

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

SALMON-CHALLIS

National Forest

AT A GLANCE

The Salmon Challis National Forest spans across east central Idaho. If you seek refuge from the business of daily life, the Salmon-Challis National Forest may be for you!



TOTAL ACRES ON THE SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST **4.3 M**

- **Ranger Districts:** Challis-Yankee Fork, Leadore, Lost River, Middle Fork, North Fork, and Salmon-Cobalt.
- **Deepest Canyon:** The Salmon River Canyon is deeper than the Grand Canyon.
- **Highest Peak:** Mount Borah is the tallest mountain in Idaho at 12,662 feet.
- **Miles of Trail:** 1,060 miles of motorized trails and 2,430 miles of non-motorized trails.

In 1906, the Salmon River Forest Reserve was established; this was later renamed in 1908 to the Salmon National Forest. Later that same year, the Challis National Forest was created. The Salmon Challis National Forest combination was formally approved in Washington, DC in 1998.

With the Salmon River at its heart, the 4.3 million acre Salmon-Challis National Forest has over 80% of its land managed as wilderness or as minimally developed areas. The forest is a wonderland of pristine lakes and breathtaking scenery, creating abundant opportunities for solitude, and self-reliance. The forest has two national Wild and Scenic rivers flowing through it, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and a vast array of both motorized and non-motorized trails.

Visitors can enjoy the natural landscapes of the Continental Divide, the vast, 1.3 million acres of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness (designated in 1980), 116,898 acres of the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness (designated in 2015), the snow-covered cap of the tallest peak in Idaho, Mount Borah, or the free-flowing waters of the Wild & Scenic Salmon River and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

SCENIC BYWAYS & TRAILS

Three Scenic Byways intersect the Salmon-Challis National Forest: Sacajawea Scenic Byway (Mud Lake to Lost Trail Pass— 132 miles); Salmon River Scenic Byway (Stanley to Salmon-162 miles); and Craters to Peaks Scenic Byway (Arco to Challis-140 miles).

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail runs along the eastern-most boundary of the forest; the historic route of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery and the flight of the Nez Perce (Nee-Mee-Poo) historic trails also go through the forest.

THE SALMON RIVER

The Salmon River originates in the Sawtooth and Lemhi Valleys of central and eastern Idaho. The river flows un-dammed along its 425-mile total length and drains about 14,000 square miles within the borders of Idaho. The 79-mile "Wild" section allows powerboat use associated with access to private lands, commercial outfitting, hunting and fishing.

Each year, approximately 10,000 people float the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The Middle Fork is a 104-mile free-flowing river in the heart of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. It was one of the original eight rivers in the nation designated as Wild and Scenic on October 2, 1968. The river moves through a variety of climates and land types and is the third deepest in North America.

THE FOREST RECEIVES ABOUT
230 K VISITORS
EACH YEAR CONTRIBUTING
APPROXIMATELY **\$28 M**
TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY



SALMON-CHALLIS

National Forest



Bighorn Sheep on the Middle Fork Salmon River.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Forest crews maintained approximately 456 miles of trail on the North Fork, Salmon-Cobalt, and Leadore Ranger Districts in 2015, including 135 miles of trail in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness and 321 miles of non-wilderness trail. Special emphasis trail work included rebuilding an alternate stock route in the Big Horn Crags and reopening the Waterfall Trail after the Middle Fork Fire Complex. Trail maintenance work outside of wilderness was completed on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Hat Lake/Iron Mountain Trail Systems. The Forest cooperated with multiple partners to accomplish this work in 2015 including the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation, Wilderness Volunteers, National Smokejumper Association, Northwest Youth Corps, Student Conservation Association, Youth Employment Program, Montana Conservation Corps, Backcountry Horseman, and the Idaho Parks and Recreation Program. Salmon-Challis National Forest volunteers were also recognized nationally by the Forest Service for their outstanding contributions.

UPPER NORTH FORK RESTORATION PROJECT

Implementation of the Upper North Fork Restoration Project began in 2015. Accomplishments included preparation of FY16 timber sale contracts, completing timber sale unit layout and marking for out year timber sales, award of 1,340 acres and completion of 501 acres of fuels reduction contracts, 22 acres of aspen stand restoration, and aquatic habitat restoration. The Forest will continue implementing using both traditional and stewardship contracting for timber sale and fuels reduction work. The Lemhi County Forest Restoration Group and other local partners will continue to be engaged in implementing and monitoring the success of this collaborative project.

INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT PROJECT

The Salmon-Challis Forestwide Integrated Weed Management Plan was completed in November 2015. The plan is to implement adaptive and integrated invasive plant management on current and potential invasive plant infested areas outside of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area. Management activities include Early Detection/Rapid Response control methods, implementation and effectiveness monitoring, and rehabilitation. Additional activities may include use of biological controls; aerial and ground based herbicide treatment; aquatic treatments after site-specific consultation with regulatory agencies; and mechanical/manual treatment methods.

UPPER YANKEE FORK LARGE WOOD RESTORATION PROJECT

The Salmon-Challis National Forest, along with the Bureau of Reclamation, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Trout Unlimited, completed work on the Upper Yankee Fork Large Wood Restoration Project this past summer. The project, which is located on the Yankee Fork Salmon River (Yankee Fork) between Jordan Creek and Eightmile Creek, is one of the largest stream restoration projects ever implemented on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The purpose of the project is to improve fish habitat in the Yankee Fork by restoring the stream to a more natural condition. Large wood in the Yankee Fork had decreased over the last 150 years. To help restore large wood abundance to natural levels, approximately 730 trees were added to the stream channel.

CONTACT

SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

Forest Supervisor - Chuck Mark
Deputy Forest Supervisor - Cheri Ford
208-756-5100

fs.usda.gov/scnf



Trail Crew at work.