few directed archeological research investigations at the Reserve. Instead, most archeological projects have been tied to compliance clearance and inventory needs. Sites in the national reserve are currently expected (but not professionally determined) to have significant data potential for a wide range of topics related to high-desert adaptations.</p> <p>Potential threats to all archaeological sites include unapproved or illicit digging, recreational artifact collecting, vandalism to archeological and landscape features, trampling and wallowing caused by cattle, private land uses that include ground disturbance, weather and erosion over time, and visitor use impacts — especially the cumulative effects of various recreational activities.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Bureau of Land Management, U.S.D.A. Forest Service – archaeologist of landuse agencies State Historic Preservation Office —mission is to document and protect the historic values of Idaho Oregon-California Trail Association — a nonprofit organization advocating for preservation of the trails</p>
Laws and Policies	<p>Archeological Resources <i>Source:</i> National Historic Preservation Act; Archaeological Resources Protection Act; the <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>; Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (1995); NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, NPS “Cultural Resource Management Guideline” (DO-28, 1996)</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> Archeological sites are identified and inventoried and their significance is determined and documented. Archeological sites are protected in an undisturbed condition unless it is determined through formal processes that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable. When disturbance or deterioration is unavoidable, the site is professionally documented and excavated and the resulting artifacts, materials, and records are curated and conserved in consultation with the Idaho state historic preservation office (and American Indian tribes if applicable).</p>

The 2005 memo from Jan Matthews, Ph.D.

1. All superintendents with known archeological sites on their park land must review and sign off on the standard Superintendent's Certification report in ASMIS by September 30 of each year. These certificates must be retained as official records for accounting purposes.
2. All new site discoveries, site additions through land transfer into a park, site condition assessments, destroyed sites, and site losses through land transfer out must be adequately documented in the field. This documentation (e.g., field notes, maps) must be maintained by the park and made available, when requested, for audits and other accountability uses.
3. Accurate and verifiable information about new site discoveries, site additions through land transfer into a park, site condition assessments, destroyed sites, and site losses through land transfer out must be entered into ASMIS in a timely manner that is within three months of the date that the work was performed and before the end of the fiscal year in which the work was accomplished.
4. All archeological sites that are known, documented, and have not yet been entered into ASMIS must be entered into ASMIS by September 30, 2008 in order to have a complete, up-to-date, and accurate inventory of archeological sites at the end of each fiscal year. Following existing criteria, the \$2.3 million available annually in the SAIP funding component of CRPP may be used to fund backlog data entry. Proposed actions to eliminate the backlog in each region should be included in the regional plans described above.
5. All existing ASMIS records that do not meet the qualifications of an archeological site (see Guidelines for Defining an Archeological Site for ASMIS 6/18/01) must be entered into the Local Resource Type field by September 30, 2006, so that they are not reported for GPRA or as heritage assets.
6. The tasks outlined above are complicated at the national reserve by the fact that there are various landowners that comprise City of Rocks National Reserve.

Native American Indians

Source:

Native American Indian Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990); NPS *Management Policies 2006*; American Indian Religious Freedom Act (1978); Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites (1996); Section 207 of National Parks Omnibus Management Act (1998); Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Policy Direction:

Recognizing that its resource protection mandate affects this human use and cultural context of the Reserve resources, the National Park Service plans and executes programs in ways that safeguard cultural and natural resources while reflecting informed concern for the contemporary peoples and cultures traditionally associated with them.

4.1) Geologic Landscapes	
Rare geologic landscape of densely-spaced granite spires and domes enclosed within a mountain basin	
Importance of this Resource	<p>The granite spires and domes unearthed by differential erosion of the Almo Pluton (gneiss) are found in a variety of sizes and shapes and arranged in two distinct patterns that characterize the Silent City of Rocks – a labyrinth, commonly known as the Inner City, and encircling ridges studded with pinnacles.</p> <p>The spires and domes are nestled within a natural amphitheater encircled by several mountain ridges, the most prominent of which is the crest of the Albion Mountains forming the high western backdrop, and side ridges to the north and south which taper eastward to an outlying hogback ridge.</p> <p>Weathering has etched diverse and intriguing “facial features” into the spires and domes such as rounded cavities, windows, arches, honeycombs, concave bases, hardened crusts, blisters, pits, panholes, and cracks.</p> <p>Cassia Silent City of Rocks National Natural Landmark was designated in 1974 for its unique geology that exhibits nationally significant features, including the dominance of bornhardts, the scarcity of tors, a wide range of elevations over which these landforms are distributed, and evidence that they have been carved from the upper parts of a pluton.</p>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	The geologic features remain in pristine conditions. Natural processes such as blowing sand, freezing and thawing of water, salt corrosion and rock toppling continue to impact the geologic features. Human-caused impacts from landuse and recreational activities in addition to vandalism have resulted in some damage.
Stakeholders	The Access Fund – climbing advocacy organization. Oregon – California Trail Association, a non-profit organization advocating for preservation of the trails. Geologic Society of America
Laws and Policies	<p>National Natural Landmarks <i>Source:</i> Cassia Silent City of Rocks - National Natural Landmark 1974.</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> The national natural landmarks program was established by the Secretary of the Interior to identify, recognize, and encourage the protection of sites containing the best remaining examples of ecological and geological components of the nation’s natural heritage.</p> <p>Geologic Resources <i>Source:</i> NPS Management Policies 2006; NPS-77, “Natural Resources Management Guidelines”; Sec. 201(a) of Public Law 100-696 identifying the purpose for establishing City of Rocks National Reserve.</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> The national reserve’s geologic resources are preserved and protected as integral components of the natural systems.</p> <p>Air Quality <i>Source:</i> Clean Air Act, NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>; NPS-77, “Natural Resources Management Guidelines”</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> Air quality in the park meets national ambient air quality standards for specified pollutants. The park’s air quality is maintained or enhanced with no significant deterioration.</p> <p>Nearly unimpaired views of the landscape both within and outside the park are present. Scenic views are substantially unimpaired.</p>

5.1) Geologic Evidence	
Geologic structures and rock types that provide opportunities for scientists and visitors to observe and understand tectonic (ancient geologic) events that raised the mountainous interior of the western United States and surficial processes that are shaping the current landscape	
Importance of this Resource	<p>The geology at City of Rocks National Reserve is internationally significant for studying continental tectonic processes and understanding past geologic events that contributed to the development of the western cordillera of North America.</p> <p>The Reserve, located in the Albion Mountains, is part of a larger geologic terrain that shares a common set of rock units, deformation, and metamorphism known to the geological community as the Raft River-Grouse Creek-Albion Mountains metamorphic core complex. Approximately two dozen metamorphic core complexes exist from northern Mexico to southern British Columbia, but only portions of three lie within units of the National Park System. Scientifically, each metamorphic core complex is like a window into the earth's surface and exposed to the light of day. As a result, some of the oldest and deepest crustal metamorphic rocks in the western United States can be investigated at City of Rocks National Reserve.</p> <p>The Reserve displays a breached anticline within the metamorphic core complex. Unroofing of the anticline exposed a granite core where subsequent differential erosion has created a landscape pin cushioned with spires and domes. The geological and environmental setting of the Reserve provides opportunity to investigate multiple hypotheses on the processes of weathering and differential erosion in the formation of granite landscapes.</p>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>The metamorphic core complex, breached anticline and granite landforms and features are obvious and recognizable. These geologic resources are still being studied and documented. Tectonic scale forces would be required to change the condition of the geologic structures and most of the granite landforms. Natural weathering and erosion processes will continue to change the surface features on the granite spires and domes. Delicate surface features, such as honeycombs and blisters, may be easily broken by pressure applied from a finger. Consequently, as visitation increases these fascinating features are at greater risk of damage while being examined by curious visitors. Perched rocks and small spires, especially those with a tapered base, are susceptible to toppling from vandalism or during an earthquake.</p>
Stakeholders	Geological Society of America
Laws and Policies	<p>Geologic Resources <i>Source:</i> NPS Management Policies 2006; NPS-77, "Natural Resources Management Guidelines"</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> The national reserve's geologic resources are preserved and protected as integral components of the natural systems.</p>

6.1) Climbing	
World class climbing area due to the combination of excellent quality granite, a preponderance of easy to moderate well protected climbs, and a naturally quiet and austere western setting	
Importance of this Resource	<p>City of Rocks is internationally known for its granite face climbs. Although some limestones, sandstones, and conglomerates lend themselves to face climbing, granite is usually climbed via cracks due to the relatively few features on the rock faces between the fractures. The granite of the Almo Pluton at City of Rocks is rare among granites in that these typically featureless faces are often covered with horns, holes, and hardened crusts, or plates of patina, that provide handholds and footholds for climbers.</p> <p>Because of the unique assortment and variety of surface features on the granite at City of Rocks, climbing routes are generally not difficult. This lack of extreme difficulty provides abundant climbing opportunities to climbers across a broad skill range.</p> <p>An active anchor maintenance program of climbing routes at City of Rocks increases safety and minimizes risk when compared to other cragging venues, sport climbing areas, and alpine climbing, and this program contributes to the popularity of climbing at City of Rocks.</p> <p>The remote setting and natural beauty of the landscape at City of Rocks increases its value as a climbing area by providing the solitude many climbers cherish.</p>
Current Conditions, Trends, and Potential Threats	<p>Currently, there are approximately 650 climbing routes at the City of Rocks National Reserve; at least 86 routes are on private land and are thus closed to climbing without the landowner's permission; approximately 55 routes are permanently closed by the Reserve for protection of cultural and natural resources.</p> <p>The condition of the rock climbing resources (rock, staging area, approach trails, fixed anchors) at City of Rocks has gradually improved (since the unmanaged "social trailing" days before establishment of the reserve) through the mitigation of impacts to trails and staging areas. Fixed anchors are actively maintained, and most if not all old quarter-inch bolts have been replaced. Hundreds of "middle-aged" bolts and top anchors that were placed in the 1980s will need to be upgraded in the near future.</p> <p>Anecdotal observations suggest a trend towards increasing family oriented climbing activities and diminishing vagabond climbing more typical of the 1980s and 1990s at City of Rocks National Reserve.</p> <p>A big part of the appeal of climbing at City of Rocks National Reserve is its quiet natural setting. The future development and promotion of City of Rocks National Reserve and Castle Rocks State Park result in increased visitation. This, in turn will increase traffic, noise, congestion, and perhaps competition for climbing routes.</p> <p>The current trend of improving, designating, and promoting the roads and highways leading to City of Rocks National Reserve as a back country byway will provide easier access for more people to visit the reserve, and could diminish the "off the beaten track" or isolated rural setting climbing experience.</p>
Stakeholders	<p>The American Alpine Club, The Access Fund, The Idaho Alpine Club, The Boise Climbers Alliance - alpine and climbing advocates</p> <p>The National Outdoor Leadership School, Idaho State University Outdoor Program – outdoor training programs and classes</p> <p>Weber County Search and Rescue, Minidoka County Search and Rescue, Cassia County Search and Rescue - search and rescue services</p> <p>The State Historic Preservation Office †</p> <p>The Oregon-California Trails Association</p> <p>Cassia County Commissioners</p> <p>Adjacent landuse managing agencies - Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service</p> <p>Idaho State University Outdoor Program</p> <p>National Trails System – Intermountain Region – National Park Service administrators of the California National Historic Trail</p> <p>Commercial Guides</p>
Laws and Policies	<p>Geologic Resources</p> <p><i>Source:</i> NPS Management Policies 2006; NPS-77, "Natural Resources Management Guidelines"</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> The national reserve's geologic resources are preserved and protected as integral components of the natural systems.</p> <p>Visitor Use and Experience and Park Use Requirements</p>

	<p><i>Source:</i> NPS Organic Act, National Park System General Authorities Act, NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>;</p> <p><i>Policy Direction:</i> Current laws, regulations, and policies leave considerable room for judgment about the best mix of types and levels of visitor use activities, programs, and facilities. For this reason, most decisions related to visitor experience and uses are addressed in the alternatives. However, all visitor use of national park system units must be consistent with the following guidelines.</p> <p>Park resources are conserved “unimpaired” for the enjoyment of future generations. Visitors have opportunities for forms of enjoyment that are uniquely suited and appropriate to the superlative natural and cultural resources found in the park. No activities occur that would cause derogation of the values and purposes for which the park has been established.</p> <p>For all zones, districts, or other logical management divisions within a national park system unit, the types and levels of visitor use are consistent with the desired resource and visitor experience conditions prescribed for those areas.</p> <p>Park visitors will have opportunities to understand and appreciate the significance of the park and its resources, and to develop a personal stewardship ethic.</p>
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Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Often there are special mandates or constraints that direct national park system unit planning and management decisions. The special mandates are specific directions or agreements that relate directly to the park unit. Mandates might be a legislative requirement or signed agreements that add another dimension to a park unit's purpose and significance (such as the designation of an area as wilderness or as an area that is managed by another entity, or designating something unique such as a word heritage area or biosphere reserve) or commit managers to specific actions and limit their ability to modify land use in the park unit (such as long-term cooperative agreements, or easements). There are some mandates and constraints are specific to City of Rocks National Reserve. The mandates and constraints that relate to the national park system are considered in another section of this Foundation Statement.

Management of the National Reserve

City of Rocks National Reserve is a unit of the national park system managed by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation under Cooperative Agreement 1443-CA9000-96-0002.

Use of Private Property within City of Rocks National Reserve

Private uses are subject to Cassia County ordinances which are designed to protect the historic rural setting. The Historic Preservation Zone limits existing landowners to one residence and land use consistent with that of 1988 and earlier. The Historic Preservation Zone does not fully cover the Reserve (a portion of the southeast section of the Reserve was left out) and this may not fully protect and preserve the historic and natural features in that area.

Hunting within City of Rocks National Reserve

Public Law 101-512 provides that hunting will be permitted in accordance with applicable laws of the United States and the state of Idaho, except in designated zones where and periods when no hunting may be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, floral and faunal protection and management, or public use and enjoyment.

Water Rights

Within Public Law 100-696, Congress recognized that there are unique circumstances with respect to the water and water related resources within the national reserve. Idaho has committed to providing water necessary to fulfill the purposes of the national reserve. In addition, Congress recognized that there is little or no water or water-related resources that require the protection of a federal reserved water right. There is nothing in Public Law 100-696, nor any action taken pursuant thereto, shall constitute either an express or implied reservation of water or water right for any purpose; provided, that the United States shall retain that reserved water right which is associated with the initial establishment and withdrawal of the national forest lands which will (has) be transferred to the national reserve.

Disposition and Mining

Subject to valid existing rights, federal lands and interests therein within the national reserve, are hereby (1) withdrawn from disposition under the public land laws, (2) withdrawn from entry or appropriation under the mining laws of the United States, and (3) withdrawn from the operation of the mineral leasing laws, and from operation of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended.

Workshop Participants & Preparers

City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho

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Juanita Jones, Chief of Visitor Services
Wallace Keck, Superintendent
Brad Shilling, Climbing Ranger
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National Park Service – Idaho Units

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Marsha Davis, Geologist
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Appendix A. Legislation and Land Acquisition

Public Law 100–696
100th Congress

An Act

To provide for the designation and, conservation of certain lands in the States of Arizona and Idaho, and for other purposes.

Nov. 18, 1988
[S. 2840]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act be cited as the “Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988”.

Arizona-Idaho
Conservation
Act of 1988.

* * * * *

TITLE II—CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

102 STAT. 4573

ESTABLISHMENT OF CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

SEC. 201. (a) There is hereby established the City of Rocks National Reserve (hereinafter referred to as the “reserve”), in order to preserve and protect the significant historical and cultural resources; to manage recreational use; to protect and maintain scenic quality; and to interpret the nationally significant values of the reserve.

Historic
preservation.
16 USC 460yy.

(b) The reserve shall include approximately fourteen thousand three hundred and twenty acres as depicted on the map entitled “Boundary Map, City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho” numbered P30–80,005 and dated October 1987. The map shall be on file in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior and the Offices of the Governor, State of Idaho.

(c) Within six months after the enactment of this title, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter in this title referred to as the “Secretary”) shall file a legal description of the reserve designated under this section with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. Such legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in such legal description and in the map referred to in subsection (b). The legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior and the offices of the Governor of the State of Idaho.

102 STAT. 4574

Public
information.

(Continued on the next page.)

PLAN AND MANAGEMENT OF RESERVE

State and local
governments.
16 USC 460yy-1.

SEC. 202. (a) To achieve the purpose of this title, the Secretary, acting through the National Park Service, in cooperation with appropriate State and Federal agencies, local units of government and local residents shall formulate a comprehensive plan for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of the reserve. The plan shall identify those areas or zones within the reserve which would most appropriately be devoted to—

- (1) public use and development;
- (2) historic and natural preservation; and
- (3) private use subject to appropriate local ordinances designed to protect the historic rural setting.

(b) Within eighteen months following the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall transmit the plan to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the Governor of the State of Idaho.

(c) At such time as the State or appropriate units of local government having jurisdiction over land use within the reserve have enacted ordinances or established regulations which in the judgment of the Secretary will protect and preserve the historic and natural features of the area in accordance with the comprehensive plan, the Secretary shall, pursuant to cooperative agreement—

- (1) transfer management and administration over all or any part of the property acquired under subsection (d) of this section to the State or appropriate units of local government;
- (2) provide technical assistance to such State or units of local government in the management, protection, and interpretation of the reserve; and

Grants.

- (3) make periodic grants, which shall be supplemental to any other funds to which the grantee may be entitled under any other provision of law, to such State or local unit of government to carry out the purposes of this title.

(d)(1) The Secretary is authorized to acquire such lands and interests as he determines are necessary to accomplish the purposes of this title by donation, purchase with donated funds, or appropriated funds, or exchange, except that the Secretary may not acquire the fee simple title to any land without the consent of the owner. The Secretary shall, in addition, give prompt and careful consideration to any offer made by an individual owning property within the reserve to sell such property, if such individual notifies the Secretary that the continued ownership of such property is causing, or would result in, undue hardship.

102 STAT. 4575

(2) Lands and waters, and interests therein, within the boundaries of the reserve which were administered by the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture or the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior prior to the date of enactment of this title are hereby transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary to be administered by the National Park Service in accordance with this title.

(3) Lands and interest therein so acquired shall, so long as responsibility for management and administration remains with the United States, be administered by the Secretary subject to the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and in a manner consistent with the purpose of this title.

(Continued on the next page.)

(e) If, after the transfer of management and administration of any lands pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the Secretary determines that the reserve is not being managed in a manner consistent with the purposes of this title, he shall so notify the appropriate officers of the State or local unit of government to which such transfer was made and provide for a one hundred and eighty-day period in which the transferee may make such modifications in applicable laws, ordinances, rules, and procedures as will be consistent with such purposes. If, upon the expiration of such one hundred and eighty-day period, the Secretary determines that such modifications have not been made or are inadequate, he shall withdraw the management and administration from the transferee and he shall manage such lands in accordance with the provisions of this title.

(f) Congress finds that there are unique circumstances with respect to the water and water related resources within the Reserve designated by this title. The Congress recognizes that the management of this area may be transferred to the State of Idaho, that the State has committed to providing the water necessary to fulfill the purposes of this title, and that there is little or no water or water-related resources that require the protection of a Federal reserved water right. Nothing in this title, nor any action taken pursuant thereto, shall constitute either an express or implied reservation of water or water right for any purpose: *Provided*, That the United States shall retain that reserved water right which is associated with the initial establishment and withdrawal of the national forest lands which will be transferred to the Reserve under this title.

Water.

(g) Subject to valid existing rights, Federal lands and interests therein, within the reserve, are hereby withdrawn from disposition under the public land laws and from entry or appropriation under the mining laws of the United States, from the operation of the mineral leasing laws of the United States, and from operation of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended.

(h) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$2,000,000 to carry out the provisions of this title.

Appropriation authorization.

* * * * *

Approved November 18, 1988.

102 STAT. 4612

Public Law 106-421
106th Congress

An Act

Nov. 1, 2000
[S. 1705]

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into land exchanges to acquire from the private owner and to convey to the State of Idaho approximately 1,240 acres of land near the City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho, and for other purposes.

Castle Rock
Ranch
Acquisition Act of
2000.
16 USC 431 note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **MONUMENT.**—The term "Monument" means the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, Idaho, depicted on the National Park Service map numbered 300/80,000, C.O. No. 161, and dated January 7, 1998.

(2) **RANCH.**—The term "Ranch" means the land comprising approximately 1,240 acres situated outside the boundary of the Reserve, known as the "Castle Rock Ranch".

(3) **RESERVE.**—The term "Reserve" means the City of Rocks National Reserve, located near Almo, Idaho, depicted on the National Park Service map numbered 003/80,018, C.O. No. 169, and dated March 25, 1999.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ACQUISITION OF CASTLE ROCK RANCH.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary shall acquire, by donation or by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, the Ranch.

(b) **CONSENT OF LANDOWNER.**—The Secretary shall acquire land under subsection (a) only with the consent of the owner of the land.

SEC. 4. LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **FEDERAL AND STATE EXCHANGE.**—Subject to subsection (b), on completion of the acquisition under section 3(a), the Secretary shall convey the Ranch to the State of Idaho in exchange for approximately 492.87 acres of land near Hagerman, Idaho, located within the boundary of the Monument.

(2) **STATE AND PRIVATE LANDOWNER EXCHANGE.**—On completion of the exchange under paragraph (1), the State

of Idaho may exchange portions of the Ranch for private land within the boundaries of the Reserve, with the consent of the owners of the private land.

(b) **CONDITION OF EXCHANGE.**—As a condition of the land exchange under subsection (a)(1), the State of Idaho shall administer all private land acquired within the Reserve through an exchange under this Act in accordance with title II of the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 460yy et seq.).

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—State land acquired by the United States in the land exchange under subsection (a)(1) shall be administered by the Secretary as part of the Monument.

(d) **NO EXPANSION OF RESERVE.**—Acquisition of the Ranch by a Federal or State agency shall not constitute any expansion of the Reserve.

(e) **NO EFFECT ON EASEMENTS.**—Nothing in this Act affects any easement in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

Approved November 1, 2000.

Public Law 102-328
102d Congress

An Act

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the California National Historic Trail and Pony Express National Historic Trail as components of the National Trails System.

Aug. 3, 1992

[H.R. 479]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF TRAILS.

Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by adding the following new paragraphs at the end thereof:

“() The California National Historic Trail, a route of approximately five thousand seven hundred miles, including all routes and cutoffs, extending from Independence and Saint Joseph, Missouri, and Council Bluffs, Iowa, to various points in California and Oregon, as generally described in the report of the Department of the Interior prepared pursuant to subsection (b) of this section entitled ‘California and Pony Express Trails, Eligibility/Feasibility Study/Environmental Assessment’ and dated September 1987. A map generally depicting the route shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior. No lands or interests therein outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area may be acquired by the United States for the California National Historic Trail except with the consent of the owner thereof.

“() The Pony Express National Historic Trail, a route of approximately one thousand nine hundred miles, including the original route and subsequent route changes, extending from Saint Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, as generally described in the report of the Department of the Interior prepared pursuant to subsection (b) of this section entitled ‘California and Pony Express Trails, Eligibility/Feasibility Study/Environmental Assessment’, and dated September 1987. A map generally depicting the route shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior. No lands or interests therein outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area may be acquired by the United States for the Pony Express National Historic Trail except with the consent of the owner thereof.”

SEC. 2. STUDY PROVISIONS.

The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the Secretary) shall undertake a study of the land and water route used to carry mail from Sacramento to San Francisco, California, to determine the feasibility and suitability of designation of such route as a component of the Pony Express National Historic Trail designated by section 1 of this Act. Upon completion of the study,

if the Secretary determines such route is a feasible and suitable addition to the Pony Express National Historic Trail, the Secretary shall designate the route as a component of the Pony Express National Historic Trail. The Secretary shall publish notice of such designation in the Federal Register and shall submit the study along with his findings to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate.

Approved August 3, 1992.

16 USC 1244
note.

Summary of Presidential, Legislative, and Administrative Actions

City of Rocks National Reserve was designated as a national reserve and unit of the national park system in 1988.

Public Law#	Title	Date	Summary
Public Law 100-696 Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988		Approved November 18, 1988	Establishment of City of Rocks National Reserve — To provide for the designation and conservation of certain lands in the states of Arizona and Idaho.
Public Law 106-421, Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act of 2000		Approved November 1, 2000	To direct the Secretary of Interior to enter into land exchange to acquire from the private owner and to convey to the state of Idaho approximately 1, 240 acres of land near the City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho.
Public Law 102-328, Amends the National Trail System Act		Approved August 3, 1992	The legislation designated the California National Historic Trail as a component of the national trails system. (The National Trails Systems Act [PL 90-543], enacted into law in 1968, defined the purpose of the national historic trails as “the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment.”)
National Historic Landmark designation by Secretary of the Interior		1964	The City of Rocks, significant under the theme of transportation, is one of the great natural landmarks on the California Trail and owes much of its prominence to the proximity of several historic transcontinental routes. The first practicable route to California, north of the Great Salt Lake, passed directly through the City of Rocks valley. After 1846 it was sometimes referred to as the “Applegate Trail,” used by Oregon-bound emigrants. Many tar-filled inscriptions carved into the soft granite columns are still discernible today are evidence of pioneering expeditions who visited the valley throughout the 19th century.
National Natural Landmark		1974	This designation commemorates City of Rocks for its unique geology that exhibits nationally significant features, including the dominance of bornhardt formations, the scarcity of tors, a wide range of elevations over which the landforms are distributed, and evidence that the landforms have been carved from the upper parts of a pluton. (The national natural landmarks program was established by the secretary of the interior to identify, recognize, and encourage the protection of sites containing the best remaining examples of ecological and geological components of the nation’s natural heritage.)