



***NEWS  
RELEASE***



United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Salmon - Challis National  
Forest  
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### Spring Boaters Should Expect Logs in the Middle Fork

It's springtime on the rivers of central Idaho, including the Middle Fork of the Salmon and the Main Salmon River, and following last year's fires along the rivers along with this winter's heavy snow pack the Salmon-Challis National Forest expects logs to be present in the river again this year.

"Early indications from Forest Service personnel are that many logs are present in the upper section of the Middle Fork above Pistol Creek," said Middle Fork District Ranger Tom Montoya. These logs have the potential to move downriver as flows increase and pile up at narrow or restricted points causing logs jams in the Middle Fork.

"Boaters are required to obtain permits before floating the Middle Fork and it is the responsibility of every boater to be aware of conditions on the rivers and take appropriate precautions," Montoya noted. "That includes being heads-up and scouting the river ahead for hazards." It also means packing light and rigging boats for potential portaging or lining around hazards. It is important to remember that the Middle Fork is within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and is designated a Wild River under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. That means is that the Forest Service is obligated to manage the Middle Fork for its wild character. Montoya reminds boaters that the Forest will not be clearing obstacles from the river to assure passage for boaters.

In addition to logs and snags in the river, some campsites experienced significant fire activity last summer. Boaters are urged to be cautious as to where they place kitchen and sleeping areas by doing a thorough walk through their camp site and looking for trees that show evidence of fire. The Forest does plan on doing an evaluation of trees in four campsites that were significantly impacted by fire including Johns, Dome Hole, Lake Creek and Greyhound Campsites.

Springtime also means high water flows and very cold water. Boaters should "Rig to Flip - Dress to Swim". Every boater should be dressed appropriately for bad weather or sudden immersion in the icy water. When water temperature is less than 50 degrees F., a wetsuit or drysuit with booties is essential for protection.