



## **Minidoka Ranger District, Sawtooth National Forest Recreation Report for 6 Aug 2013**

**All Campgrounds in Howell Canyon are open and accessible. The Howell Canyon Road was recently chip sealed so reduced speeds are advised. Campgrounds are still accessible. We have a volunteer at the fire lookout this year. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> Idaho Fish and Game, Hagerman Hatchery stocked Lake Cleveland with 3,960 catchable Rainbow Trout, and these Trout were all 10+ inches in length.**

**The Campgrounds in Rock Creek have water, with the exception of Rim View down to the bottom of Rock Creek Canyon. \*\* An abundance of Rattlesnakes have been reported in the lower campgrounds. Especially Harrington Fork and Steer Basin campgrounds. With the recent hot weather there are increased chances of encounters with snakes. Also due to recent heavy rains we ask everyone to please be careful around creeks and streams and that some roads may have been damaged by runoff.**

**Fire Prevention & Recreation Staff have noticed unattended fires are occurring more often. Please be vigilant and observe all fire safety rules for a better experience in the forest.**

**The blue marked trees in the Trout Creek Sale are open to firewood cutters. They are part of a defaulted sale and the District Forester decided to open the sale to firewood cutters.**

**Firewood cutting is allowed in the Cave Canyon burn area, but caution individuals due to increased risk of resource damage.**

**Independence Lakes Trail is in good condition and at last report free from snow even at the highest elevations. The Skyline Trail is also open all the way from Mount Harrison to the City of the Rocks according to recent reports.**

**Wood Permits are on sale until November 30th. There is a 2 cord minimum per purchase and a 10 cord maximum per household per season. The cost per cord is \$12.50 payable by cash or check only. We do not possess the capabilities to process debit/credit cards. Permits and maps are available at our District Office and we also have 3 vendors that sell our fuelwood permits. They are:**

- 1. The Naf Store, south of Malta Idaho.**
- 2. The Hansen Quick Stop & Go in Hansen Idaho.**
- 3. The Rock Creek General Store south of Hansen Idaho.**

**Due to recent heavy rains road conditions in all areas are uncertain. Kelsaw Canyon Road, FS Roads #589 & #589a are closed until further notice due to the road being washed out in a flash flood.**