



**Pacific Northwest Region**  
**Malheur National Forest**  
541-575-3000  
[www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur)

# Feature Story

## The Malheur National Forest: An Overview

The Malheur National Forest was established by President Theodore Roosevelt June 13, 1908. It was created out of the larger Blue Mountains Forest Reserve which was established two years earlier; Cy Bingham was the first Malheur Forest Supervisor.



The Malheur Forest was named for the Malheur River which has its headwaters in the southeastern part of the Forest. The 1.7 million acre Malheur National Forest is located in the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon. The Forest is managed for a variety of uses including livestock grazing, minerals and energy production, wood products, hunting and fishing and other recreational opportunities. The Forest and its many resources have played an important role in the development of local communities, a role that continues today.

The diverse and beautiful scenery of the forest includes high desert grasslands, sage and juniper, pine, fir and other tree species, and the hidden gems of alpine lakes and meadows. Elevations vary from about 4000 feet to the 9038 foot top of Strawberry Mountain.



The Malheur National Forest is within the Pacific Northwest Region which includes the 19 National Forests in Washington and Oregon.

The Malheur National Forest is home to two wilderness areas. In 1975 the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area was set aside; in 1984 an additional wilderness area, Monument Rock, was declared. These areas are managed to provide unique habitats for wildlife and opportunities for people to experience primitive natural surroundings.

Recreation has always been a significant activity on the Forest. Opportunities include camping, hunting and fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, mountain biking and cross-country skiing.



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## NEWS RELEASE

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The first public campground on the Forest was built before 1916 along one of the Forest's premier trout streams, currently there are 30 developed campsites. Most of the Forest Service lookouts, campgrounds and buildings were constructed during the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Visitors also have the opportunity to spend a night in a historic Forest Service cabin or fire lookout. Once operated as fully staffed lookouts or remote ranger stations, many of these rentals provide an opportunity to experience the life of a ranger or fire lookout.



For anglers the Malheur National Forest provides an endless number of fishing opportunities. Gorgeous rivers and streams, high elevation lakes, reservoirs, and small ponds offer just about every setting one could ask for to relax and fish, or just enjoy the magnificent scenery.

Hunters visit the forest in large numbers from late August into late fall. Rocky Mountain Elk and mule deer are the biggest attractions, but other species such as black bear, bighorn sheep, and blue and ruffed grouse are also hunted here.

The Forest is home to more than 780 miles of snowmobile trails and three Sno-Parks for winter use and 243 miles of hiking trails for visitors to enjoy during the warmer months.

The Malheur National Forest is within the Pacific Northwest Region which includes the 19 National Forests in Washington and Oregon. The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands in 43 States.



For more information on the Malheur National Forest, please visit us at:

- [www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur),
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For further information, contact the Malheur National Forest office at 541-575-3000.

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