



Renovated Swan Falls Museum Reopens for Free Tours on Summer Saturdays

The Historic Swan Falls Powerhouse Museum has reopened with new displays that offer a window into the cultural and natural history surrounding Idaho Power's oldest power plant and the important role it played in the early development of hydroelectric power. The museum, located about 20 miles south of Kuna, is open for self-guided tours each Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Aug. 31.

Idaho Power has given the museum its first major makeover since it opened in 1994. A team of employees worked with Boise design company Catapult3 to create a series of visual and hands-on displays that will appeal to young visitors and history buffs. Many of the displays have a STEM focus emphasizing the technology of hydroelectric power production.

Visitors can descend into an intact turbine pit that still houses one of the old power plant's turbines — a reminder of Swan Falls' days on the cutting edge of hydroelectric technology more than a century ago.

"Swan Falls really is a unique facility," Idaho Power Archaeologist Ty Corn said. "The historic powerhouse has been on the National Register of Historic Places

for nearly 50 years, and it is next to the modern power plant that continues to generate electricity. The museum provides an opportunity to share some of that history with Idaho Power customers and visitors to the area."

The adjacent park includes a boardinghouse that was once home to men working at the project. Interpretive signs offer a glimpse into what was a thriving village in the Snake River canyon, far from the nearest town.

The Swan Falls Powerhouse Museum is one of the most visible examples of work performed by Idaho Power's Archaeology and Cultural Resources group.

"Most of the Cultural Resources group's behind-the-scenes work ensures we comply with state and federal requirements, but it is vitally important to preserve and protect the rich history here," said Allison Murray, Environmental Affairs Terrestrial Group Manager.

Idaho Power archaeologists record sites within Idaho Power's project boundaries that include pre-contact Native American sites, Historic-era mining and homesteading sites, and historic architectural resources. Additionally,

they monitor and help maintain the company's own historic properties.

Swan Falls started generating electricity in 1901 for the mines at Silver City. While the mines closed just a few years later, demand for electricity grew rapidly across southern Idaho. To meet the demand, the powerhouse was upgraded three times over the next 12 years with the last upgrade fully replacing the original 1901 powerhouse. The resulting structure now houses the museum.

Idaho Power acquired Swan Falls when the company was formed in 1916. In 1994, the company built a new power plant to the east of the historic power plant which was decommissioned and became the museum. Today, Swan Falls has a generating capacity of 27,000 kilowatts — enough to power more than 20,000 homes.





New Docks Coming to C.J. Strike Reservoir

C.J. Strike Reservoir south of Mountain Home is one of Idaho Power's most popular recreation spots. Campers, anglers, and boaters take full advantage of this desert oasis, and they will soon have access to improved docks at several locations.

Idaho Power has changed operations at C.J. Strike in recent years to generate additional electricity from the power plant, especially during the critical summer months. This means reservoir levels can fluctuate more than they have in the past.

Docks installed in 2008 under terms of the project's federal license do not float to accommodate those changing water levels. So Idaho Power is designing new floating

docks made of concrete and composite materials that will also withstand the frequent strong winds at the reservoir.

Idaho Power plans to install the new docks at North Park in late October or early November. Upgraded docks at Cottonwood, the Narrows, and Loveridge Bridge are scheduled to be installed at the end of 2025.

Other boating and fishing notes:

At Twin Falls Park, visitors will notice an improved road leading to the boat launch.

Idaho Power stocked C.J. Strike Reservoir with 50,000 rainbow trout earlier this spring. We'll add more in the fall, both at C.J. Strike and in the mid-Snake. We will also stock 20,000 channel catfish at Milner Reservoir in late June or early July.

Safety first: Always wear Coast Guard-approved flotation devices when recreating on or around the water. Many Idaho Power locations have life vest loaner stations.



It's up to Us to Keep Invasive Mussels out of Idaho Waters

"Clean, Drain, and Dry" is a motto that reminds boaters of the important role they play in preventing the spread of invasive species. Last year's discovery of quagga mussel larvae in the Snake River near Twin Falls highlights the need for vigilance.

These tips can help prevent introduction of invasive mussels and aquatic plants into Idaho:

- Get a free inspection and decontamination of any watercraft or conveyance entering and exiting the Snake River between Broken Bridge (Yingst Grade) and Pillar Falls. This includes duck decoys, waders, fishing tackle, life jackets, and anything that has touched the water. The inspection and decontamination station is at Centennial Park near Twin Falls.
- Before leaving any water body, inspect equipment and remove any visible plants and animals. Dispose of the removed material where there is no danger of it washing back into the water.
- Drain water from all equipment, including motors, live wells, ballast tanks, boat hulls, scuba gear, bait buckets, waders, and boots.
- Dry anything that contacted water.
- Take your boat to one of the inspection stations at various ports of entry if you are traveling to or returning from another state.

Learn more at invasivespecies.idaho.gov.



From the Electric Kitchen

June 2024
Drink

Strawberry Lemonade

- 4 cups lemonade
- 1 lemon, thinly sliced
- 1 cup orange juice
- 2 pints strawberries, sliced

Combine lemonade and lemon slices in a larger pitcher. In a blender, puree orange juice with half of the strawberries. Pour strawberry/orange puree into lemonade. Add remaining sliced strawberries. Stir and chill. Serve over ice.

Makes 8 servings, one cup each.



Hells Canyon Complex Relicensing Updates

For the latest information about the relicensing process for Idaho Power's three hydroelectric projects in Hells Canyon, visit: idahopower.com/relicensing.