



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service  
Bridger-Teton National Forest**

**Bear Trapping Areas**

**PROHIBITIONS**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a), the following is prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Bridger-Teton National Forest:

1. Being within 100 yards of a trap set by a Federal or State government entity for the purpose of trapping bears that is posted with the signs shown in Exhibit A. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(a), (e).

**EXEMPTIONS**

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Order is to minimize human-bear encounters and to protect public safety, grizzly bears, and black bears.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

1. This Order shall be in effect from June 26, 2024, at 12:00 a.m. through December 31, 2029, at 11:59 p.m., unless rescinded.
2. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/bridgerteton/alerts-notice>.
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be

determined by their plain language definitions.

4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Contact the Bridger Teton National Forest Supervisor's Office in Jackson, WY, (307) 739-5500, for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts.

Signed and issued on June 27, 2024.

---

CHAD HUDSON  
Forest Supervisor  
Bridger Teton National Forest

# Warning

GRIZZLY BEAR TRAPPING  
IS CURRENTLY BEING  
CONDUCTED IN THIS AREA

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO: \_\_\_\_\_

This project is being conducted as a cooperative study among state and federal agencies to monitor the grizzly bear population.

For more information, call the WGFD Pinedale Regional Office at 307-367-4352 or the local WGFD biologist or game warden.



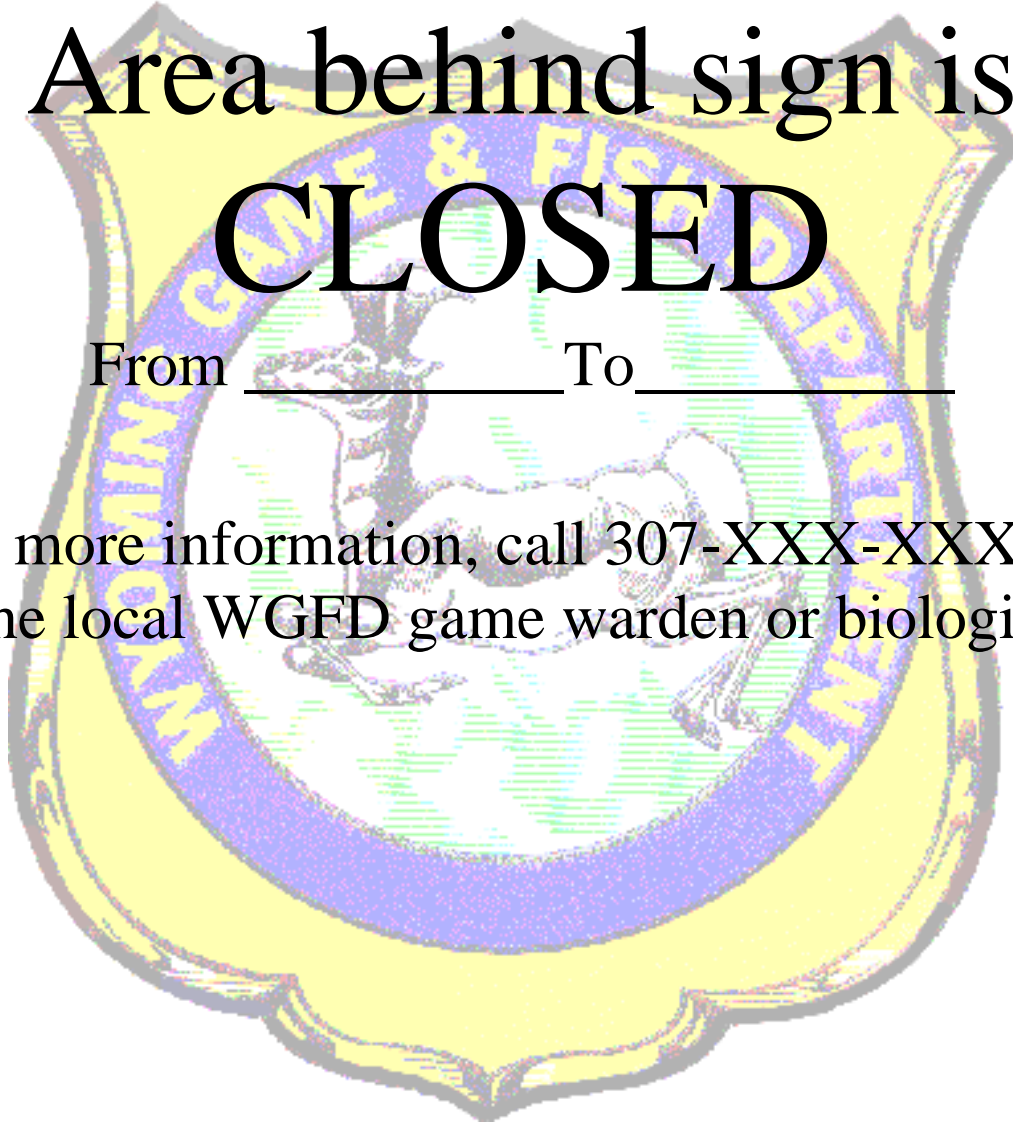
# DANGER

# DO NOT ENTER

Area behind sign is  
**CLOSED**

From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, call 307-XXX-XXXX or  
the local WGFD game warden or biologist.



**DANGER**  
**DO NOT ENTER**  
Area behind sign is  
**CLOSED**  
**TO ALL HUMAN PRESENCE**  
(U.S. Forest Service Special Order)  
**BLACK BEAR**  
**TRAPPING ACTIVITY**

Removal or damage to this sign may endanger others.  
Closure dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

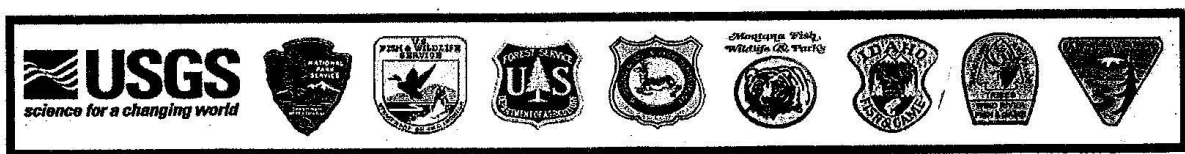
For more information, call the WGFD Pinedale Regional Office  
at 307-367-4352 or the local WGFD Large Carnivore Biologist  
or Game Warden.

# Warning

GRIZZLY BEAR TRAPPING IS  
CURRENTLY BEING  
CONDUCTED IN THIS  
AREA

PLEASE OBEY THE  
TEMPORARY CLOSURE  
SIGNS

For more information, call the WGFD Pinedale Regional at  
307-367-4352 or the local WGFD Large Carnivore Biologist or  
Game Warden.

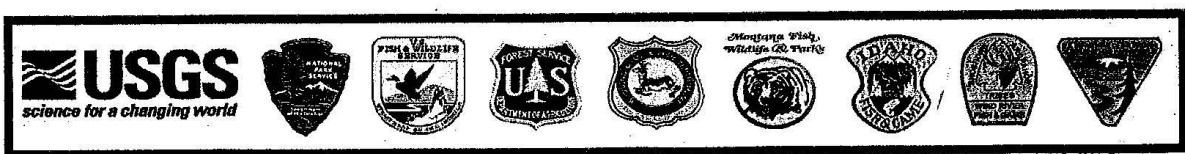




**DANGER**  
**DO NOT ENTER**  
Area behind sign is  
**CLOSED**  
**TO ALL HUMAN PRESENCE**  
(U.S. Forest Service Special Order)  
**GRIZZLY BEAR**  
**TRAPPING ACTIVITY**

Removal or damage to this sign may endanger others.  
Closure dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, call the WGFD Pinedale Regional Office  
at 307-367-4352 or the local WGFD Large Carnivore Biologist  
or Game Warden.



**ASSESSMENT OF NEED  
LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN  
CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACT ANALYSIS  
USDA FOREST SERVICE  
BRIDGER TETON NATIONAL FOREST  
BEAR TRAPPING AREA CLOSURES**

**Assessment of Need**

**Purpose of Order**

Personnel from other agencies (including the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and U.S. Geological Survey) routinely capture bears on the Bridger Teton National Forest. These agencies do not have the authority to restrict public access on National Forest System Lands. Trap sites are dangerous for the public because bears may be attracted to the bait and lingering outside the trap, or a cub/yearling may be captured in a trap with the mother bear remaining in the vicinity outside the trap. The Order is needed to prohibit people from entering these areas while allowing cooperating agencies to accomplish their missions.

The Order will improve public safety by prohibiting people from entering areas of high bear danger (i.e., the area where bear trapping is occurring). The Order will also provide additional protection for bears by minimizing the potential for human-bear conflicts.

**Law Enforcement Plan**

**Posting**

The Order will be posted in the Bridger Teton National Forest Supervisor's Office in Jackson, WY, and at the District Offices in Blackrock, Jackson, Pinedale, Big Piney, Afton, and Kemmerer as required in 36 CFR 261.51. It will be posted to the Bridger Teton National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/bridgerteton/alerts-notices>.

Personnel from other agencies conducting bear trapping operations will be responsible for posting the signs in the Order's Exhibit A. These agencies have formal protocols that require public notification of trapping efforts. For example, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department protocol states:

"Signs placed by WGFD employees in accordance with these guidelines shall announce that trophy game trapping is being conducted in the general area beyond the sign during the specified time period. Signs shall be placed on trails, roads, or other access



routes leading into the area where trapping/baiting is occurring. Signs shall also indicate that the public shall obey all temporary closure and warning signs. General warning signs shall include a phone number for additional information. At each trap area, closure signs shall be used (see attached) and decision related to their placement shall consider the specific trapping situation and target species. Highly visible closure signs shall be placed at likely human travel routes surrounding the trapping area so the immediate vicinity of the trap area is closed to human presence. Additional signs may be added to increase the chance a person approaching the site will see a sign. When applicable, signs shall be dated during trapping activities to inform people of the duration of the closure. Signs shall be checked periodically during trapping activities and missing or damaged signs shall be replaced.”

The Order’s prohibition requires signs to be posted at the site that the public is prohibited from entering. These signs are required to notify the public that a trap has been set by a government entity for the purpose of trapping bears and they are prohibited from entering the area.

### **Enforcement Strategies**

Forest Service law enforcement officers as well as Forest Protection officers (FPO’s) will enforce the restrictions. Bear trap sites typically have remote cameras deployed at them to monitor bear activity as well as unauthorized human entry. Remote camera pictures can be relayed to Forest Service law enforcement personnel for subsequent action.

### **Civil Rights Impact Analysis**

The Order will prohibit access to very small area of the Bridger-Teton National Forest where bear trapping is occurring, but it will not impose any unreasonable adverse impacts on civil rights of any individuals because the closure will apply to everyone equally except for excepted individuals.

### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance**

This Order is categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis and documentation under 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1), which allows for Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR part 261 to protect public health and safety to be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. The Order is consistent with this category of actions because its purpose is to provide for public safety in specific situations related to bears. No extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude the application of the categorical exclusion.