



tread lightly!
LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



IDAHO *Southeastern*

WYOMING *Western*

IDAHO *Southeastern*

WYOMING *Western*

BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST



CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST



TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST



A scenic journey through the BRIDGER-TETON, CARIBOU, and TARGHEE National Forests

Three National Forests spread across a diverse ecosystem in southeastern Idaho and western Wyoming: the Bridger-Teton, Caribou, and Targhee. These forests are rich in natural wonders ranging from grasslands to dense stands of timber, lush canyons, pristine wildlands, clear lakes and wild rivers, alpine meadows, caves, craggy ridges and towering mountain peaks. Within the three forests' boundaries are 6 million acres of America's public lands.



US Department of Agriculture • Forest Service
Intermountain Region • Ogden, Utah

Long before humans left their mark upon the land, wind and water shaped the face of the forests. Geological monoliths rose from the valley floors where erosion exposed ridges and peaks of hard naked stone. Crystal lakes collected water on the mountain tops to feed the rivers and streams below. Fertile soil encouraged trees and other vegetation to flourish in canyons and valleys while animals filled the forests with new life. Today the National Forests in southeastern Idaho and western Wyoming are rich in nature's heritage.

SAGAS OF BYGONE DAYS ...

on a scenic journey

Mountain men and trappers blazed trails across the West



Tracks carved by covered wagons are still visible on the Oregon Trail



A well trodden path on the Lander Trail, Bridger-Teton NF



A history of human influence is apparent on these National Forests. Explorers, trappers, mountain men, miners, and farmers followed in the footsteps of Native Americans who occupied the land for centuries. Pioneers seeking a new life in the West left evidence of their journey along the Oregon Trail. The sagas of this cultural heritage is preserved in ancient campsites, grave markers, abandoned mines, and historic structures.

Rough hewn logs were used for this cabin on Pass Creek, Bridger-Teton NF



Estella Brown was laid to rest along the Lander Trail

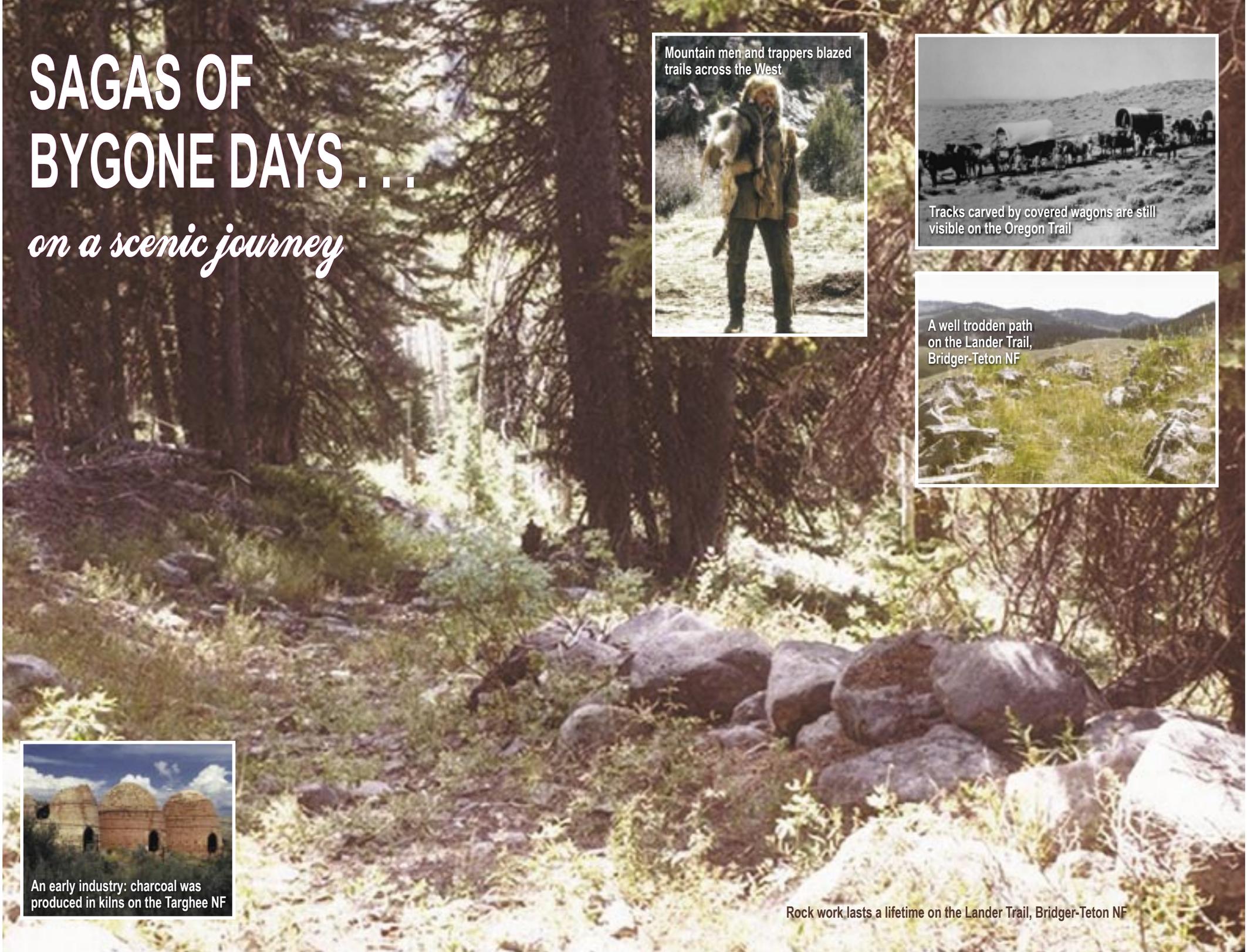


History carved in spruce tree on the Lander Trail, Bridger-Teton NF



An early industry: charcoal was produced in kilns on the Targhee NF

Rock work lasts a lifetime on the Lander Trail, Bridger-Teton NF



Nothing is more beautiful than spring in the western forests. It is heralded by rushing rivers, lush green grasses, budding trees, brilliant sunshine, and clean, crisp air. Animals emerge from their winter shelter and give birth to their young. It is time to begin fishing, hiking to the snowline, wandering the grasslands, and driving the Scenic Byways. Visitors may choose to ride horseback, spend a day in nature with their camera, float down a rushing river, or take a leisurely hike. Spring is a sensitive time for forest ecosystems. Visitors can protect these natural wonders by recreating with thoughtfulness and care. If the roads and trails are muddy or wet, leave the area and come back another day.

STARTLING SPRING . . .

warm awakenings on a scenic journey



Nesting site of a sandhill crane on the Caribou NF



Shhh—babies sleeping



Wildflowers attract the camera lens throughout the seasons in southeastern Idaho and western Wyoming



Fishing on Green River Lake beneath Square Top Mountain, Bridger-Teton NF



Huckleberries make a sweet summer treat



Warm River Campground on the Targhee NF

STUPENDOUS SUMMER . . .

hot destinations for a scenic journey



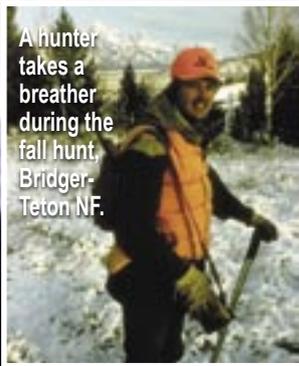
A hearty backpacker hikes in the cool mountain air, Bridger-Teton NF



Soaking tired muscles in Granite Hot Springs, Bridger-Teton NF

Summer in southeastern Idaho and western Wyoming offers a myriad of outdoor delights to forest visitors. This is the busiest time of year on the Bridger-Teton, Caribou, and Targhee National Forests as trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, lodges, and resorts receive extensive use. Caving, "ATVing," rock climbing, mountain biking, and whitewater rafting are popular activities for the robust adventurer. Other visitors enjoy photography, watching the abundant wildlife, camping, and hiking. If professional assistance is needed, a list of outfitters and guides is available from Forest offices. Using the land safely and with respect ensures there will be recreation opportunities in the future.

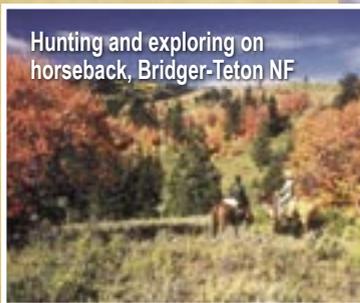
Autumn nights bring freezing temperatures and spectacular fall colors to the National Forests and Grasslands in southeastern Idaho and western Wyoming. A breathtaking array of incandescent red, gold, and orange leaves contrast with the yellow grasses and luminous green pines reflected in crystal blue lake waters. There are fewer visitors on weekdays, but campgrounds and trails are actively used by hunters, hikers, and other adventurers on the fall weekends.



A hunter takes a breather during the fall hunt, Bridger-Teton NF.

SIZZLING SCENERY . . .

autumn's splendor in a scenic journey



Hunting and exploring on horseback, Bridger-Teton NF



Whooo can resist watching a beautiful saw whet owl?



A marmot peeking over a rock on the Caribou NF

SNOWY SPLENDOR . . .

cool experiences for a scenic journey



A whole new world emerges on a snowmobile expedition, Bridger-Teton NF



Barking and cheering fill the air during a sled dog race, Bridger-Teton NF

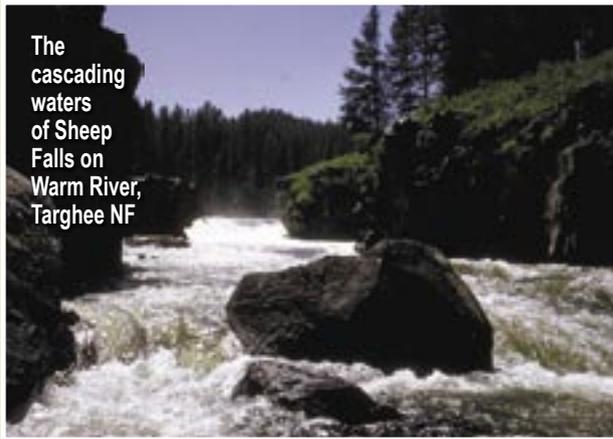


Cross-country skiing is fun for everyone, Caribou NF



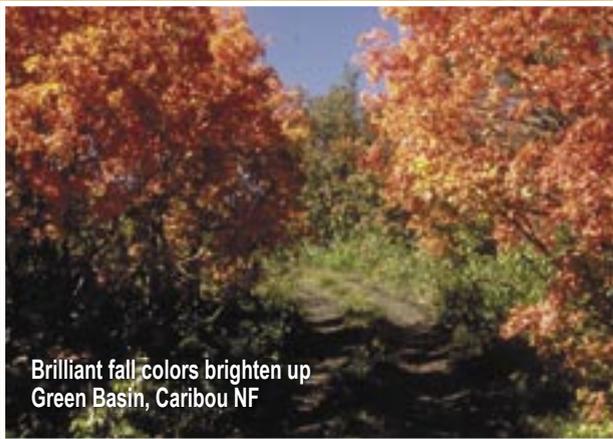
Snowghosts on Two Top, Targhee NF

Snow and ice turns the Bridger-Teton, Caribou, and Targhee National Forests into a virtual winter wonderland. Downhill and cross-country skiers, snowboarders, sledgers, snowmobile and snowshoe enthusiasts can indulge in their favorite "cool experience" in the versatile terrain of the forests. Visitors need the proper clothing and equipment for cold, changeable weather to keep themselves safe, dry and warm. Check avalanche conditions before venturing into the back-country.



The cascading waters of Sheep Falls on Warm River, Targhee NF

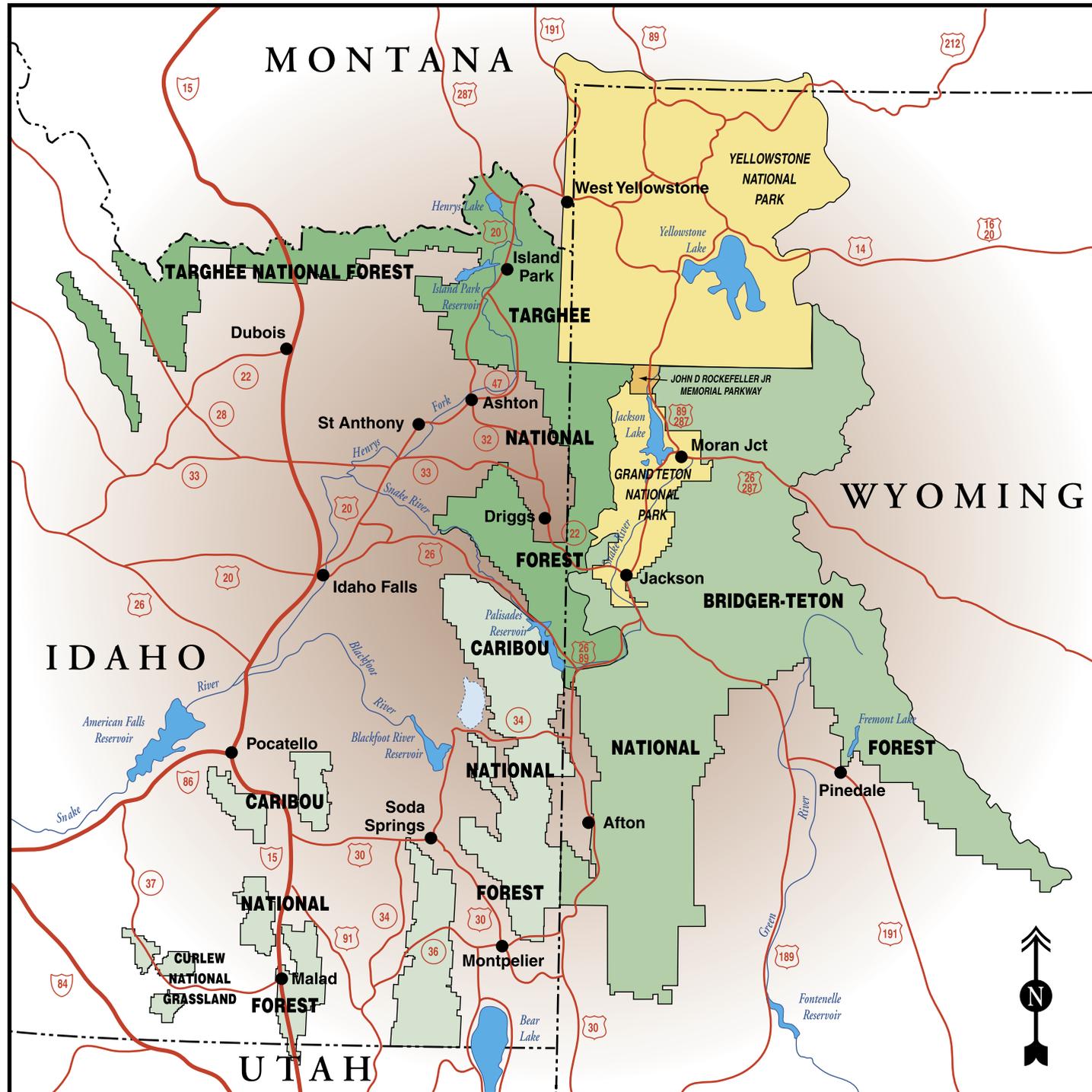
photo by Mel Lewis



Brilliant fall colors brighten up Green Basin, Caribou NF



One of the most photographed scenes in the nation, Square Top, Bridger-Teton NF



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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

For More Information

- Bridger-Teton National Forest.....(307) 739-5500
TDD (307) 739-5503
www.fs.fed.us/btnf/welcome.htm
- Jackson Hole Visitor Center.....
www.fs.fed.us/jhgyvc
- Caribou National Forest.....(208) 236-7500
www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou
- Targhee National Forest.....(208) 624-3151
www.fs.fed.us/tnf/
- National Forest Campground Reservation System.....1-877-444-6777
TDD 1-877-833-6777
- Bureau of Land Management.....Idaho Falls, Idaho - (208) 524-7559
Kemmerer, Wyoming - (307) 828-4500
Pinedale, Wyoming - (307) 367-5300
- National Park Service.....
Fossil Butte NM - (307) 877-4455 - www.nps.gov/fobu
Grand Teton NP - (307) 739-3300 - www.nps.gov/grte
Yellowstone NP - (307) 344-7381 - www.nps.gov/yell
National Elk Refuge - (307) 733-9212
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.....(208) 334-4199
- Idaho Falls Visitor Center.....(208) 523-3278
- Idaho Division of Tourism.....(208) 334-2470
- Backcountry Avalanche Hotline.....(307) 733-2664
www.untracked.com/forecast
www.avalanche.org
- SE Idaho Avalanche Hotline.....(208) 239-7650

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LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



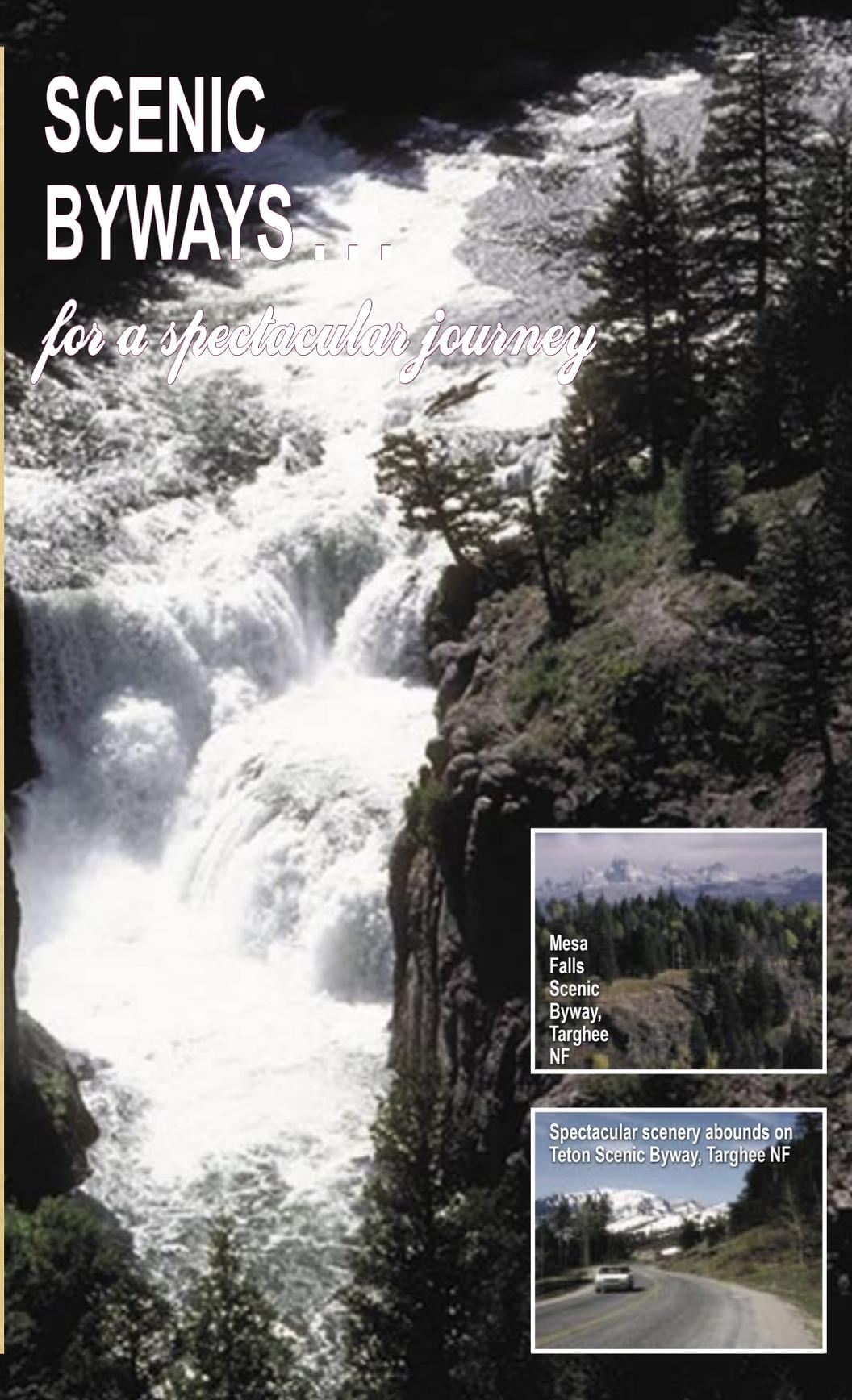
- ✓ Travel only where permitted and obey travel regulations.
- ✓ Respect the rights of others.
- ✓ Educate yourself about public and private land boundaries.
- ✓ Avoid non-durable surfaces, stream sides and waterways.
- ✓ Operate your ATV safely and responsibly.

Leisure driving along the Scenic Byways of southeastern Idaho and western Wyoming provides visitors unsurpassed views of nature's diverse offerings. A number of Scenic Byways meander in, out, and around the Bridger-Teton, Caribou, and Targhee National Forests. It takes about 2-1/2 hours to drive the 111.3-mile Bear Lake - Caribou Scenic Byway from the Utah border to Montpelier, Soda Springs, Henry, and Freedom, Wyoming. The Wyoming Centennial Scenic Byway is a beautiful 161-mile high-altitude highway stretching from Dubois to Moran (US 26 and 287); from Moran through Jackson to Hoback Junction (US 26, 89, and 191); and from Hoback Junction to Pinedale (US 191). Although not designated as scenic byways, other highways through the Bridger-Teton National Forest also offer spectacular mountain scenery.

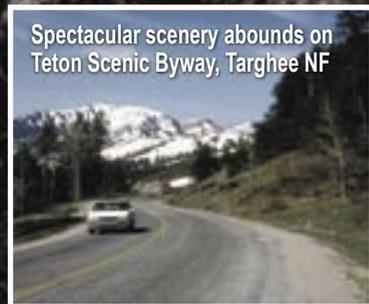
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SCENIC BYWAYS

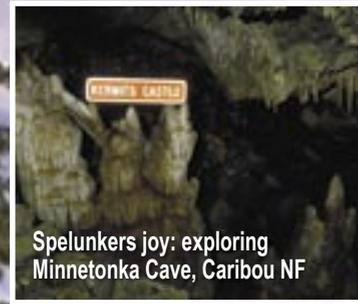
for a spectacular journey



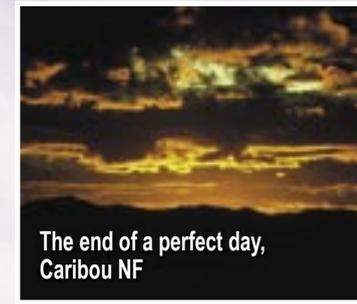
Mesa Falls Scenic Byway, Targhee NF



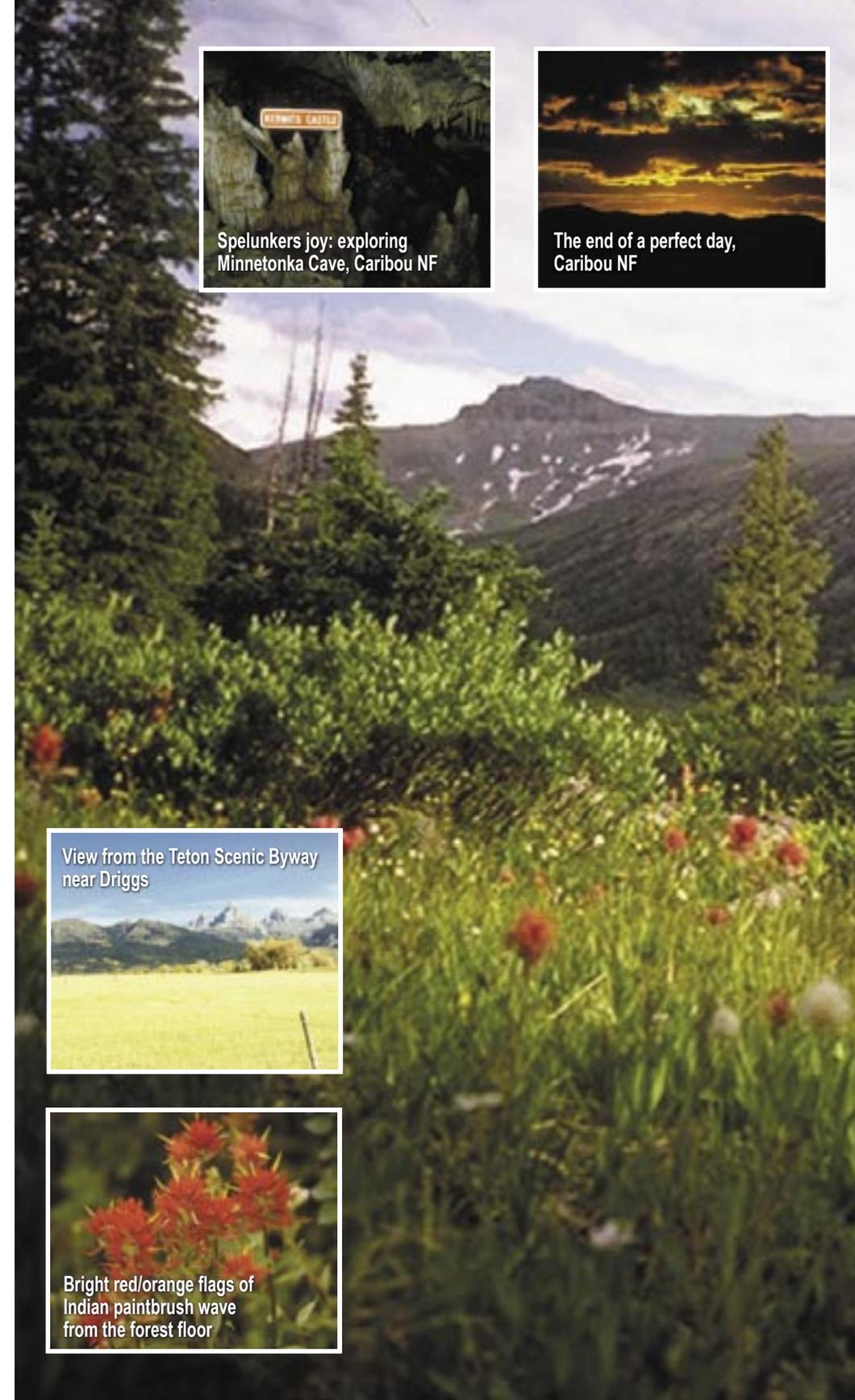
Spectacular scenery abounds on Teton Scenic Byway, Targhee NF



Spelunkers joy: exploring Minnetonka Cave, Caribou NF



The end of a perfect day, Caribou NF



View from the Teton Scenic Byway near Driggs



Bright red/orange flags of Indian paintbrush wave from the forest floor

Allow 2.5 hours to drive the 68.9 miles from Swan Valley to Ashton, Idaho, on the Teton Scenic Byway. The route is open year round and fall foliage is spectacular. The Mesa Falls Scenic Byway is only 28.7 miles long. Allow one hour for this drive. The road from Bear Gulch to US 20 is a groomed snowmobile route in the winter. The main attractions are the Upper and Lower Mesa Falls (104 and 76 feet respectively), which are the last major undisturbed waterfalls in Idaho. Trailheads, campgrounds, picnic areas, and pull-outs for scenic overlooks are conveniently located along these travelways. Call ahead for road conditions during the winter.



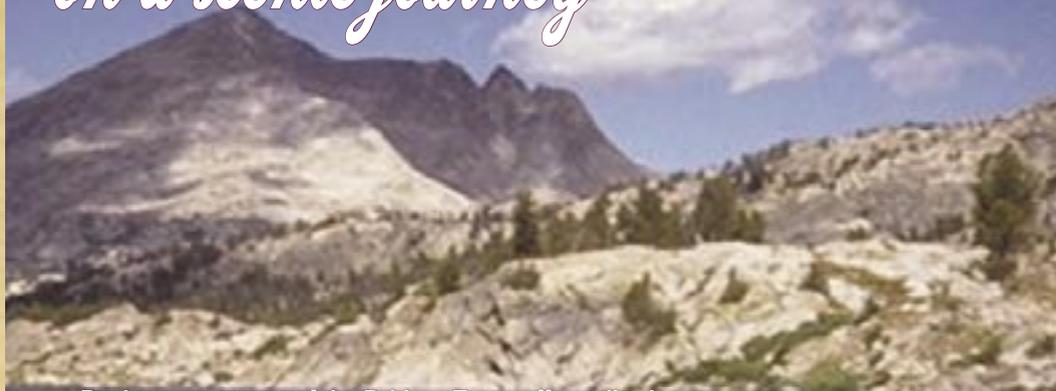
SCENIC BYWAYS

Regularly traveled major roads that offer unique combinations of recreational adventures and scenic attractions.

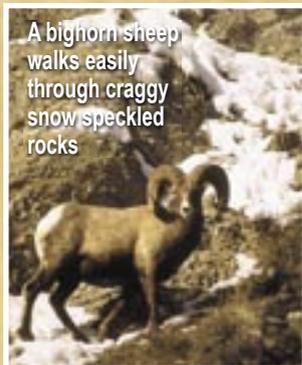
Remember “Safety First” as you will be visiting the homes of wild animals living in the National Forests. Prior to your visit, learn about the resident wildlife and how to conduct yourself in their territory. Awareness is the key to your personal safety. Never approach wild animals—give them plenty of space.

SPECIAL PLACES . . .

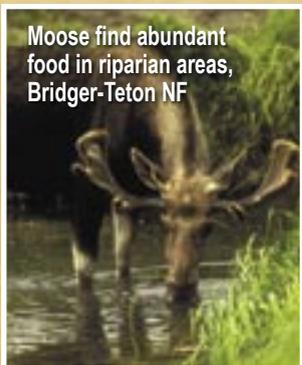
on a scenic journey



Backcountry areas of the Bridger-Teton offer solitude in the wildlands where there is little evidence of human presence.



A bighorn sheep walks easily through craggy snow speckled rocks



Moose find abundant food in riparian areas, Bridger-Teton NF

TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS WITH BEARS . . .

- Travel in pairs or groups and make plenty of noise when hiking
- Learn to recognize bear signs and avoid those areas
- Be cautious in dense timber or brush and along creeks
- Always remain alert; bears do not like surprises
- Carry bear repellent pepper spray
- Cook and store food and toiletries where they are unavailable to bears and at least 100 yards from sleeping areas



Give this big, black fellow plenty of space when you visit his home.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR . . .

- Slowly back away, keep calm, avoid eye contact, and speak in a soft voice
- Never run and do not try to climb a tree



Big Springs National Recreation Water Trail

Sawtell Peak provides the perfect backdrop for Big Springs National Recreation Water Trail, Targhee NF.



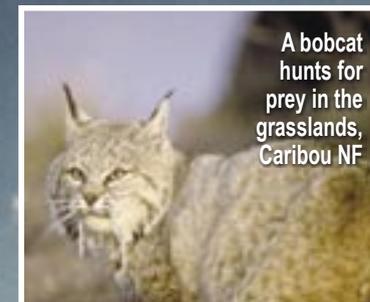
Launch at Big Springs for a day of boating fun, Targhee NF



Sighting a trumpeter swan thrills birdwatchers, Bridger-Teton NF

leisurely float on the Big Springs National Recreation Water Trail gives visitors a chance to watch for abundant wildlife such as Canada geese, trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes, muskrats, moose, and kokanee salmon. Beautiful rainbow trout live year-round in the 52 degree springs at the headwaters of Henry's Fork.

Humans and animals have shared the grassy plains and perennial streams of the Curlew National Grassland for more than 2,000 years. Prehistoric sites reveal the history of aboriginal people who feasted on bison and other game, and took their fill of fresh water from the springs. Later, ranchers and homesteaders used the Grassland for farming and cattle grazing. Today, the unique values of the Curlew National Grassland are recognized and conserved. It is a literal outdoor classroom featuring precious water, valuable minerals, wildlife, native plants, cultural sites, wildlife and quiet serenity.



A bobcat hunts for prey in the grasslands, Caribou NF

Curlew National Grassland

The Curlew National Grassland, with its unique ecosystem, has a beauty all its own.

The Bridger-Teton, Caribou, and Targhee National Forests are surrounded by a neighborhood filled with wondrous diversity. Rugged plains, high deserts, and pastoral low country fringe national and state parks and monuments, wildlife refuges, sand dunes, lava flows, waterways and a menu of National Natural Landmarks administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Everyone is welcomed as they journey through this Idaho/Wyoming neighborhood and partake in the feast of outdoor adventures.

SWEEPING STATURE . . .

a neighborhood of attractions for a scenic journey



Harriman State Park, near Targhee NF

Steam gushes into the air as Old Faithful erupts right on schedule at Yellowstone National Park.



Lower Yellowstone Falls in Yellowstone National Park

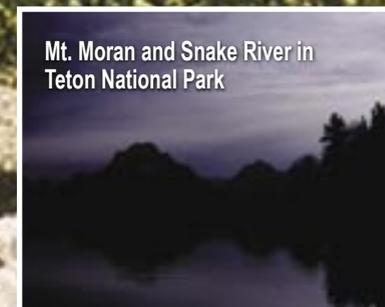
Nowhere else on earth are there more stark rugged peaks than the Teton Range where Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest are neighbors.



The Tetons in the winter



National Elk Refuge near Jackson, Wyoming



Mt. Moran and Snake River in Teton National Park