
Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release

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Forest Service Adopts New Cabin Reservation System

Starting February 1, 2006, the Forest Service will use a new phone and on-line reservation system to help people enjoy the popular recreation rental cabins and one fire lookout on the Gallatin National Forest. By going to a national reservation system, the Forest Service will offer expanded and streamlined services for cabin users.

Instead of making reservations at a Ranger District office, people will be able to reserve a cabin up to 180 days in advance, and check on the availability of cabins, by calling a toll free number, **1-877-444-6777**, seven days a week, **or** by using the website, www.reserveusa.com, 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. All existing cabin reservations will be honored.

In addition to the nightly cabin rental fee of \$20 to \$50 (depending on the cabin), a \$9.00 fee will be charged for each reservation. Reservations can be secured with a major credit card or cashier's check. Refunds, cancellations and date changes will still be available, for an administrative fee of \$10.00.

Reservations for Gallatin National Forest cabins must be made through this new national service at least 3 days in advance of the date of arrival.

Cabins that are not reserved through the national system will then be made available at ranger district offices on a "first-come / first-served basis", up to three days



10 East Babcock Ave., PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

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in advance. Jane Ruchman, Recreation Program Manager, emphasized: “We are aware that some recreation enthusiasts enjoy spontaneously deciding to stay in a cabin, especially when the weather forecast looks great for a full moon night.”

To book a specific cabin on a “first-come / first-served” basis, call or come in to the ranger district office that manages the cabin. If the cabin is open for that night or the next 2 nights, the rental fee can be paid directly to the Forest Service with no additional reservation fee.

Many rental cabins on the Gallatin National Forest are historic, former Forest Service ranger stations or fire lookouts. Rental fees will continue to be used by the Forest Service to manage and maintain these historic cabins.

The Gallatin National Forest website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/> (click on “Recreational Activities”) contains more information about each of the 22 rental cabins and one lookout, including locations, maps and photographs of the cabin. A free brochure is also available at all ranger district offices.

From now through January 12, 2006, the five district offices on the Gallatin Forest will continue to take cabin and lookout rental reservations. However, to transition to the new system, between January 13 and January 31, 2006, reservations can only be made for stays to be completed by February 1, 2006. For more information on existing or future reservations, please contact any of the Forest’s District Offices.

The Forest Service joins with the Bureau of Land Management, US Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service in offering “one stop shopping” for recreation reservations. There are currently over 1700 national locations listed with the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS), including campgrounds, cabins, and group sites. Campsites on the Bozeman and Livingston Ranger Districts are already available through this service.

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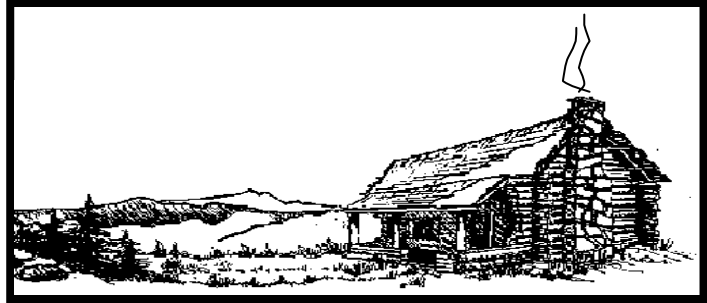
Editor’s Notes: Attached is a two-page Fact Sheet that further describes the new cabin reservation system, and a photograph of the Window Rock Cabin on Bozeman Ranger District.





GALLATIN
National Forest

RECREATION RENTAL CABINS



Starting February 1, 2006, advance reservations for the Gallatin National Forest rental cabins will no longer be taken through the Forest Service district offices. Instead, the National Recreation Reservation Service will be providing this service through their toll free number during the day and on their website 24 hours a day.

1-877-444-6777 (7 days a week, daytime)

www.ReserveUSA.com

All of these rustic cabins will continue to be managed by the Gallatin National Forest. Many of them are historic, former Forest Service ranger stations or fire lookouts. The rental fees will be used, as they are now, by the Forest Service to manage and maintain the cabins. The Forest website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/> has information about the rental cabins and a free brochure is available at all district offices.

With this new reservation system:

- Reservations may be made up to 6 months in advance
- Cabins must be reserved more than 3 days in advance of the stay
- There will be a \$9 administrative reservation fee
- Refunds will be available up to 14 days prior to the stay (\$10 administrative fee)
- Refunds after 14 days prior to the stay will be available (\$10 administrative fee and forfeiture of the first night's rental fee)
- Dates may be changed (\$10 administrative fee)

Gallatin NF cabins will also be available on a last-minute walk-in, first-come / first-served basis up to 3 nights in advance. To book a cabin on a first-come / first-served basis, call or come in to the Gallatin National Forest district office that manages the cabin. If the cabin is open for that night or the next 2 nights, the rental fee is paid directly to the Forest Service with no additional administrative reservation fee.



The Forest Service, along with other Federal agencies, is taking part in the President's E-Gov Recreation One-Stop Initiative to offer one-stop shopping to the public for a wide range of federal recreation areas and facilities. Some campsites on Bozeman and Livingston Districts are already available for reservation through this service.

MAKING A RESERVATION FOR A FOREST SERVICE CABIN BETWEEN JANUARY 12, 2006 AND FEBRUARY 1, 2006

To allow for the two week transition to the new National Recreation Reservation Service, between January 12 and February 1, 2006, each Gallatin National Forest district office will continue to take reservations for Forest Service rental cabins, but only for stays that are completed by February 1, 2006.

IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A RESERVATION FOR A GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST CABIN FOR DATES AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2006:

Your reservations are still valid. If you have any questions or would like to make any changes in an existing reservation that you made through a Gallatin National Forest district office, you must contact that district office. Please do not contact the National Recreation Reservation Service if you originally made your reservation through a Forest Service office.



MAKING A RESERVATION AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2006

- For cabin reservations more than 3 nights in advance, call or go on-line:

1-877-444-6777 (7 days a week, daytime)	www.ReserveUSA.com

- For last-minute, first-come / first-served walk-in booking up to 3 nights in advance, call or go to the Gallatin National Forest district office that manages the cabin.



Window Rock Cabin, Bozeman Ranger District

