

Boise National Forest Recreation Niche

05/10/2006

Marketing Phrase: Backyard Mountain Escapes

Emphasis Statement: From crashing whitewater, vast reservoirs, hot spring pools, and alpine lakes, to rolling arid landscapes and lush green mountains, the Boise NF is the recreational backyard for Treasure Valley and closely surrounding communities. This year-round escape from crowds and valley heat is a haven for residents seeking water-based activities, hunting, scenic driving, and motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities. As winter blankets the landscapes with snow, skiing, snowmobiling, snow-shoeing, and undeveloped snowplay are enjoyed. Partners and visitors engage in opportunities to understand and appreciate the historic and natural resources of the Forest.

Settings, Special Places, and Values

Forest Overview: The mountainous landscape is dissected by major river systems including the Boise, Salmon, and the South and Middle Fork drainages of the Payette River. The Forest's water resources are abundant as well as diverse. Whitewater rivers, lakes, reservoirs and hot springs are some of the water features explored and enjoyed by visitors. The Forest is easily accessed from roads and motorized trails with strategically placed facilities, including campgrounds, cabins, trailheads and boat launches to accommodate concentrations of use and the enjoyment of recreation equipment on water and land.

Water Based: Rivers, reservoirs, lakes and hot springs provide welcome relief from heat and crowds, and create diverse and unique settings for visitors to recharge. Some of the most scenic areas and vistas of the area are enjoyed from both waterways and roadways in this setting.

Undeveloped Recreation: Extensive, largely undeveloped landscapes encompass a large percentage of the Forest. These landscapes are composed mostly of large tracts of roadless areas. The primary infrastructure is the low density motorized travel route system, including a unique network of single track routes. Pockets of more remote settings are destinations to those seeking solitude and scenery. Destinations include high Alpine lakes and lush meadows, such as Bear Valley, Tyndell, and Stolle Meadows.

General Forest Area: This setting also covers a large percentage of the Forest with an extensive road system and evidence of management activities such as timber harvest and mining. The high level of roads provides extensive access for a wide array of recreation experiences where the sights and sounds of humans are readily evident and the interaction between users can range from low to high.

Urban Connection: Located at Boise's backdoor, this setting contains key destinations such as Bogus Basin Ski area, Payette River, Wildlife Canyon, and the Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byways, Idaho City and the South Fork of the Salmon River. Paved highways and high standard roads in these scenic corridors provide fast and easy access to popular recreation sites and experiences within highly scenic settings.

Destination Motorized: These strategically located areas serve as important motorized trail destinations. The system of motorized routes are maintained and managed to provide motorized road and trail experiences including loop opportunities and links to a larger system of long distance opportunities. Quality double and single track opportunities exist to separate uses and minimize conflicts between user groups.

Activities/Opportunities/Experiences

Forest Overview: The primary user of the forest comes from within 50 miles of the Forest. Recreation activities are typically day use with high levels of week-end overnight use as well. The Forest is known for its whitewater floating, boating, fishing, hunting, scenic driving, motorized trail use and winter activities. Camping occurs in both dispersed and developed sites. Efficient, aesthetic, overnight facilities are strategically placed to support day use activities and do not create unacceptable impacts to other resources. Winter activities occur in all settings as does hunting and fishing. Hot springs occur across the Forest, but are concentrated in river corridors.

Water Based: Fishing, rafting, kayaking, motorized boating, developed & dispersed camping, swimming, scenic driving.

Undeveloped Recreation: Dispersed camping, areas of non-motorized day use and overnight experiences, and designated routes for managed OHV use.

General Forest Area: Dispersed camping, hunting, fishing, and managed OHV use.

Urban Connection: Easily accessed downhill skiing, scenic driving, developed camping opportunities, and managed hot springs at a variety of development scales, and well located opportunities for interpretation & education.

Destination Motorized: Motorized trail networks that combine high quality riding experiences with high quality scenic settings.

Primary Visitors

Locals – within 50 – 80 miles