



United States Department of Agriculture

Boise National Forest

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News Release

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Boise National Forest modifies closures for public health and safety

BOISE, Idaho, April 29, 2020 – The Boise National Forest has opened most parking lots at trailheads to forest visitors for hiking and motorized recreation. All hot springs within the Forest remain closed and developed campgrounds on the Forest are closed or inaccessible because of snow.

“We are working toward reopening the Forest’s developed campgrounds and facilities,” said Tawnya Brummett, Boise National Forest Supervisor. “Just as Governor Little described in his [“Rebound Idaho”](#) initiative, we are focusing on visitor and employee safety, developing standard operating procedures for field operations and following social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC. While this Closure extends to June 30, we will be evaluating if we can safely open developed sites in time for the Memorial Day weekend.”

Limiting access to recreational sites or areas is a particularly difficult decision for the Forest Service, and the agency is looking forward to the day when these sites can safely reopen and are once again filled with people enjoying their public lands.

The Forest is encouraging [Recreate Responsibly Idaho](#) and Idaho’s reopening protocols to maintain some level of community interventions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Visiting public lands while facilities are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic can leave major impacts on the environment, such as trash and human waste accumulation on the landscape. Many small actions have a magnified effect. Help protect the areas we love by following Leave No Trace principles (<https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/>)

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The closures remain aligned with federal, state and local guidance for social distancing and encourages responsible recreation use of these areas as an important step in reducing impacts to local communities who may be at risk from the virus

The USDA Forest Service continues to assess and temporarily suspend access to recreation areas that attract large crowds and cannot meet social distancing guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For tips from the CDC on preventing illnesses like COVID-19, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>

For the latest Boise National Forest updates visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/boise/home>

For all Boise NF closure information visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/boise/alerts-notice>

Boise National Forest interactive closure story map:

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=1b9f2d8115374ad3a943d95dec3835d>

National Forests in Idaho closure story map:

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d0588d7e48ee430da80c5ad88c48b43d>

As we work through an unpredictable and rapidly changing situation, health and safety is our No. 1 priority. We are committed to continuing the support of our communities and fulfilling our mission as we all work together to minimize the impacts and spread of COVID-19.

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Forest Closures

Updated April 28, 2020

The following recreation sites on the Boise National Forest have been closed until further notice. For additional information, please call the Supervisors office at (208) 373-4100.

For all Boise National Forest Closures visit the interactive Closure Story Map:

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=1b9f2d8115374ad3a943d95decd3835d>

For all Boise NF Closure Orders: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/boise/alerts-notice>

National Forests in Idaho COVID-19 related closures only:

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d0588d7e48ee430da80c5ad88c48b43d>

Campgrounds

Idaho City Ranger District: Grayback Gulch, Ten Mile, Bad Bear, Hayfork Group, Edna Creek, Willow Creek, Black Rock, Queens River, Queens River Transfer Camp, Riverside, and Power Plant campgrounds

Mountain Home Ranger District: Cottonwood, Willow Creek, Badger Creek, Troutdale, Spillway, Evans Creek, Castle Creek, Ice Spring, Elks Flat and Dog Creek campgrounds.

Emmett Ranger District: Pine Flats, Hot Springs, Boiling Springs, Tie Creek, Hardscrabble, Trail Creek, Rattlesnake, Silver Creek, Lodgepole Springs Group, Peace Valley, Swinging Bridge, Canyon, Cold springs, Big Eddy, Sage Hen Dam Picnic Area, Cartwright Ridge, Antelope Annex, Antelope, Sage Hen, Eastside Group, and Hollywood campgrounds.

Dispersed Camping: Both Silver Creek dispersed camping areas 1 and 2

Cascade Ranger District: French Creek, Rainbow Point, Amanita, Southfork, Picnic Point, Shoreline, Warm Lake, Penny Springs, Summit

Lake, Pen Basin, Buck Mountain, Trout creek, Ice Hole, Golden Gate, and Yellowpine campgrounds

Additional location: Billy Rice Swim Beach

Lowman Ranger District: Deadwood, Mountain View, Park Creek, Helende, Kirkham, Bonneville and Bull Trout campgrounds

Additional location: Lowman Fishponds

Hot Springs

Cascade Ranger District: Trail Creek, Molly's Tubs and Vulcan hot springs

Emmett Ranger District: Pine Burl, Moondipper, Pine Flats, Hot Springs, and Boiling Springs hot springs

Lowman Ranger District: Kirkham, Bonneville hot springs

Parking Lots

Cascade Ranger District: Anderson Creek parking lot

Mtn Home Ranger District: Stack Rock Trailhead parking lot.



Recreate Responsibly Idaho

All of us must work to keep areas open for recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. By following the Recreate Responsibly Idaho guidelines, we can minimize closures resulting from people overcrowding areas and ignoring social distancing.

Let's Work Together



Safety First

Do not engage in outdoor recreation if you're sick, stay home instead.

Enjoy outdoor recreation as close to home as possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Don't engage in high-risk outdoor recreation activities to preserve emergency medical service, urgent care clinic, and hospital capacity.



Check before you go

Idahoans and visitors to our state should be aware some campgrounds and boat ramps are closed, so research your plans before recreating and respect private property.



Spread out

If a trailhead or boat ramp is congested, consider finding another or going during off-peak hours.

When recreating outdoors, maintain appropriate social distancing, which is defined as six feet or more from others.



Be prepared

Bring your own food and water to preserve supplies and limit exposure in local communities.

Bring your own sanitation supplies (i.e. water, hand sanitizer, toilet paper) as these may not be available.



Be prepared to pack out your own trash as garbage service may not be available.

coronavirus.idaho.gov