

Park Name: Land of the Yankee Fork	Statute #: 67-4212(29)	First Established: 1991	Acres: Approx. 614, including co-managed sites
Classification: Heritage	Primary Attraction: Mining sites/ghost towns		
Secondary Attractions: Mining history, mountain scenery, scenic streams			
Recreation Activities: Hiking, mountain biking, ATV/motorbiking, wildlife viewing, history study			
History			
Local History: Michel Bourdon led a group of trappers from the Hudson Bay Company into the Challis Valley in 1822 looking for beaver. In 1863, 23 men arrived in the Stanley Basin and began prospecting. Four years later, a party led by Joel Richardson reached a branch of the Salmon River they named Yankee Fork after their New England homes. The first gold discovery was made at Bayhorse in 1864. In the 1870s, substantial gold discoveries were being made on the Yankee Fork. In 1877, the town of Bonanza was established. The town of Custer sprang up around the General Custer Mine in 1878. The town of Bayhorse grew up around the mines in about 1880. This first mining boom began to die out in the early 1900s. A slight revival occurred with the dredging operations that started in the 1940s and continued until 1952.			
Park History: In commemoration of Idaho's 1990 Centennial, the Idaho Legislature appropriated funds to purchase the town of Bayhorse. The purchase attempt failed at that time. In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, efforts began for the interpretation of the Yankee Fork Dredge, the townsites of Bonanza and Custer and development of an interpretive center at Challis. The Land of the Yankee Fork State Park opened in 1992. The park visitor center was also opened in 1992. In 2006/2007, IDPR purchased 547.89 acres that included the town of Bayhorse.			
Natural Resources			
Types of Ecosystems Present: Lodgepole pine forest, montane sagebrush steppe		Environmental Quality: Fair	
Significant Fauna: Deer, elk, moose, antelope, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, bears, porcupines, osprey, trout, salmon.			
Significant Flora: Lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce, whitebark pine, limber pine, rocky mountain juniper, mountain mahogany, aspen, cottonwood, sagebrush.			
Invasive/Noxious Species: Yellow toadflax			Elevation: 6,500
% Developed: 20%	% Undeveloped: 80%	Non-conforming uses: Unknown	
Visitation			
Day Use: 42,191	Camping: 0	Annual Total: 42,191 (2017)	
Economic Impact as provided in 2018 BSU Study: \$959,000			
Recreation Amenities			
Paved Roads (Miles): <1		Gravel Roads (Miles): 2	Day Use Areas: 3
Paved Parking Lots: 2	Gravel Parking Lots: 3	Boat Ramps: 0	Docks: 0
Miles of trail (paved/gravel): 1		Miles of Trail (unimproved): 7	Visitor Centers: 1
Entrance Stations: 0	Improved	Vault Toilets: 2	Campsites Serviced (W,E,S): 0

	Restrooms: 1		
Campsites Serviced (W, E, or W&E): 0		Companion Campsites Serviced (W,E,S): 0	Dump Stations: 1
Companion Campsites Serviced (W,E): 0		Campsites Primitive/ Standard: 0	Group sites (including equestrian): 0
Camping Cabins: 0	Deluxe Cabins: 0	Yurts: 0	Cottages: 0
Future Plans			
The Land of the Yankee Fork SP Master Plan was completed in July 2009. There are plans for bringing utilities into an area near Bayhorse and construction of a 50 site RV campground. There is a proposal to obtain some BLM lands through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.			
Issues and Remarks			
The park is managed cooperatively through agreements with the U.S. Forest Service for the Custer/Bonanza sites and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for the bison kill site. The park consists of several unconnected properties: Challis visitor center (30 acres), Custer/Bonanza /Yankee Fork Dredge (36 acres) , and Bayhorse (548 acres). So the total operational area of the park is about 614 acres. The park is open to motorized vehicle use (OHV) on designated trails. There are about 13 picnic tables available for day use.			