

# SHEEP ROCK

*A View of Hells Canyon*

**REMEMBER —**

**Take lots of pictures and only pictures — Leave only footprints.**

**Enjoy your National Forest**

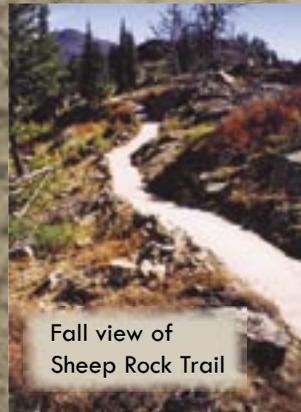
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United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Intermountain Region  
Payette National Forest



Fall view of Sheep Rock Trail



## Travel Time

Travel times depend on vehicle speeds and number of stops for viewing. The trip from Council or Hells Canyon Park to Sheep Rock takes about two to three hours to drive.

The road from Cuprum to Sheep Rock is closed seasonally due to snow; it is usually open from July 1st thru mid October. It is recommended you check with Weiser or Council Ranger Districts before you start your journey.

**Contacts:**  
Weiser Ranger District 208-549-4200 or  
Council Ranger District 208-253-0100

## Things You Need on Your Trip

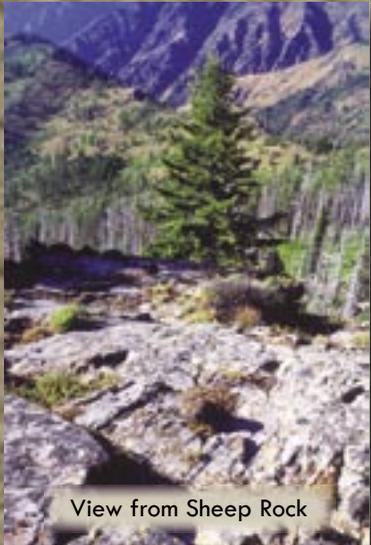
- Plenty of water and food.
- Clothing for varying weather, hiking shoes.
- Camera and binoculars.
- A full tank of fuel (Council is the last gas and food stop).
- A full day for travel.
- Payette National Forest visitor map recommended.

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# SHEEP ROCK

## A View of Hells Canyon

Sheep Rock is a scenic overlook and interpretive nature trail in a fairly remote area on the Idaho rim of Hells Canyon – the deepest canyon in North America. At an elevation of 6,847 feet, the overlook provides visitors with an up-close, birds-eye-view of one



View from Sheep Rock



of the greatest lava extrusions of geologic time. In 1978, the National Park Service designated Sheep Rock a National Natural Landmark to recognize the significance of this natural area for its continued

preservation. It is one of only 11 such sites in the state of Idaho. Two years later it was designated a National Recreational Trail when the Forest Service constructed the nature trail at Sheep Rock.

Your journey to Sheep Rock takes you through some of Central Idaho's more amazing country. Broad vistas of rugged mountains and open spaces with wildflowers accentuate your trip. Birds of prey and the possible sighting of bighorn sheep or mountain goats will thrill the wildlife viewer.

Sheep Rock is 42 miles northwest of Council, Idaho – where you begin your tour. Leaving US Highway 95 in the center of town, take the Council/Cuprum road (#002) – this portion of the road is paved. You may want to take in the interpreted historical sites along the way: Hornet Park, Halfway Stage Stop, and Lafferty Campground. At the #002 and #105 road junction as you enter the little community of Bear, you turn left heading west on a good gravel road. At the Kleinschmidt junction, you will see



a unique aging three-story sheep barn at the Speropulos Ranch. It was built by A. O. Huntley who originally operated a cattle ranch there.

Continue traveling east on road #002 through Cuprum, the historical mining town. The town's name is Latin for the Copper that was mined there years ago. The road is narrower from here on and RV's and low clearance vehicles are not recommended beyond this point. Take a left onto road #106 and follow it until arriving at Sheep Rock. Look for the old copper mine known as the Silver King, the Horse Mountain Fire Lookout, and Kinney Point Overlook junctions along your way.

In 2003, Sheep Rock was renovated, with a new restroom, picnic tables, and a 1/2-mile interpretive trail providing the only barrier free overlook into Hells Canyon on the Idaho side of the river. Enjoy the view of this unique geology.



Hells Canyon Reservoir



Horse Mountain Lookout



Three-story sheep barn

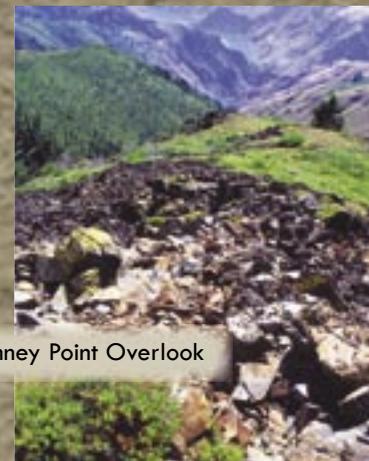
## Other Side Trips

### THE CANYON

Now that you have seen Hells Canyon from the rim, you may want to visit the canyon floor. From Sheep Rock take the Kleinschmidt Road past the old sheep barn. Be aware this is a narrow steep rocky road but the trip will be worth it (no RV's please). When you arrive at the Snake River at Hells Canyon Park you may want to travel downstream to the Hells Canyon Dam and the Visitor Center, or upstream past the Oxbow and Brownlee Dams where you can loop back to Highway 95 at Cambridge, Idaho.

### Activities

- Fishing
- Camping
- Horseback riding
- Hiking
- Biking
- Picnicking
- Wildlife viewing and sightseeing



Kinney Point Overlook