

# Wilderness.net's Teton Wilderness Fact Sheet



## Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Teton Wilderness in 1964 and it now has a total of 584,708 acres. All of the wilderness is in Wyoming and is managed by the Forest Service.

## Description

The state's second largest Wilderness area straddles the Continental Divide deep in the heart of Wyoming's Yellowstone Ecosystem. It is bordered on the north by Yellowstone National Park, on the east by Washakie Wilderness, on the west by Grand Teton National Park, and on the south by the Mt Leidy Highlands and Gros Ventre Wilderness. To the west of the Great Divide the land is dominated by timbered ridges, grassy slopes, and broad willow and sedge meadows with elevations from 7,000 feet to 9,675 feet. To the east of the Great Divide are high alpine plateaus broken by ridges and extensive mountain meadows with elevations from 8,000 feet to 12,165 feet (Younts Peak). On Two Ocean Pass, the famous Two Ocean Creek splits to send water to both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Within the Teton Wilderness the headwaters of the notable Yellowstone and Snake Rivers arise in alpine meadows of willow and sedge. You'll see evidence of the great fires from the summer of 1988 that burned here and in Yellowstone. In 1987 the highest elevation tornado ever recorded mowed a 20-mile-long, two-mile-wide swath through an area near Enos Lake. But in general, this area is vast, spectacular, and relatively unspoiled. Teton Wilderness ranks among this nation's best wildlife areas. Summer brings trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes, ducks, geese, falcons, and song birds. Grizzly bears, grey wolves, moose and elk wander across meadows. Golden and bald eagles, hawks, grouse, coyotes, beavers, martens, bobcats, porcupines, otters, and mink live here year-round. Approximately 450 miles of trails provide access to this popular area. About half of the visitors to this area come expressly to hunt and fish. Home to numerous large predators, Grizzly and Black Bears, Grey Wolves, and Mountain Lion, it is strongly recommend that all visitors take precautions and come prepared to recreate accordingly.

## 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 Teton 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](#)

## **Area Management**

The Teton Wilderness is part of the 110 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 Teton 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 or visit the websites listed below 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 or visit the websites listed on the 'Links' tab for more specific information about the regulations listed.

### **ALL VISITORS**

-- Group size is limited to no more than 20 people.

- Possessing or placing salt for the purpose of attracting wildlife is prohibited. Salt may be used for culinary purposes in camp or for pack and saddle stock in feeding locations near camp.
- Food, carcasses, and all bear attractants must be acceptably stored.
- Campsites, food, or equipment cannot be left unattended for more than 48 hours.
- Do not dispose of debris, garbage, or other waste in the Wilderness. Pack it out.
- Do not shortcut switchbacks.
- As with all designated Wilderness, mechanical transportation (including wagons, game carts, and other vehicles) is prohibited.

## OVERNIGHT VISITORS

- Overnight visitors cannot occupy any single location longer than 16 days. After 16 days, camps must be moved at least 5 air miles from the original site. The original site cannot be returned to for at least 7 days.
- Camping is prohibited within 200 feet of any lake or trail and 100 feet of any stream.
- Camping is prohibited in the lower Atlantic Cr. Area described as T48N R11W E 1/2 of Sec 36; T48N R110W NW 1/4 Sec 31.

## STOCK USERS

- Groups are limited to no more than 35 head of pack or saddle stock.
- All pack or saddle stock feed must be certified weed-free. Each bale must be twined, tagged, or labeled as weed seed free and reference the written certification.
- Grazing pack or saddle stock is prohibited within 1/2 mile of Enos, Bridger, Crater, Rainbow, Bertha, Golden, Mackinaw, and Ferry lakes is prohibited.
- Restraining pack or saddle stock (tethering or picketing) within 200 feet of any lake or trail and 100 feet of any stream is prohibited.
- Tying livestock to trees for long periods of time that causes injury or damage to the tree, vegetation, or soil. At rest stops, tie stock to mature trees that are at least 8 inches in diameter.

## Contacts

**Buffalo Ranger District**  
HWY 26/287  
PO BOX 278  
MORAN, WY 83013

Phone: 307-543-2386

## Links to Other Websites

[Bridger-Teton National Forest, Teton Wilderness](#)

## 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 88-577</b>	<b>September 3, 1964</b>	<b>563,460</b>

The Wilderness Act - Public law 88-577 (9/3/1964) To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes

 [download 88-577](#)

<b>Public Law 98-550</b>	<b>October 30, 1984</b>	<b>28,156</b>
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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](#)