According to oral history, French-Canadian fur trappers named Boise in the early 19th century. The trappers, after crossing the hot, dry desert, crested a hill and, gazing down upon an oasis in the desert—the woods surrounding the Boise River—and exclaimed “Les bois! Les bois!” (“Woods! Woods!”).

In 1834 Fort Boise, owned by the Hudson Bay Company, was established by British fur traders. The fort, now known as Old Fort Boise, was located at the mouth of the Boise River, 40 miles from present day Boise.

On July 4, 1863, the military chose a location for the new Fort Boise and began construction soon afterward. A town site began growing quickly next to the fort. The site benefited from its location along The Oregon Trail. Boise became a prosperous commercial center.

In 1864 Boise was incorporated as a city and proclaimed the capital of the Idaho Territory. The capitol building was completed in 1886 and in 1890, Idaho became a state.

Today Boise is still the largest metropolitan community in the state with more than 600,000 residents in the greater Boise area, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Boise is the hub of commerce, banking and government for the state and is located midway between Salt Lake City, UT and Portland, OR.

For additional information about Boise, visit www.boise.org or call 800.635.5240.

To learn more about the history of Boise, visit the Boise Arts and History Commission or the Idaho State Historical Society.

Media Contact:
Shea Andersen, Fahlgren Mortine
208.472.0599, Shea.Andersen@Fahlgren.com