



# Sawtooth National Forest VISITOR GUIDE



*Includes the Sawtooth National Recreation Area*



© Mark Moulton



*Lupine and Pioneer Mountains*

The Sawtooth National Forest is a place of inspiring beauty and contrasting landscapes. National forest lands stretch from the “basin and range” of northern Utah to the lofty peaks of the Idaho Rockies and the headwaters of the legendary “River of No Return.” This diversity is coupled with a contrast in seasons creating winter wonders and spectacular summers.

## Fast Forest Facts

**Elevation Range:** 4,514'–12,009'

**Acres:** 2.1 million

**Alpine ski areas:** 4 (27 lifts/138 runs)

**Unique features:**

- **Largest whitebark pine in North America**
- **Only population on the planet of Christ's Indian Paintbrush**
- **Clearest air (Sawtooth Wilderness) and longest salmon migration in the continental U.S.**

The forest is home for deer, elk, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep. Gray wolves, wolverines, black bear, salmon, and many species of birds also thrive here. Trails, campgrounds, wilderness, rivers, and scenic drives give visitors plenty of opportunities to connect with this special land. As an added gem, the forest also includes the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, commonly referred to as the “Heart of Idaho”.

***Come see for yourself!***



**This Visitor Guide provides the information you need to make the most of your Sawtooth National Forest experience.**

## What's Inside

Get to Know Us .....	2
Special Places .....	3
Sawtooth NRA .....	4
Watchable Wildlife .....	6
Scenic Byways .....	7
Map .....	8
Campgrounds .....	12
Winter Recreation .....	14
Trails .....	15
Activities .....	16
Know Before You Go.....	18
Contact Information .....	20



# Get to Know Us

## History

The first people to use the lands that are now the Sawtooth National Forest occupied this area between 8,000–7,000 BC. More recently (after 1,700 AD) the Shoshone—or Sheepeater people—lived in small bands on the northern end of the forest, harvesting roots and tubers, fish and game, and timber and rocks for tools.

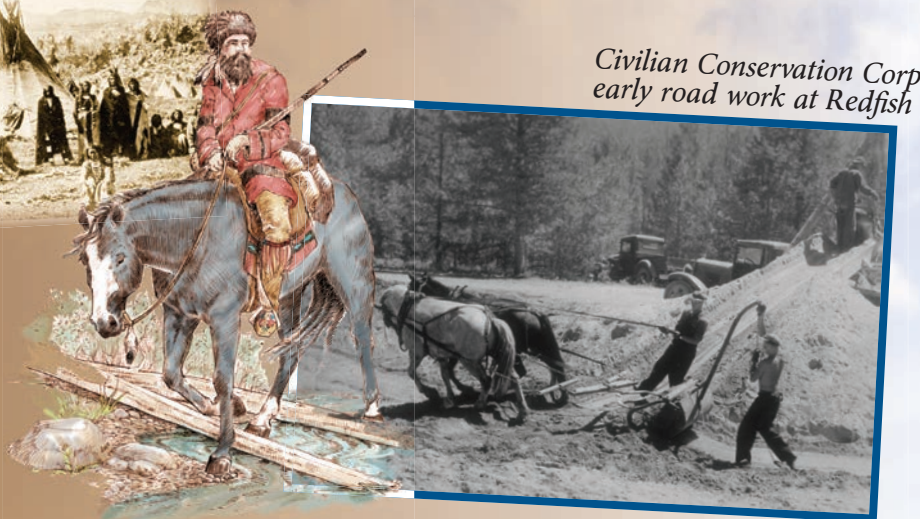


*Shoshone, camp, circa 1880-1910*

Trappers and explorers arrived in southern Idaho by the early 19th century and by 1849 immigrant trails were established through the southern end of the forest. Mining in Idaho started in the early 1860s and peaked in the 1880s, occasionally rebounding over the next 100 years. Cattle and sheep grazing was the primary large-scale land use on the forest for much of the 20th century. Logging activities focused on timber and firewood for homesteaders and miners.



It wasn't long before the area became popular with visitors who were drawn by the impressive scenery and recreational opportunities. The Minidoka and Sawtooth National Forests were established in 1905 by President Teddy Roosevelt and merged in 1953 as the Sawtooth National Forest.



*Civilian Conservation Corp early road work at Redfish*



*CCC workers camp*

## The Area

The Sawtooth National Forest has two distinct geographic units separated by the Snake River Plain—Idaho's "potato belt"—which relies on the forest for the water it needs to irrigate this important agricultural region.

South of the Snake River Plain, the forest is part of the basin and range geologic province of western Utah, Nevada and southeastern Idaho. Here, a series of north-to-south faults break the country into mountain ranges separated by continuously widening basins. The climate is desert-like, but the ranges capture snow, storing the moisture for later release into the surrounding basins of the Snake River Plain.

Lower elevations host sagebrush and juniper that blend into aspen, lodgepole pine, and fir at higher elevations. Mule deer, elk, pronghorn, and sage grouse are common on this part of the forest.



*Wolverine (© Wendy Nero)*

Two-thirds of the forest lies north of the Snake River Plain, where towering mountains are sliced by iconic rivers. These mountains are actually five separate ranges—the Sawtooth, Boulder, White Cloud, Smoky, and Pioneer, which are part of the famous Idaho batholith—which means a great mass of lava that stopped on its rise to the surface. Erosion and glaciers exposed and shaped what we see today.

High alpine lakes abound in this rugged country. Rivers are lined with colossal cottonwoods and graceful willows. The uplands are blanketed with lodgepole pine, and Douglas-fir and subalpine fir —interspersed with whitebark pine and meadows strewn with wildflowers in the summer. Wildlife is plentiful with elk, deer, mountain goats, wolverines, wolves, black bear, cougars, and a wide variety of birds including sandhill cranes, osprey, and eagles. With the exception of the grizzly bear, just about every species that was here in the days of Lewis and Clark is still here today.

*Sawtooth Mountains (© Mark Moulton)*

The vast resources of the Sawtooth National Forest belong to all Americans. These resources must rely on the stewardship of all of us if they are to be sustained for future generations.



## Rock Creek Complex

Looking south from Twin Falls you'll see the desert canyons of the South Hills with stately stands of cottonwood and aspen, and one of the state's healthiest mule deer populations. The Rock Creek Canyon Road winds through volcanic ash deposits (tuff) that have eroded into oodoo and pinnacles, giving the area an other-earthly feel.



Ross Falls

There are 8 campgrounds and 3 picnic areas open in the summer, and 3 trailheads that access 60 miles of trails (all but the 9.5-mile Rim View trail are open to motorized use). Don't pass up the opportunity to drive the two miles to the Pike Mountain viewpoint (7,710') for the interpretive displays and a spectacular panorama of the South Hills. In winter, Rock Creek Road is plowed to Diamondfield Jack Snow-park. A warming hut and popular trailhead provide access to miles of snowmobile trails.



Pioneer Cabin (© Mark Moulton)

More than 40 miles of world-class trails can be found within 5 miles of Ketchum. They offer easy access and unparalleled views, from Bald Mountain to shimmering aspen groves in Corral Creek. Fox Creek and Adams Gulch area trails are popular choices for mountain biking and day hiking.

Within ten miles of Ketchum you'll find more than 250 miles of trails with longer, more challenging routes and a bit more solitude. The Greenhorn Gulch area has great trails for mountain bikes and motorcycles, and is also open to equestrians. Pioneer Cabin Trails will take you to the heart of the Pioneer Range with views of Hyndman Peak (12,009'), the highest in the forest. These trails require more effort, but the rewards are worth it!

The Harriman Trail is a 19-mile trail connecting the Sawtooth National Recreation Area North Fork Visitor Center to Galena Lodge. It features resplendent wildflower meadows, the rushing Big Wood River and deep green forests—all with the stunning Boulder Mountains as a backdrop. The trail is open for hiking, biking, and horseback riding in the summer with numerous access points along Highway 75 (the Sawtooth Scenic Byway). In the winter the trail is groomed for nordic skiing.

For more information on other trails on the Sawtooth National Forest, see page 15.

## South Fork of the Boise River

This beautiful mountain river rises in the Smoky Mountains of southcentral Idaho where, over epochs, it has carved a steep channel through the erosive granite of the Idaho batholith here. Near the old mining community of Featherville, the aroma of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and ponderosa pine will engulf you.

This little visited but stunningly beautiful area has abundant recreation opportunities. The Bear Creek, Canyon, Kelly Creek, and Willow Creek trailheads access miles of trails and thousands of acres of roadless backcountry for horsepackers, hikers, and OHV enthusiasts. Eight campgrounds along the river are open from Memorial Day through hunting season, including Baumgartner Campground which even has a hot springs pool.

This area is closed from Dec. 1-April 30 to protect wintering wildlife.



## Mt. Harrison

Mt. Harrison is the northernmost peak in the compact Albion Range where it shelters an alpine lake



in a glacial cirque. It dominates the central Snake River Plain and is visible for miles. Lake Cleveland, Thompson Flats, and Bennett Springs Campgrounds, and the Twin Lakes Horse Camp are on the road to Mt. Harrison. The summit has a lookout and interpretive displays, and is the northern terminus for the 26-mile Skyline Trail that connects Mt. Harrison with the City of Rocks National Reserve to the south. The summit is also a popular launch point for hang and paragliders.

The Mt. Harrison Research Natural Area (RNA) and Botanical Special Interest Area (BSIA) were established because of the striking geology and an isolated high-elevation ecosystem of rare plants, sagebrush-grasslands, and subalpine shrub communities. These areas also protects the only known population of Christ's Indian Paintbrush. *Castilleja christii*.







# Sawtooth

## NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



It's hard not to speak in superlatives when referring to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA). Often referred to as the "Heart of Idaho," this land is a mosaic of gem-colored lakes, aspen woodlands, sagebrush flats, and rushing streams. The Ice Age architecture of the stiletto peaks, steep-walled cirques, and tree-carpeted moraines delights both the photographer and the geologist.

Contained within its 756,000 acres are all or most of four mountain ranges (Sawtooth, Smoky, Boulder and White Cloud), the headwaters of four major river systems (Payette, Salmon, Boise and Big Wood), hundreds of alpine lakes, over 1,000 miles of streams, and more than 50 peaks over 10,000' in elevation. The presence of six threatened or endangered species attests to the vital role the area plays in conservation efforts.



McGowan Peak (© Mike Norton)

### Redfish Lake

If the Sawtooth NRA is the heart of Idaho, then Redfish Lake is the heart of the Sawtooth NRA. Surrounded by inviting beaches and deep evergreen forests, its crystal clear waters reflect the lofty peaks of Mt. Heyburn (10,229') and Grand Mogul (9,733') on the western end.

Redfish Lake is a nursery for the endangered Snake River sockeye salmon. It also supports a healthy population of kokanee salmon, a landlocked variety of sockeye that spawns each fall in the streams that feed Redfish Lake.



Redfish Lake (© Mike Norton)

On the northeast end of the lake, visitors will find Redfish Lake Lodge, Redfish Visitor Center, Fishhook Creek Nature Trail, five campgrounds, two swimming beaches, a boat launch, and three picnic areas. On the southwest end is the Redfish Inlet Campground which can only be reached by trail or boat.

Redfish Lake Lodge offers a variety of recreation services in a rustic setting including rental cabins, a marina, a restaurant, convenience store, bicycle and boat rentals, the *Lady-of-the-Lake* boat tours and a boat shuttle that ferries people across the lake to the Sawtooth Wilderness.



© Mark Moulton

People have long enjoyed this area. Native American hunters visited Redfish Lake 9,500 years ago in search of elk, deer, antelope, and salmon. As European settlers arrived, they established mines and ranching homesteads.



Two National Recreation Trails offer short, self-guided walks for users of all abilities: the Fishhook Creek Boardwalk at Redfish Lake and the Wood River Nature Trail located in Wood River Campground.



Mountain blue bird and meadowlark (© Mark Moulton)

#### For More Sawtooth NRA Information

The best place to start your visit is at one of the Forest Service offices. The North Fork Visitor Center at the Sawtooth NRA office north of Ketchum and the Stanley Ranger Station are open year round. The Redfish Visitor Center operated by

the Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association (SIHA) is open during the summer months. Interpretive exhibits, daily activities, evening campfire programs and outreach education are offered throughout the year.



Sawtooth NRA Headquarters and Visitor Center

The Sawtooth National Recreation Area was set aside by Congress in 1972 to "assure the preservation and protection of the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values and to provide for the enhancement of the recreation values associated therewith."



## Stanley and Lower Stanley

The “Old West” communities of Stanley and Lower Stanley lie at the base of the Sawtooth Mountains and surround the confluence of Valley Creek and the Salmon River. Stanley is the headquarters for float trips and other outdoor adventures in the surrounding mountains of central Idaho.



*Elk near Stanley (© Mark Moulton)*

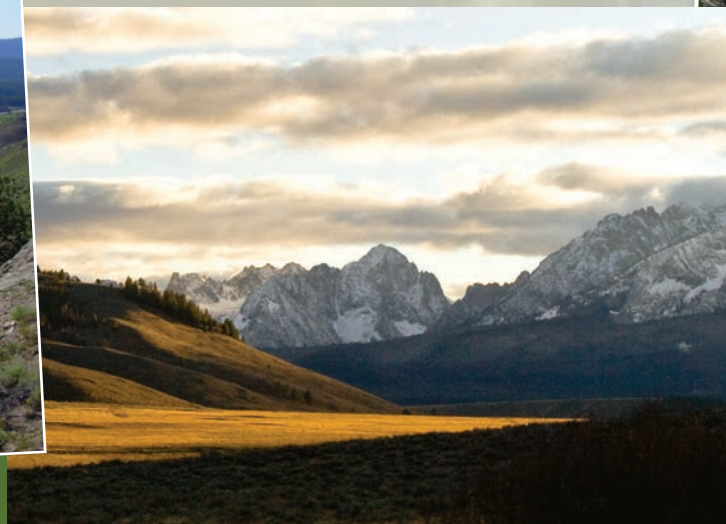
While in the area, stop by the historic Stanley Museum, located in the former Valley Creek Ranger Station and operated by the Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association (SIHA). Displays and artifacts interpret central Idaho’s cultural and natural history, and in the summer you can enjoy outdoor presentations at the Forum and Lecture Series. For more information, visit [www. DiscoverSawtooth.org](http://www.DiscoverSawtooth.org).



## Sawtooth Valley and Stanley Basin

Connecting the communities of Smiley Creek and Stanley, the picturesque Sawtooth Valley is a lovely combination of sagebrush flats and grassy meadows backed by forests of pine and aspen. The valley is the headwaters of the famous Salmon River (the “*River of No Return*”) which winds along its length. The Sawtooth Mountains rise to the west while the White Clouds stand guard to the east.

Much of this special valley is privately owned. However, the Forest Service has acquired conservation easements on most of these properties to ensure open space, prevent incompatible development, and maintain public access to national forest lands.



## East Fork of the Salmon River

On the east side of the White Clouds is the East Fork of the Salmon River which is one of the premiere wildlife viewing and hunting areas within the Sawtooth NRA. Here, you may see elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, pronghorn, wolves, coyotes and beaver.

The drive to Railroad Ridge at 10,000’ requires a 4-wheel drive, high-clearance vehicle, but will reward you with sweeping views of central Idaho and the strikingly beautiful Chinese Wall.



*Boulder Chain Lakes*

While in Sawtooth Valley you may want to take side trips to Alturas or Pettit Lakes; visit historic sites such as the 1909 vintage Pole Creek Ranger Station; or see the abandoned mining town of Sawtooth City. The Sawtooth Fish Hatchery at the north end of the valley is a great place to learn about native fish in the area.

Take a scenic drive on the Nip and Tuck Road or see it by snowmobile in winter. If highway driving is more your style, you can’t go wrong here—every highway within the Sawtooth NRA is a scenic byway.



*Fisher Creek Trail (© Ed Cannady)*



# Get to Know Us



Sawtooth Wilderness  
© Mark Moulton

## Wilderness

In a land of wild places, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA) contains three wilderness areas, designated by the United States Congress and protected for future generations. Different than any other form of public land, wilderness is established as an antidote to expanding settlement and growing mechanization, a place where the earth and its communities of life are left wild and free, natural processes unfold without intervention, and where visitors may find solitude, freedom, challenge and inspiration.



Hemingway Boulders, Paul Auerback

the wilderness is only accessible via off-trail route finding. Perhaps the best thing about the Sawtooth Wilderness is invisible – it boasts the clearest air in the continental United States!

### Sawtooth Wilderness (217,000 acres)

Designated in 1972, forming the western skyline of the Sawtooth NRA, the Sawtooth Mountains have long been recognized for their exceptional beauty and wild qualities. This spectacular wilderness is comprised of hundreds of jagged peaks (more than 40 over 10,000'), with hundreds of high alpine lakes and tranquil basins. There are over 270 miles of trail but much of

### Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness (77,000 acres)

Designated in 2015, the Boulder Mountains, known as one of Idaho's highest and wildest ranges, are rich in human history and home to an abundance of wildlife. Listen for the howl of wolves echoing off canyon walls, sense the presence of early Native Americans, find relics of Idaho's mining boom, discover true adventure and challenge yourself! The jaw-dropping 4000' rise of the Boulder Front, as seen from Highway 75 just north of Ketchum and Sun Valley, defines this area for many. However, with 12 summits topping 11,000 feet and only 29 miles of trails, the rich reward for the adventurous lies in breathtaking views and solitude found by off-trail exploring and peak climbing.

### White Cloud Wilderness (90,769 acres)

Designated in 2015, this wilderness was named by early settlers for soaring white peaks that rise to join the clouds, these mountains are hidden treasures that define the eastern edge of the Sawtooth NRA. Here you'll find quiet solitude surrounded by magical scenery, abundant wildlife and whitebark pines, some of the oldest trees on earth. Numerous lakes are accessible by the 57 miles of trail, while other alpine gems challenge visitors with off-trail navigation skills. The tallest mountain in the White Clouds (and the entire Sawtooth NRA) is Castle Peak, an Idaho icon at 11,815 feet.

**For more information on the National Wilderness Preservation System, visit [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net).**

## Watchable Wildlife:



Grey wolf (© Stayer)

**Wolves** - You may spot or hear a wolf on the north end of the forest. They can be seen throughout the area moving through a variety of habitats. Sawtooth Valley and the Big Wood River are good places to search.

### Pronghorn Antelope

Open sagebrush areas are the preferred summer range of pronghorn. Dry Creek, Langford Flat (Cassia District), and the Sawtooth Valley on the north end are great places to spot them.



Pronghorn (© Tyler Olson)

**Birds** - The Sawtooth National Forest is home for an abundance of avian species due to its wide range of elevations and habitat types. Birders may be particularly interested in the South Hills Crossbill which has been seen at Porcupine Campground and Diamondfield Jack Recreation Areas.



Peregrin falcon  
(© M. Lorenz)

**Moose** - Often viewed standing knee-deep in wet areas. In the summer, moose reside throughout the forest, while winter usually finds them concentrated in riparian areas.



Moose (© Wesley Aston)



# Scenic Byways

Testament to the great scenic beauty of the Sawtooth NRA, three Scenic Byways converge at the town of Stanley. A series of auto tape tours have been developed for all three byways to provide travelers with an overview of the natural and cultural history along each route. Available at area visitor centers.

## Sawtooth Scenic Byway

**Length: 116 mi./186 km.**  
**Highlights:** *Black Magic Canyon; lava deposits; Big Wood River and stunning mountain views*

This route along Idaho Hwy 75 begins in Shoshone and rolls north through lava deposits, fertile agricultural land, and the famed Sun Valley Resort. It enters the Sawtooth NRA just north of Ketchum with stunning views of the Boulder Mountains and follows the Big Wood River up to Galena Summit at 8,701 feet.

The Bethine and Frank Church Overlook showcases the Sawtooth and White Cloud Mountains and the spectacular Sawtooth Valley. The byway provides primary access for many Sawtooth NRA recreation areas - around Galena, Pole Creek, Alturas Lake and Redfish Lake before ending in Stanley. Along the way, wildlife watchers should stay alert for wildlife, including pronghorn antelope, deer, elk, sandhill cranes, and wolves.



© Mark Moulton

## Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway

**Length: 131 mi./210 km.**  
**Highlights:** *Gold panning; river views; Wilderness access*

The western end of the Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway starts in Boise and follows Idaho Hwy 21 slowly climbing its way along a northeasterly route. The byway offers outstanding views of tumbling rivers and forest landscapes with gorgeous mountain backdrops. There are ample fishing and camping options along the way as well as summer trails and winter recreation opportunities.

After reaching the high point at Banner Summit (7,056 feet), the byway drops into the Stanley Basin. The Ponderosa Pine Byway ends in Stanley where it meets the Salmon River and Sawtooth Scenic Byways.



© Mark Moulton

**Woodpeckers** - Ten species of woodpeckers make their home here. Look for hairy woodpeckers and three-toed woodpeckers in lodgepole pine forests. Red-naped sapsuckers live in mature aspen stands.



**Mountain Goats** - These sure-footed animals live within the mountains on the north end of the forest, in subalpine and alpine habitat above 7,000'. There are viewing sites along Highway 75 in the Sawtooth NRA and along the Harriman Trail.



Rocky Mountain goat

## Salmon River Scenic Byway

**Length: 162 mi./259 km.**  
**Highlights:** *Historical Lewis & Clark route; mining towns; abundant wildlife*

Beginning at the Montana border at the Lost Trail Pass (elevation 6,995 feet), the Salmon River Scenic Byway

travels south and then west as it follows the iconic Salmon River. Hugging the north border of the Sawtooth NRA, it twists through the spectacular Salmon River Canyon, with access to rafting, fishing, camping, hiking, and many other recreational pursuits on the Sawtooth and Salmon-Challis National Forests.

Numerous interpretive sites along the byway highlight the mining history of the area, including a short side trip to the Yankee Fork Dredge and historic Custer town site. Travelers may also catch glimpses of deer, elk, and moose along the hills and meadows that line this road before it ends in Stanley.



**Beaver** - These large rodents live throughout the forest. Look for their dams and lodges where creeks flow through meadows. Shoshone Creek, Liberal Creek, the Big Wood River, Trail Creek, Fishhook Creek, and Deer Creek are great places to look.



Beaver (© Jason Kasumovi)

## Wildlife Viewing Ethics

- » Give the wildlife their space. Use those binoculars!
- » Please leave "orphaned" or sick animals alone. Often the parents are close by and are waiting for you to leave.
- » Pets must be restrained at all times.
- » Do not feed wildlife—they can become habituated to handouts, 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.





# Sawtooth National Forest

Red-tailed hawk



## Sawtooth NRA, Ketchum, & Fairfield Ranger Districts







Before venturing on to the Sawtooth National Forest, please pick up a map with the level of detail appropriate for your planned activities:

**For motorized travel:**  
Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) are available at all Forest Service offices, and may be downloaded from [www.fs.usda.gov/sawtooth](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sawtooth)

**For hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding:**  
Topographic maps are recommended. Visit the US Geological Survey for online purchases: [www.usgs.com/](http://www.usgs.com/)

National Forest maps may be purchased from SIHA sales outlets in forest offices and from [www.nationalforeststore.com](http://www.nationalforeststore.com)

	Sawtooth National Forest		Sawtooth NRA
	Wilderness		Forest Supervisor's Office
	Campground		District Ranger Office
	Picnic/Day Use Area		U.S. Highway
	Point of Interest		State Highway
	Scenic Overlook		Forest Route
	Boat Launch		Forest Road
	Information Center		Paved Roads
	Guard Station		Unpaved Roads
	Lodge		Scenic Byway or Backway
	Downhill Ski Area		



© Mark Moulton

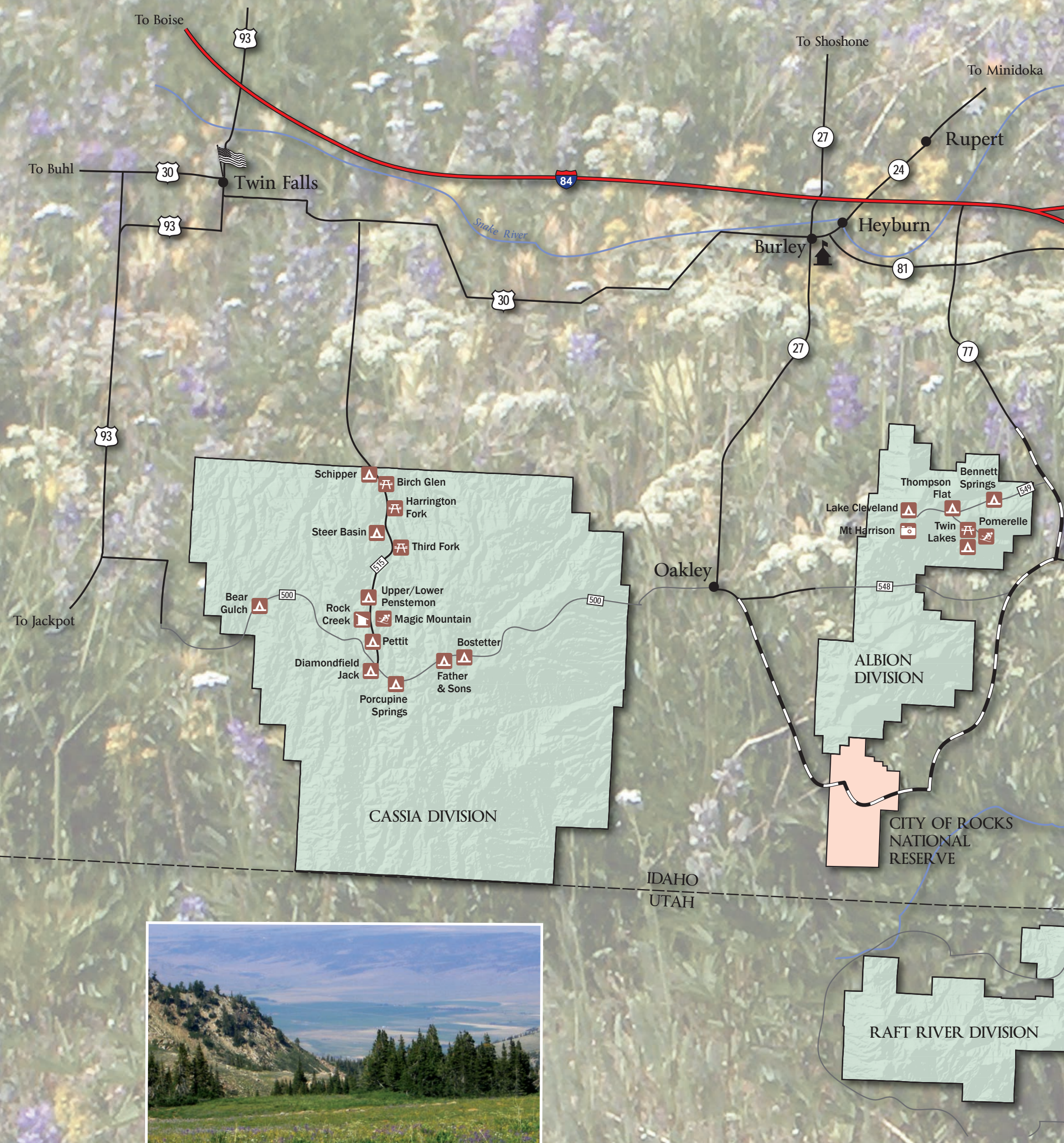






# Lawtooth National Forest

## Minidoka Ranger District





© Zschnepf



ocatello



**B**efore venturing on to the Sawtooth National Forest, please pickup a map with the level of detail appropriate for your planned activities:

**For motorized travel:**  
Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) are available at all Forest Service offices, and may be downloaded from [www.fs.usda.gov/sawtooth](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sawtooth)

**For hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding:**  
Topographic maps are recommended. Visit the US Geological Survey for online purchases: [www.usgs.com/](http://www.usgs.com/)

National forest maps may be purchased at:  
[www.nationalforeststore.com](http://www.nationalforeststore.com)

	Sawtooth National Forest		Sawtooth NRA
	Wilderness		Forest Supervisor's Office
	Campground		District Ranger Office
	Picnic/Day Use Area		U.S. Highway
	Point of Interest		State Highway
	Scenic Overlook		Forest Route
	Boat Launch		Forest Road
	Information Center		Paved Roads
	Guard Station		Unpaved Roads
	Lodge		Scenic Byway or Backway
	Downhill Ski Area		



Mountain lion
















































































































































































© Terrance Emerson










# Campgrounds

## Sawtooth National Recreation Area

See map on page 8.

	NAME	# OF UNITS	SEASON	AMENITIES	RESERVATION REQUIRED
Campsite fees range from \$5-\$42 depending on campsite size and season, and are subject to change.					
Wood River Area	Caribou	7	May-Sept.	  	No
	Easley	10	May-Sept.	     	Yes
	Murdock	10	May-Sept.	    	No
	North Fork	28	June-Sept.	    	Yes
	Wood River	30	May-Sept.	     	No
	Wood River Group Tent Site	1	May-Sept	      	Yes
Alturas & Pettit Lake Area	Alturas Inlet	28	June-Sept.	      	Yes
	Chemeketan Group Site	1	June-Sept.	 	Yes
	North Shore Alturas	15	June-Sept.	   	No
	Pettit Lake	13	May-Sept.	     	No
	Smokey Bear	11	June-Sept.	    	No
	Alturas Tent Camping Site	6	June-Sept	    	No
Redfish Lake Area	Chinook Bay	13	May-Sept.	   	No
	Glacier View	65	May-Sept.	     	Yes
	Mount Heyburn	20	May-Sept.	     	No
	Mountain View	7	May-Sept.	   	No
	Outlet	19	May-Sept.	    	Yes
	Point	17	May-Sept.	    	Yes
	Redfish Inlet	6	June-Sept.	   	No
	Sockeye	23	May-Sept.	     	No
	Sunny Gulch	45	May-Sept.	  	Yes
Stanley Lake & Highway 21 Area	Elk Creek Group Site	3	May-Sept.	   	Yes
	Grandjean	31	May-Sept.	    	No
	Iron Creek	9	June-Sept.	   	No
	Lakeview	6	May-Sept.	   	No
	Sheep Trail Group Site	4	May-Sept.	   	Yes
	Stanley Lake	19	May-Sept.	   	Yes
	Stanley Lake Inlet	14	May-Sept.	     	No
	Trap Creek Group Site	3	May-Sept.	   	Yes
Salmon River Canyon Area	Casino Creek	19	May-Sept.	    	No
	Holman Creek	10	May-Sept.	   	No
	Lower O'Brien	10	May-Aug.	   	No
	Mormon Bend	15	May-Sept.	    	No
	Riverside	17	May-Sept.	   	No
	Salmon River	30	May-Sept.	   	No
	Upper O'Brien	9	May-Sept.	   	No
	Whiskey Flats	4	May-Sept.	   	No

-  Toilets
-  Drinking Water
-  Garbage Collection
-  Hiking Trail
-  Swim Beach
-  Hot Springs
-  Group Site
-  Boat Ramp
-  Horse Facilities
-  Nature Trail
-  Fishing

Salmon River Campground



Glacier View Campground

### Reservable Group Picnic Sites

These picnic sites can be reserved on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)

Wood River - 10 miles north of Ketchum

Sunny Gulch - 3 miles south of Stanley

North Shore - at Redfish Lake

All campground units have tables and firerings, along with other amenities as noted.  
Pets must be on a leash in campgrounds. To make reservations visit [www.rec.gov](https://www.rec.gov)



Fairfield, Ketchum, & Minidoka Ranger Districts

Fairfield & Ketchum: see map on pages 8-9  
Minidoka: see map on page 10-11

	NAME	FEE	# OF UNITS	SEASON	AMENITIES	RESERVATION REQUIRED
For campgrounds with fees, they range from \$5-\$20 in the Fairfield Ranger District depending on campsite size and season, and are subject to change.						
Fairfield Ranger District	Abbot	Yes	7	May-Sept.		No
	Baumgartner	Yes	39	May-Sept.		Yes
	Bear Creek	No	5	May-Sept.		No
	Bird Creek	Yes	5	May-Sept.		No
	Bowns	Yes	12	May-Sept.		No
	Canyon	Yes	10	May-Sept.		No
	Chaparral	Yes	12	May-Sept.		No
	Five Points	No	7	May-Sept.		No
	Hunter Creek	No	4	May-Oct.		No
	Pioneer	No	5	May-Sept.		No
	Willow Creek	Yes	3	May-Sept.		No
	Willow Creek Transfer Camp	No	5	May-Sept.		No
Ketchum Ranger District	Boundary	Yes	8	May-Sept.		No
	Copper Creek	No	8	June-Oct.		No
	Deer Creek	No	2	May-Oct.		No
	East Fork Baker Creek	No	7	May-Oct.		No
	Federal Gulch	No	4	May-Oct.		No
	Sawmill	No	3	May-Oct.		No
Minidoka Ranger District	Bear Gulch	No	8	May-Sept.		No
	Bennett Springs	No	6	June-Sept.		No
	Bostetter	No	10	June-Sept.		No
	Clear Creek	No	14	June-Oct.		No
	Diamondfield Jack	Yes	7	June-Oct.		No
	Father and Sons	No	5	June-Oct.		No
	Independence Lakes	No	9	July-Oct.		No
	Lake Cleveland	Yes	29	July-Sept.		Yes
	Lower Penstemon	Yes	6	June-Sept.		Yes
	Mill Flat	No	7	June-Oct.		No
	Pettit	Yes	8	June-Sept.		No
	Porcupine Springs	Yes	36	June-Sept.		Yes
	Schipper	Yes	5	May-Oct.		No
	Steer Basin	Yes	4	May-Oct.		No
	Sublett	No	9	May-Oct.		No
	Thompson Flat	Yes	25	June-Sept.		No
	Twin Lakes	Yes	10	July-Oct.		No
	Upper Penstemon	Yes	9	June-Sept.		No



There are many different ways to camp on the Sawtooth National Forest!



Mill Flat Campground



# Activities

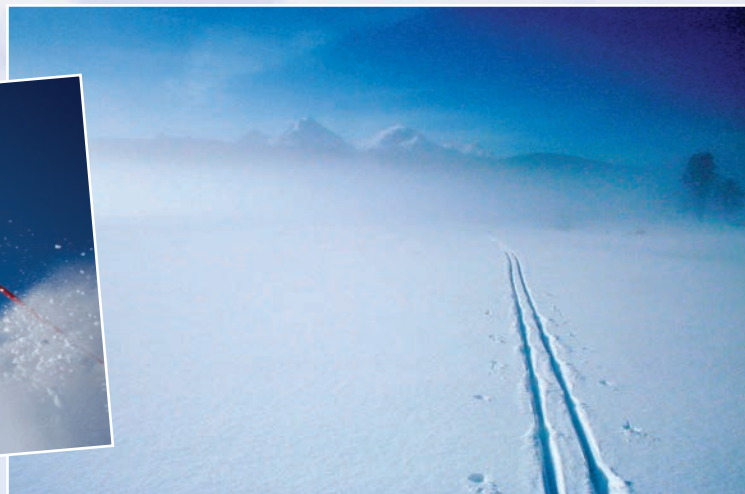
## Winter Recreation

### Alpine Skiing

Four ski resorts operate on the Sawtooth National Forest with 28 lifts and over 130 runs:

- ❄ **Soldier Mountain** - Ten miles north of Fairfield, this is a family-friendly resort with a vertical drop of 1,400 feet and 36 runs with 3 lifts. A new day lodge was built in 2010 ([www.soldiermountain.com](http://www.soldiermountain.com)).
- ❄ **Magic Mountain** - A small family-oriented ski area about 30 miles south of Hansen, it has a vertical drop of 700 feet, 20 runs and 3 lifts. ([www.magicmountainresort.com](http://www.magicmountainresort.com)).
- ❄ **Pomerelle** - With some of the most reliable and deepest snow in the state, Pomerelle is south of Albion and west of Malta. Popular with local skiers and snow boarders it has a vertical drop of 1,000 feet, 24 runs, and 3 lifts ([www.pomerelle.com](http://www.pomerelle.com)).
- ❄ **Sun Valley** - Bald Mountain is the centerpiece of this world-famous four-season resort. Sun Valley was opened in 1936 by railroad tycoon Averell Harriman as the first destination ski resort in the country—and with the first chairlift in the world. Baldy has a vertical drop of 3,400 feet, 14 lifts including 7 high-speed quads, and a new gondola that accesses the historic Roundhouse Restaurant. Four additional lifts serve skiers at the resort's Dollar Mountain facility ([www.sunvalley.com](http://www.sunvalley.com)).

© Wolfgang Amri



© Mark Moulton

### Nordic and Backcountry Skiing

The Sawtooth National Forest boasts some of the driest powder, highest quality groomed tracks, and most exciting backcountry skiing in the West. You can find your own cross-country route in most areas, or you can Nordic ski on groomed trails in the Sawtooth Valley, the Wood River Valley, or Rock Creek in the South Hills. The Galena Lodge and North Valley Trails system offers 78 mi./130 km. of groomed trails at all difficulty levels and several groomed snowshoe loops. You can ski with your canine friends on several of these trails. Visit [www.WinterTrailLink.bcrd.org](http://www.WinterTrailLink.bcrd.org) for more information.

To get farther into the backcountry, Soldier Mountain offers day-long Sno-cat skiing adventures. Sun Valley Heli-ski offers an unforgettable experience for skiers of all abilities.

#### Wood River Valley Winter Recreation Coalition & Sawtooth Community Winter Recreation Partnership

In the 1990s two groups of winter recreation enthusiasts got together with the Sawtooth National Forest to explore ways for motorized and non-motorized users to better share the trails in the area. The result was two *Winter Recreation Maps* that delineate areas for non-motorized users and motorized users. Please pick up one of these free maps and honor the agreements and friendships these coalitions developed. You can find them at the Ketchum or Sawtooth NRA ranger stations, or at most outdoor equipment stores in the area.



© Ed Cannady

### Snowmobiling

The Fairfield and Minidoka Ranger Districts offer thousands of acres of snowmobile opportunities. The Wells Summit area is a popular destination for winter recreationists on the Fairfield District, with a warming hut and over 50 miles of groomed trails. The Diamondfield Jack trailhead and warming hut at the end of the plowed road in Rock Creek Canyon offer endless opportunities for snowmobilers to explore the winter backcountry of the South Hills.

Stanley and the Sawtooth Valley are another great alternative for snowmobilers. With over 200 inches of snow annually, miles of groomed trails and numerous off-trail riding areas, it is an uncrowded winter paradise.



© TechWizard

#### Before You Go

As part of your winter recreation plans, check the USFS Sawtooth Avalanche Center's daily avalanche advisory and mountain weather forecast for up-to-date conditions on the Sawtooth National Forest. Visit [www.sawtoothavalanche.com](http://www.sawtoothavalanche.com) or call (208) 622-0097.



#### Looking for an overnight winter adventure?

The Redfish Cabin is part of the Forest Service Cabin Rental Program. The cabin overlooks Redfish Lake and is available to rent during the winter season. Rental information is available at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

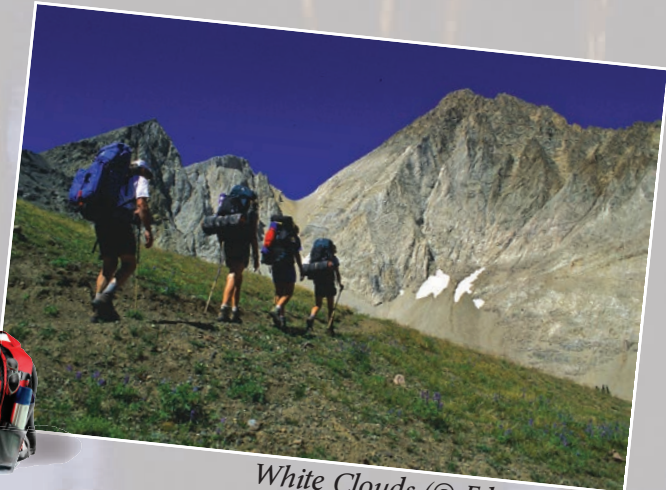




# Trails

The Sawtooth National Forest is truly a hiker and equestrian paradise. With over 2,000 miles of trails on the forest it is easy to find one to fit anyone’s fitness and experience level. Maps are available for trails in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area; other district offices have additional trail information available.

TRAIL	MILES (one-way)	TRAILHEAD LOCATION	HIGHLIGHTS
Rim View	9.5	South of Hansen on Rock Creek Road	Hiker/horse trail in Rock Creek portion of the Minidoka RD. Great views and good wildflower displays in spring. <i>Elevation Gain: 2000’—more difficult</i>
Eagle Trail	3.0	South of Hansen on Rock Creek Road near Pettit Campground	Hiking trail near the head of Rock Creek on the Minidoka RD. Pleasant walk in subalpine environment . <i>Elevation gain is negligible—easiest.</i>
Big Smoky	16.0	North of Fairfield near Canyon Transfer Camp	A multi-use trail on the Fairfield RD, accesses Skillern and other unnamed hot springs along this route. <i>Elevation gain: 3,100’— most difficult.</i>
Willow Creek	14.0	East of Featherville near Willow Creek Campground	This trail begins at the Willow Creek transfer camp on the Fairfield RD and ends near the base of 9,733’ Ross Peak at Ross Fork Lakes. Evidence of recent fires is present. <i>Elevation gain: 3,000’—more difficult.</i>
North Fork Soldier	5.5	North of Fairfield near Pioneer Campground	This hiker and horse trail on the Fairfield RD is north of the Soldier Mtn. Ski area. This trail follows the creek up a beautiful canyon full of Douglas-fir, cottonwood, and aspen mixed with sage brush openings. <i>Elevation gain: 2400’—more difficult.</i>
Fishhook Creek	3.0	Hwy. 75 to Redfish Lake Rd. to Redfish Trailhead	Horse and hiking trail in the Redfish Lake Lodge area of the Sawtooth NRA. Accesses a beautiful meadow with views of the Sawtooth peaks on the edge of the Sawtooth Wilderness. Trail passes through lodgepole pine and aspen stands. <i>Elevation gain: 380’—easiest.</i>
Bench lakes	3.8	Hwy 75 to Redfish Lake Rd to Redfish Trailhead	This popular hike offers ridge-top panoramas of Redfish Lake, Mt. Heyburn, and Grand Mogul. The trail is usually hiked from Redfish TH and back but can be done as a longer loop, involving a boat shuttle across the lake to the Inlet Transfer Camp. <i>Elevation gain: 1200 – more difficult</i>
Horton Peak	2.5	Hwy. 75 to Valley Rd; 5.5 miles to trailhead	This steep trail on the east side of Sawtooth Valley in the Sawtooth NRA is very dry—bring water. The reward is the 360 degree views of the White Cloud and Boulder Mountains and the Sawtooth Valley. An historic fire lookout is at the summit. <i>Elevation gain: 2,750’— most difficult.</i>
Fourth of July/ Washington Lake	2.0	Hwy. 75 to 4th of July Creek Rd; 10 miles to trailhead	Popular hiking, biking, and motorcycle trail in the White Cloud Mountains, Sawtooth NRA. A lovely hike for seeing wildflowers, wildlife, and wonderful views of the lakes and surrounding peaks. Best from late June–October. <i>Elevation gain: 450’—more difficult.</i>
Titus Lake	2.5	Trailhead is adjacent to Hwy. 75 south of Galena Summit	Discover an intriguing emerald pool in the Smoky Mountains just south of Galena Pass on the Sawtooth NRA. <i>Elevation gain: 500’—easiest to more difficult.</i>
Baker Lake	1.6	Hwy. 75 15 miles north of Ketchum; 10 miles on Baker Cr. Rd. to trailhead	This alpine jewel reflects the surrounding granite peaks and offers great fishing. It is located on the Ketchum RD. <i>Elevation gain: 846’—easiest to more difficult.</i>
Norton Lakes	2.0	Hwy. 75 15 miles north of Ketchum; 7 miles on Baker Cr. Rd.; 1 mile on Norton Cr. Rd. to trailhead	This horse and hiking trail on the Ketchum RD offers alpine lakes and a good chance of seeing mountain goats. It is a less crowded opportunity than nearby Baker Lake. <i>Elevation gain: 1,500’—more difficult.</i>
Pioneer Cabin	4.2	Northeast of Ketchum off Trail Creek Road; east on Corral Creek Road #137 to the end	This is a hiker and horse trail on the Ketchum RD. Steep and scenic, the trail ends at Pioneer Cabin, a 1937 vintage ski hut. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Pioneer Peaks. <i>Elevation gain: 2,560’—most difficult.</i>



© Mark Moulton

White Clouds (© Ed Cannady)



# Activities

## Mountain Biking

The fat tire enthusiast will find exceptional opportunities for mountain biking on the Sawtooth National Forest, especially in the Wood River and Sawtooth Valleys. Trails around Ketchum and Galena Lodge attract mountain bikers from around the world, and the local mountain biking community has been actively working on this trail system for over 20 years. Several guide books (available at Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association sales outlets and local outdoor equipment stores) offer in-depth information on mountain biking in the Sawtooth country. A few area highlights are shown in the following table:



Boundary Ridge (© Ed Cannady)



## Dispersed Camping

Camping in the undeveloped portions of the Sawtooth National Forest is free and is a popular way to enjoy the backcountry. Please camp in “designated dispersed areas” at established sites. Some of these have fire rings and tables to protect natural resources. These designated sites include: Trail Creek, Baker Creek, Corral Creek, Deer Creek, and Warm Springs drainages on the Ketchum Ranger District; Lower Rock Creek, Sublett, Howell Canyon, and Clear Creek on the Minidoka Ranger District; Kelley Creek on the Fairfield Ranger District; Salmon River Canyon in the Sawtooth NRA.



Elsewhere on the forest, dispersed camping with motorized vehicles is allowed within 300’ of most forest roads and within 100’ of most motorized trails. Camping is limited to 16 consecutive days at most sites with shorter limits in some areas. Your *Motor Vehicle Use Map* (MVUM) will provide more details.

TRAIL NAME	MILES	HIGHLIGHTS
Imperial Gulch	10.5	Loop trail in the Greenhorn Gulch area, Ketchum RD. Scenic vistas, incredible downhill. Best from May–October. <i>Elevation change: 1,550’—more to most difficult.</i>
Fox Creek	6.6	Loop trail in the Lake/Fox creek area, Ketchum RD. Varied terrain, wildflowers, and aspen. Best from May–October. <i>Elevation change: 750’—easiest to more difficult.</i>
Galena Area Trails	40+	There are over 40 miles of non-motorized single track trails in the Galena Trails Network. The newly constructed “stacked loop” trail system offers an exceptional variety of opportunities. Most of the trails are geared for beginner and intermediate riders. <i>Elevations and skill levels vary</i>
Fisher Creek	17.8	Loop trail in the Sawtooth Valley, Sawtooth NRA. Begins with 2.3 miles of pavement on Hwy 75. Views of the Sawtooths and White Clouds, wildflowers, varied terrain. Best from June–October. <i>Elevation change: 1,500’—most difficult.</i>
Elk Mountain	12.4	Loop trail near Stanley Basin, Sawtooth NRA. Wildlife, wildflowers, mountains. Best from June–October. <i>Elevation change: 450’—more difficult.</i>

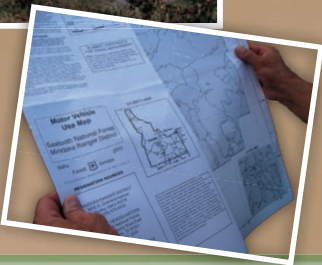
## Off Highway Vehicle Use

Off highway vehicles (OHVs) are permitted only on designated trails and roads within the Sawtooth National Forest. These trails and roads are maintained to minimize the impacts of motorized use on fragile ecosystems such as meadows and riparian areas.

The Forest has approximately 1000 miles of motorized trails which includes approximately 200 miles of trails managed for ATV use mainly on the Minidoka and Fairfield Ranger Districts.



Before you head out, please pick up a free *Motor Vehicle Use Map* (MVUM) at any Forest Service Office or Visitor Center.



For more information, visit our website at [www.fs.fed.us/sawtooth](http://www.fs.fed.us/sawtooth) or call 208.255.5555.



## Fishing

Over 3,500 miles of perennial streams and nearly 7,600 acres of lakes offer a variety of angling opportunities. The best early season fishing is in the Minidoka Ranger District where rainbow, brook and Yellowstone cutthroat trout can be found in small mountain streams. The upper Big Wood River and its tributaries, the North Fork Wood River, Trail Creek, and Warm Springs Creek, are stocked with hatchery rainbow trout by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and offer good fishing after spring run-off. Big and Little Smoky Creeks and the South Fork Boise River are stocked with rainbow trout. Please contact IDFG for the latest fishing regulations and a link to an online interactive fishing planner.

The high, cold streams and lakes within the Sawtooth Valley have resident redband, bull, cutthroat trout and kokanee. In the backcountry, some of the lakes within the Sawtooth, White Cloud, Smoky, Pioneer, and Boulder Mountains are also stocked with rainbow, westslope cutthroat trout and grayling.

The Sawtooth National Forest is home to several native fish, including westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout, steelhead and redband trout, bull trout, and Chinook and sockeye salmon. The forest is also a stronghold for the endemic Wood River sculpin.

Many of these native fish species are in peril. Chinook and sockeye salmon, steelhead, and bull trout are protected under the Endangered Species Act.



Steelhead trout (© IDAK)

The sockeye and Chinook salmon in the Sawtooth Valley travel 900 miles to the ocean as smolts. Amazingly, on their return trip they climb back to an elevation of 6,500 feet. Redfish Lake got its name from the sockeye that spawn in the shoreline gravel of area lakes.

The Indian Riffles interpretive site is a great place to see spawning Chinook in late summer.



Sockeye salmon (© Vasiko)

For more fishing information: visit the Idaho Department of Fish and Game [www.fishandgame.idaho.gov/fishing-planner](http://www.fishandgame.idaho.gov/fishing-planner) or call (208) 334-3700.

## Floatboating & Water Sports

Many visitors consider a river trip on the upper Salmon River a must-do activity during their time on the Sawtooth National Forest. Opportunities range from flat water to Class IV whitewater for rafters and kayakers. Water levels are highest during the spring run-off months of May and June, but with adequate water, can last until mid-October.

On the upper Salmon River, you may choose to go with one of the four floatboat outfitters that have permits with the Forest Service. Floaters can use their own gear, or rent in Stanley or Sunbeam Village.



Boating on the Sawtooth NRA's morainal lakes is also very popular, and there are marina facilities and boat rentals at Redfish Lake Lodge. The lakes allow water craft as follows:

- Alturas and Pettit Lakes—have boat launches and allow motorized watercraft, but personal watercraft are prohibited
- Yellowbelly and Little Redfish Lakes—nonmotorized uses only
- Redfish and Stanley Lake—have boat launch facilities and are open to motor boats and personal watercraft

## Resorts

Six summer-season resorts operate on the Sawtooth National Forest. The Redfish Lake Lodge, Galena Lodge, Grandjean, Easley, and Sunbeam resorts on the Sawtooth NRA all offer a variety of food and lodging services. Some offer bicycle or raft rentals and all are located near the hub of other recreation services. The Sun Valley Resort offers four-season recreation, including chair lift rides to the top of Bald Mountain, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and golf.



## Outfitters and Guides

If you have limited experience or equipment, hiring an outfitter may be the best approach to get to know the Sawtooth country. The Sawtooth National Forest permits 38 outfitters to operate on the forest, providing services for whitewater rafting, mountain climbing, hunting and fishing trips, mountain biking, backpacking, horse riding, skiing, snowmobiling, paragliding, heliskiing and snow-cat skiing. These trained professionals are licensed by the Idaho Outfitter and Guides Licensing Board. For more information, visit [www.ioga.org](http://www.ioga.org).





# Know Before You Go

## Tread Lightly! [www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org)

Unpaved and primitive roads present special challenges, even in good weather. Before you head out, 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 obtaining travel information and regulations from public agencies, comply with signs, and 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.



## Be Bear Aware!

Seeing a black bear is a memorable experience. If you want that experience to be positive rather than negative, follow these tips:

- » Keep a clean campsite. Store food and garbage in closed vehicles and out of sight.
- » Never put food scraps in the campfire—it attracts bears and skunks.
- » Don’t keep food, toothpaste, shampoo—or anything that smells—in tents or sleeping areas.
- » Store stoves and Dutch ovens in a vehicle or secure place when not using.
- » When camping in the backcountry, hang food and garbage from a tree limb at least 10 feet from the ground and 5 feet from the tree trunk. This tree should be at least 100 yards from your sleeping area.
- » Some bears also target motor oil, insect repellent, liquor, and other things that look like food. Put these items away.
- » If bears become accustomed to human food, they may become aggressive towards humans or cause property damage. To protect people, these bears may have to be destroyed.



For more information, visit [www.BeBearAware.org](http://www.BeBearAware.org).

## Fido is Welcome on the Sawtooth National Forest



Dogs are welcome on the national forest. However, pets must be leashed in developed campgrounds, some trailheads, and the Sawtooth Wilderness.

## Leave No Trace [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)



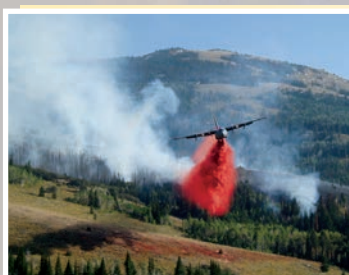
Backcountry and Wilderness areas deserve extra care in order to protect them for our future generations. You can help by following the “Leave No Trace” principles:

- » Plan ahead and prepare
- » Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- » Dispose of waste properly
- » Leave what you find
- » Minimize campfire impacts
- » Respect wildlife
- » Be considerate of other visitors



Using a campstove on gravel (instead of a fire in a meadow) is a great way to minimize your impact.

(© LianeM)



## Fire!

For current fire danger information, or to report a wildland fire, call the South Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch at 800-974-2373 or (208) 886-7633.



## Responsible Recreation

To sustain the beauty and health of our national forests, please follow these tips:

### Choose an Existing Site

Creating new campsites kills vegetation and leads to soil erosion. If possible, use an existing site. If you're in an undisturbed area, protect water quality and aquatic habitat by keeping campsites at least 200 feet away from rivers, lakes, or other wetlands.

### Park Away from Water

Parking near water can lead to erosion and water pollution that make it hard for aquatic life to breathe. In addition, vehicles driven onto tree roots seriously jeopardize the health of the tree. Please park at least 200 feet (or 12 vehicle lengths) from water.

### Use Established Fire Rings Wisely

- » *Keep your fires small. If you have to collect firewood, collect dead and down only.*
- » *Check at the local Ranger Station for current fire restrictions—they can change on a daily basis.*
- » *Use existing fire rings. Scrape away burnable material within a 10-foot-diameter of the fire ring.*
- » *Have a shovel and bucket of water available before lighting your campfire.*
- » *Make sure all wood fits inside the fire ring. Don't "feed" a large log into the fire ring.*
- » *To put out a campfire, slowly pour water onto the fire and stir with a shovel. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool to touch.*
- » *Do not bury your fire. The coals can smolder and re-ignite.*
- » *NEVER leave a fire unattended, even if there are no flames present.*



© Noam Armonn

## Want to Learn More?



The Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association (SIHA) provides outstanding opportunities for visitors to learn about the area's rich history through its programs and services. Visitors of all ages can enjoy interpretive activities at Redfish Visitor Center or attend a Forum and Lecture Series presentation at the Stanley Museum. SIHA also offers books, maps, and other educational items for sale at their outlets located in Forest Service offices. SIHA has worked with the Sawtooth National Forest since 1972 as a valued partner in sharing the stories of the forest and surrounding area. For more information – and to check out the Redfish WebCam – visit: [www.discoversawtooth.org](http://www.discoversawtooth.org).

## Noxious Weeds

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

- » **Learn to recognize common weed species.**
- » **Don't camp or drive in weed infested areas.**
- » **Don't pick the flowers of noxious weeds and take them home—you'll spread seeds.**
- » **When using pack animals, carry only feed that is certified weed-free. Within 96 hours before entering backcountry areas, feed them only weed-free food.**
- » **Wash your vehicle, including the undercarriage, to remove any weed seed before driving to the forest.**



Spotted knapweed  
(© John Cardina)



Dalmatian toadflax  
(© Bob Nowierski)

## Aquatic Nuisance Species

When zebra and/or quagga mussels invade our local waters they damage boats, foul docks, destroy habitat and food for aquatic species, and clog public water pipes. Swimming areas may be closed due to sharp-edged shells washing up on shore.

Once a boat has been in infested waters, it could carry invasive mussels. Zebra and quagga mussels attach to boats and aquatic plants carried by boats. Microscopic mussel larvae can also spread through engine cooling or other residual water retained in boats. These mussels commonly attach to bait buckets and other aquatic equipment.

You can help stop these aquatic hitchhikers by following these steps:

- *Completely inspect your vessel and trailer, removing any visible mud, plants, animals, or other debris.*
- *Drain the water from your motor, livewell, and bilge on land before leaving the immediate area of the lake or river.*
- *Wash the hull, bilge, trailer, truck, or any other equipment that comes in contact with infected waters with hot, soapy water*
- *Air-dry the boat and other equipment for at least five days before launching in any other waterway.*



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**

If you cannot perform these steps, you should have your boat professionally cleaned.

For current fire restrictions, Wilderness regulations, and other current conditions, please contact the Sawtooth NF or visit [www.fs.usda.gov/sawtooth](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sawtooth).



# Sawtooth National Forest

## Your Fees at Work

Recreation fees have made a meaningful difference in our ability to serve our national forest visitors because these dollars are can be reinvested into visitor services and facilities. For example, on the Sawtooth National Forest, fees have been used for:

- » *Trail improvement and maintenance throughout the forest*
- » *Longer seasons at developed campgrounds on the Sawtooth NRA*
- » *New river put-ins on the Sawtooth NRA*
- » *New vault toilets across the forest*
- » *New parking barriers, fire pits and grills, signs, and tables at many of our developed sites*
- » *This Visitor Guide*



## Volunteering on the Sawtooth National Forest

The Forest Service Volunteer Program on the Sawtooth National Forest 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/gov](http://www.volunteer.gov/gov).



*The Soldier Mountains show off their flowers*

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



The America the Beautiful Interagency Pass Program is a suite of annual and lifetime passes that provides visitors a convenient way to access federal recreation lands.

**NOTE:** Passes shown below 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. Entrance and standard amenity fees are not charged to persons 15 and under. Passes do not cover expanded amenity fees (such as boat launch fees or swim area fees), and may not be accepted at sites operated by concessionaires.

### Annual Pass - \$80.00

Not accepted for camping discounts.

### Senior Pass - \$10.00

Available to US citizens 62 years and older.

### Military - Free

Available to active US military members.

### Every Kid in a Park - Free

Available to 4th graders who are US citizens.

### Access Pass - Free

Available to US citizens with medically determined disabilities

For more information, visit <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html>



## Contact Information

Sawtooth National Forest  
Forest Office  
370 American Ave.  
Jerome, ID 83308  
(208) 208-423-7500

Minidoka Ranger District  
2306 Hiland Ave.  
Burley, ID 83318  
(208) 678-0430

Ketchum Ranger District  
PO Box 2356  
206 Sun Valley Road  
Ketchum, ID 83340  
(208) 622-5371

Sawtooth National Recreation Area  
Headquarters and North Fork Visitor Center  
5 North Fork Canyon Road  
Ketchum, ID 83340  
(Eight miles north of Ketchum on Hwy 75)  
(208) 727-5000 or 1-800-260-5970

Sawtooth National Recreation Area  
Stanley Ranger Station  
HC 64, Box 9900  
Stanley, ID 83278  
(Two miles south of Stanley on Hwy 75)  
(208) 774-3000

Fairfield Ranger District  
PO Box 189  
102 First Street East  
Fairfield, ID 83327  
(208) 764-3202

Visitor Guides for other national forests in the Intermountain Region may be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xNwRk>



Visit us on the web at:  
[www.fs.usda.gov/sawtooth](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sawtooth)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Printed on recycled paper

23.338.400-Revised 2025

