

Grand Teton

John D. Rockefeller Jr., Memorial Parkway

National Park
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Moose, Wyoming 83012
307-739-3300

Backcountry Camping

Before Leaving Home

Planning Your Trip

This guide contains general information regarding Grand Teton National Park's backcountry. For specific information obtain a topographic map of the park or a hiking guide. The map on the other side of this guide is only for planning purposes and selecting campsites. As you plan your trip, consider every member of your party. Also consider the distance and elevation gain to your destination. There is no shuttle service in the park, but taxi services are available from the local community. If you have only one vehicle, you may want to plan a loop trip that returns to the same trailhead. July and August are the busiest times because there is less snow in the high country. Weekends and holidays are busiest for boaters on Jackson Lake.

Getting A Permit

Permits are required for all overnight trips. To minimize impacts on park resources, backcountry permits are limited. One-third of the backcountry campsites and all of the groupsites may be reserved in advance. The rest are filled first-come, first-served at park permit offices.

Reservations

The park backcountry is very popular. Reservations are recommended. Requests are accepted by mail, fax or in person from January 1st to May 15th. Requests are processed in the order received. Include your name, address, and daytime telephone number, the number of people, and your preferred campsites and dates. It is best to include alternate dates and campsites. Write to Grand Teton National Park, Permits Office, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012 or fax to 307 739-3438. Reservations may be made in person at the Moose Visitor Center, open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will return written confirmation within two weeks. Phone reservations are not accepted. Call 307 739-3309 or 739-3397 for more information. **A non-refundable service fee of \$15 will be charged for each reservation.**

Picking Up Your Permit

A reservation holds your permit but does not replace your permit. Obtain permits in person at the Moose and Colter Bay Visitor Centers or the Jenny Lake Ranger Station in the summer. During winter, permits may be picked up only at the Moose Visitor Center. You may get a permit as early as the day before your trip begins. Have alternate destinations and dates in mind in case your first choice is full. A reserved permit must be picked up by 10 a.m. the morning of your trip or it will become available to others. You may call to inform us if you will be late. If you know you will not be using your permit, please cancel your reservation as soon as possible.

Permit Parameters

By signing the backcountry permit you agree to respect the backcountry. Printed on the back of your permit are some of the backcountry regulations. Read and abide by them. Failure to comply with regulations may result in fines and revocation of the permit.

In The Backcountry

Managing Backcountry Use

The permit system helps ensure protection of park resources while providing a quality backcountry experience. In popular areas, designated campsites are selected for their durability and are spread apart to minimize disturbance to other campers. Canyons that receive less use are divided into camping zones. A limited number of people are allowed to camp in each zone.

Leave No Trace

- No trace means not leaving litter, scraps of food, fire rings, buried trash, or toilet paper.
- Camp in designated sites where required. In camping zones, where improved sites are not provided use an existing bare ground site at least 200 feet from water and out of sight and sound of others if possible.
- In pristine areas camp on a durable surface such as rock, snow, or bare ground. Dry grass or bare duff can stand a little use, but wildflowers and shrubs are fragile. In any camp, pick bare rock or ground for social gathering and cooking.
- One foot leaves little trace, but many feet combined degrade resources quickly. Stay on existing trails. Feet trample plants and compact soil, leading to erosion. Be sure not to trample new areas. One misplaced step can destroy a tiny 100-year-old plant.
- Shortcutting switchbacks causes erosion and is prohibited.
- Where no trail exists, walk abreast, not single file. It's better to trample many plants a little than a few plants a lot. Walk on rock, snow, or non-vegetated surfaces when possible.
- Be aware that loud voices and radios disturb those who are seeking solitude.
- Your camping impact, added to everyone else's, can remove vegetation from an area.
- Removing flowers, plants, rocks and

other natural or cultural objects is prohibited. Please leave them for others to enjoy.

- Strive to avoid resource damage, and be aware that past damage must be remedied. You may see trails rerouted or campsites closed so scars from overuse may heal. Please respect these efforts by staying out of closed areas and by using existing trails.

Please help keep Grand Teton's backcountry looking "grand." The scenery that you came here to experience needs to be preserved for your next visit and for generations to come.

Water

Giardia, campylobacter and other harmful organisms that cause intestinal disorders with severe diarrhea can be transmitted through untreated water. To be certain that your water is safe, treat backcountry water by boiling or filtering with a portable water filter.

Sanitation

Prevent contaminated waterways. Urinate at least 200 feet away from any water source in rocky places that won't be damaged by animals digging for the salts and minerals found in human urine. Bury feces in soil 6-8 inches deep and at least 200 feet from lakes, streams, and wetlands. Pack out toilet paper in a sealed plastic bag or use natural options such as rocks, snow, or vegetation. Store used tampons, sanitary napkins, and diapers in sealed plastic bags.

Backcountry Regulations

Regulations are needed to protect resources and ensure a high quality backcountry experience. Your cooperation is needed in understanding and abiding by all park rules. Help eliminate the need for more restrictions by hiking and camping

Group Size

Individual parties consist of 1 to 6 people. Groups of 7 to 12 people are limited to camping in designated Groupsites able to withstand the impact of larger groups. In winter, parties are limited to 20 people.

Backcountry Conditions

Snow usually melts from valley trails by mid-June but remains in the high country through much of the summer. Safe travel over Paintbrush, Static Peak, and Moose Basin Divides and Hurricane, Mt. Meek, and Fox Creek Passes requires an ice axe and knowledge of its use until as late as August. Snow conditions vary from year to year. Check with a ranger for current information. Trails begin at about 6800 feet in elevation. Expect to encounter horses and yield to them by stepping off the uphill side of the trail and standing quietly until they pass. Boaters should be aware of strong afternoon winds.

Mountaineering

Permits are not required for mountaineering, but climbers on overnight trips must have a backcountry permit to camp or bivouac. Ask for the *Mountaineering* brochure. Current and detailed information is available at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station in the summer, 307 739-3343. In the winter call 307 739-3309. **From June through September, all Garnet Canyon permits and permits for any trip involving technical climbing or mountaineering should be picked up at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station.**

Fishing

A Wyoming state fishing license is required to fish in the park. There are established creel limits. For specific

responsibly.

The following key regulations are strictly enforced.

- ☑ Permits are required for all overnight stays. The permit is valid only for the location and dates indicated.
- ☑ Campsite "improvements" such as the construction of rock walls, log benches, tree bough beds, new fire rings, and trenches are prohibited.
- ☑ Fires are permitted only at designated lakeshore sites. Where permitted, fires must be confined to metal fire grates. Keep fires small and do not leave them unattended. Downed and dead wood may be collected. Gas stoves are encouraged.
- ☑ Pets, bicycles, wheeled vehicles, motorized equipment, weapons, and explosives including fireworks are not allowed in the backcountry.
- ☑ Anglers must have a Wyoming State fishing license in possession.
- ☑ Horse, mule and llama use is limited to established trails and stock camps. Use hitch rails where provided. Carry stock feed; grazing is not allowed.
- ☑ Shortcutting trail switchbacks is prohibited.
- ☑ Keep a safe distance from wildlife. Feeding wildlife interferes with their natural diet and is harmful to their health. Feeding don't feed the animals.
- ☑ This is bear country. Follow the food storage regulations in the In Bear Country section of this brochure.
- ☑ Prevent pollution by not washing dishes or bathing in or near streams or lakes.
- ☑ Carry out all trash and food scraps. When possible, carry out trash left by others. Never bury trash or attempt to burn aluminum.
- ☑ Black bears and grizzly bears live in the

fishing rules and regulations ask for the *Fishing* brochure. Fishing licenses are available at the Colter Bay, Moose, Flagg Ranch and Signal Mountain camp stores.

Boating

All vessels must be registered with the park annually. A fee is required. Permits may be purchased at the Moose or Colter Bay Visitor Centers. Lakeshore campsites are located on Jackson Lake and Leigh Lake. Camping is not permitted on the Snake river. For specific information regarding the use of watercraft in the park ask for the *Boating* brochure.

Horses and Llamas

Stock may be used on established trails, however some trails are closed to horses and llamas. There are special campsites and rules for overnight stock use. Ask for the *Stock Use* brochure.

Stay Limits

Campers may stay in a camping zone or designated sites for two consecutive nights. On Jackson Lake the limit is 3 nights. Between June 1 and September 15 campers may stay in the backcountry a maximum of 10 nights. In winter, the length of stay is 5 nights in one site.

Maps and Books

Maps and guidebooks are available from the Grand Teton Natural History Association, a non-profit organization that supports the interpretive, educational, and scientific programs in the park. Call 307-739-3403 for details.

In Bear Country



park and parkway. Follow these guidelines to make your hike and camp safer. They are for your protection and for the preservation of the bears, one of the true signs of wild country.

A Fed Bear Is A Dead Bear

Careless food storage or feeding spells death for bears. Allowing a bear to obtain human food, even once, often results in aggressive behavior. The bear then presents a threat to human safety and must be removed or killed. Do not allow bears or other wildlife to obtain human food.

Avoid Encounters

Avoid surprising bears. Make bears aware of your presence by making noise like talking or singing. Be especially careful in dense brush or along streams where water makes noise. Bells are not recommended because the sound does not carry well. Be alert and look for bears when hiking.

If You Encounter A Bear

Do not run. Running often elicits attacks from non-aggressive bears. Bears can easily out run any human. If a bear is unaware of you, detour quickly and quietly away. If a bear is aware of you but has not acted aggressively, back away slowly, talking in an even tone while waving your arms.

Aggressive Bears

If a bear approaches or charges you, **do not run.** It will increase the chance of attack. **Do not drop your pack;** it may

Weather



This table characterizes the lower elevation areas of the park. Most of the park is at higher elevations and temperatures will average at least 5 degrees colder. Precipitation will be much greater; the precipitation on the high windward slopes can be expected to be twice that shown here. Be aware that mountain weather changes quickly. **Check the weather forecast before starting your trip.**

Grand Teton Climate	MONTH											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
TEMPERATURE												
Normal Daily Maximum	26	32	38	48	60	70	80	78	68	56	38	28
Normal Daily Minimum	5	8	10	24	31	38	42	41	34	26	16	7
Extreme High	55	60	64	75	85	98	95	96	93	84	65	58
Extreme Low	-60	-63	-43	-28	0	18	24	18	7	-20	-36	-52
Days above 90°	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Days below 32°	31	27	30	26	19	6	2	4	14	26	28	31
PRECIPITATION												
Normal	1.4	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.9	2.2	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.2
Maximum	3.8	1.8	3.0	2.8	2.9	4.0	2.2	3.9	3.7	2.6	2.5	4.1
Max. 24 Hr. Precip	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.5	0.7	0.9	1.7
Max. Snowfall	42	30	32	24	14	6	6	2	8	18	23	31
Days with measurable Precip.	14	12	12	10	10	10	7	8	8	9	10	13
Average No. Thunderstorms	0	0	0	1	5	11	14	12	2	0	0	0

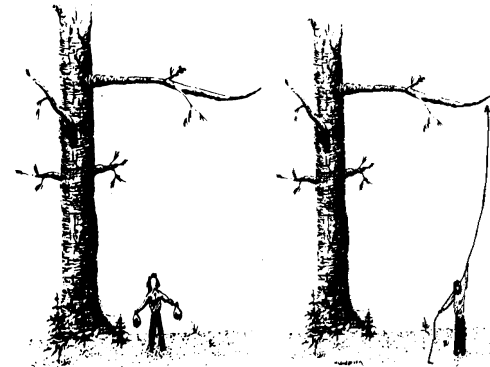
protect your body if attacked. Bears often "bluff charge," stopping before contact. Bear experts generally recommend standing still until the bear stops, then backing away slowly. Climbing trees is no protection from black bears and may not help with grizzlies either. If you are knocked down, curl into a ball protecting your stomach, back of your head and neck.

Camping In Bear Country

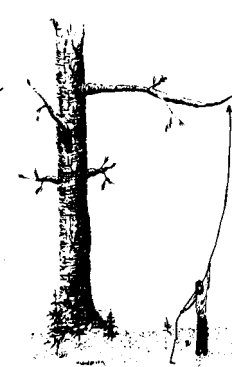
- Do not store anything odorous in your sleeping bag or tent. Leave packs away from your tent with the zippers and flaps open.
- Do not cook in your tent. Keep your food storage and cooksite at least 100 feet from where you sleep. Don't sleep in the same clothes you wore while cooking.
- Keep a clean camp. Pack out all garbage, do not bury. Store garbage the same way you store food.
- Do not leave food, packs, or garbage unattended, even for a few minutes. Bears are active day and night.
- Some campsites have bearproof containers for food storage. Others have metal poles from which you can hang food. If neither are available, use the counter balance method. If you carry a bearproof container, store it the same way you store your food and garbage. These containers are not airtight; bears can smell the contents.
- Do not allow bears to obtain human food. Once a bear has tasted human food it may become a threat to human safety and will be removed or destroyed.

Counter Balance Food Storage

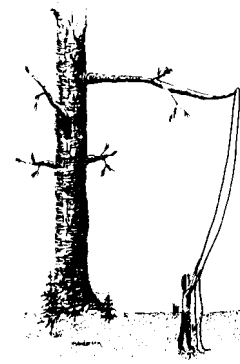
Use the *Counter Balance* method illustrated on the right when storage boxes or bear poles are not available. It is the only method that will protect your food—and the bear. You will need 50 feet of rope and two stuff sacks.



1 Find tree with live branch. Divide food into two balanced bags.



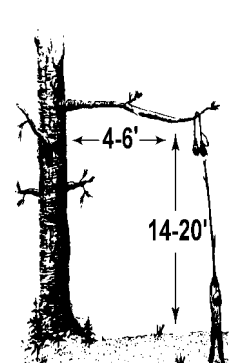
2 Use enough rope to go over branch and back to ground. Toss as far out on branch as will support food.



3 Tie first sack on and hoist up to branch.



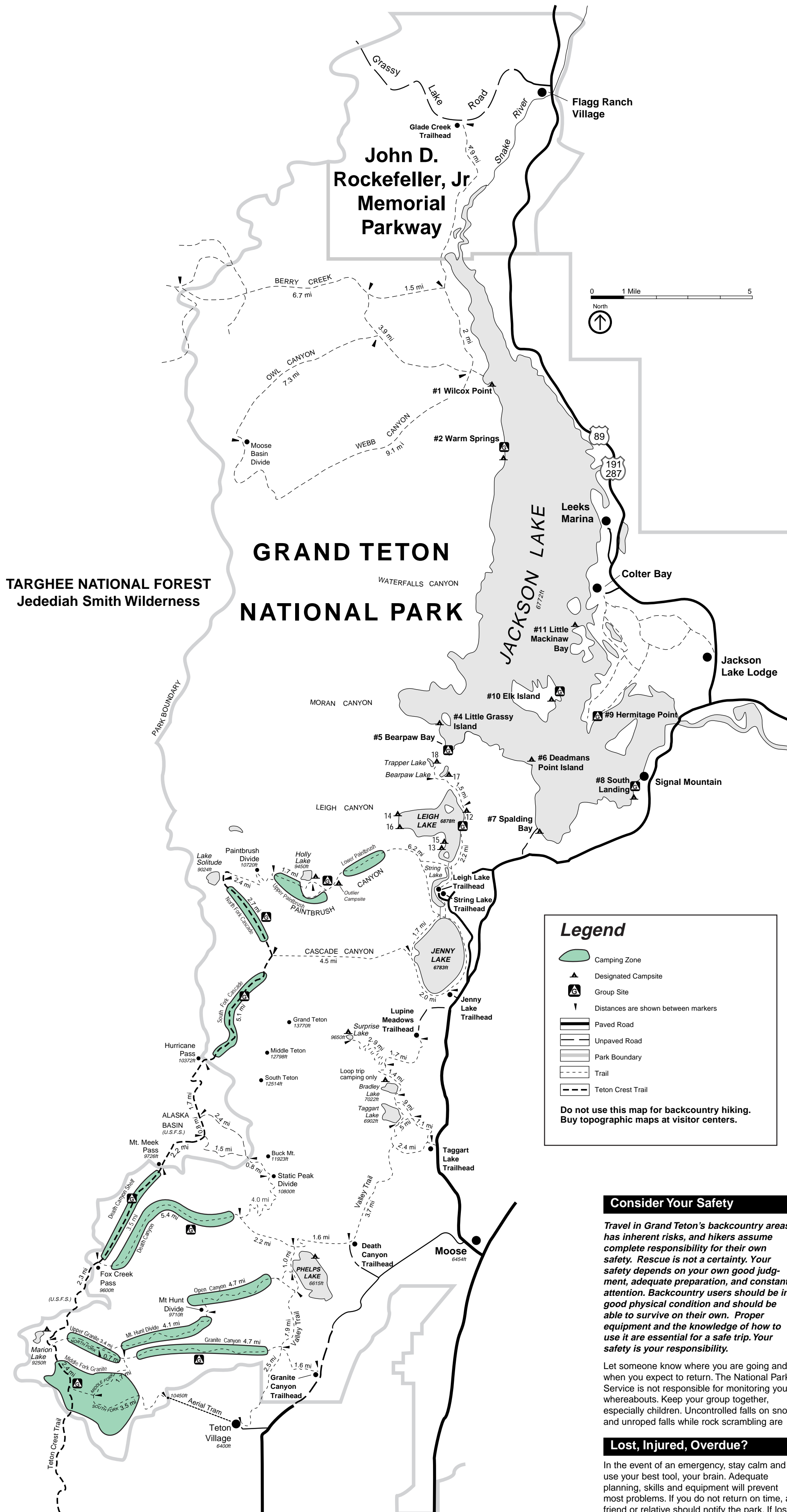
4 Tie second sack high on rope leaving loop out for retrieval. Store excess cord in bag.



5 Push lower sack up with stick until sacks are even.



6 Retrieve with long stick through loop and pull slowly.



With a permit, you may stay within the indicated camping zone, unless assigned to a designated site.

- Signs mark the beginning and end of each zone. If there are groupsites or improved campsites inside the zone, they are marked with signs.
- In non-designated sites, camp out of sight of trails and other campers. Camp on previously impacted campsites.
- Camp at least 200 feet from lakes and streams, where possible.
- Group campsites may only be used by groups specifically assigned to them. Groupsites are marked with signs.
- Fires are prohibited, use a stove.
- Bears are common. Properly hang your food using the counter-balance method. Food storage poles or boxes are available at some sites.

Berry Creek, Webb Canyon & Canyons Without Trails

Bears, including grizzlies, are frequently observed in this area. Hiking includes difficult and dangerous stream crossings without bridges. Safe travel requires good physical condition and experience with map and compass. Hikers must be prepared for self-evacuation in case of problems. Horse and llama camping is permitted only at Hechtman Stock Camp.

Lower Paintbrush Canyon Zone

Begins 3 miles from the String Lake Parking Area below the first crossing of Paintbrush Creek. The upper camping zone boundary is 1.5 miles below the lower Holly Lake Trail Junction. The "Outlier" campsite is 1 mile below Holly Lake and is a designated site.

Upper Paintbrush Canyon Zone

Extends from about 0.1 mile above the lower Holly Lake Trail Junction to the Paintbrush Divide headwall, on the main canyon trail. From the lower end of the zone to the upper Holly Lake Trail Junction, camp only on the south side of the trail (the left side as you hike up the canyon). From the upper Holly Lake Trail Junction to the Paintbrush Divide headwall, you may camp on either side of the trail.

Holly Lake Designated Sites

Follow the Holly Lake Trail to the trail marked "Holly Lake Campsites" that begins at Holly Lake. This trail leads north to two designated campsites, each marked with a sign. Group and stock site is 0.25 mile below Holly Lake.

North Fork Cascade Zone

Extends from where the trail crosses the fork to where the trail crosses the stream

Lakeshore Sites

Jackson Lake

- Bears are common. Bear boxes are provided at each site and must be used for food storage. Coolers are *not* bear-proof.
- Fires are allowed only in fire grates.
- Pets are not allowed in Jackson Lake campsites except at Spalding Bay. Pets must be physically restrained at all times and are not allowed out of boats.
- Beware of waves caused by afternoon winds on the lake.

draining Mica Lake. Camping is prohibited at Lake Solitude. Groupsite is 0.5 mile above the lower boundary of the zone on terraces east of the trail.

South Fork Cascade Zone

Begins 1 mile above the Cascade Canyon trail fork and ends 0.5 mile below Hurricane Pass. Groupsite is 1.75 miles above the trail fork, east of the trail.

Death Canyon Zone

Starts 4.5 miles from the Death Canyon Trailhead 1/4-mile above the bridge crossing of Death Canyon Creek. The lower zone boundary is 0.5 mile west of the Death Canyon Patrol Cabin (not staffed). The upper boundary is 0.5 mile below Fox Creek Pass. Groupsite is between the trail and creek, 2 miles west of the patrol cabin.

Death Canyon Shelf Zone

Extends from just above Fox Creek Pass to Mt. Meek Pass. Groupsite is 2 miles north of Fox Creek Pass.

Marion Lake Designated Sites

Three sites are just east of the lake. A spur trail leads east from the lake. Please camp on tent pads.

North Fork Granite Canyon Zone

Lower boundary is 0.25 mile above the Middle/North Fork trail junction. The upper boundary is where the trail crosses the North Fork Creek.

South-Middle Forks Zone

Lower boundary is 0.75 mile above the upper Middle/North Fork trail junction. On the north, the boundary is the ridge between the North and Middle Forks. The east boundary is 1.5 miles from the top of the tram. Groupsite is 4.6 miles from the top of the tram and 1.4 miles south of Marion Lake. Site is in trees 150 yards east of where the trail crosses the Middle Fork Creek.

Lower Granite Canyon

Upper boundary is just below the Middle/North Fork trail junction. Groupsite is south of the trail, 3.4 miles west of the Granite Canyon trail junction with the Valley Trail.

Mt. Hunt Divide Zone

Upper boundary is just south of Mt. Hunt Divide and extends down to 0.75 mile above the Granite Canyon trail.

Open Canyon Zone

Extends from where the trail crosses Open Canyon Creek to just north of Mt. Hunt Divide.

Legend

- Camping Zone
- Designated Campsite
- Group Site
- Distances are shown between markers
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Park Boundary
- Trail
- Teton Crest Trail

Do not use this map for backcountry hiking. Buy topographic maps at visitor centers.

Trail Combinations & Mileages

Tram to Granite Canyon via Marion Lake 17.1 miles. Trailhead: Teton Village – 1 night. Fee charged for tram.

Cascade Canyon/Paintbrush Canyon loop (*Note: This is an extremely busy trail July through August*) 19.2 miles. Trailhead: String Lake parking area – 1 night.

Granite Canyon/Open Canyon loop via Valley Trail 19.3 miles. Trailhead: Granite Canyon parking area – 1 night.

Tram/Death Canyon loop via Valley Trail 23.1 miles. Trailhead: Teton Village – 1 to 2 nights. Fee charged for tram.

Cascade Canyon/Death Canyon via Static Peak Divide 24.8 miles. Trailheads: South Jenny Lake parking area and Death Canyon parking area – 1 to 2 nights.

Granite Canyon/Death Canyon loop via Valley Trail 25.7 miles. Trailhead: Granite Canyon Parking Area – 2 nights.

Tram to Cascade Canyon via Teton Crest Trail 28.5 miles. Trailheads: Teton Village and South Jenny Lake parking area – 2 to 3 nights. Fee charged for tram.

Death Canyon/Cascade Canyon via Teton Crest Trail 29.5 miles. Trailheads: Death Canyon parking area and String Lake parking area – 2 to 3 nights.

Death Canyon/Paintbrush Canyon via Teton Crest Trail 36.0 miles. Trailheads: Death Canyon parking area and String Lake parking area – 3 to 4 nights.

Granite Canyon/Paintbrush Canyon via Teton Crest Trail 37.9 miles. Trailheads: Granite Canyon parking area and String Lake parking area – 4 nights.

Consider Your Safety

Travel in Grand Teton's backcountry areas has inherent risks, and hikers assume complete responsibility for their own safety. Rescue is not a certainty. Your safety depends on your own good judgment, adequate preparation, and constant attention. Backcountry users should be in good physical condition and should be able to survive on their own. Proper equipment and the knowledge of how to use it are essential for a safe trip. Your safety is your responsibility.

Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. The National Park Service is not responsible for monitoring your whereabouts. Keep your group together, especially children. Uncontrolled falls on snow and unroped falls while rock scrambling are

frequent causes of injury and death. Sudden storms with high winds commonly capsize boats.

Hypothermia
Cold, wet, windy conditions can occur at any time. Carry rain gear and warm clothing at all times. A sudden mountain storm or a swamped boat can lead to hypothermia, (the lowering of body temperature), a serious condition that can quickly lead to death. Watch for the early signs of hypothermia: uncontrollable shivering, incoherent speech, and apparent exhaustion. Help the victim immediately. Give warm, nonalcoholic liquids and warm clothes. For more serious cases, place the victim, naked, in a sleeping bag with another naked person. Keep the victim awake, warm, and dry.

Afternoon thunderstorms are common, so plan your trip accordingly. Think ahead and get to a safe place before a storm hits. Avoid mountain tops and ridges, open areas and lone trees. Forested areas with trees of similar height are safer. Do not stand on tree roots. If boating, get off the lake.

Altitude
Elevations in the park vary from 6356 to 13,770 feet above sea level. Altitude sickness can strike anyone regardless of age or physical condition. Symptoms include headache, nausea, sleeping difficulties, and tiredness. Plan your trip to allow a slow ascent with breaks for altitude adjustment. Mild altitude sickness can be treated with rest, fluids and aspirin. The only real cure is descent to lower altitude.

Lost, Injured, Overdue?

In the event of an emergency, stay calm and use your best tool, your brain. Adequate planning, skills and equipment will prevent most problems. If you do not return on time, a friend or relative should notify the park. If lost,

stay put; you will be found sooner. Stay in a clearing or large rock outcropping where you will be most visible. Attract searchers by making noise and signaling with colors or a mirror. If someone is injured, provide whatever

treatment you can. If possible, do not leave the injured alone. Send for help with information on the exact location (mark on a topo map), injuries, equipment on scene, treatment given, and any plans made.