United States Department of Agriculture

Recreation Opportunities

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Butte, Jefferson and Pintler Ranger Districts

History

Straddling the continental divide and covering much of southwest Montana, the 3.3 million acre Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest came into existence on February 2, 1996, when the Forest Service merged the Beaverhead and the Deerlodge National Forests into one administrative unit.

President Theodore Roosevelt first proclaimed the Beaverhead and Deerlodge National Forests in two separate executive orders on July 1, 1908, pulling together lands which earlier presidents had withdrawn as the Hell Gate, Bitter Root, and Big Hole forest reserves between 1897 and 1905. In 1931, the Madison National Forest became part of the Beaverhead and Deerlodge National Forests. In 1945, the west slope of the Madison Range was transferred from the Gallatin National Forest to the Beaverhead National Forest.

The name "Beaver's Head" first appeared in Lewis and Clark's journals in 1805. That year the two captains of the Corps of Discovery passed by the prominent rock shaped like a swimming beaver during their trek to the Pacific. Sacajawea identified the rock as the spot where they would meet her people. Later, the river flowing past the rock was named after it. The Beaverhead River is a major tributary of the Jefferson fork of the Missouri. Beaverhead Rock is located 14 miles northeast of Dillon along Highway 41.

The name "Deer Lodge" comes from the Deer Lodge Mound, a 40-foot-high geothermal formation at the site of present-day Warm Springs State Hospital. The mound's shape, with steam issuing from the top, resembled a large medicine lodge, and minerals in the water attracted large numbers of deer, so Indians in the area referred to the then-prominent landmark as the Deer Lodge. The formation was a major landmark for trappers and early travelers in the area who referred to the valley as the Deer Lodge Plain. The mound was described in detail in the journals of Father DeSmet, Granville Stuart, and others. It is still visible from I-90, though now obscured somewhat by trees and buildings.

Visitor Information

In this brochure you will find a wide variety of recreation opportunities available in the Butte, Anaconda, Philipsburg, Deer Lodge, Whitehall, and Boulder areas of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Our offices have forest maps and many brochures available to assist you in planning your recreation visit to the forest. Most helpful is our Forest Visitor/Travel maps showing campgrounds, picnic areas, fishing access, lakes, streams, road and trail locations, special interest areas, and travel regulations. These and wilderness maps can be purchased at any Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest office; other visitor information is free. Check out our website at www.fs.usda.gov/bdnf.

Camping in the Forest

The main camping season in developed campgrounds is from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. Although most campgrounds remain open later, water systems are shut down to prevent freezing. Our campgrounds don't have electric or sewer connections. Please don't drain your waste water onto the ground. Most sites in campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis; some can be reserved at www.recreation.gov. Fees are charged at many of the developed campgrounds.

You may camp at any dispersed site location in the national forest within 300 feet of a road. **Pack In – Pack Out** your garbage. At all dispersed and developed campsites, campers may not stay more than 16 days within a 30 day period. When the limit is reached we ask that you move at least five miles to another campsite. **Leave No Trace!** Remember to use low impact camping techniques (brochure available) in the backcountry, especially in heavily used areas around lakes. Maintaining the natural quality of these places depends on your efforts.

Pets are welcome in campgrounds, but must be kept on a leash in developed recreation areas.

Forest Service
Northern Region

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Campfires

You may build campfires in most areas as long as you make them safe. In developed recreation areas, use the fire rings or grills provided. You'll find firewood furnished or for sale in only a few recreation areas. Use deadfall for fires or bring your own wood. Please don't cut live trees, shrubs, or other vegetation. When not within developed recreation areas, build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps or logs, dry grass, and leaves. Keep water handy, and keep campfires small. Never leave a fire unattended, even in a campground. A breeze may come up while you are gone and spread the fire. Before you leave your fire, stir the coals while pouring water over them. Make sure it's dead long before leaving it. **During extremely dry conditions, fire restrictions will be in effect. If you are planning a camping trip, call the local Forest Service office to find out if there are fire restrictions in the area you plan to visit.**

Water and Sanitation

Always treat surface water before drinking as it may be contaminated. Boiling is a sure method of water purification; rolling boil at least 1 minute in a covered container before using. Use proper human waste disposal techniques, burying waste 6-8 inches in a duff layer of the soil **.**

Stock

Stock users need to take care to minimize damage to trees and soil. Please don't picket your animals in marshy areas. Use tree-saver highlines in tying your horses. **Any stock feed brought to the forest must be certified weed seed free.**

Cabins

Rustic Forest Service cabins are available to rent during portions of the year (brochure available). Cabins are generally equipped with bare basics (bedding not furnished).

Bears, Bugs, Snakes, and Plants

You should be aware there are bears, poisonous plants, rattlesnakes, ticks, and rodents that may carry disease found on the forest. Brochures are available on how to avoid bears and what to do when bears are encountered, on preventing hantavirus, and on ticks. Food storage restrictions are in effect on the entire forest from March 1 to December 1. Insects are bothersome during the summer months, so you may want to carry insect repellent.

TRAILS

Trail opportunities range from hiking, horseback riding and mountain bike riding to off highway vehicle (OHV) use. Visitors should obtain a Forest Service map for specific trail locations, restrictions, and land ownership. Whichever of these activities you plan, please be considerate of others on the trail, respect wildlife, avoid wetlands, stay on the trail, and if motorized, keep your sound down. Weather conditions are subject to extreme changes in a short period of time. Before embarking on any trip, please check weather forecasts and be prepared for the unexpected**. Motorized, wheeled cross-country travel is prohibited. Please stay on roads and trails.**

Trail Etiquette: To ensure everyone has a good experience on the trails practice trail etiquette. Mountain bicyclists should yield to hikers and horses. Hikers and mountain bicyclists should always yield to horses. Please move off the trail on the downhill side of the trail whenever possible and speak to the rider. OHV riders should pull off the trail, shut off the engine, remove helmets, and speak to the rider.

BUTTE AREA

Butte has a variety of trails available for non-motorized recreation opportunities. There are many miles of trails accessible within minutes of Butte to hike, mountain bike, and horseback ride including the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and Thompson Park. A brochure is available to provide a complete listing of popular trails. Below is a sample of popular trails.

Red Mountain (Highland Lookout)

Red Mountain provides spectacular vistas for miles in all directions as well as alpine wildflower and panoramic photography opportunities.

From Butte, follow Harrison Avenue south to the intersection of Montana Highway 2, follow Highway 2 (for approximately eight miles) to Roosevelt Drive. Turn right onto Roosevelt Drive (Forest Service Road #84), follow for nine miles to Forest Service Road #8520, turn left and drive about one mile and take Forest Service Road #8514. Drive approximately two and a half miles where you can park and walk the remaining two miles to the lookout. A portion of the road is open, but is not recommended for two wheel drive vehicles.

Haystack Mountain Trail #4082

This trail is a moderate hike approximately three miles to the summit of Haystack Mountain, site of an old lookout. From Butte, take Interstate 15 north to Helena and exit at Elk Park. Turn right and then left onto Frontage Road paralleling the interstate for approximately four miles, then take a right turn onto Forest Road #1538. Visitors can drive up the road past the gate for another mile, however, the road is not suitable for two wheel vehicles.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST)

Over 100 miles of the CDNST can be accessed within 30 minutes of Butte. The CDNST travels around Butte like a horseshoe; I-90 west is the open end of the horseshoe. Trail segments are open to non-motorized uses with the exception of the Burnt Mountain segment in the Fleecer Mountain Range; which has segments open to some motorized uses. Most

segments of the CDNST travel along ridge tops to provide panoramic views of distant mountain ranges. Red Mountain is a major peak that can be seen along the CDNST from most locations around Butte. Other segments provide forested landscapes dotted with remnants of historic mining and logging activities that supported Butte's mining activities. Check the Forest Visitor/Travel Map for restrictions. Maps of the CDNST are available at the Butte Ranger District office.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail #4087

Homestake Pass – The CDNST travels north for 12 miles along the East Ridge. At this time the trail ends 3 miles north of the Maud S Canyon trail junction. From the junction you can travel 3.5 miles to the Maud S Canyon trailhead at the Continental Drive exit off I-90. Long distance CDNST users must continue to use the Delmoe Lake and Halfway Creek roads until the final segment of CDNST is constructed to connect with the Nez Perce trail #4092.

The CDNST travels south toward the Feely exit for 30 miles with trailheads at Pipestone Pass, Highlands, and Burton Park trailhead before heading west on Forest Road #84 to the Feely exit off I-15. From Feely head west on Forest Road #96 to the Rocky Ridge trailhead where you can access the CDNST to the forest boundary at Hungry Hill.

From Butte, take Interstate 90 east to Homestake exit. There is a parking area adjacent to the ramp to access the CDNST heading south. Turn left at the ramp and drive approximately .5 miles to the Homestake trailhead to access the CDNST heading north.

Pipestone Pass – From Butte, take Harrison Avenue south to the junction of MT. Highway 2 to Whitehall.

Highland Trailhead – From Butte take Harrison Avenue south to Montana Highway 2. Turn right onto Roosevelt Drive for approximately 10 miles.

Burton Park Trailhead - From Butte take Harrison Avenue south to Montana Highway 2. Turn right onto Roosevelt Drive for approximately 10 miles. Turn right at the sign for Burton Park Trailhead and drive .5 miles to the trailhead.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail #4125

This segment of the CDNST is located in the Fleecer Mountain Range. The trail begins at Rocky Ridge trailhead and continues northwest to Burnt Mountain and continues to Hungry Hill. The segment to Burnt Mountain is open to motorized and non-motorized traffic.

Rocky Ridge Trailhead - From Butte take Interstate 90 west and exit south on Interstate 15 toward Dillon. Drive 11 miles and take the Feely exit. Turn right off the ramp and drive 2 miles and turn right into the Rocky Ridge Trailhead.

Bull Ranch Trailhead - From Butte take Interstate 90 west and exist south on Interstate 15 toward Dillon. Drive 11 miles and take the Feely exit. Turn right off the ramp and drive 6 miles and turn right onto Forest Road #8505 for 2 miles to the Bull Ranch Trailhead.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail #7092/4147

The CDNST can be accessed north of Butte at the Nez Perce and Konda Ranch trailheads. Heading north you will be on newly constructed trail to Leadville; then north to the Helena N.F. on the Jefferson Ranger District. Heading south you will be on a trail to Halfway Creek and then on forest roads to Homestake Pass. The Nez Perce Trail is open to motorcycles.

Konda Ranch Trailhead – From Butte take I-15 north to Helena 11 miles and take the Elk Park exit. Drive west approximately 2 miles to the trailhead. The trail takes off to the west on a road for 1 mile before entering onto a trail.

Nez Perce Trailhead – From Butte take I-15 north to Helena 11 miles and take the Elk Park exit. Turn east off the ramp and south onto the Frontage Road for 0.15 miles. Turn left onto the Nez Perce road for approximately 4 miles to the trailhead.

Thompson Park

Thompson Park is a 3,500 acre municipal recreation area 10 miles south of Butte on Montana Highway 2 beginning at the junction of Continental Drive to Pipestone Pass. The Park is co-managed with the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow.

The park offers 25 miles of non-motorized trails for hiking, mountain bicycling, and horseback riding. There are two trailheads and four picnic areas that provide trail access including the historic Milwaukee Railroad (also known as the Milwaukee Road). The Milwaukee has two tunnels and a trestle that are the backbone of the trail system to access many of the trails in the park including the CDNST. Maps are available at the Butte Ranger District office.

Maud S Canyon Trail #4815/4816

Co-managed with the East Ridge Foundation, the trail provides a loop trail and access to the CDNST on the East Ridge that is partially located on private land. The trail switchbacks up the hill for 1.75 miles until you come to a "saddle". From the saddle to the west you can loop back to the railroad or you can hike east uphill for approximately 1.75 miles to connect with the CDNST. Total length round trip is approximately 3.5 miles for the west loop and 5.25 miles for the out/back route to the CDNST.

Maud S Canyon Trailhead - From Butte take the Continental Drive Exit from I-90 (Exit 228). Turn north on the Frontage Road on the east side of the Interstate. Travel about .25 mile and watch for the trail head on the east side of the Frontage Road.

Motorized Recreation
There are a variety of motorized trails open to ATVs and motorcycles. The Fleecer Mountain Range has over 35 miles of trails open spring through October 15. With the exception of the 5 mile segment of the Burnt Mountain trail from the Bull Ranch Cutoff to the Vista, which is open to motorcycles only, all motorized trails on the Butte Ranger District are open to ATVs.

Cross-Country Ski Trails
Cross-country ski trails are located north of Butte in the Moulton area. The trails are open January 1 through April 1 and are groomed in cooperation with the Mile High Nordic Ski Club. A map of the trails is available at the Butte Ranger District office.

Snowmobile Trails
The Mining City Trail Riders, in cooperation with the Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, grooms approximately 35 miles of trails in the Elk Park area. The trail system connects with other groomed trails on the Pintler Ranger District. Maps of the trails are available at the Butte Ranger District office.

DEER LODGE/ANACONDA AREA

Most of the trails are found in the Flint Mountain Range. These trails lead into spectacular back country with many mountain lakes, most of which offer excellent fishing.

Snowmobile Trails
Along with changing scenery, winter also offers a unique opportunity to enjoy our majestic mountains. There are many miles of primitive roads which become excellent trails for winter activities. Five marked routes, which vary in distance and riding skill, are accessed from a parking area approximately seven miles southeast of Deer Lodge on Forest Service Road #82. Route maps are available at our offices in Deer Lodge, Butte, Philipsburg, and Whitehall. Groomed trails for snowmobiles are provided through cooperation with the Deer Lodge Snowmobile Club for areas east of Deer Lodge and in areas west of Anaconda through cooperation with the Anaconda Snowmobile Club.

PHILIPSBURG AREA

Wilderness Trails
There are approximately 100 miles of trails located within the Pintler Ranger District portion of the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness. No motorized or mountain bicycle travel is permitted within the Wilderness. All users must register (mandatory registration). Forest trails are routinely maintained to provide safe and adequate access throughout much of the Wilderness. One of the most interesting trips is the 45 mile trail along the Continental Divide through the Wilderness. This trail leads past high mountain peaks to alpine lakes and basins. Day hikes to nearby mountain lakes also offer spectacular views. Check with the Pintler Ranger District for additional wilderness regulations.

Non-Wilderness Trails
Although wilderness trails are more publicized and heavily used, the District has approximately 300 miles of trails located outside of the wilderness. These trails vary in length and degree of difficulty providing opportunities for diverse levels of experience. Motorized travel is permitted on some of these trails.

The majority of non-wilderness trails are located within the following three mountain ranges: Flints, Sapphires and John Longs. All three of these areas provide a connecting network of trails and offer spectacular views. Contact the Pintler Ranger District office in Philipsburg for more information.

Stony Lake Trail #8002
This trail is most often utilized by anglers on day hikes. The 4 mile trail follows the Stony Creek drainage up through lodgepole, spruce, and subalpine fir. At the end near the lake there are a few scenic overlooks, and a climb to the top of the ridge overlooking the lake offers great views. Stony is a 12 acre lake at 7,100 feet elevation that offers good fishing for cutthroat trout. Past and above the lake Trail #8002 ends where it intersects and joins the Bitterroot Divide Trail #8313.

From Philipsburg, travel just under 14 miles west on Highway 348 to the junction of Rock Creek Road #102 at Borhnsen Bridge. Go west 4.65 miles west on Rock Creek Road to Forest Road #241 and proceed up #241 5.6 miles to the trailhead. High clearance vehicles are recommended for the last portion of the road.

Fuse Lake Trail #8012
The 2.6 mile trail is suitable for hiking and stock use. It starts on an old reclaimed logging road, then winds through stands of lodgepole and winds up in whitebark pine. Fuse Lake lies at the end of the trail, at 7678 feet elevation, surrounded by rocky cliffs on three sides. Relatively deep and 13 acres in size, Fuse Lake offers the only fishing for grayling in the area. Below the lake, Trail #8012 ends where it intersects Basin Gulch Trail #8011.

From Philipsburg, drive approximately 6 miles south towards Anaconda on Montana Hwy 1 (Pintler Scenic Loop) to its junction with the Skalkaho Hwy 38. Turn right on Hwy 38 and travel west to where the pavement ends near the Gem Mountain Mine. Beyond this point, the road is unsuited for long trailers or large RVs. Approximately 25 miles from the Hwy 38/Hwy 1 junction, near the top of the Skalkaho Pass, the Fuse Lake trailhead lies on the right side of the road. Watch for Trail #12 sign.

Boulder Lakes Trail #8033

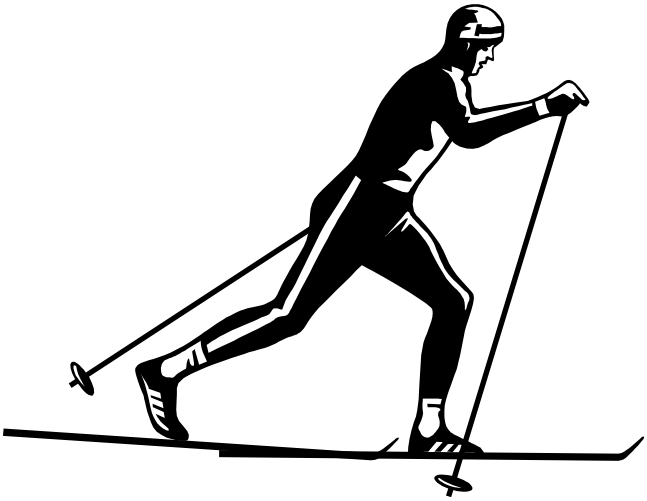
This 4.6 mile trail is most often utilized by anglers on day hikes. The trail passes through mature stands of timber for most of the its length, but there are a few overlooks of the Powell Mine area from the last ridge before the lakes. There are actually two Boulder Lakes. Lower Boulder Lake is 9 acres and is 7,520 feet high. Trail #8033 ends at the junction of the Dora Thorn Ridge Trail #8037. Both lakes contain Western and Yellowstone Cutthroat trout. The lower lake offers slower fishing for larger fish, while Upper Boulder contains numerous smaller fish just right for the frying pan.

This trail is accessed from the town of Maxville on Highway 1, the Pintler Scenic Route. From Maxville, travel 8.8 miles up Forest Road #676 to the Boulder Lakes trailhead sign. It is accessible by high clearance vehicles through the summer and early autumn months.

Cross-Country Ski Trails

There are 11 marked cross-country trails on the Pintler Ranger District. One of the trails, the Lodgepole Ridge Trail, has been designated a National Recreation Trail. It is easily accessed directly off Montana Highway 1 at the Echo Lake turnoff, and offers skiers fine touring and spectacular views.

Ski trails are open throughout the snow season, but are not regularly groomed. Snow conditions may be obtained by calling the Pintler Ranger District office in Philipsburg. As with any activity, safety must be considered, even on short day trips. Maps of the ski trails are available at the Pintler Ranger District Office in Philipsburg.



Snowmobile Trails

The Anaconda Snowmobile Club, in cooperation with the Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, grooms approximately 100 miles of snowmobile trails. Maps of the trails are available at Pintler Ranger District office.

WHITEHALL/BOULDER AREA

Lost Cabin Lake Trail #7150 (National Recreation Trail), Tobacco Root Mountain Range

The Lost Cabin Lake Trail begins at the west end of Bismark Reservoir. The trail is five miles in length, well maintained and is on an easy grade. A few sections are steep, but they can be traveled by young persons or older individuals who are in good physical condition. The peaks surrounding the lake reach elevations above 10,000 feet. Mountain goats can often be seen on the cliffs to the south and east of the lake. Depending on snow, the trail is usually open from July 1 to the middle of October. Snow drifts on the trail may be abundant during years of late thaws.

From Interstate 90 take the Cardwell exit seven miles east of Whitehall. Take Montana Highway 359 south for approximately five miles to the South Boulder Road #107. Travel south on Road #107 for approximately 15 miles to the trailhead at Bismark Reservoir. Passenger cars can drive this road, but the last two miles are best traveled by high clearance vehicles.

Louise Lake Trail #7168 (National Recreation Trail), Tobacco Root Mountain Range

Louise Lake Trail offers panoramic scenic views. This is a new trail 3.5 miles in length and replaces a shorter steeper trail that was hard to maintain and partly located on private land. Louise Lake is a high alpine lake cradled among the 10,000-foot peaks that surround the lake. Mountain goats can often be spotted on the sheer rock faces. The trail is open from July 1 to the middle of October. Snowdrifts on the trail may be abundant during years of late thaws.

From Interstate 90, take Cardwell exit seven miles east of Whitehall. Take Montana Highway 359 south for approximately five miles to South Boulder Road #107. Travel south on Road #107 approximately 15 miles to the trailhead at Bismark Reservoir. This road can be driven by passenger cars, but the last two miles are best traveled by a high clearance vehicles.

Brownback Trail #7156

Brownback Trail follows Brownback Gulch, a scenic narrow rocky canyon. The lower portion of the trail is mostly open country covered with grass, shrubs, and a few trees. It offers viewing of wildflowers, occasionally elk, deer, and a variety of other plants, animals, and birds. The trail is four miles long one way, and has an easy grade. The trail is open from mid- May to mid November. This is a good trail to hike when the rest of the high country is still snowed in.

From Interstate 90, take the Cardwell exit seven miles east of Whitehall. Take Montana Highway 359 south for approximately five miles to South Boulder Road #107. Travel south on Road #107 for four miles. Just past the Indiana University Geological Field station turn right on Forest road #5104 and travel one mile to the trailhead. There is parking for several cars and a horse unloading ramp.

Cottonwood Lake Trail #7065

Cottonwood Lake is located in the headwaters of Boulder Creek. The trail is an easy hike for two and a half miles to the lake. Fishing opportunities are fairly good with additional trails leading from the lake to Thunderbolt Mountain and toward Electric Peak.

From Butte, take Interstate 15 north to Helena and exit at Bernice. Drive west on Forest Service Road #82 toward Whitehouse campground. Turn right at Whitehouse campground onto Forest Service Road #65. Drive approximately three miles to the trailhead. The trailhead is not well marked, but the road ends in an open area. The trail is restricted to non-motorized use only.

FISHING

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest is home to four species of trout, three kinds of char, mountain whitefish and the beautiful arctic grayling. In the Butte, Anaconda, Philipsburg, Deer Lodge, Whitehall, and Boulder areas, a wide variety of fishing opportunities and settings are available to the angler on more than 1,000 miles of streams and 73 lakes. Georgetown Lake, on Montana Highway 1, is one of the most popular fishing destinations in the region. The lake offers the angler a chance to catch trophy rainbow and brook trout along with kokanee salmon. Three Forest Service campgrounds, four public boat launch facilities, three fishing access sites, and two private marinas are located at Georgetown Lake.

Rock Creek, a "blue ribbon" trout stream, flows for over 50 miles through the Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Lolo National Forests. Rainbow trout, brown trout and mountain whitefish are the most common fish in Rock Creek. Lesser numbers of cutthroat trout, brook trout, and bull trout are found throughout the drainage. This stream is nationally renowned for the quality of the fishing and the spectacular setting.

For the angler seeking solitude, the many miles of small streams and numerous high mountain lakes offer a real chance to "get away from it all." Access to these lakes and streams varies from roadside fishing to strenuous hikes. In addition to the more common rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, arctic grayling and cutthroat trout, two species of native fish are found in some of these streams and lakes: the westslope cutthroat trout and the bull trout.

Catch-and-release fishing is encouraged for the westslope cutthroat trout because their numbers and distribution are declining. For that reason, waters statewide are closed to the taking of bull trout.

Bag limits and seasons vary for some of the lakes and streams on the forest. Consult the State fishing regulations before setting out to fish on your National Forest.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

BUTTE AREA

Butte offers a view of one of the West's most prosperous mining cities. The National Forest around Butte contains the remains of various mines, mining camps and other historic sites. German Gulch, located west of Butte on I-90, was an area where intensive placer mining took place for over 30 years. From the early 1860s through the late 1890s, Chinese miners meticulously mined the gulch in search of placer gold, and in the process left behind neatly hand stacked piles and actual walls of large stones and boulders. Maps are available from the Butte and Jefferson Ranger District offices.

DEER LODGE/ANACONDA AREA

The Grant-Kohrs Ranch, Gold Creek and the town of Pioneer are some of Montana's most valuable and exciting heritage resources. Grant-Kohrs Ranch is located at the north end of Deer Lodge, Montana, and is administered by the National Park Service. Gold Creek and Pioneer are located about half way between Deer Lodge and Drummond just off of I-90. The large gravel piles left after gold dredging in the Gold Creek area also offer the visitor a view of the historic placer mining landscape. In the Anaconda area, the community and surrounding public lands have a wealth of history associated with the mining industry.

PHILIPSBURG AREA

The area around Philipsburg, the Flint Creek Valley and the surrounding mountains was used extensively by various Native American tribes during the period before Euro-American settlement. Groups such as the Salish, Blackfeet, and the Nez Perce utilized the area for thousands of years. During historic times, trappers from several fur companies trapped beaver during the early 1800s along Flint Creek and its tributaries. Historic ranching started in the area during the 1850s, and mining started during the 1860s. Today the ghost town of Granite, located in the mountains east of Philipsburg, can provide the visitor with a feel of what an early mining boom town must have been like. The historic mining town of Princeton, located on the Forest just a few miles southeast of Maxville, is a good example of a small mining community dating to the 1880s.

Historic mining and homestead sites are abundant throughout this part of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, and can be found along most of the forest roads. Please remember that these remains of our Nation's past belong to all and need to be conserved. Enjoy our heritage resources, and watch your footing around old mines and mine shafts.

WHITEHALL/BOULDER AREA

The Jefferson Ranger District, along with the various river valleys, was once home to many of Montana's Indian tribes for thousands of years. Evidence of their presence can be seen in the many rock art panels and camp sites. The town of Elkhorn and the Elkhorn Historic Mining District offers the visitor a look into the historic mining era of Montana. Elkhorn contains many standing buildings and conveys the historical feeling of a mining boom town with saloons, stores, a school, the Fraternity hall which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the various mines.

SCENIC DRIVES

Many of the Forest Service roads provide visitors the opportunity for drives from one hour to an entire day to view wildlife and panoramic vistas of high peaks and valleys. Visitors should obtain a Forest map to plan trips and take necessary precautions for unexpected changes in weather and road conditions. Forest roads will vary in condition from well maintained to primitive roads passable only with four-wheel drive vehicles. Check with the District office for specific road conditions.

BUTTE AREA

Highlands

The Highlands offer several opportunities for scenic drives accessing the Highland Lookout and Humbug Spires. One drive provides a scenic loop which winds through the Highlands and Burton Park and ends at the Feely interchange on Interstate 15. From Butte take Montana Highway 2 south eight miles to Roosevelt Drive (Forest Service Road #84). Follow the road for 19 miles to Interstate 15. The drive provides scenic vistas of the Highland Mountains and meadows with opportunities to view moose, elk and deer throughout the drive. To return to Butte from the Feely interchange, take I-15 north to Interstate 90 and continue east to Butte four miles. This drive will take approximately one and a half to two hours to complete and will accommodate two-wheel drive vehicles during the summer.

Elk Park

Drive 1. From Butte, take Interstate 15 north to Helena to the Elk Park exit, turn left off the exit ramp and drive west on Forest Service Road #442 past Sheepshead Recreation Area for approximately ten miles where the road connects to Forest Service Road #82 and continues out to Interstate 15 at the Bernice interchange. The drive will take you down through an old mining area where you can view tailings from past mining operations. This drive will take approximately one and a half to two hours to complete. Passenger cars can travel this road during the summer.

Drive 2. Take Interstate 15 north to Helena, exit at Elk Park and continue on Forest Service Road #442 for six miles until it intersects with Forest Service Road #9485. Take #9485 approximately 15 miles where it will join Road #85 and return to Interstate 90 at the Rocker interchange. The drive will take approximately one and a half to two hours to complete. Passenger cars can travel this road during the summer.

DEER LODGE AREA

Spring Emery Road

From Deer Lodge, take Forest Service Road #705 to Forest Service Road #1504 for approximately 11 miles to Forest Service Road #82. Turn right and head back to Deer Lodge. The drive will take you through scenic vistas and mountain meadows for a total of 25 miles. The road is maintained and suitable for two wheel drive vehicles during the summer months.

Deer Lodge/Champion Pass/Bernice

From Deer Lodge, take Forest Service Road #82 over Champion Pass (The Continental Divide) and down into the Headwaters of Boulder Creek for approximately 20 miles where it will end at the Bernice interchange on Interstate 15. From Bernice to Butte is 20 miles, and then 37 miles on Interstate 90 back to Deer Lodge. The drive will take approximately three to four hours in which there are four campgrounds along the route to stop for a picnic or fishing along Boulder Creek.

PHILIPSBURG AREA

Skalkaho Highway

From Philipsburg, drive south six miles on Montana Highway 1 (Pintler Scenic Highway) to Montana Highway 38 (Skalkaho Highway) where the drive will take you to Hamilton, approximately a 65 mile drive one way. The drive is very scenic and will take you over Skalkaho Pass, passing a waterfall and picnic area. The drive provides wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities in many of the creeks on the way to Hamilton. The highway is open from June to September depending on snow conditions. Contact our office in Philipsburg for road conditions prior to leaving. The road is generally open to two-wheel vehicles, without trailers, but has narrow road widths in some places.

Rock Creek
From Philipsburg, head north one half mile to Montana Highway 348 and continue on 348 for approximately 14 miles. Take Forest Service Road #102 along Rock Creek for approximately 35 miles where it will end at the Rock Creek interchange on Interstate 90. From there you are 25 miles from Missoula or 24 miles from Drummond where you can exit and take Montana Highway 1 back to Philipsburg, 27 miles from Drummond. The drive is very scenic and provides excellent fishing opportunities along Rock Creek, a blue ribbon trout stream. There are wildlife viewing opportunities for moose, bighorn sheep and elk. The road is maintained and will accommodate two wheel vehicles during the summer. The road is generally open from mid-May through mid-September depending on snow conditions.

WHITEHALL/BOULDER AREA

Delmoe Lake
From Whitehall, head west on Interstate 90 to the Pipestone exit just below Homestake Pass and continue north on Forest Service Road #222. The road will take you through sagebrush grasslands, into the timber, provide spectacular mountain vistas, and then return to Interstate 90 at Homestake pass 20 miles later. Approximately ten miles from Pipestone is Delmoe Lake campground and picnic area. Delmoe Lake has fishing opportunities and a boat ramp (no docking facility). The drive will take you approximately one and half to two hours to complete and is maintained for two-wheel drive vehicles during the summer.

South Boulder, Tobacco Roots
This drive will take you up into a scenic canyon with high peaks, alpine meadows and lakes. From Whitehall, head east on Interstate 90 to the Cardwell exit where you will take Montana Highway 359 south approximately six miles to the South Boulder turnoff, heading southwest. The road turns into Forest Service Road #107 and continues for approximately 14 miles passing through the old mining town of Mammoth. he road will lead into the canyon through several dispersed recreation areas which are popular for picnicking. At the upper end of the canyon there are opportunities to park and take short hikes to several alpine lakes. The road can be rough. The first 13 miles can be traveled in a passenger car, but high clearance or 4-wheel drive is recommended beyond. The road is generally open from mid May to mid September depending on snow conditions.

RENTAL CABINS

The Forest Service offers many cabins for rent. Some cabins were once Forest Service administrative offices; others were once homes built by ranchers, loggers, and miners who came to the area. abins can be rented online at **www.recreation.gov** or call 1-877-444-6777.

BUTTE AREA

High Rye Station
The cabin is located in German Gulch and was built prior to 1919. It was used as an administrative site during the 1940's. The cabin is available from May 16 through December 2 and is a popular spot for hunting during the fall big game hunting season. The cabin has one bedroom that will sleep four. There is an outhouse (not accessible to people with disabilities). No drinking water is available. Horse facilities are available at the cabin.

The cabin is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Butte. From Butte take Interstate 90 west and take the Gregson exit. Drive approximately two miles and take a left across from the Country Store onto Forest Road #83 for 5 miles. The cabin is located on the left.

Fleecer Cabin
Located in the Fleecer Mountain Range, 15 miles south of Butte. The cabin was built in 1924 and has been used as headquarters for Forest service crews since it was built. The cabin is available May 1 through January 2 unless seasonal Forest Service crews are stationed at the cabin during the summer. Access to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is located one mile from the cabin. The cabin has electricity, water, an indoor bathroom, and heat. It has two bedrooms that will accommodate five people. A corral and pasture is adjacent to the cabin.

From Butte take Interstate 90 west and exist south on Interstate 15. Drive 11 miles and take the Feely exit. Turn right off the ramp and drive 2.5 miles. Turn left onto Forest Road #447 and drive one mile. As the road begins to climb, turn left and go down the hill to the gate. The cabin is located 1/4 mile from the gate. Be sure to keep the gate closed.

DEER LODGE AREA

Doney Lake
The cabin is located in the Flint Range, and was originally built for mining purposes and then donated to the Forest Service by the family of Henry Schramm. The location is especially popular with cross-country skiers and summer hiking enthusiasts. Trails leaving the cabin will take hikers to additional alpine lakes in the Flint Range. An outhouse (not accessible to people with disabilities) is available. No drinking water is available. The cabin sleeps six people.

The cabin is located off Interstate 90. Take the Gold Creek exit, 15 miles from Deer Lodge, and take Forest Service Road #302 and #645 14.3 miles on the main road to the Doney Lake sign. The lake is located 6/10 of a mile from the sign.

Douglas Creek cabin
Located in the north end of the Flint Range, this is a Forest Service administrative cabin used in the past by crews working in the north end of the district. No drinking water is available. The cabin sleeps six people.

Take Montana Highway 1 south from Hall approximately 2.5 miles to Douglas Creek. Take Forest Road #707 approximately 7.5 miles to the cabin site.

Racetrack Cabin
Located on the east side of the Flint Range near Deer Lodge and can be accessed by high clearance vehicle. Originally built as a mining cabin in the 1930's it was relinquished to the Forest Service and refurbished. Racetrack Creek is nearby. This is a good jumping off spot to the high country of the Flint Range. No drinking water is available. The cabin sleeps six people.

The cabin is located off Interstate 90. Take Racetrack exit 11 miles south of Deer Lodge and proceed 1 mile west, then south ¾ mile, then westerly on FS Road #169 for 5 miles past Racetrack Campground.

PHILIPSBURG AREA

Stony Creek
The cabin was built in 1914 and used by Forest Service employees working in the area as an intermediate stopover station. The cabin is adjacent to the Stony Creek Road #241 across from Stony Campground. It is located in the popular Rock Creek drainage, a blue ribbon trout stream. Toilets and drinking water are available at the campground. The cabin sleeps four people.

The cabin is located approximately 20 miles west of Philipsburg. Take Montana Highway 1 north of Philipsburg to County Road #348, then west on Rock Creek Road #102 to the Stony Creek Road #241, then southwest on Stony Creek Road #102 for less than 1/8 of a mile to the cabin.

Moose Lake Cabin
Moose Lake cabin was originally built and used by the Forest Service. The cabin has one room which will sleep four people.

From Philipsburg, drive 6 miles to the junction of Montana Highway 38, Skalkaho Highway. Drive west for 9 miles until it junctions with Forest Road #5106, Middle Fork Road. Drive another 9 miles to the Moose Lake Station, the road is on the right.

West Fork Rock Creek Cabin
Located along Skalkaho Highway, Montana 38 southwest of Philipsburg. There are six structures at the site, which was once used as a Forest Service Guard Station and later as a youth camp. Only one of the small cabins is restored and available to the public. The cabin sleeps four people.
From Philipsburg, drive 6 miles to junction of Montana Highway 38, Skalkaho Highway. Drive west on the highway 14 miles. The road to the cabin is on the left. The cabin sleeps four people.

WHITEHALL/BOULDER AREA

Hell's Canyon
The cabin was originally built and used as a line cabin for ranchers and then donated to the Forest Service in 1910. The cabin overlooks Hells Canyon Creek and is situated within a lush riparian meadow. The cabin sleeps four people.

The cabin is located 30 miles southwest of Whitehall. Take Montana Highway 55 past Silver Star to the Ironrod Bridge. Exit onto Forest Service Road #125 and follow signs to Hell's Canyon, approximately 12 miles.

Special food storage requirements

Are in effect forest wide and the entire Anaconda Pintler Wilderness. Bears are found throughout the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and their numbers are increasing. It is recommended that all visitors assist in the effort to prevent bears from becoming habituated to human food in order to provide for human safety, and the welfare of bears.

What Is Required?

In the Daytime – All food, attractants and refuse must be acceptably stored or attended. Attended means that someone is within 100 feet and in sight of accessible food.

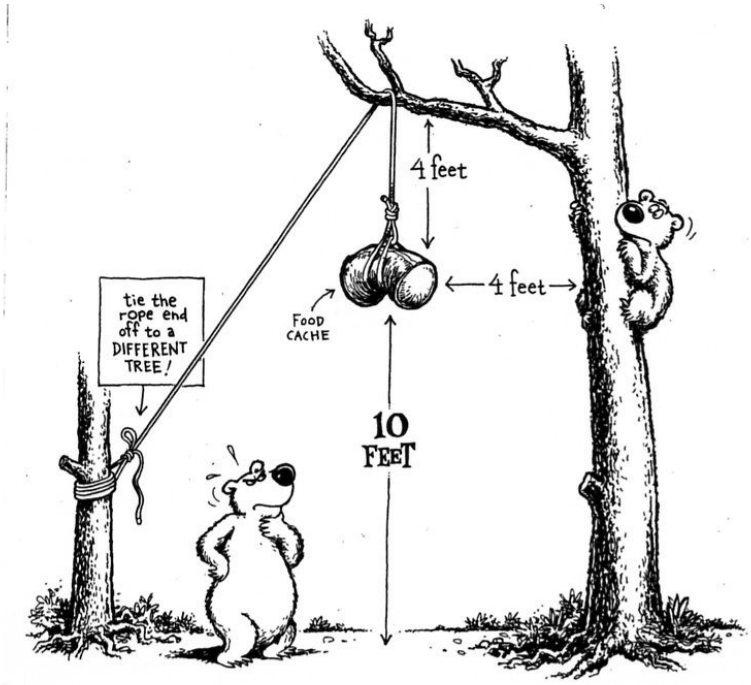
At Night – Unless being transported, eaten or prepared to be eaten, all food must be properly stored.

What Methods Of Storage Are Acceptable?

To be properly stored food and other attractants may be secured in an enclosed hard sided vehicle (including pick-up camper shell or enclosed horse trailer); a certified bear resistant container; or suspended at least ten feet clear of the ground at all points and four feet horizontally from any supporting tree or pole. Certified electric fencing is also acceptable protection.

What Items Must Be Properly Stored

Anything (excluding water, baled hay, or hay cubes without additives) that can be eaten to provide nourishment, including soft drinks, canned food, alcoholic beverages, pet food, processed livestock feeds and grains, personal hygiene products (toothpaste), and refuse, including empty food and beverage containers, must be properly stored. If you use a barbeque grill, try to burn off any remaining food residue and properly store the grill at night.



For more information contact one of the following offices Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Headquarters and Dillon Ranger District
420 Barrett Street
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 683-3900

Butte Ranger District
1820 Meadowlark Lane
Butte , MT 59701
(406) 494-2147

Deer Lodge Work Center
(At Grant-Kohrs NHS)
266 Warren Lane
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
(406) 846-1770

Jefferson Ranger District
3 Whitetail Road
Whitehall, MT 59759
(406) 287-3223

Madison Ranger District
5 Forest Service Road
Ennis, MT 59729
(406) 682-4253

Pintler Ranger District
88 Business Loop
Philipsburg, MT 59858
(406) 859-3211

Sheridan Work Center
125 Mill Street
Sheridan, MT 59749
(406) 842-5432

Wisdom Ranger District
PO Box 238
Wisdom, MT 59761
(406) 689-3243

Wise River Ranger District
PO Box 100
Wise River, MT 59762
(406) 832-3178

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CAMPGROUNDS AND PICNIC AREAS	SEASON	CAMPING UNITS	TRAILER LENGTH	PICNIC AREA DAY USE	TOILETS	WATER	BOAT LAUNCH	FISHING	GARBAGE	FEE
BUTTE AREA										
BEAVERDAM, 17 miles south of Butte off I-15. Take Feeley exit, drive west 6 miles on Divide Creek Road.	Memorial Day through Labor Day	15	50'	X		X		X		$5.00/ Night
FREEDOM POINT, 8 miles north of Butte off I-15. Take Elk Park exit, drive west 8 miles on FS road #442. Site can be reserved, call Butte Ranger District.	Mid June through Labor Day					X		X	X	Pavilion Rental Fee
HOMESTAKE, 6 miles east of Butte off Interstate 90, take Homestake exit, drive 1/2 mile north	Memorial Day through September			X		X		X		
LADYSMITH, 20 miles north of Butte off Interstate 15, take Bernice exit, drive west 4 miles of FS Road #82.	Memorial Day through September	6			X					
LOWLAND, 8 miles north of Butte off Interstate 15, take Elk Park exit, drive west 6 miles on FS Road #442, turn left on FS Road #9485 for 1 1/2 miles.	Memorial Day through September	11	22'	X		X			X	CG $5.00/ Night. Fee for group use*
LOWER EAGLES NEST, 10 miles south of Butte on MT Hwy 2, 1 mile east of the junction of Continental Drive and MT Hwy 2. Turn right at the first right and stay to the left for approximately 1.5 miles.	May 1 through October 31			X					X	
MORMON GULCH, 20 miles north of Butte off Interstate 15, take Bernice exit, drive west 2 miles on FS Road #82.	Memorial Day through September	16	16'	X	X					
SAGEBRUSH FLATS, 10 miles south of Butte on MT Hwy 2, 1 mile east of the junction of Continental Drive and MT Hwy 2. Turn right at the first right and stay to the left for approximately 1.5 miles.	May 1 through October 31			X					X	
SHEEPSHEAD RECREATION AREA, 8 miles north of Butte off Interstate 15, take the Bernice exit, drive 8 miles on FS Road #442. Area can be reserved-call Butte Ranger District	Mid June through Labor Day					X		X	X	Pavilion Rental Fee

CAMPGROUNDS AND PICNIC AREAS	SEASON	CAMPING UNITS	TRAILER LENGTH	PICNIC AREA DAY USE	TOILETS	WATER	BOAT LAUNCH	FISHING	GARBAGE	FEE
WHITEHOUSE, 20 miles north of Butte off Interstate 15, take the Bernice exit, drive west 13 miles on FS Road #82. Area can be reserved - call Jefferson Ranger District	Memorial Day through November	5	22'	X		X		X	X	
DEER LODGE/ANACONDA AREA										
OROFINO, 13 miles southeast of Deer Lodge on FS Road #82. Pavilion is first come first serve, no reservations.	Late June through mid September	10	22'	X	X	X				
RACETRACK, 11 miles south of Deer Lodge off Interstate 90, take Racetrack exit and proceed west 1 mile, then south 3/4 mile, then westerly on FS Road #169	Late May through mid September	13	22'	X		X		X		
SPRING HILL, 11 miles west of Anaconda, along Montana Highway 1 (reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov or 877-444-6777)	Mid May through mid September	15	22'	X		X			X	$13.00/ Night, $13.00/ additional camping unit
PHILIPSBURG/GEORGETOWN LAKE AREA										
BADGER BAY, 12 1/2 miles south of Philipsburg at Georgetown Lake off Montana Highway 1 on the Lakeshore Road	Mid May to late September							X		
CABLE MOUNTAIN, 15.7 miles south of Philipsburg off the Discovery Basin Road. (FS Road #65). Adjacent to the North Fork of Flint Creek	Mid May through mid September	11	22'			X		X		$11.00/ Night, $11.00/ additional camping unit
COMER'S POINT, 13 miles south of Philipsburg at Georgetown Lake off Montana Highway 1 on the Georgetown Lake Road. Open for ice fishing in winter.	Mid May to late September							X		
COPPER CREEK, 25 1/2 miles southwest of Philipsburg off the Middle Fork Road (FS Road #5106)	Late May to late September	8	22'			X		X		
CRYSTAL CREEK, 31 miles southwest of Philipsburg on the Skalkaho Highway (Montana highway 38). Close to Mud Lake	Late June to late September	3	16'		X	X		X		

CAMPGROUNDS AND PICNIC AREAS	SEASON	CAMPING UNITS	TRAILER LENGTH	PICNIC AREA DAY USE	TOILETS	WATER	BOAT LAUNCH	FISHING	GARBAGE	FEE
EAST FORK, 17 1/2 miles southwest of Philipsburg off the East Fork Road (FS Road #672).	Late May to late September	8	22'			X		X		
ECHO LAKE, 14 miles south of Philipsburg, off Montana Highway 1. Take Echo Lake Road (FS Road #65)	Late May to late September			X			Car Top Only	X		
FLINT CREEK, 8 miles south of Philipsburg off Montana Highway 1	Early May to late September	7	16’		X			X		
GRASSY POINT, 12 miles south of Philipsburg at Georgetown Lake	Early May to late September			X			X	X		
LODGEPOLE, 10 3/4 miles south of Philipsburg at Georgetown Lake on Montana Highway 1 (reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov or 877-444-6777)	Mid May to late September	31	32'			X	Across Road @ Red Bridge	Across Road	X	$13.00/ Night, $13.00/ additional camping unit
MOOSE LAKE, 26 miles south of Philipsburg on the Middle Fork Road (FS Road #5106)	Mid May to late September			X			Car Top Only	X		
PEBBLE BEACH, 10 miles south of Philipsburg at Georgetown Lake off Montana Highway 1 on the Georgetown Lake Road	Mid May to late September			X			Car Top Only	X		
PHILIPSBURG BAY, 11 miles south of Philipsburg at Georgetown Lake off the Georgetown Lake Road (reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov or 877-444-6777)	Mid May to late September	69	32'			X	X	X	X	$15.00/ Night, $15.00/ additional camping unit
PINEY, 13 miles south of Philipsburg at Georgetown Lake off Montana Highway 1 on the Georgetown Lake Road	Mid May to late September	48	32'	X		X	X	X	X	$15.00/ Night, $15.00/ additional camping unit
RAINBOW BAY, 14 miles south of Philipsburg at Georgetown Lake off Montana Highway 1 on the Georgetown Lake Road.	Mid May to late September			X			Car Top Only	X		
RED BRIDGE, 10 miles south of Philipsburg off Montana Highway 1	Early May to late September			X	X			X		

CAMPGROUNDS AND PICNIC AREAS	SEASON	CAMPING UNITS	TRAILER LENGTH	PICNIC AREA DAY USE	TOILETS	WATER	BOAT LAUNCH	FISHING	GARBAGE	FEE
SPILLWAY, 18 miles southwest of Philipsburg off the East Fork Road (FS Road #672)	Late May to late September	13	22'		X	X		X		
STONY, 19 miles west of Philipsburg off the Rock Creek Road (FS Road #102)	Late May to late September	11	32’			X		X		
STEWART LAKE, 5 miles northeast of Philipsburg on FS Road #8445	Late June to mid September							X		
SUNNYSIDE, 13 miles south of Philipsburg at Georgetown Lake off Montana Highway 1 on the Lakeshore Road	Mid May to late September			X				X		
WHITEHALL / BOULDER AREA										
BASIN CANYON, 5 miles north of Basin off Interstate 15, take FS road #1723 for 3 miles.	Memorial Day to mid September	2	16'	X	X					
DELMOE LAKE, 17 miles northeast of Butte off Interstate 90. Take Homestake exit, take FS road # 222 for 10 miles	Memorial Day to mid September	25	32'	X		X	X	X	X	$8.00/ Night, $3.00/ extra vehicle
ELDER CREEK, 1 1/2 miles southwest of Boulder, take FS road #8528 to FS road #86 and drive 5 miles.	Memorial Day to mid September			X	X			X		
ELKHORN PICNIC AREA, 6 miles south of Boulder off Montana Highway 69. Take FS road #258 for 12 miles.	First May to mid September			X						
PIGEON CREEK, 15 miles west of Whitehall off Montana Highway 2. Take FS road #668 for 5 miles. ** FS road is not suitable for trailer traffic.	Memorial Day to mid September	6						X		
TOLL MOUNTAIN, 15 miles west of Whitehall off Montana Highway 2. Take FS road #240 for 3 miles.	First May to mid September	5	22'	X						

*Reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov for the Group Site at Lowland Campground.

Additional Information:

1. Firewood is available at some campground and picnic area locations. Deadfall should be utilized for firewood. Please do not cut live standing timber, shrubs, and other vegetation.

2. Water from campground and picnic area water systems is safe for drinking. However, other water may be contaminated and should always be properly treated before consumption.

3. There are no areas designated for swimming. Lifeguards are not provided at any facilities, swim at your own risk.

4. Recreation Passports are available to eligible visitors for discounts on campground fees. Contact any Forest Service Office for details.

Remember, the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest is Bear Country!
You must follow all food and attractant storage requirements.

All attractants must be acceptably stored unless transporting, eating, or preparing. Acceptably stored means:

1. Suspended at least 10 feet high and 4 feet from any verticle support;
2. Stored in a certified bear-resistant container; or
3. Secured in a hard-sided vehicle (including a fully enclosed camper or horse trailer).