

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

CARIBOU-TARGHEE

National Forest

AT A GLANCE

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest lies almost entirely within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the largest remaining block of relatively undisturbed plant and animal habitat in the contiguous United States. Located in Idaho, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest offers year-round recreation of all types.



TOTAL ACRES ON THE
CARIBOU-TARGHEE
NATIONAL FOREST

3M

- **Highest Peak:** Diamond Peak at 12,107' (4th highest in Idaho).
- **Historic Places:** Caribou City (one of Idaho's largest gold rush cities); Lander and Oregon Trails (used by Pioneers to reach the California gold).

Encompassing close to 3 million acres, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in Southeastern Idaho borders Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the Continental Divide, with its southern boundary dipping into northern Utah. The Forest contains rocky peaks reaching over 10,000 feet, timbered vistas, rolling hills of sage, river valleys and grasslands that create unique habitats for world-renowned big game species, upland birds, and blue ribbon fishery. Most of the forest is a part of the 20 million acre Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This Forest is also home to the Curlew National Grassland. The forest is actually two forests that were combined in 2000.

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest hosts over 2.5 million visitors annually and is known for its recreation opportunities including highly developed recreation facilities and unlimited dispersed camping, numerous trailheads and fascinating interpretive sites. The forest offers three downhill ski areas, miles of cross country ski trails and one of the largest snowmobile trail systems in the west!

The forest has emphasis areas in recreation, mining, range, forest vegetation, water, wildlife and hazardous fuels reduction. Approximately 25% of the nation's phosphate is mined on the Caribou-Targhee. Livestock grazing is a predominant use of forest and rangelands.

▶ CURLEW NATIONAL GRASSLAND

The Curlew National Grasslands are located on the southern portion of the forest south of Malad, Idaho. The Grassland offers important habitat for sage grouse, mule deer and other wildlife as well as significant range resources for cattle. A portion of the Lander Trail wanders through the Grasslands. The Lander Trail was used as a cutoff from the Oregon Trail to the California gold fields, today, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Teton Scenic Byway

Six scenic byways provide access across the forest guiding visitors along the Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Byway, Mesa Falls and Teton Scenic Byways, Pioneer Historic National Scenic Byway, and the Fort Henry Historic and Lost Gold Trails Loop Scenic Byways.

THE FOREST RECEIVES ABOUT
2.5 MILLION
VISITORS EACH YEAR



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Upper and Lower Mesa Falls, the last major undisturbed falls on the Columbia River system is located on the forest off the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway. Viewing platforms and walkways provide visitors with stunning views! The historic Big Falls Inn is located at Upper Mesa Falls and is open to visitors May through September.

▶ RECREATION TRAILS

The forest hosts the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Palisades Creek National Recreation Trail, Nez Perce National Historic Trail, Highline National Recreation Trail, Two Top National Recreation Snowmobile Trail and Big Springs National Recreation Water Trails. In addition, the forest provides 3,950 miles of trail for uses such as hiking, horseback riding, biking, OHV, and is one of the premier snowmobile areas in the nation.



Minnetonka Cave

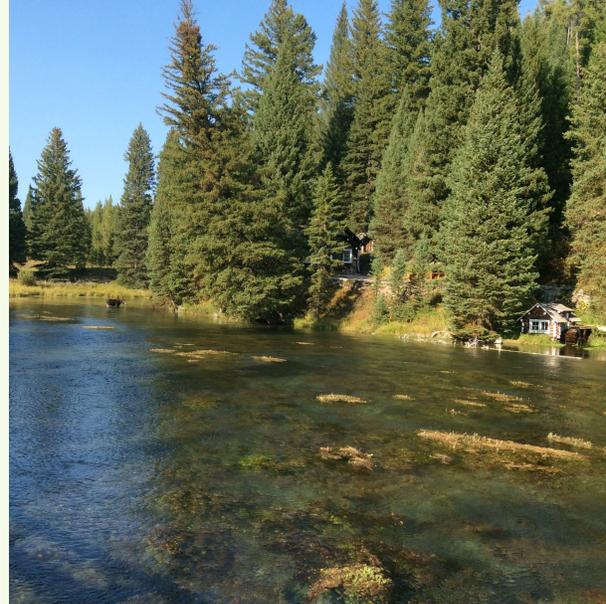
One of only two caves in the National Forest System is located on the Montpelier Ranger District. This cave offers a half-mile of stalactites, stalagmites and banded travertine in nine rooms. This is a fee site with guided tours available June through Labor Day.

▶ WATER

Several world-class Blue Ribbon fisheries, including the North Fork and South Fork of the Snake River, Warm River, and Blackfoot River along with lakes, reservoirs and numerous other streams offer a variety of fishing and other water related activities.

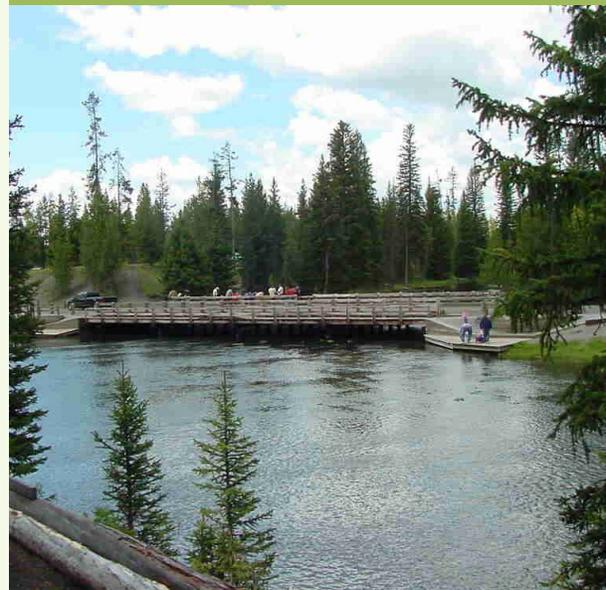
▶ WILDERNESS

The Caribou-Targhee has two Wilderness areas that are part of the 109 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System. The Jedediah Smith lies across the west slope of the Teton Range and the Winegar-Hole, located on the southern boundary of Yellowstone National Park. Travel with a good map and use caution when traveling through these areas, pay attention to weather and changing conditions. Water is unsafe to drink without treatment.



Big Springs

Located on the Ashton-Island Park Ranger District, Big Springs is the headwaters of the Henrys Fork of the Snake River. Water gushes out of the ground at a rate of 150 million gallons per day at the base of Moose Creek Plateau and remains a constant 52 degrees year round. The accessible interpretive site includes boardwalk and asphalt walking trails, bridge and large trout viewing area and the historic Johnny Sack Cabin which is open during the summer months.



CONTACT

CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST

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