

# GARDINER AREA CAMPGROUNDS

## EAGLE CREEK CAMPGROUND

- 2 miles NE of Gardiner on Jardine Rd
- Basic camping facilities, \$15 fee
- 15 campsites
- Hosted
- No potable water
- Horse corral available
- Access road not suitable for vehicles with 48' combined length

## CANYON CAMPGROUND

- 15 miles N of Gardiner on Hwy 89
- Basic camping facilities, \$10 fee
- 15 campsites
- Not hosted
- No potable water
- Access road not suitable for vehicles with 48' combined length

## TOM MINER CAMPGROUND

- 17 miles N of Gardiner on Hwy 89, 12 miles SW on Tom Miner Road
- Basic camping facilities, \$12 fee
- 11 campsites
- Hosted
- Potable water
- Horse corral adjacent
- Access road not suitable for vehicles with 40' combined length
- Access to Gallatin Petrified Forest

## BEAR CREEK CAMPGROUND

- 10.5 miles NE of Gardiner, about one hour
- Primitive camping, no fee
- 4 campsites
- On Bear Creek
- Pit toilet
- No potable water
- Difficult access for trailers more than 20'
- Difficult turnaround

## TIMBER CAMP CAMPGROUND

- 9 miles from Gardiner, about 45 minutes
- Primitive camping, no fee
- 3 campsites
- Pit toilet
- No potable water
- Dispersed camping available at first and second turnoff (which also has a horse corral)
- Accessible for trailers 24' and under



**Repeat  
after me,  
"Only you..."**

# COOKE CITY AREA CAMPGROUNDS

## SODA BUTTE CAMPGROUND

- 58 miles from Gardiner on Hwy 212, about two hours
- Basic camping facilities, \$20 fee
- 27 campsites
- Hosted
- Potable water
- On Soda Butte Creek
- Not suitable for vehicle 48' combined length
- **HARD SIDE CAMPING ONLY**

## COLTER CAMPGROUND

- 59 miles from Gardiner on Hwy 212, about two hours
- Basic camping facilities, \$20 fee
- 18 campsites
- Hosted
- Potable water
- Not suitable for vehicle 48' combined length
- **HARD SIDE CAMPING ONLY**



# DISPERSED CAMPING



## WHAT IS DISPERSED CAMPING?

Many people enjoy the solitude and primitive experience of camping away from developed campgrounds and other campers. Dispersed camping is the term used for camping in the National Forest OUTSIDE of a designated campground. It also means no services (such as trash removal), and little or no facilities (such as tables, fire pits or toilets) are provided.

## RULES FOR DISPERSED CAMPING:

- **THIS IS BEAR COUNTRY!** Be bear aware and know **food storage regulations** before camping. These regulations are strictly enforced. This means everything locked in an enclosed, hard-sided vehicle with all the windows up or stored in an approved bear-resistant container that is locked, bolted or secured according to manufacturer recommendations.
- **THERE ARE RESTRICTED AREAS.** Dispersed camping is NOT allowed in the vicinity of developed recreation areas, trailheads, fishing access sites or developed campgrounds.
- **CAMPING IS ALLOWED** up to 300ft from the road.
- **CAMP IN AN ESTABLISHED SITE.** To reduce negative impact on USFS lands, please choose a site that's already been used for dispersed camping; avoid making a new one. Please use existing fire rings and avoid creating new ones.
- **DROWN YOUR FIRE.** It is your responsibility to know if fire restrictions are in effect before you go camping; contact your local district office for information on fire restrictions.
- **PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!** You need to be self-contained. Please pack out all your trash.
- **16 DAY LIMIT.** You may camp in a dispersed area for **up to 16 days**. After 16 days, you must move at least 5 air miles to camp in another dispersed area and you cannot return to your original campsite for 7 days.

## WHERE CAN I DISPERSE CAMP?

To find out where you are allowed to disperse camp, please refer to each district's **Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)**. These maps will show which roadways allow dispersed camping and the distance you are allowed to drive off the road to camp. Please note that some roads have more limitations and restrictions than others. Please consult the Motor Vehicle Use Maps found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin> or contact the Gardiner District Office at (406) 848-7375 ext. 20 for more details.

## CAN I HAVE A CAMPFIRE?

If possible, please use existing sites and fire rings. Firewood permits are not needed if wood is used on the forest. Dead wood can be collected and burned onsite. If you bring your own firewood, it must be from a local source. Wood that comes from other areas may have diseases or bugs that are non-native and can harm local forests. If wood is transported home for personal use, you will need to purchase a firewood permit at the closest district office. This permit should be obtained prior to you gathering or transporting any wood. Also, do not burn garbage; pack it out.

Before you leave your campfire make sure **it is completely out**. You should be able to put your whole hand into the ashes without being burned; it should be cool to the touch. Stir the ashes to make sure all embers have cooled. This is very important! Many forest fires are caused by abandoned campfires that were not completely out.

The National Forest has wildfires each year. Many of these are human caused from escaped campfires in dispersed sites. Campfires are allowed unless there are fire restrictions in effect due to high fire danger conditions. It is your responsibility to know if there are restrictions in effect before you go camping. You can learn about any fire restrictions by contacting the nearest Forest Service office.

## CAN I GO TO THE BATHROOM AT DISPERSED SITES?

Dispersed camping means no bathrooms and no outhouses. That means extra care must be taken in **disposing of human waste**. If you have a self-contained unit such as an RV, it is preferred that you use your own facilities. If you do not have an RV: to dispose of feces, dig a hole 6-8 inches deep at least 200 feet away from any water source. When you are done, fill the hole with the dirt you dug up and take your toilet paper with you to dispose of in a proper waste container. Never defecate or leave toilet paper on top of the ground. Do not simply cover it with a rock; it could easily get into the local water source and contaminate it.



