



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service  
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## Forest Service News Release

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### Sawtooth National Recreation Area to Begin Changes on Food Storage and Campground Days

**Ketchum, Idaho, April 12, 2021**— As the weather gets warmer and the days longer, the Sawtooth National Forest would like to prepare you for a few changes you'll see when recreating on the Sawtooth NRA this summer.

**Food Storage:** Black bears are a common animal in the Sawtooth NRA. Seeing a bear at a distance can be a wonderful experience but having one at your campsite can be a problem. Bears learn that campers and campsites provide a food source. Once rewarded bears can become habituated. These bears become dangerous to people and are often euthanized. In an ongoing effort to reduce bear/human interactions, we would like to remind visitors of the food storage requirement.

From the Saturday before Memorial Day through Labor Day, all food, garbage, and animal attractants must be properly stored in a hard-sided vehicle or bear-resistant container. This food storage requirement is specific to National Forest lands within the Sawtooth NRA except for wilderness. Bear resistant containers are readily available locally and can be found on-line from several manufacturers and retailers.

**Stay Limits and Dispersed Camping:** Recreating on public land is a great way to share time with family and friends but as use continues to grow so does the competition for camping and parking, conflicts between users, and impacts to the land. Historically stay limits varied widely and have often been a source of confusion for the public. In an effort to provide opportunities, reduce conflicts, manage impacts, and simplify restrictions, we established a new 10-day stay limit and identified new areas where camping is limited to developed campgrounds and signed designated sites.

May 1st through September 15<sup>th</sup> occupancy is limited to 10 days within a 30-day period within a 30-mile radius. This stay limit applies to camping, parking, and boat mooring across the Sawtooth NRA. We want you to enjoy your stay and in doing so, help us provide opportunities for others by adhering to the stay limit and by taking your camping equipment, boats, trailers, and other toys home with you when you leave.

The Motor Vehicle Use Map identifies where dispersed camping is allowed. The map symbol for dispersed camping is represented by dots along a particular road or trail. If this symbol is absent, camping is allowed only in developed campgrounds or signed designated sites. Specific areas within the Sawtooth NRA where dispersed camping is limited to developed campgrounds and signed designated sites, are described in the [SNRA Occupancy and Use Order](#). Please help us limit the impacts of dispersed camping in these areas by traveling only on designated routes and camping only in designated sites.

According to Sawtooth NRA Area Ranger, Kirk Flannigan, “Recreation use on the Sawtooth NRA is changing and we are trying to be creative in responding to that change. I hope visitors will understand the benefits of these new restrictions for themselves and others and help us to protect the unique values of this very special place.”

Click on the links below to “know before you go”. And be sure to check out the [Sawtooth National Forest](#) Facebook page for additional information.

- [Bear Food Storage Order](#)
- [SNRA Occupancy and Use Order](#)
- [Motor Vehicle Use Map](#)
- [Be Bear Aware](#)

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