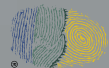




treadlightly!  
LEARNING A GOOD INVESTMENT



# IDAHO

Southwestern

# IDAHO

Southwestern

Explore, experience, and enjoy the . . .

BOISE NATIONAL FOREST



PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST



SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST



## Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests

From arid valley floors to majestic alpine peaks, visitors to the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests can explore, experience, and enjoy activities ranging from “wild” undeveloped backcountry to highly developed recreation resorts. These National Forests offer four seasons of recreation opportunities, limited only by a person’s time and interest. Seven million acres (2,834,008 hectares) of America’s finest public lands are contained within the borders of these three National Forests.



USDA Department of Agriculture • Forest Service  
Intermountain Region • Ogden, Utah

# Heritage resources . . . ties that bind

Waiting silently in the hollows, mountains, and river valleys of our National Forests are reminders of the centuries-old relationship between people and the land. Whether it is Native American paintings hidden deep in a rock shelter or a Forest Service lookout perched high on a mountain peak, these artifacts open windows on the past and doors to the future.

The Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests have a rich history of cultural diversity. Descendants of the Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock, and Shoshone-Paiute tribes were the first to call the mountains of southwestern Idaho home. Later, Lewis and Clark's explorations, Oregon Trail emigration, and gold discoveries brought people from all over the world to Idaho. In the 1870's, for example, Chinese immigrants comprised one-third of Idaho Territory's population.

During your journey through the National Forests, please take a moment to ponder the diverse peoples who were here before you. The remnants of their lives – the artifacts revealing their presence – make the past come alive and link us to contemporary cultural traditions. Help us protect and preserve this precious legacy for the enjoyment of future generations by leaving these artifacts undisturbed.



Centerville, one of many mining camps on the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests



Chinese miner, Rocky Bar



Civilian Conservation Camp, 1930s



Forest Service Lookout, 1937



Pictographs, Payette NF



Camping party, 1911



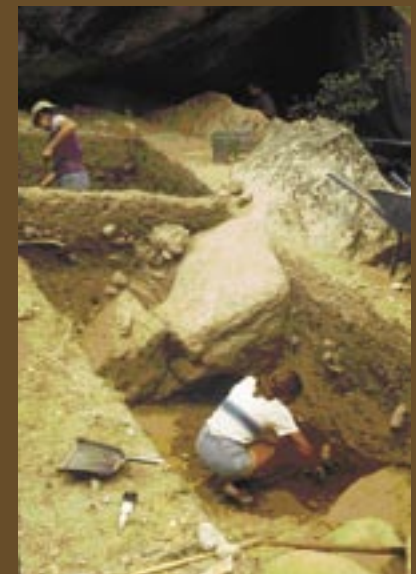
The horse-logging era



Polly Bemis, Idaho's most famous Chinese sojourner



To explore, experience, and enjoy the history of National Forests, join a Passport in Time (PIT) project. The PIT program gets the public involved with historic preservation projects on National Forests such as archaeological excavation, field survey, and historic structure restoration. Call: PIT Clearinghouse 1-800-281-9176 for information, or visit [www.passportintime.com](http://www.passportintime.com).



# A new awakening . . . experience the beauty

Fields of wildflowers across breathtaking vistas are dispersed throughout the extensive trail systems of the forests in southwestern Idaho. The elevation on the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests ranges from the rugged mountain peaks to high alpine meadows and crystal blue mountain lakes, down to deep river canyons and high desert landscapes. These vast, ever changing ecosystems offer recreation opportunities for everyone.



Carpet of wildflowers in highcountry meadow



Kayaker enjoying spring runoff



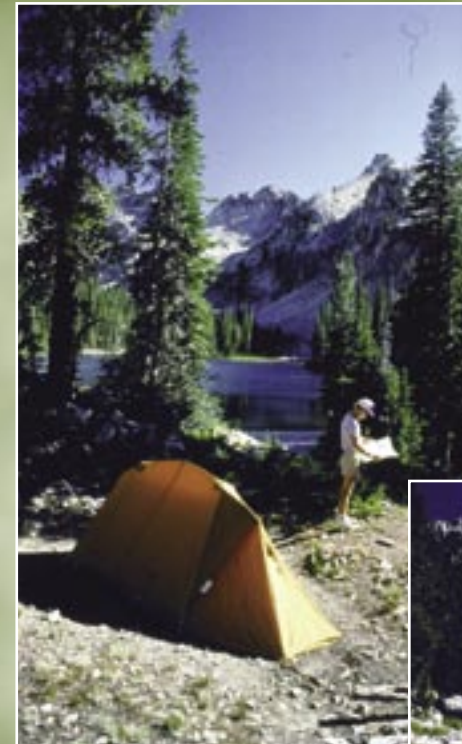
Shooting star in full bloom, Sawtooth NF



Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, Payette NF



Bighorn Bridge, Payette NF



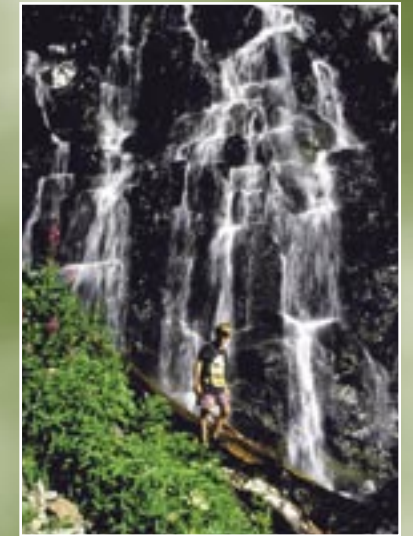
Camping at Alice Lake, Sawtooth NF



Fishing at Trinity Lakes, Boise NF



Lush meadow, Payette NF



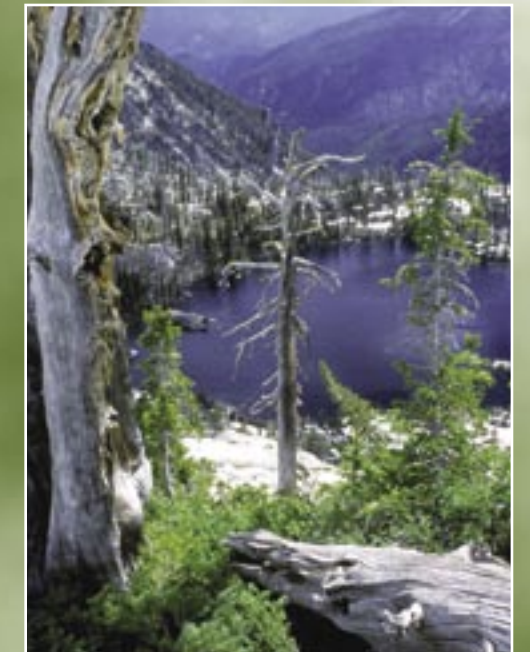
Hiker exploring waterfall, Payette NF



Paddlers enjoying an afternoon on Bull Trout Lake, Boise NF

# Under the warm sunshine . . . enjoy the opportunities

Visitors can take advantage of the long days of summer by enjoying a scenic drive, hiking, rafting, rock climbing, bird watching, or viewing other wildlife. Endless adventures await those who treasure the outdoors. While breathing in the ever-fresh air in southwestern Idaho, they may stay in a developed campground or in a rustic unimproved campsite or venture into the remote backcountry. By recreating with thoughtfulness and care, visitors can help protect the forest's unique natural resources.



High mountain lake, Payette NF

# Vibrant vistas . . . experience the change

Colorful panoramas fill the scenery on the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests during crisp autumn days. Trees and shrubs display a brilliant hue of colors enjoyed by those who participate in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities during the fall season.



Autumn view, Sawtooth NF



Aspen in their golden prime, Boise NF



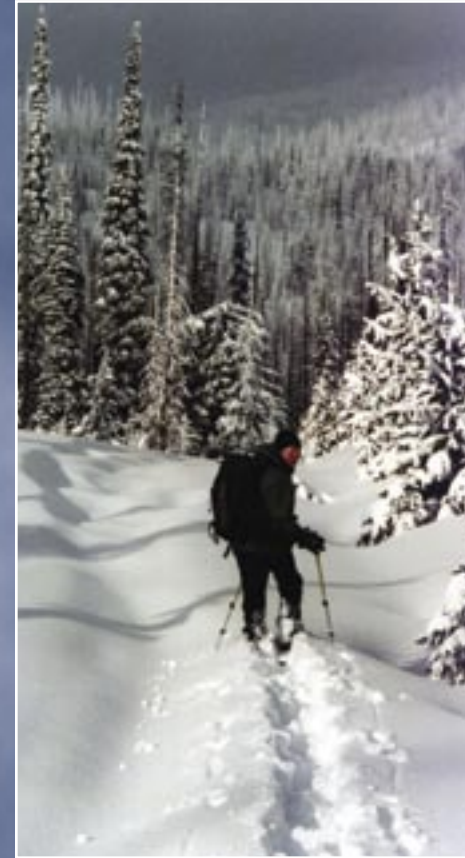
Fall explodes in Lick Creek Canyon, Payette NF



Hikers enjoy the fall sunshine, Sawtooth NF



Fall fishing on one of Idaho's many wild and scenic rivers, Payette NF



Showshoeing, Payette NF



Backcountry skiing, Boise NF



Snow sculpture at McCall, Idaho winter carnival



Majestic winter scene, Sawtooth NF



Enjoying the winter, Payette NF

# When the snow flies . . . explore the possibilities

Snow-clad evergreens against a skyline of whitened peaks set the stage for a wide variety of winter recreation pursuits. Winter enthusiasts enjoy snowmobiling, Nordic and alpine skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, klondike camping, ice fishing, and photography. While this is a beautiful time of year to visit the forests, visitors must be prepared for wintry conditions and avalanche danger.

# For more information

- Boise NF Visitor Center ..... 208-373-4007  
TDD 208-373-4265  
<<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/boise>>
- Payette NF ..... 208-634-0700  
TDD 208-634-0728  
<<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/payette>>
- Sawtooth NF ..... 208-737-3200  
TDD 208-737-3235
- Sawtooth National Recreation Area ..... 208-727-5013  
800-260-5970  
<<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth>>
- National Recreation Reservation Service Toll- Free 877-444-6777  
TDD 877-833-6777  
International 518-885-3639
- Bureau of Land Management ..... 208-373-4000  
<<http://www.id.blm.gov/>>
- Idaho Dept. of Parks & Recreation ..... 208-334-4199  
[www.idahoparks.org](http://www.idahoparks.org)  
<<http://www.idahoparks.org/>>
- Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game ..... 800-635-7820  
208-334-3700  
[www.state.id.us/fishgame/fishgame.html](http://www.state.id.us/fishgame/fishgame.html)  
<<http://www.state.id.us/fishgame/fishgame.html>>
- Idaho Dept. of Transportation ..... 208-334-8000  
[www.state.id.us/itd/itdhmpg.htm](http://www.state.id.us/itd/itdhmpg.htm)  
<<http://www.state.id.us/itd/itdhmpg.htm>>



South Fork of the Boise River



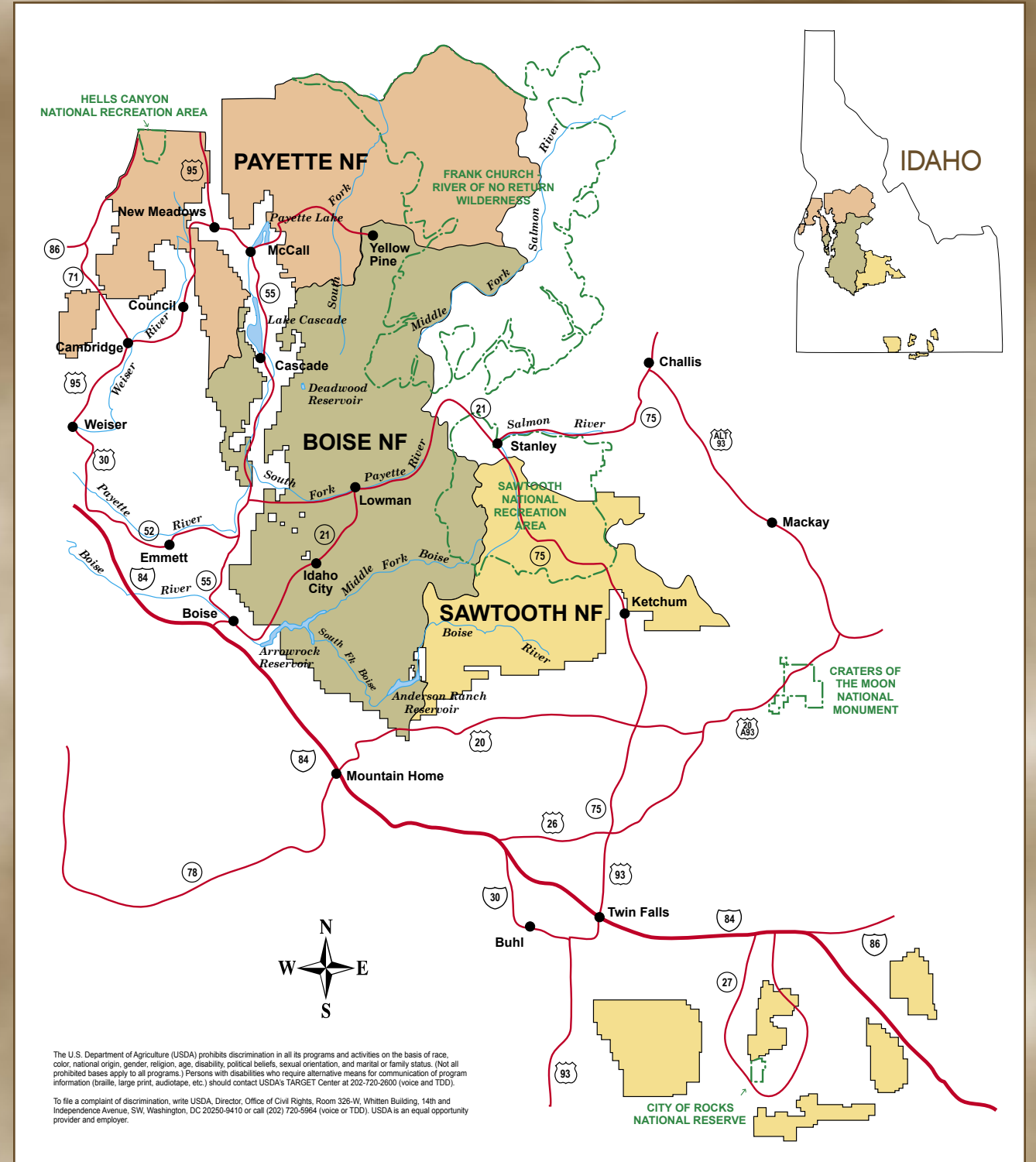
Mountain meadow wildflowers



Power Plant Campground

**Stay alert and drive with caution on mountain roads. Weather conditions, dust, potholes, ruts, sharp curves, and lack of visibility can be dangerous. Make sure your vehicle is designed for the kind of roads you will be traveling. Call ahead for road conditions.**

Some photos provided by David Ede, Ravi Miro Fry, Dale and Judy Russell, Karen Wattenmaker, and Idaho State Historical Society.



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# Explore, experience, and enjoy the Scenic Byways . . .

Taste the flavors of the National Forests in this corner of Idaho. Travel along the Scenic Byways that weave in and out of the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests. Within a few minutes of travel, visitors may find lush forests, deserts, clear mountain lakes, wild rivers, and abundant wildlife. There are many places along the way offering information about historic sites, side trips, and events. Self-guided audio tours are available for some of the routes.

While traveling the Scenic Byways, one will come upon overlooks, picnic areas, walkways, hiking trails, campgrounds, and restrooms. Best of all, these roads pass through some of the most breathtaking and intriguing landscapes in the west. Don't forget the camera. The opportunities to capture the flavor of this great land are virtually unlimited and will satisfy everyone's hunger to experience the outdoors.



Hells Canyon National Recreation Area



Upper Hazard Falls, Payette NF



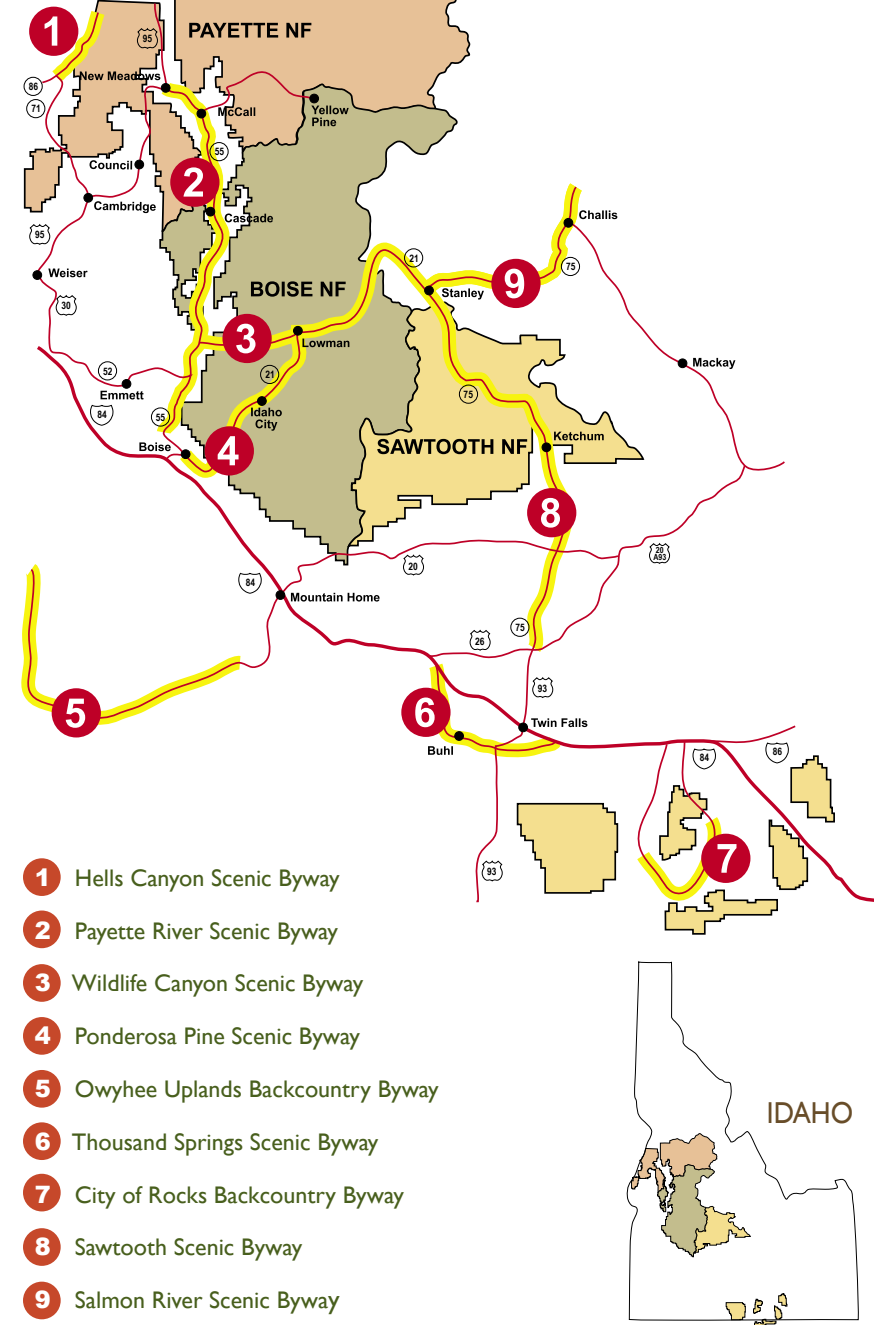
Pinnacle near Monumental Summit, Payette NF



## SCENIC BYWAYS

Regularly traveled major roads that offer unique combinations of recreational adventures and scenic attractions.

# Scenic Byways in southwestern Idaho



## TREAD LIGHTLY

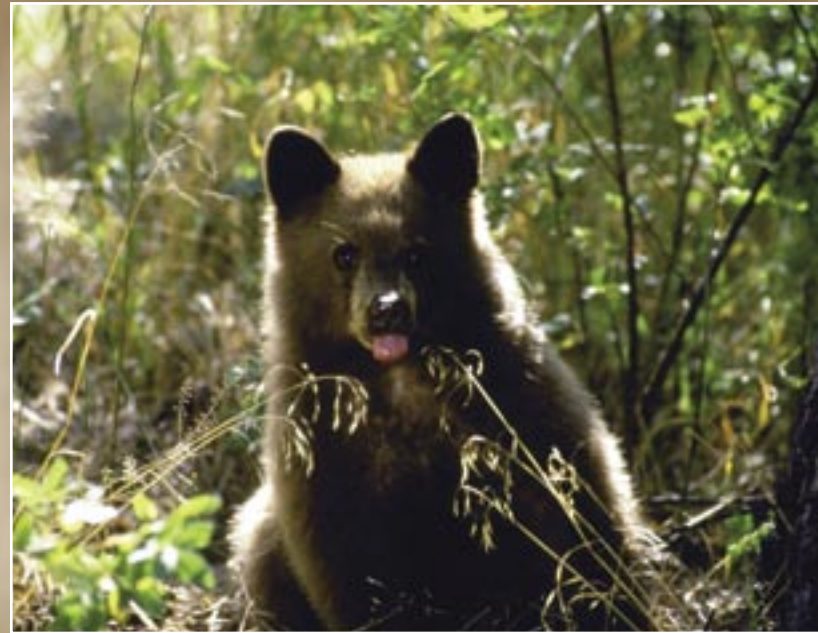
- Travel only where permitted and obey travel regulations.
- Respect the rights of others.
- Educate yourself about public and private land boundaries.
- Avoid non-durable surfaces, stream sides, and waterways.
- Drive your ATV safely and responsibly.

## SAFETY TIPS

- Avalanche hazards exist—check ahead for local conditions.
- Plan for variable weather.
- Respect wildlife—give them plenty of space.
- Carry drinking water and emergency rations.
- Plan travel route, call ahead for road conditions.
- Always confine, attend, and fully put out campfires.

# At home in the forest . . . enjoy the wildlife

A wide variety of wildlife such as moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, deer, mountain bluebirds, birds of prey, trout, and salmon make southwest Idaho their home. Seeing a wild animal in its natural environment can be an unforgettable experience. Visitors may come across young black bears eating berries in the summer or hear Rocky Mountain elk bugling in the fall. Always be aware, and give wildlife plenty of space to ensure personal safety.



A young bear enjoys the sunshine, Boise NF



Mule deer browse in open area, Boise NF



A sign denotes the presence of salmon in rivers of southwest Idaho



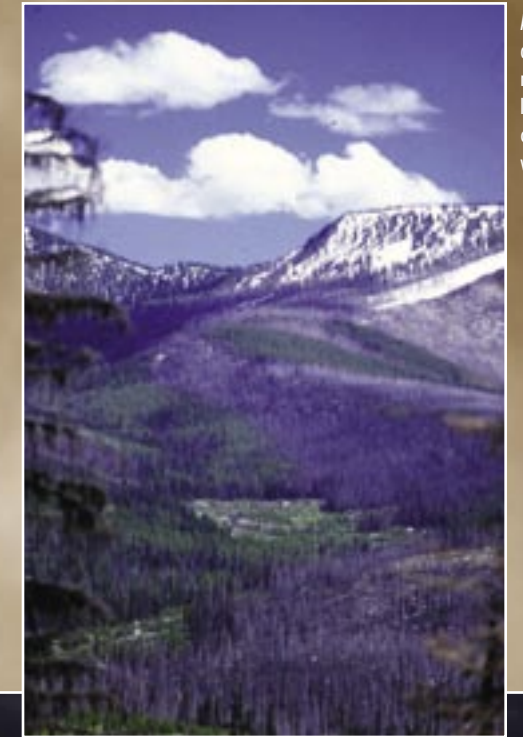
Elk feed in meadow, Payette NF



Two bighorn sheep nibble on grass, Payette NF



Wildfire burns through a mixed conifer forest, Boise NF



A beautiful view depicts the mosaic landscape created by wildfire



Aircraft and ground forces are available to aid in fire suppression efforts



A recently burned area is host to new lush vegetation

# Regeneration . . . experience new beginnings

Throughout history, lightning-ignited wildfire has helped shape the landscape of the forests in southwestern Idaho. Areas that appear to be devastated by wildfire soon give way to a panorama of new life. Burned areas become green and verdant with the growth of tender new grasses and shrubs that nourish wildlife. Fire cleansed landscapes provide opportunities for trees to mature with less competition.

# Explore, experience, and enjoy adventures in special places

Remote backcountry, challenging whitewater, natural hot springs, and historic structures are some of the unique features of the national forests in southwestern Idaho. This broad range of recreation opportunities entices visitors to explore further and define their own special places on the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests.

## Land that is Wild

Wilderness areas are lands set aside to preserve their wild, natural qualities where human development is limited or nonexistent. The quiet isolation of the untrammelled wilderness fuels the spirit. Hearty hikers can experience what it was like to tread across these lands since little has changed in the last century. Travel in wilderness areas is limited to foot or horseback.



Salmon River in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, Payette NF



Ten Lake Divide, Sawtooth NRA

## LEAVE NO TRACE

- Plan ahead and prepare properly.
- Camp and travel on durable surfaces.
- Pack out what you bring into the forests.
- Properly dispose of what you can't pack out.
- Leave natural things where and how you found them.
- Minimize the use and impact of campfires.



# National Recreation Areas

**National Recreation Areas (NRA)** are set aside to highlight and enhance different kinds of recreation. They also provide for the protection of the scenic and natural values that draw people to these areas. Two National Recreation Areas are located in southwestern Idaho:

- **Hells Canyon NRA** surrounds the deepest gorge in North America. The dry, barren desert-like river bottom climbs steeply to towering, forested peaks some 7,000 feet above. The extremes in elevation create a diverse community of plants and animals, including some plant species found nowhere else on earth!

- **Sawtooth NRA** was established not only because of its outstanding recreation and scenic beauty, but to preserve historic properties and the wildlife habitat within its boundaries. Four mountain ranges cross the Sawtooth NRA enhancing the natural beauty and diversity: Sawtooth, Boulder, White Cloud, and Smoky.



Enjoy a soak at Kirkham Hot Springs! Southwest Idaho is dotted with natural hot springs. Water heated in the earth's interior breaks through the crust creating special places for relaxation.



Experience the past with a stay in a rustic ranger's cabin. In the old days, forest rangers lived and worked in the forests they patrolled. Some of their remote, rustic cabins are available for rent.