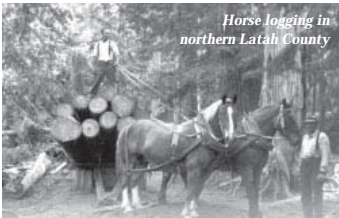


Horse logging in
northern Latah County



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Pullman Chamber of Commerce
415 N. Grand Avenue, Pullman, WA 99163
(509) 334-3565 ■ (800) 365-6948

www.pullmanchamber.com ■ tourism@pullmanchamber.com

Moscow Chamber of Commerce
411 S. Main, Moscow, ID 83843
(208) 882-1800 ■ (800) 380-1801

www.moscowchamber.com ■ info@moscowchamber.com

Latah County Historical Society
327 E. Second, Moscow, ID 83843 ■ (208) 882-1004
<http://users.moscow.com/lchs>

Photos:

Latah County Historical Society
Whitman County Historical Society

Credits:

Palouse Marketing Committee ■ Latah County Historical Society
Designed by Trirème d'Sign

References:

Ruth Kirk, Exploring Washington's Past: A Road Guide, 1990
Bill London, Umbrella Guide to the Inland Empire, 1990
Lillian Otnes, A Great Good Country: A Guide to Historic
Moscow and Latah County, 1983

For additional information on Idaho, call 1-800-VISIT-ID
or www.visitid.org

For additional information on Washington, call 1-800-544-1800
or www.experiencewashington.com

**The Pullman Chamber
of Commerce
building in
1912**



THE PALOUSE COUNTRY

WASHINGTON / IDAHO

A Tour
of Discovery
through
Whitman
&
Latah
Counties



THE PALOUSE

The steep, fertile rolling hills of Eastern Washington and North Idaho define the unique region of the Palouse. The word Palouse comes from the Sehaplin name of the major village of the Palouse Indians and means something sticking down in the water. The village was located at the confluence of the Palouse and Snake Rivers, and the something sticking down in the water was a large rock.

The Palouse Indians believed the rock to be the solidified heart of Beaver who played an important role in their religious beliefs.

LOOP

A tour of Whitman County's rolling hills, geographical and cultural sites, and small towns with a stop in Pullman, home of Washington State University. To begin the tour at Lewiston, drive north up the hill to Highway 95, then take the Pullman turnout to Highway 195. From Spokane, drive south on Highway 195.



Combine harvesting on the
Tobin place near Genesee

LOOP

A tour through the farmlands, canyons, forests, and rural towns of Latah County with a stop in Moscow, county seat and home of the University of Idaho. From Lewiston, drive north on Highway 95 up the hill. From Spokane, drive south on Highway 195 to Pullman, then follow Highway 270 into Moscow. An alternative route for travelers on Highway 12 is at the junction of Highway 12 and Highway 3 just after crossing the Clearwater River. Turn right, following Highway 3 and the Potlatch River northeast to Juliaetta and Kendrick.

1. UNIONTOWN AND COLTON, HIGHWAY 195 NORTH.

Uniontown was settled in 1875 by German immigrants, and in 1884 the Swiss nuns of the Benedictine order established a monastery. St. Boniface Church with its twin towers was dedicated in 1905. To the north is the convent which has been converted to a bed and breakfast inn. The building on the south was the Parish House. After a disagreement with the Uniontown priest in 1895, the nuns were persuaded to move their monastery four miles north to Colton which had been established in 1879. The Benedictine Sisters built St. Scholastica Academy which was a boarding school and mother house. The Academy moved to Cottonwood, Idaho in 1905, and the building was demolished in 1988. St. Gall's Church is a reminder of the town's Catholic history.

2. PULLMAN.

Situated among four hills and the largest town in Whitman County, Pullman was established in 1877 and named Three Forks after the creeks that converge here. Washington State University influences the city's economy and cultural life. College and Pioneer hills, the heart of the historic town, sport handsome homes, fraternity and sorority buildings. Historic buildings on campus include the 1894 Thompson Hall with its turrets and the cupola from the 1899 Ferry Hall. Museums on the University campus include the Museum of Art, the Anthropology Museum, Jacklin Collection of minerals, the Mycological Herbarium, the James Entomological Museum, and the Ownbey Herbarium. Information on events and attractions is available at the campus information office and the Pullman Chamber of Commerce, 415 North Grand Avenue.

Hauling grain sacks in Whitman County



2A SIDE TRIP TO KAMIAK BUTTE.

A country road ten miles north of Pullman on Highway 27 leads to the 3,360 foot butte which is named for the Yakama Chief Kamiakan and maintained as a county park. A picnic area and campground offer a cool refuge and scenic view of the Palouse countryside. A trail leads from the parking lot to a trail that follows the contours of the hill to the summit.

3. NORTHEAST ON HIGHWAY 27 TO PALOUSE.

Like other nearby towns, Palouse was founded by ranchers and farmers. Then in the 1880s it became a supply center for miners in the Gold Hill Hoodoo mining districts in Latah County. Another important economic activity was the sawmill, the focal point of spring log drives down the Palouse river. The economy boomed when the Potlatch Lum-



The Northern Pacific Railroad depot in Pullman in the 1920s

LOOP

ber Company purchased the sawmill in 1904, then declined when operations moved to Potlatch, Idaho.

4. NORTH TO GARFIELD.

Founded in 1882, by 1900 there were 10 large warehouses bordering the railroad tracks. A large brick grange hall, churches, handsome, large houses, and the impressive Robert C. McCroskey house on the north end of town retain the town's historic character. McCroskey was a banker, state senator, regent for Washington State College, and brother of Virgil McCroskey, the donor of the McCroskey park on Skyline Drive in northern Latah County.

4B SIDE TRIP TO ELBERTON

A winding road leads to what was once a thriving farming community in a valley cut by the North Fork of the Palouse River. Founded in the 1870s with a sawmill, it prospered with a diversified agriculture of bees, cattle, hogs, broomcorn, sunflowers, beans, potatoes, and prunes, which became a major crop. A prune dryer and furnaces could dry over 60,000 pounds of fruit daily. The loss of the sawmill, fire, flood, and reduced prices for wheat signaled the town's slow decline. Today only an empty post office and brick church remain.

5. NORTH ON HIGHWAY 27 TO OAKSDALE.

This farming community boasts a four-story flour mill which was moved in pieces from Illinois to this town in 1907 by Joseph Barron. Inside are 12-inch-square timbers and the sifting and grinding machinery, pulleys, and other milling equipment still in operating condition.

5A SIDE TRIP TO STEPTOE BUTTE AND MCCROSKEY HOMESTEAD.

Steptoe Butte at 3,612 feet is the highest point in the region and a National Natural Landmark. The road that spirals four times around the butte leads to breath taking views of the Palouse, Blue Mountains, and Bitterroots. At the base is a picnic area in an apple orchard planted by Virgil McCroskey who donated the butte and surrounding land to the state. The McCroskey homestead is on the south side

of the road to the butte. In the 1880s James, "Cashup" Davis operated a roadhouse at the base and a hotel on top which burned in 1896.

5B SIDE TRIP LOOP EAST TO FARMINGTON AND NORTHEAST TO TEKOA.

Farmington is at the fork of the road leading down from Skyline Drive. Settled by stockmen in 1870, a shingle mill was its first industry. The cemetery contains the grave of Matilda Sager Pringle, a young survivor of the Whitman Mission massacre. The two-story Masonic Hall and the brick bank with a corner entrance are on the National Register of Historic Places. Tekoa was established in 1875 as a trading post for the nearby Coeur d'Alene Reservation. The city's name, a biblical term for "city of tents," was inspired by the tents of railroad construction workers.

6. NORTHWEST ON HIGHWAY 271 TO ROSALIA.

The town has handsome houses at each end of the main street and a historic downtown district. A concrete railroad overpass with multiple arches south of town is a distinctive landmark. Follow 7th Street east to reach the Steptoe Memorial which honors members of the U.S. Army and the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene tribes that fought a battle, leading to the army's retreat to the Snake River.

7. SOUTH ON HIGHWAY 195 TO COLFAX.

Located in the Palouse River valley, this is the seat of Whitman County. Historic buildings line the main street, and to find the 1884 Perkins house, named for the town's founder, turn west on Last Street north of town to Perkins Avenue. Perkins settled here in 1870 and his log cabin is on the house's grounds. A whimsical, carved "Codger Pole" celebrates a 50-year football rematch between Colfax and St. John.

7A SIDE TRIPS TO PALOUSE FALLS STATE

PARK, LACROSSE, ENDICOTT AND ST. JOHN
The Palouse River cascades 198 feet into a deep pool. The waterfall is a sharp contrast with the surrounding channeled scablands, which were created by a series of glacial floods at the end of the ice age. To reach the 105-acre Palouse State Park and Palouse Falls, take Highway 26 from Colfax 50 miles to the turnoff for Washtucna. At Washtucna, turn left on Highway 263 and go 6 miles until you reach the signs for Palouse Falls and Lyons Ferry. Turn left and continue on Highway 261 for nine miles to the falls, which are in the state park.

On your way back from Palouse Falls take a scenic side trip through the rural farming communities of Lacrosse, Endicott and St. John. Twenty-five miles east of Washtucna, turn left on the Lacrosse Airport Road, which takes you to Lacrosse. From Lacrosse, take Winona South Road until you reach Endicott Road and then take a right. Endicott Road will take you into Endicott. From Endicott, take the Endicott-St. John City to St. John. To get back to Highway 195, take the Pine Road Malden Road to Rosalia.

8. BACK TO PULLMAN OR SOUTH ON HIGHWAY 195 TO LEWISTON.

At the junction of Highways 195 and Idaho's 95, you can elect to continue east to Latah County.

8A & 8B. SIDE TRIPS TO THE SNAKE RIVER LANDINGS OF ALMOTA AND WAWAWAI.

The steamboat Almota at a landing along the Snake River



Fertile soil and mild climates of bench lands along the river were home to the Palus (Palouse) Indians. In 1805 they greeted the Lewis and Clark expedition with peace and friendship. Later, farmers labored down the steep, winding roads, 2000 feet down the basalt canyons to steamboat landings. The turn-off to both sites is on Wawawai Road just north of Pullman on Highway 270. The towns are not connected by a road. Almota, from the Palouse word for "the

soaring flame," once had an important grain-loading facility and produced a variety of fruits from expansive irrigated orchards. Henry Spalding, son of the missionary couple Henry and Eliza Spalding, came here in 1872 to plant orchards. He and his family are buried in a cemetery overlooking Almota. The Snake River dams built in the 1950s and 1960s flooded the bench lands along the river. The second choice for a side trip is Wawawai, a pleasant county park with trees, grass, and a short hiking trail. The name comes from the Palouse word meaning talk. Wawawai also produced quantities of fruit and was an important shipping center.

LOOP



Two engines of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company, later Union Pacific, in the 1880s

3. HARVARD, PRINCETON, AND ON TO POTLATCH.

Going northwest on Highway 9 and then Highway 6 will take you through the small towns of Harvard and Princeton. Surveyors for the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway playfully named them after Eastern colleges. The Potlatch Lumber Company built the railway in 1905 to bring logs to its mills at Elk River and Potlatch. Its eastern terminal was Palouse, Washington, but plans to extend the rails to Montana were not realized. One of the locomotives and a classic depot is at the next stop, Potlatch.

1. JULIAETTA AND KENDRICK

The milder climate and longer growing season made this area in the Potlatch Canyon an important producer of fruits and vegetables. Timber and mining in the northeast part of Latah County made both towns important and busy trading centers.

Juliaetta, named after the postmaster's two daughters, Julia and Etta, once had a tram to transport grain from the ridges southeast of town. Along Main Street the brick building with a corner entrance was established in 1889 as a bank. The stone building with the second story balcony once housed the Foster School of Healing.

Kendrick, four miles from Juliaetta, was named for the chief engineer of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The town also had a grain tramway. The business district contains historic brick buildings, many of which were constructed after the 1904 fire. The Kendrick State Bank Building with its corner entrance, on the north side of Main Street, was constructed in 1892.

2. TWO ROADS TO DEARY.

You can either back track through Kendrick to the intersection of Highways 3 and 99 and turn onto Highway 99, following Brady Gulch up to Troy. Or, you can continue on Highway 3 which affords beautiful views of the Potlatch River and the surrounding ridges directly to Deary.

Troy, originally called Huff's Gulch and later Vollmer, was a commercial center and lumber town. It still has a large population of Scandinavians descended from early immigrants. Continuing east on Highway 8 to Deary is Spring Valley Reservoir which has picnic tables, hiking and nature trails, and fishing.

Deary, settled by Scandinavians, is named for the general manager of the Potlatch Lumber Company, William Deary. The company established the town when it built a station here for its logging railroad, the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway. During the heyday of logging, this was a thriving timber and farming town. To the northeast is Potato Hill, commonly known as Spud Hill.

2A. TAKE A SIDE TRIP INTO THE FORESTS OF BOVILL AND ELK RIVER

Continue on Highway 8 ten miles to Bovill. Named for English Lord Hugh and Lady Charlotte Bovill, the town was once the busy center for tourists who enjoyed fishing, hunting, and the amenities of the Bovill's hotel. The Bovills left in 1911 when the Potlatch Lumber Company began logging the area and rowdy lumberjacks moved into town. The two-story opera house and the Hotel Bovill are reminders of a more prosperous past. You can continue on Highway 8, 20 miles to Elk River. The Potlatch Lumber Company had a large sawmill here from 1911 to 1930. The handsome school building overlooks the town, and outside of town are directional signs to the trail head to Elk River Falls.

3A. TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO LAIRD PARK.

At the Harvard junction, take Highway 6 and 95A northeast 3 1/2 miles, and then turn right on Palouse River Road. This was the site of the Hoodoo Mining District's Grizzle Camp, named after pioneer John Grizzle. It was the end of the freight road from Palouse and Walla Walla, and from here miners went by horse or foot to their claims. In 1920 the Boy Scouts built a camp a bit west of Grizzle Camp which they renamed "Grizzly." Then in 1934 the Potlatch Forests, Inc., donated 120 acres of land, which included the Camp Grizzly, in memory of A. W. Laird, pioneer lumberman and a company official. The park, which contains a picnic area and swimming hole, is maintained by the Forest Service.

4. POTLATCH, THE HOME OF THE FAMOUS LUMBER COMPANY.

A scouting trip to the white pine forests of Latah County convinced mid-western lumber magnate Frederick Weyerhaeuser to invest here. In 1903 the Potlatch Lumber Company began operations in Palouse, Washington, then in 1905 it decided to construct its mill - the largest steam-driven mill at the time - and townsite here. The Company sold the town in 1952 and dismantled the mill in 1983. The Scenic Six Historic Park, which has a steam locomotive, depot, and reconstructed miner's cabin, is located on the mill site. Tours through the workers district, Nob Hill where the managers lived, and the commercial district containing the depot, city hall, gymnasium, and boarding house will provide a sense of this once bustling and well-run lumber town. Walking tour brochures are available at City Hall.

4A. TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO SKYLINE DRIVE.

Turn right (north) at the junction of Highway 95 and continue north to the turnoff for Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park. Virgil McCroskey donated the 4,500 acre park in memory of his mother and other pioneer women. The winding, dirt road lined with mature trees follows mountain crests, giving magnificent views of the Palouse. Although the park is not developed, there are picnic tables and turnouts. The 25-mile Skyline Drive ends in Farmington, Washington.

5. MOSCOW, HIGHWAY 95 SOUTH.

The county seat and location of the University of Idaho, Moscow is an historic and lively cultural center.

ELK RIVER

Explore the region's history at the McConnell Mansion museum at 110 S. Adams Street, and the Appaloosa Museum just west of town on the Pullman-Moscow Highway. Walking tour brochures of the historic downtown and residential districts are available at the McConnell Mansion and the Chamber of Commerce office, 411 South Main Street, where you can obtain information on community activities and events. Information and a map of the University of Idaho campus is available at the Information Center located on the north side of campus on

6. GENESEE, HIGHWAY 95 SOUTH.

The highway takes you through a rich agricultural area where farms average 4,000 acres and many have been in the same families for generations. Although wheat is the primary crop, rapeseed, dry peas and lentils are also grown. The original town of Genesee was established in 1872 a mile east of the present site. It served as a trade and supply center and a shipping point for a wide area. The historic buildings along Main Street testify to its former prosperity.

7. LEWISTON AND HIGHWAY 12.

Highway 95 south continues through farmland to the top of the Lewiston grade where a steep grade descends in elevation from 2,400 to 400 feet. A scenic overview at the top of the hill provides sweeping views of the juncture of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers, the city, and the surrounding landscape. Those who wish to continue west or east on Highway 12 should watch for the highway directional signs at the bottom of the hill.

WASHINGTON IDAHO

Viola - Potlatch Road,
8 miles north of Moscow