

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: **December 13, 2002**
03-10

Contact: **Adrienne K. Keller**
Phone: **208-652-7442**

Vandalism Takes No Holiday

Ashton, Idaho: Employees of the Ashton/Island Park Ranger District had their holiday mood dampened recently when they learned of several incidents of vandalism that occurred to facilities on the Ranger District. A person hunting in the vicinity of the Warm River cabin reported a break-in at the cabin to Forest Service personnel. The lock on the gate was cut and several hundred dollars worth of damage was done to the cabin. It appears that the individuals responsible attempted to remove some property.

In another recent incident of vandalism, District employees discovered vandals shot paint balls inside several toilet buildings and on the outside of Big Falls Inn. Recreation Forester, Kaye Olpin, was alerted that paint was found on Big Falls Inn and inside bathrooms at the parking lots at Upper Mesa Falls and Bear Gulch. Law enforcement officers collected debris left at the scene as evidence. Olpin reports the cost to clean up the bathrooms and Big Falls Inn could be around \$300. Olpin states, "Hopefully the clean up will only require soap and water. Unfortunately, due to freezing temperatures, this cleanup will have to wait until the weather warms up in the spring."

- more -

- 2 -

Law Enforcement Patrol Captain, Ken Rice indicates the Forest Service could pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to conviction of the individuals responsible for both incidents. Rice asks that if anyone has any information on these two acts of vandalism to please contact him at the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Headquarters Office in Idaho Falls at (208) 524-7642.

- FS -