

NEWS RELEASE

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: **January 9, 2008**
08-01

Contact: **Lynn Ballard**
Phone: **208-557-7565**

AVALANCHE DANGER

Eastern Idaho: Caribou-Targhee National Forest officials urge winter recreation visitors to get current avalanche forecasts before traveling into backcountry areas.

Recent snowfall accumulations combined with wind may result in natural occurring avalanches. In some areas a weak layer in the snow pack is now buried under 18-24 inches of snow, increasing the potential for avalanches, especially on wind loaded slopes in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. These wind-loaded slopes may be attractive to skiers and snowmobilers because of added snow base, but are ripe for avalanches. Unstable wind-loaded slopes and cornices can create slabs of snow that can release at any time. Wind-loaded slopes and cornices should be avoided.

Visitors planning a trip to the mountainous backcountry should contact the nearest avalanche hazard forecast office or visit www.avalanche.org for the latest conditions prior to leaving. Forest officials remind all visitors that avalanches can be triggered in isolated parts of any forecast area.

- Bridger-Teton National Forest (Teton mountain range) 307-733-2664
- Gallatin National Forest (Island Park area) 406-587-6981
- Southern Idaho (Bear River Range) 888-999-4019, option 2

For avalanche safety information and tips, please visit: www.avalanche.org or your local Forest Service Office. The State of Idaho will be hosting avalanche awareness workshops in Idaho Falls January 12, 2008 and Pocatello on January 26, 2008 and Preston on February 2, 2008. The workshops are free, but registration is required. Call 208-525-7121 to register and get information on the workshops.