

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
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Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

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Caribou-Targhee National Forest

CITATIONS ISSUED TO IDAHO FALLS MOTORCYCLISTS

DILLON, MONT., Aug. 21, 2006—Five adults from Idaho and Utah were cited by a Forest Service law enforcement officer on Saturday, Aug. 12, for riding their motorcycles into an area closed to motor vehicles.

The five plus two juveniles, who were not cited, drove into Montana and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, into the upper reaches of Deadman Creek.

Three of the Idaho men cited were from Idaho Falls and a fourth was from Blackfoot.

The area is part of the Italian Peaks recommended wilderness.

“This area has been closed to motorized vehicle since at least the 1980s. Yet, we’ve had many reports of violations there,” Tom Osen, the Forest Service’s district ranger in Dillon, Mont., said.

Forest officials from both the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in Idaho and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge conducted a joint patrol of the state line on Aug. 12, including aircraft and ground patrols.

“The folks we cited appear to have come in from the Webber Creek trailhead,” John Kidd, the acting district ranger in Dubois, Idaho, said.

“They were legal until they crossed into Montana into a closed area,” Kidd said.

The five were each fined \$225.

“The moral of the story is pay attention to the signs and carry Forest Service maps—it’s your responsibility to know the rules and to comply with them. Call the Forest Service if you have questions,” Osen said.

“We’re working hard both to help people enjoy areas that are open to motorized vehicles and to stay out of areas that are closed to vehicles,” Osen said.

“The Dubois and Dillon ranger districts work together a lot, and we’ll continue to,” Kidd said.