



## USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region **SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST**



### Salmon-Challis Forest Supervisor



**Chuck Mark** is the Forest Supervisor on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Chuck has been the Forest Supervisor on the Salmon-Challis National Forest for ten years. The forest has the third largest range management program in the Intermountain Region. He leads the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness board of directors, which provides oversight and direction to four forests in Regions 1 and 4 that manage the wilderness. The Salmon-Challis National Forest is a “fire” forest. Nearly half the wilderness has burned in the last 30 years.

### ABOUT THE FOREST

Covering over 4.3 million acres of east-central Idaho, individuals have the opportunity to enjoy the natural landscapes of the Continental Divide. Within the boundaries of the forest, 2.36 million acres of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, the newly designated Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness, the snow-covered cap of the tallest peak in Idaho, Borah Peak, as well as six other major peaks and the free-flowing waters of the the Wild & Scenic Salmon River and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest is rich with history as evidenced through the numerous rock shelters displaying pictographs and from what are now ghost towns of the mining days. The Shoshone Tribe were among the first to populate this remote region; living along the river banks, they would often share their bountiful fishing and hunting grounds with the Nez Perce and Flathead Indians. In the early 1800s, the Lewis and Clark Expedition crossed the continental divide into uncharted territory; and through the help of Indian guides Toby and Sacajawea (who was born in Lemhi County of the Salmon-Challis National Forest), they opened the west to trappers, fur traders, miners, ranchers, lumbermen, and missionaries. Today, visitors can view remnants of history as they explore the mining ghost towns found in Mackay, Gilmore, Custer, Leesburg, and Yankee Fork; hike a portion of the Lewis and Clark Trail; or view pictographs while floating down one of the Salmon Rivers.



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### ABOUT THE FOREST (Continued)

When visiting the Salmon-Challis National Forest, one does not want to miss the diverse habitat that is accommodating to a variety of fish and wildlife. On any given day an individual could see a bear sitting riverside, mule deer crossing the road, elk grazing, bighorn sheep standing on a cliff, or bald and golden eagles flying overhead. And if you're quiet, you might see a moose standing in the marshes, a mountain goat jumping from rock to rock, or a steelhead fish catching that bothersome fly. Check with fish and game for license and tag information if you are interested in hunting and fishing in this region. May and June also offer you the chance to sit among the wildflowers and breathe in the fresh scents - just watch out for the cacti!

In 1906, the Salmon River Forest Reserve was established; this was later renamed in 1908 to the Salmon National Forest in order to properly reflect the multiplicity of uses for the region. Later that same year, the Challis National Forest was created. The Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness was established by congress in 1980; this area encompassed a total of 2.36 million acres extending across 6 national forests and 97 miles of the Salmon River to become the largest contiguous wilderness area in the lower 48 states.



Miles of trails: The Forest has 1,060 miles of motorized trails and 2,430 miles of non-motorized trails.



World-class blue ribbon wild trout, salmon and steelhead streams are scattered throughout the forest.



Highest Peak: Borah Peak in the Lost River Range at 12,662' is the highest peak in Idaho.



Deepest Canyon: The Salmon River Canyon is deeper than the Grand Canyon.



2022 Wildfire Statistics:  
51 Total Fires  
152,757 acres



Forest Plan Revision is underway on the Forest.



The Forest receives about 230K Visitors each year contributing approximately \$28 M to the Local Economy.



The Forest has over 80% of its land managed as wilderness or as minimally developed areas.