

There is evidence that this river has been 15' higher than at present. Considerable white sandy beaches and bars along the river. This river at one time, ^{15,000,000 years ago} ran across Miocene lava flows above the present river and Canyon and started to carve this steep canyon as the area started to rise in an uplift. This is true of many of these canyons especially Hell's Canyon 8 miles west of here. The above canyon is at 73622. Continued to Slate Creek Camp site along Salmon River at 73628 and camped along edge of river. In the evening Annette noted three river otter on W side of river, one was on a rock 1 foot above the river and the other two were swimming at edge of river along and in and out of the large boulders along the bank. The current was slow at this point. After two minutes the two that were swimming in the water left downstream while the third one remained on the rock which was now dark with the water carried there by the otter. In 1 minute this one left downstream. To continue down stream these otters had to traverse about 300' of faster moving water. After a short while the rock dried and was indistinguishable from the rest of the rock. In other words, wet rock on shore are signs of otter in the area. We could not see deer on hillsides but halfway expected to see some in the evening as they came down to drink. Two robin kept flying back and forth across the river as if in the process of feeding young. Noted one young at camp and also an old nest of the robin. Family of spotted sandpipers ³ flew up river. 3 redtails soaring over mt to W. 5 Brewers blackbirds in area, 2 cowbirds came to drink on island in river. Skunk odor late tonight.

Slate Creek Camp, Idaho Co., Idaho

July 30, 1977

Left at mileage 73628.3 at 9:00 A.M. 73629.5 Salmon River bridge. At 73629.8 photo 770730-1 of river and peach orchards. Ranchers claim robins are most destructive to cherries. Also Brewers blackbirds and wapwings do considerable damage especially the wapwings. No gull damage. River could be run with canoe at this water level. 73637.4 White Bird bridge. 73638.5 Terminal of White Bird Canyon just above White Bird Village showing broad slope of mountain range as if a monocline. This is in the Nez Perce Battle Ground area. After killing 1/3 of the white army they travelled to Canada where they surrendered. up to 1921 only crude trails led thru this area. 73647. Kamas Prairie like dry farming. Only bird over pass was 1 robin 73649.6 redtail. No birds across Kamas Prairie. Area around Grangeville in dark plowed fields. 73658 Grangeville.