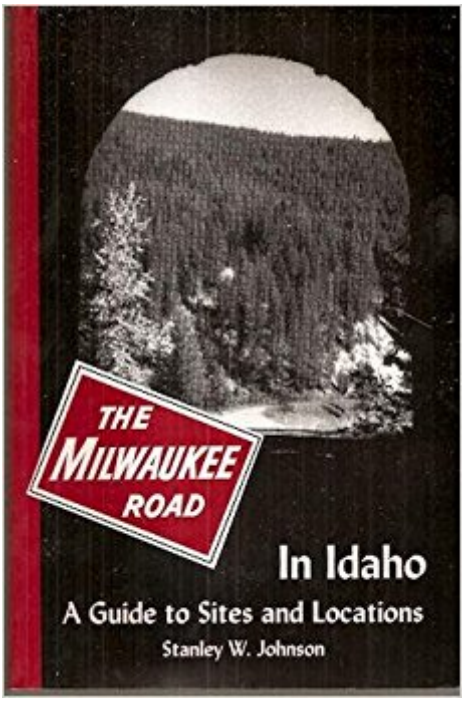
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The Milwaukee Road In Idaho: A Guide To Sites And Locations



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Synopsis

The Guidebook offers loads of useful and interesting detail for railroad buffs, bikers, hikers, and amateur historians. It is jammed with details enough to help anyone learn more about, locate and visit literally hundreds of interesting sites and locations.

Book Information

Paperback: 232 pages

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Customer Reviews

"Having traversed the route of the Hiawatha trail many times over the last 15 years, I have eagerly awaited the publication of this book. It is well worth the wait. Stan Johnson’s book does everything a good guidebook should. It tells you where the Milwaukee Road is in Idaho, how to get to it and what you will see when you arrive. Stan knows his readers. He provides the level of detail and related stories that will interest the casual hiker as well as the dedicated railroad enthusiast. The selection of photographs is a balanced blend of historic and modern views and the maps are clear, easy to follow and well coordinated with the text. Would I give Stan Johnson’s book a ringing endorsement? No, I would give it a loud clanging endorsement with the bell from one of the Milwaukee Road’s Westinghouse electric locomotives! Don’t go there without it." Cort Sims, Forest Archaeologist, Idaho Panhandle National Forests -- Cort Sims, Forest Archaeologist, Idaho Panhandle National Forests

Viewed from any perspective--engineering, scenic, historical, or pure railroading excitement--the Main Line of the Milwaukee, almost exactly 100 miles of mountain-traversing Idaho right-of-way, is remarkable. The route encompasses 20 tunnels, nearly a dozen high steel-bented trestles, and a lake-spanning pile trestle over a half-mile in length. The right-of-way is carved out of rock cliff and

forested mountainside and follows for miles the route of one of America's designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. Numerous observers have cited this stretch as the most beautiful stretch of railroad scenery in America. At the time of construction it was the most expensive segment of railroad construction ever known. It contained the largest segment of the Milwaukee's precedent-shattering electrified line and carried on its heavy high rails, laid on a comfort- and safety-oriented smooth railbed, one of the finest premier streamlined luxury trains in America, the Olympian and eventually the Olympian Hiawatha. Hikers and bicyclers (and in some areas horseback riders and those in automobiles) can follow the roadbed, not only in Idaho but eastward into Montana.

Buy this book BEFORE you tour the Hiawatha Trail! Even if you know nothing about The Milwaukee Road, you will be impressed with the author's accuracy and detail. I personally verified Chaptrer 4, areas 1 through 3 and referenced areas 4 through 6 on driving from Avery to St. Maries. I was amazed at The Milwaukee Road's incredible engineering of the St. Paul Pass Tunnel (crews met at the middle of the 8700 foot tunnel with less than one inch lateral error).This book is not a huckster's tour guide; you may depend on it to be a comprehensive, well written description of what to find all the way from the Montana/Idaho border to St. Maries and beyond to the Washington state line. I was really impressed at my depth of knowledge as I rode my bicycle on the Hiawatha Trail from East Portal in Montana to the Pearson Trail Head in Idaho, and then driving from Pearson to Avery. The book starts at the Montana/Idaho border and continues west to the Washington state border.I covered the maps in Appendix 1 using an orange overlay marker--no errors here. Be sure to bring a camera with you as your pictures will make an excellent compliment to this book!It really is a shame The Milwaukee Road is no more but the Forest Service has preserved the route in Idaho. If you enjoy exploring America, this is the book to use to check out the Road in Idaho.

On the border between Montana & Idaho, there is a marvelous opportunity to ride a bicycle downhill along a railroad bed. The trip traverses tunnels, trestles & informational messages about the countryside, the railroad & the history. As great as it is, I came away wishing to better undertand the events that provided the opportunity as well as what there is still to see. The Milwaukee Road in Idaho is the book I had been looking for. It actually covers much more than the 15 or so miles of the ride, but it clearly provides information that explains what I saw.I would reccomend it, in advance, for anyone planning such an adventure.

I am the daughter of a retired Milwaukee Road Conductor. We traveled for free back then. I love the

Road and have many books on the subject. This one wets the whistle to practice riding my bike so I can see this trail through the mountains for myself. Reported to be the most beautiful rail stretch in the USA with tunnels and trestles, guide posts and potties, this is a trip I must take. All pertinent info plus some railroad history to boot. Wish the photos were color but go see for yourself. Get it. You won't regret it!

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