

# Wilderness.net's Popo Agie Wilderness Fact Sheet



## Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Popo Agie Wilderness in 1984 and it now has a total of 102,620 acres. All of the wilderness is in Wyoming and is managed by the Forest Service.

## Description

This rough land features high, jagged peaks; deep, narrow valleys and canyons; sheer granite walls; cirque basins; talus slopes; and perennial snowfields. This area abuts the Continental Divide and

encompasses 25 square miles of the southern Wind River Mountain Range. Along the western boundary, which the Popo Agie (pronounced "po-po-zsha") Wilderness shares with the Bridger Wilderness, stands Wind River Peak, at 13,255 feet the highest point in the area. More than 20 other summits rise above 12,000 feet. The lowest elevation in the Popo Agie is the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River at 8,400 feet on the eastern boundary. Bordering the north side is the Wind River Indian Reservation, outstanding country where visitors must first obtain a permit before entering. More than 300 alpine and subalpine lakes and ponds send their waters down sparkling streams and over waterfalls to the Middle Fork and North Fork of the Popo Agie River and the South Fork of the Little Wind River. All the water eventually ends up in the Wind River. Forests of lodgepole pine and Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir grow here. In a Smithsonian Institute report issued in 1879, it was said of the Wind River Mountains, "when a good Indian dies, he falls into a beautiful stream of bright, fresh water, and is carried to the pleasant grounds [of the Winds]. . . ." The temperature rarely exceeds 80 degrees Fahrenheit, but it may plunge to 40 below zero in the winter. Snow may fall any day of the year. During summer, there are occasional heavy rains and afternoon thunderstorms are common. Many miles of trails attract a relatively large number of visitors, which has led to resource-protecting restrictions on camping and travel. Check with the Washakie or Wind River Ranger Districts (located in Lander and Dubois, respectively).

## Leave No Trace

How to follow the seven standard Leave No Trace principles differs in different parts of the country (desert vs. Rocky Mountains). Click on any of the principles listed below to learn more about how they apply in the Popo Agie Wilderness.

1. [Plan Ahead and Prepare](#)
2. [Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)
3. [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
4. [Leave What You Find](#)
5. [Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)
6. [Respect Wildlife](#)

## 7. [Be Considerate of Other Visitors](#)

For more information on Leave No Trace, [Visit the Leave No Trace, Inc. website.](#)

### **Area Management**

The Popo Agie Wilderness is part of the 109 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System. This System of lands provides clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. In wilderness, you can enjoy challenging recreational activities like hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing, bird watching, stargazing, and extraordinary opportunities for solitude. You play an important role in helping to *"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness"* as called for by the Congress of the United States through the Wilderness Act of 1964. Please follow the requirements outlined below and use Leave No Trace techniques when visiting the Popo Agie Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

### **General Wilderness Prohibitions**

Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters, unless provided for in specific legislation.

In a few areas some exceptions allowing the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport are described in the special regulations in effect for a specific area. Contact the Forest Service office for more specific information.

These general prohibitions have been implemented for all national forest wildernesses in order to implement the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act requires management of human-caused impacts and protection of the area's wilderness character to insure that it is "unimpaired for the future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Use of the equipment listed as prohibited in wilderness is inconsistent with the provision in the Wilderness Act which mandates opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and that wilderness is a place that is in contrast with areas where people and their works are dominant.

### **Wilderness-Specific Regulations**

Wilderness managers often need to take action to limit the impacts caused by visitor activities in order to protect the natural conditions of wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Managers typically implement 'indirect' types of actions such as information and education measures before selecting more restrictive measures. When regulations are necessary, they are implemented with the specific intent of balancing the need to preserve the character of the wilderness while providing for the use and enjoyment of wilderness.

The following wilderness regulations are in effect for this area. Not all regulations are in effect for every wilderness. Contact the Forest Service office for more specific information about the regulations listed.

ALL VISITORS

- Group size is limited to no more than 20 people.
- Caching equipment, personal property, or supplies for more than 24 hours is prohibited.
- Do not cut switchbacks.
- Store food, refuse, or harvested animal carcasses acceptably in order to minimize adverse interactions between bears and humans. Acceptable food storage means that food items and garbage are stored in a certified bear-resistant canister or hung 10' up off the ground and 4' out and away from the tree trunk.

## OVERNIGHT VISITORS

- Camping is prohibited within 1/4 of Lonesome Lake and 100 feet of any lake, stream, or trail.
- Overnight visitors cannot occupy a single location longer than 16 days.

## STOCK USERS

- Possessing more than 30 head of pack or saddle stock is prohibited.
- A stock party camping overnight will require a free use permit.
- All pack or saddle stock feed must be pelletized feed, processed grain, or cubed hay.
- Do not hitch, tether, or picket pack or saddle stock within 200 feet of lakes or 100 feet of streams.
- Free trailing stock is prohibited.

## Wilderness Permit System

A wilderness permit system has been implemented for this wilderness. This involves a mandatory permit, which does not limit use. Wilderness permit systems are implemented to collect information on use levels and patterns and as an education and information tool. People interested in visiting the Popo Agie Wilderness should contact the national forest office for more information about this permit system, which may vary by location or time of the year.

## Contacts

**Washakie Ranger District**  
333 EAST MAIN ST  
LANDER, WY 82520

Phone: 307-332-5460

**Shoshone National Forest**  
808 MEADOW LANE  
CODY, WY 82414

Phone: 307-527-6241

## Links on Wilderness.net

### [National, Regional and Local Wilderness Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

A listing of societies, organizations, coalitions and other wilderness-related advocacy and stewardship groups.

### [Career and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

A listing of sites providing information about wilderness- and environmentally-related career and volunteer opportunities.

## Applicable Wilderness Law(s)

Law	Date	Acreage Change (in acres)
<b>Public Law 98-550</b>	<b>October 30, 1984</b>	<b>101,991</b>
Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984 - Public law 98-550 (10/30/1984) To designate certain lands in the state of Wyoming for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release other forest lands for multiple use management, to withdraw designated wilderness areas in Wyoming from minerals activity, and for other purposes		

— [download 98-550](#)