



# Caribou-Targhee National Forest

## VISITOR GUIDE



### Accessible Adventures



Trail to Table Mountain  
Spectacular Teton Mt Range  
in background.



Fall Creek Falls

The spectacular scenery of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is easily reached from highways, byways, and back doors. The bond between forest and community spans generations through family activities such as camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and riding off-highway vehicles. During the winter, the forest offers vast expanses of untracked powder—ideal for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and downhill skiing (Grand Targhee, Kelly Canyon, and Pebble Creek ski areas).

### Fast Forest Facts

- Acres:** Over 3 million
- Highest peak:** Diamond Peak at 12,107' (4th highest in Idaho)
- Home to:** Upper and Lower Mesa Falls, the last major undisturbed falls on the Columbia River System
- Historic Places:** Caribou City (one of Idaho's largest gold rush cities); Lander and Oregon Trails (used by pioneers to reach the California gold fields)



### What's Inside

History & Special Places ....	2
Scenic Byways .....	4
Wilderness .....	5
Campgrounds .....	6
Maps .....	8
Activities .....	12
Winter Recreation.....	18
Know Before You Go.....	19
Contact Information .....	20

With its northern boundary on the Continental Divide, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest stretches across southeast Idaho, western Wyoming and northern Utah. Bordering Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, the forest serves as a gateway to the Greater Yellowstone Area. From high mountain peaks to rolling hills of sage and grasslands, there is great diversity in the landscapes of this special place.

*Come see for yourself!*



Great Horned Owl © Chris Hill

*This Visitor Guide provides the information you need to make the most of your Caribou-Targhee National Forest experience. Visit us on the web at: [www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/)*





# Get to Know Us

## History

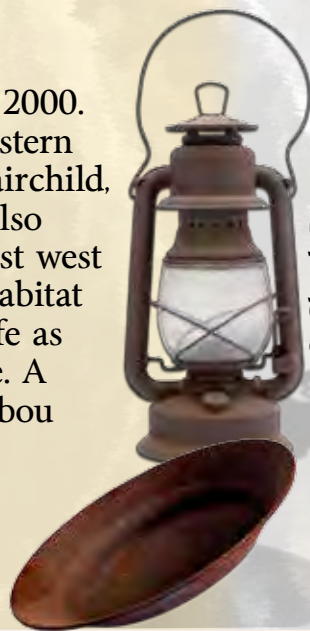
Situated next to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest lies almost entirely within the *Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem*, an area of over 12 million acres and the largest remaining block of relatively undisturbed plant and animal habitat in the contiguous US. The area's ecological importance is reflected in its United Nations designation as a Biosphere Reserve.

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest is actually two forests that were combined in 2000. The Caribou portion lies mainly in southeastern Idaho, and was named after a miner, Jesse Fairchild, who was nicknamed "Cariboo Jack." You'll also find the Curlew National Grassland here, just west of Malad. The Grassland offers important habitat for sage grouse, mule deer, and other wildlife as well as significant range resources for cattle. A portion of the Lander Trail crosses the Caribou National Forest. Used as a cutoff from the Oregon Trail to the California gold fields, today it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Named after Tahgee, a Bannock Indian peacemaker, the Targhee National Forest covers 1.8 million acres in southeastern Idaho and western Wyoming. The forest shares many of the characteristics of its neighboring national parks. Spectacular waterfalls, pristine wilderness, and scenic panoramas will constantly delight a visitor.

A major feature of the Targhee portion is the Henrys Fork Caldera—nearly 20 miles wide—adjacent to the western edge of Yellowstone National Park and marks the path to Yellowstone hotspot. You'll also find the Henrys Fork River here, one of the headwaters of the Snake River. Home to an impressive array of wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, this forest is bear country—both the black bear and grizzly bear roam here.

People have many reasons for valuing the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It might be the quiet solitude they find in places like the Jedediah Smith or Winegar Hole Wildernesses. Maybe it's the multitude of motorized trails into backcountry that offer a sense of freedom. Or it could be the excitement of the Grand Targhee Ski and Summer Resort, or the exhilaration of hiking along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Whatever adventure you're looking for, chances are it's available on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest!



© Chuck Rausen

© B. Holmes



Bannock family group

www.nps.gov

## Special Places

### Charcoal Kilns

Located on the Dubois Ranger District just off U.S. 28 south of the Gilmore Summit. Only four partially intact brick kilns remain of the original 16 kilns that were built to furnish charcoal to the smelter at Nicholia. Interpretive signs are located along the trail and there is a picnic table and restroom on site.



### Big Springs

Located on the Ashton-Island Park Ranger District, Big Springs is the headwaters of the Henrys Fork of the Snake River. Water gushes out of the ground at a rate of 150 million gallons per day at the base of Moose Creek Plateau and remains a constant 52 degrees year round. The accessible interpretive site includes boardwalk and asphalt walking trails, bridge and large trout viewing area and the historic Johnny Sack Cabin which is open during the summer months.



*The vast resources of the Caribou-Targhee 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.*





### Upper and Lower Mesa Falls



Within the Ashton-Island Park Ranger District, Upper Mesa Falls at 114 feet high and Lower Mesa Falls at 65 feet high are the only remaining undisturbed major falls in the Columbia River System. The historic Big Falls Inn, located at Upper Mesa Falls, is open to visitors in the summer months. Upper Mesa Falls is an accessible site and offers picnic areas, trails and viewing platforms with new interpretive signs.

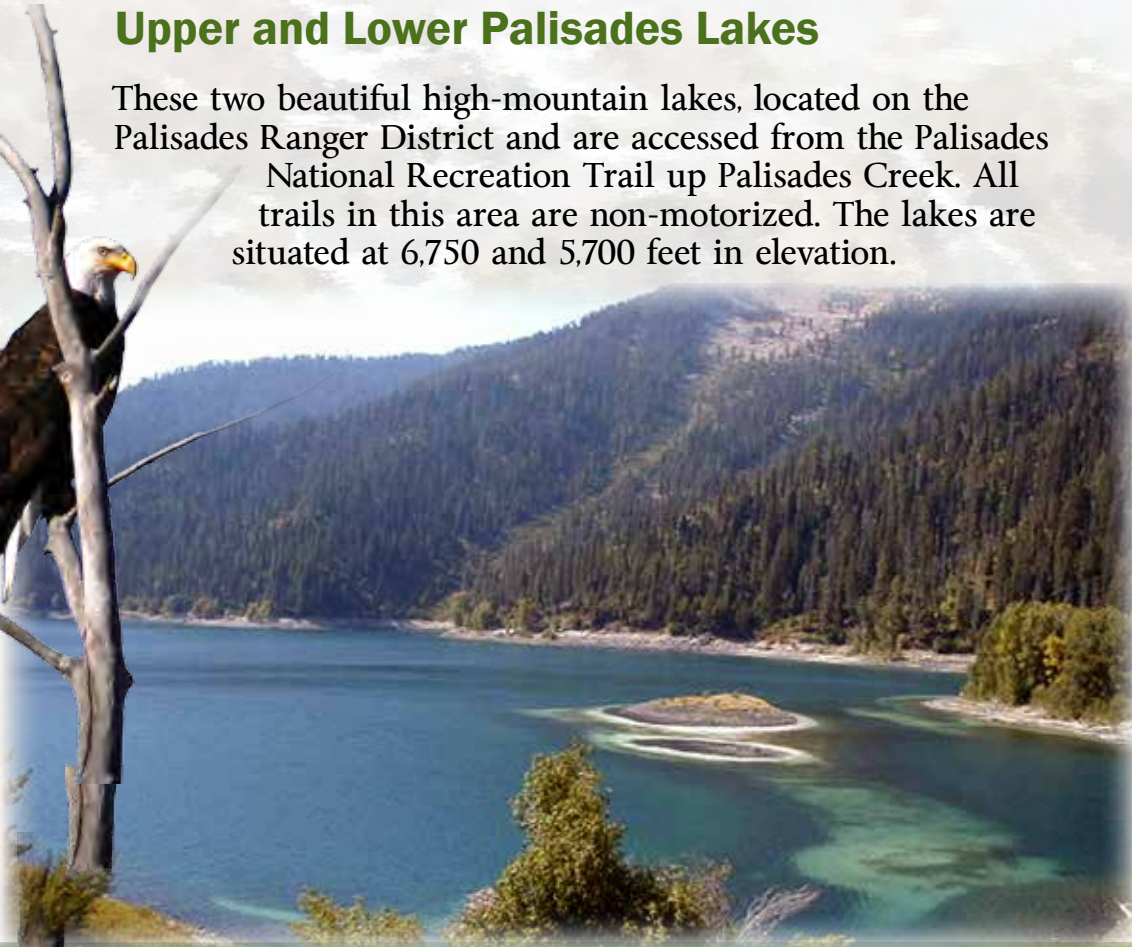
### Bloomington Lake

Located on the Montpelier Ranger District, this high elevation (8,200 feet) 10-acre glaciated lake has a good population of trout. Access is by 9 mile gravel road and 1/2 mile hike from parking lot.



### Upper and Lower Palisades Lakes

These two beautiful high-mountain lakes, located on the Palisades Ranger District and are accessed from the Palisades National Recreation Trail up Palisades Creek. All trails in this area are non-motorized. The lakes are situated at 6,750 and 5,700 feet in elevation.



Upper Palisades Lake



Bald eagle © floridastock

### Cherry Springs Nature Area

Just south of Pocatello on the Westside Ranger District, this day-use area offers asphalt and native surface trails along the banks of Mink Creek. Interpretive signing illustrates the areas' rich bird habitat and riparian plant communities. A portion of the trails, fishing piers, and the restroom are accessible.

### Mink Creek Recreation Area

Twenty minutes south of Pocatello on the Westside Ranger District, Mink Creek Canyon hosts Scout Mountain Campground, Mink Creek Group Area, and a variety of trailheads leading to motorized and non-motorized trails. Mink Creek also offers beginner to expert cross-country ski trails and the Mink Creek Nordic Center for winter fun. The Nordic Center is a fee site managed by the City of Pocatello.

### Teton Overlook

On the Teton Basin Ranger District, this overlook is on the Ski Hill road. Located on the backside of Teton National Park, it offers excellent views and photo opportunities of the Teton Range.



### Minnetonka Cave

This cave is located on the Montpelier Ranger District and offers a half-mile of stalactites, stalagmites and banded travertine in nine rooms. The cave is a fee site which features guided tours from June through Labor Day.







# Get to Know Us

Bighorn sheep © C. Hendricks

## Scenic Byways

### Pioneer Historic National Scenic Byway

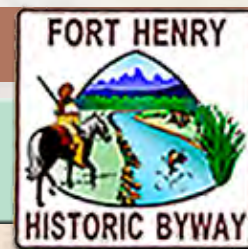


This byway takes you past the Bear River Massacre site, Niter Ice Cave, Franklin (Idaho's oldest settlement), a captive geyser in Soda Springs, and the old Chesterfield townsite. The byway begins at the Utah state line and follows U.S. 91, then Idaho 34, north to U.S. 30 and then east to Soda Springs where it meets the Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway. From there, go north on Idaho 34 toward the Wyoming state line.



Length: 127 mi./203 km.  
Time to Allow: 2.5 hours

### Fort Henry Historic Byway



Length: 81 mi./130 km.  
Time to Allow: 2.5 hours

Named after Andrew Henry of the Missouri Fur Company, this route takes you through Camas Meadows and critical deer, elk, and game bird habitat on the way to the Fort Henry Monument. Along the way, see the St. Anthony Sand Dunes and the Camas Meadow Nez Perce Battleground.

The byway is best traveled between May and November.

### Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway

Attractions along this byway include Bear Lake, the National Oregon-California Trail Center in Montpelier, Paris Museum, Minnetonka Cave, a captive geyser in Soda Springs, and the Mormon ghost town of Chesterfield. The byway begins at the Utah state line and follows U.S. 89 north to U.S. 30, then north and west to Soda Springs, where it meets the Pioneer Historic Byway.



Length: 54 mi./86 km.  
Time to Allow: 1 hour

### Lost Gold Trails Loop Scenic Byway



Length: 48 mi./77 km.  
Time to Allow: 1.5 hours

This loop detours from the Fort Henry Historic Byway through Dubois and Spencer. Attractions along the way include the Heritage Hall and Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois and the opal mines in Spencer.

The byway is best traveled between May and November.

### Teton Scenic Byway

The jagged teeth of the Teton Mountain Range highlight this byway. Along the way you can visit the Grand Targhee Ski and Summer Resort east of Driggs. For a more primitive side trip, take a hike into the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. The byway begins on Idaho 31 at Swan Valley, then northeast to Idaho 33 at Victor, then north on Idaho 33 to Idaho 32; north on Idaho 32 to Idaho 47 (meeting the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway), and west on Idaho 47 to U.S. 20 at Ashton.



Length: 69 mi./110 km.  
Time to Allow: 2.5 hours

## Historic Routes and Trails

### Oregon Trail



The Oregon Trail was one of the main overland migration routes from the Missouri River to the Oregon Country. Between 1841 and 1869 it was used by settlers, ranchers, miners, and others migrating to the Pacific Northwest. Once the Union Pacific and Central Pacific completed the first transcontinental railroad in 1869, use of this trail rapidly declined. Parts of the trail cross the Montpelier and Soda Springs Ranger Districts. *For more information visit [www.nps.gov/oreg](http://www.nps.gov/oreg)*

### Nez Perce Trail



The flight of the Nez Perce from their homelands—while pursued by the U.S. Army—is one of the most fascinating and sorrowful events in Western history. Tribal chiefs led nearly 750 Nez Perce people and twice that many horses over 1,170 miles on a trip that lasted from June-October, 1877. Their desperate escape route is now the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. The trail connects Oregon to Montana, crossing the Continental Divide at Targhee Pass.

*For more information visit [www.fs.usda.gov/npnht](http://www.fs.usda.gov/npnht)*

### Mesa Falls Scenic Byway

Begin in Ashton on Idaho 47, then travel northeast past Bear Gulch and Mesa Falls. The northern end is at U.S. 20 near Harriman State Park. Special attractions include Upper (114') and Lower (65') Mesa Falls and Harriman State Park. The historic Big Falls Inn has been restored and is open as a visitor center during the summer and on some winter weekends. Camping facilities along the byway include Warm River and Grandview Campgrounds.



Length: 29 mi./46 km.  
Time to Allow: 1 hour





## Wilderness

**W**ilderness is an area of federal land that is free from modern human control, is undeveloped and natural, and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The Caribou-Targhee National Forest has two Wildernesses that are a part of the 109-million acre National Wilderness Preservation System.

### Jedediah Smith Wilderness

Long and narrow, the Jedediah Smith Wilderness lies on the west slope of the Teton Range, stretching from Yellowstone National Park south to Teton Pass. Named after Jedediah Strong Smith (an energetic mountain man from New York who explored the west in the early 1800s) the Wilderness was designated in 1984 because of its unique karst limestone features and outstanding scenery.

The Jedediah Smith Wilderness is part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and home to a variety of wildlife including black and grizzly bear, bighorn sheep, wolverine, moose, and elk.

The Wilderness has 175 miles of trails including the Teton Crest Trail which crosses over into Grand Teton National Park. The Teton Range receives heavy snowfall in the winter and heavy recreation use in the summer.

People visit wilderness in search of a special experience defined by its wild character. Expect to encounter the challenges and risks of changing weather, rugged terrain, and other natural hazards. Travel with a current map and know how to use it. Use extreme caution when crossing rivers and snowfields as this is where most wilderness accidents occur. Water sources in the Jedediah Smith and Winegar Hole are plentiful but unsafe to drink without treatment, due to giardia, cryptosporidium, and other waterborne microbes.

*Remember, YOU are responsible for your safety.*

#### Quick Facts

**Acres:** 123,451  
**Miles of Trail:** 175  
**Highlights:** Teton Crest Trail, Alaska Basin, Table Mountain, Bitch Creek, Hurricane Pass, and Devils Staircase. Borders Teton National Park

### Winegar Hole Wilderness

The Winegar Hole Wilderness was designated specifically to provide high quality habitat for the grizzly bear. Part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, this Wilderness is located on the southern boundary of Yellowstone National Park in western Wyoming.

The low-rolling hills with numerous wetlands, meadows and streams are volcanic in origin. A forest of lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce covers much of the area.

The two mile Fish Lake Trail provides access to Yellowstone National Park and is the only trail in the Winegar Hole Wilderness. A permit is required to camp overnight; dogs are not allowed.

#### Quick Facts

**Acres:** 10,715  
**Miles of Trail:** 2  
**Highlights:** There are essentially no trails. Borders southeastern Yellowstone National Park.

#### FOOD STORAGE:

Reduce human-grizzly and black bear interactions. Follow the forest food storage order. [www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/)



Grizzlies (Chris Servheen, USFWS)



To protect these amazing Wilderness areas from resource damage please follow these regulations:

Camping (and grazing) with stock animals is permitted if you are a minimum of:

- 1/2 mile from Moose Lakes
- 1/4 mile from Camp Lake
- 600 feet from Hidden Lake
- 100 feet from streams, 200 feet from lakes

No campfires are allowed in:

- Alaska Basin and Sunset Lake area
- Moose Lake Basin
- The Fox Creek Pass area

Additional regulations for Wilderness travel can be found at the forest website [www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/)

Keep Wilderness Wild








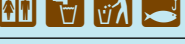





















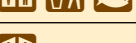





National Wilderness Preservation System

More information on the National Wilderness Preservation System: [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net)

Wildflowers in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness



# Campgrounds

	Name	Fee	# of Units (single/ double)	Season	Amenities	Reservable
DUBOIS RANGER DISTRICT	Stoddard Creek	Yes	18/4	May–Sept.		Yes
ASHTON-ISLAND PARK RANGER DISTRICT	Big Springs	Yes	15/2	May–Sept.		Group site only
	Box Canyon	Yes	16/2	May–Sept.		No
	Buffalo	Yes	102/2	May–Sept.		Yes
	Buttermilk	Yes	52/5	May–Sept.		Yes
	Cave Falls	Yes	23	May–Sept.		No
	Flat Rock	Yes	37/1	May–Sept.		Yes
	Grandview	Yes	6/2	May–Sept.		No
	McCrea Bridge	Yes	19/4	May–Sept.		Yes
	Riverside	Yes	55/1	May–Sept.		Yes
	Upper Coffee Pot	Yes	14/1	May–Sept.		Yes
	Warm River	Yes	27/2	May–Sept.		Yes
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT	Alpine	Yes	10/6	May–Sept.		Yes
	Big Elk	Yes	10/4	May–Sept.		Yes
	Blowout	Yes	12/4	May–Sept.		No
	Calamity	Yes	40/1	May–Sept.		Yes
	Falls	Yes	17/5	May–Sept.		Yes
	McCoy Creek	Yes	19/0	May–Sept.		No
	Palisades	Yes	5/2	May–Sept.		No
	Riverside Park	Yes	23/9	May–Sept.		No
TETON BASIN RANGER DISTRICT	Mike Harris	Yes	12	May–Sept.		Yes
	Pine Creek	Yes	10	May–Sept.		No
	Teton Canyon	Yes	20/2	May–Sept.		Yes
	Trail Creek	Yes	10	May–Sept.		Yes
MONTPELIER RANGER DISTRICT	Albert Moser	Yes	7/2	May–Sept.		Yes
	Beaver Creek	Yes	5	June – Sept		No
	Cloverleaf	Yes	15/4	May–Sept.		Yes
	Davis Canyon	Yes	5	June – Sept		No
	Emigration	Yes	23/2	June – Sept		Yes
	Montpelier Canyon	Yes	13	May–Sept.		Yes
	North Fork	No	10	May–Sept.		No
	Paris Springs	Yes	7	May–Sept.		Yes
	Porcupine	Yes	10/2	June–Sept.		Yes



Campground fees range from \$5-30 depending on the amenities provided, and size of units. **Fees are subject to change.** NOTE: “Single/Double” refers to the number of families that can use the site, i.e. a single family unit or a double family unit.



To make reservations for campgrounds or cabins, use the **National Reservation Service** at **1-877-444-6777** or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)



	Name	Fee	# of Units (single/ double/triple)	Season	Amenities	Reservable
MONTPELIER RANGER DISTRICT	St. Charles	No	3/2	May–Sept.		Yes
	Summit View	Yes	21	June–Sept.		Yes
	Willow Flat	Yes	52/3	May–Sept.		Yes
SODA SPRINGS RANGER DISTRICT	Gravel Creek	Yes	12	May–Sept.		No
	Mill Canyon	Yes	10	May–Sept.		No
	Pine Bar	Yes	5/1	May–Sept.		No
WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT	Big Springs–Caribou <i>by Lava Hot Springs</i>	Yes	27/3	May–Sept.		Yes
	Curlew	Yes	7/2	May–Sept.		Yes
	Dry Canyon	Yes	3	May–Sept.		No
	Malad Summit	Yes	9/2	May–Oct.		Yes
	Scout Mountain	Yes	23/5	May–Oct.		Yes

Group Campgrounds

Large groups should reserve a group campsite instead of multiple sites at a regular campground. Group sites can be reserved up to 180 days in advance. Some have large shelters over tables with electricity at the shelter.

	Name	Fee	# of Units	Season	Amenities	Reservable
DUBOIS RANGER DISTRICT	Steel Creek	Yes	1	May–Sept.		Yes
	Stoddard Creek	Yes	1	May–Sept.		Yes
ASHTON- ISLAND PARK RANGER DISTRICT	Big Springs Warming Hut	Yes	1	May–Sept.		Yes
	Buffalo	Yes	1	May–Sept		Yes
	Buttermilk	Yes	1	May–Sept		Yes
	Riverside	Yes	1	May–Sept.		Yes
	Warm River	Yes	1	May–Sept		Yes
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT	Falls	Yes	1	May–Sept		Yes
	Alpine	Yes	1	May–Sept		Yes
	Table Rock	Yes	1	May–Sept		Yes
	Big Elk	Yes	3	May–Sept		Yes
TETON BASIN RANGER DISTRICT	Reunion Flat	Yes	3	May–Sept	 <i>single family also</i>	Yes
WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT	Mink Creek	Yes	1	All year	<i>summer only</i>	Yes
	Third Creek	Yes	1	May–Oct		Yes
	Big Springs - Caribou <i>by Lava Hot Springs</i>	Yes	1	June–Oct		Yes
	Scout Mountain	Yes	1	May–Oct		Yes
	Curlew	Yes	1	May–Oct		Yes
	Malad Summit	Yes	1	May–Oct		Yes
MONTPELIER RANGER DISTRICT	Summit View	Yes	2	June–Sept		Yes
	Emigration	Yes	2	July–Sept		Yes
	Paris Springs	Yes	3	June–Sept		Yes
	Big Creek	Yes	1	June–Oct		Yes
	Willow Flat	Yes	2	June–Sept		Yes

Restroom

Drinking Water

Garbage Collection

Fishing

Power Hookups

Boat Ramp

Group Site

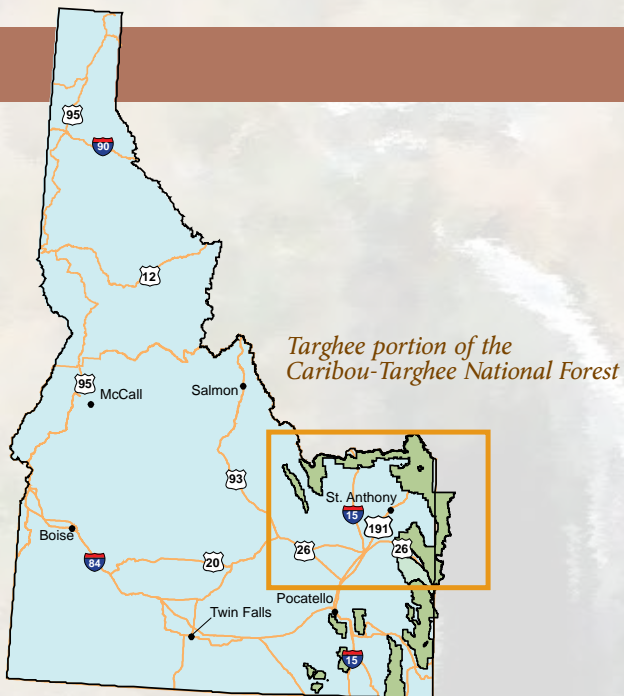
Trailhead

Amphitheatre





# Caribou-Targhee National Forest



Before venturing onto the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, please pick up a map with the level of detail appropriate for your planned activities:

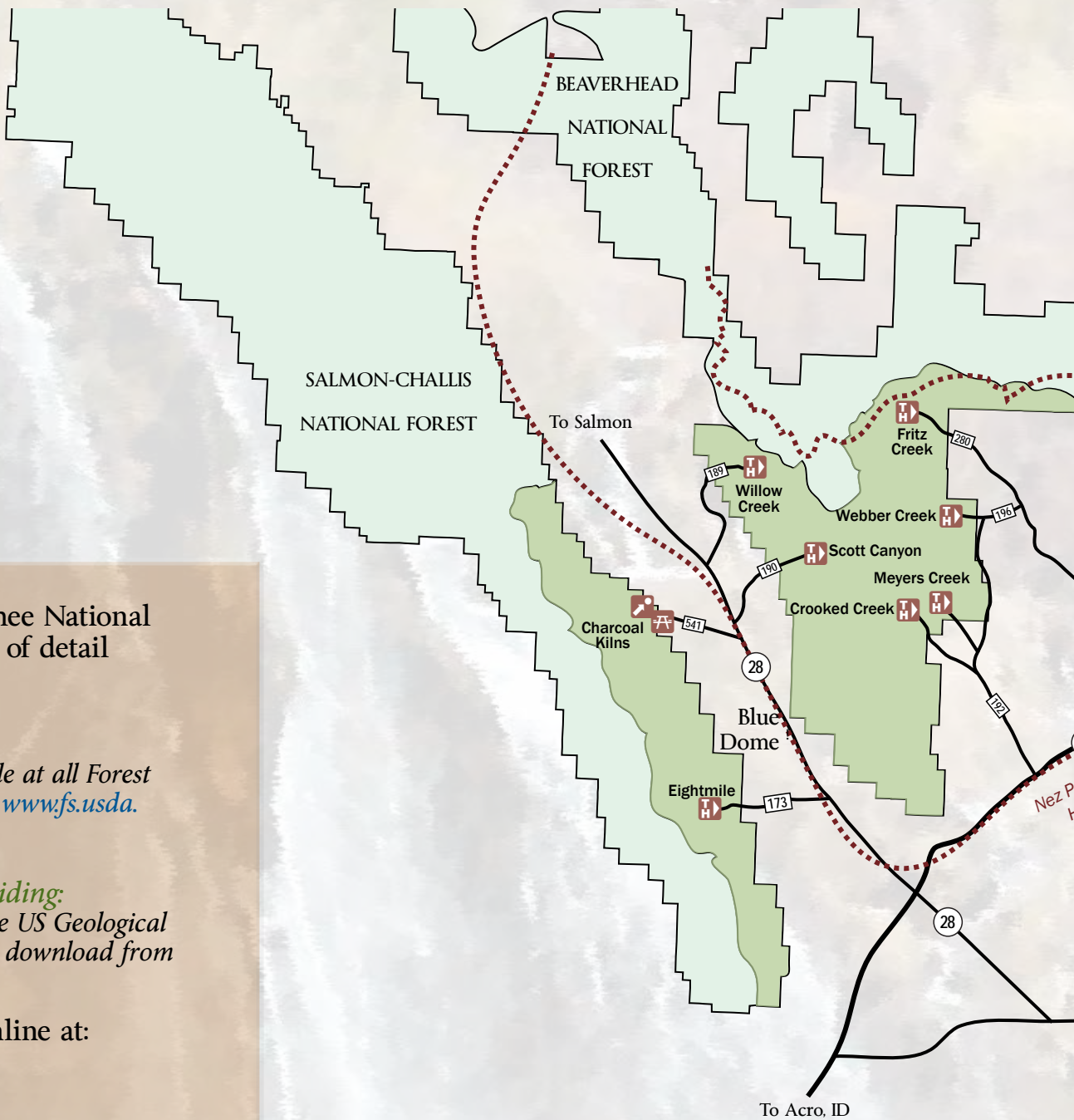
#### For motorized travel:

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

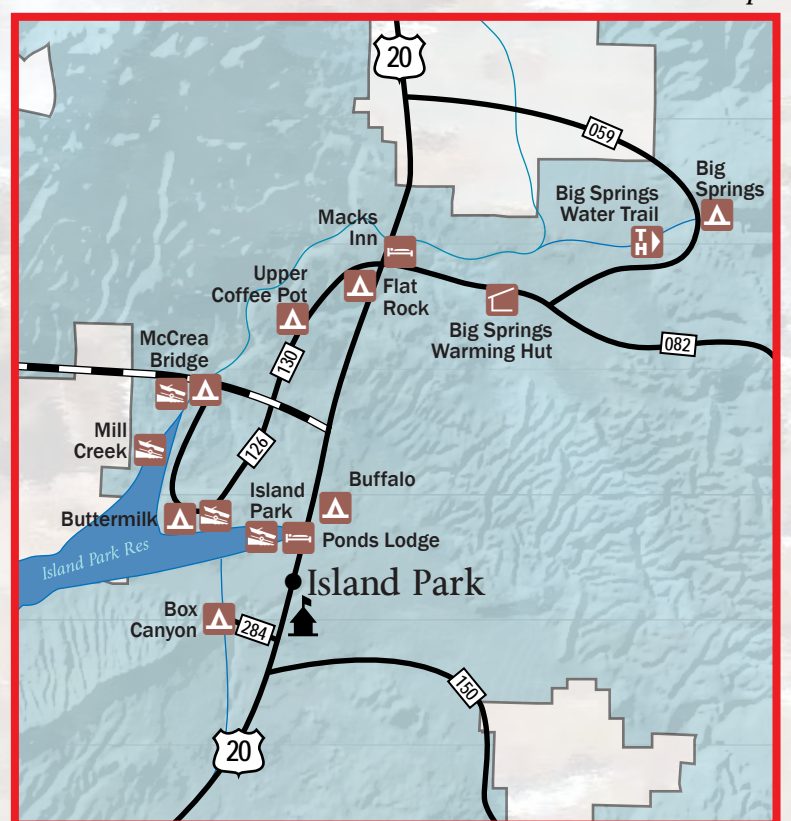
#### For hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding:

Topographic maps are recommended. Visit the US Geological Survey for online purchases: [www.usgs.com](http://www.usgs.com) or download from [www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/)

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



inset map

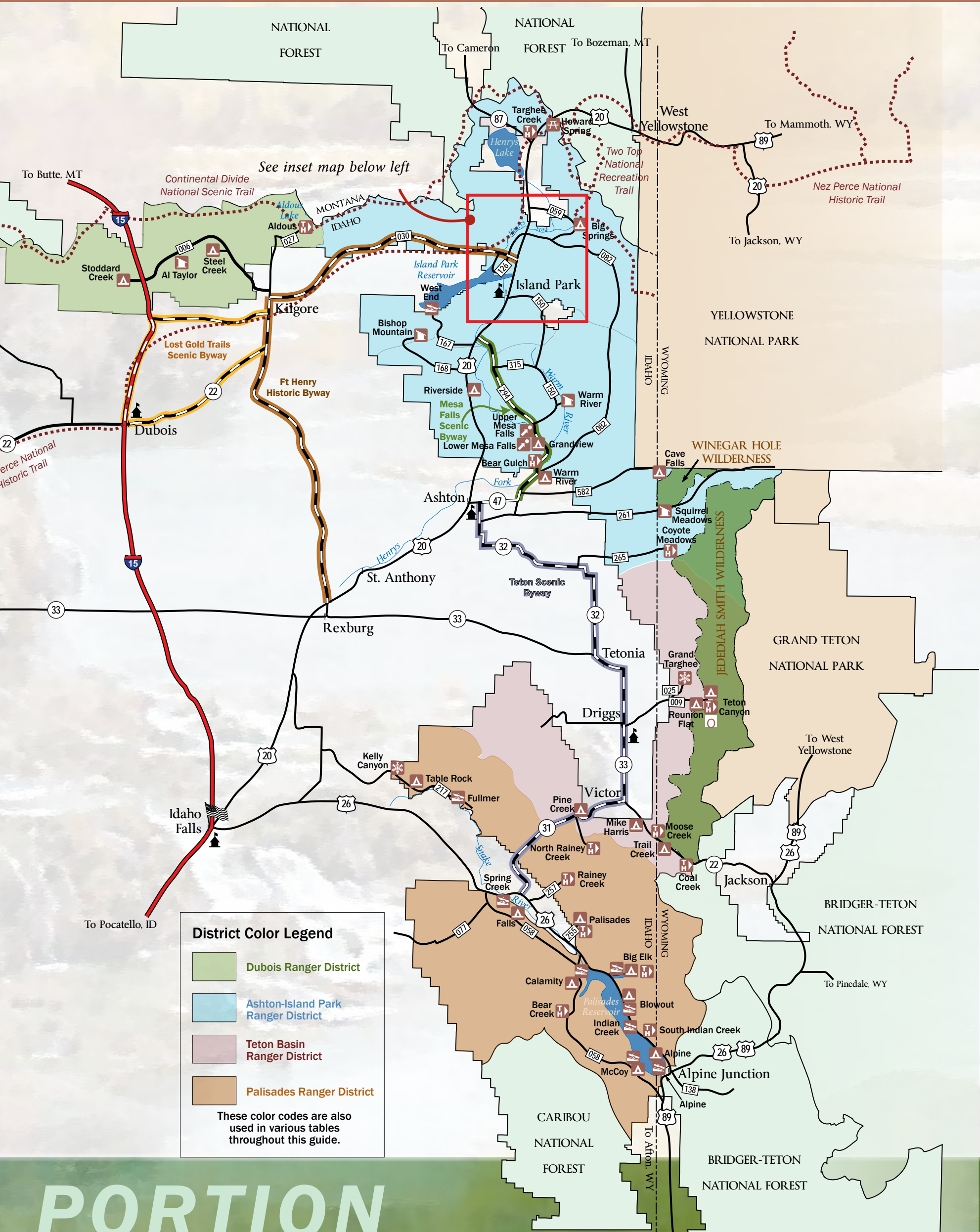


# TARGHEE





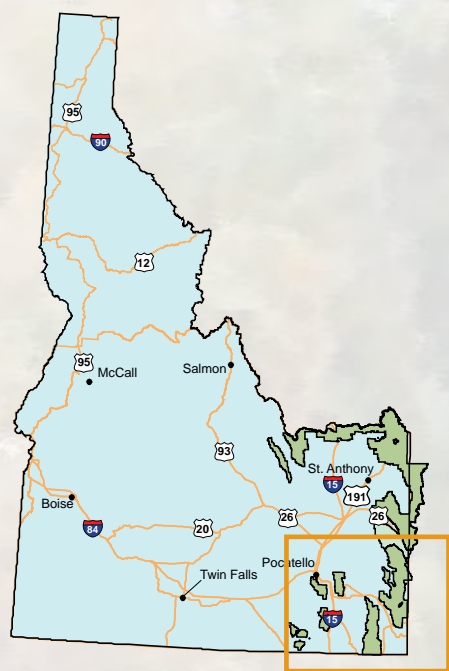
View into Grand Teton National Park from Table Mountain in the Jeddiah Smith Wilderness







# Caribou-Targhee National Forest



Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest

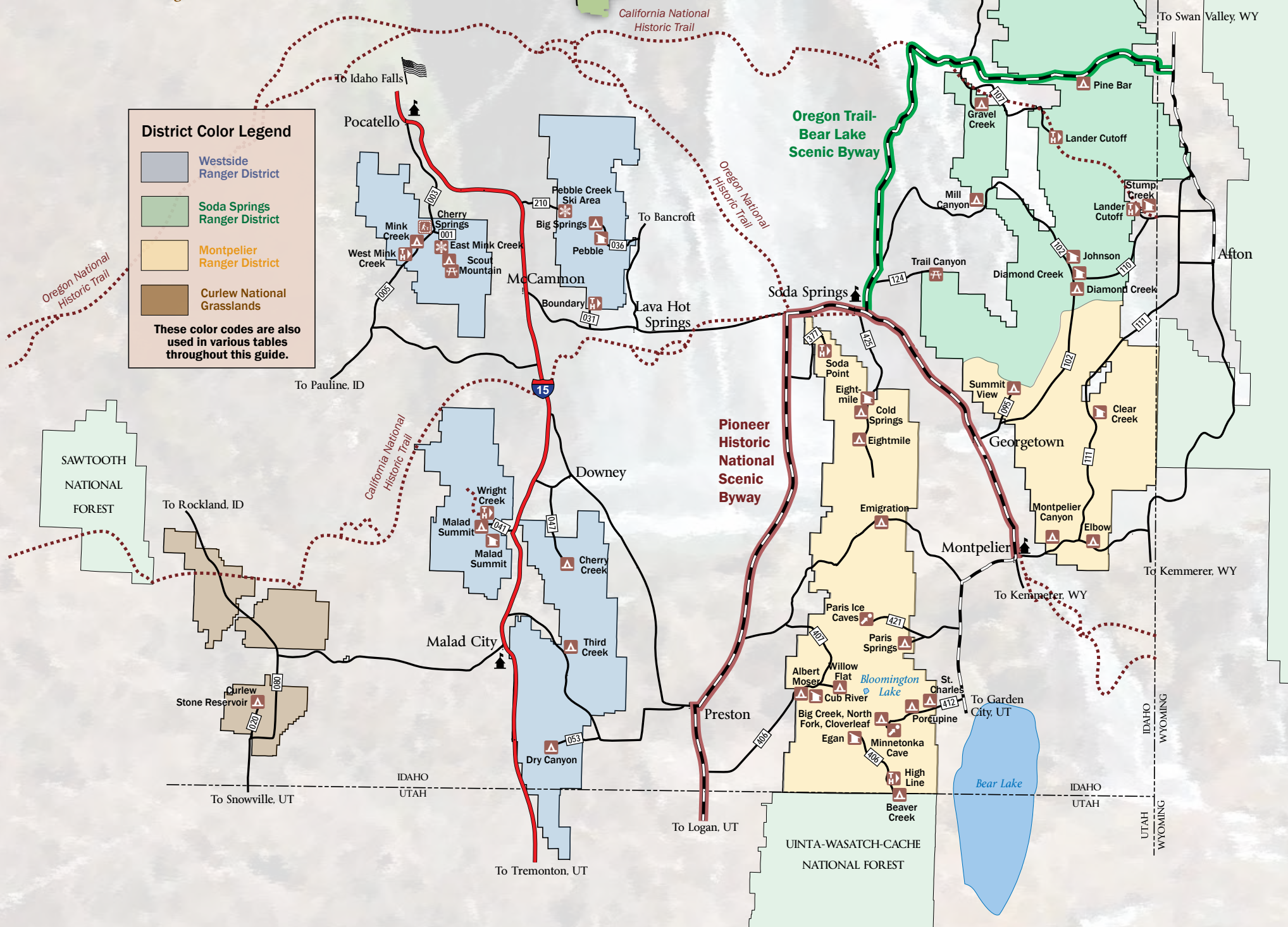


GREATER  
YELLOWSTONE  
AREA

**District Color Legend**

- Westside Ranger District
- Soda Springs Ranger District
- Montpelier Ranger District
- Curlew National Grasslands

These color codes are also used in various tables throughout this guide.



## CARIBOU PORTION





To make reservations for campgrounds or cabins, use the **National Reservation Service** at **1-877-444-6777** or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)



Diamond Creek Guard Station

Rental Cabins



Restrooms



Drinking water



Fishing



Shower



ATV trails

	Name	Capacity	Amenities	Notes (All available year-round)
ASHTON-ISLAND RANGER DISTRICT	Bishop Mountain Lookout	4		Winter access by snowmobile only
	Squirrel Meadows Guard Station	6		Winter access by snowmobile only
	Warm River Guard Station	12		Winter access by snowmobile only
MONTPELIER RANGER DISTRICT	Clear Creek Guard Station	5		Winter access by snowmobile only; one room A-frame
	Cub River Guard Station	15		Winter access by snowmobile only; additional outside trailer and tent camping; water in summer only
	Egan Cabin	5		Winter access by snowmobile only; one room A-frame
	Eight Mile Guard Station	15		Winter access by snowmobile only; bring drinking water
SODA SPRINGS RANGER DISTRICT	Caribou Guard Station	15		Winter access by snowmobile only; bring drinking water
	Johnson Guard Station	15		Winter access by snowmobile only; bring drinking water
	Stump Creek Guard Station	15		Winter access by snowmobile only; bring drinking water
	Diamond Creek Guard Station	6		Winter access by snowmobile only; bring drinking water
WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT	Malad Summit Guard Station	6		Winter access by snowmobile only; bring drinking water in winter; no showers in the winter
	Pebble Guard Station	6		Winter access by snowmobile only; bring drinking water during the winter; no showers in the winter
DUBOIS RANGER DISTRICT	Al Taylor Cabin	6		Water available 1/4 mile away at Steel Creek group site; bring drinking water during the winter

Coming to the cabin rental program in 2017- The Jensen Cabin! Available year round on the Palisades Ranger District



Bishop Mountain Lookout



Squirrel Meadows Guard Station



Warm River Guard Station



Clear Creek Guard Station



Cub River Guard Station



Egan Cabin



Eight Mile Guard Station



Caribou Guard Station



Johnson Guard Station



Stump Creek Guard Station



Malad Summit Guard Station



Pebble Guard Station



Al Taylor Cabin



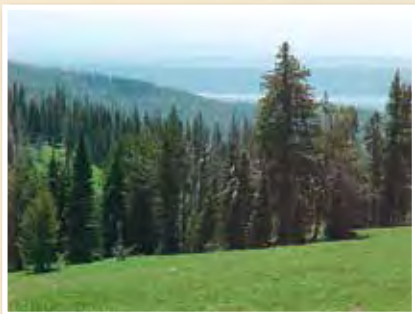
# Activities



## Trails

### National Recreation Trails

#### Continental Divide National Scenic Trail



The “Trail that Unites Us” runs 3,100 miles between Mexico and Canada. It follows the Continental Divide along the Rocky Mountains and traverses five states—Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. On the Caribou-Targhee National

Forest there are 82 miles of this trail on the Dubois and Ashton-Island Park Ranger Districts. The trail goes through the Beaverhead, Centennial, and Henrys Lake Mountain Ranges. Nearby landmarks include Scott Peak, Slide Mountain, Mt. Jefferson, Sawtell Peak, Targhee Peak, and Two Top Mountain. [www.fs.fed.us/cdt](http://www.fs.fed.us/cdt)

#### Big Springs National Recreation Water Trail

Big Springs was designated on January 19, 1981 as the first water trail in the National Recreation Trail System. The slow moving current of this portion of the Henrys Fork of the Snake River provides nearly a 5 mile long peaceful and enjoyable floating experience. Moose, bald eagles, and other wildlife are frequently seen as one floats the river. The boat launch site is about 1/2 mile west of the Big Springs bridge. The launch site is hand-carry boats only such as rafts and canoes. No motorized watercraft until Henry's Lake Outlet enters the river. Parking and a vault rest room are on site. [www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ctnf/recreation/hiking](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ctnf/recreation/hiking)



#### Two Top National Recreation Snowmobile Trail

Located near the Continental Divide just south of Targhee Pass, this trail provides access to the Two Top Mountain area. Another portion of the trail turns east and serves the east side of the Continental Divide, more specifically, the West Yellowstone area. The trail on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is about 20.5 miles long. Several large open snowfields offer excellent off-trail play areas near the top. On clear days, the scenery from the top of Two Top Mountain is majestic. Along with breathtaking views of the valley below and Sawtell Peak to the west, “Snow Ghosts” (trees covered in heavy coats of ice and snow) dot the area. This is truly a snowmobiler's paradise. [www.fs.usda.gov/activity/ctnf/recreation/wintersports](http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/ctnf/recreation/wintersports)



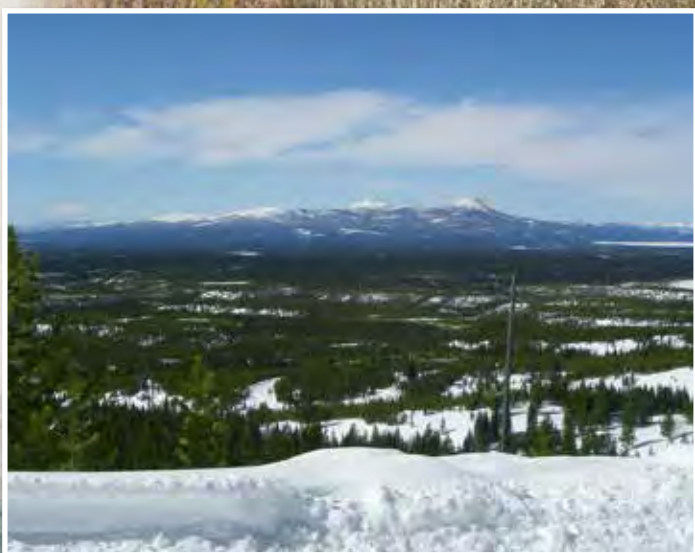
#### Palisades Creek National Recreation Trail

Located on the Palisades Ranger District, this trail follows the wild and scenic Palisades Creek, crossing the creek several times. Deep within the canyon one can see many species of wildlife and experience quality scenery. This is a very popular non-motorized 5.9 mile trail with easy access to Lower and additional 3 miles to Upper Palisades Lakes. [www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ctnf/recreation/hiking](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ctnf/recreation/hiking)



#### Highline National Recreation Trail

This trail is open to hikers and people that use all terrain vehicles, motorcycles, bikes, and ride horses. The Highline National Recreation Trail is the premier trail on the Montpelier District and offers many scenic vistas points along the Bear River Range. The trail is 55 miles long and intersects a number of other trails on the west side of the district. It is currently being considered to use as a segment of the Great Western Trail, a trail system intended to span from Canada to Mexico. [www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ctnf/recreation/hiking](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ctnf/recreation/hiking)



View of Sawtell Peak on the Continental Divide from Chick Creek.





Hikers and horsemen meet on Palisades Creek



The following is a sampling of non-motorized trails on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Most are multi-use trails open to hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. Check with a local Forest Service office for more information.

	Trail Name	Miles	Notes
DUBOIS RANGER DISTRICT	Aldous-Hancock Lakes	3.5	Moderately difficult; access at Ching Creek Road; heavy use
	Webber Creek to Divide Creek	15	Easy; access from Webber Creek Trailhead; heavy use; excellent trail
	Trail Creek	2.6	Easy, access off Cottonwood Loop Road, moderate use, access to Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
ASHTON- ISLAND PARK RANGER DISTRICT	Targhee Creek Dry Fork Loop	14	Moderately difficult; access at Targhee Creek Road; moderate use; grizzly bear habitat
	Moose Creek	6.3	Moderately difficult; in grizzly bear habitat; access at Warm River Springs Cabin, Fish Creek Rd to Moose Creek Butte Rd
	Sawtell Peak	5	Moderately difficult; access off of Sawtell Peak Road, scenic Lake Marie access, bear habitat
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT	South Fork Indian Creek Loop	8	Moderately difficult; access at Indian Creek Road; Light use; to Lake Basin; scenic
	Bear Creek	4	Easy; access at Bear Creek Trailhead; heavy use; fishing; scenic
	Big Elk Creek	5	Easy; access at Big Elk Campground; moderate use; scenic; non-motorized trail use
TETON BASIN RANGER DSITRICT	Coal Creek	4.7	Accessed from the west side of Teton Pass, the Coal Creek Trail; great views and access to the Teton Crest and southern peaks of the Teton Range
	Sheep Bridge	2.2	This beginner trail provides opportunity for an introduction into mountain biking on single track trails. Access at the Teton Canyon Trailhead a mile away from Ski Hill Road.
	South Teton	9.4	Access from Teton Canyon trailhead; moderate difficulty. Above Devil's Staircase and South Teton trails junction the trail becomes more steep and challenging
WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT	Gibson Jack	9.8	Easy to moderate; scenic views; variety of elevation changes; good place to spot wildlife
	Sterling Justice	7.2	After a steep climb end the trail contours around a bench offering sweeping views of the upper Snake River Canyon
	Kinney Creek	3	Moderate grade for first mile, known for bird watching.
MONTPELIER RANGER DSITRICT	Dry Creek	6	Access at Dry Creek Rd. Goes through conifer, aspen, and mountain brush vegetation.
	White Canyon	4	Access from Franklin Basin Road #406, trail passes a lake and provides views of Cache Valley.
	3 Trail Loop	7	Take Little Elk Valley Trail to Clover Knoll Pond Trail to Giraffe Creek Trail and loop back to Little Elk Valley Trail. Elk commonly spotted in June and July
SODA SPRINGS RANGER DISTRICT	Lander Cutoff	8	Historic Oregon Trail shortcut in 1858; non-motorized section; access from Stump Cr Rd in Idaho or Auburn, WY; original wagon ruts, aspen carvings, elk country
	South Fork Tincup Creek	11	Access Highway 34 near Freedom, WYO or from Deer Creek Rd from Trail #021. Forest, meadows, beaver ponds, and solitude., in elk country
	Bald Mountain	12	Access at Jackknife Rd or McCoy Creek Rd. Route goes through scenic backcountry and portions follow along the top of Bald Mt



Packstring traveling Indian Creek



Big Elk Creek Trailhead



Jedediah Smith Wilderness



Broad Hollow



Boone Creek, Jedediah Smith Wilderness



Jackknife Basin, Caribou Mountain



**Outfitters and Guides** - You may wish to take advantage of the numerous outfitters and guides who have the skills and equipment to help help make the most of your adventure. Check these websites: Idaho: <http://oglb.idaho.gov/> Wyoming: <http://www.wyoga.org/>



# Activities

## Water Activities

### Floating

Float trips through Box Canyon or down the South Fork of the Snake River offer tranquility and the opportunity to view wildlife and bird species from a unique perspective.

Boating and water skiing occur mainly on the Island Park and Palisades Reservoirs. Rafting, kayaking, and canoeing are popular sports on short stretches of the Snake River near Swan Valley and Heise and on the Henrys Fork River. Snowmelt causes flood conditions and irrigation canals and waterfalls present hazards along stretches of some streams and rivers.

### Fishing

The forest offers several world-class Blue-Ribbon fisheries, including the Henrys Fork, Warm and Falls Rivers, South Fork of the Snake River, and Blackfoot River. The Island Park and Palisades Reservoirs offer a variety of fishing and other water-oriented activities.

Game species include rainbow, eastern brook, brown, and native cutthroat trout and kokanee salmon. State licenses are required for fishing and the nearby National Parks require special park permits.

The South Fork of the Snake River is one of the last big rivers occupied by native cutthroat trout. Native cutthroats are prized by fly fishermen as they readily take to a dry fly!



Box Canyon boat launch below Island Park Dam



### Island Park Reservoir

Adult kokanee salmon spawn in streams above this reservoir. The juvenile fish migrate to this reservoir where they live for three to four years and become adults, then start the lifecycle over, returning

to their original stream in September to spawn. At this time they turn bright red and the males become humpbacked with hooked jaws. The dam, built in 1937, is earth-filled, and is 91 feet high and 1,250 feet long.



Kokanee Salmon  
Photo by Jody Ann



Rainbow trout  
Fish art © J. Tomelleri



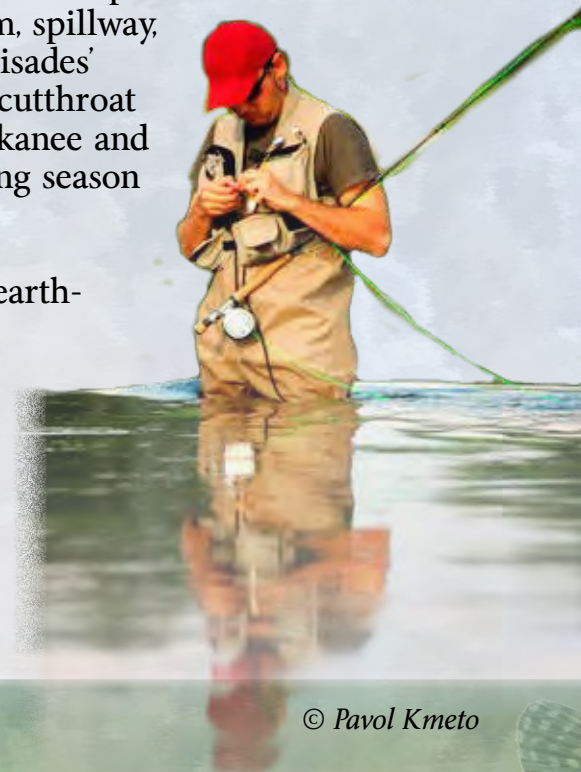
Brook Trout © Jeff Feverston



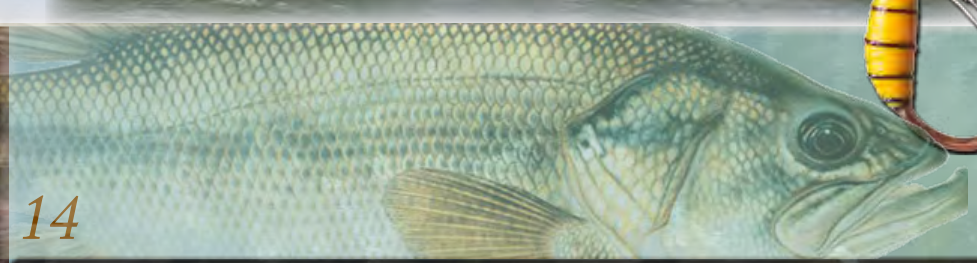
### Palisades Reservoir

This area offers a beautiful drive, boating, fishing, and an observation point from which to view the lake, dam, spillway, and powerhouse. Palisades' fish species include cutthroat and brown trout, kokanee and mackinaw. The fishing season is year-round.

The dam is a large, earth-filled structure 270 feet high, with a crest length of 2,100 feet. Construction took place from 1951-1957.



© Pavol Kmeto







Boat Ramps

Restrooms Water Camping Picnic RV Dumpsite

	Name	Amenities	Vehicle Capacity	Comments
ASHTON-ISLAND PARK RANGER DISTRICT	Mill Creek		20	On Island Park Reservoir; concrete ramp
	McCrea Bridge		20	On Island Park Reservoir; concrete ramp
	Buttermilk		30	On Island Park Reservoir; concrete ramp
	Island Park		20	On Island Park Reservoir; concrete ramp
	Big Springs		10	Beginning of Big Springs National Recreation Water Trail; hand-carry and place rafts, canoes, light boats only; stationary dock; no ramp; adjacent to old railroad bridge. Non-motorized access on this stretch of the Snake River.
	West End		30	On Island Park Reservoir; concrete ramp
	Box Canyon		5	Below Island Park Dam; gravel ramp; non-motorized boats in canyon
	Riverside		5	On Henrys Fork; gravel ramp
	East Hatchery Ford		10	On Henrys Fork but is TAKE-OUT ONLY; concrete ramp
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT	Calamity		40	On Palisades Reservoir near the dam; concrete ramp
	Blowout		60	On Palisades Reservoir; concrete ramp
	Indian Creek		20	On Palisades Reservoir; old highway is the ramp
	Big Elk Creek		10	On arm of Palisades Reservoir near Big Elk CG; concrete ramp
	Little Elk Creek		20	On Palisades Reservoir; ramp is on old gravel road
	Alpine		30	On Palisades Reservoir where the South Fork of Snake River enters the reservoir at Alpine, WY
	McCoy Creek		5	On Palisades Reservoir; gravel/native surface ramp
	Fullmer		15	On South Fork of Snake; concrete ramp; fee site
	Spring Creek		15	On South Fork of Snake; concrete ramp; fee site
	Palisades Dam		15	Below Palisades Dam on South Fork of Snake; concrete ramp; fee site
WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT	Stone		5	On Stone Reservoir; in Curlew CG; concrete ramp



Fullmer boat ramp, Snake River



McCrea Bridge boat ramp, Island Park Reservoir



Snake River, Palisades Dam boat ramp



ATTENTION ALL WATER RECREATIONISTS!

Invasive species threaten water activities!  
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

For more information:  
Visit the Idaho Division of  
Water Resources:  
<http://100thmeridan.org/>



# Activities

## Dispersed Camping

Many people enjoy the solitude and primitive experience of camping away from developed campgrounds. Dispersed camping means there are no toilets, tables, or drinking water and is available within 300 feet of designated Forest Service Roads. Follow these guidelines to ensure that these areas can be enjoyed by future generations.

- \* Choose sites that are already established. If you're in an undisturbed area, protect water quality and aquatic habitat by camping at least 200 feet away from water sources
- \* Don't dig ditches around tents or trailers
- \* Pack out all garbage
- \* Do not carve or chop into tree trunks—this can eventually kill the tree
- \* Bury human waste 200 feet from water sources in a hole 6-8" deep; pack out used toilet paper
- \* Soap degrades water quality and harms aquatic life; wash at least 200' feet from water sources and use biodegradable soap



### FOOD STORAGE:

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest has implemented a food storage order in many areas of the forest in order to reduce human-grizzly and black bear interactions. Information and maps about the food storage order can be downloaded from the internet at: [www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/)  
Contact the local ranger district office for more details.

## Greater Yellowstone Watchable Wildlife

**Big Springs** (5 miles east of Mack's Inn, ID) - Watch for big trout at the bridge. Osprey and bald eagles are often seen just below the bridge. Other site visitors include moose, elk, deer, and occasionally bears - both black and grizzly.



**Alpine Wildlife Viewing Area** (3 miles south of Alpine, WY) - Overlooking the ponds and marshes on the south end of Palisades Reservoir, one can see waterfowl such as ducks and geese along with nesting osprey. A variety of song birds inhabit the marshy areas

and other wildlife such as deer, fox, and muskrat can sometimes be spotted.



## Campfires

- \* Check current restrictions and fire information year-round at [www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/) or by calling the Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Center at 208-524-7600. Remember, they can change on a daily basis.
- \* Use existing fire rings and don't burn metal, glass, plastic, or food scraps.
- \* Keep your fires small and collect only dead and downed firewood around your campsite.
- \* 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—many wildfires have been caused by abandoned campfires.

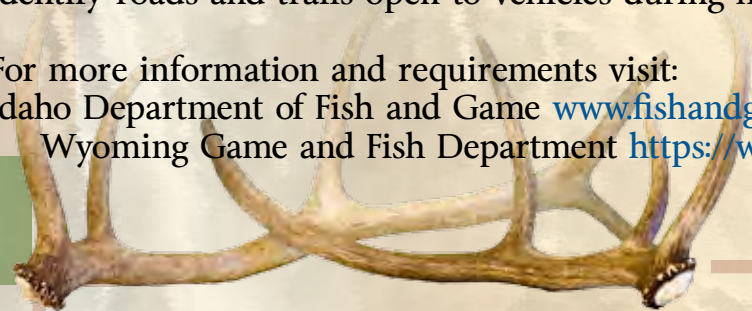


© Gorilla

## Hunting

You can purchase licenses to hunt a number of game animals including: moose, elk, antelope, mule and white-tail deer, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, black bear, small animals, and game birds. Hunters should obtain a free *Motor Vehicle Use Map* (MVUM) to identify roads and trails open to vehicles during hunting season.

For more information and requirements visit:  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game [www.fishandgame.idaho.gov](http://www.fishandgame.idaho.gov)  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department <https://wgfd.wyo.gov>



### Help keep wildlife "wild" by following these tips:

- \* Do not feed wildlife—give them their space. Use those binoculars!
- \* Keep your dog leashed to protect both him and wildlife.
- \* Avoid approaching big game during winter—their food supplies are low and exertion takes a toll.
- \* If you find an "orphaned" or sick animal, leave it alone. Often the parents are close by and are waiting for you to leave.
- \* Leave the area if an animal shows signs of alarm. Watch and listen for raised ears, skittish movements, or alarm calls.



**Curlew National Grassland** (20-30 miles southeast of Malad) - The checkerboard land parcels that make up the Curlew National Grassland were acquired under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Act of 1973 to control soil erosion and protect wildlife. In the 1920s, much of the Curlew Valley was dry-land farmed. Abandoned schoolhouses and ramshackled barns tell the story of the early homesteaders. Birdwatchers visit the grassland in March and April to watch the male courtship dance of the sharptail and greater sage grouse.



## Off Highway Vehicle Use (OHV)

OHV use is a popular activity on the national forest. While many opportunities exist on the roads and trails, cross-country motorized travel is prohibited in most areas. Check at the local District office for more information.

**ATVs and Motorcycles**  
reds of miles of trails open to motorized and non-motorized uses.

**ATTENTION** - Pick up a *Motor Vehicle Use Map* (MVUM) from any District office to find out which trails are open to ATVs and motorcycles. Trails outside of Wilderness areas are open to all non-motorized uses.

	Trail Name	Miles	Notes
DUBOIS RANGER DISTRICT	Van Noy-Stoddard	4.2	Moderately difficult; north of Spencer
	Middle Fork of Pass Creek	4.9	Moderately difficult; in Lemhi Mountain Range
	Alex Draw-McGarry Canyon	9.8	Moderately difficult; just east of Kilgore
ASHTON ISLAND PARK RANGER DISTRICT	Big Bend Ridge	18	Popular ATV route northwest of Ashton
	Railroad Right-of-Way (ROW)	22	Gentle grades; old railroad bed
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT	Thousand Springs	3	Access from the Moody Swamp Trailhead
	Echo Canyon- Indian Creek	6.2	South of the Snake River in Swan Valley
	Bear Creek/South Fork Fall Creek Loop	10.1	Popular motorcycle area
TETON BASIN RANGER DISTRICT	Hilton Creek	17.1	Beginner level ATV route
	Carlton Cutoff	9.5	Intermediate/expert motorcycle route
	Big Hole Crest	8.9	Expert motorcycle route
WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT	Left Fork Cherry Creek	3.5	Access to other trails and loops; various skill levels
	Oxford Ridge	7	High elevation trail with good views and scenery
	Boundary Trail	35	Loops - easy to moderate, several access points, scenic views, variety of elevation changes
MONTPELIER RANGER DISTRICT	Highline National Recreation Trail	55	Runs crest of Bear River Range
	Maple/Pine Loop	6	This loop trail(s) can be accessed north of Bennington or NE of Montpelier. Panoramic views.
	North Canyon to Skinner Creek	15	Northeast of Montpelier; various loops
SODA SPRINGS RANGER DISTRICT	Webster Ridge	8.4	Scenic ride in the high country
	Caribou Mountain	15-25	Connected road/trails; visit historic Caribou City area and the Mountain
	Summit View-Trail Canyon Trails	Many	Stay at Summit View Campground

## Mountain Biking

For mountain bike enthusiasts, the forest offers a diversity of trail experiences. Use caution— all trails are open to horseback riders and hikers as well and some are open to motorized use. Mountain bikes are not allowed in Wilderness areas.

Here are just a few trails to explore:

**Trails within Wilderness areas are only open to horse and foot travel.**



	Trail or Area Name
DUBOIS RANGER DISTRICT	Pass Lake - in the Lemhi Mountains west of Birch Creek Valley
	Italian Peaks - east of Birch Creek valley; difficult trails but beautiful scenery
	Big Table Mountain - near the Continental Divide; backcountry for all levels; scenic views
ASHTON ISLAND PARK RANGER DISTRICT	Railroad ROW - gentle slopes; easy terrain; follows Warm River at lower end; goes through Island Park
	Big Bend Ridge - motorized trail but is easy to moderate for mountain bikes
	Fall River Ridge - east of Ashton near forest boundary; easy trails in wooded area
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT	Bear Creek-Fall Creek-South Fork Fall Creek - also a motorized trail; all skill levels
	Palisades Creek - popular non-motorized trail with access to Lower and Upper Palisades Lakes
	Kelly Canyon-Wolverine Canyon-South Fork Snake River - on north side of South Fork of Snake River
TETON BASIN RANGER DISTRICT	Grand Targhee Ski and Summer Resort - routes for all skill levels
	Packsaddle-Horseshoe Canyon System - east of Teton Valley for all levels of users
	Big Hole Mountains Trail System - east of Teton Valley; backcountry riding for all levels; scenic
WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT	Scout Mtn Area - high elevation backcountry with outstanding views; all user skill level trails
	Mink Creek Area - more gentle terrain not far from Pocatello; scenic area but receives heavy use
	Cherry Creek-Deep Creek areas - east of Malad and west of Preston; backcountry riding for all skill levels
MONTPELIER RANGER DISTRICT	Midland Trail - east of St. Charles; backcountry with all skill levels connecting trails; views of Bear Lake
	Montpelier Creek - just east of Montpelier; various skill levels trails; scenic with chances to see wildlife
	Horse Basin - east of Mink Creek; loop trails; all user skill levels and access to Highline Trail
SODA SPRINGS RANGER DISTRICT	Trail Canyon area - east of Soda Springs; backcountry riding for all user skill levels
	Diamond Creek area - backcountry trails for all user skill levels; scenic with chances to see wildlife
	Caribou Mountain area - backcountry trails for all user skill levels; very scenic in historical area

It is critical that you obtain a **FREE Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)** from any Forest Service office to determine where you can ride. The QR code takes you to where maps are available online at [www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/). Also, please keep in mind that all equipment and riders must meet federal and state standards and regulations (noise levels, spark arrestors, rider's age, helmet requirements, and other restrictions).







# Winter Recreation

As heavy snow falls, a new world opens up for the winter enthusiast. If you enjoy downhill skiing, visit Pebble Creek, Kelly Canyon, or Grand Targhee Ski Areas. If you prefer cross-country skiing or just a casual snowshoe trip, the Caribou-Targhee has nearly unlimited resources.

## Cross-Country Skiing

A wide variety of groomed trails are available throughout the forest with over 200 miles ranging from easy to difficult. Check out the table below. Some areas require a Park’n’Ski permit. Unlimited backcountry skiing is available in wilderness and non-wilderness areas.

	Trail or Area	Miles	Notes
DUBOIS RANGER DISTRICT	Stoddard Creek	3.2	Just off I-15 to Stoddard Creek Campground
ASHTON IP RANGER DISTRICT	Fall River Ridge	7.7	3 loops for beginners and intermediates
	Brimstone & Buffalo	20+	7 loops for all levels of skiers
	Canyon Rim, Bear Gulch, Mesa Falls	9.1	From Bear Gulch Trailhead to Upper Mesa Falls; 3 loops
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT	Buckskin Morgan Loop	3.2-5.0	Ungroomed, more difficult; wooded trail
	Hawley Gulch Overlook Loop	0.7	Groomed; easiest
	Morgan Summit	1.6	Groomed; more difficult
	Hawley Gulch Loop	4.5	Most difficult; mostly ungroomed
TETON BASIN RANGER DISTRICT	Teton Canyon	8.0	Easy; groomed for classic and skate skiing
	Grand Targhee Ski Area	9.3	Groomed for all levels of skiers; groomed for classic and skate skiing
	Forest Roads not plowed and Trails	many	All skill levels; not groomed. Snowmobiles are not allowed inside designated Wilderness
WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT	Mink Creek Cross-country Ski Area	20+	Fee area run by City of Pocatello Parks and Rec; many loop trails.
	Porcelain Pot	10+	Rated more difficult, but very popular and highly developed
	The Parity Trail	7-11	More difficult; connects Crystal Summit with Corral Creek
MONTPELIER RANGER DISTRICT	Bloomington Canyon	5-10	Yurt along side of groomed snowmobile trail
	Emigration Canyon	3-10	Opportunities along Hwy 36; easy ungroomed routes; parking
	Sherman Peak	6	There is a warming hut at the base of Sherman Peak
SODA SPRINGS RANGER DISTRICT	Trail Canyon	8	5 loops; easy; currently not groomed; has warming hut
	Bailey Creek	6 loops	Near Soda Springs; small telemark hills; not groomed
	Caribou Basin	Many	Caribou Mountain area; backcountry open skiing; warming hut

## Snowmobiling

If your thing is snowmobiling, then you can experience an endless supply of groomed and ungroomed trails and play areas. There are well over 1200 miles of groomed and marked snowmobile trails ranging from easy to more difficult. Likewise, a large number of special areas can be experienced along the trails. If you prefer the powder, head for the backcountry and snow-play areas.

	Notes
DUBOIS RANGER DISTRICT	The Dubois Ranger District, a landscape with a wide variety of snow conditions and outstanding scenery, has no groomed snowmobile trails but provides a multitude of opportunities for all riding skills ranging from the beginner running the existing road system to the expert exploring the backcountry.
ASHTON IP RANGER DISTRICT	Island Park has nearly 500 miles of trail systems - not to mention all the fresh powder off trail! Escape the crowds, and ride some of the best snow in the west. The more popular areas include Two Top Mountain, Big Springs, Upper Mesa Falls, Big Bend Ridge, Centennial Mountains on the Continental Divide, and the Ashton-Flagg Ranch road.
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT	There is something for all skill levels. Experienced riders can go to the Snake River Mountain Range for powder and unmarked slopes. Moderate riders can go the Big Hole Mountains for challenging slopes and groomed trails. For those wanting a more mild experience, visit the Caribou Mountains for the miles of groomed trails and unlimited number of play areas.
TETON BASIN RANGER DISTRICT	With multiple access points to the Big Hole Mountain Range and the Tetons, the District provides a variety of outstanding opportunities for snowmobiling. Contact us at 208-354-2312 for information concerning groomed routes, weather conditions, or anything else that will help you plan your trip.
WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT	With over 200 miles of groomed trails, there is plenty of access to a number of backcountry warming huts and yurts. Enjoy the fantastic opportunities of the Mink Creek, Corral Creek, Summit Creek, Wright Creek, and Pebble areas. Try an overnight excursion to Elk Meadows and South Toponce warming huts or any of the two Guard Stations open for year-round rental through the National Recreation Reservation System.
MONTPELIER RANGER DISTRICT	There are about 260 miles of groomed trails served by 17 trailheads between Montpelier and Soda Springs Districts with warming shelters in Horseshoe Basin, Trail Canyon, Diamond Creek and Caribou Basin. Sno-West magazine rates the cache portion of the districts as one of the five best rides in the west.
SODA SPRINGS RANGER DISTRICT	There are endless opportunities over forest roads and the backcountry. Trails often are not groomed and free warming huts are in some areas. Cabins can be reserved for overnight use for a fee through <a href="http://www.rec.gov">www.rec.gov</a> . Popular areas include Diamond Creek, Trail Canyon, Harrington Peak near Soda Springs, Caribou Basin, and Caribou Mountain near Greys Lake Wildlife Refuge. Enjoy a wild and beautiful backcountry adventure!

Call the Jackson Hole Avalanche Center for updated weather and avalanche information. The daily advisories cover the Teton and Southwest Trails/Greys River areas. Advisories can be heard by calling 307-733-2664 or accessed at: [www.jhavalanche.org](http://www.jhavalanche.org).

Call the Gallatin National Forest Avalance Center (GNFAC) at 406-587-6981 or visit their website at: [www.mtavalanche.com](http://www.mtavalanche.com). The GNFAC covers the Bridger, Gallatin, Madison, and Washburn Ranges, and the Lionhead area near West Yellowstone.

Call the Utah Avalanche Center at 801-254-5304 or visit [www.utahavalanchecenter.org](http://www.utahavalanchecenter.org). This center covers the Bear River, Pocatello, and Malad areas (southern Idaho and northern Utah).



Weasel in its winter-white coat





# Know Before You Go

## Be Bear Aware!

Seeing a 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. Do not leave garbage around your campsites - especially overnight.
- Never put food scraps in the campfire—it attracts bears and skunks.
- Don't keep food, 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.

Since bears may frequent campgrounds, bear-proof dumpsters are placed in many campgrounds. Dispose of all garbage in these dumpsters.

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)

## Safety

### Plan Ahead

Tell someone where you are going, when you expect to return, and what they need to do if you don't return. For safety don't hike alone.

Cellular phones often have sporadic or no reception in some areas of the forest.

If you get lost or become disoriented, stay calm and stay put! Wait for help to arrive.

Keeping warm is more important than finding food and water.

As a last resort, follow a drainage or stream downhill. This will often lead to a trail or road.



### Storms

Storms form quickly in the mountains. Lightning storms are common in the summer. Snow can occur year-round at higher elevations.

Check the weather before heading out at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).

Bring clothing for all weather conditions — raincoats, fleece, or wool.

Avoid afternoon summer storms by heading out early and getting off mountain peaks and high points before storms arrive. If you see a storm approaching, get off of high points or away from lone trees or large rocks.

If you are caught in a lightning storm, remove your pack and crouch with your hands on your knees until the worst has passed.

Use caution crossing or parking in dry streambeds and low areas; sudden storms may cause flash floods.

Spotted knapweed  
(© John Cardina)



Dalmatian toadflax  
(© Bob Nowierski)

## 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.

For more information, visit:  
[www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ctnf/)

tread lightly!®  
LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



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.





# Caribou-Targhee NATIONAL FOREST

Other forest visitor guides available at:  
[www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r4/rec\\_publications](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r4/rec_publications)



## Your Fees at Work

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

- \* New wood stove installed at Warm River Cabin
- \* Campground maintenance and operations
- \* New stain and paint on Mesa Falls Visitor Center
- \* Bear food storage lockers installed in campgrounds within grizzly bear habitat
- \* New pavilion at Cub River Guard Station
- \* Forest trail maintenance, bridge replacement, and other improvements on forest trails
- \* Eightmile Guard Station rental renovations
- \* Addition of Al Taylor Cabin to rental system
- \* Removal of graffiti from Spring Creek Boat Ramp facility
- \* This Visitor Guide



Cub River Pavilion

Spring Creek  
Graffiti

### Volunteering on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest

The Forest Service Volunteer Program on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is very active. The jobs are exciting and diverse, scenery is exceptional and coworkers are friendly. For more information, contact any Forest Service Office, or visit [www.volunteer.gov/gov](http://www.volunteer.gov/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.

Purchase your pass in any Caribou-Targhee National Forest office and 80% of the proceeds stays on the forest! Or purchase online at : <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html>

**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 and river fees.

#### Access Pass - Free

Available to US citizens that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability. Good for a 50% discount on camping fees.

#### Military Pass - Free

For active military personnel and their dependents.

#### Volunteer Pass - Free

For volunteers with over 250 volunteer hours.

#### 4th Grade Pass- Free

Available to 4th graders who bring a paper pass from Every Kid in a Park website. <https://www.everykidinapark.gov>

#### Senior Pass - \$10.00

Available to US citizens 62 years and older. Good for a 50% discount on camping fees.

#### Annual Pass - \$80.00

Annual Passes cover entrance fees for federal lands such as National Parks and special areas but does not cover camping discounts, river use fees, or cabin rental fees.



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

## Contact Information

### Forest Supervisor's Office

1405 Hollipark Drive  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401  
(208) 524-7500

District Ranger  
Westside Ranger District  
Pocatello Office  
4350 Cliffs Drive  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204  
(208) 236-7500

District Ranger  
Dubois Ranger District  
PO Box 46  
Dubois, Idaho 83423  
(208) 374-5422

District Ranger  
Montpelier Ranger District  
322 North 4th Street  
Montpelier, Idaho 83254  
(208) 847-0375

District Ranger  
Ashton-Island Park Ranger District  
46 Hwy 20  
Ashton, Idaho 83420  
(208) 652-7442

District Ranger  
Soda Springs Ranger District  
410 East Hooper Avenue  
Soda Springs, Idaho 83276  
(208) 547-4356

District Ranger  
Palisades Ranger District  
3659 E. Ririe Hwy  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401  
(208) 523-1412

District Ranger  
Teton Basin Ranger District  
515 S. Main St.  
Driggs, Idaho 83422  
(208) 354-2312



South Fork of Snake River

### Eastern Idaho Visitor Center

425 N. Capitol Ave., Idaho Falls, ID 83402

BLM: (208) 523-1012

Chamber of Commerce: (208) 523-1010

