

Front page figure depicts those features on history maps that have potential to be identified on the ground during field inventory.

Priest Lake Project Executive Summary

The Priest Lake Project involved background research, development of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) base layers, research design development, and field work along Priest Lake, Idaho to better understand and interpret past human use associated with this important geographic feature. The Northern Region of the Forest Service (R-1) grant for \$20,000 was matched by over \$20,000 of salary and expenditures by the Idaho Panhandle National Forest during FY 2008. The Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Eastern Washington University and Priest Lake Museum partnered with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF) to complete this year's activities. Accomplishments for FY 2008 included funding a graduate student from Eastern Washington University to complete: 1) Archival research at two-Forest Service facilities, three museums and seven libraries; 2) development of a 53-page annotated bibliography of documents, maps and photographs regarding the Priest Lake Ranger District; 3) GIS map preparation for previously recorded archaeological and historical sites, Section 106 review projects, bibliographic references, and features identified on nine historic maps for the Priest Lake Ranger District; and 4) initial development of a GIS layer that modeled high probability zones for cultural properties on Federal lands along Priest Lake. This data was used to direct a week long field project that included intensive visual inspection and excavation of 81 shovel probes along one half kilometer of Priest Lake shore line.

Priest Lake Research and Inventory Project

Introduction

The Priest Lake area (Figure 1) has a long history of human use that has significant research potential. American Indian habitation and resource exploitation are documented archaeologically for at least the last 5100 Radiocarbon years. Today, it is a significant part of the aboriginal territory of both the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. Starting with Father DeSmet the Priest Lake area contains over 150 years of Euro-American history, including: Fur trapping, settlement, mining, logging, recreation, CCC and Forest Service development. This resource provides significant research and interpretive potential for the community of Priest Lake in the spirit of the Preserve America program that is threatened by two of the Chief's "Four Threats": Dispersed recreation use and wildfire damage within an essentially urban interface.

Today, this area draws recreationists from local, regional and national population centers who come to camp, fish, hunt, boat, ski, and snowmobile on the archaeological, traditional and historical sites of years past. Besides dispersed and day use there are 121 recreation residences, several resorts, and numerous campgrounds located along the shoreline. This use has the potential to damage or destroy significant archaeological, traditional, and historical sites. Trends appear to be heading for more, bigger and better recreation opportunities in the Priest Lake area that will place additional pressure on these fragile and irreplaceable resources.

While fuels reduction projects are underway in the Priest Lake area additional work is needed to protect this heavily populated zone from the threat of wildfire. Both treatment of forest zones and wildfire have the potential to damage the historical and archaeological resources on the islands and along the shores of the lake. With expected drying trends, forest disease and increased public use of the islands, lake shores and forested slopes of Priest Lake wildfire is becoming a more serious threat every year that will continue to damage and destroy the historical and archaeological resources of the lake.

To date, there has never been an intensive examination of the islands and entire western shoreline of Priest and Upper Priest Lakes in Federal ownership. In order to document the patterns of past human use and identify significant archaeological, traditional and historical sites a complete and thorough inventory of the Priest and Upper Lake western shoreline is proposed. The project involves visual inspection, and subsurface testing of all potential landforms within Federal ownership to identify, record and evaluate all traces of past human use for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. The results of the inventory would be used to interpret the history of the Priest Lake area for the public and better manage the significant resources for future generations. By partnering with recreation, local universities, the Idaho SHPO, affected Federally recognized Indian Tribes and local historical associations and communities the remnants of the Priest Lake past can be recognized, protected, preserved through documentation, and interpreted for public benefit.

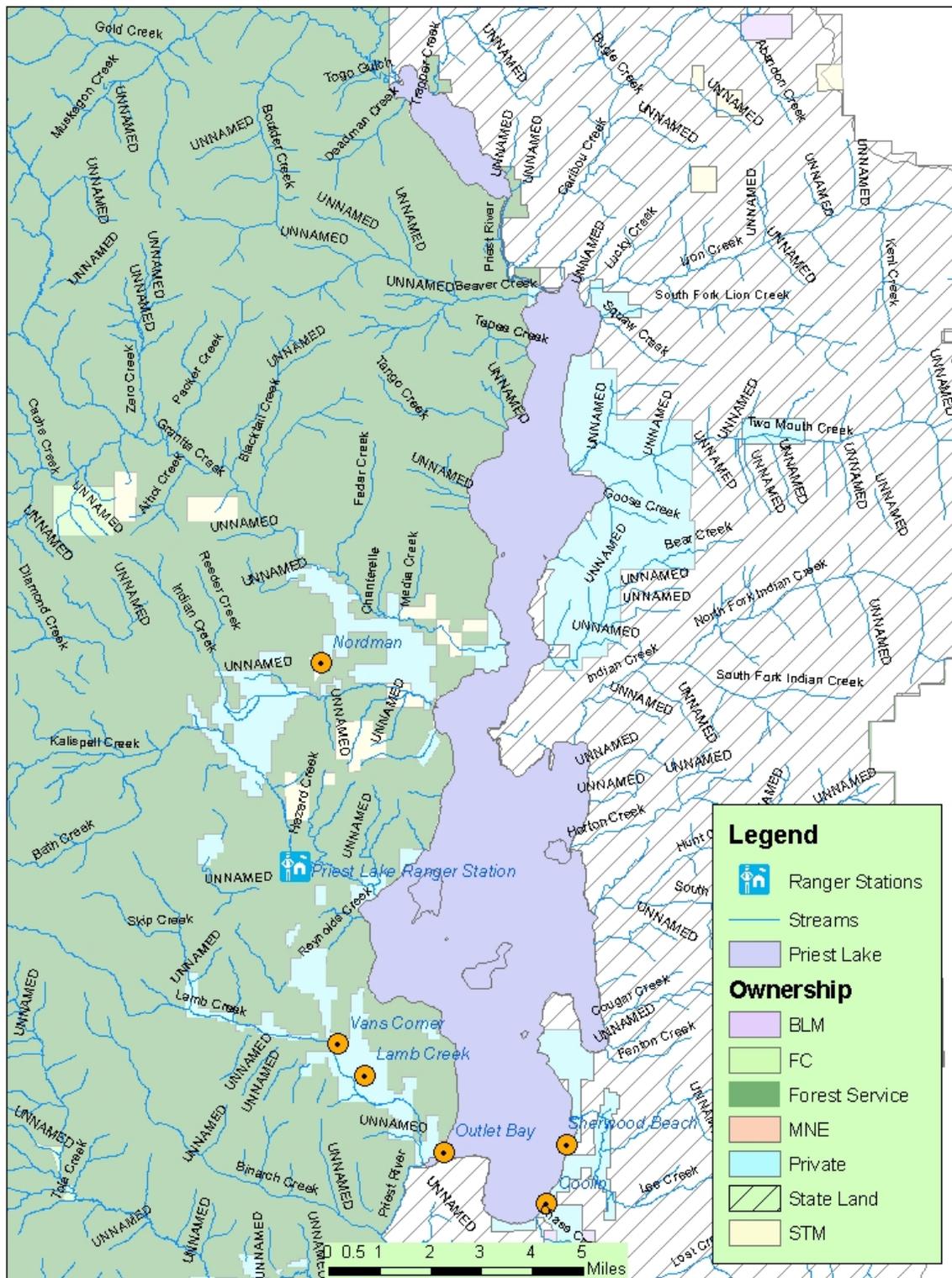


Figure 1. Priest Lake area map.

At this time the project will take place from 2008 through 2010, at which time the future of the project will be evaluated for longer term implementation. In 2008, archival research at two- Forest Service facilities, three museums and seven libraries was undertaken and a 58-page annotated bibliography was prepared. Previously recorded archaeological and historical sites, Section 106 review projects, bibliographic references, and features identified on nine historic maps for the Priest Lake Ranger District were digitized into multiple GIS layers. In September, a one-week field project was conducted to test the model. Eighty-one shovel probes were excavated by three teams along one-half kilometer of Priest Lake shoreline. Unfortunately, due to a late season budget freeze, underwater inventory could not be completed. The boundaries of two archaeological sites were confirmed through recovery of a small number of lithic (stone) artifacts and historic trash. In 2009 and 2010, it is envisioned that a summary historic context/overview document would be produced, along with more in depth papers about certain aspects of the local history. Additional historic archival research and field inventory designs will be developed and refined as necessary. This will allow additional work to be focused on high probability zones along the lake to test the inventory design and help us understand past patterns of land use.

Research Design and Methodology

The goals of the Priest Lake Project can be simply stated as: 1) Identify and collect primary and secondary archival resources; 2) develop a model to identify and locate potential archaeological and historical resources; and 3) interpret the results to the public. This is envisioned as a multi-year project with phase I consisting of development of an annotated bibliography of significant references, preparation of Geographical Information System (GIS) layers, an initial research/inventory design, and initial inventory of a sample of the lake shore. The annotated bibliography and GIS layers are used to develop the research/inventory design and in writing a summary of the existing archaeological, ethnographic and historical literature as it relates to human use of the Priest Lake basin and shoreline. Research will be undertaken at FS offices, local historical museums and libraries, and state and national archives to locate primary written and photographic resources. The archival resources would then be used for public interpretation and development of a research design for inventory of the lakeshore. This information will also be translated into a set of base GIS layers and an initial land use model that helps focus inventory procedures and identification of human use probability zones.

Research for the historic context involves local, regional and national archives. Forest personnel will search the local, regional and national archives for information regarding human use of the Priest Lake area (Table 1). The focus will be on locating and collecting those resources that will help identify and explain human use of the Priest Lake area in federal ownership. The primary focus will be on the Priest Lake western shoreline, with a secondary focus on those resources that pertain to the surrounding basin, but help explain human use of the shore line. Interviews with local people that have knowledge of the history and archaeology of the area would be conducted and transcribed. All nonconfidential material would be made available to our partners for use in developing public interpretation for the Priest Lake Museum and other community Heritage tourism products.

Table 1. Archival resources and responsibilities.

Location	Responsible Party	Comments
Northern Region HQ	FS	Catalog of resources is available, but have not visited the site
IPNF HQ	FS	Initial review of resource completed
Priest Lake Ranger District	FS	Initial review of resource completed
Priest Lake Museum	FS/Museum Board	Initial review of resource undertaken, but not completed
Priest Lake Library	FS	Initial review of resource completed, but still need to acquire documents
North Idaho Museum	FS	Initial review of resource completed, but still need to acquire documents
Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture	FS	Initial review of resource completed, but still need to acquire documents
Gonzaga University	FS	Initial review of resource completed, but still need to acquire documents
Idaho State University	FS	Initial review of resource completed, but still need to acquire documents
Eastern Washington University	FS	Initial review of resource completed, but still need to acquire documents
Washington State University	FS	Initial review of resource completed, but still need to acquire documents
Whitworth College	FS	Initial review of resource completed, but still need to acquire documents
North Idaho College	FS	Initial review of resource completed, but still need to acquire documents
State of Idaho Archives	Idaho SHPO	Review scheduled for FY '09
National Archives	FS	Catalog of resources available, but have not reviewed them to date
Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Tribal Archaeologist	Unpublished ethnographic material provided, complete review if FY '09

The archival material can be used to develop a research/inventory design to appropriately focus field inventory. The written design and individual GIS layers should help predict and explain human use patterns through time. Each GIS layer or a group of layers will tie into an individual theme including: 1) American Indian resources and use; 2) Fur trade and early settlement; 3) Mining; 4) Logging; 5) Transportation; 6) Recreation; 7) CCC projects; and 8) FS administration. The design and GIS model would be used to identify the probability of human use along the lake shore zone, and as appropriate to explain patterns of use, beyond the lake shore.

The geographic boundary of this project coincides with the western portion of the Priest Lake Ranger District.

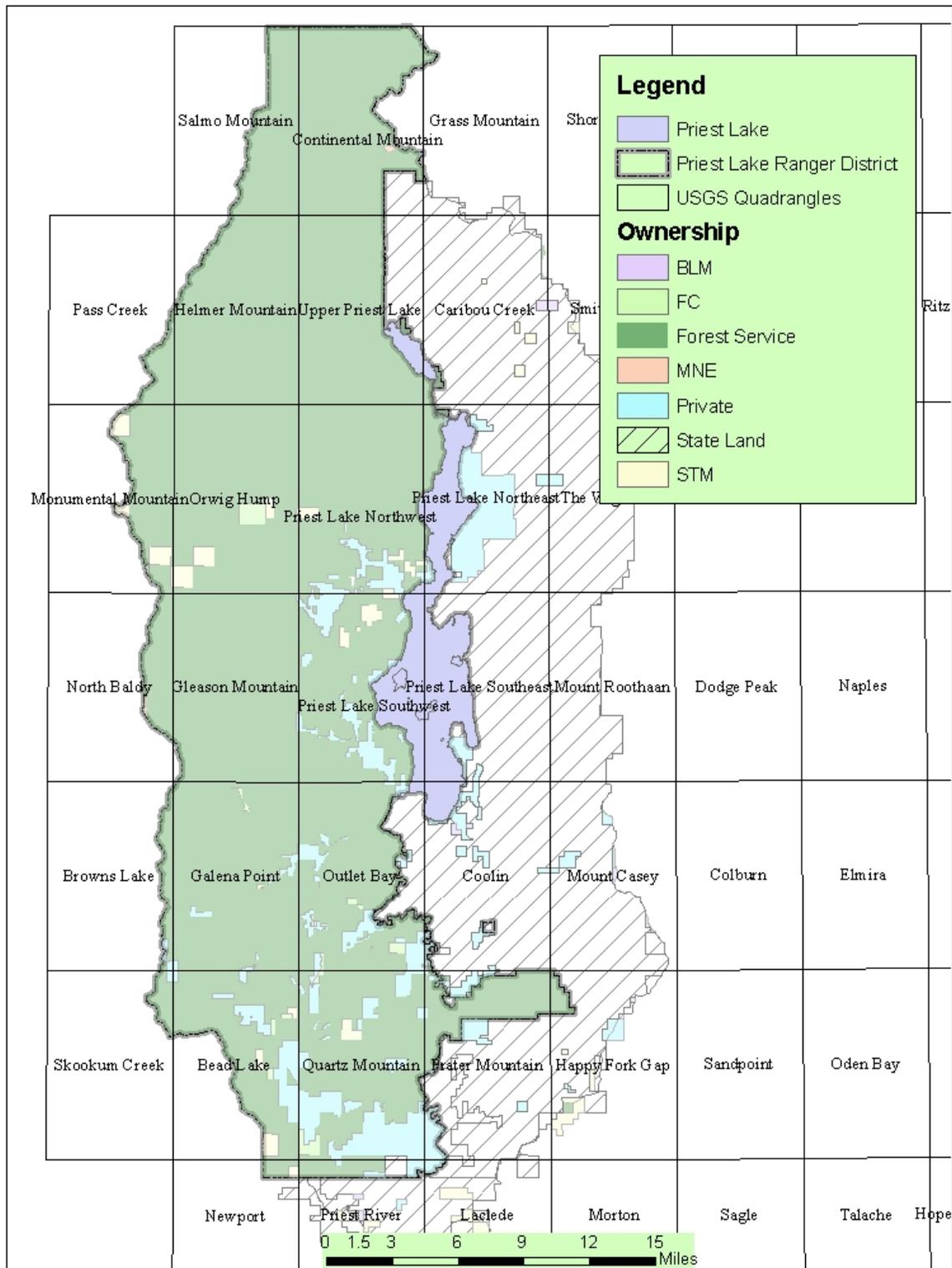


Figure 2. USGS quadrangles within study area.

- ✓ Update GIS layers for Priest Lake District
 - Update layer by GIS quadrangle; complete all entries starting along western shore of Priest Lake first and work outward as time permits
 - Site points – update and check locations, add new points if missing
 - Site lines – add new lines for roads, trails, and other linear sites
 - Site polygons – add new polygons
 - Project polygons – add new projects
 - State historic road and trail coverages – check against historic maps and references and update bibliographic layer below
 - Bibliographic reference points, lines and polygons – tie specific references to locations to the GIS layer through number/citation?

Over the course of the next several years crews will conduct visual and subsurface investigation of selected landforms along the Priest Lake shore line to include the following zones: 1) Vegetated lower and upper terraces; 2) sandy beaches above water line; and 3) drowned terraces and stream mouths below the existing reservoir water line. For Zone 1 a crew would complete visual inspections of the surface and any subsurface disturbances and excavation of shovel probes (i.e., round holes about 25-35 cm in diameter and up to 50 cm deep screened through 1/8 mesh onto tarps) at set intervals along the vegetated terrace. In Zone 2 crews would complete visual inspection of the beach area and at set intervals excavate shovel probes in order to identify near surface artifacts and features. In Zone 3 a crew would complete visual inspection of the area below the existing water line to identify any features that might have been drowned by construction of the dam at Priest Lake outlet. In addition, small amounts of sediment would be removed through waving the hand to clear any features or suspected artifact concentrations and at set intervals a scoop of sediment would be removed for off site screening and inspection.

Results

For 2008, an annotated bibliography of the reference materials, an initial research/inventory design, a set of GIS layers and predictive model would be produced. In 2009, a written report of the findings of the 2008 field season and additional historic research not completed in FY 2008 would be completed and the annotated bibliography would be updated and the historic context would be started, changes to the design and GIS model would be undertaken based on the FY 2008 field season, and at least an additional 2-week field investigation would be conducted with appropriate results write-up. In 2010, the inventory and historic context document would be completed with the vision that all nonconfidential material would be available for the public on line with interactive web maps that would lead to pdf documents and photos.

Task List

- ✓ Update INFRA for Priest Lake District
- ✓ Review archival materials for Priest Lake and create annotated bibliography
 - Geographic limits include the western section of the Priest Lake Ranger District, including all of the area west of Priest Lake and Priest River south of the Canadian border and to just north of Newport. Include islands in federal ownership.
 - Include a brief summary of the reference.

- Tie to GIS layer if the reference has specific information about an occurrence or location on public lands.
- File copy of document or at least first page showing reference information in drawers in back file room
- ✓ Create inventory design for Priest Lake western shoreline and islands
 - Geographic limit is the western shore of Upper Priest and Priest Lake proper to at least the Lake Shore Road and Trail 291. Include islands in federal ownership. Determine where boundary needs to be adjusted.
 - Identify by description and in GIS layer high, medium and low probability zones based on historical research, recorded site locations, previous inventory and testing, local information regarding artifact collections, natural resources/habitats and geomorphology.
- ✓ Review archival information in the following locations:
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- ✓ Partnered with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Idaho SHPO and Priest Lake Museum
- ✓ Hired Jamie Litzkow, Eastern Washington University student, for research and field work and funded Jyl Wheaton-Abraham, FS seasonal employee, for field work.
- ✓ Reviewed archival materials for Priest Lake and created 53 page annotated bibliography for the following locations:
 - Idaho Panhandle National Forest Supervisor's Office
 - Priest Lake Ranger Station
 - Priest Lake Museum, Priest Lake, Idaho
 - Priest Lake library, Priest Lake, Idaho
 - North Idaho Museum, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
 - Museum of Arts and Culture, Spokane, Washington
 - Gonzaga University
 - Idaho State University
 - Eastern Washington University
 - Washington State University
 - Whitworth College
 - North Idaho College
- ✓ Updated GIS layers for Priest Lake District
 - Sites
 - Projects
 - Unrecorded Sites
 - Bibliographic References
 - Kalispel Cultural Geography
 - Historic Maps for 1898, 1910, 1914, 1927, 1930, 1935, 1936, and 1940
 - Geomorphic potential
 - Hot links for pdf formatted site forms
- ✓ Acquired 1009 scanned site forms for Priest Lake District in pdf format from Idaho SHPO.
- ✓ Created inventory design for Priest Lake western shoreline.

- ✓ Inventoried 0.5 kilometers along shoreline between museum pump house and Hill's Resort boat ramp, including visual inspection of the ground and excavation of 81 shovel probes along the shoreline.
- ✓ Completed condition assessments of two aboriginal camp sites.



Figure 3. Tom Sandberg and Jyl Wheaton-Abraham excavating a shovel probe near the present lake level.



Figure 4. Sarah and Jamie excavating a shovel probe on upper beach zone with Tom and Jyl at water's edge.



Figure 5. Example of shovel probe in forested zone with other zones in background.

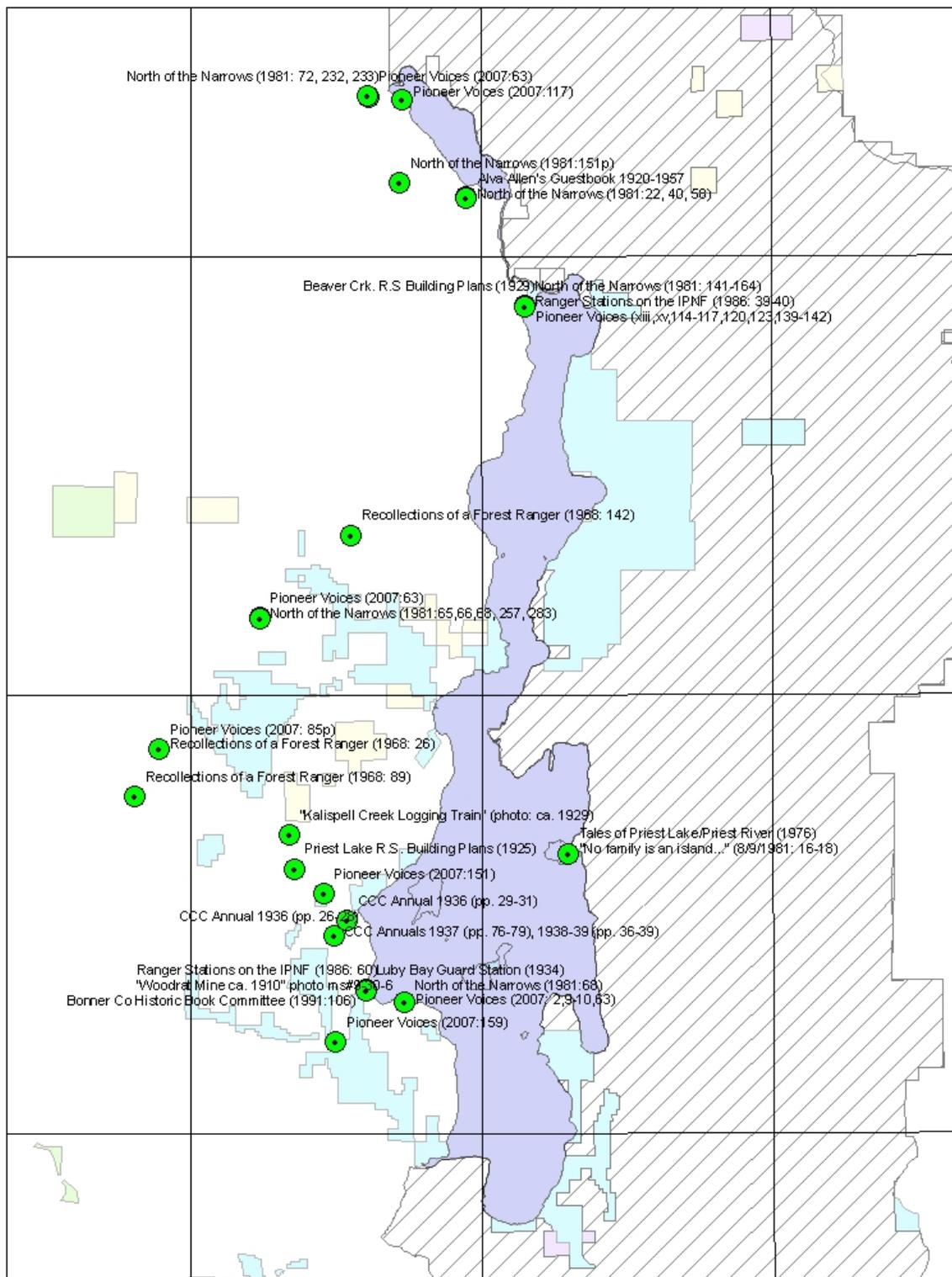


Figure 7. Initial map of Priest Lake bibliographic references.