

Joel Adams, Department of Geosciences, Idaho State University, adamjoel@isu.edu

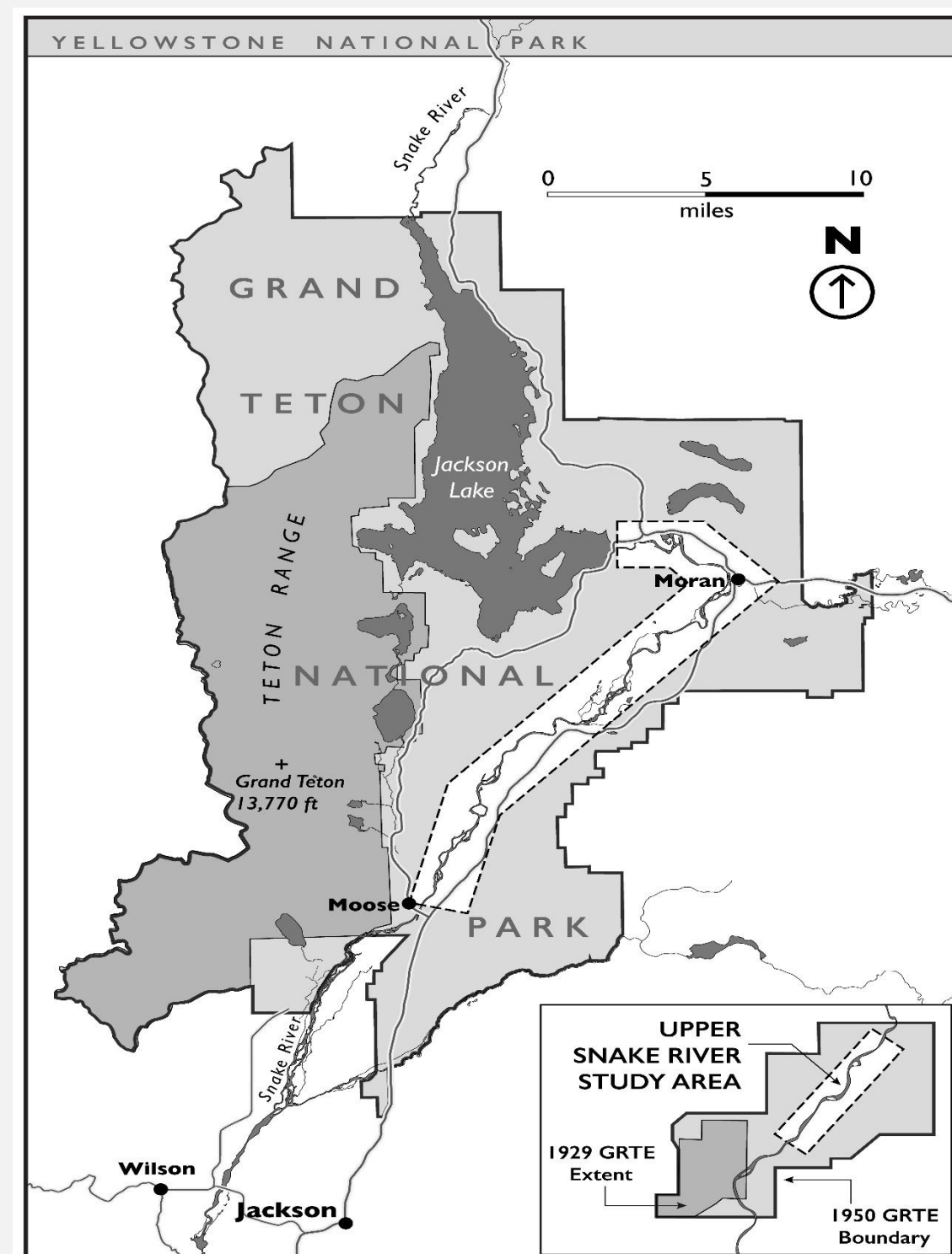
Yolonda Youngs, Ph.D. Departments of Global Studies & Geosciences, Idaho State University, younyolo@isu.edu

Madison Hanousek, MURI undergraduate student, Idaho State University, hanomadi@isu.edu

Abstract

This project traces cultural and environmental evolution of two rivers from 1950 to today through a repeat photography and cultural landscape study. The Upper Snake River leaves Yellowstone National Park, then meanders through the wide, open valley of Grand Teton National Park in northwestern Wyoming. It is a recreational hotspot for rafting, fishing and scenic tourism with a complex history of land use and management.

Across the state line of Wyoming and Idaho, the Portneuf River, a tributary to the Snake River, flows through the heart of Pocatello, Idaho. Residential development and river management strategies, including channelization to control flooding, impose a cultural signature on the Portneuf River that leaves visible vestiges of historic landscape change. In the arid West, rivers such as the Snake and Portneuf tell important stories about shifting ideas of resource management, agriculture, and recreation.



Map of Upper Snake River, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

(Source: US National Park Service. Cartography by Robert Edsall)

Methods

Method for this project include:

- Archival research
- Fieldwork - repeat photography
- Visual content analysis
- Cultural landscape change (qualitative/descriptive)

This study employs repeat photography, archival research, and cultural landscape interpretation to better analyze and visualize historic landscape change along these two interconnected yet very different river corridors.



Figure 1. Left: historic Moose Boat Landing, 1974. Right: Repeat Photo Moose Boat Landing. Joel Adams, 2017.



Figure 4. Left: Historic Portneuf River from Centennial Park, 1967. Right: Repeat Photo Centennial Park. Joel Adams, 2017.



Figure 2. Left: historic Cattlemen's Bridge, 1974. Right: Repeat Photo Cattlemen's Bridge. Joel Adams, 2017.



Figure 3. Left: Historic Schwabacher Landing. Right: Repeat Photo Schwabacher Landing. Joel Adams, 2017.

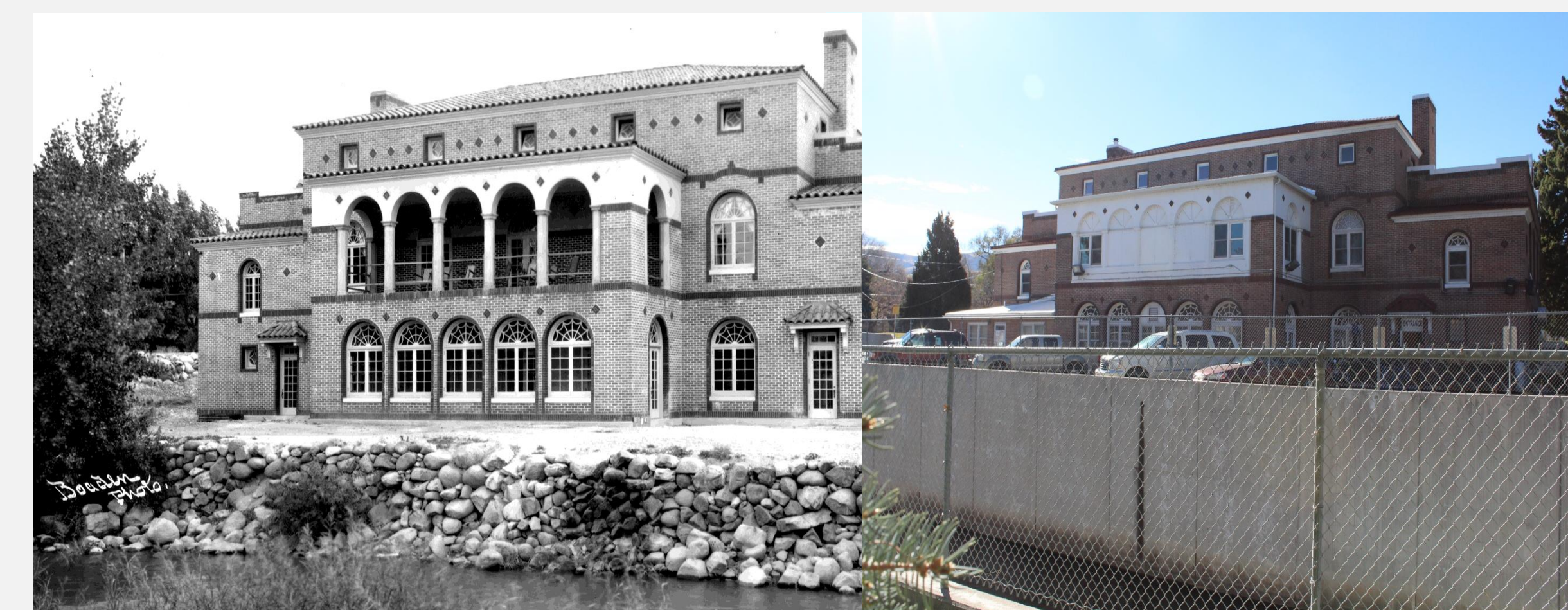


Figure 5. Left: Historic Veterans Memorial Building, 1926. Right: Repeat Photo, Veterans Memorial Building. Connor Martin, 2017.

Results and Analysis

Cross comparison sites for this study focus on boat launch sites on the Upper Snake River and historic buildings and developments on the Portneuf River.

Figure 1. Moose Boat Landing

- Bank erosion
- Historic building as marker (Menor's Ferry)
- Vegetation changes – trees along channelized river banks

Figure 2. Cattlman's Bridge

- Eradication of bridge
- Parking lot as marker

Figure 3. Schwabacher Landing

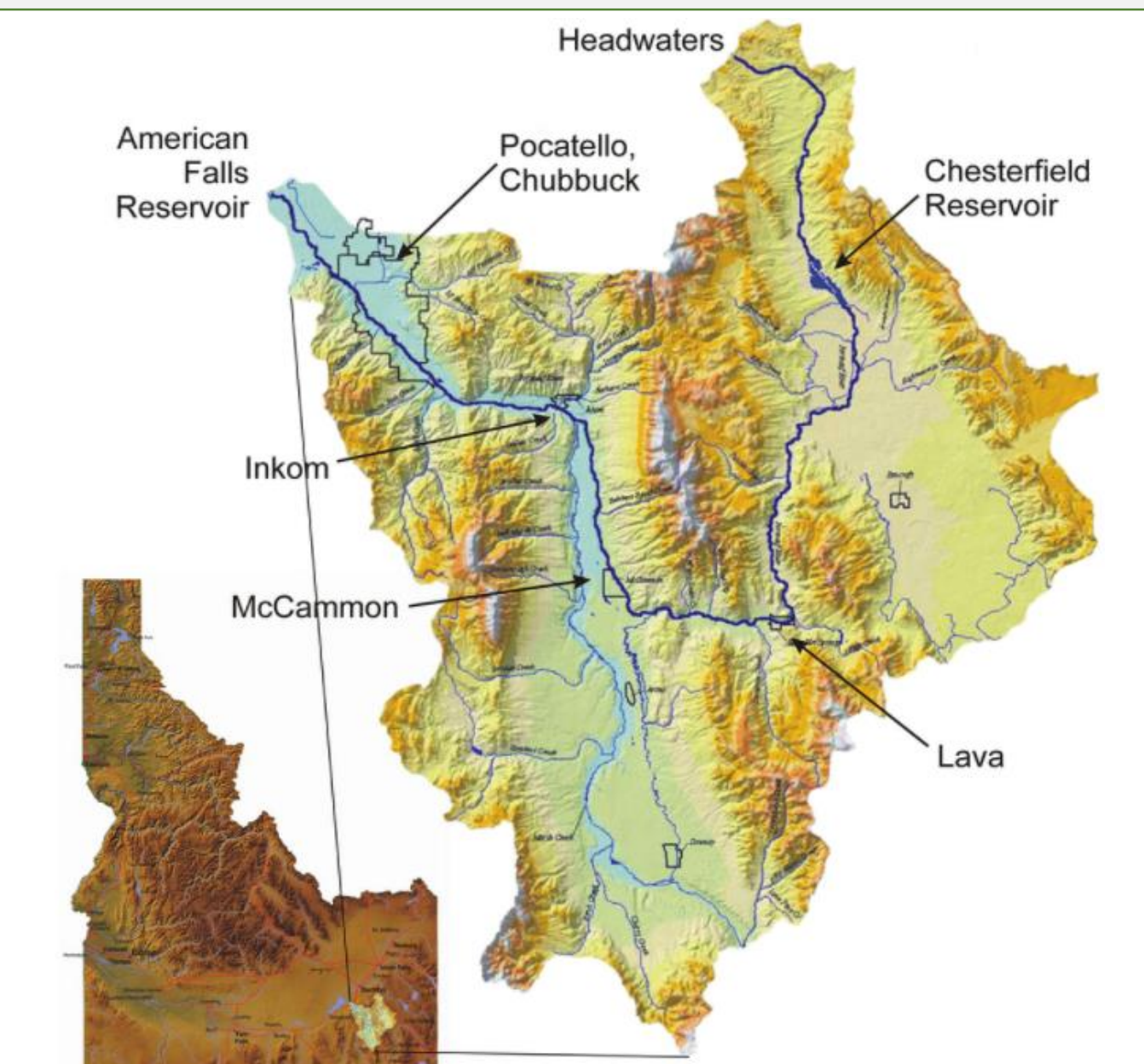
- Reduction in river flow
- Bank erosion pattern

Figure 4. Portneuf River, Centennial Park

- Vegetation changes- tree in foreground
- Building eradication

Figure 5. Portneuf River, Veterans Memorial Building

- Channelization of river
- Building modification



Map of Portneuf River and Watershed, Southeast Idaho

(Source: USGS. Cartography by ISU MILES and ISU Geosciences)

Conclusions and Future Research

The findings from this study are useful to scholars interested in cultural historic landscape change in the American West, river management, national parks and public lands, and cultural resource applications of repeat photography methods. Future research for this project includes capturing additional repeat photography sets of images for the Portneuf River along sites selected for revitalization and restoration per the Portneuf River Visioning plan, additional refinement of the Upper Snake River repeat photography sets, more archival research to better understand the social, political, and cultural geography of these two rivers, and a report and peer reviewed publication documenting our methods, findings, and potential contributions to the larger fields of cultural geography, water resource management, and public lands and recreation.

References

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