



Payette River Mountains

- **Region:** The Payette River Mountains area is bounded by the terrain surrounding the Donnelly, Cascade and McCall corridor, including the towns of Banks, Council Garden Valley, Horseshoe Bend, Lowman, New Meadows, Ola, Riggins, Smith's Ferry, Warm Lake and Yellow Pine.
- The regional moniker highlights the spectacular mountain vistas and river canyons that are prominent throughout west-central Idaho.
- **Origin:** Nearly 200 years ago Francois Payette, a French-Canadian frontiersman, came to west-central Idaho in search of beaver pelts. He put his name on the Payette River in early Hudson's Bay maps, and it was later applied to Payette Lake, Payette National Forest and the city of Payette.
- **Byway:** State Highway 55, also known as The Payette River Scenic Byway, is a 112-mile paved route starting just north of Boise that winds through the region's several scenic valleys and canyons and through the Boise and Payette National Forests.
- **Recreation:** Outdoor adventure destinations in the area include lakes, world-class whitewater rivers, mountain meadows, steep-faced mountains, river canyons, and national forest trails.
- **Wildlife:** Wildlife in the area includes bald eagles, moose, elk, sandhill cranes, osprey, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon.
- **Wilderness:** The area links into The Frank Church 'River of No Return' Wilderness, the largest designated wilderness area in the lower 48 states. It is almost 2.4 million acres, featuring a vast array of ridges, deep canyons, glaciated peaks, meadows, and more than 3,000 miles of trails.
- **Climate:** Located on the 45th parallel in the Northern Rocky Mountains, half-way between the Equator and the North Pole, the area features an ideal climate for year-round recreation.
 - In the winter more than 300 inches of feather-light powder falls annually, thanks to the Cascade Mountains to the west and the high desert of eastern Oregon wringing out most of the excess moisture from Pacific storms.
 - In the summer the Region sees more sunny days than most Rocky Mountain locations, and features extended daylight hours – often staying light past 9pm.
 - Classic Indian summers and brilliant autumns bring mild weather and little snow, ideal for outdoor activities and an extended golf season.
 - Fast melting springs with little precipitation, long and mild summers with extended daylight hours.

For more information on the region, visit www.PayetteRiverMountains.com

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