

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

By reservation ONLY. Permits are purchased online for a three hour session through **recreation.gov**. Permits must be printed before hand and presented to on-site staff. Each person on-site needs a permit. Group size is maxed at 10 people. Masks required.

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO I NEED TO BRING?

--By reservation ONLY - Bring printed PERMIT.
--**DRINKING WATER**, lunch, snacks, MASK(S)
--Older clothing recommended (as it may stain), light weight gloves, if preferred, for digging and sifting
--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
--**Dig site:** Displays and visitor assistance. Dig site 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, garnet collecting instructions and assistance.

IS THERE HANDICAPPED ACCESS?

Yes. Those who are unable to make the walk can drive their vehicle to the dig site 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 dig site are available in addition to wheelchair accessible picnic tables at the dig site.

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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R1-03-98

FOREST SERVICE
Northern Region
Idaho Panhandle
National Forests



ROCK HOUNDING AT THE EMERALD CREEK GARNET AREA

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

BY RESERVATION ONLY*

***Permits must be purchased in advance!
Make reservations online at:
recreation.gov**



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 in abundance. 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

Masks are required. 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 equipment is provided.

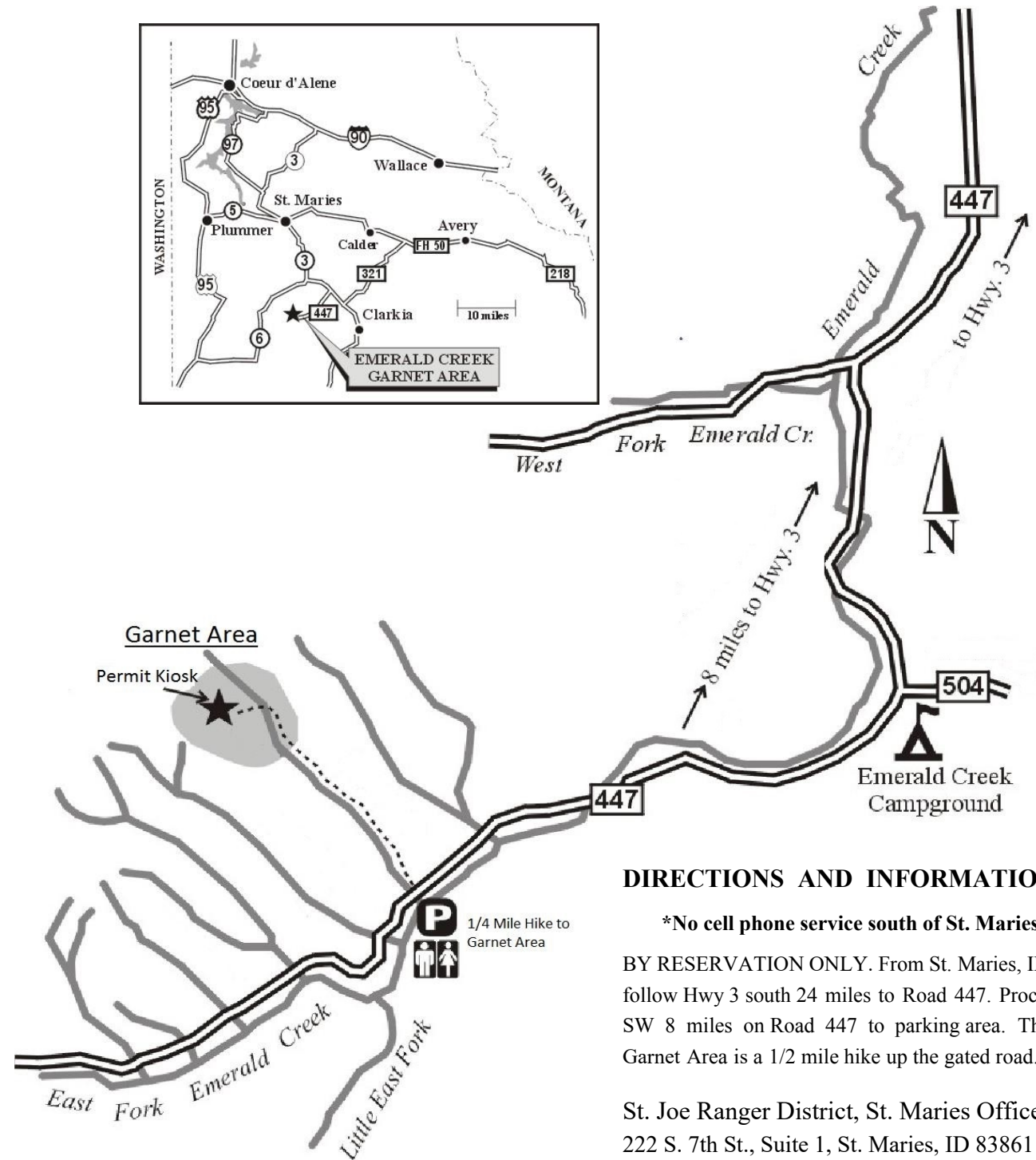
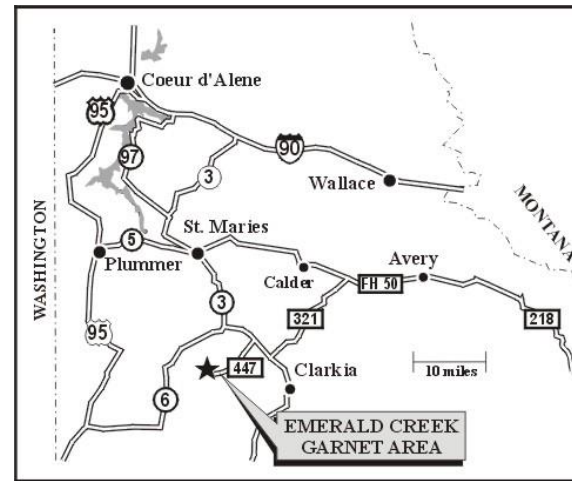
HOW DO I GET A PERMIT?

Online at: recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

Pay online for reservations and print permits before driving to the site. **Permits must be printed before hand and presented to on-site staff.** Group size is maxed at 10 people. Masks required. Permits will not be sold on-site. Permits must be purchased online beforehand at recreation.gov. Each person on-site needs a permit. Children 5 and under need a "Free Permit" also available on recreation.gov. Permit valid for one session and includes equipment. Limit of six permits per person per year. Limit of up to five pounds of garnet per person per year with your permit(s).

GUIDELINES

- By reservation only. Bring printed permit.
- Masks are required.
- Pets are not allowed. Trained service animals only.
- Motorized equipment is not allowed.



DIRECTIONS AND INFORMATION

***No cell phone service south of St. Maries**

BY RESERVATION ONLY. From St. Maries, ID, follow Hwy 3 south 24 miles to Road 447. Proceed SW 8 miles on Road 447 to parking area. The Garnet Area is a 1/2 mile hike up the gated road.

St. Joe Ranger District, St. Maries Office
222 S. 7th St., Suite 1, St. Maries, ID 83861
208-245-2531 <http://www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf>