

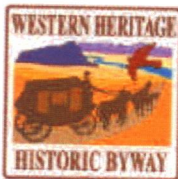
Key Site Index	
Site #1	Byway Orientation Portal
Site #2	Pioneer Cemetery/15-Mile Station
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Site #4	Silver Trail
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Site #9	Snake River BPNCA/Three Pole
Site #10	Swan Falls Dam
Site #11	Celebration Park
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The National Scenic Byways Program

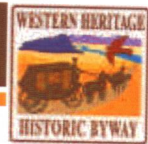


The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. The program is a grass-roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve, and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. Since 1992, the National Scenic Byways Program has provided funding for almost 1,500 state and nationally designated byway projects in 48 states. The U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as All-American Roads or National Scenic Byways based on one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities.

The Idaho Scenic Byways Program



Idaho has had Scenic Routes since 1977. In 1995, the Scenic Byways Advisory Committee was established by the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). Today, Idaho has 25 designated byways with 1,875 miles of highway leading to Idaho's special places. Each route must be separately identified with a route name on a pictorial sign.



Site #6—Kuna Cave

Location

Southern slope of Kuna Butte, five miles south of Kuna and 1.75 miles west of Swan Falls Road.

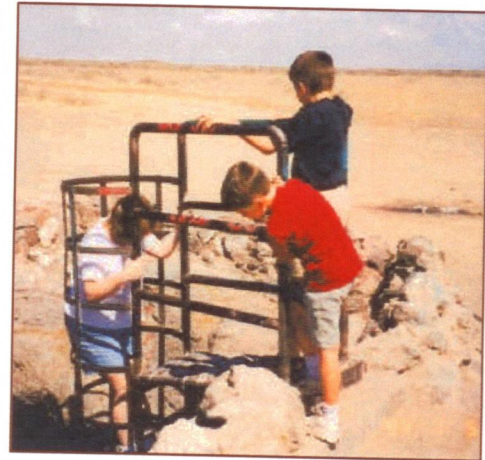
Classification

Wayside Site

Priority Ranking

Medium

According to early Kuna resident James Waring, Kuna Cave was located in 1979 by two cowboys who entered the cave by means of a rope. Other accounts



credit the cave's discovery to Claude Gibson, a Boise lawyer, who discovered the cave in 1890 and explored it with a group of friends. Projectile points and other Indian artifacts have been found in the cave.

Waring described a visit to the cave for a local history of Kuna in the 1950s. He mentioned "Fat Man's Misery", an area of the cave so small that it dealt considerable discomfort to larger people visiting the cave. He wrote about finding nickels and dimes lost as former visitors to the cave struggled through this section of the cave.

Kunans have always journeyed to the cave for picnics, with school groups, or with friends. So integrated into the Kuna lifestyle, the high school teams are called the Kavemen.

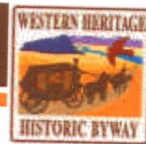
Existing Conditions

- *Site*—Kuna Cave is a lava tube, about 1,000 feet long. A 35-foot steel ladder provides access into a dark chamber. A flashlight is recommended. The cave has been vandalized with graffiti, broken glass, and litter. Visitors need to wear gloves, kneepads, a helmet, and hiking shoes to protect themselves from cuts. A smoldering bonfire pit has blackened the walls and the smell of smoke requires visitors to wear a dust respirator.

- *Access*—Currently crossing private property and access is unmarked on Kuna Cave Road.

Improvement Recommendations

- *Site Recommendations*—It is suggested that visitors to Kuna Cave be discouraged until improvements can be made for safety and access. Other short-term improvements include:
 1. Site clean-up.
 2. Signs—No Littering, No Fire, Pack It In, Pack It Out, Dawn to Dusk Use, etc.
 3. Identify management team and short-term actions (BLM, Gem State Grotto Spelunkers, City of Kuna, Ada County Sheriff Department, Kuna High School, scout troops, J & M



- Sanitation, and Western Heritage Foundation).
4. Enforce Idaho Code 18-7035 Damaging Caves statute.
- *Site Recommendations*–Improvements
 1. Relocate access road off of Swan Falls Road or Nicholson Road.
 2. Establish parking area and surround parking and site with boulder fence.
 3. Install directional signs, site rules, and interpretive sign.
 4. Cave Restoration Program. Remove trash and graffiti, repair ladder, safety improvements, cave grate.
 5. Trail system from parking area to cave and trail connections to Kuna Cave Cone, Kuna Butte, Initial Point, and proposed Jubilee Park in Canyon County.
 6. Assure ongoing enforcement.
 7. Close non-essential roads and re-vegetate site.
 8. Establish tours and interpretive programs for the site.
 9. Work with area youth to perpetuate a respect for public land and historic sites.
 - *Management*–
 - ♦ Western Heritage Foundation
 - ♦ BLM
 - ♦ Maintenance and Enforcement Partnerships
 - ♦ Adopt-A-Site Program
 - ♦ Potential Partners–City of Kuna, Ada County, and Gem State Grotto Spelunkers
 - ♦ Kuna School
 - ♦ Other

Table 6–Site #6 Priority, Management, and Costs of Site Improvements

Improvement Item	Estimated Costs
Cave Rehabilitation	Volunteer
Trail Connections	Volunteer
Access Road	\$15,000
Parking Area	\$7,500
Site Improvements	\$7,000
Interpretive Signs	\$12,000
Total	\$41,500