



Nez Perce ~ Clearwater

National
Forests

VISITOR GUIDE



Where Wild Country Meets Wild Rivers



Nez Perce drummer

Split Creek Bridge on the Lochsa River
(Morai Helfen)

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests in north central Idaho begin in the jagged peaks of the Bitterroot Mountains and flow to the deep canyons of the Salmon, Selway and Lochsa Rivers. Broad coniferous forests stretch from the rolling hills of the Palouse Plateau to the Camas Prairie.

The forests are home to an extravagant array of wildlife, from the strutting grouse to the stately bighorn sheep; golden eagles soar above; river otters glide through waters below. Blue ribbon fisheries lure anglers, while backcountry pack trails beckon hunters. Visitors enjoy activities year-round—motorized and non-motorized, on rivers and mountaintops. For the more adventurous, the untrammled land of Wilderness provides recreation opportunities while preserving natural landscapes into perpetuity.

As the traditional homeland of the Nez Perce Tribe, the forests value their history, culture, and knowledge of the land, while conserving the resources of this special place for all people.

Fun Forest Facts

Acres: 4 million

Longest Trail: The Nez Perce National Historic Trail stretches 1,170 miles crossing Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming

Deepest Gorge: The Snake River/Hells Canyon and the Salmon River Canyon are deeper than the Grand Canyon

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Camas (Cindy Schacher)

This Visitor Guide will help you make the most of your Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests experience. You may also visit us at www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater.



Get to Know Us

Our Past

The Nez Perce

The Nez Perce National Forest proudly gets its name from the people who have called this place home for thousands of generations: the Nez Perce. The Nez Perce call themselves *Nimiipuu* ("The People"), but French trappers who traded with the Nimiipuu mistakenly believed they pierced their noses—a practice of a neighboring tribe—and called them Nez Perce which is French for "pierced nose."

Although Nez Perce leaders ceded much of the Tribe's original territory to the United States in the 1855 and 1863 Treaties, they did not relinquish rights to hunt, fish and gather, or to practice traditional religious and cultural ceremonies on these ancestral homelands. Today the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests manage much of the Nez Perce Tribe's ceded territory. Nez Perce people still maintain strong ties with their homeland and work cooperatively with the Forest Service as stewards of forest resources.



Nez Perce women, circa 1910 (Nez Perce National Historic Trail, Cecil Carter Collection)

In addition to their strong government-to-government relationship, the Forest Service and Nez Perce Tribe also boast a nationally recognized watershed restoration partnership. Since 1997, the Nez Perce Tribe and Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests have completed dozens of projects throughout the forest, such as riparian and grazing area improvements, tree planting, fish and aquatic organism habitat improvements, road sedimentation reduction, and many others.



Albert Walters of the Nez Perce Tribe, 1901 (Nez Perce National Historical Trail Park, Smithsonian Collection)



Nez Perce dancer at the Chief Looking Glass Pow Wow (Morai Helfen)

The Forest Service and Fire

The land of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is solidly rooted in fire. Many fire management programs in the Forest Service evolved from the 1910 fires (and their aftermath) in this part of the country.



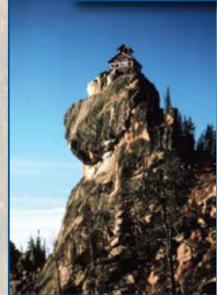
The Three Forks Ranger Station survived the fires of 1910

Historically, wildland fires in northern Idaho were of mixed-severity with fire-free periods ranging from 30 to 100 years. With settlement however, human-caused fires increased dramatically. Large damaging fires occurred in the later part of the 1800s and early 1900s, prompting the development of wildland fire suppression programs. Smokejumpers made their very first jump on the Nez Perce National Forest in 1940, proving that fire could be fought in the most remote and rugged landscapes.



Heather wildfire in Mallard Larkin Pioneer Area, 2010

However, the suppression of all fires—natural and human-caused—disrupted the historic fire behavior and forest ecosystem. Fire is one of the most important natural agents of change, and some ecosystems depend on periodic fires to maintain their habitats.



Wylie's Peak Lookout, built in 1925; destroyed by lightning in 1983 (Art Seamans)

The Forest Service still fights fire—especially to protect communities and the resources people need—but we also use fire under controlled conditions to promote healthier, sustainable forest and grassland ecosystems.

Getting a smokejumper lesson



Mining for Gold—The Story of Florence

The story of Florence is seldom told and few visitors are even aware the site exists. Driving through the area today (in the mountains north of the Salmon River), one can hardly tell there once existed a thriving mining community.

In August of 1861, gold was discovered in the creeks and gulches around the Florence Basin and miners soon began trickling into the area. What started as a small tent city with 50 residents grew into a bustling city of 9,000 by the following year, boasting a sawmill, 10 butcher shops, 7 bakeries, 8 lawyers, 6 gambling saloons, a few "hole-in-the-wall doggeries," a dance house, Masonic Hall, and a jail. Florence's riches also attracted ruffians like the infamous highwayman Cherokee Bob (a pal of the legendary outlaw Henry Plummer) and it quickly gained the reputation of being one of the roughest towns in the west. For a brochure about Florence, visit

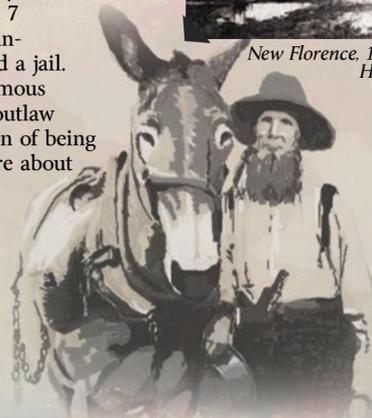
www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater; select *Maps*, then *Brochures*.



Florence dredge ponds, 2011 (Cindy Schacher)



New Florence, 1896 (Idaho State Historical Society)



Cherokee Bob's headstone, circa 1935 (RG Bailey Book, River of No Return)



Lookout Legacies

After the fires of 1910, fire control became the main priority of the young Forest Service. Nearly 450 lookouts were built on high mountain peaks of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests—150 of which are still standing. Many are available for overnight rental, giving visitors an opportunity to experience first-hand a bit of fire lookout history. (See page 15 for more information.)

Civilian Conservation Corps



President Roosevelt visiting a CCC camp, 1933 (© NARA)

"Through you the nation will graduate a fine group of strong young men, clean-living, trained to self-discipline and, above all, willing and proved to work for the joy of working."

(President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933)

As the country suffered the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt proposed a program as part of the New Deal to provide conservation jobs on rural lands owned by federal, state, and local governments. Thus, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was born, destined to become the most popular experiment of the New Deal.



CCC trucks near the Crevice on the Salmon River, 1935

By 1942, it had employed over two million workers—unmarried men between 18 and 25. Each enrollee was paid \$30 a month, \$25 of which was sent to his family. The government provided room, board, clothing, and tools.

Each man was taught a new skill and attended classes to better his education. The enrollees learned first hand the philosophy of conservation of our national resources for the public good.



CCC camp along the Lolo Motorway, 1932

The Lewiston District of the CCC worked on land in the Clearwater, St. Joe, Nez Perce, Selway, and part of the Umatilla National Forests. By the fall of 1935, 13 camps were operating in the district. Their main projects included blister rust eradication, wildfire suppression, road construction, telegraph line construction, dam building, and soil terracing.

For a brochure about CCCs on the forest, visit: www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater; select *Maps*, then *Brochures*.

Protect Our Past For Our Future

Prehistoric and historic sites and artifacts are irreplaceable resources that provide clues and understanding of our collective heritage. It is illegal to damage sites or to remove artifacts.

Roads & Trails

Along the Lolo Motorway (Morai Helfen)

Scenic Byways

Northwest Passage Scenic Byway-All American Road



For millions of years water has carved its path, creating a narrow canyon for the Lochsa River. US Highway 12 now parallels the Lochsa, lined by conifers and rock outcroppings. Flora ranges from giant subalpine fir to tiny Oregon bluebells. You can even find "coastal disjunct" plants—remnants from an era when a temperate climate prevailed.

Historically the Nez Perce people (Nimiipuu) lived, hunted, gathered roots, camped, and fished here. Much of what you see across the river remains as it did when they used this area, now protected within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.



Lolo Pass Visitor Center

There are dozens of points of interest along this byway, including: the Heart of the Monster (a national park site), Lochsa Historical Ranger Station, and Lolo Pass Visitor Center (find it on Facebook through "Discover Your Northwest"). For more information, visit:

- <http://www.visitnorthcentralidaho.org>
- <http://nwpassagescenicbyway.org/> (includes an audio tour)
- www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater; select Recreation then Driving

Elk River Backcountry Byway



The 57-mile Elk River Scenic Byway reveals the surprisingly simple to the stunningly diverse. Richly forested landscapes frame the corridor while the Clearwater Mountains beckon from the horizon. Beginning in the city of Orofino (meaning "fine gold") the route climbs Wells Bench Road through a scattering of farmsteads. Soon, travelers cross the Dent Bridge at the Dworshak Reservoir—a suspension bridge linking to vast forestlands. Next lies Elk River, a quaint community first established as a hunting and recreation camp. Developed by Potlatch as a mill town (once the site of the largest white pine lumber mill in the world), today it has returned to a recreational community. At Elk River, activities abound: fantastic Elk Creek Falls, hiking trails, and abundant wildlife to photograph.

View from the Elk River Scenic Byway (Morai Helfen)

More Scenic Drives

For information on other scenic routes in the northern Rockies, visit <http://www.DriveTheTop10.com>.

Idaho State Highway 95

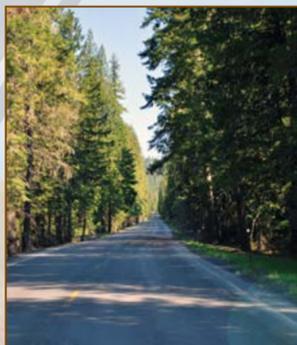
An immensely diverse landscape, the country of the Highway 95 corridor varies from the sparkling Salmon River pouring through steep canyon walls, to the scorching summer heat at Spring Bar, to the cool alpine breezes at Rocky Bluff Campground. Here, it is not uncommon for canyon grasslands to share the same camera lens with granite peaks.



The Salmon River flowing adjacent to Hwy. 95 and the Slate Creek Ranger Station (Cindy Schacher)

Idaho State Highway 95 is Idaho's primary north-south route. There are several national parks along the way, including the Nez Perce War Historic Battlefield Monument near White Bird. Fish Creek on Forest Road 221 (seven miles from Grangeville) hosts a campground and five loop trails for hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers. In the winter, cross-country skiers can enjoy a groomed trail system (see page 16).

White Pine Scenic Byway



Along the White Pine Scenic Byway (Diana Jones)

The White Pine Scenic Byway begins on Idaho 3 at Interstate 90 near Cataldo, home to Old Mission of the Sacred Heart. Built in the mid-1800s, the mission is the oldest building still standing in Idaho. Travelers can also visit the nearby Parish House and two historic cemeteries on the grounds, and enjoy the visitor center, walking trails, and picnic areas.

From Cataldo, the White Pine Scenic Byway passes through the lush forests of Idaho's timber country. It then winds through numerous lakes and marshlands of the lower Coeur d'Alene River to the town of St. Maries, the Hughes House Museum, and other attractions. The byway then crosses the picturesque St. Maries and St. Joe rivers, the latter being the highest navigable river in the world.

The route continues on Idaho 6, meandering south through the town of Emida and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest which boasts the largest stand of white pine in the country. The byway winds through rolling hills of the Palouse region to the historic logging town of Potlatch.

Historic Roads and Trails

Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark Corridor



The history of this land is felt in the wind as it stirs ancient memories of travel, trade, discovery—and the terror of the 1877 Nez Perce Flight. A sense of what once was hangs heavily in the boughs of the hemlock forests and in the mist rolling off the hills. Astonishing views greet you at every direction.

The Lolo Trail corridor was formed along a ridgeline used historically by the Nez Perce to reach their Salish friends in Montana to trade fish for buffalo, among other things. Over time the trail was also used by Lewis and Clark, and by others in search of gold in the 1900s. Because of its historical significance, the trail has many titles and honors, such as The Road to the Buffalo (K'useyneisskit), the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and the Lolo Motorway.

The narrow, winding roads are recommended for high-clearance vehicles only, and may not be open at times due to snow and icy conditions. Contact the Lochsa Ranger Station for current travel information.

To learn more about Lewis and Clark on the Lolo Trail, visit www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater; select Learning Center then History and Culture. Or visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/nprht>.



Along the Lolo Motorway (Mark Boesch)

The Magruder Corridor and Southern Nez Perce Trail



Along the Magruder Corridor

This 101-mile unimproved dirt road winds through a vast undeveloped area, offering solitude and expansive mountain views—much the same as when the Nez Perce people and other early travelers crossed the area.

The road itself was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. In 1980, the Central Idaho Wilderness Act created a unique corridor that enables travelers to drive between two Wilderness Areas (Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return) and two Idaho Roadless Areas (East and West Meadow Creek). The corridor is also known as the Montana Road and the Parker Trail.

Idaho State Highways 13 and 14

The Nez Perce traveled through the South Fork of the Clearwater River corridor on their seasonal migration from the Camas Prairie in Idaho to the Bitterroot Valley in Montana. The route, known as the Southern Nez Perce Trail, was later used by gold miners and homesteaders who flocked to the area in the 1860s. Today, the corridor is still decorated by rugged granite outcroppings and lush meadows.

Two auto tours can be enjoyed on Idaho State Highway 14: The Elk City Wagon Road (up to six hours), and the Gold Rush Loop beginning at the junction of Hwy 14 and County Road 233 (a 62-mile mostly gravel route that takes three hours). McAllister Picnic Area at milepost 11 offers fishing, river access, and a one-mile, self-guided trail that climbs to a broad vista of Earthquake Basin. These routes are not recommended for large RVs.



South Fork Clearwater River (Nick Gerhardt)

The Elk City Wagon Road

Picture yourself on a wagon 100 years ago. The road is so rough, you're afraid you might fall out. If it's winter, you're atop a sleigh drawn by horses wearing snowshoes, plodding through drifts over your head. It's rough going.

The Elk City Wagon Road was popular from 1895 to 1932 with freight and stage coaches, miners, and homesteaders. Beginning at Harpster on the South Fork of the Clearwater River, the road once stretched 50 miles to the mining town of Elk City. Elevations along the route range from 1,600' at South Fork River Valley to 6,200' in the Baldy Mountain area.

Today, Friends of the Elk City Wagon Road gather each summer for a tour of the historic route followed by prospectors and packers. Through pack trips and wagon rides, visitors can experience on their own what early western settlers experienced. For more information, download a brochure from www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater; select Learning Center then History and Culture.



Stagecoach on the Elk City Wagon Road below Newsome, 1910



Today's Elk City wagon ride

Wild Country

Wild & Scenic Rivers



The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.

Middle Fork of the Clearwater (including the Lochsa and Selway Rivers)

This country is famous for its extraordinary scenery, exceptional water quality, exciting floating options, and outstanding wildlife viewing opportunities. The Middle Fork of the Clearwater River runs from the town of Lowell, ID downstream to Kooskia, ID (and the Lochsa Ranger Station). The Middle Fork of the Clearwater includes the Lochsa and Selway Rivers (their confluence forming the "Middle Fork") which are premier whitewater rafting locales. Most of the Selway River lies in Idaho's Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Fenn Ranger Station, on the National Register of Historic Places, is an easy five-mile drive from Lowell. Here, you will feel like you've stepped back to the 1930s when the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed the buildings.

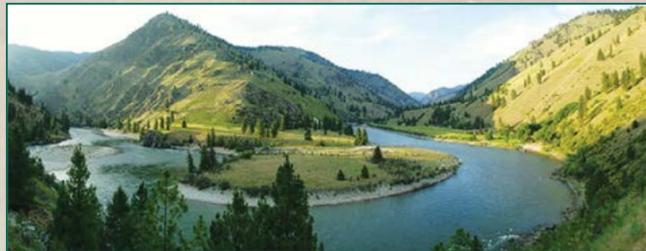
Rafters in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

"The River of No Return"—The Salmon River

Fed by snowmelt from the Sawtooth and Salmon River mountains, the Salmon River flows undammed for 425 miles. It's also the longest river in the contiguous 48 states. From elevations above 8,000', the Salmon descends to 905' before it joins the Snake River in Hells Canyon near the Idaho/Oregon border. The Salmon River is surrounded by Wilderness and wild country, and provides habitat for an array of wildlife. It is also world-renowned for its whitewater rafting and kayaking, canoeing, floating, and fishing.

The Salmon River has a rich history, and played an important role in the lives of the Nez Perce and Shoshone peoples. Later, Lewis and Clark, fur traders, and gold seekers all traveled its storied corridor.

See pages 8-9 in this guide for more information on the Salmon River. For a list of floating and power boat operators licensed to operate on the river, visit www.ioga.org.

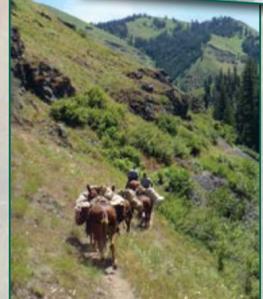
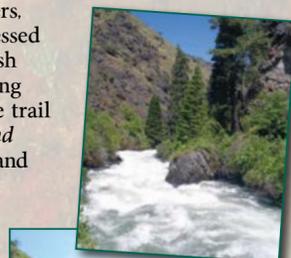


Salmon River (Steve Armstrong)

Rapid River

The 6.9-mile (one way) Rapid River hiking trail boasts a lively watercourse and bountiful spring wildflowers within the narrow canyon—a favorite with hikers, backpackers, and horseback riders. Accessed by a trailhead above the Rapid River Fish Hatchery, the trail is popular in the spring and fall because of its low elevation. The trail passes through the Rapid River *Wild and Scenic* River corridor where motorized and mechanized use is prohibited.

The superb water quality in the Rapid River makes it critical habitat for three fish species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act: the Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout. Rapid River Fish Hatchery was built in 1964 to mitigate the loss of fish runs due to dam construction on the Snake River. It's the largest hatchery facility of spring Chinook salmon in Idaho and is an important contributor to the fisheries of the Columbia, Snake, Salmon, and Rapid River watersheds.



Rapid River Trail

Photos by Jeremy Harris



Selway Falls

In the Wilderness section of the Selway River (between the Paradise put-in and the Race Track take-out) permits are required to float during the control season from May 15 thru the end of July. For more information visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/scnf/passes-permits/recreation/> or www.recreation.gov.

Wilderness

Wilderness contributes to the ecologic, economic, and social health and well being of our citizens, our country and our world. The benefits Wilderness areas provide are as diverse as the areas themselves. In addition to providing "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation," the 1964 Wilderness Act specified that Wilderness "may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, education, and scenic interest." For more information, visit www.wilderness.net.



Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

Ranking as the second largest Wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System is only one of the many attributes of which the Frank Church-River of No Return can claim. Its namesake, Frank Church (Senator and lawyer), played a major role in the creation of the River of No Return Wilderness in 1980.



Wilderness kayaking (Josh Whitmore)



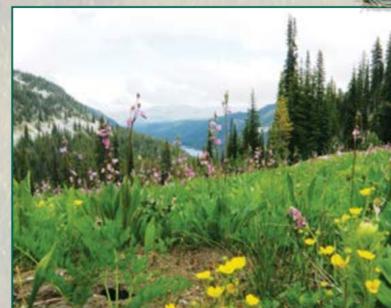
Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

The treacherous waters of the Main Salmon River slice through a chasm deeper than the Grand Canyon—hence its moniker as the River of No Return.

Portions of this 2.4 million acre Wilderness are located on five different national forests—the Boise, Bitterroot, Nez Perce-Clearwater, Payette, and Salmon-Challis. Many of its visitors venture into these wild lands on the river corridors of both the Main and Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

Gospel-Hump Wilderness

In 1978, Congress recognized 206,053 acres of undeveloped federal land as a special area and designated it the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. It is a land of contrasts—its northern section is moist and heavily forested, while the southern section is dry and sparsely vegetated. Separating these diverse landscapes is a rugged, glaciated divide where the Wilderness Area's namesake peaks are located. Elevations range from 1,970' at the Salmon River to 8,940' at the summit of Buffalo Hump.



Moores Lake in Gospel-Hump Wilderness (Cindy Schacher)

Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

At 1.5 million acres, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is slightly larger than Delaware. In addition to the high crest of the Bitterroot Mountains, the area is dominated by ridges broken with raw granite peaks. Below the ridges are deep canyons covered with thick coniferous forest. Hidden valleys are rich with old-growth cedar, fir, and spruce, with ponderosa pine dominating open grassy slopes along the rivers. Few people visit the trailless portions of this Wilderness, making it all the more appealing for the Selway elk herd, abundant deer, moose, black bears, mountain lions, and wolves.



Wild and Scenic Selway River in the Wilderness (Morai Helfen)

Designated by Congress in 1964, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is bordered by the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness to the south, separated by the Magruder Corridor (the Southern Nez Perce Trail).



Camping along East Moose Creek Trail 421 (Scott Rulander)

Hells Canyon Wilderness

Hells Canyon Wilderness is a part of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (HCNRA) that straddles the border of northeastern Oregon and western Idaho, split in half by the *Wild and Scenic* Snake River. The Idaho side boasts the Seven Devils mountain range, and is jointly managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. A small portion of the Wilderness in Oregon is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.



Hells Canyon

Bragging Rights
The Selway-Bitterroot, Gospel-Hump, and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Areas constitute the largest contiguous area of wild country outside of Alaska.

To safeguard the wild character of these special places, please "Leave No Trace" to ensure the country you came to enjoy will remain intact for future generations.

The Main Salmon River

Special places and things to consider when planning your trip on the "River of No Return"



Golden Eagle by Roger Inghram

The Salmon River is home to one of the largest concentrations of raptors in the world, and one of the few places where golden eagles can be seen year-round.



A Wild and Scenic River

The Salmon River has been recognized by Congress as having "outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values" and so was designated as a *Wild and Scenic River* in 1980. The National Wild and Scenic River System Act of 1968 calls for specific management practices for different portions of the river—categorized as *Wild*, *Scenic*, or *Recreational*—to maintain their values.

The 46-mile segment from North Fork to Corn Creek is designated as *Recreational* and the 79-mile stretch from just below Corn Creek to Long Tom Creek is *Wild*.

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests primarily manage the *Wild* section of the river. For more specifics about the *Recreational* and undesignated sections, contact the Salmon-Challis National Forest or the Bureau of Land Management respectively.



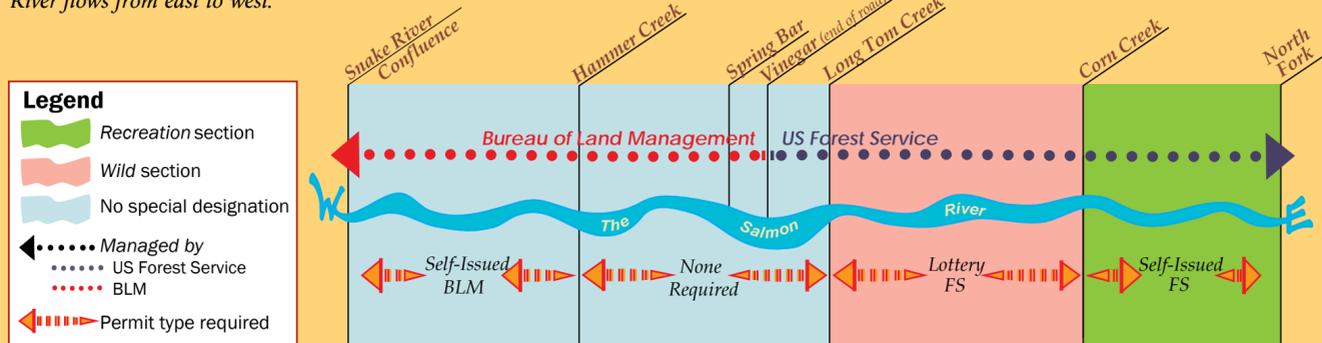
"River of No Return"

The 425-mile long and winding Salmon River, all within the state of Idaho, is the longest free-flowing river in the US. For more than 150 years after the first Euro-Americans arrived in the area, only one-way trips down the river were possible, hence the origin of the River of No Return moniker.

The most commonly used boats were wooden scows, designed to carry heavy loads and withstand whitewater. At the end of the trip, they were dismantled and used for lumber. Cables, small bridges, and ferries served as crossing points, and the adventurous even took to swimming from bank to bank. Today, the iconic pack bridges spanning the chilly waters have become part of the visual identity of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Things to Know

The graph below shows how the different designations, management, and permitting systems come together to maintain the *Wild and Scenic* values visitors experience when recreating on the Main Salmon River. The map to the right of the graph highlights the different designations while pointing out popular spots along the river. Permitting requirements refer to floating, not jet boats. River flows from east to west.



Note: Users launching jet boats at remote portals such as Mackay Bar need permits year-round and are encouraged to call the appropriate office depending on boat type. Also, other sections of the Salmon River are managed by different forests or agencies and have different permit requirements.



Map shows sections of the Main Salmon River, its designations, and popular spots along the way. Numbers correspond to the chart on the right. Map not to scale.

Popular Spots	
1	Corn Creek Campground/boat launch is the primary check station for users of the <i>Wild</i> section of the river
2	Whitewater Campground Accessed from Elk City; popular during fall steelhead season
3	Mackay Bar Campground Remote access by vehicles via the Mackay Bar Road; Wilson Bar Airstrip lies upstream
4	South Fork Salmon Rich in history, the South Fork—and Middle Fork—are major drainages accessing the Main Salmon River by float boaters
5	Long Tom Creek This creek denotes the lower boundary of the <i>Wild</i> river section
6	Vinegar Creek Marks the end of road access; this site sees heavy jet boat traffic, so floaters may be inclined to use Carey Creek downstream; toilet on site
7	Carey Creek Popular float take-out with boat ramp, toilets, and changing station
8	Spring Bar Fee campground, boat ramp, water, and toilets

Permit Information

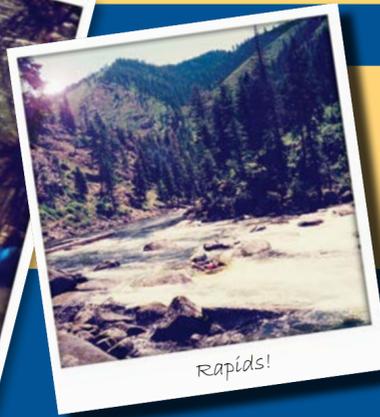
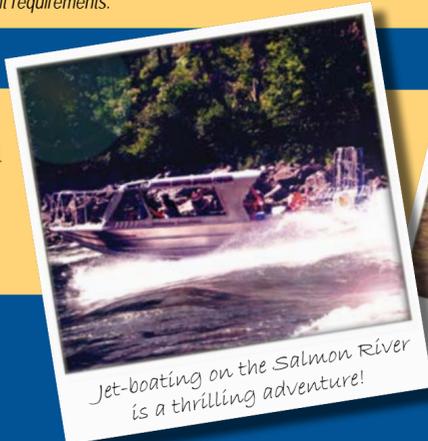
Permits are required yearlong for all power and float boating on the *Wild* section of the Main Salmon between Corn Creek and Long Tom Creek. Permit requirements differ from control season to non-control season. A limited number of permits are available during control season from June 20th through September 7th (campsite stay limits are shown on permit). Your fees are reinvested in the services we provide and maintenance of this precious resource, and we thank you!

Jet Boating

CONTROL SEASON:
Users must register for permits at Salmon River Ranger District.

For more information contact
Nez Perce-Clearwater NF/
Salmon River Ranger District
(208) 839-2211

NON-CONTROL SEASON:
Permits are self-issue at Spring Bar and Vinegar Creek Boat Launches.



Floating

CONTROL SEASON AND NON-CONTROL SEASON:
users should contact the North Fork Ranger District or recreation.gov for permit requirements.

For more information contact
Salmon-Challis NF
North Fork Ranger District
(208) 865-2700



Nez Perce ~ Clearwater National Forests



Lochsa Ranger Station, after 1935 fire

Nez Perce fisherman on the Rapid River (Steve Armstrong)



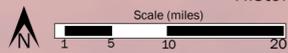
Before exploring the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, please pick up a map with the level of detail appropriate for your planned activities:

For motorized travel:
Check with your local Forest Service office for the most current information and map.

For hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding:
Topographic maps are recommended. Visit the US Geological Survey for online purchases: www.usgs.com. You may also visit the Idaho Parks and Recreation Department for trail and road information: <http://trails.idaho.gov>.

National forest maps may be purchased at: www.nationalforeststore.com.

- Campground
- Group Campground
- Picnic Area
- Trailhead
- Point of Interest
- Rental Cabin
- Boat Access
- Raft Access
- Lookout
- Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
- Other National Forest
- Wilderness
- State Highway
- US Highway
- Forest Route
- Scenic Byway or Historical Route



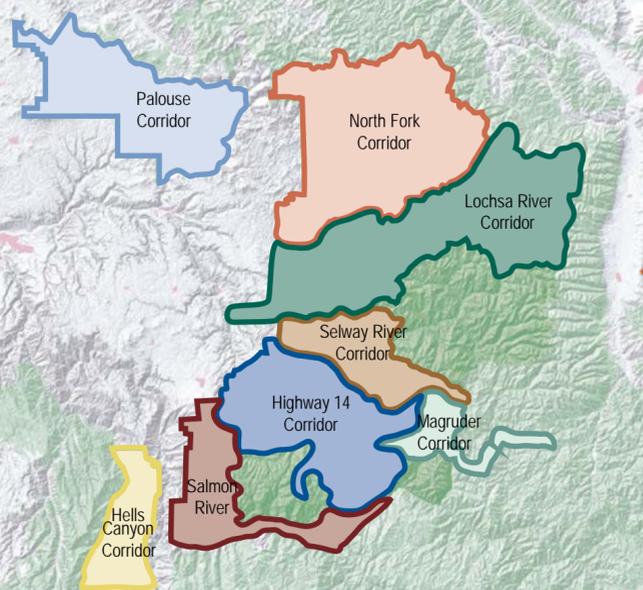
Bald eagle



Steelhead jumping rapids (Roger Inghram)



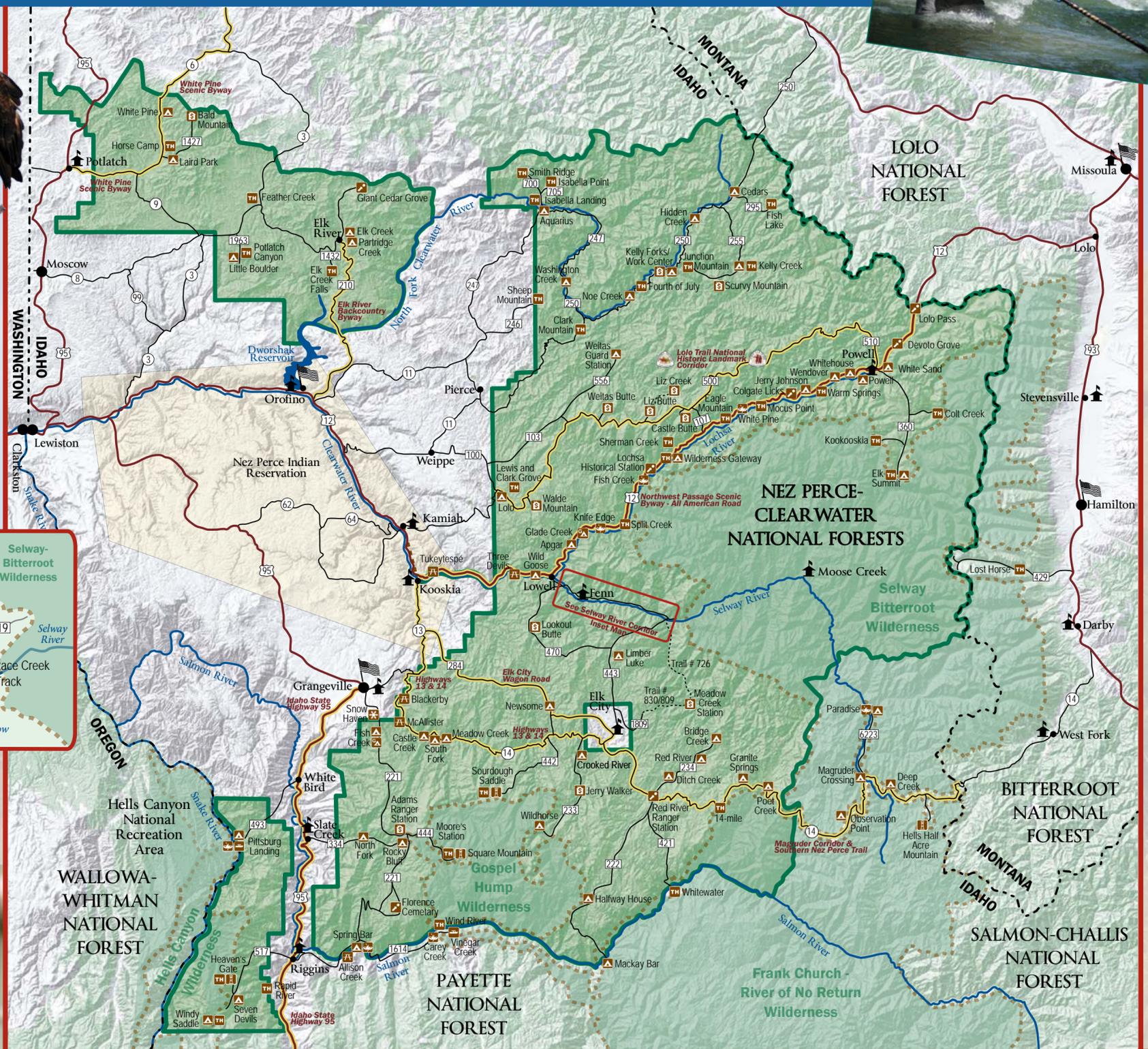
Selway River Corridor Inset Map



Colored recreation corridors above correspond to the Activities Tables on pages 12-15, as well as those in the Clearwater Nez Perce Country Travel Planner.



Aspen and Indian paintbrush (© Heather A. Craig)



A ctivities



Moose Creek pack bridge
(Roger Inghram)

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests provide an extraordinary backdrop for year-round adventures. The following tables—color coded by area/corridor—will help you find the right facility from which to start your exploration.

Campgrounds, Trailheads, Boat Launches and More

NAME	# OF UNITS	SEASON	AMENITIES	RESERVABLE
Palouse Corridor				
Elk Creek Campground	24	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	Yes
Elk Creek Falls Trailhead and Picnic Area	5	May-Oct.	Picnicking, Hiking, Trailhead	No
Feather Creek Trailhead		May-Oct.		No
Giant Cedar Grove Trailhead		May-Oct.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Giant White Pine Campground/Trailhead	14	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Horse Camp Trailhead		May-Oct.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Laird Park Campground	31	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Little Boulder Campground	17	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Partridge Creek Campground	10	May-Oct.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Potlatch Canyon Trailhead		April-Nov.	Picnicking, Hiking, Trailhead	No
North Fork Kelly Creek Corridor				
Aquarius/Purple Beach Campground	9	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Cedars Campground	5	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Clark Mountain/Orogrande Trailhead	3	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Fish Lake Trailhead	2	June-Oct.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Fourth of July Trailhead	2	May-Oct.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Hidden Creek Campground	13	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Isabella Landing Trailhead	5	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Isabella Point Trailhead	2	June-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Junction Mountain Trailhead		June-Oct.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Kelly Creek Trailhead		May-Oct.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Kelly Forks Campground	14	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Noe Creek Campground	6	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Sheep Mountain Trailhead		June-Oct.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Smith Ridge Trailhead	2	June-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Washington Creek Campground	23	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Weitas Creek Campground		May-Sept.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Lochsa River Corridor				
Apgar Campground	7	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Colgate Licks Nat. Recreation Trail		May-Nov.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Colt Creek Trailhead		May-Nov.	Hiking, Trailhead, Horse Facilities	No
Devoto Grove Picnic Area and Trail	2	May-Nov.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Eagle Mountain Trailhead		Year-round	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Elk Summit Campground and Trailhead	15	July-Nov.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Fish Creek River Access		Year-round	Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access	No

Rocky Bluff waterfall
(Idaho County Free Press)



- Restrooms
- Camping
- Group Camping
- Picnicking
- Picnic Shelter
- Hiking
- Trailhead
- Fishing
- Raft Access
- Jet boat Access
- Cross-country Skiing
- Snowmobiling
- OHV Access
- Motorcycle
- Horse Facilities
- Fee



© Noam Armonin



NAME	# OF UNITS	SEASON	AMENITIES	RESERVABLE
Glade Creek Group Camp	5	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	Yes
Jerry Johnson Campground	21	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	Yes
Kookooskia Trailhead		July-Nov.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Knife Edge Campground and River Access	5	April-Nov.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Lewis and Clark Grove		June -Oct.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Lochsa Historic Ranger Station		May-Sept.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Lolo Creek Campground	8	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Lolo Pass Visitor Center		Year-round	Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Mocus Trailhead		Year-round	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Powell Campground	39	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	Yes
Sherman Creek Trailhead		May -Oct.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Split Creek Trailhead		Year-round	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Three Devils Picnic Area	5	May-Sept.	Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Tukaytespé Picnic Area <small>(Not suitable for trailers)</small>	3	Year-round	Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Warm Springs Trailhead		Year-round	Hiking, Trailhead <small>(No overnight camping at Jerry Johnson Hot Springs)</small>	No
Wendover Campground	27	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	Yes
Wild Goose Campground	7	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	Yes
Wilderness Gateway Campground	91	April-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	Yes
Whitehouse Campground	13	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	Yes
White Pine River Access		Year-round	Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access	No
White Sand Campground	6	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Selway River Corridor				
Boyd Creek Campground	5	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
CCC Trailhead		May-Sept.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Fog Mountain Trailhead		May-Sept.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Glover Creek Campground	7	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Johnson Bar Campground	7	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	Yes
O'Hara Bar Campground	34	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	Yes
Race Creek Campground	3	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Rackliff Campground	6	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Selway Falls Campground	7	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Slims Campground and Trailhead	2	May-Sept.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Magruder Road				
Deep Creek Campground (Bitterroot NF)	2	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Fourteen-mile Trailhead	2	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Granite Springs Campground	4	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Poet Creek Campground	4	May-Oct.	Restrooms, Camping, Group Camping, Picnicking, Picnic Shelter, Hiking, Trailhead, Fishing, Raft Access, Jet boat Access, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling, OHV Access, Motorcycle, Horse Facilities, Fee	No
Observation Point (Bitterroot NF)		May-Sept.	Hiking, Trailhead	No
Magruder Crossing (Bitterroot NF)		June-Sept.	Hiking, Trailhead	No



Monique Beely



Lochsa Historic Ranger Station

Want Help?

Outfitter/guides and other commercial partners offer quality recreation experiences for users who may require help with skills and equipment. State law requires that Idaho outfitters and guides be licensed; you can verify their status at <http://ogl.b.idaho.gov/>.

Campground fees range from \$5-15/day depending on amenities.

Availability and fees are subject to change.

For reservations, use the National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.



The stay limit within developed sites is 14 days. Campers must move a minimum of 5 miles from the original campsite to qualify for a new stay limit. Campers cannot return to the original site within 45 days.



Campgrounds, Trailheads, Boat Launches and More (continued)

NAME	# OF UNITS	SEASON	AMENITIES	RESERVABLE
Highway 14 Corridor				
Blackberby Picnic Area		May-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
Bridge Creek Campground	5	May-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
Castle Creek Campground	8	May-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	No
Crooked River Campground	5	May-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
Ditch Creek Campground	4	May-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
Halfway House Campground	4	May-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
Limber Luke Campground	1	June-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰	No
McAllister Picnic Area		May-Oct.	☰ P ☰	No
Meadow Creek Campground	3	May-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
Newsome Campground	6	May-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
Red River Campground	40	May-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	No
Sourdough Saddle	5	May-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
South Fork Campground	8	May-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	No
Wildhorse Campground	6	May-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
Salmon River				
Allison Creek Picnic Area	2	March-Nov.	☰ ☰	No
Carey Creek Boat Launch		Year-round	☰ ☰ ☰	No
Fish Creek Campground	11	May-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	No
Fish Creek Group Site		May-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	Yes
Florence Site		June-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
North Fork Campground	5	May-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰	No
Rocky Bluff Campground	4	May-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰	No
Spring Bar Campground and Boat Launch	14	Year-round	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	No
Vinegar Creek Boat Launch		Year-round	☰ ☰ ☰	No
Wind River Trailhead		May-Oct.	☰ ☰	No
Hells Canyon Corridor				
Heavens Gate Trailhead (Wallowa-Whitman NF)		May-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	No
Lower Pittsburg Landing Campground (Wallowa-Whitman NF)	28	Year-round	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	No
Rapid River Trailhead		March-Nov.	☰ ☰	No
Seven Devils Campground (Wallowa-Whitman NF)	5	Year-round	☰ ☰ ☰	No
Upper Pittsburg Landing Campground (Wallowa NF)	4	March-Nov.	☰ ☰ ☰	No
Windy Saddle Campground and Trailhead (Wallowa-Whitman NF)		June-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰	No

- ☰ Restrooms
- ☰ Camping
- ☰ Group Camping
- ☰ Picnicking
- ☰ Picnic Shelter
- ☰ Hiking
- ☰ Trailhead
- ☰ Fishing
- ☰ Raft Access
- ☰ Jet boat Access
- ☰ Cross-country Skiing
- ☰ Snowmobiling
- ☰ OHV Access
- ☰ Motorcycle
- ☰ Horse Facilities
- ☰ Fee

Walde Mountain Cabin



Cold Springs Cabin (Joseph Schranz)



Kelly Forks Cabin



Liz Butte Cabin



Scurvy Lookout



Adams Ranger Station (Cindy Schacher)



Jerry Walker Cabin (Cindy Schacher)

Meadow Creek Cabin (Cindy Schacher)



Rental Cabins, Lookouts, and Guard Stations

CABIN	LOCATION	CAPACITY	SEASON	ACTIVITIES	AMENITIES (in addition to beds, table and chairs, and outdoor toilet)
Clearwater National Forest					
Bald Mountain Lookout	22 miles northeast of Potlatch	4	July 15 - Sept.	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	Propane heat, cookstove
Castle Butte Lookout	80 miles east of Kooskia off FR 500/561	2	July 15 - Sept. 15	☰	Propane cookstove, heater, lights
Cold Springs Cabin	60 miles northeast of Pierce	2	June - Sept.	☰	Wood stove
Kelly Forks Cabin	46 miles northeast of Pierce	6	June 15 - Sept.	☰	Dishes and pans, propane fridge and cook stove, flush toilet, potable water
Liz Butte Cabin	53 miles east of Kamiah off FR 500/560	4	July 15-Sept. 15	☰ ☰	Wood stove
Liz Creek Cabin	53 miles east of Kamiah off FR 500/560; 3.5 mile hike	4	July 15-Sept. 15	☰	Wood stove, outdoor table, campfire ring
Scurvy Lookout	61 miles northeast of Pierce; 3 mile hike or ATV ride	2	July 15-Sept. 15	☰ ☰	Wood stove, kerosene lantern
Walde Mountain Cabin	25 miles northeast of Syringa off FR 500/486D	2	Dec.-March	☰ ☰	Propane stove and lights, wood stove
Weitas Butte Lookout	38 miles east of Pierce off FR 500/557	4	July 15-Sept. 15	☰ ☰	Propane heater and cook stove
Weitas Guard Station	45 miles northeast of Weippe off FR 500/555	8	July to mid-Oct.	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	Propane heater and stove
Nez Perce National Forest					
Adams Ranger Station	30 miles east of Grangeville	8	May 20-March 15	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	Propane cook stove, wood stove and lanterns
Jerry Walker Cabin	15 miles southwest of Elk City on Crooked River	4	Year-round	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	Wood fireplace and cookstove, picnic table, campfire ring
Lookout Butte Lookout	15 miles southwest of Lowell	4	June 15-Sept. 15	☰ ☰	Propane cook stove
Meadow Creek Cabin	36 miles southeast of Lowell	8	April 15-Sept. 15	☰ ☰ ☰ ☰	Dishes and pans, potable water

- ☰ Cross-country skiing
- ☰ Snowmobiling
- ☰ Motorcycle
- ☰ OHV Access
- ☰ Mountain Biking
- ☰ Hiking
- ☰ Fishing
- ☰ Historic Site
- ☰ Watchable Wildlife

Fish Creek Campground and Pavilion (Idaho County Free Press)



Cabins, lookouts, and guard station rental fees are \$20-55/day depending on amenities. Availability and fees are subject to change. For reservations, use the National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.



W inter Recreation

M ore Activities

Dark-eyed junco (© RL Hambley)

Cross-country Skiing, Snowshoeing, and Snowmobiling

AREA	ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION	PARKING	PHONE
Fish Creek Recreation Area (7 miles from Grangeville)	 	Visitors of all abilities can ski or snowshoe while enjoying panoramas of Pilot Rock, Buffalo Hump, and the Gospel-Hump Mountains. Snowmobilers can cruise over 100 miles (161 km.) of other trails, groomed in partnership with Idaho State Parks. Check out the Fish Creek Pavilion—available for group gatherings.	Idaho State Park N' Ski sticker required (fee)	Forest Supervisor's Office (208) 983-1950
Musselshell Meadows (Pierce area)	 	These cross-country skiing trails are easy to moderate but may have short steep pitches. Beware of moose and elk, especially on south-facing slopes where they bed down. The road to the Musselshell Ski Area is plowed during logging activity; access may not always be available.	Free	Forest Supervisor's Office (208) 476-4541
Lolo Pass	 	The Lolo Pass Visitor Center has interpretive exhibits, a warming hut, and restrooms. After your adventure, you can also enjoy a warm beverage in front of a comforting fire. Dogs are not allowed on groomed trails.	Purchase pass for winter activities at Visitor Center	Lolo Pass Visitor Center (208) 942-1234
Elk City/Dixie Area		The Forest Service partners with Timberliners Snowmobile Club and local businesses to maintain over 240 miles (384 km.) of trails in this area. Landscapes range from heavy timber to open snowfields. Major trailheads are at Elk City, Newsome Creek, Trapper Creek, and Dixie.	Free	Red River District Office (208) 842-2245
Palouse Area				
Elk River Nordic Ski Trails (2 miles south of Elk River)	 	There are 5 miles (8.6 km.) of easy trails and 2.4 miles (4 km.) of more difficult; all are closed to motorized vehicles Dec. 15-April 1. Trails use Forest Service roads and abandoned railways. Not all trails are regularly groomed.	Idaho State Park N' Ski sticker required (fee)	Palouse District Office (208) 875-1131
Elk River Snowmobile Trail System (53 miles east of Moscow)		Fifty miles (80 km.) of trails are groomed intermittently by the Snodrifters Snowmobile Club. Primary trails range in elevation from 2,800-6,000 feet. Weather can vary dramatically.	Free, but limited	Palouse District Office (208) 875-1131
Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Area (42 miles north of Moscow)	 	Access these trails from the North-South ski bowl near the Palouse Divide. There are 13.7 miles (22.8 km.) of easy trails and 3.5 miles (5.9 km.) of more difficult. Trails are groomed weekly.	Idaho State Park N' Ski sticker required (fee)	Palouse District Office (208) 875-1131



All smiles at the Palouse Divide Ski Area

For More Information

Visit: www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater; select Recreation, then Winter Sports

Snowmobile registration laws: www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov



Snowshoe hare (© Nialat)



Know Before You Go to the Snow

- ❖ Ski trails are usually not patrolled and trail obstructions may exist. Ski at your own risk.
- ❖ Avalanche hazards may exist. They are not marked and avalanche closures are not made.
- ❖ On the trail, move to the right when you meet others. Yield to faster skiers, downhill skiers, and snowmobilers.
- ❖ SNOWMOBILERS: Use caution on shared trails. Do not run over trees since broken tops can cause major tree health problems.



South Fork of the Clearwater River (Nick Gerhardt)

Motorized Recreation

Motor vehicles are a popular way visitors access and enjoy the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, providing great opportunities to reach beautiful vistas and backcountry lakes.

To assist visitors with riding on approved roads and trails, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests will be replacing the current travel guides with a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The MVUM will be available for free at all Forest Service offices and on the forest website. Please do your part to ride responsibly and only on designated routes identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. This will help eliminate resource damage and ensure that motorized opportunities continue to be available into the future.

Riders can call or visit either the Clearwater National Forest Supervisor's Office (208-476-4541) or the Nez Perce National



ATV rider on the Pete King Trail

Forest Supervisor's office (208-983-1950) for more information on specific trails and Visitor and MVUM maps.

Note: Underage ATV, UTV, and motorcycle riders need safety course per Idaho State Statute 49-302.

Hunting

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests manage habitat for deer, elk, moose, bear, cougar, bighorn sheep, grouse, and other game species, in cooperation with the Idaho Department Fish and Game. The Treaty of 1855 guaranteed the Nez Perce Tribe certain additional rights to hunt, gather and fish on national forest lands.

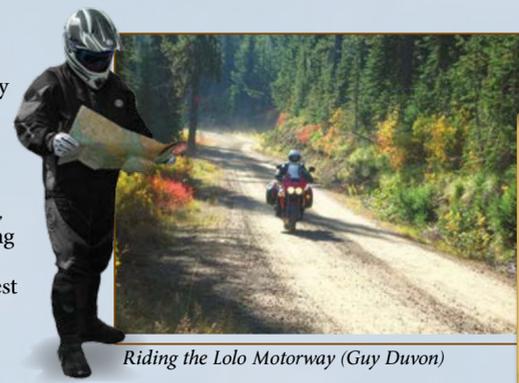
Idaho has some of the best hunting in the West, including trophy species of big game animals, upland game, turkeys and waterfowl.



Hunter packing elk antlers (Peter Bartholf)

For the "Top Ten Tips for Safe and Legal Hunting in Idaho," visit <http://www.stayontrails.com/hunt>.

Note: Hunters born after January 1, 1975 may need to pass a hunter education course to get a hunting license.



Riding the Lolo Motorway (Guy Duvon)



Don't forget your helmet!

Check This Out

"Stay On Trails" provides the most current maps, regulations, and safety information for off-highway vehicles on Idaho's public lands. Visit them at <http://www.stayontrails.com/>

Fishing

River and Stream Fishing

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are famous for wild waters where excellent opportunities for both bait and fly fishing abound. These aquatic habitats support over 13 species of resident and anadromous fish. The South Fork of the Clearwater River bisects the forests and offers prime steelhead and salmon to the fishing enthusiast.



A happy angler (Tim Theison)

Lake and Pond Fishing

Numerous lakes and ponds invite anglers to test their waters. The Fenn Pond, near the Historic Fenn Ranger Station, is stocked by the Idaho Fish and Game Department, and has a smooth, accessible trail and boardwalk.

Aquatic Nuisance Species

Aquatic nuisance species such as zebra and quagga mussels attach to boats and gear. From there they can spread in waters where they can destroy fish habitat. To prevent their spread:

- ❖ Clean mud, plants, animals, or other debris from your boat and equipment
- ❖ Drain the ballast tanks, bilge, live wells, and motor



Zebra mussels (U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org)

Boaters are required to purchase an Idaho Invasive Species Fund (IISF) sticker prior to launching their vessel.

For Hunting & Fishing Information

Idaho Department of Fish and Game: www.fishandgame.idaho.gov/

Nez Perce Tribe: www.nezperce.org

W

atchable Wildlife

K

now Before You Go



Osprey
(© Randy Rimland)

As you explore the national forest, watch for creatures big and small in their diverse habitats. From the grasslands to alpine communities, you might spot a mountain quail (a native species) with her chicks feeding on insects, a wild tom turkey (an introduced species) strutting his stuff, or elk, moose, bighorn sheep, and bald eagles on their winter ranges.



Gray wolf (© FloridaStock)



Bull elk
(© Larry Bennett Photography)



Bighorn sheep
(Roger Inghram)



Mountain quail



Mountain goat (Blake Fuller)

Wildlife Viewing Ethics

- Give the wildlife their space. Use those binoculars!
- If you find what you believe to be an "orphaned" or sick animal, leave it alone. Often the parents are close by and are waiting for you to leave.
- Pets must be restrained when viewing wildlife.
- Do not feed wildlife. Animals that become habituated to handouts can eventually become nuisances, losing their instinctive fears of people. Often the only solution is to euthanize the animal.
- Leave the area if an animal shows signs of alarm. Watch and listen for raised ears, skittish movements, or alarm calls.



Golden eagle
(©yykkää)



River otter
(© Andreas Gradin)



Moose and calf
(Nick Gerhardt)



Whitetail deer
(© Mike Rogal)



Bald eagle (Roger Inghram)

tread lightly!

LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



Unpaved and primitive roads present special challenges even in good weather. Before you take off, think about another challenge—your responsibility to "Tread Lightly." Here's how:

- T** ravel only where motorized vehicles are permitted.
- R** espect the rights of others to enjoy their activities undisturbed.
- E** ducate yourself by getting maps and information; ask owners' permission to cross private property.
- A** void streams, lakeshores, meadows, muddy roads, steep hillsides, wildlife, and livestock.
- D** rive responsibly to protect the environment and preserve opportunities to enjoy your vehicle on wild lands.

Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds can rapidly displace native plant species that provide food for wildlife and livestock. Here's how you can help reduce their spread:

- Remove seeds from livestock by brushing manes and tails thoroughly and cleaning hooves.
- When using pack animals, carry only certified weed seed-free feed. Within 96 hours before entering backcountry areas, use only certified weed seed-free feed.
- Wash your vehicle, including the undercarriage, to remove any weed seed before driving to the forest.
- Learn to recognize common noxious weed species.

Yellow star thistle



Above: rush skeletonweed
(Utah State University Archive, Bugwood.org and Richard Old/XID Services)



Left: houndstongue
(Richard Old/XID Services)



Orange hawkweed (UAF Cooperative Extension Archive, University of Alaska - Fairbanks, Bugwood.org)

Please report new invader weed sightings to your County Weed Superintendent or local Forest Service office.

Be Bear Aware!

Seeing a black bear is a memorable experience. If you want that experience to be positive rather than negative, make sure to store anything that smells in closed vehicles; hang food when camping in the backcountry; and keep your pets on a short leash. For more information, visit www.BeBearAware.org.



Leave No Trace

Help protect your national forest for future generations by following "Leave No Trace" principles, especially in Wilderness and backcountry areas:

- Plan ahead and prepare:** Know the regulations for the area you'll visit. Check with your local Forest Service office for more information.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces:** Where possible, stay on rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow. In general, keep your campsite at least 200' away from water, trails, and other campsites.
- Minimize campfire impacts:** Check with your local Forest Service office to find out where campfires are allowed. Where they are, use established fire rings, fire pans, or fire blankets. Keep fires small and use only dead and down wood. Burn all wood to ash, extinguish completely, then scatter when cold. Better yet, use a campstove. Burning garbage is unhealthy and illegal by state law.
- Dispose of waste properly:** Deposit human waste in catholes dug 6" to 8" deep and at least 200' from water and trails. Wash your dishes at least 200' from water and scatter strained dishwater to prevent soap from entering water sources.
- Leave what you find:** This includes plants and other natural objects, as well as cultural/historical artifacts. Do not build structures or dig trenches.
- Be considerate of other visitors:** Avoid loud noises and let nature's sounds prevail. When encountering pack stock, step to the downhill side of the trail to let them pass.



Campstoves make a great alternative to a fire
(© Liane M.)



For More Information

Idaho's Wildlife Viewing Guide (Falcon Press) lists Watchable Wildlife viewing sites in the area. Or, visit the Idaho Fish and Game website at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/nongame/>

Stay Limits

Dispersed campsites outside of Wilderness: 18 days on the Nez Perce- Clearwater NF (does not apply during hunting season Oct. 6-May 1 on the Clearwater NF)
Within Wilderness: 14 days for camping or storing equipment/supplies





Contact Information & Fees

Your Fees at Work

Recreation fees make a positive difference in our ability to serve our visitors because these dollars can be reinvested into services and infrastructure on the national forest. Some of our recent accomplishments include:



Hitchrail installation

- » **Rental cabin improvements**—repaired bathrooms and other facilities, painted structures, and completed other necessary maintenance
- » **Developed recreation site maintenance**—repaired picnic tables, maintained bulletin boards and signs, repaired and pumped toilets, removed and replaced fire rings, removed hazard trees, and paid for trash services
- » **Seasonal Wilderness Ranger and River Ranger**—educated visitors about the values of *Wild and Scenic Rivers*, Wilderness, and Roadless Areas
- » **Campground Host funding**—shared information with campers to increase safety and protect resources, cleaned restrooms
- » **This Visitor Guide**



Passport in Time volunteers at Adams Ranger Station

Volunteering on the National Forests

The Forest Service Volunteer Program on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is very active. The jobs are exciting and diverse, scenery is exceptional, and co-workers are friendly. For more information, contact any Forest Service office or visit www.volunteer.gov.

America The Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Interagency Pass Program



Many federal lands and activities can be enjoyed for free. However, for those who recreate on multiple federal lands that require a fee, the America the Beautiful Interagency Pass Program is the most convenient way to pay.

NOTE: Passes are honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Fish & Wildlife Service sites charging entrance or standard amenity fees. These fees are not charged to persons 15 and under. Passes do not cover expanded amenity fees such as cabin or yurt rentals; and may not be accepted at sites operated by concessionaires.

Annual Pass - \$80.00

Not accepted for camping discounts. Active military personnel and their dependents can get this pass **free**.

Senior Pass - \$10.00

Available to US citizens 62 years and older. Must be purchased in person, with proof of age such as a driver's license.

Access Pass - Free

Available to US citizens that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities. Must be obtained in person with written proof of disability.

Passes are available at most Forest Service offices and help to operate and maintain recreation facilities on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. For more information, visit <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html>.



Visit the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests at: www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater

Contact Information

Clearwater National Forest
Supervisor's Office/
Northfork Ranger District
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544
(208) 476-4541

Nez Perce National Forest
Supervisor's Office
104 Airport Rd.
Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-1950

Lochsa Ranger District
502 Lowry
Kooskia, ID 83539
(208) 926-4274

Moose Creek Ranger District/
Fenn Ranger Station
831 Selway Road
Kooskia, ID 83539
(208) 926-4258

Palouse Ranger District/
Potlatch Ranger Station
1700 Highway 6
Potlatch, ID 83855
(208) 875-1131

Powell Ranger Station
192 Powell Rd
Lolo, MT 59847
(208) 942-3113

Red River Ranger District
300 American River Road
Elk City, ID 83525
(208) 842-2245

Salmon River Ranger District/
Slate Creek Ranger Station
304 Slate Creek Road
White Bird, ID 83554
(208) 839-2211



Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness



Syringa

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