



NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83401**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Winter Travel Regulations Go Into Effect for Palisades Ranger District

Idaho Falls, ID – Winter Travel regulations will go into effect on December 22, 2008 for the Palisades Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Winter snow conditions are becoming such that cross-country travel off of Forest Service roads and trails will be permitted using snowmobiles. Recreationists are reminded to stop at the local Forest Service office or Visitor's Center in Idaho Falls and obtain information on the winter travel regulations showing areas they can or cannot go. Be sure and use the Winter side "or Blue side" of the Travel Map and not the Green Summer side.

Most of the Palisades District is open to cross country travel by snowmobiles except big game winter ranges such as in Fall Creek and along the South Fork of the Snake River. Kelly Canyon and Kelly Canyon Ski Area are also closed to snowmobiles to provide an area for skiers.

The Forest Service reminds winter users to be sure and stay on designated routes in big game winter ranges. The Fall Creek Road (FS 077) from Swan Valley up to Skyline Ridge is a designated snowmobile route through important elk and deer winter range. Animals can be viewed from the road, but snowmobiles should not leave the road. This helps greatly to reduce stress on wintering animals. For example, snowmobilers should not use Rash Canyon, the South Fork of Fall Creek or other closed side canyons in Fall Creek. These are important game wintering areas.

As has been the case for many years the South Fork of Snake River Road above Heise from Table Rock upriver to Black's Canyon will be closed to snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles until the spring thaw allows for wheeled vehicle use. Fisherman and others going up the river road (FS 206) either hiking or skiing are reminded to be considerate of private property and wintering wildlife, particularly nesting bald eagles.

If forest users have questions they are encouraged to come by and visit with district employees at the District Office at 3659 East Ririe Highway, or at the Eastern Idaho Visitor Center at 630 West Broadway in Idaho Falls. And before you go, familiarize yourself with the District Travel Map showing the specific travel restrictions.

For additional information, contact the Palisades Ranger District at 523-1412, or the Eastern Idaho Visitor Information Center at 523-3278.

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