



***NEWS
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United States
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Forest Service
Salmon - Challis National
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Goldbug Hot Springs Closed to Overnight Camping

USDA Forest Service will no longer allow overnight camping at Goldbug Hot Springs on Warm Springs Creek, according to Salmon-Cobalt District Ranger Kimberly Nelson. The hot springs, located at the end of a two mile trail, is a popular back-country destination for the thousands who visit year-round to enjoy the scenic hike and to soak in the natural hot pools. The trailhead is located approximately 25 miles south of the City of Salmon on Highway 93. Use at the site has increased dramatically over the past decade as word has spread over the internet.

“Goldbug Hot Springs and the trail to it are located in steep and rugged terrain and visitor use is concentrated in the canyon bottom and at the hot spring pools,” Nelson said. “With the exception of a compost toilet that is located approximately 1 mile from the trailhead, there are no public toilet facilities in the area causing unsanitary conditions at and near the hot springs.”

In addition, people camping near the hot springs have cleared vegetation and carved out campsites on the small flat spots between the rocks near the springs. In some instances small groups have been able to monopolize the hot springs by camping out for several days.

To address the issue of human waste, reduce user conflicts, protect fragile soils and vegetation surrounding the hot springs, and enhance the quality of the recreational experience, the Forest Service has closed the lands within 500 feet of the hot springs to overnight camping. The hot springs remain open for single-day use.

The overnight camping closure order will posted at the Salmon-Challis National Forest Headquarters and District Offices. The order will also be posted on the bulletin board located at the Hot Springs Trailhead, with additional “No Camping” signs located at the Hot Springs area. Patrols will occur by District Forest Protection Officers, Forest Law Enforcement Officers, and Bureau of Land Management Law Enforcement Rangers.