

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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APR 18 2001

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION
& EDUCATION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Elk City Wagon Road - Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade Segment

other names/site number LOC 8 / 10IH674

2. Location

street & number Nez Perce National Forest N/A not for publication

city or town Elk City vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Idaho code 049 zip code N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional

Kenneth C. Reid

4-9-01

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH C. REID, Ph.D., Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William A. Stuber 02-20-01

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Regional Archeologist, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

[Signature] 5/21/01

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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1. Name of Property

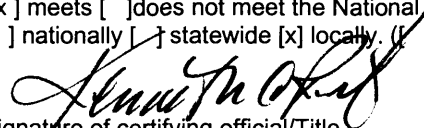
historic name: Elk City Wagon Road - Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade Segment
other name/site number: LOC 8 / 10IH674

2. Location

street & number Nez Perce National Forest [n/a] not for publication
city or town Elk City [X] vicinity
state IDAHO code ID county Idaho code 049 zip code N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] nomination
[] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
[x] meets [] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
[] nationally [] statewide [x] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title

Date 3 May 01

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments).

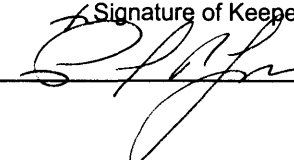
Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that the property is:
[X] entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register
[] removed from the National Register
[] other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper  Date of Action 5/21/01

Elk City Wagon Road - Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade Segment
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____ buildings
1	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing in
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Resources of the Elk City Wagon Road

Number of contributing resources previously listed the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION / Road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION / Road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A

roof N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Elk City Wagon Road - Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade Segment
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1895-1932

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested Other State agency
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Elk City Wagon Road - Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade Segment
Name of Property

Idaho County, Idaho
County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.9 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 6/0/7/4/4/0 5/0/7/9/5/4/0 B 1/1 6/0/9/4/9/0 5/0/7/9/0/4/0
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 //// //// D 1 //// ////

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale M. Gray
organization Frontier Historical Consultants date September 1, 1999
street & number PO Box 190654 telephone (208) 983-3061
city or town Boise state ID zip code 83719-0654

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.
- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name U.S.D.A. - Forest Service
street & number Rt.2, Box 475 telephone (208) 983-1950
city or town Grangeville state ID zip code 83530

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Elk City Wagon Road - Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade Segment
Idaho County, Idaho

The 53 mile long Elk City Wagon Road (ECWR) extends from the town of Harpster, Idaho, southeast to the mining town of Elk City, Idaho. The road was constructed in 1894-1895 and was the primary transportation route to Elk City until 1932. The Wagon Road was constructed roughly along the route of the Southern Nez Perce Trail which, in 1861, had been pressed into service as a pack trail into Elk City. The ECWR deviated from the trail so that its grades could accommodate wheeled traffic. Switch backs were constructed in the steeper sections and "corduroy road", (logs laid perpendicularly across the road) was built through swampy sections.

The west end of the Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade segment of the ECWR begins south of the Bear Creek bridge at the junction of Newsome Creek Road and Vicory Gulch Road. The ECWR segment splits from the Newsome Creek Road at a locked Forest Service gate and winds around the hillside to the Vicory Creek crossing. This 2.20 mile segment is by-passed by the maintained road and is close to its original condition with the surface of the road being 10 to 12 feet wide. While the road is passable to vehicles, locked gates limit public access.

Along this portion of the road between the western end and the Vicory Gulch stream crossing is an intact segment of corduroy road. Just below the confluence of Bear Creek and Newsome Creek, the road left the relatively flat Newsome Creek valley bottom to climb hills to the east. About half way to the Vicory Gulch crossing, the road runs through a marshy area on a steep hillside that required the construction of a corduroy road. Portions of this corduroy road can still be seen.

Around the bend from Vicory Gulch was said to be an early-day toll gate on Smith Grade, but no evidence of the toll gate is extant. The east end of the road segment is just beyond a Forest Service gate at the junction of Allison Gulch Road.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 1

Elk City Wagon Road - Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade Segment
Idaho County, Idaho

The Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade wagon road segment historically served as a portion of the Elk City Wagon Road. It is little changed from its historic appearance and maintains a high degree of integrity. The segment meets the eligibility criteria as established in the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Listing for the *Historic Resources of the Elk City Wagon Road*. As such, the Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade segment of the Elk City Wagon Road is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, at the local level, under Criterion A for its significance as a part of the historic transportation network linking Elk City with Harpster and points west.

From 1895 to 1932, the ECWR was a vital link for wheeled traffic to and from the mining communities of Elk City, Orogrande, Dixie and Newsome. A series of way stations and campgrounds (no longer extant) evolved along the route to serve foot traffic, livestock, stagecoaches, and freight wagons. Intermittent sources of water were developed for use by man and animals. During the winter, freight, mail and passengers were transferred to sleigh to cross the snow-covered higher elevations.

The water-grade Highway 14 was constructed in the 1920s and 1930s up the South Fork of the Clearwater River to provide relatively easy year-round access to the mining camps. After completion of the majority of Highway 14 in 1932, the services available along the ECWR either folded or relocated along the South Fork highway and the wagon road was relegated to Forest Service local access. A series of timber harvests since the 1960s has resulted in intermittent improvements along the road to support modern truck traffic, adversely affecting National Register eligibility of those segments.

The Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade segment of the ECWR was one of a series of linear segments which have been identified as a road link between Harpster, Idaho and Elk City, Idaho. Because the historic roadway has been replaced as the primary route between Elk City and points west, the different segments can be variously described as: abandoned two-tracks; limited access two-tracks; lightly maintained Forest Service roads; heavily maintained Forest Service roads; reconstructed roads; gravel county roads; and paved county roads.

The Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade segment of the ECWR is possibly the most pristine remaining section of the road. Its condition is near original, neither abandoned with revegetation and erosion, nor upgraded to handle modern logging truck traffic. The Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade has therefore retained excellent values of location, design, materials, workmanship, association, setting and feeling and is a contributing component under the *Historic Resources of the Elk City Wagon Road* National Register Multiple Property Document. More than any other segment along the route, the Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade conveys a sense and feeling of the original Wagon Road and is therefore eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under the criteria established in the *Historic Resources of the Elk City Wagon Road* Multiple Property Documentation form.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 1

Elk City Wagon Road - Vicory Gulch/Smith Grade Segment
Idaho County, Idaho

Bibliography

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1951 *Pioneer Days in Idaho County*, Vol. II, Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho.

Friends of the Elk City Wagon Road

1995 "The Elk City Wagon Road: Historic Adventure Guide, Centennial Edition July 15, 1895 / July 15, 1995",
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Gallagher, Wanda Jo

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1996 "Early Trails and Roads in Idaho County", unpublished manuscript. Grangeville, Idaho.

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1975 "Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Elk City Wagon Road, Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho",
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Ward, Rosaleen

1992 "Elk City Wagon Road: Management Plan", Clearwater Ranger District / Elk City Ranger District.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 10 Page 1

Elk City Wagon Road - Vicory Gulch/Smith Grade Segment
Idaho County, Idaho

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Elk City Wagon Road forms a continuous road link from Harpster, Idaho on the west to Elk City on the east. It is composed of 19 identifiable, linked segments, of which 13 are on Forest Service property - including the Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade.

Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade:

The Vicory Gulch / Smith Grade segment of the Elk City Wagon Road begins at the Newsome Creek Road/Vicory Gulch Road junction just below Bear Creek in unsurveyed Section 8, Township 29 North, Range 7 East, Boise Meridian. The road segment ends at the junction with the Allison Creek Road in the SE quarter of unsurveyed Section 9, Township 29 North, Range 7 East. The road segment is ten to twelve feet wide and is approximately 2.2 miles long (2.9 acres).

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the wagon road segments are defined in the Historic Resources of the Elk City Wagon Road Multiple Property Document as the physical limits of the existing road, such as the width of the road surface. The beginning and ending of each road segment is determined by changes in physical conditions due to changes in land ownership, changes in use, and other topographical characteristics. The west end of the Vicory Gulch /Smith Grade segment begins at the point immediately south of the Bear Creek bridge where the Elk City Wagon Road leaves the Newsome Creek flood plain. The east end of the segment terminates just beyond Smith Grade where the road intersects with the Allison Creek Road.