

Lucky Peak State Park

Introduction: Lucky Peak State Park is truly a great “playground” that is located in Boise’s backyard. Being at or near the Lucky Peak reservoir makes this a park that has an aquatic orientation and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation has classified it as a recreation park. It is the most popular park in the Idaho State Park System. Yet at only 247 acres it is among the smaller state parks in size. Over ½ million people visit this park annually and on busy weekends, it can be difficult to find a parking place.

Getting There: To get to Lucky Peak State Park follow Hwy. 21 east from Boise about 8 miles. The first unit of the park will be Discovery, which will be a right turn off of Hwy. 21. A short distance up Hwy. 21 will bring you to another right turn which will lead to the Sandy Point unit. Another 11 miles up Hwy. 21 will bring you to a right turn which will lead to the Spring Shores Unit.

Major Features:

The Lake: Lucky Peak Reservoir is impounded by the 340 feet high Lucky Peak Dam. The purpose of the dam is flood control and because of this the lake level can vary greatly throughout the year. The full reservoir elevation is 3,055 feet, while the low level is 2,824 feet, a difference of about 230 feet. The normal size of the reservoir is about 3,000 surface acres. It is about 250 feet deep at its deepest point. There is 45 miles of rugged shoreline. The lake fills some rather large canyons that are surrounded by steep black basalt cliffs so lakeshore access is limited by this terrain. The blue waters against the black cliffs is quite scenic.

The River: The Boise River flows out of Lucky Peak Dam. The Discovery unit has frontage on the river just below the power house. The small lake at the Sandy Point unit is a separate body of water. The river flows to a point just past the Discovery unit where it is impounded by the Diversion Dam downstream.

The Park: The park consists of 3 unconnected properties: Discovery, Sandy Point, and Spring Shores. The park is intensely developed with about 98% of its acreage covered with such facilities as parking lots and landscaped terrain.

The Discovery unit has an entrance station, 1 improved restroom, 2 paved parking lots, 3 group shelters, 19 individual picnic tables, a volleyball court, and horseshoe pits. It is situated on the Boise River and is beautifully landscaped with lawns and mature trees.

The Sandy Point unit has an entrance station, 2 improved restrooms, 5 paved parking lots, about 100 individual picnic tables, 2 volleyball courts, and a designated swimming beach. It is adjacent to a large pond/lake and is landscaped with lawns and mature trees. There is also a disc golf course here.

The Spring Shores unit is primarily a boating facility. It has an entrance station, 3 paved parking lots (2 of which are for vehicles with boat trailers), 2 improved restrooms, 2 boat ramps with 5 courtesy docks, a convenience store, a marina with about 298 boat slips, and fifteen individual picnic tables. The marina operation here is the largest in the state park system.

Geology: The geology of Lucky Peak State Park is a story of border conditions between two major physiographic provinces, with no sharp line of demarcation between them. The massive Jurassic granites of the great Idaho batholith underlie most of the area. The granite has been weathered to great depths, and has been intruded by dikes of pegmatite and granodiorite porphyry ranging from a few inches up to several hundred feet in width. Pre-Tertiary erosion carved deep valleys into the massive granite to the approximate depth they appear today. Gold and other minerals occurring in veins, dikes or disseminations in the granitic mass were incorporated into the valley bottom gravels during the erosion process. Other products of weathering and erosion on the granite surface became consolidated into sandstones and conglomerates of varying thickness and extent, and are known as the Payette formation.

Underlying the area extending to the south and west, are a series of Miocene basalt flows varying from a few feet to more than one hundred feet in thickness. These are the Columbia basalts that consist of hard dark gray rock, which in places cooled into columnar and massive jointed blocks. During the Pliocene period, a series of basalt flows, often overlaid with gravels, filled the granite canyons. The basalts have largely been removed by subsequent erosion of the Boise river and its tributaries in re-excavating their old valleys. Remnants of these columnar jointed gray rocks horizontally cap the Columbia basalts and earlier granite adjacent to the lower half of the reservoir and the Mores Creek arm. Much of the sheer walled scenic contrast of the reservoir area was created by these cap rocks. Recent sands and gravels have been deposited on lower altitude slopes throughout the reservoir area.

Ecosystems and Plant Communities:

The Lake: Although Lucky Peak Reservoir is artificially created it represents a more-or-less deep water lake ecosystem. The water in the reservoir is very cold since its primary source is from the upstream Arrowrock Dam. So it supports a cold water fishery that include trout and related species. Because of the fluctuating level of the reservoir, there is little opportunity for riparian plant species to establish along its shores.

Lucky Peak Lake Recreation Area

Most of the recreation sites around Lucky Peak Reservoir are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This 8,000 acre recreation area experiences great and diverse pressures from a broad spectrum of visitors. It receives nearly one million visits each year. The main parts of the recreation area are Barclay Bay, Turner Gulch and Lydle Gulch. Barclay Bay and Turner Gulch are the largest boat launch areas and the closest to Boise. While there is no entry fee to the recreation area, The Army Corps of Engineers charge a \$5.00 fee for boat launching. Lydle Gulch offers many options for hiking, biking, and equestrian enthusiasts with primitive roads connecting to adjacent public lands. The Macks Creek Park has 15 campsites (no hook-ups) available. Robie Creek Park has picnic shelters, grills, restrooms, playground equipment, and a kid-friendly swim area. It is a very scenic location at the confluence of Mores Creek and Robie Creek. On the road to Robie Creek is a small picnic area at the Mores Creek Park. There are also over 80 picnic/camping sites that comprise Lucky Peak Lake's boat-in areas.

The River: The river ecosystem and its associated riparian zones provide a rich foundation for plants and wildlife. The part of the river immediately adjacent to the Discovery unit supports a cold water fishery dominated by the rainbow trout and mountain whitefish. There is an abundance of wildlife that lives in an around the river. It is not uncommon to see great blue herons, belted kingfishers, and dippers. There are often some black crested cormorants standing on the rocks near the power house across from the Discovery unit. Their presence is a positive indication of the abundance of fish, amphibian and crustacean (probably crayfish) food present.

The Pond: There is a pond of a few acres adjacent to the Sandy Point unit. The purpose of the pond is primarily recreation as the one swimming beach in the park is located there. Aquatic life associated with a pond ecosystem can be expected to be found there. This body of water is more closely defined as a pond rather than a lake. A common definition of a pond is a body of water where light penetrates to the bottom and it is shallow enough for rooted water plants to grow throughout, and it lacks wave action on the shoreline. The pond provide habitat for wetland plants and animals such as cattails, water-lilies, frogs, turtles and herons. The pond is fringed by wetlands that support the aquatic food web, provide shelter for wildlife, and stabilize the shore. All ponds are subject to periodic algae blooms and eutrophication.

The Land: If the land where the facilities of Lucky Peak State Park are located had been left to nature they would be part of the montane sagebrush steppe. The very few acres of the park that are left undeveloped (mostly south facing slopes) have the plants present that are typical of this ecosystem, namely sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbit brush, arrowleaf balsamroot, and grasses. Some other naturally occurring plants in the park are the riparian species of black cottonwood and willows. A variety of plantings have also made the following plants common in the park: ponderosa pine, black locust, box elder, spruce, silver maple, and catalpa. There are also others areas where the following can be found: golden currant, wild rose, snowberry, milkweed, blackberry, lupine, yarrow, filaree, sunflower, Mountain alder, Rocky Mountain maple, and aspen.

The keynote species is the arrowleaf balsamroot. Arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittala*) is in the sunflower or aster family of plants. It is widespread in the Western U.S. It is a drought tolerant plant that does well in the montane sagebrush steppe habitat. It can often be found on south facing slopes. It is taprooted perennial herb. The root may extend over six feet deep into the soil. The plant can be identified by its basal leaves that are generally triangular in shape with the appearance of an arrowhead which partial gives the plant its name. The plant has a very showy yellow blossom that has the appearance of a sunflower. It is this plant that results in clumps of yellow on the slopes around Lucky Peak State Park in the spring. Deer and Elk eat the leaves. Native Americans used the young shoots, the seeds, and the taproot.

Wildlife:

Mammals: The mammals known to be present in the park include: mule deer, muskrat, mink, pygmy rabbit, cottontail rabbit, jack rabbit, yellow-bellied marmot, kangaroo rat, wood rat, deer mouse, porcupine, raccoon, coyote, red fox, bobcat, badger, river otter, striped skunk, muskrat and beaver.

Birds: The birds known to be present in the park include: great blue heron, bald eagle, golden eagle, red tailed hawk, great horned owl, double-crested cormorants, gulls, cliff swallows, mourning dove, kingfisher, canyon wren, black-billed magpie, mallard, common merganser, grebe, osprey, Canada geese, Swainson's hawks, California quail, chukar, pheasants, blue grouse, and ravens.

The keynote animal species of the park is the Double-crested Cormorant. Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) are strange looking aquatic birds. While there are many types of cormorants, mostly associated with the sea coast, the one most frequently seen in freshwater is the Double-crested Cormorant. These birds are black in color with yellow-orange facial skin. They can often be seen standing on docks, rocky islands, and exposed rocks in the river with their wings spread out to dry. They are experts at diving in the river to catch small fish. Because they have less preen oil than other birds, their feathers can get soaked which necessitates their habit of drying themselves after a diving session. The wet feathers in the water actually aid them with agility and speed when diving for prey. The cormorant's diet is almost all fish, with just a few insects, crustaceans, or amphibians. Their presence in the river is a positive indicator of fish being present. The tip of their upper bill is shaped like a hook and serves as another aid in catching prey. When cormorants happen to catch a crustacean like a crayfish, they shake its legs off and toss it into the air to catch it in their bill for easy swallowing.

Reptiles and Amphibians: The reptiles and amphibians known to be present in the park include: western toad, leopard frog, sagebrush lizard, garter snake, gopher snake, western rattlesnake, and racer.

Fish: The fish known to be present in the park include: rainbow trout, kokanee, cutthroat trout, bull trout, mountain whitefish, sculpin, Tui chub, largescale sucker, redside shiner, chiselmouth, smallmouth bass, northern squawfish, brown bullhead, and yellow perch..

Cultural History: The tribes that roamed the area of Lucky Peak State Park are the Northern Shoshone, Northern Paiute, and the Bannock. The area of the park was sort of an overlap area with the Northern Paiute and Bannock occupying lands more downstream and the Northern Shoshone occupying upstream and mountainous terrain. During a period of climate change about 7,000 years ago, the ancestors of the Northern Shoshone slowly moved up into the mountainous areas of central Idaho. They were engaged in the pursuit of big game and often this included bighorn sheep. This group of Northern Shoshone became known as the "Sheepeaters" or Tukudeka. They were never known to use horses in great numbers as the terrain in their territory was not well adapted for that. The sheepeater's diet included a variety of roots, seeds, and berries. They used weirs and traps in the rivers to catch salmon. They were excellent hunters using bow and arrow technology.

History: On November 21, 1811, the Wilson Price Hunt party became the first Euro-Americans to view the Boise River Valley. Hunt wrote in his journal: "...at sunrise, we saw before us a river which flowed westerly. Its shores were fringed with cottonwoods and willows. Some Indians had established their camp there. They had many horses, and were better clad than those we had seen previously. They inform us that beaver are common further up in this small river. Very few of them are in the neighborhood of the camp..." It is thought that the place where he

had this first view of the Boise Valley was in Lydle Gulch area right across the river from the Discovery Unit of Lucky Peak State Park. The Discovery Unit is named for this important historic event.

George Grimes, Moses Splawn and some fellow miners came to the area on August 2, 1862 and discovered placer deposits in Grimes Creek. At that time the approach to Southwestern Idaho was from Walla Walla, Washington and other settlements in and around the Columbia River region. A group of miners came from Walla Walla and established Pioneerville and Idaho City on October 7, 1862. By December, 1862, a major gold rush was underway. The general area became known as the Boise Basin and the gold rush continued on into 1864. In the fall of 1863, the Boise Basin had a population of about 16,000 people. This growing population and the needs for materials for mining created a demand for supplies. Packer John Welch established a trade route from the Columbia River to Idaho City in the 1860s. But the influx in population of miners coming in to work the claims suddenly created a market for local farming and demands that Packer John could not met. In 1863, the U.S. Army had established Fort Boise downstream from Lucky Peak State Park. Its purpose was to not only provide protection to settlers using the Oregon Trail but also as a deterrent to the many Confederate sympathizers who had come to the Boise Basin for the gold rush. It was situated at the base of the mountains adjacent to the route to Idaho City. A settlement began to arise in and around the fort. To meet some of the demand for food and produce, small farms and gardens were started in the settlement. This settlement would become the town of Boise and it was strategically located along the Oregon Trail and routes to the mines in Silver City. It became a service town for the mines. The route to Idaho City skirted the area that would become Lucky Peak Reservoir.

The settlers in and around the town of Boise soon discovered that the desert soils were very fertile and productive as farms once they were provided with irrigation. The low areas of the valley were quickly watered with small ditches and a rudimentary system of canals. But the agricultural area remained concentrated immediately adjacent to Boise River.

Engineer Arthur Foote was selected by the Idaho Mining and Irrigation Company as their Chief Engineer to construct an irrigation project in the area of Boise, Idaho. He moved to the area in 1884 and began to carry out his vision to build a canal system, including a diversion dam that would irrigate the future Treasure Valley. He determined that a canal that followed the higher contours on the south side of the valley could lead to gravity feed of irrigation water to the entire sagebrush flats north to the Boise River. In 1884, he conducted surveys of the valley and produced a detailed map of the river and incoming creeks to promote and sell the project to some New York investors. Hence the canal would from then on be known as the "New York Canal." Only minimal construction work occurred on the canal in the next few years. By 1887, he had completed a more detailed design for the system and began to layout and construct the New York Canal. But starting in 1889, funding began to fall short. Only about 14 miles of the canal had been constructed. Foote's dream could not be accomplished using only private funding.

In 1885, Foote built "the Canyon House" right across the river from the present day Discovery unit of Lucky Peak State Park. It was on public domain land that he would later claim. This was so he could live close to the site of construction of his diversion dam and canal project. He constructed the house with the abundant basaltic rock available nearby. The house was 13 meters square. The basalt stone walls of the main floor were two feet thick to insulate the home from the extreme temperatures of both summer and winter. The home had three brick chimneys capped with tall metal stacks. The main floor consisted of a parlor, dining room,

kitchen, sitting room, and an office. All these rooms had low ceilings, long casement windows with deep window seats, Oregon pine flooring and wainscoting, gray plaster walls, sage green painted woodwork, and built-in furniture. A staircase led from the office to the second level which was of wood frame construction with three dormer windows. The roof, which extended out over the full length of the house front and three-quarters of the south side, was supported by thick stone pillars, The roof and the pillars were supported by a low masonry wall. The porch or “piazza” served two functions, to further insulate the house from the desert heat and as a place to rest and enjoy the beauty of the canyon. The family maintained a stable across the river where the Discovery unit now stands. The stable housed their horses, buggies, and other conveyances that they used to travel into the town of Boise. The house was connected to their stable by a suspension bridge over the river. The Footes lived in Canyon House for twelve years while Arthur worked on the initial construction of his canal scheme.

Arthur Foote’s wife Mary Anna Haviland Hallock, was an accomplished persons in her own right. She displayed an excellent talent for art. She attended the Poughkeepsie Female Collegiate Institute (later known as Vassar) where she received instruction in drawing. She became an accomplished illustrator. Among the authors she did illustrations for were: Alfred Tennyson, John Greeleaf Whittier, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Bret Harte and Louisa May Alcott. She also was a writer and created such works that included: *The Led-Horse Claim: A Romance in a Mining Camp*; *John Bodewin’s Testimony*; *The Chosen Valley* and *A Victorian Gentlewoman in the Far West*, *The Reminiscences of Mary Hallock Foote*.

Mary followed her husband to many job locations throughout the west. He had moved to the Boise area in 1883. Mary arrived in the Spring of 1884 and they would move into the Canyon House in 1885. Her income from her work came in handy when a recession hit. Especially when in 1889, Arthur Foote’s income would began to vanish as the New York Canal project ran out of investor financing, In 1889, the Foote family left the Canyon House behind and moved back to Boise and in 1890 finished construction of their “Mesa House” located where the Hillcrest Country Club now stands. The Footes moved to Grass Valley, California in about 1896. Mary kept track of her life and times through written narratives in the form of letters. These were later used by western writer Wallace Stegner in his Pulitzer prize winner novel *Angle of Repose*.

Arthur Foote eventually acquired about 509 acres of land in and around the Canyon House from the Federal government under Cash Entries. The patents to this land were issued to him in 1914. Much of this land would be purchased later by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction of Lucky Peak Dam.

The Reclamation Act was passed in 1902, and the new Reclamation Service took over many of the irrigation projects in the valley. It would be this federal agency that would actualize Arthur Foote’s vision. They constructed a new Diversion Dam at a higher elevation than what Foote had planned. They then extended the New York Canal another 40 miles from its start at the Diversion Dam and built the Deer Flat Dam at its terminus which formed Lake Lowell. They began construction of Arrowrock Dam in 1911 and built a housing camp for about 1,400 workers. They constructed a railroad from the town of Barber to the dam site that became known as the Arrowrock & Boise Railroad. The railroad passed right through the areas of the Discovery unit and Sandy Point unit and up through the canyon that would become Lucky Peak Reservoir. The terminus of this railroad was the Arrowrock workers camp. The workers camp had a central heating plant, running water, a sewage system, a hospital, mess hall, post office, and hotel. Workers and visitors were housed in a hotel, bunkhouses or cottages. The Arrowrock Dam was

finished in 1915. It was one of the highest dams of its time.

The other persons who obtained land in and around Lucky Peak State Park were Francis Turner and Charles Coffey each receiving patent to about 160 acres under the Homestead Act in 1915, and 1920, respectively. Much of this land would be inundated by the future Lucky Peak Reservoir.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) began construction of Lucky Peak dam in 1949. It was finished and dedicated in June 1955 and was named after the nearby mountain. The USACE built recreation facilities at Sandy Point, Spring Shores, Turner Gulch, Barclay Bay, and several other access sites surrounding the lake.

Park History: In 1935, the State of Idaho purchased a 5 acre tract of land that would become Discovery State Park. Discovery was so named as it was in this vicinity that the Wilson Price Hunt party discovered the Boise Valley. This area was commonly known by the residents of Boise as simply “the State Park.” Also, upstream along Mores Creek was Robie Creek State Park. Robie Creek State Park had been established in the late 1940s prior to the construction of the dam and reservoir and was a “roadside picnic area.” This state park had some scattered picnic tables along the highway where Robie Creek flowed into Mores Creek. The picnic areas were in stands of ponderosa pine. Boise residents picnicked at this location while children played in the creek. Parts of this park were later inundated by Lucky Peak Reservoir when it finally reached full pool a couple of years after the dam was finished.

An agreement was established with the Corps of Engineers in 1955 in which the State of Idaho began operating all of the recreation facilities at the lake. The dam and reservoir had no effect on Discovery State Park since it was below the dam. So in addition to Discovery State Park and what was left of Robie Creek State Park, in about 1960 the IDPR began operating the recreation facilities at Sandy Point, Spring Shores, Turner Gulch, Barclay Bay, and several other access sites surrounding the lake. In 1967, IDPR formally leased the Sandy Point and Spring Shores sites. The 1972 U.S. Geological Survey topographic map for Lucky Peak identified the entire area as “Lucky Peak State Recreation Area.” Up until 1975, the IDPR was operating all of the recreation sites at Lucky Peak Reservoir through an agreement with the USACE. It was all included in Lucky Peak State Park and it was the busiest state park in the system with about 850,000 visitors per year. This was more than the combined total for all of the other state parks in the system at the time. But this was also before the IDPR began charging a day use

Please Remember

- There are no lifeguards on duty at the Sandy Point beach. Swim at your own risk.
- Open fires are not allowed on the beaches.
- Park in marked stalls only.
- Personal floatation devices are required for any water craft on the lake or river.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times, and are not permitted in the buildings. Dogs are not allowed at the Sandy Point unit.
- All vehicles must pay the \$5.00 per day entry fee.
- All watercraft must display a current invasive species decal.

fee. Perhaps operating all of these recreation facilities and the staffing it required was beyond what the IDPR budget would bear. Operation of all of the recreation sites at Lucky Peak except Discovery, Sandy Point and Spring Shores were relinquished back to the USACE in 1975. In 1988, the Boise Greenbelt trail was connected with the Discovery unit and the Sandy Point unit.

Recreation Activities:

Picnicking: Abundant picnic tables and grills are available at the Discovery unit and the Sandy Point unit. These are first come/first served. There are also three group shelters with tables and grills available at the Discovery unit. These shelters are available for reservations on Reserve America. The Spring Shores unit does have 15 individual picnic tables available. Picnickers not associated with boating use should use the small parking lot next to the marina store and then walk to the tables which are located along a paved trail next to the marina.

Fishing: Fishing is a very popular activity on Lucky Peak Reservoir. Rainbow trout, kokanee, and bass are commonly caught. The Spring Shores unit has some accessible shoreline where fishing can be conducted. Otherwise, most fishing is done through use of boats and other watercraft.

Boating: Boating activity is primarily conducted at the Spring Shores unit where there are two boat ramps with five courtesy docks. The parking lots at Spring Shore are designed with pull through slots for the towing vehicle and trailers. There is a marina here with boating supplies and slips available for moorage. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a several “boat-in” areas, one of which is directly across the lake from Spring Shores.

Water Sports: Motor boating and water skiing is the most popular water sport activity. This activity can be conducted on Lucky Peak reservoir by launching your boat at Spring Shores. Personal watercraft are also popular here as is sail boating. However, there is very limited shoreline for beaching your water craft. Stand up paddle boards are now becoming a popular activity. These can be used on Lucky Peak Reservoir and on the pond adjacent to Sandy Point. Although a specific facility is not provided, a small beach on the downstream side of the Discovery unit can be used to hand launch canoes and kayaks. The water impounded by the diversion dam provides a flat water experience.

Swimming: The only designated swimming beach available is located at the Sandy Point unit. However there is no lifeguard service provided. But the sandy beach is very inviting and there is a decorative fountain just off shore. Many visitors like to use “floaty toys” here as well.

Biking: The Sandy Point unit is the eastern terminus of the Boise Greenbelt Trail. This paved trail connects Lucky Peak State Park with the greenbelt trail system that runs through Boise along the Boise River all the way to Eagle Road. In-line skating is also a popular activity on this trail. Further, riders can start somewhere in Boise and ride to the Discovery unit or the Sandy Point unit for a picnic or a swim or both.

Resource Management Issues: The primary resource management issue at Lucky Peak Peak

State Park is over-crowding. The park is full to capacity almost every weekend from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day Weekend. The demand has clearly out paced the capabilities of the existing facilities. The park is experiencing some of the symptoms of over-crowding such as disputes over parking spaces. But the land owned and controlled by the IDPR is already developed to its maximum limitations considering the terrain.

Another resource management issue is the occasional occurrence of “swimmers itch” at the Sandy Point pond. Swimmers itch is caused by some flatworm parasite that cause itchy spots on the skin. Freshwater snails and waterfowl are hosts in the life cycle of the parasites. Control on the population of the freshwater snails is among the only solutions. However this is very difficult if not all together impossible. Use of chemicals such as copper sulfate can kill the snails, but such applications also kill many other useful organisms in the ecosystem. Water temperature is probably the most important single stimulus in growth of the parasites when they are ready for release from the snails. The water temperatures in the pond can be quite warm in the summer months. This is because the pond is basically still water without the circulation that can be found in a river. Another control measure is to avoid situations that encourage birds to remain in the area. However, the landscaped lawns are extremely attractive to such birds as the Canada geese. Feeding these birds should be strongly discouraged. The preventative measures that should be communicated to park visitors are: (1) towel off exposed areas of the skin immediately after leaving the water and (2) all parts of the body should be dried off as soon as possible.

Suggestions for the Future: The Idaho State Park System has about 16 state parks that are orienting to recreation on significant bodies of water. Only two of these state parks do not have a state park campground, namely Coeur d’Alene Parkway and Lucky Peak. Yet Lucky Peak is one of the larger reservoirs in Idaho and Lucky Peak State Park is the most popular state park in the Idaho State Park System. A state park campground of significant size would be a very attractive enhancement of Lucky Peak State Park. It would be anticipated that this facility would be a “build it and they will come” facility. It would enable greater visitation to the park and reservoir from those who live outside the Boise metropolitan area. Although, the terrain around Lucky Peak Reservoir is somewhat prohibitive to this, there are some locations that could suffice. One such place is the tip of the peninsula between the Mores Creek arm and the main body of the reservoir. This location is fairly flat with a fantastic view of the lake. However, this location would require some land acquisition and significant engineering for developing an access road to the site. There would also be opportunities for locating a campground in and around the Boise National Forest Nursery property which is just across the reservoir from Spring Shores.