

CTNF Rental Cabin Fee Proposal - News Release:

Caribou-Targhee National Forest Proposes Fee Increase at Rental Cabins for Public Use

Idaho Falls, Idaho: The Caribou-Targhee National Forest is interested in hearing your comments on a proposal to increase fees at five rental cabins, starting in 2017, which are available to the public for use. The current fees have not changed since 2009.

The Soda Springs and Montpelier Ranger Districts not only offer developed campground sites for reservation, but also offers historical guard stations or cabins. These cabins offered for public rental include the Cub River, Eightmile, Caribou Mountain, Johnson, Clear Creek, Egan, Diamond Creek, and Stump Creek Guard Stations. The five cabins proposed for a fee increase are detailed below.

These cabins have been available to the public for rent for over 10 years and are popular with both locals and out of area recreationists for family reunions, Boy and Girl Scout groups, hunting and fishing trips as well as cross country skiing and snowmobiling. The cabins can be rented year round and can accommodate anywhere from 15-75 people, depending on the cabin.

The majority of the revenue collected at recreation fee sites remains on the forest to operate, maintain and improve the recreation program.

The Cub River Guard Station is available year-round at \$40 during the winter and \$75 during the summer. The proposal is to raise the rate to \$60 during the winter and \$100 during the summer. Upgrades to the cabin have occurred over the last 4 year and include a new pavilion with picnic tables, serving table, basketball court, swing set, landscaping, gravel parking area, bunk beds, vault toilet, and propane range with oven. The cabin also has running water with a shower, flush toilet, water heater, and wood stove. Water inside the cabin is only offered during the summer months at the higher rate. The cabin can sleep up to 8 people in four bunkbeds inside the cabin and the maximum capacity of the site is 75 people. The guard station located 10 miles east of Preston, Idaho.

Eightmile Guard Station is available year-round at \$50 per night. The proposal is to raise the rate to \$60 during the winter and \$100 during the summer. Improvements to the cabin include restoration to the historic garage with a cement floor for dining and entertainment, serving table, basketball court, volleyball court, swing set, landscaping, expanded gravel parking area, bunk beds, vault toilet, wood shed, kid's playhouse, shower tile and fixtures, foot bridge, and propane range with oven. The cabin also has running water with a shower, flush toilet, hot water heater, and wood stove. Water inside the cabin is only offered during the summer months at the higher rate. The cabin can sleep up to 8 people in four bunkbeds in the cabin and the maximum capacity of the site is 75 people. The guard station is located 11 miles south of Soda Springs, Idaho.

Stump Creek Guard Station is available year-round at \$45 per night. The proposal is to raise the rate to \$60. Upgrades to the cabin include new pine tongue and groove throughout interior,

bunk beds, restored garage with dining furniture, propane cooktop, awning for vault toilet, awning for south door on guard station, trees for shade, and gravel for parking area. The cabin will sleep 4 people on two bunkbeds and the maximum capacity is 15 people. The guard station is located 5 miles northwest of Afton, Wyoming.

Johnson Guard Station is available year-round at \$45 per night. The proposal is to raise the rate to \$60. Improvements include new pine tongue and groove throughout the interior, bunk beds, dining furniture, propane cooktop, and pavilion for outdoor dining with furniture, flooring, and solar powered lighting system. The cabin will sleep 4 people on two bunkbeds and the maximum capacity is 15 people. The guard station is located 30 miles east of Soda Springs, Idaho.

Caribou Mountain Guard Station is available year-round at \$45 per night. The proposal is to raise the rate to \$60. Upgrades to the cabin include new pine tongue and groove throughout the interior, bunk beds, flooring, and fire ring, outside dining area with tables and chairs, kitchen table with chairs, propane cooktop, and restoration of the historic cabin behind the guard station. The cabin also has propane lights, gas furnace, and a vault toilet. The cabin will sleep 6 people on 3 bunkbeds and the maximum capacity is 15 people. The guard station is located 30 miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho near Caribou Mountain.

Montpelier District Ranger Dennis Duehren stated, "These rental cabins provide a great opportunity to the public to enjoy their National Forest, while retaining some of the comforts of home such as a roof over their head."

Pictures of the proposed rental cabins can be found on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest webpage. Please send your comments to Kaye Orme, Caribou-Targhee National Forest Recreation Program Manager, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls Idaho 83401. Comments will be taken until August 31, 2016.

All new fee proposals will be presented before a citizen's advisory committee, Idaho BLM Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC). Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable fee changes. The public is welcome to attend and comment at all advisory committee meetings. The Forest expects to be presenting the proposal to the Idaho RRAC meeting during their meeting in 2016/2017. The exact meeting time, location and agenda will be announced on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest website and through the local media. These fee proposals will also have extensive reviews by both the Forest Service Regional and Washington Offices.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act which allows the Forest Service to retain funds collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate and maintain and improve these sites. Before the Forest Service received this new authority, all fees collected by the Forest Service went to the national treasury.

If approved, the cabins would be placed on the National Recreation Reservation Site for rental information and reservations. People can make reservations via toll free number (877) 444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov.

For more information, questions or comments about any of these rental cabin fee proposals, please visit the Caribou-Targhee National Forest website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf> or contact Kaye Orme at (208) 557-5790.

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