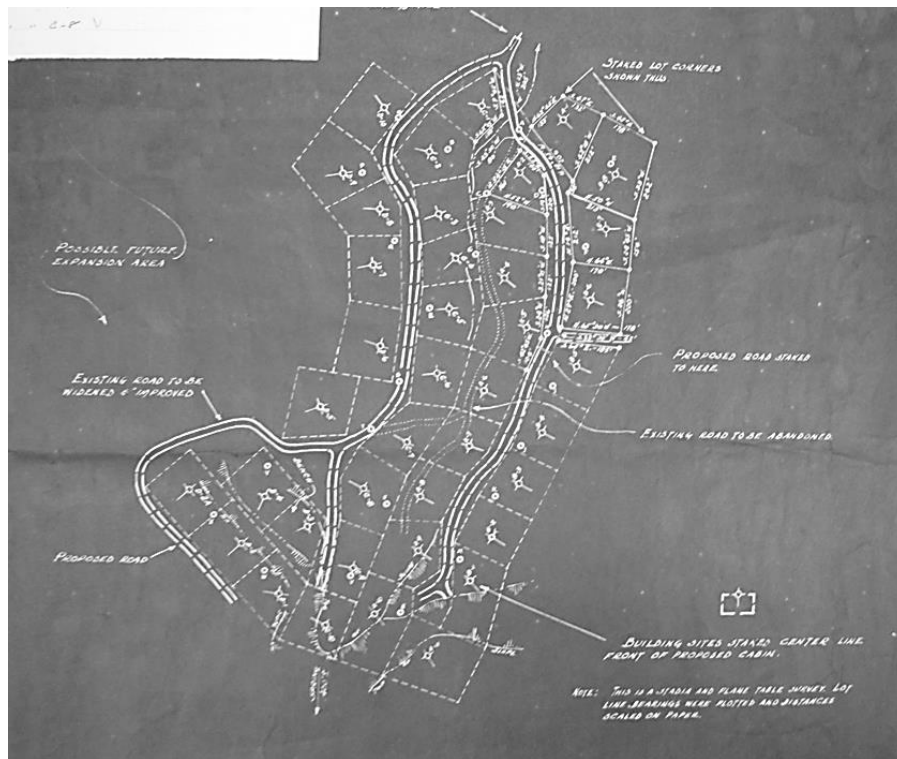


Minidoka Ranger District Historic Resource Documentation

Balsam Summer Home Area



SW-17-2965

December 2016

By: Kerry Davis, Architectural Historian
Preservation Solutions LLC — Boise, ID

Abstract

This report documents the results of a cultural resources survey conducted to identify and evaluate above-ground cultural resources in the Balsam Summer Home Area recreational residence tract in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, approximately 28 miles south of Hansen, Idaho, on Rock Creek Road.

CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS

I certify that this investigation was conducted and documented according to Secretary of Interior's Standards and guidelines and that the report is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.



Signature of Principle Investigator

12/20/16

Date

Key Information

PROJECT NAME

Balsam Summer Home Area

PROJECT NUMBER(S)

SW-17-2965

LOCATION

Twin Falls County

USGS QUAD(S)

Pike Mountain, 7.5'

LEGAL LOCATION OF SURVEY

T14S, 18E, Section 36

SURVEY AREA

~ 10 Acres

AREA SURVEYED

~10 Acres Intensive Survey

0 Acres Reconnaissance Survey

PROJECT DATA

0 Previously recorded cultural resources

9 New cultural resources located and/or recorded

AUTHOR(S)

Kerry Davis, Architectural Historian

FEDERAL AGENCY

USFS

REPORT PREPARED FOR

Sawtooth National Forest

REPOSITORY

Sawtooth National Forest; Idaho SHPO

PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR

Kerry Davis, M.S.

DATE

12/20/2016

CONTENTS

Abstract	i
Certification of Results	i
Key Information	
Project Description	1
Environmental Setting	1
Cultural Setting	1
Pre-Field Research	1
Previous Cultural Resources Studies	1
Expected Cultural Resources	2
Field Methodology	3
Results	4
Maps	5
Location	5
Survey Area	6
National Register Eligibility Map	7
Original Landscape Plan	8
Recorded Site(s)	9

Project Description

Permittees, Rock Creek Cabin Owners' Association, contracted Preservation Solutions LLC (PSLLC) in June 2016 to complete a cultural resource investigation of the Balsam Summer Home Area recreational residence tract, ~28 miles south of Hansen, Twin Falls County, Idaho. The purpose of this preemptive survey effort is to establish baseline documentation to streamline future compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, regarding any potential forthcoming proposed alterations.

Environmental Setting

The survey area is located approximately 28 miles south of Hansen, Idaho, just off Rock Creek Road (aka Forest Service Road 515). At an elevation of approximately 7,100 feet above sea level, the area has a east-northeast aspect and is generally forested by conifers and aspens. Sparse single-family, 1-story to 1-½-story recreational cabin development is found upslope to the west of FS 541, a gravel roadway.

Cultural Setting

Originally used for cattle and sheep grazing in the late 19th and early 20th century, the survey area and vicinity came under federal management in 1906 as part of the Cassia National Forest (which was incorporated into the Minidoka National Forest in 1908, which itself was later absorbed into Sawtooth National Forest in 1953). Though lower sections of Rock Creek Canyon were minimally developed for recreational uses during the early 20th century, the survey area was not developed until 1950. The survey area reflects circa 1950 through early 1970s recreational cabin development. Please see the attached Idaho Historic Sites Inventory forms for an expanded discussion of the development history.

Pre-Field Research

Results from Idaho Record Search #16312 were received on July 12, 2016.

Previous Cultural Resources Studies

Numerous cultural resources studies have taken place in the vicinity over the years, primarily triggered by USFS actions such as timber sales and road-related projects dating from 1979 through 2007. However, no previous inventory of cultural resources in the recreational residence tract is on file.

Summary of previous studies in this area (within one mile of the survey area).

Report#	Author	Date	Title
CRM-SW-188	Eide	1980	CRI Balsam Timber Sale
CRM-SW-230	Eide	1980	CRI Upper Tawakani Spring Development
CRM-SW-307	Eide	1981	CRI Deadline Ridge Timber Sale
SW-87-1101	Harper	1987	Kum Ba Yah Timber Sale
SW-88-1261	Harper	1988	Tawakani Survey Area
1989/3007	Hull-Stewart-Lang	1979	Upper Goose Creek Cordwood Sale
SW-87-1103	Kugle	1987	Timber Stands SW of Tawakani Camp
SW-84-750	Metzler	1984	CRSRF Prescription Stand Inventory
SW-84-619	Metzler	1984	CRSRF Rock Creek Corridor Viewshed
1989/666	Bell	1978	CRI Cassia Quarry Sites
SW-94-1622	Henrikson	1994	Tawakani Camp Well Drilling
SW-07-2311	Wright	2007	Elmer Blaikie Septic Tank

Expected Cultural Resources

No cultural resource site inventory has been conducted in the survey area.

The region around present-day Balsam Summer Home Area recreational residence tract served primarily as open range grazing lands for sheep and timber extraction in the late 19th and early 20th century. With the establishment of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) under President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905, millions of acres across Idaho and throughout the West were drawn into the National Forest system. As part of this shift in land use management, the area including what became Balsam Summer Home Area was designated as part of the Cassia Forest Reserve in 1906. Two years later, the USFS consolidated the Cassia Forest Reserve with nearby River Forest Reserve (to the east) under the name Minidoka National Forest (Minidoka NF) and began regulating grazing and timber harvesting by means of permits.

With the increasing affordability and popularity of the automobile during the early 20th century, the advent of improved roads into previously remote and rugged regions allowed a growing number of tourists to access the natural wonders of the national forests. Recreation in Minidoka NF increased significantly in this era and a shift in use and management from grazing and timber harvesting toward recreation took place. In 1917, Minidoka NF initiated reporting on recreation and noted 5,935 individuals visited the forest that year. By the early 1920s, campgrounds with latrines supported recreationalists at five locations in the Minidoka NF. In just two years between 1928 and 1930 the number of visitors increased over 67 percent, with 10,865 people entering the forest.

With the onset of the Great Depression came establishment of the programs of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Public Works Administration (PWA), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which significantly impacted not only the state's economic conditions, but also the Idaho landscape. In particular, these federal programs spurred significant improvements on National Forest lands. With New Deal appropriations came funding for USFS projects for campgrounds, water systems, sanitary facilities, recreational areas, and so forth. Wilson summarized this trend in the Sawtooth NF: "Summer recreational opportunities increased with the initiation of the CCC program in 1933. Prior to 1917, there were no campgrounds or picnic areas on the Sawtooth. Minor improvements were made after World War I but it was not until the Forest Service had New Deal funding and labor that significant strides were made. The CCC cleared areas for campgrounds, installed water systems, assembled tables

and stoves, built toilet and sanitary facilities, placed swings, and constructed boat docks."¹ Recreational visits to Sawtooth NF jumped from 5,400 in 1917 to 15,000 in 1935.

From USDA Forest Service publication, *A Guide to Maintaining the Historic Character of Your Forest Service Recreation Residence*: "Recreation residences played a role in national forest land use policies before the establishment of the Forest Service as an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Between 1897 and 1914, annual special use permits authorized individual recreation residences, often called summer cabins or summer homes. In 1915, Congress passed the "Term Occupancy Act" to allow private recreation residences and commercial recreation facilities on National Forest System lands. Many national forests identified suitable locations for recreational development. They established recreation residence tracts that were divided into individual lots for planned recreation development.

By the 1950s, public demand grew for more active outdoor recreation opportunities, such as camping and hiking, while the emphasis on establishing new recreation residences began to decline. In 1960, the Forest Service stopped promoting the program. The Chief of the Forest Service issued a moratorium in 1968, ending the development of new recreation residence tracts. Eight years later, the Forest Service expanded the moratorium to halt development of new lots within existing tracts. Over the years, many permits have expired or have not been renewed. Today, the Forest Service administers special use permits for about 14,000 recreation residences, a decrease from a peak of nearly 20,000 structures. The Term Occupancy Act represents a unique era in Forest Service history and an enduring connection that recreation residence permit holders have with these tracts of public land."

The survey area and its vicinity were not developed until after the original landscape design for the Balsam Summer Home Area was approved in Spring 1949. The current survey project is taking place in an area that is and has historically been rural and recreational in character. The survey area reflects circa 1950 through early 1970s summer home recreational development.

Field Methodology

Preservation Solutions (PSLLC) architectural Historian, Kerry Davis, M.S., served as project manager, field photographer, researcher, and cultural resource assessment author. Recreational residence permittees, Rock Creek Cabin Owners' Association, facilitated fieldwork and research. Davis completed the necessary research at Sawtooth National Forest Headquarters in Twin Falls and at Minidoka Ranger District Headquarters in Burley.

Additional research included review of Twin County Assessor records and USFS cultural resource and recreation permit records in Twin Falls and Burley, as well as the utilization of the online collections of USGS, BLM GLO, Ancestry.com, and the *Idaho Statesman* Historical Archive, available through the Boise Public Library.

¹ Wilson, 14-15.

The field survey to document each resource took place on July 20, 2016, and included photographic documentation of each above-ground resource in the Balsam Summer Home Area recreational residence tract sufficient to determine NRHP eligibility.

Results

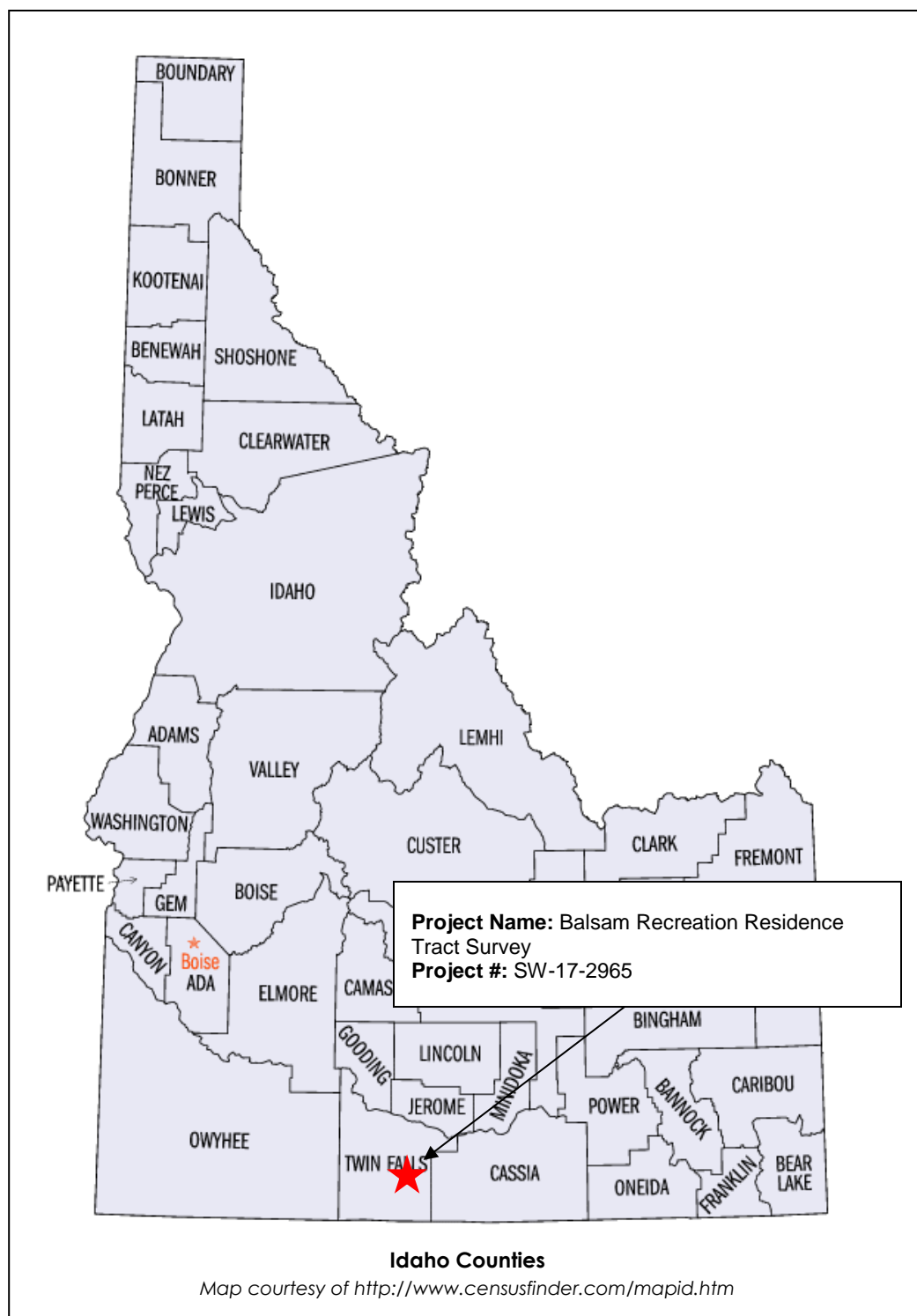
All cultural resources recorded in the survey area (see Maps section below):

Site #	Site/Feature Type	NR Status
Temp. No. BLSM-01/SW-2282	Balsam, Lot A7	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. BLSM-02/SW-2283	Balsam, Lot B6	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. BLSM-03/SW-2284	Balsam, Lot C8	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. BLSM-04/SW-2285	Balsam, Lot D1	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. BLSM-05/SW-2286	Balsam, Lot D2	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. BLSM-06/SW-2287	Balsam, Lot D2A	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. BLSM-07/SW-2288	Balsam, Lot D3	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. BLSM-08/SW-2289	Balsam, Lot D4	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. BLSM-09/SW-2290	Balsam, Lot D10	Eligible/Contributing

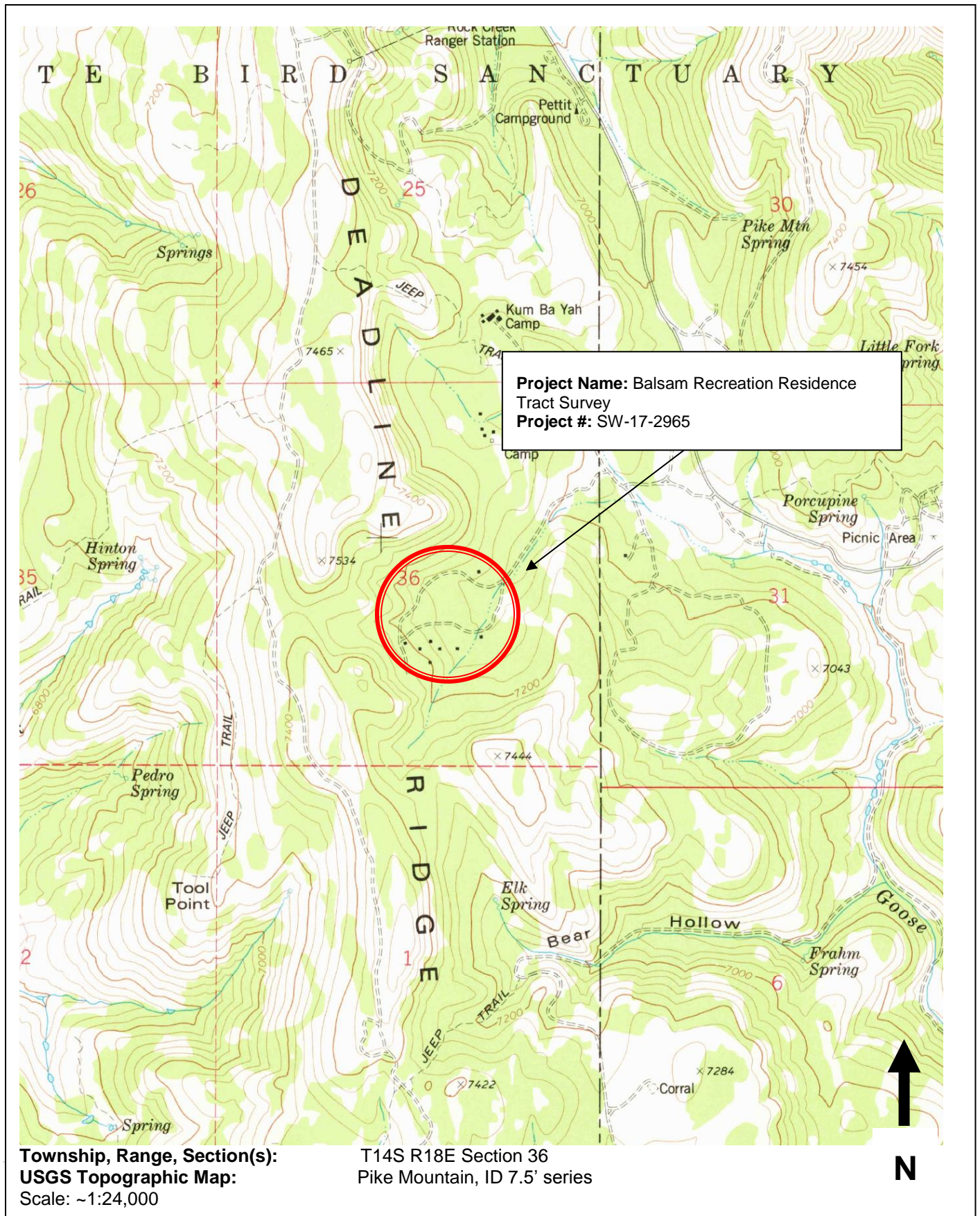
A total of nine (9) cabin sites were identified and documented within the survey area, all of which were found to be NRHP-eligible as contributing resources to a potential Balsam Summer Home Area Historic District. Not previously surveyed, all were documented at the intensive level as part of this investigation. For further information please see the attached Idaho Historic Sites Inventory (IHSI) forms.

Maps

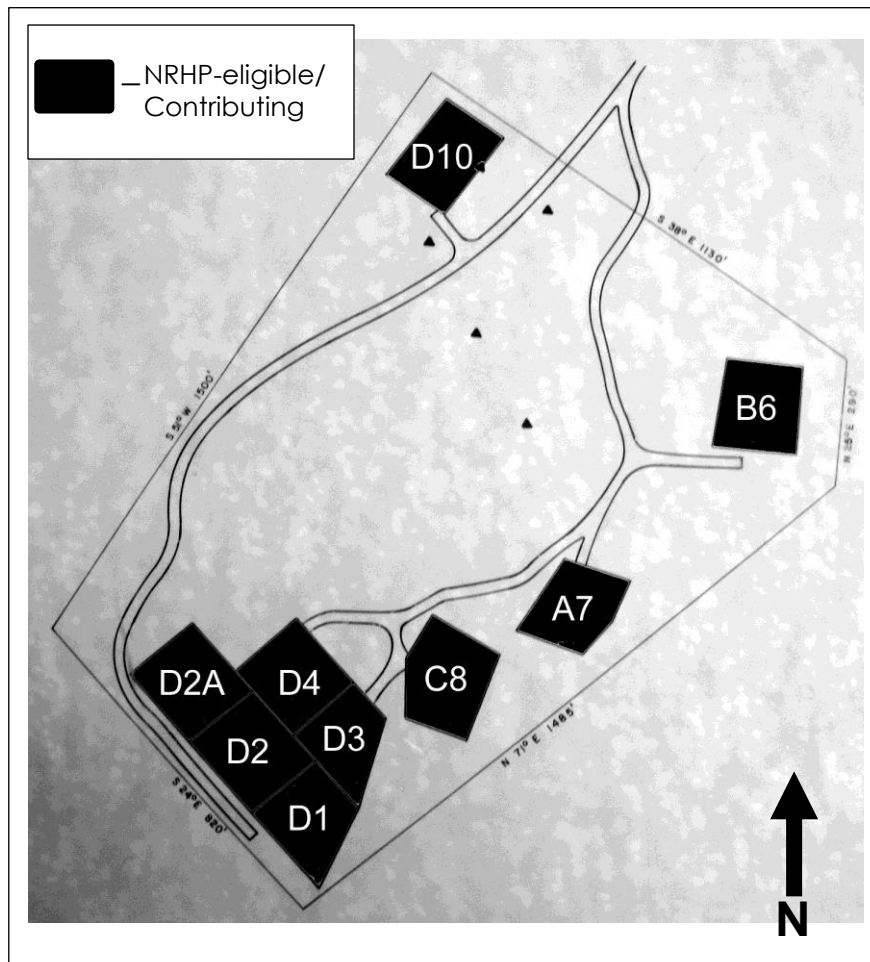
Location



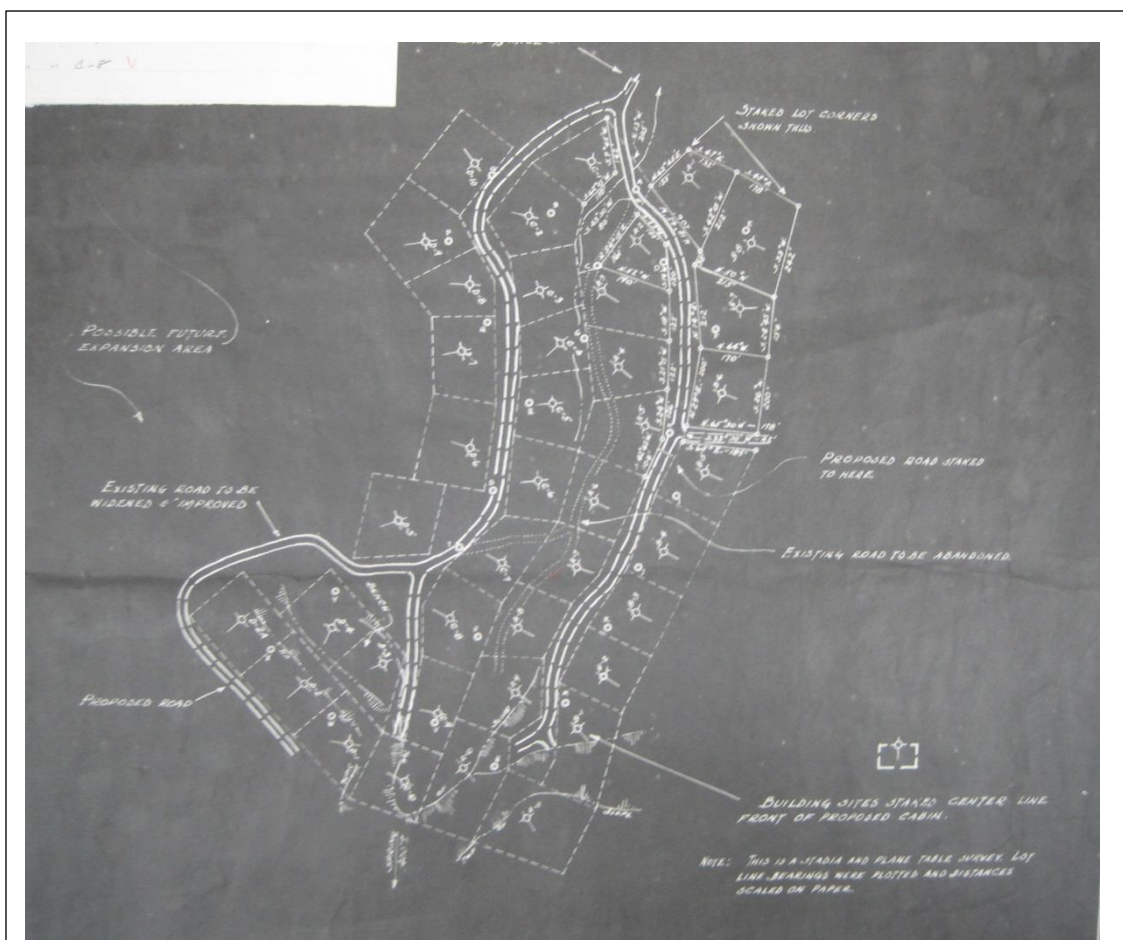
Survey Area



National Register Eligibility Map



Original Landscape Plan



Original Balsam Summer Home Area Tract, 1949

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE REGION IV - DIVISION OF RECREATION & LANDS MINIDOKA NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION DISTRICT I - AREA A PRELIMINARY PLAN BALSAM SUMMER HOME AREA		
DESIGNED BY DATE 3-29-49 DON PARTRIDGE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	APPROVED DATE 4-15-49 FOREST SUPERVISOR	MASTER PLAN NO.
RECOMMENDED DATE 3-29-49 Don Partridge LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	APPROVED DATE REGIONAL ENGINEER	SCALE 1 IN. = 200 FT
REVISIONS DATE	APPROVED DATE 4-15-49 ASST REGIONAL FORESTER	SHEET 1 OF 1

Detail of Original Balsam Summer Home Area Tract, 1949

Recorded Sites



BLSM-01, Lot A7, Balsam Summer Home Area, July 2016



BLSM-02, Lot B6, Balsam Summer Home Area, July 2016



BLSM-03, Lot C8, Balsam Summer Home Area, July 2016



BLSM-04, Lot D1, Balsam Summer Home Area, July 2016



BLSM-06, Lot D2, Balsam Summer Home Area, July 2016



BLSM-06, Lot D2A, Balsam Summer Home Area, July 2016



BLSM-07, Lot D3, Balsam Summer Home Area, July 2016



BLSM-08, Lot D4, Balsam Summer Home Area, July 2016



BLSM-09, Lot D10, Balsam Summer Home Area, July 2016