

Park Name: Malad Gorge (known administratively as Thousand Springs)	Statute #: 67-4212(17)	First Established: 1970	Acres: 1,892
Classification: Natural	Primary Attraction: Scenic springs, streams, rivers, waterfalls, ponds, lakes		
Secondary Attractions: Historic Kelton Trail, river access, scenic cliffs, historic dairy farm, natural open space, hiking trails			
Recreation Activities: Canoeing, kayaking, hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, wildlife viewing, history study, picnicking			
History			
Local History: The Bonneville Flood carved the Hagerman Valley 15,000 years ago. The valley was once inhabited by the Bannocks, Piutes, and Shoshone. Wilson Price Hunt and Ramsey Crooks were the first white men to explore the area in 1811. In the 1840s to late 1860s, immigrants on the Oregon Trail passed through the area. Archie Billingsley settled in the area in the 1870s. Minnie Miller sold her dairy to Willis Ritter in 1954 and it became known as Ritter Island.			
Park History: In 1970, 451 acres were acquired for what would become Malad Gorge State Park. In 1971, the 79 acre Crystal Springs property was acquired by IDPR. IDPR acquired 200 acres from the BLM at Malad Gorge through the Recreation and Public Purpose act in 1975. Through an agreement with the Department of Fish and Game, IDPR took over management of Niagara Springs in 1976. Niagara Springs was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1980. The Nature Conservancy purchased the Box Canyon property on behalf of IDPR in 1999. The Billingsley Creek property was acquired in 2001. The Nature Conservancy purchased Ritter Island (they called it the Thousand Springs Nature Preserve), and donated it to IDPR in 2006. IDPR sold the Vardis Fisher property in 2013.			
Natural Resources			
Types of Ecosystems Present: Great Basin sagebrush steppe, river, riparian, wetland, stream, pond, lake		Environmental Quality: Very good	
Significant Fauna: Deer, badgers, marmots, coyotes, bobcats, waterfowl, herons, pelicans, golden eagles, hawks, trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, bluegill, catfish.			
Significant Flora: Sagebrush, rabbit brush, bitter brush, grasses, willow, black cottonwood, sedges, cattail, water birch.			
Invasive/Noxious Species: Russian olive, Canada thistle, poison hemlock, purple loosestrife, cheatgrass			Elevation: 2,800
% Developed: 20%	% Undeveloped: 80%	Non-conforming uses: Farming	
Visitation			
Day Use: 185,726	Camping: 0	Annual Total: 185,726 (2017)	
Economic Impact as provided in 2018 BSU Study: \$1,459,000			
Recreation Amenities			
Paved Roads (Miles): 3		Gravel Roads (Miles): 7	Day Use Areas: 7
Paved Parking Lots: 9	Gravel Parking Lots: 7	Boat Ramps: 1	Docks: 3
Miles of trail (paved/gravel): <1		Miles of Trail (unimproved): 7	Visitor Centers: 0

Entrance Stations: 2	Improved Restrooms: 2	Vault Toilets: 4 (2 temps)	Campsites Serviced (W,E,S): 0
Campsites Serviced (W, E, or W&E): 0		Companion Campsites Serviced (W,E,S): 0	Dump Stations: 0
Companion Campsites Serviced (W,E): 0		Campsites Primitive/ Standard: 0	Group sites (including equestrian): 2
Camping Cabins: 0	Deluxe Cabins: 0	Yurts: 0	Cottages: 2
Future Plans			
A Thousand Springs State Park Master Plan was completed in August 2006. Among the planned improvements are: a tent campground at Malad Gorge. A fifty unit RV campground for Billingsley Creek was submitted in the proposed budget but was not approved by the Governor's office.			
Issues and Remarks			
The official name of this park in the Idaho Statutes is Malad Gorge. However, it has been administratively known as Thousand Springs at least since completion of the master plan in 2006. The park consists of five unconnected units: (1) Malad Gorge, (2) Billingsley Creek, (3) Box Canyon, (5) Ritter Island, and (6) Niagara Springs. There are historic farm buildings at Billingsley Creek and Ritter Island. The Billingsley Creek unit is currently under a farming lease.			