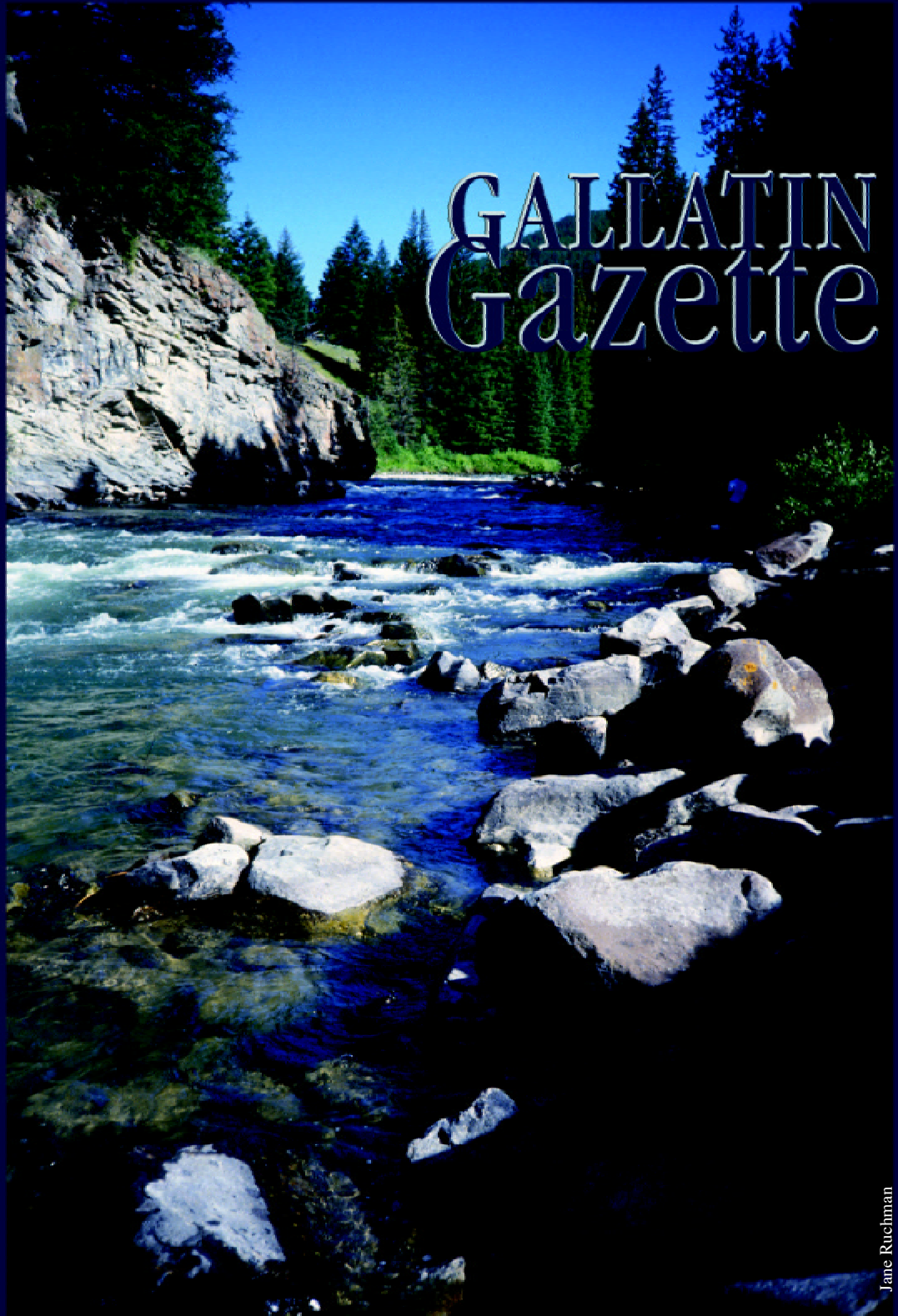




Inside:

Bears	11
Camping.....	5
Fire	10
Fishing.....	11
Hiking	6
Maps.....	4
Rental Cabins ...	3
Scenic Drives.....	8
Wilderness.....	12



Jane Ruchman

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST OFFICES

Forest Website:
www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin

Big Timber Ranger Station

Highway 10 East
PO Box 1130
Big Timber, MT 59011-1130
(406) 932-5155 (TDD also)
Bill Avey, District Ranger

Bozeman Ranger Station

3710 Fallon Street, Suite C
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 522-2520 (TDD also)
Jose Castro, District Ranger

Gardiner Ranger Station

Highway 89 South
PO Box 5
Gardiner, MT 59030
(406) 848-7375 (TDD also)
Ken Britton, District Ranger

Hebgen Lake Ranger Station

Highway 191
PO Box 520
West Yellowstone, MT 59758
(406) 823-6961 (TDD also)
Bill Queen, District Ranger

Livingston Ranger Station

5242 Highway 89 South
Livingston, MT 59047
(406) 222-1892 (TDD also)
Ron Archuleta, District Ranger

Forest Supervisor's Office

10 East Babcock Avenue
PO Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 587-6701
Becki Heath, Forest Supervisor

Earthquake Lake Visitor Center

(406) 682-7620
Highway 287
PO Box 520
West Yellowstone, MT 59758
Open May 28 - September 5
8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily
Fee: \$3 per car

Welcome

to the Gallatin National Forest

With its snow-covered mountain peaks and internationally known "blue ribbon" trout streams, the Gallatin National Forest is a popular recreation area in Montana's Northern Rockies. Established in 1899, the Gallatin is part of the Greater Yellowstone Area, the largest intact ecosystem in the continental United States. This 1.8-million acre Forest spans six mountain ranges and includes two Congressionally-designated Wilderness areas, the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. The Gallatin National Forest provides habitat for a full complement of native fauna, including four federally listed threatened species - the grizzly bear, gray wolf, bald eagle, and the Canada lynx.

As stewards of the Gallatin National Forest, my staff and I are responsible for ensuring the health and sustainability of these resources for generations to come. We recognize the unique local, national, and global significance of the Gallatin's resources - its remarkable wildlife and wildland values, unique geological features, and aquatic and fisheries resources. My staff and I are committed to professional credibility and decision-making logic that is supported with on-the-ground knowledge. We also believe that a broad spectrum of recreation opportunities is appropriate in the National Forest within the capability of the land.

The Gallatin National Forest is a special place, indeed. We invite you to come and explore this marvelous treasure and discover, for yourself, all that it has to offer.



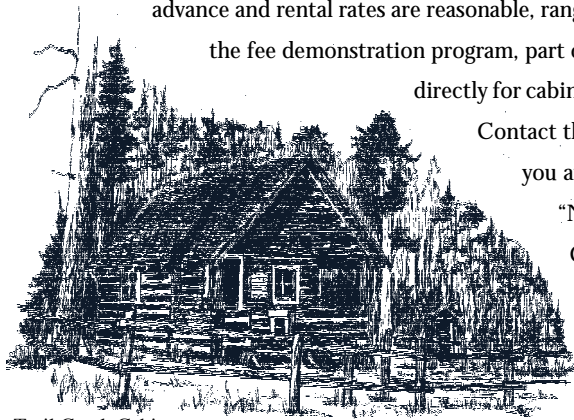
Becki Heath
Forest Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becki Heath".

Rental Cabins

Spend a day or two at one of these rustic log cabins tucked away in the Gallatin National Forest. Experience how forest rangers might have seen things in the early days. Mostly built in the early 1900s as field quarters, these cabins now offer visitors a unique recreational experience.

Accommodations are generally primitive, varying from cabin to cabin. It is possible to drive to many of these cabins, while some are accessible only by trail. Permits must be obtained in advance and rental rates are reasonable, ranging from \$20-50/night. Through the fee demonstration program, part of the rental revenue is used directly for cabin maintenance and improvements.



Trail Creek Cabin


Contact the ranger districts listed below if you are interested, or refer to the “Northern Region Recreational Cabin and Lookout Directory” for information on other opportunities.

Refer to map on following page.

Fire Season Restrictions

When the “Gallatin Gazette” goes to print in late spring, we often don’t know what kind of a fire season that we’re going to have later in the year. So....if you’re a visitor to the Gallatin National Forest during the summer/fall months, a good rule-of-thumb is to check with one of our ranger stations to see if there are any special restrictions in effect because of fire danger.

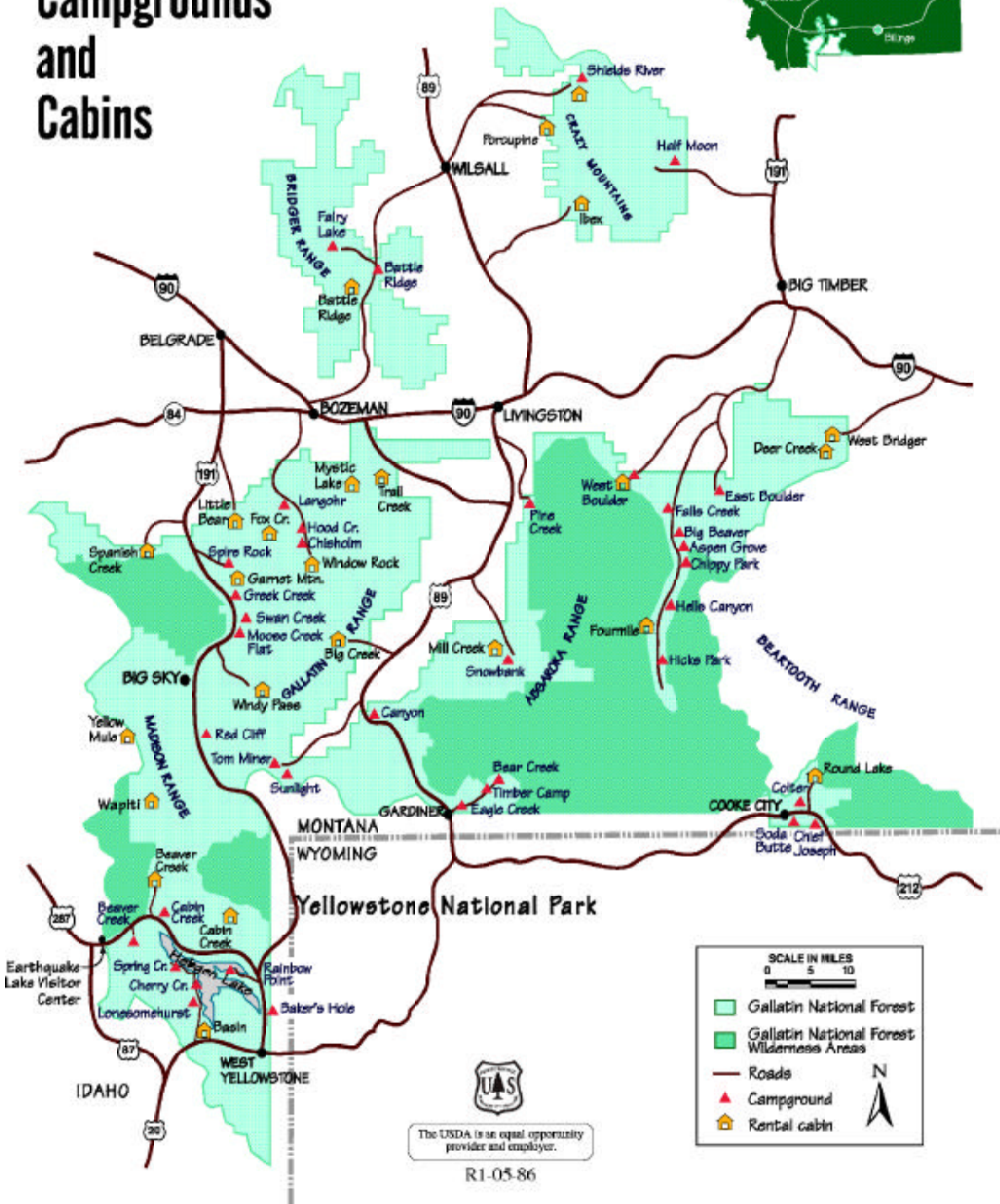
Thanks for taking this extra step – we appreciate your cooperation!

NAME	COMMENTS	PERMITS/INFORMATION
Basin Station Cabin	Summer road access, 4 people	Hebgen Lake Ranger District
Battle Ridge Cabin	Summer road access, 4 people	Bozeman Ranger District
Beaver Creek Cabin	Summer road access, 4 people	Hebgen Lake Ranger District
Bennett Creek Guard Station	Summer road access-high clearance, 5 people	Livingston Ranger District
Big Creek Cabin	Summer road access, 11 people	Livingston Ranger District
Cabin Creek Cabin	Trail access only, 4 people	Hebgen Lake Ranger District
Deer Creek Cabin	Trail access only, corrals, 4 people, woodstove	Big Timber Ranger District
Fourmile Cabin	Road access, 4 people, refrigerator, lights, electric stove	Big Timber Ranger District
Fox Creek Cabin	Non-motorized trail access only, 2 people	Bozeman Ranger District
Garnet Mountain Lookout Cabin	Trail access only, 4 people	Bozeman Ranger District
Ibex Cabin	Summer road access-high clearance, 4 people	Livingston Ranger District
Little Bear Cabin	Summer road access, 4 people	Bozeman Ranger District
Mill Creek Guard Station	Road access, 4 people, stove, lights, wood stove	Livingston Ranger District
Mystic Lake Cabin	Non-motorized trail access only, 4 people	Bozeman Ranger District
Porcupine Cabin	Summer road access-high clearance, 8 people	Livingston Ranger District
Round Lake Cabin	Summer road access-very high clearance, 4 people	Gardiner Ranger District
Spanish Creek Cabin	Summer road access, 4 people	Bozeman Ranger District
Trail Creek Cabin	Trail access only, 4 people	Livingston Ranger District
Wapiti Cabin	Winter use only, trail access, 4 people	Hebgen Lake Ranger District
West Boulder Cabin	Summer road access, 5 people, refrig., lights, electric stove	Big Timber Ranger District
West Bridger Cabin	Road access, 4 people, horse facilities	Big Timber Ranger District
Window Rock Cabin	Summer road access, 4 people 	Bozeman Ranger District
Windy Pass Cabin	Summer/fall trail access only, 4 people	Bozeman Ranger District
Yellow Mule Cabin	Trail access only, 2 people	Bozeman Ranger District

GALLATIN National Forest

Campgrounds and Cabins

MONTANA



SCALE IN MILES
0 5 10

- Gallatin National Forest
- Gallatin National Forest Wilderness Areas
- Roads
- Campground
- Rental cabin

N
↑



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

R1-05-86

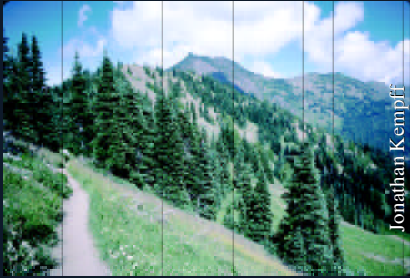
Let's Go Camping

Campgrounds are scattered all across the Gallatin National Forest. Fees at most developed campsites range from \$5-13, per vehicle, with camping limited to 16 days at one spot. Group sites are available at some campgrounds. (Backcountry camping opportunities are virtually unlimited; however, the 16-day stay limit at any one spot still applies.)

Most campgrounds are operated on a first-come, first-served basis; however, it is possible to make reservations at some campgrounds (see chart below). For reservations, please call 1-877-444-6777 (TDD 1-877-833-6777) or go to www.reserveUSA.com on the internet. For more detailed campground information, pick up the "Gallatin National Forest Campground and Picnic Guide," available at no charge at our ranger stations.

NAME / LOCATION	Approx. Season	Units	Water	Fee	Res.
Aspen Grove – 25 mi. SW of Big Timber on US 298, 8.5 mi. S on Cty. Rd. 212	All year	8	June-Sept.	X	
Baker's Hole – 3 mi. N of West Yellowstone on US 191	5/1 – 10/1	72	X	X	
Battle Ridge – 22 mi. N of Bozeman on MT 86	5/15 – 9/15	12			
Bear Creek – dispersed site – 5 mi. NE of Gardiner on Jardine Rd., 5.5 mi on Forest Rd.493	6/15 – 10/31				
Beaver Creek – 8 mi. N of West Yellowstone on US 191, 16 mi. W on US 287	6/15 – 9/5	64	X	X	
Big Beaver – 25 mi. S of Big Timber on US 298, 8 mi. S on Cty. Rd. 212	All year	5			
Cabin Creek – 8 mi. N of West Yellowstone on US 191, 14 mi. W on US 287	5/28 – 9/15	15	X	X	
Cherry Creek – dispersed site – 8 mi. W of West Yellowstone on US 20, 6 mi. N on Hebgen Lake Rd.	5/28 – 9/15				
Canyon – 17 mi. N of Gardiner on US 89	All year	12			
Chippy Park – 25 mi. S of Big Timber on US 298, 9.5 mi. S on Cty. Rd. 212	All year	7	June-Sept.	X	
Chisholm – 18 mi. S of Bozeman on Hyalite Canyon Rd.	5/13 – 9/24	10	X	X	X
Chief Joseph – 4 mi. E of Cooke City on US 212	7/1 – 9/15	6	X	X	
Colter – 2 mi. E of Cooke City on US 212	Closed 2005	23	X	X	
Eagle Creek – 2 mi. NE of Gardiner on Jardine Rd.	All year	12		X	
East Boulder – 19 mi. S of Big Timber on US 191, 6 mi. E on E. Boulder Rd.	All year	2			
Fairy Lake – 22.5 mi. N of Bozeman on MT 86, 5 mi. W on Fairy Lake Rd.	7/1 – 9/15	9	X		
Falls Creek - tents only – 25 mi. S of Big Timber on US 298, 5 mi. S on Cty. Rd. 212	All year	8	June-Sept.		
Greek Creek – 31 mi. S of Bozeman on US 191	5/13 – 9/29	14	X	X	X
Halfmoon – 11 mi. N of Big Timber on US 191, 12 mi. W on Big Timber Canyon Rd.	All year	12	June-Sept	X	
Hells Canyon – 25 mi. S of Big Timber on US 298, 15.5 mi. S on Cty. Rd. 212	All year	11			
Hicks Park – 25 mi. S of Big Timber on US 298, 21 mi. S on Cty. Rd. 212	All year	16	June-Sept	X	
Hood Creek – 17 mi. S of Bozeman on Hyalite Canyon Rd.	5/13 – 9/28	18	X	X	X
Langohr – 11 mi. S of Bozeman on Hyalite Canyon Rd.	5/13 – 9/28	10	X	X	X
Lonesomehurst – 8 mi. W of West Yellowstone on US 20, 4 mi. N on Hebgen Lake Rd.	5/1 – 10/1	26	X	X	
Moose Creek Flat – 32 mi. S of Bozeman on US 191	5/13 – 9/29	13	X	X	X
Pine Creek – 9 mi. S of Livingston on US 89, 6 mi. E on Pine Creek Rd.	5/20 – 9/26	25	X	X	X
Rainbow Point – 5 mi. N of West Yellowstone on US 191, 5 mi. NW on Forest Rd. 6954	5/1 - 10/1	85	X	X	
Red Cliff – 48 mi. S of Bozeman on US 191	5/13 – 9/29	63	X	X	X
Shields River – dispersed site - 28 mi. N of Livingston on US 89 to Wilsall, 24 mi. NE on Shields River Rd.	5/26 – 9/30				
Soda Butte – 1 mi. E of Cooke City on US 212	7/1 – 9/15	21	X	X	
Snowbank – 15 mi. S of Livingston on US 89, 12 mi. E on Mill Creek Rd.	5/26 – 9/6	11	X	X	X
Spire Rock – 26 mi. S of Bozeman on US 191, 2 mi. E on Squaw Creek Rd.	5/27 – 9/13	19		X	X
Spring Creek – dispersed site – 8 mi. W of West Yellowstone on US 20, 10 mi. N on Hebgen Lake Rd.	5/28 – 9/15				
Swan Creek – 32 mi. S of Bozeman on US 191, 1 mi. E on Swan Creek Rd.	5/13 – 9/29	13	X	X	X
Timber Camp – dispersed site - 5 mi. NE of Gardiner on Jardine Rd, 4 mi. on Forest Rd. 493	6/15 – 10/31				
Tom Miner – 20 mi. N of Gardiner on US 89, 12 mi. SW on Tom Miner Rd.	5/28 – 9/30	16	X	X	
West Boulder – 16 mi. S of Big Timber on US 298, 6.5 mi. SW on Cty. Rd 30, 8 mi. SW on W.Boulder Rd.	All year	10	June-Sept	X	

Sample Some Trails...



Bridger Foothills Trail

Jonathan Kempfi

Travel Management Planning

Recreation is the way most people use and enjoy their National Forests, and much of that use depends on some sort of travel mode. The Gallatin National Forest is in its third year of an ambitious travel management planning process, which will establish and identify future opportunities for public recreation and access using the Forest's road and trail system.

"Travel planning is necessary because our current travel plan is outdated. It does not address new direction and policy, including the 2001 State of Montana Off-Highway Vehicle decision," stated Becki Heath, Gallatin National Forest Supervisor. "We also want to provide better information for the public about what opportunities are available," she added.

Earlier this year, the Forest released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which includes a resource effects analysis for seven alternatives including a preferred alternative. We are asking for public review and comments on the Draft EIS; the newly expanded public comment period ends August 1, 2005. A final decision on travel management planning is expected to be made in 2006. For more information, please contact any one of our Gallatin National Forest offices.



Pine Creek Lake and Falls

Encircled by rugged Black Mountain, Pine Creek Lake sits high atop the Absaroka Range, just south of Livingston. This 10-mile round trip hike leads you past the cooling spray of Pine Creek Falls, then winds up the mountain along the cascading creek, revealing spectacular views of the Yellowstone River valley below. You will reach the aptly named Jewel Lake first, with the larger Pine Creek Lake just above. Fish the lake, camp, or enjoy a well-earned siesta before heading back down to beat the afternoon thunderstorms of hot summer days.

If you are short on time, let the thunder and mist of Pine Creek Falls refresh you after only one mile of walking along the shaded and flat forest floor.

To get there - Take the Pine Creek Road east from US 89, about nine miles south of Livingston. Six miles and a few turns later (follow the signs), you will be at the Pine Creek Campground, where the trailhead is located.

Trespass Trail to Campfire Lake

Jutting like incisors out of the plains of the Yellowstone River valley, the Crazy Mountains reward those who make the effort to explore them. The 6-mile trail begins with an easy grade, alternating between meadow and forest along Trespass Creek, then ascends up and over a high, rugged, and rocky divide before dropping sharply to the shores of Campfire Lake. Both hikers and horseback riders can enjoy this trail.

To get there - From I-90 east of Livingston, take US 89 north to Clyde Park. Just north of Clyde Park, turn east on Cottonwood Road and follow it almost 15 miles to the Cottonwood Trailhead. The mouth of Campfire Lake, at its east edge, is on private land. Please carry a map, as it is your responsibility to know and stay within public land boundaries.

West Boulder River and Meadows

Enjoy easy access into the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness as you hike or horseback ride on this wide, level trail. After only a couple of miles, the timber recedes as the country sprawls into vast

meadows laced with the West Boulder River. Relax, fish, explore the riverbanks, or keep on going - the trail will lead you another 13 miles to the river's headwaters at the base of the imposing Mount Cowen.

To get there - From Big Timber, take US 298 south 16 miles to McLeod. About a half-mile south of McLeod, turn right onto the West Boulder Road. Follow it southwest about 15 miles to the trailhead. There is plenty of parking, along with horse facilities. The first half-mile of trail crosses private land; please stay on the trail.

Upsidedown Trail to Horseshoe Lake

You will work hard to get there, but the grandeur of Horseshoe Lake on the edge of the lofty Lake Plateau is ample reward for your effort. The word is "climb," as this trail ascends from the Boulder River valley to Beartooth Mountain plateau in about 5 steep miles.

To get there - Take US 298 south from Big Timber for 25 miles, to where it becomes County Road 212, and go another 22 miles south to the trailhead.

Bear Creek Trail to Knox Lake

More enticingly named Castle Lake in years past, this wilderness lake nestled under the shoulder of Monitor Peak reflects its regal silhouette. Gradually climbing along the 4-1/2 mile trek to the lake, you will walk through forest and meadow, and cross back and forth across Bear Creek. A panful of little brook trout from this clear, cold lake makes a scrumptious meal.

To get there - From Gardiner, follow the Jardine Road five miles to the old mining town of Jardine. Take a sharp right across Bear Creek and follow the main road as it winds around the old mine site. Continue straight along Forest Road 493, another six miles to the trailhead.

Yellowstone River Trail

Descend into the Yellowstone River canyon. Skirt the river's sidehills and cliff banks and let the canyon winds embrace you as you travel into this high desert world. The Bear Creek bridge, about two miles out, is a great place for scrambling on rocks or playing in the sand, and makes a nice turn-around point for a short day hike.

To get there - From Gardiner, start up the Jardine Road. Take the first right on White Lane and park in the pull-off marked on the right-hand side. Walk along the fence to the trailhead at the edge of the canyon.

More Trails...

Lady of the Lake and beyond

Enjoy the shadowy depths of the mixed conifer forest for about two miles before you drop down into the Lady of the Lake basin. Pilot and Index Peaks pierce the skyline behind you, and Mount Zimmer looms ahead. Spend the rest of your time here, continue on to Zimmer Creek and Lake, or strike out for the breathtaking Aero Lakes. Beyond Lady of the Lake, the trail becomes more rugged and less well-marked; a good trail or topo map will help you reach your destination.

To get there - About 1-1/2 miles east of Cooke City on Highway 212, turn north onto the Lulu Pass road. After about 2 miles, cross the Fisher Creek bridge and park just beyond it at the Goose Lake jeep road junction. Just below the jeep road is another old road heading east. Walk along this road past the old mill foundations to the trail that heads off to your left.

Palisades Falls

Shady creekside spots and wide talus slopes lead to the rocky pools from the 80-foot cascade of Palisades Waterfalls. Here, 50 million years ago, lava from the surrounding Hyalite Peak and Blackmore Mountain volcanoes poured in, creating these sharp hexagonal pillars of columnar basalt around you. This 1/2-mile paved trail is rated as "difficult."

To get there - Head south from Bozeman on 19th Avenue, 10 miles to the Hyalite Canyon road. Follow this road another 13 miles and turn left just past Chisholm Campground towards the East Fork and Palisades recreation area. Another mile and you will be at the parking and picnic area.

The "M" Trail System

Muster your muscles and march to the "M." Built back in 1915 by Montana State University students, this marker is a symbol of loyalty and achievement. Several short hikes will take you up to the "M," an amazing overlook of the Gallatin valley, while the Bridger Foothills Trail flanks the west side of the Bridger Range 21 miles before crossing over Sacagawea Peak and dropping down to Fairy Lake.

To get there - Take Highway 86 northeast from Bozeman for about 10 miles. The parking area is on the left side, just across from the fish hatchery.

Coffin Lakes Trail

Traipse through the meadows of Watkins Creek on your way to the cold clear waters of Coffin Lakes, nestled high in the Madison Range. The rocky summits of Bald Peak and Lionhead Mountain towering above on the Continental Divide will lure you on. The last two miles of this five-mile trek are the most challenging, as here you climb steeply to the lake basin. Enjoy a welcome rest, relax, and explore these lakeshores before making your descent. A refreshing dip in Hebgen Lake on the way home might be just the ticket after a hot day of hiking.

To get there - From West Yellowstone, travel west on Highway 20 for six miles. Turn right on Denny Creek Road, follow it a little over 10 miles and park at the Watkins Creek trailhead on the left.

Rendezvous Ski & Summer Trail

A must for mountain bikers of all abilities, the Rendezvous Trail features gently rolling hills to challenging steep pitches winding through stately lodgepole pines. No chance of getting lost traveling these 25 miles of looped trails; there are maps at every junction. A great place for the whole family to enjoy, explore, and burn off some energy. A couple of businesses in West Yellowstone rent bicycles.

To get there - In West Yellowstone, park at the Rendezvous Ski Trail arch at the intersection of Geyser and Obsidian Streets on the south side of town.

Forest Maps Available

Copies of the 2003 Gallatin National Forest map may be purchased at any of our ranger stations. Forest maps, which are divided into the east half and west half, are each available in either paper (\$6) or plastic (\$7). The 2002 Lee Metcalf Wilderness map is also available in either paper (\$6) or plastic (\$7), and the 1997 Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness map is available in paper (\$6).

Ride Safely

There are a number of Gallatin National Forest trails currently open to mountain bike, motorbike, and all-terrain-vehicle use. Information on these trails can be obtained at any one of our Ranger Stations. To have a safe - and legal - adventure, follow these guidelines:



Know the area — this includes knowing what trails are closed to bike or machine use.



Familiarize yourself with your machine; take the time to learn how to operate it (especially rental machines).



Be familiar with state laws. To operate an all-terrain-vehicle on Forest roads, you must have a valid driver's license, a state registration sticker, and the vehicle must be "street legal." Also, if you're under 18 years of age and driving an off-highway vehicle, you must have a helmet.



Follow posted speed limit signs and keep your eyes focused on the trail.



Travel with another person(s). If you get stuck, lost, or your machine breaks down, it's nice to have some help.



Know your limitations, as well as your machine's limitations.

Vandalism Ruins Things For Everyone

Help us protect the Gallatin National Forest from the damages of vandalism.

Report what you observe to the nearest ranger station or call the local County Sheriff.

Scenic Drives and Points of Interest or... Great Gawks on the Gallatin

BEARTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC BYWAY

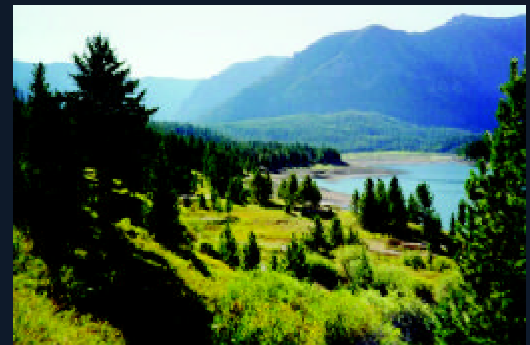
(Closed for repairs during Summer 2005.)

One of the most beautiful drives in the nation, this road winds its way from Red Lodge to Cooke City, Montana, scaling up and over the tundra plateau of the rugged and majestic Beartooth Mountains. From tiny delicate wildflowers to sweeping mountain panoramas and rocky peaks, you will definitely take home lasting images from this trip. The highway is passable from approximately Memorial Day through Labor Day, while snow closes it the rest of the year. Plan on 2-3 hours to travel this route. Hiking routes are unlimited, and you will find several Forest Service campgrounds along the way.



HYALITE RESERVOIR and RECREATION AREA

Follow the Hyalite Canyon Road south from Bozeman for approximately 10 miles, and you will find yourself at Hyalite Reservoir, surrounded by the peaks, wildflower-filled meadows, and high open ridges of the 34,000-acre Hyalite drainage. Canoes and small boats are often seen on the reservoir, that has a "no-wake" policy. Cutthroat trout and arctic grayling lure anglers at all times of the year; a Montana fishing license is required. Campgrounds and picnic areas dot the area, and many of these sites have accessible facilities. An 80-foot waterfall and huge hexagonal pillars of columnar basalt from a prehistoric lava flow make for a most intriguing lunch stop at the Palisade Picnic Area.



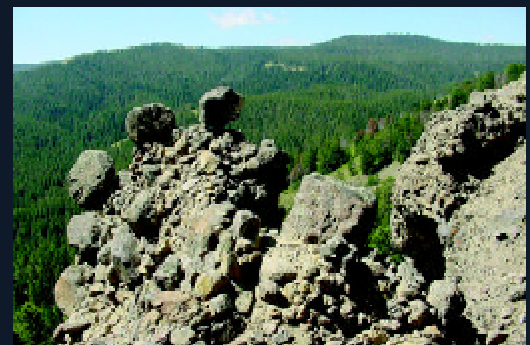
MADISON RIVER CANYON EARTHQUAKE AREA and VISITOR CENTER

Drive along US 287 through the Madison River Canyon and see the mind-boggling effects of the 1959 Hebgen Lake Earthquake, one of the most powerful ever recorded in North America. On this night when the earth shook, a 20-foot wall of water roared down Hebgen Lake. Further downstream, a monster landslide blocked the Madison River, and the 1,000-acre Quake Lake was instantly created. Spend time at the Earthquake Lake Visitor Center for geology and earthquake exhibits, interpretive walks and programs, and a gift shop. The visitor center is open during the summer months (May 28 - September 5, 2005), and a small entrance fee is charged.



GALLATIN PETRIFIED FOREST

Located along the crest of the Gallatin Range northwest of Gardiner is the Gallatin Petrified Forest. Here, ancient tropical forests were smothered and preserved by volcanic mud flows millions of years ago. Now this area is like an outdoor geology book for those willing to travel a ways off the beaten path. With a free permit, you can search for and collect one small sample of petrified wood. Contact the Gardiner, Bozeman, or Livingston Ranger District to obtain a permit. To get to the petrified forest, turn west onto the Tom Miner Road (approximately 20 miles north of Gardiner on US 89) and drive 12 miles up this expansive basin to the end of the Tom Miner Campground to the trailhead. A ways up the trail, a short interpretive trail veers off to the right.



Silent Invaders

Brought here from other parts of the world, noxious weeds lack natural controls and take over where native species once grew. Like silent invaders, they spread across the ecosystem, diminishing the quality of fish and wildlife habitat. Some twenty-five Montana-designated noxious weed species occur in the Gallatin National Forest. Some of the most common include Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, dalmatian toadflax, and houndstongue.

Here are some ways you can help limit the spread of noxious weeds:

- Learn how to identify noxious weeds. If you know what they look like, you can avoid traveling through infested areas.
- Keep your vehicles on roads and trails designated for such use.
- Inspect and clean your hiking boots, clothing, and equipment.
- Keep your pets free of weed seed.
- Using only weed/seed-free feed and bedding for your livestock.

Christmas trees,
firewood,
ornamental rocks,
mushrooms, and
more...

National Forests are truly multiple-use lands. A wide variety of forest products can be collected for personal use with permits. Utilize some of your local resources; contact a ranger station near you for permit information.



Rendezvous Trailhead Facility - funded partly by a Forest Service Rural Community Assistance Grant

Fees Used To Fund Recreation Programs

Several popular Gallatin National Forest recreation programs — including the cabin rental and outfitter and guide programs, the Earthquake Lake Visitor Center, and the Rendezvous Ski & Summer Trail System — have charged fees over the past several years as authorized by fee demonstration legislation. This legislation has yielded a direct benefit to the public by allowing 95 percent of the fees collected to be used by the Forest for increased services and improved program administration.

Cabin Rental Program

The Gallatin's cabin rental program (comprised of 24 rental cabins) is one of the oldest in the nation and one of the largest programs in the Northern Region. These cabins, many of which are historic, might not be available for public use without the benefit of the fees that are applied to maintaining them. Rental fees have been used for a variety of improvement projects including the replacement of cabin roofs, porches, windows, wood stoves, mattresses, and the installation of uniquely designed toilets to match the historic settings of the cabins. For more information on cabin rentals, please refer to page 3.

Outfitter and Guides

The Gallatin National Forest has one of the largest outfitter and guide programs in the Northern Region. Through this program, some 150 "permitted" businesses offer hunting, fishing, rafting, horseback riding, and other outdoor activities for Forest visitors. Outfitter and guide fees have been used for a variety of recreation projects including trail maintenance; trailhead bulletin boards and interpretive panels; backcountry patrol; and weed inventory and control.

Earthquake Lake Visitor Center

The Earthquake Lake Visitor Center, located 27 miles northwest of West Yellowstone along Hwy. 287, is open during the summer months and features geology and earthquake exhibits, interpretive programs, and a gift shop. Admission fees for the visitor center have been used to purchase a new seismograph; to conduct (free) outdoor programs including snowshoe walks, guided hikes, and learn-to-orienteer sessions; and to upgrade interpretive panels. For more information on the visitor center, please refer to page 8.

Rendezvous Ski & Summer Trail System

Located at the edge of the town of West Yellowstone, the Rendezvous trail system features 30 km of trails. During the winter, these trails are professionally groomed daily for skating and classic skiing. The high elevation of this area allows for plenty of snow, and there is a variety of trails ranging from easiest to most difficult. Fees collected during the winter have been used to smooth out the trail base and groom the trail system more frequently (33% more frequently), as well as more quickly after snowfall. In the summer, when no fees are charged, the grooming and maintenance of these trails provide a great mountain bike workout.

New World Mining Restoration Project



It's a big job - that is the clean-up of the New World Mining District in the Beartooth Mountains near Cooke City, Montana. The United States signed a settlement agreement with Crown Butte Mining, Inc., in 1996 to purchase the mining company's interest in the District's holdings. This agreement resulted in the transfer of the Crown Butte property to the United States — specifically to the Gallatin National Forest. A \$22.5 million fund was established to clean up specific properties in the mining district, a composite of private and National Forest System lands.

Geologists and engineers of the Gallatin National Forest have been busy working on this unprecedented restoration project since 1996. Last year, they completed the backfilling of the Como Raise and the majority of the plugging and backfilling of the Glengarry Mine. Sedi-ment and drainage control work was completed on various small mine sites throughout the Fisher Creek and Miller Creek drainages. Work to be completed this year will include the capping of the Como Basin, removal of waste rock from various sites throughout the district, and the expansion of the waste repository. The high-clearance, gravel Daisy Pass Road, which passes through Como Basin, will be open to the public. There will be temporary traffic delays on Lulu Pass road above the Glengarry Mine in the Fisher Creek drainage. For more information, contact the Gardiner Ranger Station at (406) 848-7375.



Fire is, and always has been, an important agent of change in wildland ecosystems. Fire plays an important role as a disturbance process that creates the structure and plant diversity across a landscape.

- ☞ Fire recycles nutrients.
- ☞ It regulates succession, the pattern of change in vegetation through time.
- ☞ It maintains vegetation and wildlife diversity.
- ☞ Fire retards root disease spread and dwarf mistletoe.

Forest and grassland habitats found on the Gallatin National Forest evolved with, and are influenced by, the frequency and intensity of fire disturbance. In recent years, the Gallatin Forest and other parts of the country have experienced

extreme drought conditions. The drought, combined with fuels build-up from years of fire suppression, has resulted in larger and more intense fires on the landscape and a disruption of the fire frequency cycles. To reduce fuels build-up, Gallatin managers are utilizing such tools as prescribed fire, thinning, and clearing of undergrowth around wildland urban interface (WUI) areas such as the West Yellowstone area, Gallatin River canyon corridor and the Main Boulder River corridor.

If you live in a wildland urban interface area, smart choices can help to protect property and life. By controlling the vegetation around a home, a wildfire can be slowed, the length of flames shortened, and a fire's heat reduced. For information on how to build "defensible space," contact your local rural fire district.

Volunteering

Whether you want to pursue a special interest, learn new skills, or explore career possibilities, the Forest Service volunteer program might be for you. Here are some ways to get involved:

You could...

- Participate in a Passport-in-Time project — dig at an archaeological site and help preserve historic buildings.
- Collect plant data and study big-game habitat use.
- Serve as a campground host — help campers and do light maintenance work.
- Clear trails, build bridges with hand tools, and see some of the best scenery on the forest.
- Greet visitors and give out information.
- Plant tree seedlings and count trees.
- Part-time or full time, one season or year around, there is apt to be something just right for you.
- If you are interested in learning more, contact the Forest Service office of your choice.

And What About The Bears?

YES, there are healthy populations of both grizzly and black bears living in the Gallatin National Forest backcountry. Bears are unpredictable animals and can pose a serious danger.

To minimize your chances of a bear encounter or conflict:

Hike in pairs at least, and in areas of high bear concentration, hiking in groups of four or more is advised. Don't hike after dark.

Be aware of your environment. Look for bear sign, tracks, and scat along the trail. Notice if the tracks are going in your direction, or the opposite direction, and if there are small cub-size tracks along with adult tracks. Fresh claw marks on trees, overturned stumps and rocks, and carcasses or buried kills are also signs that bears have been in the area. Depending on what you see, it might be wise to consider retreating or re-routing your hike.

Make noise while you hike, especially when rounding blind corners and entering forested or thickly vegetated areas. An occasional shout can alert a bear to your presence, giving it the opportunity to go the other way.

Keep a clean camp and follow proper food storage requirements. Scented items, food, and



cooking items should be kept well away from your sleeping area. Consider using dried foods and avoid items with strong odors.

If you meet a bear:

Above all, do not run, yell, or panic. Assess your situation. If you can leave the area unobtrusively, do so, or retreat to a safe distance and wait for the bear to move on.

Should you surprise a bear at close range and the bear actually charges you, this is the time to use your pepper spray and/or play dead. Drop to the ground face down, tucking your head and wrapping your arms around the back of your neck. Do not struggle. When the bear decides you are not a threat, it will most likely leave you alone. Do not move until you are sure the bear has left the area.

There continues to be much discussion over the use of pepper spray to deter a charging bear. It has been shown to be effective in many cases, however, do not let it give you a false sense of security.

Food Storage

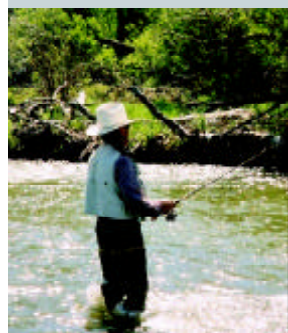
If a wild animal consumes human food or garbage even once, the chances are high that it will associate humans with food for the rest of its life. This creates a dangerous situation for both humans and wildlife and is why it is so vitally important that proper food storage precautions be taken.

Food storage is required on much of the Gallatin National Forest. Beginning in 2007, a new food storage order will be in effect for all locations in the Gallatin National Forest.

Food storage requires that food, garbage, animal feed, animal carcasses, and any other attractants be kept unavailable to wildlife. Methods for this would include storing attractants in vehicle trunks in campgrounds, or using animal-resistant containers, or suspending food above the ground from tree branches or food poles in the backcountry. For more information on food storage and keeping a clean camp, please contact any ranger station.

KEEP THE 'WILD' IN WILDLIFE

For Your Safety and Theirs



Blue-Ribbon Trout Fishing

From the internationally famous Yellowstone, Gallatin, and Madison Rivers to little known streams and a host of high country lakes, the Gallatin National Forest offers some of the highest quality trout fishing in the country. Unparalleled scenery and relative solitude enhance the angling experience.

Many smaller streams, such as Hyalite, Squaw, Swan, Brackett, Taylor Fork, and Mill Creek, have a Forest road parallel to them, allowing for many access points. Hyalite Creek, located just south of Bozeman, supports a healthy rainbow trout population and has several miles of paved road along its corridor, allowing easy access by car. There are also several accessible fishing platforms near Langohr Campground.

Streams such as Bozeman, South Cottonwood, Spanish, Porcupine, Duck, Cougar, Big Creek, and the West Boulder River offer trailhead or bridge access points with streamside trails accessing most of the drainages. Streams and lakes in the Lee Metcalf and Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness areas are accessible by foot and horse travel only.

State fishing licenses are required. Please review the current regulations for site or seasonal restrictions that may be in effect.

Golden Passport Program

The Golden Passport Program may save you money when you visit federal recreation areas such as National Forests and National Parks, and recreation sites administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Most of our ranger stations have these passports.

Golden Age Passport

- A lifetime pass for US citizens or permanent residents.
- Must be 62 years or older.
- \$10 (one-time).
- Waives entrance fees and reduces some recreation fees by half.

Golden Access Passport

- A lifetime pass for US citizens or permanent residents.
- Must be legally blind or permanently disabled.
- No charge.
- Waives entrance fees and reduces some recreation fees by half.

Golden Eagle Passport

- Available to the general public.
- \$65 for a 12-month pass.
- Waives entrance fees.

Leave No Trace ... in a nutshell

Choose the right path - walk on the main trail.

Tote your trash - pack it in, pack it out ... all of it.

Camp at least 200 feet from water sources and trails.

Find a good campsite rather than making one.

Keep the waters clean - keep out soap, food, toothpaste, etc.

Bury human waste well away from water sources and trails.

Use a campstove for cooking whenever possible.

If a fire is needed, keep it small and use existing fire-rings.

Protect live trees.

AND for your own health, filter or treat all water before drinking.

Can We Take Fido?

Pets are allowed in all areas of the Gallatin National Forest. They are required to be on leashes in developed areas such as campgrounds, but are free to roam the backcountry trails with you at will. Before deciding to take your dog in the backcountry, please CONSIDER these things:

- Dogs will instinctively chase forest birds and mammals.
- Dogs are not highly respected by bears, moose, elk, or wolves.
- When frightened, your dog will likely come running back to you, with who-knows-what on his heels.
- Horses and llamas travel many backcountry trails and can be easily spooked by unrestrained dogs, creating a safety hazard.
- Dogs have become hopelessly lost in the backcountry after becoming separated from people.

Whatever you decide, please show consideration and respect for other forest users, wildlife, AND your dog.

Wilderness



Hilgard Basin

The Gallatin National Forest (NF) encompasses portions of two wilderness areas, the Lee Metcalf and the Absaroka-Beartooth. Together these two areas preserve nearly 1.2 million acres of the American west.

The **ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS** is an enormous and rugged expanse of high-elevation country, sprawling across the eastern side of the Gallatin NF, as well as portions of the Shoshone and Custer National Forests. Speckled with a myriad of pristine lakes, the delicate tundra of the Beartooth plateau is broken by bold and jagged peaks. Further west, the Absaroka Range is equally wild and rugged, yet with a different nature. Thick forests, high mountain meadows, and streams lie below the open ridges along the backbone of this range.

To the west is the **LEE METCALF WILDERNESS**, divided into four separate units in the Madison Range. The Gallatin and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests, as well as the Bureau of Land Management, share landownership. Wild canyon country along the Madison River, forest and meadow areas filled with wildlife, razor-like ridges leading to glacially carved peaks, and alpine lakes and meadows are all found in these diverse wilderness segments.

WILDERNESS TRAVEL involves a bit of risk and challenge. Good preparation and planning will help make your wilderness adventure successful and rewarding. If you prefer not to tackle a trip on your own, many commercial outfitters and guides lead trips into the wilderness, under permit by the Forest Service. Permits are not required for backcountry camping on the Gallatin Forest. "Leave No Trace" is the Forest Service backcountry mantra.

