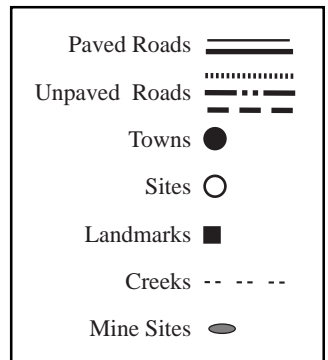
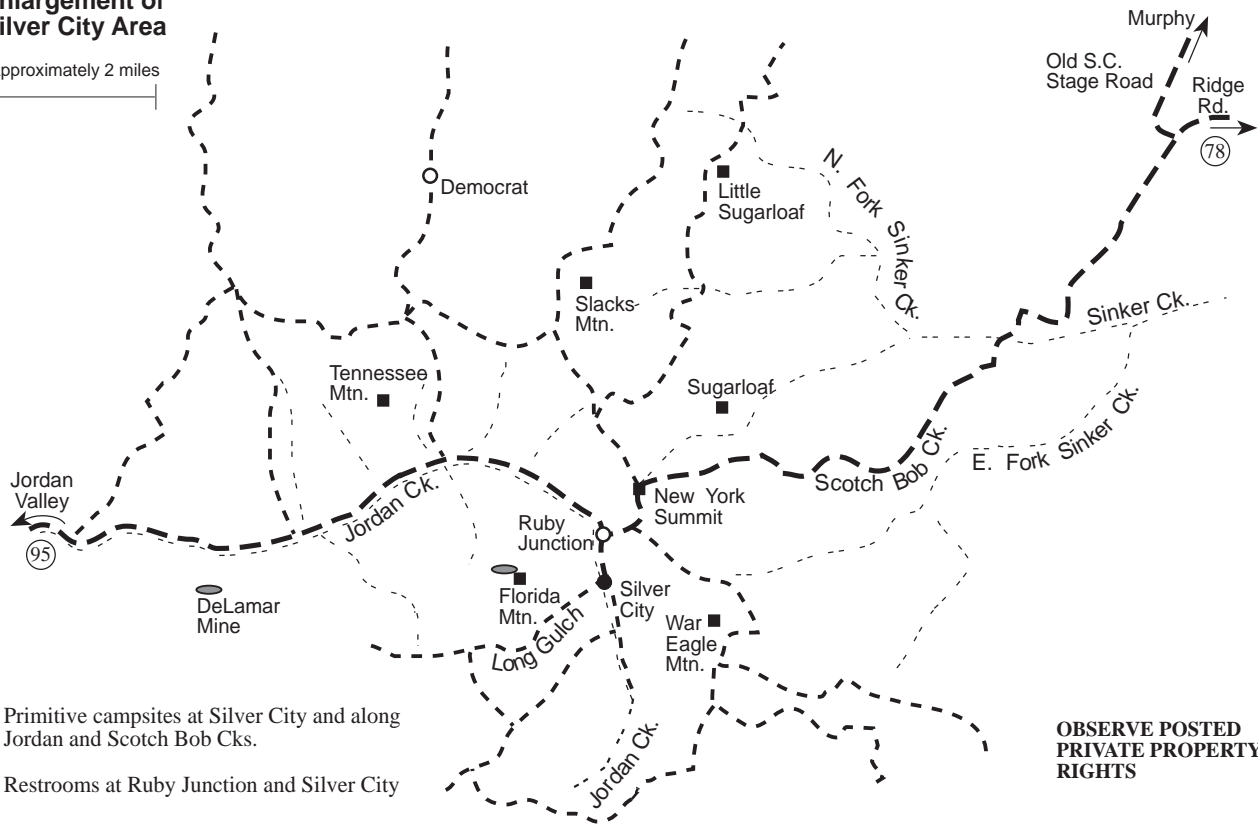


HISTORIC SILVER CITY



Enlargement of Silver City Area

Approximately 2 miles



Primitive campsites at Silver City and along Jordan and Scotch Bob Cks.

Restrooms at Ruby Junction and Silver City

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HISTORIC SILVER CITY

Silver City is a fascinating, partially restored nineteenth century western mining town. It was established in 1864 when gold and silver were discovered in the Owyhee Mountains. By 1866 Silver City had a population of about 3,000. The mining boom ended around the turn of the century and today the town has just a handful of permanent residents.

Land ownership in Silver City is complex. The townsite sits largely on BLM-administered lands, but the buildings and the land underneath them are privately owned. Private lands in the townsite originated from the patenting of mining claims.

Silver City was designated a National Historic District in 1975. As a historic district, the maintenance or reconstruction of building exteriors is required to complement the townsite's historic character. Although many of the townsite's original buildings were destroyed, the remaining structures are being stabilized and restored by property owners who use them primarily as summer homes.

Primitive camping is possible in the town of Silver City. A small seven-site campground with picnic tables, fire grates, and an outhouse is accessible free of charge. Potable water is not available.

Access

Silver City is located about 70 miles south of Boise in the Owyhee Mountains of southwest Idaho's Owyhee County. County roads provide access from State Highway 78 and U.S. Highway 95. The county access roads are regularly maintained, but unpaved, and are steep and rough in places. They are not recommended for especially low-clearance vehicles or those pulling trailers.

The trip from State Highway 78 near Murphy to Silver City is about 25 miles in length. Routes starting from U.S. Highway 95 near Sheaville and Jordan Valley, Oregon are about 30 miles long.

A network of primitive dirt roads and jeep trails provides access throughout the Owyhee Mountains for four-wheel drive, motorcycle, all-terrain vehicles, horseback, mountain bike and hiking enthusiasts. After winter snows close the area's roads (from around November 1 to June 1), access into most of the Owyhee Mountains around Silver City is by snowmobile, cross-country skis or snowshoes. Winter road access is maintained from Jordan Valley to the DeLamar Silver Mine. In the spring, melting snow and rain cause road washouts and muddy conditions that restrict vehicle access.

For More Information

For information contact the Bureau of Land Management: 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, ID 83705. (208) 384-3300. (www.id.blm.gov)