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Idaho wine region petitions for state's second AVA

EAGLE, Idaho -- A petition to create another American Viticulture Area in Idaho has been accepted for formal review. An AVA is a specific wine grape growing region designated by the federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

The proposed new Willow Creek Idaho AVA resides within the Snake River Valley AVA, which was established in 2007 as Idaho's first AVA. The Willow Creek petition was crafted by Martha Cunningham of 3 Horse Ranch Vineyards.

There are two wineries and 14 separate vineyards in the Willow Creek area, which is located in the foothills north of Eagle, Idaho. To qualify for an AVA, petitioners must show the region has specific growing conditions as well as history.

If the Willow Creek Idaho AVA is approved, it would be subdivided from the Snake River Valley AVA. Wineries around Lewiston and Clarkston in north Idaho have also petitioned the bureau to create a Lewis Clark Valley AVA.