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The Bridge

Your Link to the
Bridger-Teton
National Forest



Welcome to the Bridger-Teton National Forest

Much of the grandeur that you've come to associate with northwest Wyoming is part of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Mountains, forests, lakes, and streams make up this 3.4 million acres of public domain. It's larger than the two adjacent national parks, Grand Teton and Yellowstone, combined! For many of you, the Bridger-Teton is the scenic backdrop you drive by, however, for thousands of outdoor enthusiasts the National Forest offers unlimited recreation opportunities.

As the name "Bridger-Teton" suggests, two national forests were administratively combined - the Bridger and the Teton - officially forming the The Bridger-Teton National Forest in 1973. The Bridger-Teton National Forest adjoins the Targhee, Shoshone, and Caribou National Forests, as well as Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. These are all part of the "Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem". This term is applied to the diverse habitats and ownerships in the three state area.

With your help, we can work together to manage and protect these lands. You can read more about the vital importance of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem inside *The Bridge*.

Bridger-Teton History

The Bridger-Teton National Forest, named for the famous trapper and guide Jim Bridger, encompasses three sides of Jackson Hole. The 40 mile-long valley was named for another early trapper, Davey Jackson. French-Canadian trappers dubbed the high peaks along the valley's west side, "Tetons." Portions of the present National Forest were preserved in 1891 in the Yellowstone Park Timber Land Reserve, the first National Forest reservation in the United States. President Theodore Roosevelt added millions of acres through Executive Orders, including the Wind River Range, the Wyoming Range, and tracts now in the Teton, Gros Ventre and Bridger Wilderness areas. It's no wonder Roosevelt was known as the

"Conservation President."

The present-day Bridger-Teton National Forest provides a multitude of outdoor recreation opportunities. There are three congressionally designated wilderness areas, plus other extensive undeveloped areas.

The most popular is the Bridger Wilderness, northeast of Pinedale. Its 428,169 acres includes Gannett Peak, the State's highest at 13,804 ft; seven of the largest glaciers in the lower 48 states and more than 1,300 lakes. Quite an attraction for campers, hikers, horseback riders, climbers and anglers!

The 585,468 acre Teton Wilderness, lying between Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, is famous for its wildlife and unique volcanic landscapes. Here, Two Ocean Creek divides, flowing into both Atlantic and Pacific drainages.



Jim Bridger

The 287,000 acre Gros Ventre (pronounced "Grow Vont") Wilderness has exceptional scenery with dense forests, open ridges and high peaks. You will delight in its numerous clear streams and abundant wildlife.

The Snake River, Hoback, Wyoming and Salt River Ranges offer plenty of outdoor recreational experiences including bicycling, camping, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling and scenic drives. You may even find more solitude in these less familiar areas than in designated wilderness.

Have we whetted your appetite? Great! Now, be prepared with the proper information and equipment. *The Bridge* is a good place to start. Enjoy your visit with us!

Sincerely,
The employees of the
Bridger-Teton National Forest



Wind River Range