



Policy While Visiting the Boise National Forest

Our National Forest policies keep our forests and recreation sites clean and safe for everyone. Please review our policies prior to traveling into our National Forest. This is a list of common or general policies and regulations for everybody to follow in regards to occupancy and use of our public lands.

Sometimes specific sites will have special restrictions in effect.

Policies and regulations on travel management: road, trail, and area travel restrictions exist across the district and are defined in great detail at the district office (see Motor Vehicle Use Maps).

These policies are enforced and the punishment can be severe. Please help us make everybody's experience an enjoyable one.

Violation of prohibited acts is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for an organization, and/or imprisonment for not more than six months. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3571 (b)(6), and Title 18 USC 3581 (b)(7)]

General Policy

- Public nudity is prohibited.
- Possessing, storing, or transporting a cannabis plant or plants or any substance derived from the manufacturing of a cannabis plant or plants is prohibited.
- Possessing or consuming an alcoholic beverage in violation of any Idaho State statute is prohibited.

Campfires

- Obey restrictions on fires. Open fires may be limited or prohibited at certain times.
- Within campgrounds and other recreation sites, build fires only in fire rings, stoves, grills, or fireplaces provided for that purposes.
- Be sure your fire is completely extinguished before leaving. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING FIRES UNDER CONTROL.**

Camping

- Use picnic sites, swimming beaches, and other day use areas only between the hours of 6am and 10pm.
- In campgrounds, camp only in those places specifically marked or provided.
- Remove all personal property and trash when leaving.
- At least one person must occupy a camping area during the first night after camping equipment has been set up, unless permission has otherwise been granted by the Forest Ranger.
- Do not leave camping equipment unattended for more than 24 hours without permission from the Forest Ranger. The Federal Government is not responsible for any loss or damage to personal property.
- Campgrounds and other recreation sites can be used only for recreation purposes. Permanent use or use as a principal residence without authorization is not allowed.

Dispersed and Developed Recreation Sites (campgrounds):

- **In campgrounds at least one person must occupy the site the first night after the camping equipment is setup [36 CFR 261.16(h)].**
- **In campgrounds you may not leave your camping equipment unattended for more than 24 hours [36 CFR 261.16(i)].**
- **In campgrounds you are required to remove all camping equipment or personnel property when vacating the area or site [36 CFR 161.16f)].**
- **The above three rules do not apply to dispersed camping**
- **There is no specific time period that defines how long a person is allowed to leave their camping equipment unattended in a dispersed campsite.**
- **It is illegal to abandon personal property, reside on the Forest, or camp beyond the stay limit in both dispersed and developed.**

Camping Stay Limit Rule

The Stay Limit is 14 days within a 28 day period.

- **This applies regardless of whether the campsite is occupied with people (unattended camping equipment will accrue days – see definition of “camping” under definition section of attached order).**
- **This applies to both dispersed and developed**
- **The 14 days accrue at any campsite within 5 miles of the original campsite. Example - If the person camps for 13 days in one location and then moves 4.9 miles, they will be at the 14 day limit after one night in the new campsite.**
- **Example - If the person camps for 13 days in one location and then moves at least 5.0 miles, their days accrued toward the stay limit start over.**
- **NFS lands closer to urban interface (See attached map) have a radius of 25 miles they must relocate their campsite from the original camp during the period of April 1 to August 31 (annually).**

Fireworks and Firearms

- **Fireworks and explosives are prohibited in the National Forests. Only persons with a permit from the Forest Service may engage in these types of activities. Possessing, discharging, or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device is prohibited.**
- **Firing a gun is not allowed:**
- **In or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area.**
- **Across or on a road or body of water.**
- **In any circumstances whereby any person may be injured or property damaged.**

Operation of Motorized Equipment

- **Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order meeting USDA Forest Service Standard 5100-1a or Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice.**

Operation of Vehicles

- **Obey all traffic signs. State traffic laws apply to the National Forests unless otherwise specified.**
- **Obey area and trail restrictions on use of trail bikes and other off-road vehicles.**
- **Do not block, restrict, or interfere with the use of roads or trails.**
- **Do not use or drive motorized equipment or vehicles on Forest Development roads when the road is blocked by a gate, sign, earthen mound or physical barrier erected to restrict such use.**

- When operating vehicles of any kind, do not damage the land or vegetation or disturb wildlife. Avoid driving on unpaved roads or trails when they are wet or muddy.
- Within campgrounds and other recreation sites, use cars, motorbikes, motorcycles, or other motor vehicles only for entering or leaving, unless areas or trails are specifically marked for them. Park only in marked parking areas.
- Do not park or leave a vehicle outside a parking space assigned to one's own camp unit, or in violation of a posted sign.

Pets and Animals

- Pets must always be restrained or on a leash while in developed recreation sites.
- Pets (except guide dogs) are not allowed in swimming areas.
- Saddle or pack animals are allowed in recreation sites only where authorized by posted instructions.

Property

- Preserve and protect your National Forests. Leave natural areas the way you find them.
- Do not carve, chop, or damage any live trees.
- Enter buildings, structures, or enclosed areas in National Forests only when they are expressly opened to the public.
- Native American sites, old cabins, and other structures, along with objects and artifacts associated with them, have historic or archeological value. Do not damage or remove any such historic or archeological resource.

Sanitation

- Throw all garbage and litter in containers provided for this purpose, or take it with you.
- Garbage containers, when provided, are reserved for the use of visitors to the National Forest, not visitors to or owners of private lands or lands under permit.
- Wash food and personal items away from drinking water supplies. Use water faucets only for drawing water.
- Prevent pollution--keep garbage, litter, fish cleanings, or other foreign substances out of toilets, campfire rings and plumbing fixtures.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How can I reserve a campsite in a campground?

- You can reserve a campsite through <http://www.recreation.gov> or by telephone at: **1-877-444-6777**.

Can I camp in areas outside of developed campgrounds?

- Yes, the Forest Service calls it "dispersed camping." You are allowed to camp almost anywhere in the forest unless it is posted otherwise. But you have a responsibility to leave the area as you found it. Practice No-Trace camping guidelines and you will go a long way towards protecting precious resources.
- You may also discover areas that have historically been used as camping areas. These "dispersed camping or undeveloped campgrounds" are campgrounds without any facilities and are generally found along roads, rivers, and some popular trails. Try to refrain from impacting these areas any more than is already done, that is by building additional fire rings, or by leveling more ground for tent spaces. Also, there is no maintenance done on any of these "campgrounds" so please remember: Pack it in, pack it out.
- Additionally, in the Boise National Forest you may camp in one area for up to 14 days. After 14 days you must move to a new location at least 25 miles from your previous campsite.

How much does a fuelwood permit cost?

- Permits are \$12.50 per cord with a 2 cord minimum. (Minimum permit cost is \$25.) You can purchase up to 10 cords per household per year.

Where can I buy a fuelwood permit?

- Permits can be purchased at any Boise National Forest office and several private vendors.

Do I need to have certified weed-free hay on the National Forest for my horses?

- Virtually all National Forests in the Intermountain Region require certified weed free hay. To learn more about the Idaho weed-free program information contact the County Weed Control Superintendent for your county, or visit the Idaho Weed Awareness Website.

Why are gates locked or roads posted as closed?

- Land managers use access restrictions, such as total and partial road or trail closures, or seasonal and permanent area closures for a variety of reasons. Such as wildlife protection, water quality and erosion control, public safety, conflict of use, and legal mandates.
- While open roads are needed for many types of forest recreation and management, they can cause problems for watershed, fish, and wildlife. By restricting use on some forest roads and trails for all or part of the year, wildlife is less vulnerable, with deer and elk having a greater area to hide. It ensures protection of calving areas, winter range, and migration routes. In turn, this management should provide for continued healthy herds and will prevent overharvesting. Hunters and all other recreationists will benefit along with the wildlife.
- Please support travel management. It is a tool that provides more forest benefits with fewer impacts to sensitive forest resources.

REGIONAL CLOSURE ORDER - for Explosives and Exploding Targets

PROHIBITION: Order Number - R4-2014-01 - July 23, 2014

1. Using an explosive; including exploding targets. 36 CFR § 261.52(b)

An explosive is defined as any chemical compound, mixture, or device, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion.