

Grand Teton

John D. Rockefeller Jr., Memorial Parkway

Backcountry Camping



"Cathedral-like indeed is this scene in late afternoon once the sun has retired behind the range, when great parallel shafts of light pass between the peaks slanting across the valley floor; or when, a few hours later during the fleeting moments in which sky and mountains are together transfigured, the natural hues of the summit change swiftly, marvelously into delicate shades of rose, and blue, and lavender,

as if colored by light from stained glass windows."

Fritiof Fryxell

Henry David Thoreau said "In wildness is the preservation of the world." In your actions lie the preservation of wilderness. Denuded vegetation, soil erosion, littered campsites, improperly buried fecal matter, and campfire scars bear

National Park
PO Drawer 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012
307 739 3300

witness to the dramatic increase in backcountry use. Fortunately, a renewal of a "Leave No Trace" philosophy of backcountry travel is being widely adopted. Without it, the wilderness experience itself is threatened with extinction. If you enter the backcountry of Grand Teton National Park prepared with, informed about and committed to a minimum impact wilderness ethic, you can have an unforgettable

experience and can share in the responsibility for preserving this place.

Use this guide to plan a safe and enjoyable trip. Included is information on how to plan your trip, obtain a backcountry permit, use the trails, set up camp, and care for the backcountry of Grand Teton National Park.

Before Leaving Home

Planning Your Trip

Obtain a topographic map of the park or a hiking guide to choose your destination and route. Use the map on the other side of this guide to select campsites. As you plan your trip, consider the weakest member of your party and the distance and elevation gain to your destination. If you have only one vehicle, you may plan a loop trip that returns to the same trailhead. There is no shuttle service in the park. If solitude is important, consider avoiding the Cascade-Paintbrush loop as it is the most heavily traveled. July and August are the busiest times because there is less snow in the high country. Weekends and holidays are busiest for boaters on Jackson Lake.

Getting Your Permit

To minimize impacts on park resources, the number of permits issued is limited. Thirty percent of the backcountry campsites and all of the group sites may be reserved in advance. The rest are filled first-come, first-served at park permit offices.

Reservations Park backcountry is very popular and reservations are recommended. Requests are accepted by mail, Fax or in person from January 1st to May 15th and are processed in the order received. Include your name, address, and daytime telephone number, the number of people, and your preferred campsites and dates. It is best to

include alternate dates and campsites. Write to Grand Teton National Park, Permits Office, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012 or Fax to 307 739-3438. Reservations may be made in person at the Moose Visitor Center, open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will return written confirmation. Phone reservations are not accepted but for information you may call 307 739-3309 or 739-3397.

Picking Up Your Permit A reservation holds a permit for you but does not replace the permit. Permits are required for all overnight trips. They may be picked up in person at the Moose and Colter Bay Visitor Centers or the Jenny Lake Ranger Station in the summer. During winter they may be picked up only at the Moose Visitor Center. You may get a permit as early as the day before your trip begins. A reserved permit must be picked up by 10 a.m. the morning of your trip or it will become available to others. You may call to inform us if you will be late. If you know you will not be using your permit, please cancel your reservation as soon as possible. You may be more successful in getting a walk-in permit if you have alternate destinations and dates in mind in case your first choice is full.

Backcountry Conditions

Snow usually melts from valley trails by mid-June but remains in the high country through much of the summer. Safe travel over Paint-

brush, Static Peak, and Moose Basin Divides and Hurricane, Mt. Meek, and Fox Creek Passes requires an ice axe and knowledge of its use until as late as July. Snow conditions vary from year to year; check with a Ranger for current information. Trails begin at about 6800 feet in elevation. Expect to encounter horses and yield to them by stepping off the downhill side of the trail and standing quietly until they pass. Boaters should be aware of strong afternoon winds.

Fishing

A Wyoming State fishing license is required to fish in the park. Non-resident 1-day, 5-day, 10-day, and season licenses are available at local sporting goods stores. Possession and size limits are set to protect natural fish populations. Ask for the *Fishing* brochure.

Mountaineering

Permits are not required for mountaineering, but climbers on overnight trips must have a backcountry permit to camp or bivouac. Ask for the *Mountaineering* brochure. Current and detailed information is available at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station in the summer, 307 739-3343. In the winter call 307 739-3309.

Boating

All vessels must be registered with the park annually. A small fee is required. Permits may be purchased at Visitor Centers or Ranger Stations. Lakeshore campsites are located on

Jackson Lake, and for canoes, on Leigh Lake. Camping is not permitted on the rivers. Ask for the *Boating* brochure.

Horses and Llamas

Stock may be used on established trails, however some trails are closed to horses and llamas. There are special campsites and rules for overnight stock use. Ask for the *Stock Use* brochure.

Weather

The average weather ranges described below are at valley elevations. Temperatures are cooler in the mountains, with more moisture. Be aware that mountain weather changes quickly. Check the weather forecast before starting your trip.

Spring: late April-June Mild days and cold nights intersperse with rain and occasional snow. Valley lakes usually thaw by late May. Snow level may remain just above valley elevation until mid-June. Average ranges: temperature 22-71°, snow 0-11", rainfall 1-3".

Summer: July-August Warm days and cool nights prevail, with afternoon thunder showers common. Snow level gradually retreats, with mountain divides free of snow by August. Average ranges: temperature 39-81°, rainfall 1-2".

Fall: September-November Sunny days and cold nights alternate with rain and snowstorms. Snow becomes persistent by late fall.

In Bear Country



Black bears and grizzly bears live in the park and parkway. These guidelines are to help you hike and camp safely in bear country. They are for your protection and for the preservation of the bears, one of the true signs of wild country.

A Fed Bear Is a Dead Bear

Careless food storage or feeding spells death for bears. Allowing a bear to obtain human food, even once, often results in aggressive behavior. The bear then presents a threat to human safety and must be removed or destroyed. Do not allow bears or other wildlife to obtain human food.

A Bear's Story

On June 9, 1994, a hiker reported to a Ranger, "The bear looked so hungry, I gave it my sandwich." The next day the same bear tore the pack off the back of a 9 year-old boy and ate the food inside. On June 11, park biologists tracked the bear, tranquilized it, and removed it from the park. Half of the bears removed return to their original home range. If the bear continues to threaten humans, it is shot dead. Don't be responsible for the death of the bear you came here to see.

Avoid Encounters

Make bears aware of your presence and avoid surprising them by making noise like talking or singing. Be especially careful in dense brush or along streams where water makes noise. Bells are not recommended because the sound does not carry well. Be alert and look for bears when hiking.

Average range: temperature 15-69°, snow 1-25", rainfall 1-2".

Winter: late November-April Snow blankets Jackson Hole with accumulations of ten feet common in the mountains and two to five feet in the valley. Blizzards are common with occasional sunny days and frigid nights between storms. Average range: temperature 2-31°, extreme -43°, snow 33-49".

Permit Parameters

Your permit is a contract between you and the National Park Service stating that you agree to treat the backcountry with respect. You are responsible for your actions. Printed on the back of your permit are backcountry regulations. Read, understand, and abide by them. **Group Size** Individual parties consist of 1 to 2 people. Each party is assigned one campsite. Groups of 7 to 12 people are limited to camping in designated group sites able to withstand the impact of many people.

Stay Limits Campers may stay in a camping zone or lakeshore site for 2 consecutive nights. On Jackson Lake the limit is 3 nights. Between June 1 and September 15 campers may stay in the backcountry a maximum of 10 nights. In the winter, length of stay is 5 nights in one site.

Maps and Books

The following maps and guide books are available from the Grand Teton Natural

History Association, a non-profit organization that supports the interpretive, educational, and scientific programs in the park. You may use your credit card to order any of them by calling 307 739-3606.

Trails Illustrated Topo Map of Grand Teton National Park. Entire park. Shows camping zones, lakeshore sites, and trails with mileages.

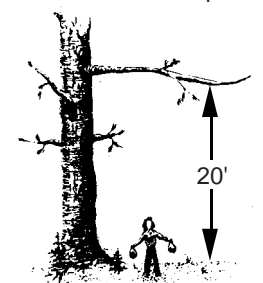
Earthwalk Press Hiking Map & Guide, Grand Teton National Park. Topo map of west side of park from Moran Bay south. Shows camping zones, lakeshore sites, trails, and mileages.

Teton Trails, A Guide to the Trails of Grand Teton National Park. Trail descriptions with mileages, approximate hiking times and planning maps.

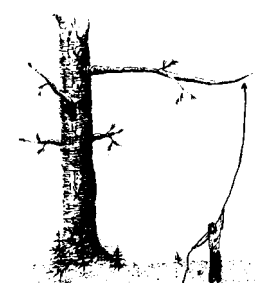
Grand Teton: Official National Park Handbook. Basic information on backcountry travel, mountaineering, boating, fishing and winter activities as well as natural and cultural history of the area.

Counter Balance Food Storage

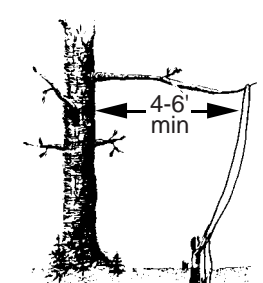
Use this method when storage boxes or bear poles are not available. It is the only method that will protect your food--and the bear. You will need 50 feet of rope and two stuff sacks.



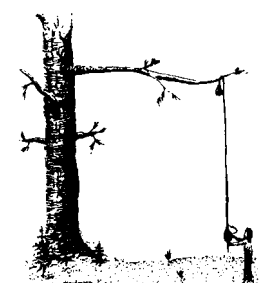
Find tree with live branch. Divide food into two balanced bags.



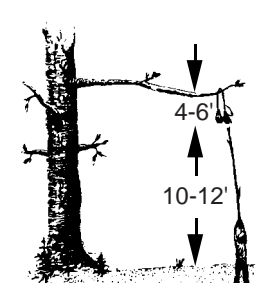
Use enough rope to go over branch and back to ground. Toss as far out on branch as will support food.



Tie first sack on and hoist up to branch.



Tie second sack high on rope leaving loop out for retrieval. Store excess cord in bag.



Push lower sack up with stick until sacks are even.



Retrieve with long stick through loop and pull slowly.

In The Backcountry

Minimum Impact Techniques

In 1916 Congress charged the National Park Service with managing its lands ". . . in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." This mandate requires two things in these days of heavy use: permits that limit visitors and cooperation of those who use the backcountry. The future of the wild country in Grand Teton National Park depends on you. **Managing Backcountry Use** The permit system is used to limit the number of campers in the backcountry. This protects the resources and the experience of other campers. In popular areas, designated campsites are selected for their durability and are spread apart to minimize disturbance to other campers. Canyons that receive less use are divided into camping zones. A limited number of people are allowed to camp in each zone, based on an average of one party per quarter mile of trail. This takes into consideration campsite availability and the need for solitude. In pristine areas only one party per night is allowed. In these areas, previous impacts are allowed to heal completely before a site is used again.

Leave No Trace Camp in designated sites where required. In camping zones, use an existing bare ground site that is at least 100 feet from water and out of sight and sound of others if possible. In pristine areas camp on a durable surface such as rock, snow, or bare ground. Dry grass or bare duff can stand a little use, but wildflowers and shrubs are fragile. In any camp, pick bare rock or ground for social gathering and cooking.

• One foot leaves little trace, but many feet combined degrade resources quickly. Stay on existing trails. Feet trample plants and compact soil, leading to erosion. Resist the temptation to walk off trail when it is muddy. Mud will flake off your boots faster than trampled vegetation will grow back. Shortcutting switchbacks causes irreversible damage and is prohibited. Where no trail exists, walk abreast, not single file. It's better to trample many plants a little than a few

plants a lot. Walk on rock, snow, or non-vegetated surfaces when possible.

• No trace means not leaving litter, scraps of food, fire rings, buried trash, or toilet paper. Be aware that loud voices and radios disturb others who are also seeking solitude. Be sure not to trample new areas. One misplaced step can destroy a tiny 100 year old plant. Your camping impacts, added to everyone else's, can remove all vegetation by the end of a single summer. Enjoy the flowers and rock formations, but leave them for others to enjoy.

• Strive to avoid resource damage, and be aware that past damage must be remedied. You may see trails rerouted or campsites closed so scars from overuse may heal. Please respect these efforts by staying out of closed areas and by using existing trails.

Your Help Is Needed The values that you came here to experience will be lost, not only to future generations, but to your next visit, unless you choose to help.

Water

Harmful organisms, that cause intestinal disorders with severe diarrhea, can be transmitted through untreated water. Always be certain that your water is safe. Treat backcountry water by boiling for a full minute or filtering with a portable water filter, or carry water collected from approved sources such as spigots or drinking fountains.

Sanitation

Prevent contaminated waterways. Bury feces in a hole 6-8 inches deep and at least 200 feet from lakes, streams, and wetlands. Pack out toilet paper in a sealed plastic bag or use natural options such as rocks, snow, or vegetation. Store used tampons, sanitary napkins, and diapers in sealed plastic bags. Urinate in rocky places that won't be damaged by animals digging for the salts and minerals found in urine.

Yep, Regulations

Regulations are needed to protect resources and ensure a high quality backcountry experience. Your cooperation is needed in

understanding and abiding by all park rules, even if it means sacrificing your own convenience. Help eliminate the need for more restrictions by hiking and camping responsibly. The following key regulations are strictly enforced.

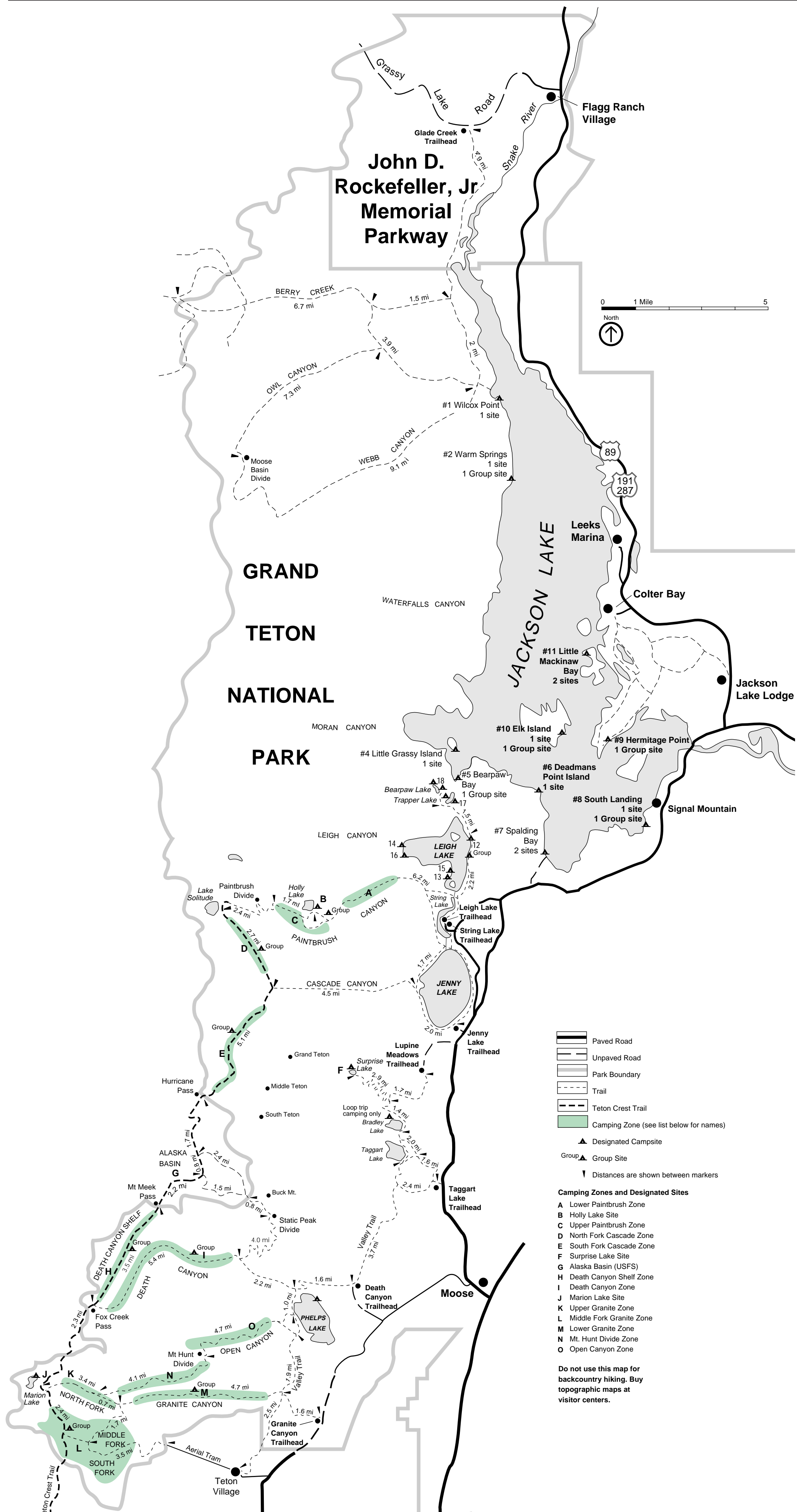
• Permits are required for all overnight stays. • Campsite "improvements" such as construction of rock walls, log benches, tree bough beds, new fire rings, and trenches are prohibited. • Fires are permitted only at designated lakeshore sites. Where permitted, fires must be confined to metal fire grates. Keep fires small and do not leave unattended. Downed and dead wood may be collected. Gas stoves are encouraged.

• Pets, bicycles, other wheeled vehicles, motorized equipment, weapons, and explosives are not allowed in the backcountry. • Anglers must have a Wyoming State fishing license in possession. • Horse and llama use is limited to established trails and stock camps. Use hitch racks where provided. Carry your own feed; grazing is not allowed.

• Shortcutting switchbacks is prohibited. • Keep a safe distance from wildlife. Feeding wildlife interferes with their natural diet and is harmful to their health. Please don't feed the animals.

• This is bear country. Follow the food storage regulations in the In Bear Country section of this brochure.

• Prevent pollution by not washing dishes or bathing in or near streams or lakes. • Carry out all trash and food scraps. When possible, carry out trash left by others. Never bury trash or attempt to burn aluminum.



With a permit, you may stay anywhere within a camping zone unless assigned to a designated site.

- In non-designated sites camp out of sight of trails and other campers. Camp on previously impacted campsites.
- Camp at least 100 feet from lakes and streams.
- Fires are prohibited, use a stove.
- Signs mark the beginning and end of each zone. If there are designated sites inside the zone, they are marked with signs.
- Bears are common. Properly hang your food using the counter-balance method. Food storage poles or boxes are available at some sites.
- Group campsites may only be used by parties specifically assigned to them. Group sites are marked with signs.

Berry Creek, Webb Canyon & Canyons Without Trails
Shuttle boat service is available. Bears, including grizzlies, are frequently observed in this area. Hiking includes stream crossings without bridges that range from difficult to extremely dangerous. Safe use requires that hikers be in good physical condition and experienced with map and compass. Users must be prepared for self-evacuation in case of problems. Horse and llama camping is permitted only at Hechtman Stock Camp.

Upper Paintbrush Canyon Zone
Extends from about 0.1 mile above the lower Holly Lake Trail Junction to the Paintbrush Divide headwall, on the main canyon trail. From the lower end of the zone to the upper Holly Lake Trail Junction, camp only on the south side of the trail (the left side as you hike up the canyon). From the upper Holly Lake Trail Junction to the Paintbrush Divide head-wall you may camp on either side of the trail.

Lower Paintbrush Canyon Zone
Begins 2.6 miles from the String Lake Parking Area, 0.25 mile below the first crossing of Paintbrush Creek. The upper camping zone boundary is 1 mile below the lower Holly Lake Trail Junction.

Holly Lake Designated Sites
Follow the Holly Lake Trail to the trail marked "Holly Lake Campsites" that begins at Holly Lake. This trail leads north to two designated campsites, each marked with a sign. Group and stock site is 0.25 mile below Holly Lake.

North Fork Cascade Zone
Extends from the second bridge above the fork to where the trail crosses the stream draining Mica Lake. Camping is prohibited at Lake Solitude. Group site is 0.5 mile above the lower boundary of the zone on terraces east of the trail.

South Fork Cascade Zone
Begins 1 mile above the Cascade Canyon trail fork and ends 0.5 mile below Hurricane Pass. Group site is 1.75 miles above the trail fork, east of the trail.

Open Canyon Zone
Extends from where the trail crosses Open Canyon Creek to just north of Mt. Hunt Divide.

Death Canyon Zone
Starts 4.5 miles from the Death Canyon Trailhead at the bridge crossing of Death Canyon Creek. The lower zone boundary is 0.5 mile west of the Death Canyon Patrol Cabin (not staffed). The upper boundary is 0.5 mile below Fox Creek Pass. Group site is between the trail and creek, 2 miles west of the patrol cabin.

Death Canyon Shelf Zone
Extends from just above Fox Creek Pass to Mt. Meek Pass. Group site is 2 miles north of Fox Creek Pass. A large boulder is east of the trail.

Lower Granite Canyon
Begins 0.25 mile above the lower patrol cabin (not staffed). Upper boundary is just below the upper cabin. Group site is south of the trail 3.4 miles west of the Lower Granite patrol cabin.

North Fork Granite Canyon Zone
Lower boundary is 0.25 mile above the upper patrol cabin. The upper boundary is where the trail crosses the North Fork Creek.

South-Middle Forks Zone
Lower boundary is 0.75 mile above the upper Granite Patrol Cabin on the South Fork Trail. On the north, the boundary is the ridge between the North and Middle Forks. The east boundary is 1.5 miles from the top of the tram. Group site is 4.6 miles from the top of the tram and 1.4 miles south of Marion Lake. Site is in trees 150 yards east of where the trail crosses the Middle Fork Creek.

Mt. Hunt Divide Zone
Upper boundary is just south of Mt. Hunt Divide and extends down to 0.75 mile above the Granite Canyon trail.

Marion Lake Designated Sites
Three sites are just east of the lake. A spur trail leads east from the lake. Please camp on tent pads.

Lakeshore Sites

Jackson Lake
• Bears are common. Bear boxes are provided at each site and must be used for food storage.
• Fires are allowed in fire grates only.
• Pets are not allowed in Jackson Lake campsites except at Spalding Bay. Pets must be physically restrained at all times and are not allowed out of boats.
• Beware of gusty afternoon winds on the lake.

Leigh Lake
• Bears are common. Bear boxes are provided at each site and must be used for food storage.
• Fires are allowed in fire grates only.
• Pitch tents on tent pads, where provided.
• Beware of gusty afternoon winds on the lake.

Phelps Lake
• Bears are frequently encountered in this area. Bear boxes are provided at each site and must be used for food storage.
• Fires are allowed in fire grates only.
• Pitch tents on tent pads.

Suggested Trips

Tram to Granite Canyon via Marion Lake
17.1 miles. Trailhead: Teton Village – 1 night. Fee charged for tram.

Cascade Canyon/Paintbrush Canyon Loop
19.2 miles. Trailhead: String Lake parking area – 1 night.

Granite Canyon/Open Canyon via Valley Trail
19.3 miles. Trailhead: Granite Canyon parking area – 1 night.

Tram/Death Canyon loop via Valley Trail
23.1 miles. Trailhead: Teton Village – 1 to 2 nights. Fee charged for tram.

Cascade Canyon/Death Canyon via Static Peak Divide
24.8 miles. Trailheads: Jenny Lake Ranger Station and Death Canyon parking area – 1 to 2 nights.

Granite Canyon/Death Canyon loop via Valley Trail
25.7 miles. Trailhead: Granite Canyon Parking Area – 2 nights.

Tram to Cascade Canyon via Teton Crest Trail
28.5 miles. Trailheads: Teton Village and Jenny Lake Ranger Station – 2 to 3 nights. Fee charged for tram.

Death Canyon/Cascade Canyon via Teton Crest Trail
29.5 miles. Trailheads: Death Canyon parking area and String Lake parking area – 2 to 3 nights.

Death Canyon/Paintbrush Canyon via Teton Crest Trail
36.0 miles. Trailheads: Death Canyon parking area and String Lake parking area – 3 to 4 nights.

Granite Canyon/Paintbrush Canyon via Teton Crest Trail
37.9 miles. Trailheads: Granite Canyon parking area and String Lake parking area – 4 nights.

Consider Your Safety

Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. The National Park Service does not track your whereabouts. Good judgement and experience, and good equipment and the knowledge of how to use it are essential for a safe trip. Keep your group together, especially children. Uncontrolled falls on snow and unroped falls while rock scrambling are frequent causes of injury and death. Sudden storms with high winds commonly capsize boats.

Hypothermia Cold, wet, windy conditions can occur at any time. A sudden mountain storm or a swamped boat can lead to hypothermia, the lowering of body temperature. This is a serious condition that can quickly lead to death. Carry rain gear and warm clothing at all times. Watch for the early signs of hypothermia: uncontrollable shivering, incoherent speech, and apparent exhaustion. Help the victim immediately. Give warm, non-alcoholic liquids and warm clothes. For more serious cases, place the victim, naked, in a sleeping bag with another naked person and keep them awake, warm, and dry. Give warm drinks.

Lightning Afternoon thunderstorms are common so plan your trips accordingly. Think ahead and get to a safe place before a storm hits. Avoid mountain tops and ridges, open areas, lone trees, and the base of cliffs. Forested areas with trees of similar height are safer. Squat on the balls of your feet away from other members of your party. Do not stand on tree roots. If boating, get off the lake.

Altitude Elevations in the park vary from 6356 to 13770 feet above sea level. Altitude sickness can strike anyone regardless of age or physical condition. Symptoms include headache, nausea, difficulty sleeping, and tiredness. Plan your trip to allow a slow ascent with gradual time for adjustment. Mild cases can be treated with rest, fluids and aspirin. More severe cases can progress rapidly and lead to death. The only real cure is rapid descent to lower altitude.

Lost, Injured, Overdue?

In the event of an emergency, stay calm and use your best tool, your brain. Adequate planning, skills and equipment will prevent most problems. If you do not return on time, a friend or relative should notify the park. If lost, stay put; you will be found sooner. Stay in a clearing or large rock outcropping where you will be most visible. Attract searchers by

making noise and signaling with colors or a mirror. If someone is injured provide whatever treatment you can. If possible, do not leave the injured alone. Send for help with information on the exact location (mark on a topo map), injuries, equipment on scene, treatment given, and any plans made.

- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Park Boundary
- Trail
- Teton Crest Trail
- Camping Zone (see list below for names)
- Designated Campsite
- Group Site
- Distances are shown between markers

- Camping Zones and Designated Sites**
- A Lower Paintbrush Zone
 - B Holly Lake Site
 - C Upper Paintbrush Zone
 - D North Fork Cascade Zone
 - E South Fork Cascade Zone
 - F Surprise Lake Site
 - G Alaska Basin (USFS)
 - H Death Canyon Shelf Zone
 - I Death Canyon Zone
 - J Marion Lake Site
 - K Upper Granite Zone
 - L Middle Fork Granite Zone
 - M Lower Granite Zone
 - N Mt. Hunt Divide Zone
 - O Open Canyon Zone

Do not use this map for backcountry hiking. Buy topographic maps at visitor centers.