

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

We recommend you allow 2-4 hours at the site. Many families like to bring their lunch and make it an all-day outing at the Garnet Area. Some rockhounds like to return several days in a row.

Permit Sales end at 3:30 PM. Digging ends at 4 PM.

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO I NEED TO BRING?

- DRINKING WATER, lunch, snacks
- Cash or check ONLY, no cell phone service
- Older clothing recommended as it may be stained
- Weather prepared with sunscreen, hat, extra clothes
- Container for garnets (ziplock bags work well)

(Buckets, shovels, and special screen boxes are provided.)

WHAT FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE GARNET AREA?

- At parking lot:** information sign, picnic tables, directions, and outhouse
- Digsite:** permit sales, displays, and visitor assistance.
Digsite consists of digging, sifting, sluicing and tailings areas. Picnic areas, outhouses, and a smoking area are also available.
- Forest Service personnel are available to provide:** visitor information, permit sales, garnet collecting instructions and assistance

IS THERE HANDICAPPED ACCESS?

Yes. Those who are unable to make the walk can drive their vehicle to the digsite and get dropped off. An able party member can then park in the parking lot and hike back. ADA compliant outhouses at the parking lot and digsite are available in addition to wheelchair accessible picnic tables at the digsite.

WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE NEARBY?

- Emerald Creek Campground - 4 miles east of Garnet Area. Fee is \$15.00 per night per unit.
- Cedar Creek Campground - 3 miles north of Clarkia on HWY 3. Fee is \$10.00 per night per unit.
- Food, gas, and other supplies are available in nearby Fernwood (12 miles) and St. Maries (32 miles).
- Laundromats in Fernwood and St. Maries

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FOREST SERVICE
Northern Region
Idaho Panhandle
National Forests



ROCK HOUNDING AT THE EMERALD CREEK GARNET AREA

**Garnet Area is open from
the Friday before
Memorial Day until the
end of Labor Day**

HOURS: 9 AM to 4:30 PM

***Permit sales end at 3:30. Digging ends at 4.**

OPEN: Friday through Monday

CLOSED: Tues, Wed & Thurs



ST. JOE RANGER DISTRICT

STAR GARNETS: THE IDAHO STATE GEM STONE

Idaho and India are the only two places in the world where star garnets are found. The 12-sided (dodecahedron) crystals range in size from sand particles to golf balls or larger and often have four or six-ray stars. Gem-quality faceting material is also found.

THE PROCESS

Visitors take garnet-bearing gravels from a stockpile to a sifting area. Once the material is sifted, visitors use one of the two sluices where they wash and screen the gravels for garnets. While visitors no longer “dig” for garnets, the new method will still allow people to enjoy the thrill of discovery.

All of the equipment is now provided so you do not have to bring your own and pack it up the gulch.

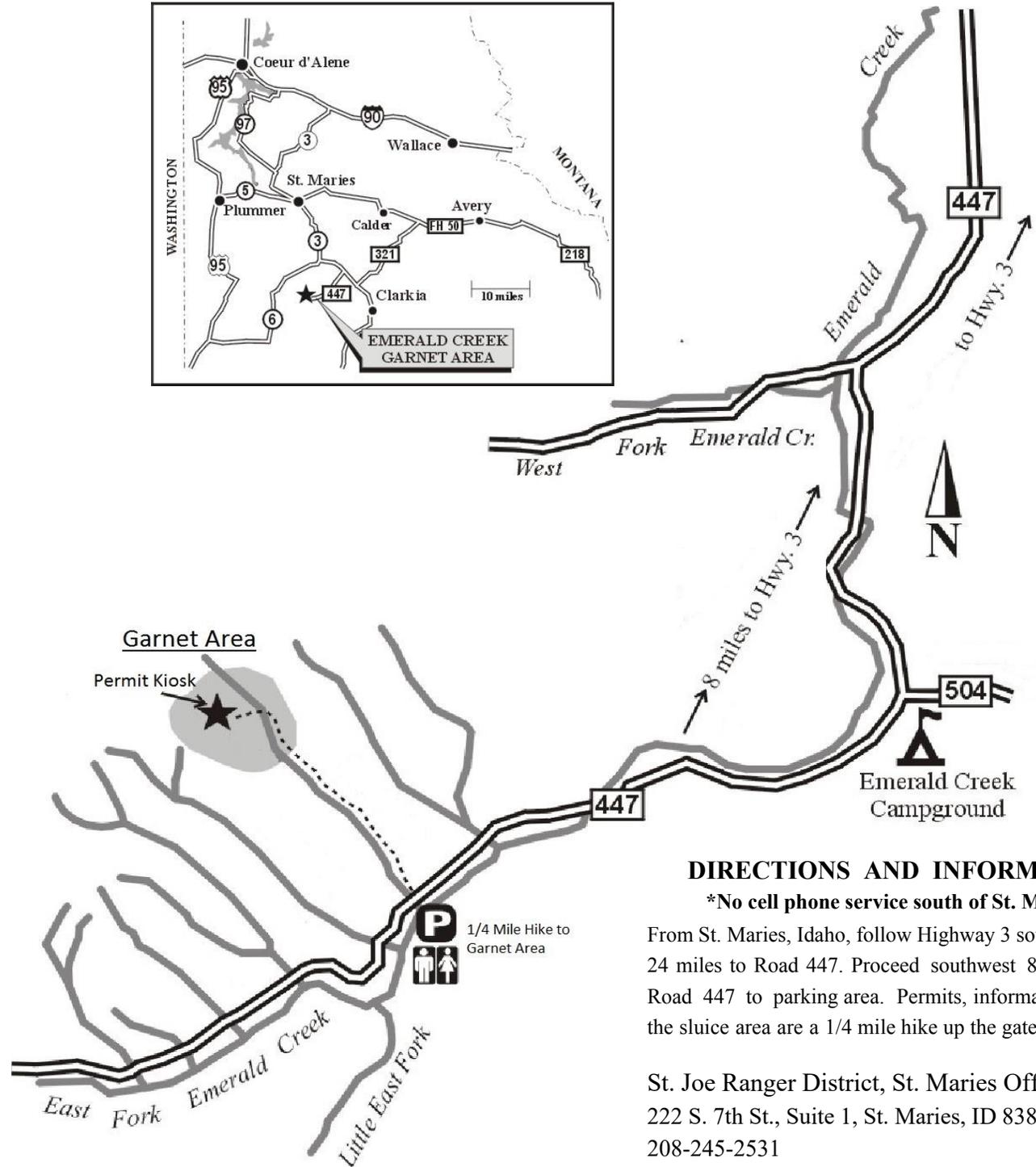
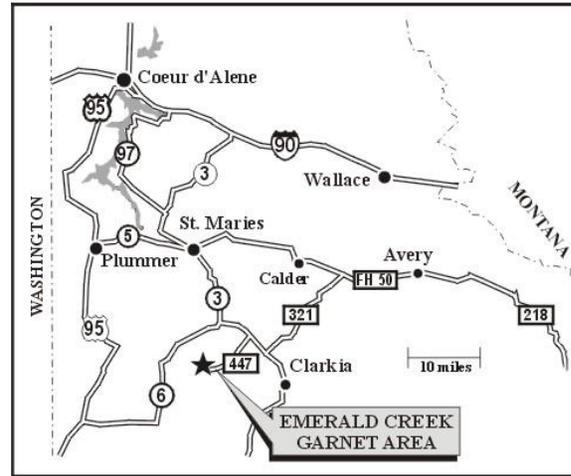
HOW DO I GET A PERMIT?

CASH OR CHECK ONLY. Permits available at the site cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for children age 6-12. Children 5 and under free with purchase of a permit. The permit is valid for one day and includes equipment. Permits are required for anyone washing or screening gravels.

You may still take up to five pounds of garnet with your daily permit. If you want to remove more garnet during the same day, you can buy another permit for each additional five pounds or fraction thereof. You are limited to six permits per year.

GUIDELINES

- Pets are not allowed. Trained service animals only.
- Motorized equipment is not allowed.



DIRECTIONS AND INFORMATION

*No cell phone service south of St. Maries

From St. Maries, Idaho, follow Highway 3 south 24 miles to Road 447. Proceed southwest 8 miles on Road 447 to parking area. Permits, information, and the sluice area are a 1/4 mile hike up the gated road.

St. Joe Ranger District, St. Maries Office
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208-245-2531

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf>