

# Enjoying Your NATIONAL FOREST

## CAMPGROUNDS

There is no substitute for camping in a forest or meadow to feel part of the natural world. There are 45 developed campgrounds in the Bridger-Teton National Forest with tables, fireplaces and toilets. (Sorry, no hookups or showers). Camping fees range from free to \$15 per night depending upon services provided, and a \$5 fee for picnicking in certain campgrounds.

Reservations are accepted for campsites in the Jackson and Pinedale areas by calling (877)444-6777. There is a service charge in addition to the camping fee. Reservations must be made at least ten days in advance.

## FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED

Each Forest Service office has pamphlets which describe campgrounds and facilities accessible for people with disabilities.

## FEDERAL GOLDEN RECREATION PASSPORTS

U.S. citizens who are 62 years or older may purchase a lifetime Golden Age Passport for \$10. It allows the cardholder free admission to National Parks as well as discounted rates for camping in National Forests, National Parks and other Federal Recreation Fee areas.

U.S. citizens with proof of disability may obtain a free Golden Access Passport with the same benefits. For everyone else, there is a Golden Eagle Passport, a one-year \$50 entrance pass to federal recreation facilities which charge an entrance fee. The Golden Eagle Passport does not reduce use fees such as camping, swimming or boat launching.

All passports cover the passholder and accompanying passengers in a private vehicle or the immediate family when entry is not by private vehicle.

Passports are available at all Forest Service offices. The money collected is used to enhance recreational opportunities. It also helps in conserving the public lands, waters, and biological resources of our nation.

## DISPERSED CAMPING

Camping is free in the remote areas of the Forest as long as you select a site off Forest Service roads and outside developed campgrounds. Select a site at least 200 feet from water and at least 100 feet off roads or trails. This will protect water sources and give you and fellow recreationists more privacy.

There are limits on the number of days you may occupy a campsite. Check with the Forest Service office nearest where you plan to camp and discuss your plans with them.

## KEEPING CAMPSITES ATTRACTIVE

Picture yourself arriving at your long-awaited campsite. How would you like to find it? Clean, with no evidence of the last occupants? Possible *turn-offs* would be scattered trash or a fire ring piled high with ashes, dirt and unburned garbage. We suggest that you leave your campsite in better condition than you found it. Those who follow will thank you. The Forest Service cannot provide trash removal, so **if you pack it in, please pack it out.**

Through years of use campsites have become established in the most desirable locations. It is best to continue using these instead of making a new campsite in a pristine area.

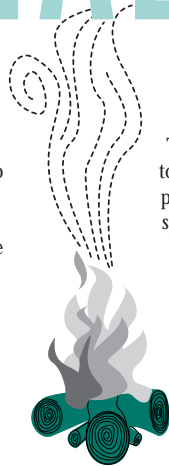
If you build a fire use an established fire ring only where, and when, open fires are permitted. Use small pieces of dead and down wood. Build only one fire and keep it small. The forest environment is fragile and wood supplies are scarce in high mountain basins. Never injure a living tree.

**Most important: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING YOUR FIRE UNDER CONTROL.** Open fires may be prohibited when the danger of wildfire is high. **To report a forest fire call (307)739-3630.**

Be sure your fire is out and the ashes cold when breaking camp. Remove any unburned trash such as foil, and take it with you.

Scatter the clean, cold ashes where they won't be seen. They will be absorbed into the soil without harm.

You can save yourself work by using a backpacking stove and practicing **minimum-impact** camping.



## FISHING

The excitement of catching a fish in the spellbinding landscape of the Bridger-Teton National Forest is a feeling you will never forget. Thousands of lakes and hundreds of miles of rivers and streams are open to fishing. You must obtain a fishing license before fishing; they can be purchased at any Wyoming Game and Fish Department office or most sporting goods stores.

Up-to-date information and regulations are available from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, P.O. Box 67, Jackson, Wyoming 83001. Yellowstone National Park requires its own permit which is available from Yellowstone visitor centers and ranger stations.

Cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish are found in most area waters. Grayling, rainbow trout, golden trout, brook trout and brown trout can also be found. Fishing season is open most of the year with restrictions on certain locations.

If you fish while camping, remember to clean the fish away from your campsite to avoid attracting bears. Puncture the air bladder and throw all remains into the water where they will become part of the aquatic foodchain.

## KEEPING THE WATERS CLEAN

Help maintain high quality lakes and streams for aquatic plants and animals. If you feel that you must use soap, use it far from any water source. Even biodegradable soaps used directly in lakes and streams pollute the water.



## FINDING SAFE DRINKING WATER

Water in many wild areas has, in spite of pristine appearances, been infected with a micro-organism called *giardia*. This parasite can cause severe abdominal cramps, diarrhea, and other unpleasant symptoms in people who drink infected water. For your safety we recommend that you carry at least 2 quarts of water. When you replenish your supply, use a good quality water filter, purification chemicals, or boil it for 10 minutes.

*Giardia* cysts are carried by beavers and other animals, including humans. For this reason, backcountry users should be extremely careful about human waste disposal. Dig a latrine at least 100 feet from any water source. It should be at least 8 inches deep. After use, the hole should be filled with soil. A sprinkling of leaves or needles will hide the spot and the wastes will be decomposed by soil bacteria. This same method also works for the disposal of wash water. A small trowel that fits conveniently into your pack can be a handy tool.

## PETS

Pets are welcome in National Forests, but not on National Park trails. However, you must have them under control. Dogs may spook horses and llamas; controlling your dog can avoid injury to horses, riders, and hikers. Be considerate of others and please do not leave pet waste on the trails.

## WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Any time you head into the backcountry leave an itinerary with a friend or other dependable person. If you don't return as planned, others need to know where to look for you. It is not wise to travel alone. If there is a visitor registration box at the trailhead, be sure to fill out the form. The information you provide is valuable and may save your life.

## COLLECTING ANTLERS

Elk, moose and deer shed their antlers each year. The popular activity of collecting them is permissible on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, but prohibited in the national parks and the National Elk Refuge.

Permits, available from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, are necessary if transporting antlers out of state, if they are to be sold, or if the antlers are still attached to the skull.

Some wildlife wintering areas on the Forest are closed from December through April to protect big game from human disturbance. Winter travel regulations are available from Forest Service offices.

Antlers left on the ground are not wasted; they are an important source of calcium for rodents which chew on them.