


Eastern Idaho Hunting & Fishing Guide



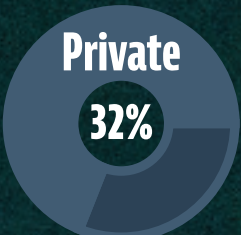
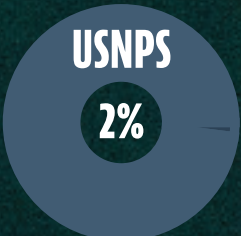
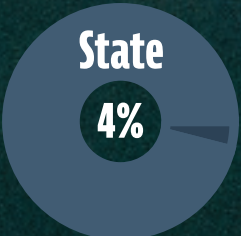
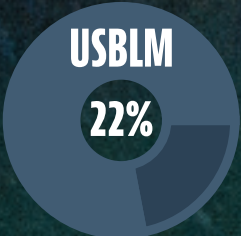
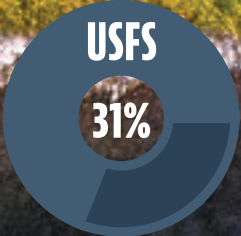
Immerse yourself in the outdoor experience

Regional map | Outfitter directory | Expert tips | Must-visit locations

An aerial photograph showing a riverbank. The top portion of the image is a wide, light-colored gravel or sand bar. The bottom portion is a dark, flowing river with visible ripples and small waves. A strip of green grass is visible in the upper right corner, bordering the gravel bar.

Idaho is a pristine western hub for adventurers, hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts. Find yourself in a state with the nation's fifth largest swath of public lands to be explored totaling nearly 34 million acres.

Idaho is touted as an outdoor enthusiast's paradise and the Upper Snake Region is no exception. More than 50 percent of the region is either Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management land.



data courtesy of Idaho Department of Fish & Game



Welcome!

Welcome to the West. Here, elk herds roam the foothills; trophy-sized native Yellowstone cutthroat trout swim through crystal-clear rivers; and moose, bear, deer, and the like border the valleys and towns in miles and miles of pristine public lands. Eastern Idaho is revered by sportsmen and women throughout the country. Wide-open plains, towering mountains, healthy waterways, bountiful wildlife, and endless recreation opportunities attract visitors to our corner of the state. A hunting and fishing mecca, if you're searching for an outdoorsman's paradise, you've come to the right place. Eastern Idaho is a part of Idaho Department of Fish and Game's region six, known as the Upper Snake Region. The region contains incredibly diverse landscapes, including high-elevation sagebrush deserts, sand dunes, mountain peaks more than twelve thousand feet tall, dense pine, fir, and spruce forests, and miles of glassy streams and rivers.

The western gateway to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, the Upper Snake Region hosts ten of Idaho's eleven big game animals and is home to a diverse list of fish found in little known and famed waters like the Henry's Fork and South Fork of the Snake River. Celebrated birds like sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, and waterfowl also call the region home.

Yellowstone Teton Territory

The Yellowstone Teton Territory's Eastern Idaho region is comprised of Idaho Falls, Rexburg, St. Anthony, Ririe, Rigby, Dubois, Spencer, Island Park, Ashton, Swan Valley, and Teton Valley's Victor, Driggs, and Teton. Each town and city offers their own recreation and cultural appeal from top-tiered ski resorts like Grand Targhee Resort to stunning natural wonders like Ashton's Mesa Falls. On yellowstoneteton.org, download our *Visitors Guide* for a snapshot of each. But one thing reigns true no matter which community you visit: Each is a hunter and angler's hub, with endless adventures right at your fingertips.

Begin your excursion exploring Idaho's wide-open lands, breathtaking mountains, and clear waterways with a basecamp. Whether you're looking for an all-inclusive hunting or fly-fishing outfitter and lodge, a resort hotel with easy access to recreation, or the perfect RV site, Yellowstone Teton Territory has it all. Visit yellowstoneteton.org and click the lodging tab to access properties for all styles and budgets.

Using This Guide

Inside the pages of the *Eastern Idaho Hunting & Fishing Guide*, you'll find inspiration, recommendations, and information about embarking on a hunting or fishing adventure. Gaze at trophy elk, explore scenic vistas with rushing rivers carving between them, and see yourself making memories to last a lifetime. But there are rules and regulations for these outdoor excursions. Use this as a launchpad for your upcoming adventures. For detailed, up-to-date information, visit idfg.idaho.gov. Or, call the local Region 6 Fish and Game office with any questions. Experience all that Eastern Idaho has to offer, but do so responsibly. And, remember, leave it better than when you found it.

Photography by Ranch Hand Photography



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Licenses, Tags, & Permits



To start your next hunting or fishing adventure, visit idfg.idaho.gov/licenses for up-to-date fees, important dates, and information. Did you know that Idaho Fish and Game is responsible for the management, protection, and preservation of all wildlife in the state? IDFG is also funded primarily through the sale of licenses, permits, and tags. When you embark on an excursion in Idaho, you are directly supporting the preservation and protection of the wildlife and lands that make the state so incredible.



Hunting

To hunt in Idaho, you need a hunting license. Depending on the species you want to hunt, you may need a tag or permit.

Idaho has both controlled and general season hunts. Hunters need to apply for controlled hunts, which are done through a lottery draw. General season hunts can be purchased over-the-counter on a first-come, first-served basis. Oftentimes, the allotment of nonresident tags sell out before the beginning of hunting season, so early purchase is encouraged.

Fishing

To fish in Idaho, any person 14 years of age or older must have a valid fishing license. Anglers younger than 14 do not need a license, but there is a small difference between resident and nonresident youth.

- A resident child under 14 has their own separate fishing limit.
- A nonresident child under 14 must be with someone who has a valid fishing license, and their fish are included in the license holder's fishing limit. However, a nonresident child may purchase their own junior fishing license and have their own limit.

Special fishing permits are needed for some activities for both residents and nonresidents:

- Fishing for salmon and steelhead.
- Fishing with two poles.

How to purchase

At a Fish and Game regional office

There are nine located throughout the state. The Upper Snake Region office is located at:

4279 Commerce Circle
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
P: (208) 525-7290
F: (208) 523-7604

At a vendor

Visit the Business Directory on *page 32* for a list of regional vendors. For an inclusive state list, visit idfg.idaho.gov/vendor-locator.

Online

For trips more than two weeks out, plan ahead and purchase at idfg.huntfishidaho.net/login. Licenses are instantly redeemable by email and are not mailed. Only tags and permits are mailed. You may also show a picture of your license on your phone as a confirmation.

By phone

Call toll-free: 1-800-554-8685

There are processing fees for online and by phone purchasing options.

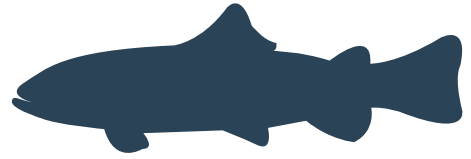
Fishing



The catch of a lifetime—and the experience of a lifetime!—is waiting on Eastern Idaho’s rivers, lakes, and waterways. Seasoned anglers and newcomers alike flock to the region in hopes of hooking coveted Yellowstone cutthroat trout, hearty brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout, and more. Wet your line from the banks of Island Park’s Henry’s Fork or Henry’s Lake. Cruise down the scenic waterways of the South Fork of the Snake River in a drift boat with an expert guide leading you to fish-filled waters.

Wade along the banks of the Teton as brook trout munch on hoppers. Guide-led, wade fishing, backcountry tributaries, reservoirs, lakes, and more; fishing in Eastern Idaho is abundant and bountiful.

If you’re opting to explore on your own, make sure you know the regulations and bag limits for each body of water. If you’re fishing with an outfitter, they will guide you on all rules for what you can keep or what you must catch and release.



Did You Know?

The Upper Snake Region is one of the most premier areas for fishing and has 3,287 miles of flowing water, and eighteen lowland lakes, reservoirs, and ponds, of which ten have been designated by IDFG as Family Fishing waters.

Yellowstone Cutthroat vs. Rainbow Trout

An iconic species to the American West waterways, Yellowstone cutthroat trout are Idaho's native fish species that call the region home. They are a favorite to catch thanks to their large size, eagerness to eat, and fantastic colors. Rainbow trout are a nonnative species that are jeopardizing the native Yellowstone cutthroat population by inbreeding (making a cross called cutbows) and competing for available food. Anglers are encouraged to harvest rainbow and cutbow trout through a reward program on the South Fork and Teton River. Fish can be turned in and checked for tags that are embedded in the fish's nose.

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout

Cutthroats, like their name alludes, have a red slash along the jaw. Their bodies are yellowish and brown, with darker olive or grey on the back and yellow-hued sides. Their spotting patterns vary.

Rainbow Trout

Silvery bodies with a red lateral band and white tip on the edge of their anal and belly fins. Look for spots on the head and back, but not the belly.

What You'll Need

- A valid Idaho fishing license (see *page 5* for more info).
- Rules and regulations (available online at idfg.idaho.gov/rules/fish).
- Proper gear (see *page 30* for outfitters and retailers).
- A desired location (see the map on *page 18*).



Henry's Lake

Island Park

Located north of Island Park, just fifteen miles from Yellowstone National Park, Henry's Lake State Park is one of Idaho's incredible high-elevation lakes and is famous amongst anglers for its unbelievable trophy trout averaging three to five pounds (some up to seven pounds!). The lake formed more than one million years ago after a volcano erupted, leaving a caldera. It is six thousand acres and surrounded by lush meadows and the towering Centennial Mountains, as well as the Continental Divide on three sides. Henry's Lake is relatively shallow and is spring and tributary fed, which means fish stay low to find their food. A seasoned guide will tell you that this lake is not for the dry-fly-enthusi-

asts. Put away your parachute adams and break out your streamers. Fishing on Henry's Lake is predominantly subsurface fishing; it's key to have a sinking line and to place your fly at the right depth.

The state park is open in summer and fall for fishing, and cutthroat, rainbow-cutthroat, and brook trout are plentiful. The shoreline is mostly private, other than some campsites, so the best way to fish this coveted spot is via watercraft, accessible from boat ramps. Bring the family for a spectacular getaway that's attractive to the most experienced anglers and the kiddos just getting their feet wet.



In the winter

While summer is no doubt the busiest time of year for fishing on Henry's Lake, the early winter season brings out a dedicated group of anglers searching for trophy trout on the frozen lakes. The ice fishing season is open through January 1 and, although short, is a much-anticipated time of year. The key to ice fishing is safety. Reach out to Fish and Game or local outfitters for tips. In general, ice should be two to four inches thick for walking on the frozen water and is thicker closer to the edges of the lake.

Regional ADA Accessible Fishing

*ADA toilet available

- **Ashton Reservoir**, Tributary of Henry's Fork of the Snake River, Fremont County*
- **Becker Pond** at Ryder Park Pond, Bonneville County
- **Henry's Fork**, Snake River, Island Park
- **Henry's Lake**, Island Park
- **Jim Moore Pond**, Roberts Gravel Pond, Jefferson County*
- **Mud Lake**, Jefferson County

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Small Stoneflies						█	█	█	█	█		
Salmon Fly						█	█					
Golden Stone Fly						█	█	█	█			
Caddis						█	█	█	█			
Mahogany Dun								█	█	█		
Blue Winged Olive				█	█					█	█	
Pale Morning Dun						█	█	█	█	█		
Green Drake						█	█					
Midge	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Hoppers							█	█	█	█		

courtesy of Three Rivers Ranch

Henry's Fork

Island Park

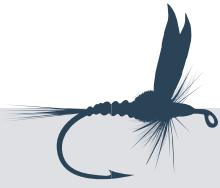


The Henry's Fork of the Snake River flows through Fremont and Madison Counties from the volcanic-made spring created millions of years ago. The river begins near Henry's Lake at Big Springs and flows through eight sections of prime fishing waters, through two dams, and over one thousand feet in elevation change. It runs in a southerly direction from Henry's Lake to its confluence with the South Fork, where these two major tributaries become the Snake River. The Henry's Fork meanders through Harriman State Park, flows over Mesa Falls, is interrupted by Island Park Reservoir and Ashton Dam, and is accessible at many convenient put-in spots.

Anglers vie to visit these waters during the fa-

mous salmon fly hatch, a dry-fly fisherman's magnum opus. Hearty brown trout and cutthroat rising to snatch a floating bug is a sight and feeling that will leave you hooked. The section of river below Island Park Reservoir is known as the Box Canyon, where anglers search for trout-filled pockets of water. The Last Chance and Railroad Ranch areas, as they are known, are famous for sight casting.

A plethora of outfitters and seasoned guides are ready and able to show excited anglers the ropes on this world-class river. Teton Valley outfitter WorldCast Anglers refers to this celebrated spot as "Graduate School of Fly-Fishing for PH.D. Trout." Come May, school is in session.



Guide's Go-To Flies

- 1. Go-to fly for early season:** Baetis and midges. For midges (hook sizes 18-22), look for Griffith's gnat and zebra midge patterns. For Baetis (hook sizes 16-22), try smaller parachute adams and pheasant tail nymphs.
- 2. Favorite fly for the South Fork:** An adult Stonefly pattern like G's Super-fly in a golden or salmon fly color. For fishing in riffles where trout emerge, try a PMD (pale morning dun) in a yellow-greenish or a pink mayfly. Hook sizes 6-10.
- 3. Top Henry's Fork fly:** A small black or cinnamon ant pattern, hook sizes 16-20. This river is very dynamic, however, so ask a local outfitter for hatch tips.
- 4. Fall favorite:** A colorful streamer like white or yellow. Hook sizes 4 and 6.
- 5. The "when nothing else works" fly:** Try a hopper-dropper rig. The hopper can be some sort of large dry fly, either a stonefly or an actual grasshopper pattern, and the dropper fly is usually a pheasant tail or a zebra midge.

Recommendations by Andy Asadorian of WorldCast Anglers in Victor



Sections of the Henry's Fork

The Henry's Fork has ample public access points dotting the river's different sections: The Upper, Box Canyon, Harriman Ranch (Railroad Ranch), Mesa Falls Byway (the Canyon), and the Lower.

The Upper

This section is the headwaters of the Henry's Fork located at Big Springs. Many areas are closed to fishing, but anglers can access waters near Mack's Inn and Coffee Pot Rapids.

Box Canyon

Box Canyon is located just below Island Park Dam and ends in Last Chance. This is a narrow stretch of the river.

Harriman Ranch

Three Rivers Ranch Outfitters says this six miles of river is "breathtaking, but the dry-fly fishing is what really makes this place special." Flowing through wide-open high country surrounded by the Centennial Mountains and the Teton Range, get ready to showcase your dry-fly game!

Mesa Falls Byway

A bit away from the crowds in summer, the Mesa Falls Byway section offers areas where you can fish from the banks or float. This is also a technical float and is best done by experienced rowers or with a guide.

The Lower

Beginning at the Ashton Reservoir, enjoy views of the towering Teton Range in the distance. Wade fishermen can access the river with easy access through Vernon, Chester, and the Fun Farm Bridge.

For a map, visit henrysfork.org.

South Fork

of the Snake River



Grab a guide and a drift boat to experience this impeccable waterway that flows through canyons, farmlands, and scenic vistas. Beginning in spring and lasting through the fall, the South Fork sees excited anglers searching for the catch of a lifetime, but there's also endless fun to be had floating along the river searching for moose on the riverbanks or bald eagles flying above. The South Fork of the Snake, which runs from Swan Valley at the Palisades Reservoir northwest to meet the Henry's Fork, offers 66 miles of pristine river, where the average flows are about 10,000 cubic feet per second.

And if the scenery doesn't grab you in, the impressive amount of trout per mile—nearly five thousand!—is sure to do the trick. With thirteen public access points, anglers can choose to enjoy a half-, full-, or multi-day excursion on the river.

A variety of wildlife, from raptors to deer, can be spotted. The South Fork has the largest riparian cottonwood gallery forest in the West and supports one of the most unique and diverse ecosystems in Idaho with 126 bird species, including 21 raptors. This distinction has earned



the area classification as a National Important Bird Area designation according to the Bureau of Land Management. Another highlight is Fall Creek Falls, where Fall Creek empties in dramatic fashion into the South Fork of the Snake River in Swan Valley.

Different guides prefer particular stretches of this world-famous waterway, and some have private access points; though it's extremely popular, locals regularly claim that "there's space and fish for all."

Popular Snake River Access Points

The South Fork of the Snake has a number of boat launch sites, some perfect for half-day excursions while others are a favorite for two-day fishing and camping weekends. Call a local outfitter for tips or to book a trip, and plan your ideal day on the river.

Palisades Dam

The South Fork of the Snake River begins at Palisades Dam just past Swan Valley. Here, anglers typically embark on full-day trips from this launch, ending at the Spring Creek Bridge, which is a twelve-mile float packed with unbelievable trout opportunities.

Palisades Creek Boat Launch

Known by locals and guides as Husky, this boat launch point is just across the highway from Huskies Gas Station. Anglers enjoy nearby campsites, bathrooms, and a concrete launch.

Spring Creek Bridge

Spring Creek Bridge in Swan Valley is a typical take-out point for Palisades Dam or Husky, and a popular put in for anglers floating the middle section known as the canyon.

Conant

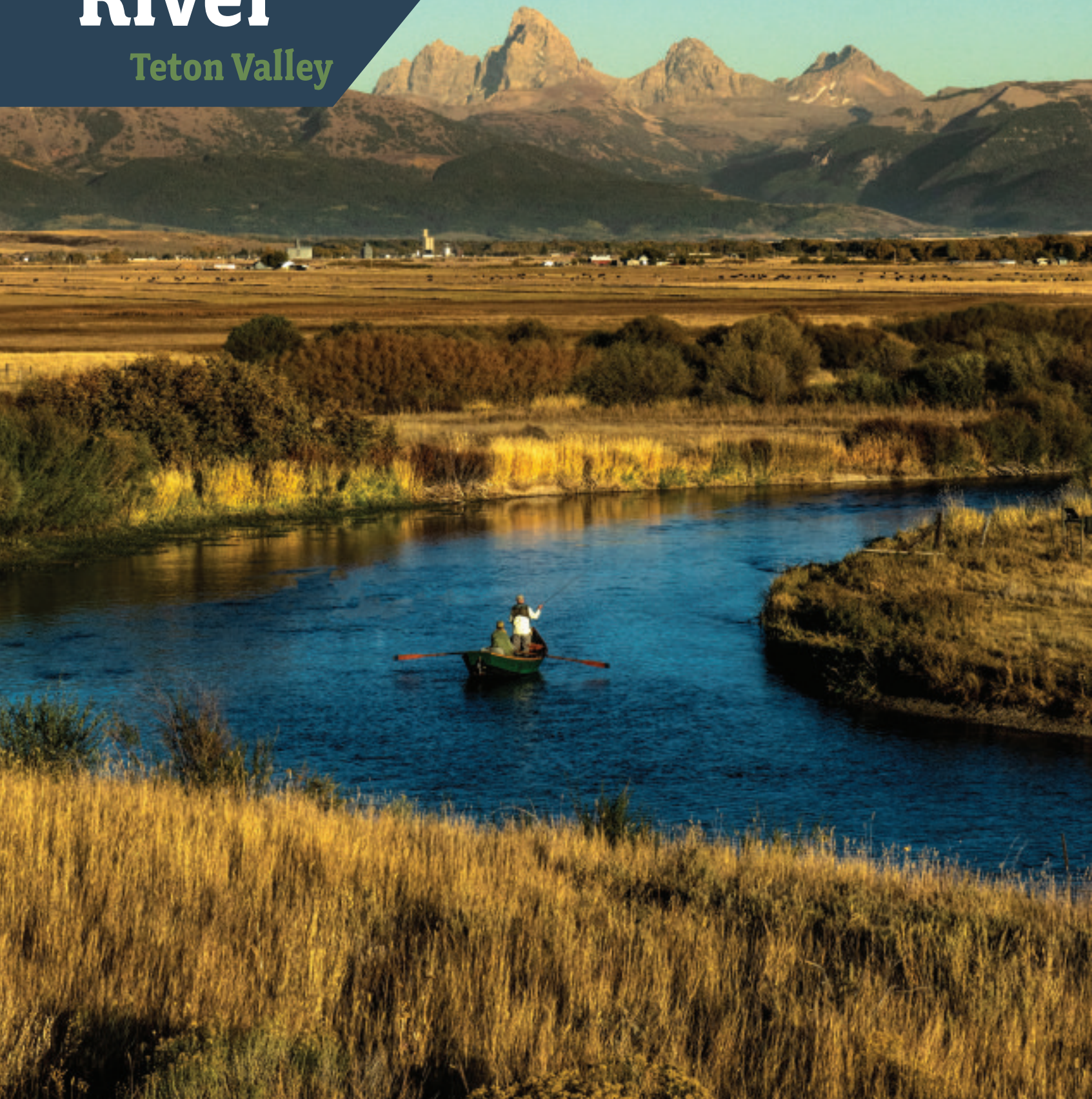
Just off the highway near South Fork Lodge, this launch has a large parking lot and two boat lanes. For a two-day fishing experience, anglers float Conant to Byington, about twenty-five miles away.

Heise

Heise, located in the popular Heise recreation area near Ririe, is a favorite launch spot for floating to Lorenzo near Rexburg, about seven hours away.

Teton River

Teton Valley



The Teton River flows 113 miles through Teton Valley, Idaho, along the Idaho and Wyoming border in the Teton Range to the Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Island Park. Boaters and recreationists enjoy six access points throughout the region, perfect for drift boats, kayakers, paddle boards, and other watercraft. Shallow banks allow for wade fishing, while drift boats can easily float the river in the peak summer months when flow are still high. While the river is a fantastic spot for skilled anglers to search for thirteen-inch-plus trout, beginners will also welcome the chance to wet their line and catch brook trout, white fish, and the like.



Teton River Popular Access Points

Directions courtesy of Peaked Sports in Driggs

South Bates Bridge

- Go south of Driggs on Highway 33, turn west (towards the Big Hole Mountains) on 750 South.
- Follow the road until you cross the bridge. The river access will be on your left.

Buxton River Park (Bates Bridge)

- From the stoplight in Driggs, drive west on Bates Road toward the Big Hole Mountains.
- At 3.7 miles from the stoplight, you will cross the Teton River on Bates Bridge. Before the bridge is a very large parking lot on the right (north) side of the road.

"Big Eddy"/Rainey

Fish and Game Access and Public Camping

- From the stoplight in Driggs, drive west on Bates Road, toward the Big Hole Mountains.
- After you cross the Bates Bridge, drive another half mile to a Y intersection.
- At the Y intersection, continue driving straight west (do not follow the curve to the left/south). Drive west another 1.2 miles until you come to two metal silos on your right.

- Turn right (north) on the dirt road just past the silos. There is a brown Fish and Game Access sign at this turn-off.
- Drive north on this dirt road until you come to the Fish and Game Access sign. Turn right (east, towards the Teton Mountains) and drive until you reach the Rainey Access on the Teton River and the end of the road.

Packsaddle/Cache Bridge

- From Driggs travel north on Highway 33
- Turn west (towards the Big Hole Mountains) on 4000 North/Packsaddle Road.
- You will cross the Teton River and the boat ramp is on the left.

Harrops Bridge/Highway 33

- From Driggs travel north on Highway 33 through Tetonia.
- Continue on Highway 33 west toward Rexburg. The boat ramp is on the right-hand side of the road before Highway 33 crosses the Teton River.
- This is your last opportunity to end your float of the Teton River. After this point, the river will eventually enter a canyon with whitewater that is only suitable for experienced boaters.

An aerial photograph showing a large body of water on the left side, with two small boats. The right side of the image shows a dense forest of green trees, with patches of white snow scattered throughout the landscape. A dark blue banner is overlaid on the top left corner, containing white text.


Other Tributaries, Lakes, Reservoirs, and Streams

of the Upper Snake Region

While the South Fork, Henry's Fork, Henry's Lake, and Teton River might be the most well-known fishing hubs, the unbeatable fishing locals enjoy does not end there. The Upper Snake Region is peppered with backcountry tributaries, expansive reservoirs, scenic lakes, and kid-friendly ponds for you and your family to enjoy.


Rivers and Streams

Inviting tributaries are too numerous to detail here, but some favorites include:

Birch Creek—On the Clark and Lemhi county line, this spring-fed stream is ideal for kids and older anglers, located in a high-desert basin flowing parallel to ID 28 (northwest of Mud Lake). Rainbow trout are stocked heavily, and wild brook trout are fairly common. 


Fall River—Anglers must walk and wade to fish this waterway near Ashton; farther upstream, close to Cave Falls, trout average about ten inches in length.


Sand Creek—Trout fishing is a popular aspect of this Wildlife Management Area.

Warm River—With plentiful camping and terrific trails and terrain, this is another well-visited family spot for anglers. 

Lakes, Reservoirs, and Ponds

Whether you have an afternoon or a month to spend exploring Yellowstone Teton Territory, here are some favored fishing holes; many are "family friendly."

Ashton Reservoir—A scenic 400-acre reservoir on the Henry's Fork perfect for fishing from the dock or shore; though best known for rainbow trout, it's home to the state record brown trout, which weighed a whopping 27.3 pounds. 

East Harriman Fish Pond—Off the beaten path, this gem is perfect for visitors interested in a peaceful fishing trip. 


Horseshoe Lake (off Cave Falls Road east of Ashton, at the edge of Yellowstone)—No motorized vessels are allowed on this remote lake. Well worth a visit!

Island Park Reservoir—Large and scenic, this reservoir allows year-round fishing and is stocked with rainbow and cutthroat trout, and kokanee salmon (which spawn each fall); built in 1937, the dam is 91 feet high and 1,250 feet long.

Jefferson County Lake—Great spot for kids north of Rigby, with walking paths, playground, and swimming. 


Mud Lake—Accessible year-round, with largemouth bass the primary spring species, and yellow perch most sought in the winter; tiger muskies (reintroduced in 1993) provide limited but exciting trophy fishing.

Palisades Reservoir—One of the largest reservoirs in Idaho, Palisades offers a great observation point and seventy miles of shoreline.

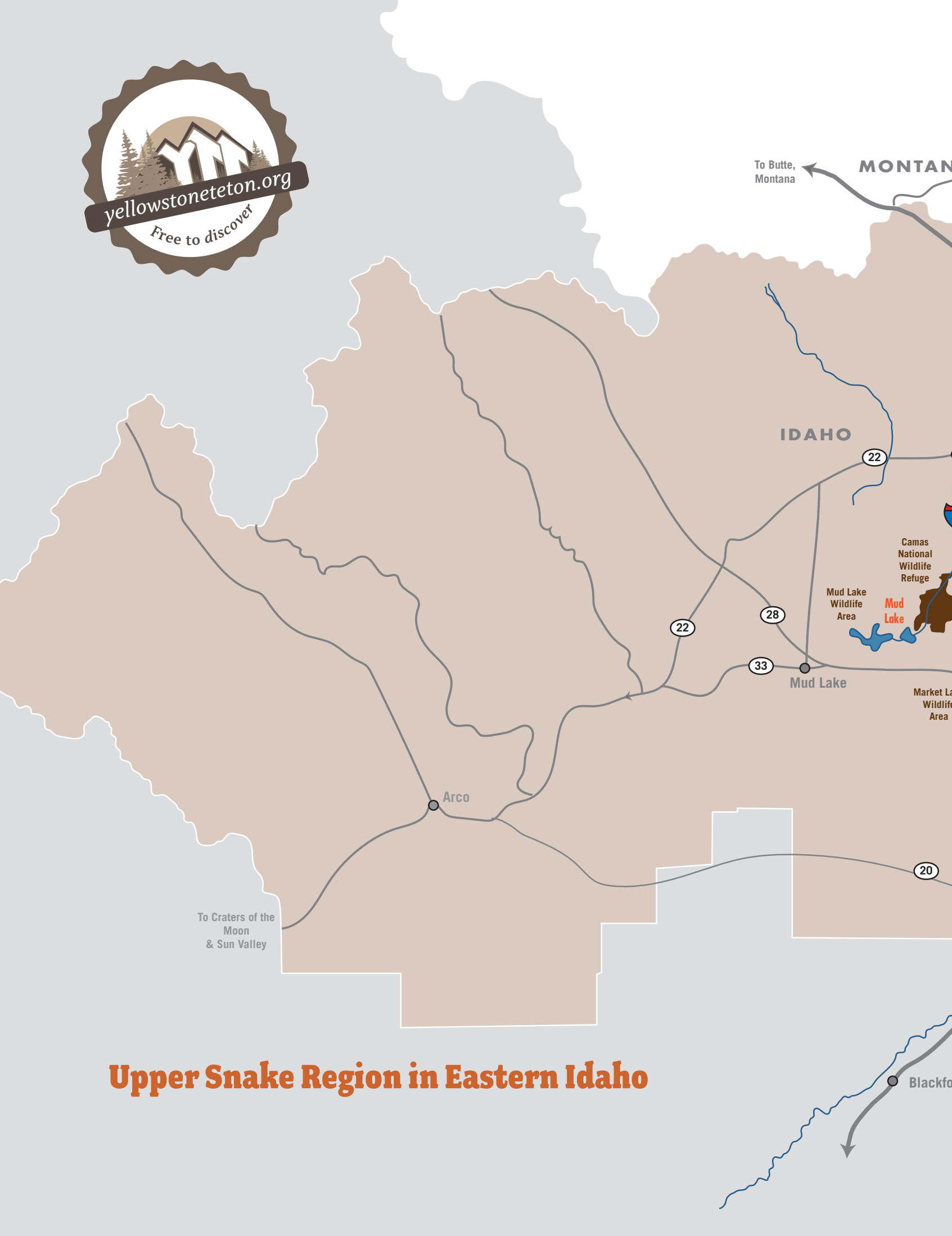
Rexburg City Ponds—With one pond reserved for children, this is another handy family site, easily fished from the bank and surrounded by the walking paths, picnic grounds, and play areas of Rexburg's Nature Park near the fairgrounds. 

Ririe Reservoir—Located on Willow Creek, this popular fishery is close to Idaho Falls with camping, a dump station, and other services.

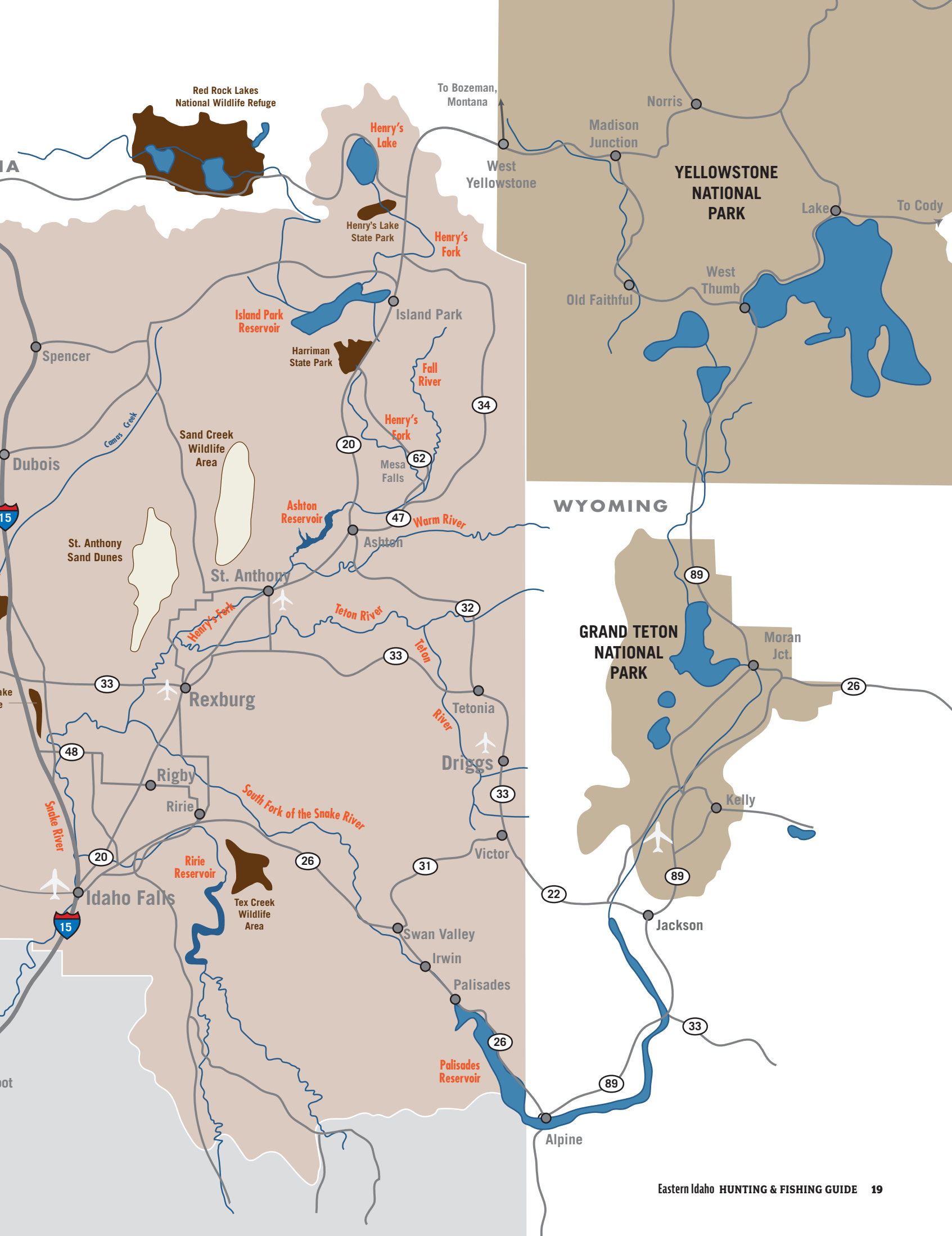
Roberts Gravel Pond—Once a huge gravel pit (south of Roberts off Bassett Road), it's now stocked with rainbow trout and yellow perch, with ice fishing popular in the winter.

Trail Creek Pond (also known as Victor Kids' Pond)—A tiny (two-acre) pond a couple of miles east of Victor, where families can easily fish from the bank. It's one of the most consistent kids' fisheries in the area. 

 Family friendly fishing.



Upper Snake Region in Eastern Idaho



Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Henry's Lake

Henry's Lake State Park

To Bozeman, Montana

West Yellowstone

Norris

Madison Junction

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Lake

To Cody

West Thumb

Old Faithful

Island Park Reservoir

Island Park

Harriman State Park

Fall River

Henry's Fork

34

20

Mesa Falls

62

Warm River

47

Ashton Reservoir

Ashton

Spencer

Dubois

St. Anthony Sand Dunes

Sand Creek Wildlife Area

15

St. Anthony

Teton River

32

lake

33

Rexburg

33

Tetonia

Driggs

33

Rigby

Ririe

South Fork of the Snake River

31

Victor

22

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Moran Jct.

26

Kelly

89

Jackson

33

Idaho Falls

Ririe Reservoir

Tex Creek Wildlife Area

Swan Valley

Irwin

Palisades

Palisades Reservoir

26

Alpine

89

Hunting



Whether you're searching for that once-in-a-lifetime big game animal or starting an annual tradition with your family in the Great Outdoors, look no further than Eastern Idaho. Whether you're a seasoned expert or new to the world of hunting, find yourself away from it all exploring endless acreage and experiencing diverse landscapes. Hunting in the state is organized by units and managed by Idaho Fish and Game. Units 58 through 69, our six-county region, offer some of the best and most varied hunting in the West, from trophy species like moose and mountain goat, to the more numerous mule and white-tailed deer, elk, and prong-

horn antelope. You can also hunt black bear and mountain lion, along with fox, wolf, coyote, rabbits, and bobcat.

Dates of hunts and types of weapons allowed are all regulated. Detailed information about rules and regulations is available at idfg.idaho.gov. There, you can purchase licenses and tags, which are also available at nearly sixty retail locations, including some sporting goods stores, pharmacies, and gas stations.

A wide variety of hunting outfitters operate here as well; search by unit number at the Ida-



Notable Hunting Opportunities

Big Game
Upland Birds
Waterfowl

Upper Snake River Region's Big Game

Mule Deer
White-tailed Deer
Elk
Pronghorn
Black Bear
Mountain Lion
Wolf
Moose
Sheep
Mountain Goat

Dates to Remember

December 1 - Resident Licenses and tags go on sale. (Except deer and elk tags.)

Controlled Hunt Application Periods and Season

	Jan 15 - Feb 15	Spring
	Feb 1 - March 1	Spring
	April 1 - April 30	Fall
	May 1 - June 5	Fall
Second application period for unclaimed hunt tags	Aug 5 - Aug 15	

- **Over-the-Counter:** (also called General Season) Tags are available 365-days-a-year while supplies last.
- **July 10:** Resident capped zone tags go on sale (except Sawtooth Zone).
- **Early-Mid July:** Residents can purchase deer and elk tags once the controlled hunt results have been announced.
- **August:** Residents can purchase leftover nonresident deer and elk tags as a second tag at nonresident price.

ho Outfitters and Guides Association (ioga.org). A full directory is also available from the Outfitters Guides and Licensing Board (oglb.idaho.gov). Idaho Fish and Game offers an interactive *Idaho Hunt Planner* online. The planner is designed to provide information on regulations, seasons, drawing odds, harvest statistics, maps, and hunt boundaries, all in one location: idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/huntplanner.

Elk





One of Eastern Idaho's most notable wildlife is the elk, or *wapiti*. This majestic species is one of the largest in the deer family and one of the largest terrestrial mammals in North America. Males stand a towering nearly five feet tall at their shoulder and weigh upwards of 700 pounds, while females are just over four feet and 500-plus pounds. Their copper brown to light tan hair and light beige rump are the perfect camouflage for fall, dry conditions.

Idaho boasts an impressive elk population. The Idaho elk hunter can pursue bulls that vanish like ghosts in the sagebrush deserts, chase herds in the lung-busting climbs of the mountains, or stalk the thick-timbered ridges.

Over-the-counter tags allow family and friends to hunt together while enjoying the challenge and serenity of exploring varied terrain and the thrill of the pursuit. Elk hunting is managed in twenty-eight zones with two tag systems: Tag A offers muzzleloader and archery hunting for a bull or cow in early season, and Tag B provides opportunities for any weapon hunters (rifle) for a cow elk in the late season.

Did You Know?

- Elk are herbivores and eat close to fifteen pounds of food per day.
- Males, called bulls, tend to be lighter in color than females, or cows, providing for good camouflage.
- In the spring, elk herds migrate to higher elevations and spend their summer in the mountains. In the fall when the snow begins to fall, elk move to the valleys. Fall is also mating season.



White-tailed and mule deer



Deer season is one of the most popular hunting seasons in Eastern Idaho, and the region's deer herds are healthy and abundant, leaving ample opportunities for hunters to find a trophy animal. Mule deer are widespread in the central mountains and southern deserts of Idaho, while white-tailed deer dominate the northern forested areas of Idaho. In the Upper Snake Region, hunters will find both species.

The season is long and plentiful, and it is a perfect way to discover all that the Gem State's hunting has to offer in the fall and early winter months. Seasons typically open in early September with a variety of hunts available. Sports-

men and women enjoy antlered-only hunts for mule deer, youth hunts for antlerless mule deer, two-point and three-point deer, antlerless white-tailed deer hunts, and more.

Mule Deer versus White-tailed deer

Mule deer's antlers fork, then fork again. Mule deer also have large ears in proportion to their head. White-tailed deer have smaller ears and antlers that consist of main beams with three to five tines projecting upwards. Mule deer have a rope-like white tail with a black tip. White-tailed deer have a brown rump and brown tails with white fringe. The underside of an erect tail is all white.



Junior Mentored Hunting Program

In an effort to instill a passion for the Great Outdoors in the next generation, Idaho offers a Junior Mentored Hunting Program that allows nonresident youth (ages 10 to 17) hunting with a licensed adult who is also hunting the same species to get a significantly discounted license, just a few dollars more than the resident prices. For more details, visit idfg.idaho.gov.

Preserving the Species

Mule deer are an icon of the West, and an abundant population occupying habitats ensures rich recreational, cultural, and public heritage for years to come. The mule deer population has changed over the years with development and altered landscapes. Idaho's Mule Deer Initiative works with private landowners and land management agencies to protect and improve habitat, improve mule deer numbers, and provide a variety of hunting opportunities to support the mule deer population.

Fowl



The crisp mountain air, vibrant colors, and rich surrounding land welcome hunters every fall for the start of bird hunting season. Imagine heading up into the foothills with a sharp English Setter searching for grouse with your hunting companions, a trusted guide, and friends. Or crouching in a duck blind as the Teton River rushes by and the sounds of fall signal in the distance as the sun rises overhead. That's what it's all about and Eastern Idaho has just about everything a bird enthusiastic could hope for.

The seasons and regulations vary for each bird species. Visit idfg.idaho.gov for detailed information. When planning your trip, consider the ease and appeal of booking a seasoned outfitter to lead you on your hunting pursuit in search of prized fowl. The Eastern Idaho region is home to a number of top-tiered outfitters with a variety of options. Teton Valley Lodge in Driggs, Idaho, offers a celebrated Cast and Blast with fly fishing on the world-renowned Teton River and ruffed grouse hunting. Blixt & Co offers traditional, driven pheasant, and partridge shooting combining the long-held English tradition with the American West. The region is also home to a number of individual guides ready to lead you on your unforgettable adventure.



Upland Bird Opportunities

- Forest grouse
- Sage grouse
- Sharp-tailed grouse
- Chukar
- Dove
- Gray Partridge
- Pheasant
- Wild turkey

Get the Gear

The weather in Eastern Idaho can jump between warm summer temps and frigid early winter freezes in the span of a few days, particularly in the fall. But as the locals frequently say, "There's no bad weather, just bad gear." Ask a local guide for tips on what gear to bring. Some essentials include:

- Waterproof **hunting boots**;
- **Base layers** with moisture-wicking material;
- Water- and wind-resistant **outer shell**; and
- Warm **gloves** and a **buff** to block wind.

Visit yellowstoneteton.org for a list of area retailers stocked with top gear.

Water Fowl Opportunities

- Sandhill Crane
- Goose
- Duck
- Snipe



Specialty Hunts



The ability to pursue notable big game like bear, mountain lion, mountain goat, moose, and even wolves keep sportsmen coming to Eastern Idaho year after year. For information and regulations for mountain lion, bear, and wolves, review Idaho Fish and Game's Big Game rules and regulations. Moose and mountain goat, however, have their own separate rules and regulations.

Moose are the only "once in a lifetime" trophy species that allow hunters to harvest both a bull and a cow in a lifetime. In the Upper Snake region, stalking moose on the meandering streams of riverbed is an experience in itself with grandiose vistas, stunning landscapes, and varied terrain. To experience this trophy hunt, apply for a

controlled hunt tag between April 1 and April 30. Your refund or a tag, if your name is drawn, will be mailed to you by June 10 of that year.

Each year, eighty-five controlled hunt tags are issued for the coveted bighorn sheep in Idaho. Although the hunts are not in the Upper Snake region, they are an exciting option for a trip to explore other parts of the state. This sought-after species has dwindled in population over the years. Now, several thousand roam the remote and rugged mountains and steep river canyons through the state. The Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation issues tags through a lottery. Tags may also be purchased during an auction held annually at the national Wild Sheep Foundation convention.



Know Before You Go

Familiarize yourself with the hunting rules and regulations. There are different seasons and rules for big game; moose, and mountain goat; migratory game birds; and upland game, turkey, and furbearer. Find more at idfg.idaho.gov/rules.



Outfitter Directory



Engaging the expertise of local fishing guides can maximize your experience. And a number are a part of fantastic lodges to enjoy after your adventure. Many have informative websites, blogs, and social media sites that will update you with current information. Here is just a sampling, listed alphabetically and with their towns, of lodges and/ or outfitters:

To find a specific outfitter, amenities offered by the various lodges, or which outfitter will work best for you, check out the fishing outfitters page on the website of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association at ioga.org.

Teton Valley area

Blixt & Company

Victor, Idaho
307.413.5450
blixtco.com

Moose Creek Ranch

Victor, Idaho
208.787.6078
moosecreekranch.com

Robson Outfitters & Tours

Felt, Idaho
208.456.2805
robsonoutfitters.com

Teton Mountain Ranch

Victor, Idaho
208.787.9005
elkadventures.com

Teton Valley Lodge

Driggs, Idaho
208.354.2386
tetonvalleylodge.com

WorldCast Anglers

Victor, Idaho
800.654.0676
worldcastanglers.com



Swan Valley area

Flying J Outfitters

Swan Valley, Idaho
435.646.3208
flyingjoutfitters.com

The Lodge at Palisades Creek

Swan Valley, Idaho
208.483.2222
tlapc.com

Palisades Creek Ranch

Swan Valley, Idaho
307.733.2421
palisadescreekranch.com

South Fork Outfitters

Swan Valley, Idaho
208.483.7952
naturalretreats.com/south-fork-lodge-fishing-vacations-idaho

Swan Valley Outfitters

Swan Valley, Idaho
208.313.1423
swanvalleyoutfitters.net

Island Park area

Drift Lodge & Fly Shop

Island Park, Idaho
208.558.0152
driftlodge.com

Henry's Fork Anglers

Island Park, Idaho
208.558.7525
henrysforkanglers.com

Three Rivers Ranch

Locations in Ashton, Warm River, Island Park, and Driggs
208.652.3750
threeriversranch.com

TroutHunter

Island Park, Idaho
208.558.9900
trouthunt.com

Rexburg & Idaho Falls area

Big Lost River Outfitters

Mackay, Idaho
biglostriveroutfitters.com

Broadmouth Canyon Ranch

Blackfoot, Idaho
208.346.6648
utahelkhunt.com

Elk Safaris West

Rexburg, Idaho
208.313.36.34
elksafariswest.com

Granite Creek Ranch and Cabins

Ririe, Idaho
208.589.7147
granitecreekexperiences.com

Heise Expeditions

Ririe, Idaho
208.538.7453

Little Lost Outfitters

Howe, Idaho
208.767.3356
littlelostoutfitters.com

Rocky Mountain Elk Ranch

Newdale, Idaho
208.351.7301
rockymountainelkranch.net

Out of Area

Bear Paw Outfitters

Livingston, Montana
406.222.6642
bearpawoutfittersmt.com

Big Sky Anglers

West Yellowstone, Montana
406.646.7801
bigskyanglers.com

Diamond P Ranch

West Yellowstone, Montana
406.646.0606
thediamondpranch.com

Hamilton Outfitters

Declo, Idaho
208.312.2064

Heart Mountain Outfitters

Dubois, Utah
208.521.7319

Silver Spur Outfitter & Lodge

Dixie, Idaho
208.842.2417
silverspurlodge.com

Tackle, Gear, & Licenses

Ashton Quick Stop

Ashton, Idaho
208.652.3221

Bob's Kwik Service

Rigby, Idaho
208.745.7029

Buck's Gas and RV

Irwin, Idaho
bucksgasandrvc.com

C-A-L Ranch Stores

Rexburg & Idaho Falls locations
calranch.com
208.523.3431

Cabela's

Idaho Falls, Idaho
208.932.2900
cabelas.com

Corner Drug

Driggs, Idaho
208.354.2334
driggsparmacy.com

Drift Lodge & Fly Shop

Island Park, Idaho
208.558.0152
driftlodge.com

Tackle, Licenses, and Gear Directory

Elk Creek Station

Island Park, Idaho
208.558.7571

Falls Drug and Hardware

St. Anthony, Idaho
208.624.3202

Fred Meyer

Idaho Falls, Idaho
fredmeyer.com

Gateway Service

Ririe, Idaho
208.538.7771

Good 2 Go Stores

Idaho Falls, Idaho
208.529.1635

Great Scott's

Rexburg, Idaho
208.356.9271
greatscottsrexburg.com

Guns N Gear

Idaho Falls, Idaho
208.227.8400
gngsports.com

Henry's Fork Anglers

Island Park, Idaho
208.558.7525
henrysforkanglers.com

Hillview Sinclair

Ririe, Idaho
208.538.5038

Hyde Drift Boat & Fly Shop

Idaho Falls, Idaho
208.529.4343
hydeoutdoors.com

Idaho Fishing Outfitters

Rigby, Idaho
208.521.1511
idahofishingoutfitters.com

Jimmy's All Seasons Angler

Idaho Falls, Idaho
208.524.7160
jimmysflyshop.com

Lakeside Lodge and Resort

Island Park, Idaho
208.558.9770
lakesidelodgeandresort.com

Macks Inn Trade Post

Island Park, Idaho
800.275.8777

Miller Drift Boat

Ashton, Idaho
208.881.7550
millerdriftboats.com

Rendezvous at the South Fork

Swan Valley, Idaho
208.483.2267
campsouthfork.com

Robins Roost

Island Park, Idaho
208.558.7440

Ross Coin & Gun

Idaho Falls, Idaho
208.522.0847
rosscoinandgun.com

South Fork Outfitters

Swan Valley, Idaho
208.483.7952
naturalretreats.com/south-fork-lodge-fishing-vacations-idaho

Sportsman's Warehouse

Idaho Falls, Idaho
208.542.1900
sportsmans.com

Teton Valley Lodge

Driggs, Idaho
208.354.2386
tetonvalleylodge.com

Teton Valley River Supply

Driggs, Idaho
208.534.8784
tetonriversupply.com

The Country Corner

Idaho Falls, Idaho
208.523.2275

The Gun Shop

Idaho Falls, Idaho
208.529.4092

The Lodge at Palisades Creek

Swan Valley, Idaho
208.483.2222
tlapc.com

Three Rivers Ranch

Locations in Ashton, Warm River, Island Park, and Driggs
208.652.3750
threeriversranch.com

TroutHunter

Island Park, Idaho
208.558.9900
trouthunt.com

Valley Wide Cooperative

Rexburg, Idaho
208.356.5448
valleywidecoop.com

Victor Emporium

Victor, Idaho
208.787.2221

Wal-Mart

Locations in Rexburg and Idaho Falls
208.359.2809

WorldCast Anglers

Victor, Idaho
800.654.0676
worldcastanglers.com

Lodging

Visit *Yellowstoneteton.org/lodging* for a full list of lodging, camping, and RV locations for your hunting and fishing adventure in Eastern Idaho!

Directory compiled from the Idaho Fish & Games outfitter and license vendor list for the Upper Snake Region.

For a complete list, visit idfg.idaho.gov. For more information on outfitters, visit ioga.org or request an outfitter and guide directory from the Idaho Outfitters & Guides Association.

Helpful Resources Emergency: Call 911

Primary medical facilities

Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center,
3100 Channing Way, Idaho Falls, 208.529.6111

Madison Memorial Hospital,
450 E. Main St., Rexburg, 208.359.6900

Mountain View Hospital,
2325 Coronado St., Idaho Falls, 208.557.2700

Teton Valley Health,
120 E. Howard, Driggs, 208.354.2383

Visitor Centers

Ashton Chamber of Commerce, 714 Main St., Ashton,
208.652.3355, ashtonidaho.com

Eastern Idaho Visitor Information Center,
355 River Parkway, Idaho Falls, 208.523.1010 ext.1

Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce,
365 River Parkway, Idaho Falls, 208.523.1010,
idahofallschamber.com

Idaho Falls Parks & Recreation,
Idaho Falls, 208.612.8480, idahofallsidaho.gov

Island Park Chamber of Commerce,
Island Park, 208.558.7755, islandparkchamber.org

Rexburg Area Chamber of Commerce, 167 W. Main
Street, Ste. 2, Rexburg, 208.356.5700 or 888.463.6880,
rexburgchamber.org

Rigby Chamber of Commerce,
Rigby 208.745.8111, ext. 21, rigbychamber.com

St. Anthony Chamber of Commerce,
420 N. Bridge St., Ste. C, St. Anthony, 208.624.4870,
stanthonychamber.com

St. Anthony Tourist Information Center at Idaho Art Lab,
2355 S. Yellowstone Hwy., St. Anthony, 208.932.0893

Teton Regional Economic Coalition, 60 S. Main St.,
Driggs, 208.354.2500, discovertetonvalley.com

Teton Geotourism Center,
60 S. Main St., Driggs, 208.354.2500

Yellowstone Teton Territory, 167 W. Main Street, Ste. 2,
Rexburg, 800.634.3246, yellowstoneteton.org

Other Governmental resources

Caribou-Targhee National Forest,
208.524.7500, fs.usda.idaho.gov/ctnf

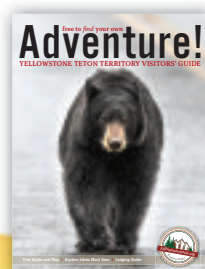
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation,
208.334.4199, parksandrecreation.idaho.gov

Idaho State Parks Reservations, 888.922.6743,
parksandrecreation.idaho.gov

Idaho Fish and Game,
1.800.ASK FISH (554.8685) or 208.525.7290,
idfg.idaho.gov

National Park Service, nps.gov

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, blm.gov/id



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to download a copy
of Adventure!



Thank you to our partners



Please respect our land, water, and wildlife.

