

# GETTING A TICKET

Due to the popularity of the Garnet Area, a ticket is required before digging.

Tickets must be purchased in advance on [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). No tickets are sold or issued on site.

Reservations are available on a 90-day rolling basis at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov), meaning reservations are available up to 90 days from the current day. Each day another date opens up.

Each individual must have his or her own printed ticket in order to participate.

A ticket allows the holder to dig garnets for a three-hour session and take home up to 2 pounds of garnet material.

Each individual may only purchase one ticket in their name for the entire season. An individual may purchase ticket for others in their group, but each ticket must be for a different person.

Group sizes are limited to 10 people.

Adults (ages 13 and up) cost \$15

Youth (ages 6 to 12) cost \$5

Children 5 and under are free

There is a \$1 processing fee per person

Cancellations within 24 hours of the reservation time are not refunded.

# The Idaho State Gem

*The garnets found here are called "star garnets" because of a unique property that causes some of them to display a reflection like a four or six pointed star.*



Idaho and India are the only two places in the world where star garnets are found in abundance.

The 12-sided (dodecahedron) or 24-sided (trapezohedron) crystals range in size from sand-sized particles to golf balls or larger, and often have 4- or 6-ray stars when cut "en cabochon" by a lapidarist.

There are both 12 and 24 sided garnets out there and they won't show a star until they're cut!

## Contact Us

**St. Joe Ranger District**  
St. Maries Office  
222 S. 7th, Suite #1  
St. Maries, ID 83861  
(208) 245-2531  
[fs.usda.gov/ipnf](http://fs.usda.gov/ipnf)  
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Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
R1-23-28

# ROCKHOOUNDING

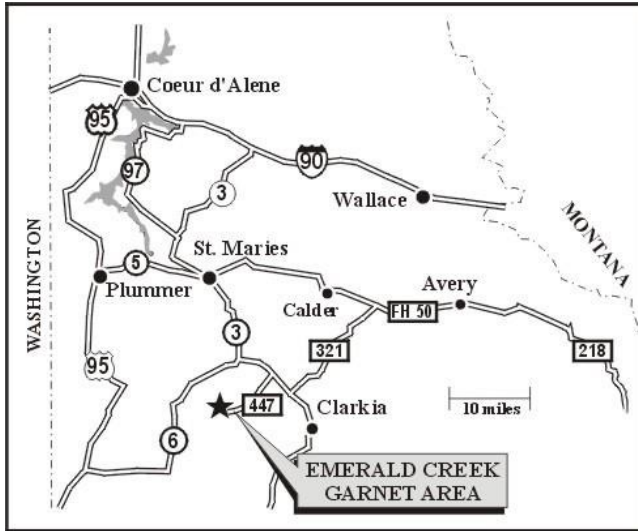


## AT THE EMERALD CREEK GARNET AREA

# IDAHO PANHANDLE National Forests

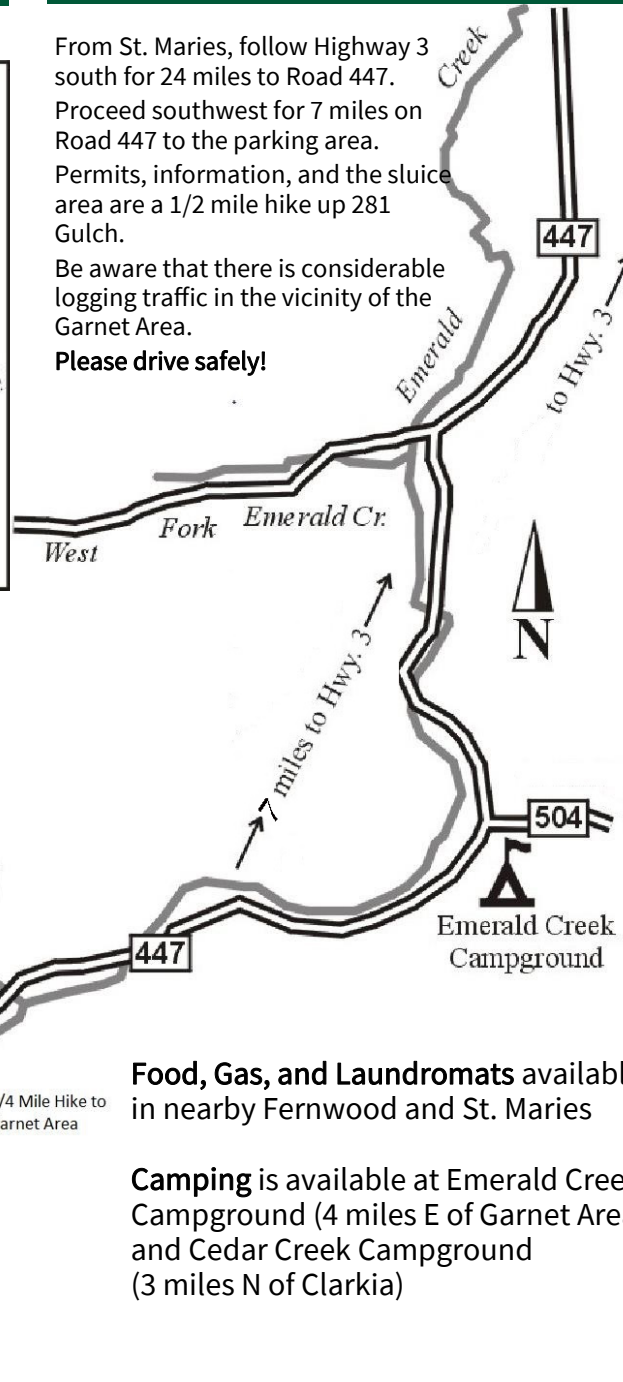
OPEN FRIDAY THROUGH MONDAY  
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND THROUGH LABOR DAY  
WEEKEND

## Vicinity Maps



## Driving Directions

From St. Maries, follow Highway 3 south for 24 miles to Road 447. Proceed southwest for 7 miles on Road 447 to the parking area. Permits, information, and the sluice area are a 1/2 mile hike up 281 Gulch. Be aware that there is considerable logging traffic in the vicinity of the Garnet Area. **Please drive safely!**



## Know Before You Go

Be sure to bring your own drinking water, lunch and snacks. There is no potable water on site.

Summers are very warm. Be sure to bring sunscreen and a hat!

You may also want light gloves for digging and a container for your garnets.

All other equipment is provided.

Bathrooms are available on site.

There is no cell service south of St. Maries.

Pets are not allowed in the Garnet Area.

Motorized digging equipment not allowed.

## Handicapped Access

Those unable to make the walk can drive their vehicle to the dig site for drop off.

Another party member can then park in the parking lot and hike back.

ADA compliant outhouses at the parking lot and dig site are available, in addition to wheelchair accessible picnic tables at the dig site.



### Garnet Area

Permit Kiosk



1/4 Mile Hike to Garnet Area

**Food, Gas, and Laundromats** available in nearby Fernwood and St. Maries

**Camping** is available at Emerald Creek Campground (4 miles E of Garnet Area) and Cedar Creek Campground (3 miles N of Clarkia)