

PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED

The mountains of the Bridger-Teton National Forest not only provide challenging opportunities, but also hazards.

Perhaps the greatest life-threatening hazard is hypothermia, or loss of essential body heat. You should be prepared for rain or snow at any time. A sudden change of weather can drop temperatures many degrees, just as it does each night.

Experienced backcountry travelers favor layered clothing that can be added or removed as conditions change. Wet wool or synthetic fleece will keep you warm, whereas wet cotton fabric will chill you. Carry concentrated food and waterproof matches.

Insect repellent may not save your life, but it can make it more pleasant. It is easy to get sunburned so sunscreen is important. And take good care of your feet—your transportation in and out of the backcountry. Break in new boots before hiking and protect your skin from blisters.

In early summer, you will likely find snow at the higher elevations. If you don't have snow experience, it would be wise to plan extended trips for later in the season. Melting snow swells mountain streams making crossings hazardous. The water is cold and swift; a pole held on your downstream side can help steady you while wading.

WILDERNESS USE

The Bridger-Teton National Forest has three Wilderness Areas, each designated by a Congressional Act and managed to preserve their primitive state. Your cooperation is vital to ensure that generations to come will be able to find the same solitude that our ancestors experienced.

Here, people do not remain or leave permanent marks on the land. These are roadless areas where mechanized equipment, including bicycles, chainsaws, motorized boats, hang-gliders and game carts are prohibited.

Permits are required for organized groups. Parties using stock overnight in the Bridger Wilderness also need free permits.

Limits on the number of people and stock vary in the different Wilderness areas:

	Bridger	Gros Ventre	Teton
Number of people per party	15	15	20
Number of stock per party	25	25	35
Number of days in one campsite	16	16	14

SUGGESTED HIKES

Bailey Lake

A great little lake for fishing or bird watching and solitude. From Waterdog Lake, the hike is four miles to the lake. Starting from McCain Guard Station adds another mile.

→ To reach the trailheads, follow the Greys River Road 7½ miles east from Alpine, to the Little Greys River Road Junction. After approximately 12 miles on the Little Greys River Road, you will reach a turn-off for McCain Guard Station.

The next intersection, reached in two miles, goes left to the guard station or right to Waterdog Lake.

Cliff Creek Falls

A beautiful two-tiered waterfall; a short upper falls followed by a fifty foot plunge. The hike to the falls and return is 12.4 miles, requiring a full day. This is also a popular mountain bike ride.

→ The Cliff Creek Road leaves US 189/191 15 miles east of Hoback Junction or 5 miles west of Bondurant. Follow the gravel road 7.1 miles to the trailhead.

Elk Mountain

An abandoned fire lookout offering spectacular views of the Snake River, Teton and Wyoming Ranges. The trail climbs steadily gaining 2,300 feet in three miles. Round-trip is seven miles.

→ The trailhead is reached from Alpine. Take Greys River Road 7½ miles to the Little Greys River Road. Proceed 1.2 miles on the Little Greys River Road to the trailhead. Look for a wooden sign marked "Trail Creek and Pine Creek Trails, Elk Mountain and Snake River."

Fontenelle Lakes

A cluster of small lakes in the scenic Fontenelle Basin. The lakes can be explored by horseback, mountain biking, or on foot.

→ There are two trailheads on the LaBarge Road. The South LaBarge Trailhead is located a few miles from Scalar Guard Station. This is an uphill climb.

The Shaffer Creek Trailhead has a horse corral and larger parking lot. This route is less steep than the South LaBarge trail. Fontenelle Lakes receive moderate to heavy use.

Grizzly Lake

Great trout fishing in a picturesque little lake. Other destinations served by this trail include Blue Miner Lake and Sheep Mountain (also known as the Sleeping Indian). Grizzly Lake is a six mile round trip hike with little elevation gain.

→ The trailhead is located on the Gros Ventre Road across from Red Hills

ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS REGULATIONS

- A permit for all commercial uses, including outfitting and guiding, is required.
- Placing a cache of food or gear is not allowed.
- Do not cut or damage any live vegetation.
- Aircraft, including helicopters, may not land or drop materials into a Wilderness area.
- Signs, tape or flagging must not be used.
- Audio devices such as radios and musical instruments disturb other Wilderness users and are prohibited.
- Firearms may not be discharged near camps or across bodies of water.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

Climbing is a physically challenging sport. Most climbs in the Bridger-Teton National Forest are bouldering and day climbs. You may decide to explore more advanced climbing areas. The topography in the Forest is dramatic, giving a wide variety of climbing experiences and challenges. Most climbing areas are remote, requiring hiking.

important tips:

- Tell a friend or relative where you will be climbing and your approximate time of return.
- Use appropriate safety gear including a first-aid kit.
- Bring a map and compass to help find your climbing site.
- Respect wildlife living in climbing areas, such as birds, bats, pikas and marmots.
- You are climbing at your own risk.
- Don't climb alone.

If you are interested in a guided climb, there are licensed outfitters who provide this service. Contact a Forest Service office.

HIKING

There are 2600 miles of trails in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Access point and trail condition information can be obtained at Forest Service offices. Remember, there are a variety of different users who enjoy national forests, and with responsible interactions between these different groups, forests can be an enjoyable place for all. Staying on trails reduces erosion and the risk of a nasty fall. Please don't smoke while hiking, especially during periods of high fire danger.

Backpackers may encounter parties with horses or llamas. While these animals are sure-footed, you are more agile. Everyone in your party should take several steps aside, on the downhill side, and wait for them to pass. Speaking quietly will avoid startling the animals. If a horse appears nervous, it may be from seeing bright colors or your bulky backpack. Taking off your pack may reassure the horse that you're human.

Campground. The Gros Ventre Road is generally in good condition but a few places may prove difficult.

Huckleberry Mountain

Breathtaking views of the Tetons, Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding wilderness reward those undertaking the moderately strenuous climb of 2,000 feet in five miles (10 miles round-trip).

→ Huckleberry Lookout is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Fire lookouts lived here in the summer, keeping a watchful eye for fires. The trail begins at Sheffield Creek Trailhead, 1 mile southeast of Flagg Ranch between Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

Lake Alice

The largest natural lake in Bridger-Teton's south end, with magnificent scenery and recreation opportunities.

→ Lake Alice is 1½ miles from Hobbie Creek Campground and is popular for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. Several trails from other locations also lead to the lake.

Lost Lake

A gem of a lake set below the equally picturesque Breccia Cliffs. Careful observers may spot bighorn sheep on the cliff ledges.

→ The trailhead for Lost Lake is not marked. Look for a dirt road with a stop sign on the north side of US 26, 5½ miles east of the Cowboy Village Resort at Togwotee. There is an unmaintained road to Lost Lake, but driving is not recommended. Hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers enjoy the lake.

Monument Ridge

A panoramic view rewards those undertaking this gentle climb through aspen forests and wildflower meadows. The round trip distance is five miles with an elevation gain of 1,100 feet.

→ The trailhead is accessed from Clark's Draw Road (Forest Road 30530) two miles east of Bondurant. When the road forks at ½ mile, follow the right fork to the road's end. The road is natural surface and often in poor condition.

Ski Lake

A classic short hike in the Teton Mountains. It is only 1½ miles to the picturesque cirque lake.

→ From Wilson, drive west on WY 22, halfway up Teton Pass looking for a small sign marked Phillips Canyon. The sign is hard to see coming from Wilson, look for it on the right just after passing under power lines.

