United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

Selway River Corridor

Syringa, Idaho's state flower; blooms on the Selway from May to July

A Guide to Recreation on the Moose Creek Ranger District

NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

AUTHENTICATED U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION GPO

Welcome...

to the Selway River Corridor of the Moose Creek Ranger District. The beautiful Selway River, flows through the heart of this wild and rugged land. Congress designated the Selway River as an outstanding national resource under the Wild and Scenic River Act in 1968. This country is known for its extraordinary scenery, exceptional water quality and excellent wildlife viewing opportunity.

Historic Fenn Ranger Station

A stop at Fenn Ranger Station, our main office, is an easy five-mile drive from Lowell. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in the late thirties, this office is an outstanding example of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) construction.

If you need assistance, our office is open Monday through Friday. Or stop and ask any of our employees in the forest. We are here to serve you and we want your stay on the Selway to be very enjoyable.

Sincerely,

The folks at the
Moose Creek Ranger District

Selway Falls

One of the main questions visitors ask is what are Selway Falls like? Selway Falls are most spectacular during the spring melt from April through June. The remainder of the year, the water flow drops to a fairly low level.

Road and Trail Access

Some modes of travel may be restricted to protect areas sensitive for big-game animals like elk. Other times, roads and trails are closed during wet weather to prevent roadbed damage and erosion. In some specific instances, certain types of travel are restricted to insure pubic safety. A Nez Perce Forest visitor map and access guide are available at Fenn Ranger Station. The map and guide show all roads and trails with applicable closures or restrictions.

Forest Road #223, also called the Selway River Road, is paved to O'Hara Creek Bridge. From there, the road narrows and has a gravel or dirt surface. During the summer months especially, the road is heavily traveled. Washboard conditions are often present on gravel or dirt roads in the Selway River corridor. Visitors should inquire at the district about current road conditions and possible logging traffic.

Six roads leave the Selway River canyon, as shown on the map on pages five and six. Four of these, the **Coolwater (#317), Fog Mountain (#319), Indian Hill (#290) and Falls Point (#443)** were built by the CCCs in the 1930s. These roads are steep, narrow, winding with little or no surfacing and slippery when wet. The roads are usually blocked by snow at higher elevations until after July 4th and bad weather can make them dangerous at any time. Gates accessing the above roads are opened June 15 and closed November 4 each year.

Except for the Falls Point Road which is under heavy forest cover, the roads afford views of the Selway Canyon. You may also find berries in season along the roadsides.

The **Swiftwater (#470)** and **Hamby (#651)** roads have gravel surfacing and lead past timber harvest sites and plantations and connect to other roads out of Elk City. They offer some vistas. You will probably encounter log trucks and other visitors on these roads.

Local Trails

Numerous trails lead out of the the Selway River Canyon. Four of these are described below. ***See trail locations on pages 5 and 6.*** These trails are open to hikers, horseback riders, bicycles and motorbikes.

Meadow Creek Trail (#726): Other than the Selway River Trail #4 into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, this is the most heavily-used trail in the area. The first three miles of the trail are open to all users listed above, the rest of the trail is open to hikers and horseback riders only. There are rustic camping and picnic spots along the trail. It offers some fishing opportunities.

East Boyd-Glover-Roundtop Trail (#703 and #704): This is a 23-mile loop trail. It is difficult to make the loop in one day except when traveling on motorbikes. You will have good views of the canyon, but there is little or no water along the maintained six-mile route.

Gedney Creek Trail (#708): This 11-mile trail, maintained for five miles, climbs more than 5000 feet to Cove Lakes over Gedney Mountain. The middle stretch is through heavy brush; the last section is hard to find. We don't recommend it as a wilderness access trail. Fishing opportunities exist along Gedney Creek.

O'Hara Creek Trail (#713): Starting at the first hairpin turn about four miles up the Hamby Road, this trail follows O'Hara Creek to O'Hara Saddle. You'll need to cross the creek three times which is hazardous when water is high. The trail beyond Saddle Creek hasn't been maintained for many years and is hard to find in places.

If you plan ahead, you can get topographic (contour) maps from the U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Distribution, Box 25286, Denver, Colorado 80225.

Be sure and stop at Fenn Ranger Station for the latest information on trail conditions and restrictions, and stock use.

Services

Lowell is the commercial center of the Selway. There you will find food, groceries, gasoline, camping supplies, Fish & Game licenses, outfitter services, lodging and public telephones.

For those of you with trailers, dump station facilities are located at Wilderness Gateway Campground between Lowell and Powell and also at Kamiah.

Camping

For the camper, the Selway corridor offers 11 campgrounds with restrooms. ***See campground locations on pages 5 and 6***. They are operated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Campers may stay in a single recreation site for a maximum of 14 nights.Drinking water is only available at O'Hara Campground. Several campgrounds are located near hiking and horse trails which wind through spectacular backcountry and into the Selway-Bitterrroot Wilderness.

O'Hara Campground, located 7 miles up Selway Road #223, is a reserve campground. Selected O'Hara sites can be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation System at 877-444-6777 or by Internet at www.ReserveUSA.com. The campground roads and pullouts are paved and accomodate larger RVs with easy access.

At O'Hara Creek, there is a one-mile, one-way self-guided interpretive tour. Walk or drive the tour and enjoy six sites that show how O'Hara Creek has been rehabilitated. "O'Hara Creek - A Self-Guided Tour" brochure is available at the ranger station or you can pick one up at the "O'Hara Creek - A Creek Reborn" interpretive sign across from the campground.

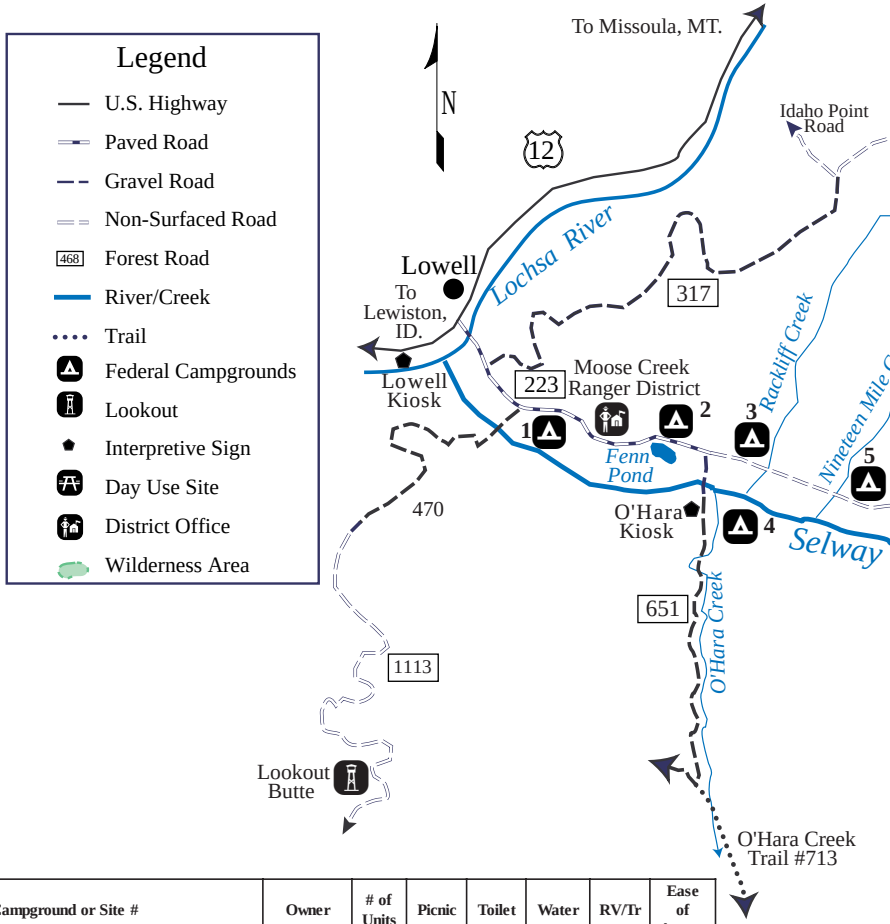
Wilderness

The Selway River Corridor area is bounded on the east side by the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Remember the use of motorized or mechanized equipment or vehicles is not permitted in a designated wilderness.

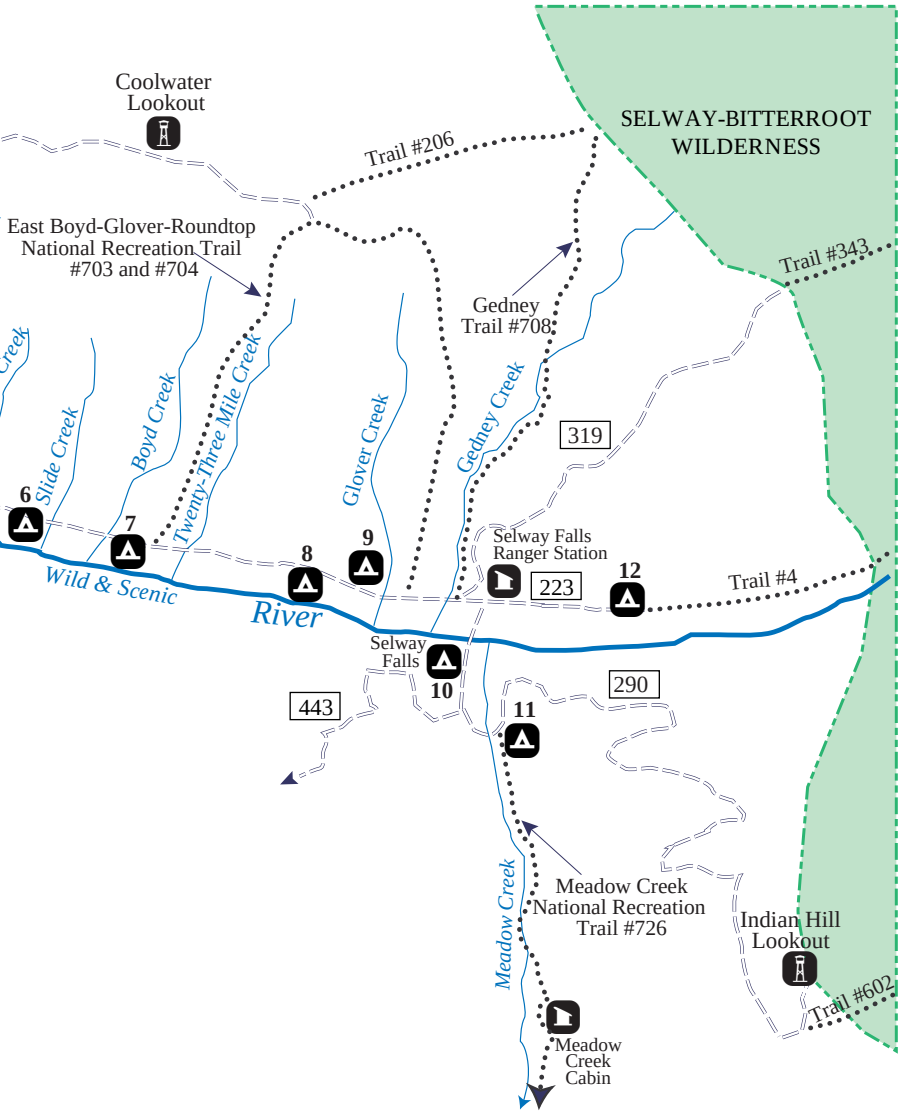
To help safeguard the naturalness of wilderness, practice "leave no trace" techniques to ensure the country you came to enjoy will remain pristine for future generations. Another safeguard is the use of certified weed-free products. All forage or mulch used on national forest lands in Idaho must be certified noxious weed free.

When camping at primitive locations, please follow these guidelines:

- *Choose a site 200 feet from trails and water.*
- *Use existing fire grates and fire rings when building campfires.*
- *When going to the bathroom, do as a cat: dig a hole and bury human waste and paper. Maintain a distance of 200 feet from water and trails.*
- *Make sure your campfire is dead out when you leave.*
- *Pack out all trash, both yours and that of others.*
- *Leave no trace of your stay.*



Map #	Campground or Site #	Owner	# of Units	Picnic	Toilet	Water	RV/Tr	Ease of Access
1	Johnson Bar Campground	USFS	7	•	•		•	●
2	CCC Campground	USFS	3		•		•	●
3	Rackliff Campground	USFS	6	•	•			
4	O'Hara Bar Campground	USFS	32	•	•	•	•	●
5	Twentymile Bar Campground	USFS	2		•			
6	Slide Creek Campground	USFS	2		•			
7	Boyd Creek Campground	USFS	5	•	•		•	
8	Twentyfive Mile Bar Campground	USFS	2		•			
9	Glover Campground	USFS	7	•	•			
10	Selway Falls Campground	USFS	7	•	•			◆
11	Slims Camp	USFS	2	•	•		•	◆
12	Race Creek Campground	USFS	3	•	•			◆



"Ease of Access" refers to how the site meets current accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

Challenge levels are indicated by the following symbols:

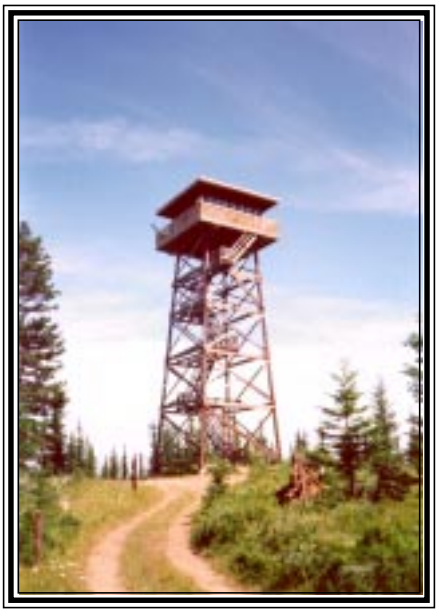
● Easy ■ Moderate ◆ Difficult

Meadow Creek Guard Station

Meadow Creek Guard Station

Just imagine what life must have been like as a Forest Ranger stationed at Meadow Creek back in the 1920s and 30s.

The Meadow Creek Guard Station, 15 miles up the Meadow Creek Trail, was originally built in the early 1920s. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors may stay here under the cabin rental program. The station consists of five buildings. The main cabin contains the office, a sleeping area and the kitchen. The bunkhouse contains a main room and loft. There is also a tack shed, woodshed and outhouse. A post and pole corral is available for stock. There is a rental fee for the cabin with a maxium use period of seven nights. The rental season is May 1 through September 15. The indoor water system is operable between June 15 and September 15, but this water comes from a small creek and is not drinkable. The water must be boiled or filtered before drinking or culinary use.



Lookout Butte Fire Tower

Lookout Butte

If hiking or riding stock 15 miles to a cabin does not fit your needs, you can drive to the Lookout Butte fire tower.

The "glass walls" of the lookout afford a 360-degree view, at an elevation of 5869 feet. Perched atop the wooden tower, you can enjoy the rugged beauty of four states - Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana.

In the center of the lookout cabin you will find a firefinder and a map. Aligning the firefinder on various locations will help you identify landmarks and features of the area. The lookout is available for rent June 15 through September 30 with a seven-night maximum stay. There is an outhouse near the tower, but no drinking water is available.

Hunting

Big game species found in the area include black bear, elk, moose, mule deer, whitetail deer and cougar.

The Moose Creek District is open to hunting during designated hunting seasons. Discharging firearms, however, is prohibited near developed recreation sites, Forest Service buildings and living quarters. There are stretches of private land and residences along the Selway corridor. Landowner permission is required to hunt on private lands. Please respect private property.

Specific hunting information can be obtained by contacting Idaho Fish & Game (IDF&G) at the address and phone number on the back of this brochure. Before going on your hunting trip, contact the ranger station for access conditions.

Fishing

Trout species in the District include rainbow, cutthroat, bull trout and eastern brook. Check the IDF&G fishing regulations for open seasons and catchable species. Some fishing for whitefish also occurs in the winter. Be aware that chinook salmon and steelhead also spawn and rear in these streams. Currently, there is no season in the Selway River drainages for these two species of fish. Special regulations are in place to protect native fish species in the Selway River.

Fenn Pond

Fenn Pond, located across from Fenn Ranger Station, is stocked with catchable fish during the summer months. It has a smooth accessible trail and boardwalk and is ideal for children and those who can't traverse rugged ground.

Wildlife Viewing

Coeur d' Alene Salamander

Hike to an area away from human activity and sit quietly for a while. Near the river you may see beaver, moose, deer, elk, black bear and an occasional mink or otter. The Selway River is also home for nesting pairs of osprey; they arrive in the spring and leave for warmer wintering grounds in the fall. The endangered bald eagle, on the other hand, uses the river during the winter. Other birds that can be seen are wild turkeys, heron and the dipper.

The Coeur d' Alene Salamander is found only along the Selway River and Meadow Creek of the Nez Perce National Forest. They like spring seeps, waterfall spray zones and small cascading streams. This salamander has no lungs! An amphibian, it breathes through its skin. Adults measure about 4 inches in length.

Swimming

There are several "sand bars" along the river, the most popular being Johnson Bar. These sites are undeveloped beaches with no lifeguards. Please use extreme care if you explore the waters. Watch out for moss-covered rocks, submerged logs and swift, cold water.

Floating

The Selway River from below Selway Falls to Lowell provides a nice twenty-mile float trip. During spring runoff (usually May through June) the river offers kayaking opportunities. From July through August, the water level drops and provides canoeing, rafting and tubing opportunities. At all times of the year, river users should scout rapids before attempting any river running activity.

Permits for floating, canoeing or kayaking are not required below Selway Falls, but are required above. If you want to float the upper Selway, contact the West Fork Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest (address and phone # on back page of this brochure).

Woodcutting

If you are gathering wood for camp use, a permit is not required. Please use only dead and down wood. If you plan to cut wood for your home use, a valid firewood permit is required prior to cutting or hauling wood from national forest lands. A permit can be purchased at the ranger station. Firewood cutting is prohibited within this designated Wild & Scenic River corridor.

Safety

Food and odors attract bears, so keep a clean camp and store food and garbage properly at all times. Do not store food in tents.

Watch out for poison ivy, rattlesnakes and yellowjackets in the Selway area.

Fire & Smoke

Because of the high occurrence of fire in this area, hazy and smoky conditions may be encountered evenings and early mornings, especially in late summer. It is a good idea to call the ranger station during fire season to find out current access and trail conditions.

Cultural Heritage

Evidence exists which indicates people have inhabited northern Idaho for over 10,000 years. The Selway River region was heavily used during prehistoric as well as historic times. The Nez Perce people called this area home along with settlers who homesteaded here. The Forest Service also established several administrative sites along the Selway River.

From the careful study and analysis of the artifacts from these sites, archaeologists can relay this information to the public in several different ways. The remains of prehistoric and historic cultures belong to all of us. If artifacts are removed from a site, significant information can be lost forever. Each artifact is a piece of the puzzle. Without all the pieces, the picture is not complete and questions go unanswered.

All prehistoric and historic artifacts (either on the ground's surface or buried underground) are protected by various laws and regulations. If you find evidence of past use of the Forest by prehistoric or historic people, please do not disturb the artifacts or site. Contact the nearest Forest Service office to report the location of your discovery.

For More Information

Moose Creek Ranger District
Fenn Ranger Station
HCR 75, Box 91
Kooskia, ID 83539
(208) 926-4258 *TDD (208) 926-7725

Nez Perce National Forest
Route 2, Box 475
Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-1950 *TTD (208) 983-2280
www.fed.us/r1/nezperce

West Fork Ranger District
6735 West Fork Road
Darby, MT 59829
(406) 821-3269

Idaho Department of Fish & Game
1540 Warner Avenue
Lewiston, Idaho 83501
(208) 799-5010
www.idfg.state.id.us

*Telephone for Hearing Impaired

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