

Salmon River Ranger District

In 2012, as part of the overall Forest reorganization, the Salmon River and Clearwater Ranger Districts were administratively combined into one District. The district office is located at the current Slate Creek Ranger Station facilities. The boundaries for the Salmon River and Clearwater Ranger District remain the same.

The combined Salmon River Ranger District covers approximately 536,000 acres of National Forest System Lands (without the Hells Canyon portion). The District office is located at Slate Creek on the Salmon River between the communities of White Bird (approx. 10 miles to the North) and Riggins (approx. 18 miles to the South). The District is bounded by the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (Region Six) to the West and the Payette National Forest (Region Four) to the South. The entire west/northwest side of the district (formerly known as the Clearwater Ranger District) is the forest boundary bordering the Camas Prairie, a short distance from Grangeville.

The District co-manages the Gospel-Hump Wilderness with the neighboring District to the East. It also manages a 70-mile section of the Wild and Scenic Salmon River corridor through the Frank Church-River of No Return-Wilderness through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Payette, Salmon/Challis, Boise, Bitterroot, and Nez Perce National Forests.

The District manages a heavy recreation workload primarily associated with Salmon River use that includes whitewater rafting and jet boating. The South Fork Clearwater River is adjacent to Highway 14 on the way to Elk City. Recreation use along the South Fork is increasing, mostly associated with dispersed recreation such as hunting, fishing, camping, driving for pleasure, and kayaking. The District provides a full range of opportunities for trail users including motorized trails.

The local economy around the Grangeville area centers on cattle ranching and agricultural endeavors, with timber harvest continuing to play an important role. Idaho Forest Group in Grangeville is the largest private employer in Idaho County. The economy of the Riggins area is based primarily on recreation, agriculture and livestock grazing. Riggins has successfully transitioned from a timber-dependent community to a recreation-based community and have become known as the whitewater capitol of the world with several river related outfitter guide operations headquartered in Riggins.