

# Summer Recreation Opportunities

## ASHTON-ISLAND PARK Ranger District, CARIBOU-TARGHEE National Forests

The Ashton-Island Park District office is located in Ashton, Idaho, adjacent to US 20, approximately 50 miles north of Idaho Falls. The District has a variety of landscapes ranging from large lodgepole pine uplands to high glaciated mountains with steep slopes. The area administered by the District offers 200,000 acres of opportunity to experience the great outdoors.

The area includes portions of the Central and Henry's Lake Mountains, which form the Continental Divide, the dividing line between the Atlantic and Pacific watersheds. Moose Creek Plateau on the eastern side of the District borders Yellowstone National Park. The northeastern portion of the Jeddah Smith Wilderness borders the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway and the Grand Teton National Park. The Wingear Hole Wilderness borders the southwest corner of Yellowstone.

Dominant features include Taylor Mountain, Sawtell Peak, Lionhead Peak, Mount Two Top, Bishop Mountains and Big Bend Ridge. The dominant landscape feature of the area is a large volcanic caldera that is 15-20 miles wide and borders Yellowstone National Park. There are many other significant scenic attractions in the area. One of which is Big Springs, which flows at 186 cubic feet per second, and is the source of the North Fork of the Snake River, better known as Henry's Fork. Buffalo and Warm Rivers which also emanate from large springs are other popular destinations within the District. Upper and Lower Mesa Falls at 114 & 70 feet are some of the last undisturbed water falls in the Columbia River Basin system, and are accessible from the Mesa Falls Scenic Drive.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- TARGHEE PASS AND HOWARD SPRINGS, E-1:** Historic sites along the Nez Perce (Nez-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. The springs are named after General Howard who passed them on August 28, 1877, moving his troops from Henry's Lake, over Targhee Pass, and entering Yellowstone National Park in pursuit of the non-treaty Nez Perce. The Nez Perce traveled this same route seven days earlier and were deep within the Park by the time General Howard reached Yellowstone National Park. At Targhee Pass, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail intersects the Nez Perce Trail.
- SAWTELL PEAK, D-2:** Site of a Federal Aviation Agency radar installation. Overlooks the entire Island Park area. Located 11 miles west of U.S. Highway 20 near the Continental Divide.
- BIG SPRINGS RECREATION WATER TRAIL, E-3:** Easy Boat trip of 2-3 hours. The launch area is 1/2 mile below Big Springs. There are beautiful views of Sawtell Peak and surrounding meadows. Wildlife such as sandhill cranes, moose, kokanee salmon, water fowl, and eagles are often seen.
- BIG SPRINGS, E-3:** Big Springs is the largest spring on the district. Flowing 150 million gallons per day. It is the headwaters of the Henry's Fork of the Snake River. Large rainbow trout can be seen year round. Located five miles east of Mack's Inn.
- ISLAND PARK RESERVOIR, C-3:** The earth-fill dam was built in 1938 and is 91 feet high and 1,250 feet long. In 1993, a hydroelectric plant was built below the dam. An undeveloped boat launch provides access to Box Canyon and blue-ribbon trout fishing.
- UPPER MESA FALLS, E-5:** The Falls are 114 feet high. Trails and viewing platforms were built in 1993. Big Falls Inn - constructed some time after 1904 - was restored in 1999. It is now open to the public as an interpretive center.
- LOWER MESA FALLS, E-5:** The Lower Falls, one mile south of the Upper Falls, features the Grandview overlook built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. There is a spectacular view of the 65-foot high multi-terraced falls.
- CAVE FALLS, H-2:** At the end of the Cave Falls road 28 miles east of Ashton. A cave at the west end of the falls gives the falls its name. Cave Falls is located just inside the southwest corner of Yellowstone National Park.
- GRASSY LAKE, H-5:** A 330-acre lake built by the Bureau of Reclamation for irrigation purposes. It is 41 miles from Ashton and accessible from the Ashton-Hugg Ranch Road. There is no developed boat access.

### LEAVE NO TRACE

**Plan Ahead and Prepare**  
Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit. Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies. Visit in small groups when possible. Use a map, compass or GPS device to minimize the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

**Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**  
Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow. Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams. Good campsites are found or made.

**Dispose of Waste Properly**  
Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter. Deposit solid human waste in catholes 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

**Leave the What You Find**  
Preserve the past. Examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

**Minimize Campfire Impacts**  
Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light. Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. Keep fires small. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

**Respect Wildlife**  
Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them. Never feed animals. Protect wildlife and your food by storing rangers and trash securely.

**Be Considerate of Other Visitors**  
Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail. Avoid loud voices and noises.



### WELCOME TO BEAR COUNTRY

Here are some practical tips for traveling in bear and mountain lion country:

- Inquire about recent bear and mountain lion activity in the area.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Head all eyes on the trailhead.
- Hike in groups and keep children close to you at all times. Don't hike in the dark.
- Make your presence known. Call out, clap your hands, or sing loudly, especially around load streams, on windy days, and in areas of low visibility. Stay alert near food storage like berry patches and spawning fish.
- Carry bear pepper spray when hiking and camping.
- Stay on trails.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Look for signs of bear activities: tracks, scat, diggings, torn-up logs, and turned-over rocks.
- Carry a bandana, shirt or hat to drop as a distraction for an approaching bear or mountain lion. Do not drop your backpack. Keep it on for added protection.
- Avoid taking pets on hiking trails. It is not advised and sometimes prohibited. If dogs are permitted, keep them on a leash.
- Always keep a clean camp.
- Use designated camping areas.
- Store food in a bear-resistant box, hard shell vehicle, or car trunk. Do not leave food out when not in use. Use bear-resistant trash receptacles.
- Set up tents with space between them. Keep your sleeping area, tent and sleeping bag free of food and odors.
- Don't sleep in the clothes you wore when you cook your food.
- Keep a flashlight handy.
- Photograph from observation areas only.
- Use a telephoto lens, binoculars, or a spotting scope to view animals. Never follow wildlife. Maintain a safe distance.
- Avoid dead animals because bears will defend these food sources.

### FOOD STORAGE

**Ashton-Island Park Ranger District**

At least 10 feet high and 4 feet from any support

Bear resistant container

Food storage is not bear-resistant

**FOOD STORAGE REQUIRED MARCH 1 - DECEMBER 1**

Attractions may be unavailable to bears at night and during the day when unattended.

**ATTRACTANTS ARE:** Food, beverages, toiletries, game meat, carcass parts, processed livestock food, pet food and garbage.

**UNAVAILABLE MEANS:**

- Hanging at least 10 feet high and 4 feet from any vertical support.
- Stored inside a bear-resistant container or hard-sided vehicle.
- Game meat, if properly stored, at least 100 yards from a sleeping area, recreation site or Forest Service System Trail.
- Game meat, if left on the ground, at least one-half mile from any sleeping area, or recreation site and 200 yards from any Forest Service System Trail.

Site No.	Name	Level	Season of Use	Days	Hours	Group Size	Permit	Activities and Facilities	Remarks
1	Big Springs Campground	D-3	May-Sept	4400	16	2		Point of Interest	Point of Interest
2	Big Springs Ridge	D-4	May-Sept	4400				Point of Interest	Point of Interest
3	Big Springs View Trail	D-3	May-Sept	4400				Caveats & site	
4	Big Springs View Park	D-3	May-Sept	4400	1				
5	Fire Rock Campground	D-2	May-Sept	4400					
6	Upper Colfax Campground	D-2	May-Sept	4300					
7	McCauley Campground	C-3	May-Sept	4300	24			Dispersed Site	
8	McCauley Campground	C-3	May-Sept	4300					
9	Suburk Campground & Boat Ramp	C-1	May-Sept	4200	24				
10	Island Park Boat Launch	C-3	May-Sept	4200				Diff boats & falls	
11	Island Park Camp	C-3	May-Sept	4200					
12	Barbur Campground	D-3	May-Sept	4000	32	1			
13	Clayton Campground	C-3	May-Sept	4200	20				
14	Last Chance (Fisherman) Parking	C-4	May-Sept	4200		1			
15	West End Boat Ramp	B-3	May-Sept	4200				Recreation Cabin	
16	Brewer Mountain Cabin	B-4	Year-round	7800					
17	Brewer Mountain Campground	C-4	May-Sept	4200	32	1			See note 1
18	Historical Fort Shaw National Monument	C-4	Year-round	4200				Recreation Cabin	
19	Warm River Spring	C-4	Year-round	4200					
20	Upper Mesa Falls	D-4	May-Sept	4100	6			Point of Interest	
21	Lower Mesa Falls Overlook	D-4	May-Sept	4100				Point of Interest	
22	Grandview Campground	D-4	May-Sept	4200	30				
23	Warm River Campground	D-4	May-Sept	3900	30	1			
24	Cave Falls Campground	D-4	May-Sept	4200	30	1			
25	Sagehen Meadows Cabin	F-4	Year-round	4400				Recreation Cabin	

Site No.	Name	Level	Season of Use	Days	Hours	Group Size	Permit	Activities and Facilities	Remarks
1	Targhee Creek	D-1	Year-round	30				Point of Interest	Point of Interest
2	Box Canyon	D-1	Year-round	30				Point of Interest	Point of Interest
3	Box Canyon	D-1	Year-round	30				Point of Interest	Point of Interest
4	Coyle Meadows	F-7	Year-round	20				Point of Interest	Point of Interest
5	Henry's Fork	D-6	Year-round	30				Point of Interest	Point of Interest
6	Canalide Creek	H-5	Year-round	30				Point of Interest	Point of Interest
7	Big Bend Ridge	H-5	Year-round	30				Point of Interest	Point of Interest
8	Warm River Spring	F-7	Year-round	30				Point of Interest	Point of Interest
9	Fish Lake	D-6	Year-round	30				Point of Interest	Point of Interest

**Key to Rec Symbols**

Campground  
 Point of Interest  
 Recreation Cabin  
 Trail  
 Wilderness Area  
 Historic Site  
 Cave  
 Boat Ramp  
 Ampitheater  
 Trail Run/Boat Ramp  
 Picnic Area  
 Biking  
 Swim Area  
 Fishing  
 Motorcycle

### TREAD LIGHTLY

**Obtain a Travel Map . . .** from the Forest Service, or regulations from other public land agencies. Learn the rules and follow them.

**Avoid . . .** running over young trees, shrubs, and grasses - damaging them or killing them.

**Stay Off . . .** wet, muddy, and really red top by vehicles (particularly during hunting seasons). Repairing the damage is expensive.

**Travel Around . . .** meadows, steep hillsides, or streambanks and lakeshores easily scared by churning wheels.

**Resist . . .** the urge to pioneer a new road or trail, or to cut across a switchback.

**Stay Away . . .** from wild animals that are rearing young - or suffering from food shortage. Stress can sap scarce energy reserves.

**Obey . . .** gate closures and regulatory signs. Vandals cost tax dollars.

**Stay Out . . .** of Wilderness. They're closed to all vehicles. Know where the boundaries are.

**Get Permission . . .** to travel across private land. Respect landowner rights.

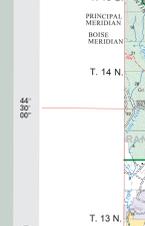
Future opportunities for exciting travel with your recreation vehicle are in your hands, so - TREAD LIGHTLY!



Elk Elk



2



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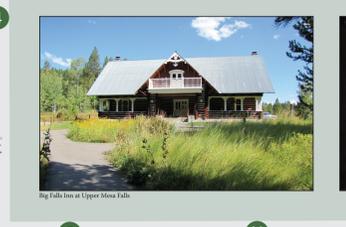
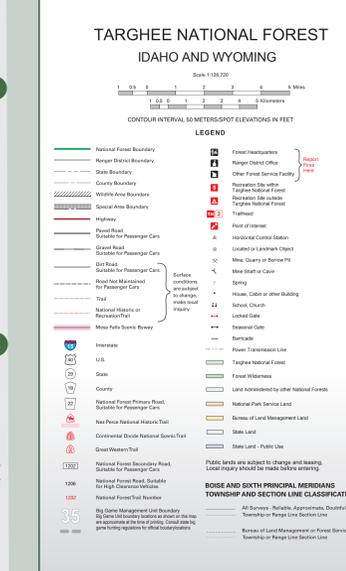
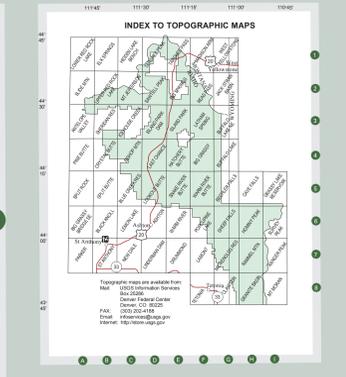
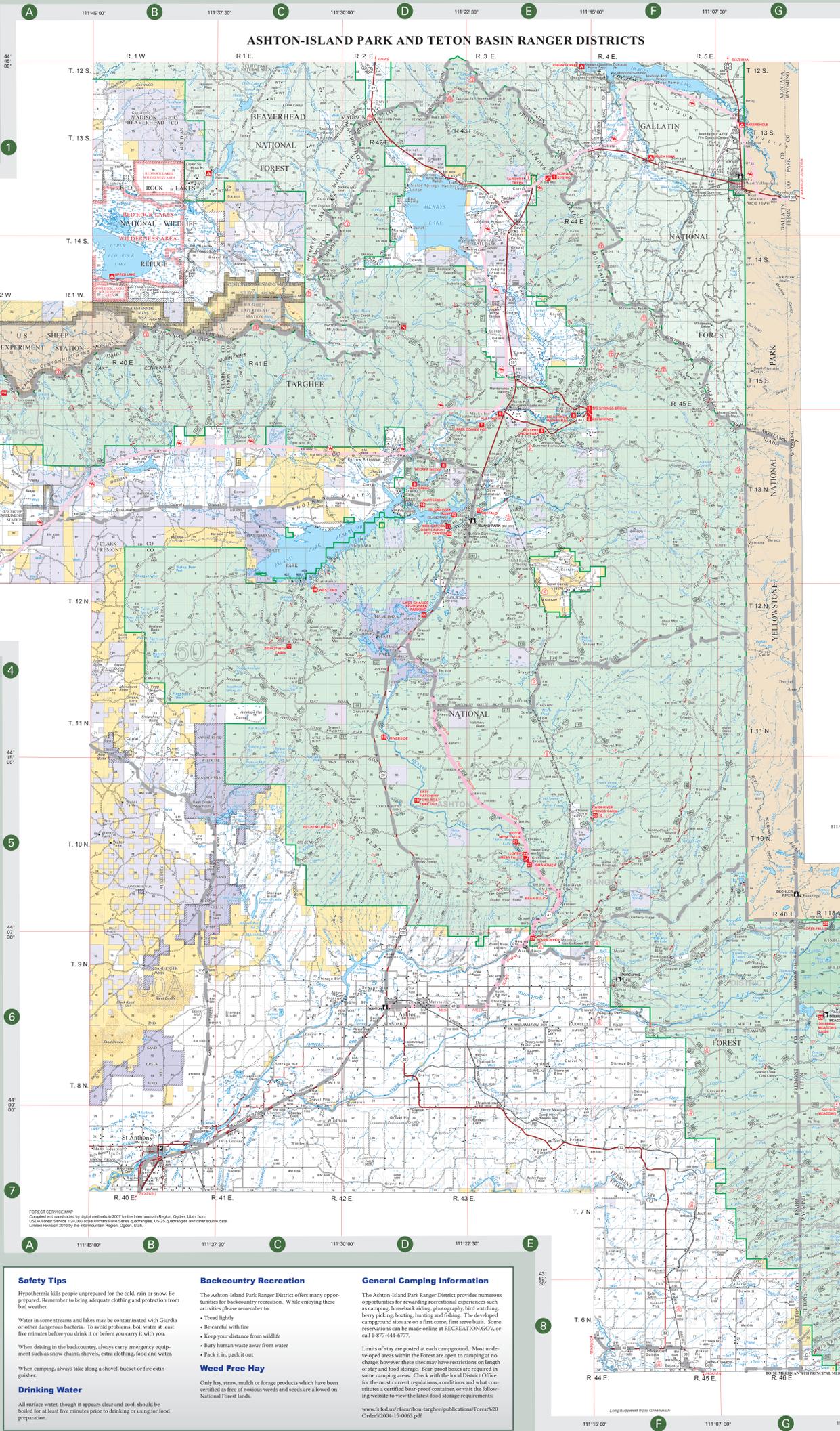
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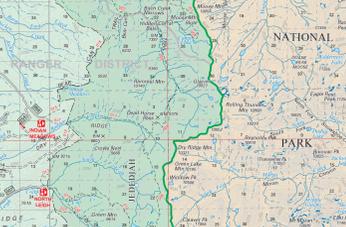
Big Falls Inn at Upper Mesa Falls



Upper Mesa Falls from lower platform



Warm River Cabin and Spring



Lower Mesa Falls from Grandview Overlook



Johnny Sack Cabin from Big Springs Bridge Island Park



### Dispersed Camping

Camping is free in the remote areas of the Forest as long as you select a site off Forest Service roads and outside developed campgrounds. Select a site at least 200 feet from water and at least 100 feet off roads and trails. This will protect water sources and give you and fellow recreationists more privacy.

There are restricted camping areas and limits on the number of days you may occupy a campsite in some high use locations. Contact the Ashton-Island Park Ranger District for more information.



Lower Mesa Falls from Grandview Overlook



Johnny Sack Cabin from Big Springs Bridge Island Park



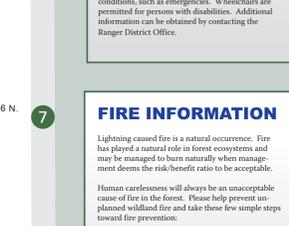
Warm River Cabin and Spring



Upper Mesa Falls from lower platform



Johnny Sack Cabin from Big Springs Bridge Island Park



Warm River Cabin and Spring



Upper Mesa Falls from lower platform

### SEE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS MAP FOR WATER USE OPPORTUNITIES

### A WORD ABOUT WILDERNESS

Congress established the Jeddah Smith Wilderness (123,651 acres) and the Wingear Hole Wilderness (10,715 acres) on October 30, 1984. Congressionally established wilderness is to be devoted to "public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historic use." Wilderness provides opportunities for a primitive type of recreation that includes hiking, horseback riding, photography, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, no trace camping, cross-country skiing and other activities consistent with the area's wilderness character.

Mechanical transport and motorized equipment such as motorcycles, snowmobiles, mountain bikes, chainsaws or game carriers are NOT permitted in wilderness areas, unless authorized under special conditions, such as emergencies. Wheelchairs are permitted for persons with disabilities. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Ranger District Office.

### FIRE INFORMATION

Lightning caused fire is a natural occurrence. Fire has played a natural role in forest ecosystems and may be managed to burn naturally when management deems the risk/benefit ratio to be acceptable.

Human carelessness will always be an unacceptable cause of fire in the forest. Please help prevent unnecessary wildland fire and take these simple steps toward fire prevention:

- Consider if it is too windy or hot to dry a campfire.
- Use existing fire rings and build campfires in a safe spot.
- Never leave your fire unattended.
- Always keep a bucket of water and a shovel nearby.
- When putting a campfire out, drown it with water and stir with a shovel.
- Completely extinguish your fire. Make sure it is cold to the touch before leaving the area.

### NOTICE

Unless otherwise posted, motorized access is allowed for parking and dispersed camping within 200 feet of roads and trails which are open for motorized use provided that no vegetation is damaged or destroyed, and streams and wet meadows are not crossed. Direct ingress and egress is permitted for firewood gathering as defined by the permit.