



# CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST BEARTOOTH RANGER DISTRICT INFORMATION PACKET

[www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin](http://www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin)



Terry Jones

## Did You Know?

- The highest 41 peaks in Montana are in the Beartooth Mountains. 22 of these are over 12,000ft.
- Granite Peak is Montana's highest peak, at 12,799ft. It is known for its remoteness and extreme weather.
- The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest wilderness area in the lower 48 states.
- There are over 300 lakes and 10 major sub-alpine tundra plateaus in the Beartooths, with even more lakes across the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.
- At 3.96 billion years old, rock samples from the Beartooths are some of the oldest rocks on Earth.
- The Beartooth Highway reaches an altitude of 10,947 ft. and is often considered one of the most beautiful roads in America.

**406-446-2103 • 6811 Hwy 212, Red Lodge, MT 59068**

**2016 CAMPGROUND AND PICNIC AREA INFORMATION**

**BEARTOOTH RANGER DISTRICT**

|  | <b>Campground</b>          | <b># of Units</b>                        | <b>Max. Trailer Length</b> | <b>Dates Open</b><br>(estimate - actual dates depend on snow conditions) | <b>Elev.</b>                                       | <b>Hosted* or Self-Serve</b> | <b>Water</b> | <b>Site Fee**</b> | <b>Extra Vehicle Fee**</b> |
|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Main Fork Rock Creek   | Sheridan <sup>R</sup>      | 9  | 30'                        | May 13 - Sept 7  | 6300'  | Host                         | yes          | \$16              | \$9                        |
|  | Group Sites                | (sites #1 & #2) max 16 people:           |                            |  | 1-8 people \$16; 9-16 people \$32                  |                              |              |                   |                            |
|  | Rattin <sup>R, W</sup>     | 6  | 30'                        | May 5 - Sept 26  | 6400'  | Host                         | yes          | \$16              | \$9                        |
|  |                            |  |                            |  | Sept 27 - May 4 ; <u>not gated &amp; available</u> |                              |              | \$0               |                            |
|  | Parkside <sup>R, W</sup>   | 28                                       | 40'                        | May 5 - Sept 26  | 7200'  | Host                         | yes          | \$17              | \$9                        |
|  | Group Sites                | A - max 50 people, 2 RV's                |                            |  | 1-35 people \$65                                   |                              |              |                   |                            |
|  |                            | B - max 30 people, 2 RV's                |                            |  | 36-50 people \$85                                  |                              |              |                   |                            |
|  |                            |  |                            |  | Sept 27 - May 4 ; <u>not gated &amp; available</u> |                              |              | \$0               |                            |
|  | Greenough <sup>R</sup>     | 18                                       | 45'                        | May 5 - Sept 26  | 7300'  | Host                         | yes          | \$17              | \$9                        |
|  | Limber Pine <sup>R</sup>   | 13                                       | 45'                        | May 12 - Sept 7  | 7200'  | Host                         | yes          | \$17              | \$9                        |
| M-K <sup>W</sup>   | 10                         | 20'                                      | May 27 - Sept 6            | 7500'  | Self-Serve   | no                           | \$0          | \$0               |                            |
|  |                            |  |                            | Sept 7 - May 26 ; <u>not gated &amp; available</u>                       |  |                              | \$0          |                   |                            |
| Palisades  | 6                          | 16'                                      | May 27 - Sept 6            | 6300'  | Self-Serve   | no                           | \$0          | \$0               |                            |
| West Fork Rock Creek   | Wild Bill Lake             | 4  |                            | May 27 - Sept 6  | 6800'  | day-use only, no camping     |              |                   |                            |
|  | Basin <sup>R</sup>         | 30                                       | 30'                        | May 13 - Sept 12   | 6800'  | Host                         | yes          | \$17              | \$9                        |
|  | Cascade <sup>R</sup>       | 30                                       | 30'                        | June 2 - Sept 7  | 7600'  | Host                         | yes          | \$13              | \$9                        |
|  | Sand Dunes                 | 10                                       |                            | May 27 - Sept 6  | 5600'  | day-use only, no camping     |              |                   |                            |
| East Rosebud   | Jimmy Joe                  | 10                                       | 30'                        | May 27 - Sept 6  | 5600'  | Self-Serve                   | no           | \$0               | \$0                        |
|  | East Rosebud <sup>W</sup>  | 14                                       | 20'                        | May 27 - Sept 6  | 6200'  | Self-Serve                   | yes          | \$9               | \$5                        |
|  |                            |  |                            |  | Sept 7 - May 26 ; <u>not gated &amp; available</u> |                              |              | \$0               |                            |
| West Rosebud   | Pine Grove                 | 46                                       | 30'                        | May 27 - Sept 6  | 5800'  | Self-Serve                   | yes          | \$9               | \$5                        |
|  | Emerald lake <sup>W</sup>  | 32                                       | 30'                        | May 27 - Sept 6  | 6400'  | Self-Serve                   | yes          | \$9               | \$5                        |
|  |                            |  |                            |  | Sept 7 - May 26 ; <u>not gated &amp; available</u> |                              |              | \$0               |                            |
| Old Nye  | 6                          |  | May 27 - Sept 6            | 4950'  | day-use only, no camping                           |                              |              |                   |                            |
| Stillwater   | Woodbine <sup>R</sup>      | 44                                       | 40'                        | May 5 - Sept 12  | 5300'  | Host                         | yes          | \$18              | \$9                        |
|  | Group Sites                | (sites #1 & #44)- max 16 people, 3 cars: |                            |  | 1-8 people \$18; 9-16 people \$36                  |                              |              |                   |                            |
|  | Initial Creek <sup>W</sup> | 6  | 20'                        | May 27 - Sept 6  | 6000'  | Self-Serve                   | no           | \$0               | \$0                        |
|  |                            |  |                            | Sept 7 - May 26 ; <u>not gated &amp; available</u>                       |  |                              | \$0          |                   |                            |
| Pryor Mtns   | Sage Creek <sup>W</sup>    | 12                                       | 30'                        | May 27 - Sept 6  | 5600'  | Self-Serve                   | yes          | \$5               | \$10 double                |
|  |                            |  |                            |  | Sept 7 - May 26 ; <u>not gated &amp; available</u> |                              |              | \$0               |                            |
|  | Big Ice Cave               | 5  |                            | May 27 - Sept 6  | 7600'  | day-use only, no camping     |              |                   |                            |
| Maximum stay in a developed campground is 10 days. Maximum stay in a dispersed area is 16 days.  |                            |  |                            |  |  |                              |              |                   |                            |
| <sup>R</sup> Campground with reservable sites available: <b>1-877-444-6777</b> or online at <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a> |                            |  |                            |  |  |                              |              |                   |                            |
| maintained, roads not plowed. Please pack out all of your trash.   |                            |  |                            |  |  |                              |              |                   |                            |
| * Firewood available at hosted campgrounds for \$5 per bundle  |                            |  |                            |  |  |                              |              |                   |                            |
| ** 1/2 price fees for Interagency Senior or Access Pass holders  |                            |  |                            |  |  |                              |              |                   |                            |
| Day-use sites are only maintained in the above dates. If visiting before or after maintained dates, please pack in and pack out trash.                 |                            |  |                            |  |  |                              |              |                   |                            |

**You are camping in bear country.**

...putting your trash in the bear-resistant trash can provided.



...taking food and trash with you when you leave.



...storing food and trash inside a closed vehicle with a hard top.



## Wilderness Restrictions and Regulations

The Beartooth Ranger District has an area of 587,000 acres. Of this, 345,000 acres are within the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. The boundary of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness continues west into the Gallatin National Forest (in all, the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is 943,626 acres).

### General Use

- ✓ 15 people is the maximum group size
- ✓ 16 days at a camp site is the maximum camp stay limit
- ✓ No camping/campfires within 200 feet of a lake
- ✓ No camping/campfires within 100 feet of flowing water
- ✓ No use/possession of motorized vehicles, motorboats, chainsaws and other mechanized equipment
- ✓ Bicycles, wagons, carts, hang gliders or other mechanized equipment cannot be possessed or used
- ✓ Dispose of human waste properly. Either pack out waste and toilet paper or dig a hole 6-8 inches deep for disposal. Do not just cover with a rock.
- ✓ Use Leave No Trace techniques for building a campfire and fire rings. Please minimize your campfire impacts.
- ✓ Dropping/picking up material from aircraft and helicopters is prohibited
- ✓ The food storage order for wilderness travel means all food/attractants must be stored in a tree 10ft off the ground and 4 ft from the trunk, in a certified bear-resistant container, or protected with a product on the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Approved Bear Resistant Products List. [www.igbconline.org](http://www.igbconline.org)
- ✓ No shortcuts/switch-backing of trails
- ✓ Cannot cache/store equipment, personal property or supplies
- ✓ Natural and historical items must be left for others to discover
- ✓ Open fires are **PROHIBITED** in the Black Canyon drainage off of the Lake Fork Trail and in the Fossil Lake/Twin Outlets Lake area of the East Rosebud Trail.

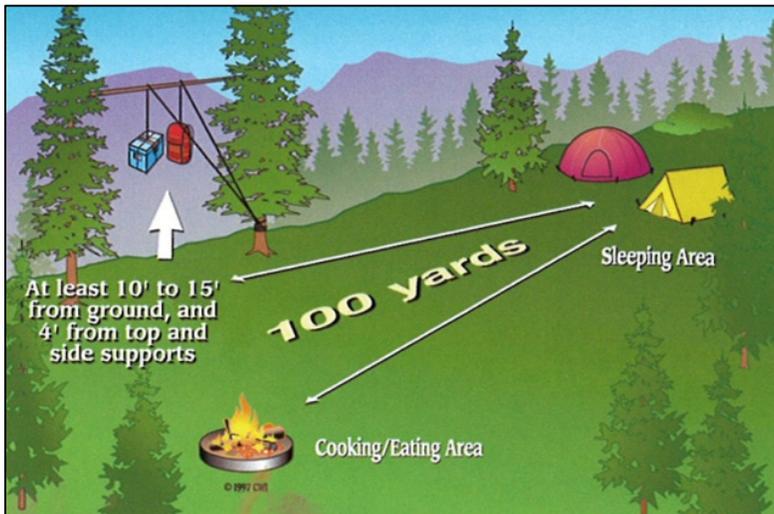
### Livestock

- ✓ **East Unit** – 15 people/15 horses, **no grazing** allowed
- ✓ **West Unit** – 15 people/25 horses, **grazing** is allowed
- ✓ Horses and pack stock are restricted on some trails; contact the ranger district for specific trail information
- ✓ No tying, tethering or picketing within 200ft of lakes
- ✓ No tying, tethering or picketing within 100ft of flowing water
- ✓ Feed (processed grain, cubed hay and pellets) must be certified weed free

### The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace Ethics

1. Plan ahead and prepare. (Plan your route, bring a map and compass and let others know your travel plans.)
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces. (Stay on established trails-do not cut switchbacks. Use existing campsites in popular areas. Move your camp daily in low use areas.)
3. Dispose of waste properly. (Dispose of human waste in a 6-8 inch deep “cat-hole” at least 200 ft from water. Pack out all trash, including toilet paper.)
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts. (Use a stove. If a fire is needed, a fire ring is not needed. Use existing fire rings.)
6. Respect Wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

## Bear Safety



In the Beartooth Ranger District proper food storage is not only recommended, it is **REQUIRED** by a legally enforceable regulation (Order No. 01-14-11-00-02). The primary goal of “bear proofing” your camp is to minimize adverse interactions between bears and humans.

The food storage regulation requires that all unattended food and attractants (garbage, pet and livestock feed, toiletries, animal carcasses, etc) be stored in a locked

bear resistant container, stored in an enclosed hard-sided vehicle, suspended at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet horizontally from any supporting tree or pole, or protected by a product on the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee’s certified product list. [www.ibgconling.org](http://www.ibgconling.org)

When setting up camp in the backcountry, select a site away from animal trails, thick brush, and natural food sources such as berry patches and fish spawning streams. Place the sleeping area at least 300 feet (100 yards) from food storage and the cooking/eating area.

**The minimum fine for leaving food or other attractants unattended is \$225. The maximum fine is \$5,000 or six months in jail.**

≡

## Other Important Contact Info

- Current fires: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> ; Smoke map: <http://www.wunderground.com/auto/preview/wundermap/>
- MT road conditions: 1-800-226-7623 <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/> <http://roadreport.mdt.mt.gov/travinfomobile/> (map)
- WY road conditions: 1-888-996-7623 [www.wyoroad.info](http://www.wyoroad.info) ; <http://map.wyoroad.info/hi.html> (map)
- Yellowstone National Park road conditions: 1-307-344-2117 [www.nps.gov/yell/conditions.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/conditions.htm)
- Custer National Forest “**Walk by the Light of the Moon**” interpretive program: [www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin](http://www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin) (under “Quick Links” in right hand side column.)
- Beartooth Highway: 10,947 feet. [www.beartoothhighway.com](http://www.beartoothhighway.com)
- Hiking shuttle service: Red Lodge Taxi 406-425-3091
- To volunteer with the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation on projects that benefit the wilderness <http://abwilderness.org/> 406-446-4582
- Absaroka/Beartooth Mountain Lakes Guide: <http://fwp.mt.gov/regions/r5/mountainlakes.html>
- For a list of local outfitters, please contact the Beartooth Ranger District (406-446-2103)