

# NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service  
Caribou-Targhee National Forest  
1405 Hollipark Drive  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**Date:** March 19, 2008  
**08-05**

Contact: Lynn Ballard (208) 557-5765  
Mark Orme (208) 557-5785

## **Expanded Food Storage Order on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest**

**Eastern Idaho:** Caribou-Targhee National Forest managers will implement an expanded food storage order (FSO) this year. The expanded order is intended to reduce adverse human-grizzly bear interactions, thereby promoting human safety and the protection of bears and other wildlife species at locations in the Targhee National Forest. The boundary of the expanded food storage order is described as: The Teton Basin Ranger District along the westslope of the Teton Mountain Range, east and north of Idaho State Highway 33 and north of Wyoming State Highway 22, National Forest land on all of Ashton/Island Park Ranger District and National Forest land on the Dubois Ranger District east of Interstate 15.

Caribou-Targhee NF managers have been informing forest users of the new order for the past two seasons (2006-07). In order to implement the expanded FSO the forest has installed infrastructure (such as bear resistant garbage dumpsters or food storage boxes) at designated developed recreation sites. The Forest has been working with partners, user groups, elected officials and employees on an information and education campaign regarding the new food storage order in order to be ready for successful implementation.

(more)

The new food storage order will focus on reducing adverse conflicts between humans and grizzly bears. The order will be implemented in March 17, 2008 and will be in effect from March 1 until December 1 on an annual basis. The order will also benefit other wildlife species such as black bears.

Portions of the Targhee National Forest, primarily the Dubois and Ashton/Island Park and Teton Basin Ranger Districts on the northern end of the Forest, have been covered by a food storage order since 1985, then expanded in 2001. The current order requires that unattended food, refuse, and attractants be stored in hard-sided vehicles or bear-resistant containers, or hung above the ground out of the reach of bears. Food, refuse, and attractants are defined as anything that may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal. Examples of these items include human food, deodorant, toothpaste, cosmetics, garbage, lotions, game carcasses, pet/livestock food, empty and full food and beverage containers, etc.

The order defines appropriate methods for acceptably storing and acceptably possessing food, refuse and other attractants, including animal carcasses (i.e., electric fencing, hard-sided vehicles, hanging from a tree, use of Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee bear-resistant containers, and appropriate methods for burning garbage). Individuals who do not comply with the new food storage order can be fined.

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest is one of six National Forests in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) that has a food storage order in place. (Other GYA Forests include the Custer, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Shoshone, Gallatin, and Bridger-Teton National Forests).

Maps of the food storage order can be downloaded off the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/>. Look for Expanded Bear Food Storage Order Coming in 2008 on the front page.