

Thorn Creek Management Area

Welcome

The area depicted on this map is the **Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Thorn Creek Management Area**.

The area covers 23,000 acres and provides nearly 60 miles of Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM) and All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails in a timbered and grassy mountainous setting.

The area includes primarily state endowment trust lands managed by the IDL, mixed with some privately owned lands. Public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service also are depicted.

Trails are open to motorized and non-motorized uses. Motorized use is limited to OHMs and ATVs less than 48 inches in width on designated trails only.

Full sized vehicles such as Jeeps, pickups, and other motorized vehicles more than 48 inches in width are restricted to the roads depicted on the map.

Other recreational uses are welcome, such as hiking, mountain bike and equestrian enthusiasts, and their travel is not restricted to designated trails at this time. However, these recreationists must be aware of the heavy motorized use of the area between the snow-free months of May through October.

The map was made possible through a grant from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR).

Trailhead Directions

From Boise: From Eastbound Interstate 84, take Exit 57 for Highway 21 toward Idaho City. Turn left onto Highway 21 East Gowen Road and keep straight onto Highway 21 East. Travel on Highway 21 for approximately 30 miles toward Idaho City. Continue through Idaho City approximately 2 miles on Highway 21 before turning south on Steamboat Gulch Road (gravel). Travel 0.3 miles cross bridge and take a right across another bridge parking at Steamboat Trail Head.

From Mountain Home: From Westbound Interstate 84, travel approximately 37 miles and take Exit 57 for Highway 21 toward Idaho City. Turn right onto Highway 21 East Gowen Road and keep straight onto Highway 21 East. Travel on Highway 21 for approximately 30 miles toward Idaho City. Continue through Idaho City approximately 2 miles on Highway 21 before turning south on Steamboat Gulch Road (gravel). Travel 0.3 miles cross bridge and take a right across another bridge parking at Steamboat Trail Head.

Trailheads

Steamboat Trailhead:

This trailhead provides the best OHM and ATV access to Thorn Creek trails. The trailhead is not fenced and there are no restrooms on this site. The trailhead is located approximately 33 miles from Boise.

Grayback Gulch Trailhead:

This trailhead is situated above Grayback Gulch Campground managed by the Boise National Forest Service. The trailhead provides access to primarily OHM trails in Thorn Creek. Parking is limited and the Boise National Forest should be contacted for information regarding Grayback Gulch campground, parking, and facility availability use and cost.

Thorn Creek Management Area Travel

Guidelines

- Motorized vehicle travel is allowed only on roads and designated trails. No motorized off-route travel is permitted.
- ATVs may be operated only on trails designated specifically for their use and all roads in compliance with State law. ATVs are not allowed on single track OHM only trails.
- Full-size vehicles (greater than 48 inches in width) are allowed only on designated roads.

Respect Private Property

Privately owned lands within the Thorn Creek Management Area are shown on the map. Please do not trespass onto privately owned lands as area visitors have no legal right of access to cross or enter private land. Users must secure private landowner permission to cross privately owned lands.

OHV Safety

The Thorn Creek Management Area is a large area comprised of steep, rugged and remote terrain. Trail riding in such areas present some inherent risks to the OHV enthusiast. You can be several miles from a trailhead if your machine breaks down or you become injured. It is your responsibility to be aware of the potential risks and take safety pre-cautions when visiting the area.

Several things you can do to reduce risks and increase the odds of an enjoyable recreation outing include:

- **Be properly trained:** Take an approved OHV operator training course before you ride. Ride only trails suited for your riding skill level. Know your physical limitations and the limitations of your machine.
- **Do a pre-ride inspection of your equipment:** Check the fluids, tires, brakes, cable, etc. to make sure your machine is in proper operating condition. Take along a tool kit and know how to repair minor mechanical problems.
- **Wear proper protective equipment:** A helmet with eye protection, gloves, long pants, long-sleeved shirt and sturdy boots should be worn at all times.
- **Don't ride alone:** Ride in a group of two or more. Make sure someone back home knows your riding itinerary so you can be located if you do not return on time.
- **Know your location:** Take along a map, compass and/or GPS unit. A cell phone may be useful.
- **Rehydrate often:** Dehydration can be a problem in all weather conditions. Take plenty of water to prevent rehydrate and prevent dehydration. Natural water sources are limited and should be purified for human consumption.
- **Carry a first aid kit:** Know how to treat minor injuries and what to do in case of serious injury.
- **Ride responsibly:** Adjust your vehicle speed to fit the trail situation. Ride defensively to avoid rocks, logs, livestock, and OHVs traveling in the opposite direction.
- **Don't carry passengers:** Most OHVs are not designed to be ridden double. Riding double greatly increases your risk of injury.
- **Ride sober:** Never operate an OHV while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Idaho Rules

Related to OHV Use

- OHVs operated on trails must clearly display a valid state OHV registration sticker.
- Unlicensed OHVs displaying a valid OHV registration sticker may be operated on state and federal roads where OHV use is allowed, by an operator possessing a valid state driver's license and liability insurance.
- OHVs may NOT be operated on roads that are part of the state highway system (roads shown on the map as "public roads" and under the jurisdiction of a public road agency such as the state or county), unless the road is specifically exempted by local ordinance and signed for such use.
- OHV operators or passengers under the age of 18 must wear a helmet.
- OHVs must be equipped with an approved and operating spark-arresting muffler and may not exceed the state noise limit of 96 db.
- It is unlawful to hunt from any motorized vehicle, EXCEPT for holders of valid handicapped persons Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit.
- It is illegal to molest, stir up, rally or drive, in any manner, any game animals or game birds with a motorized vehicle.
- It is unlawful to shoot from or across the traveled portion, shoulders, or embankments of any road maintained by a government entity.
- No person may enter private land that is posted without permission.

OHV Registration Requirements

All OHVs used off public highways must be registered with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) and clearly display a current year validation sticker. Non-resident owners are exempt from this requirement for a period up to 30 days.

Off-highway vehicles may be registered at IDPR offices, most county courthouses, OHV dealers, and many sporting goods stores. Funds generated by the OHV registration program are used to improve OHV recreation opportunities throughout Idaho.

More detailed information on OHV registration can be found by visiting the IDPR website at <http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov>. A complete listing of OHV vendors is available by contacting the IDPR directly.

The following is a list of government offices for OHV registration located in close proximity to the Thorn Creek Management Area.

Idaho State Parks and Recreation P.O. Box 83720 5657 Warm Springs Avenue Boise, ID 83720 (208) 334-4199	Boise County Assessor's Office Department of Motor Vehicles P.O. Box 1300 420 Main Idaho City, ID 83631 (208) 392-4415
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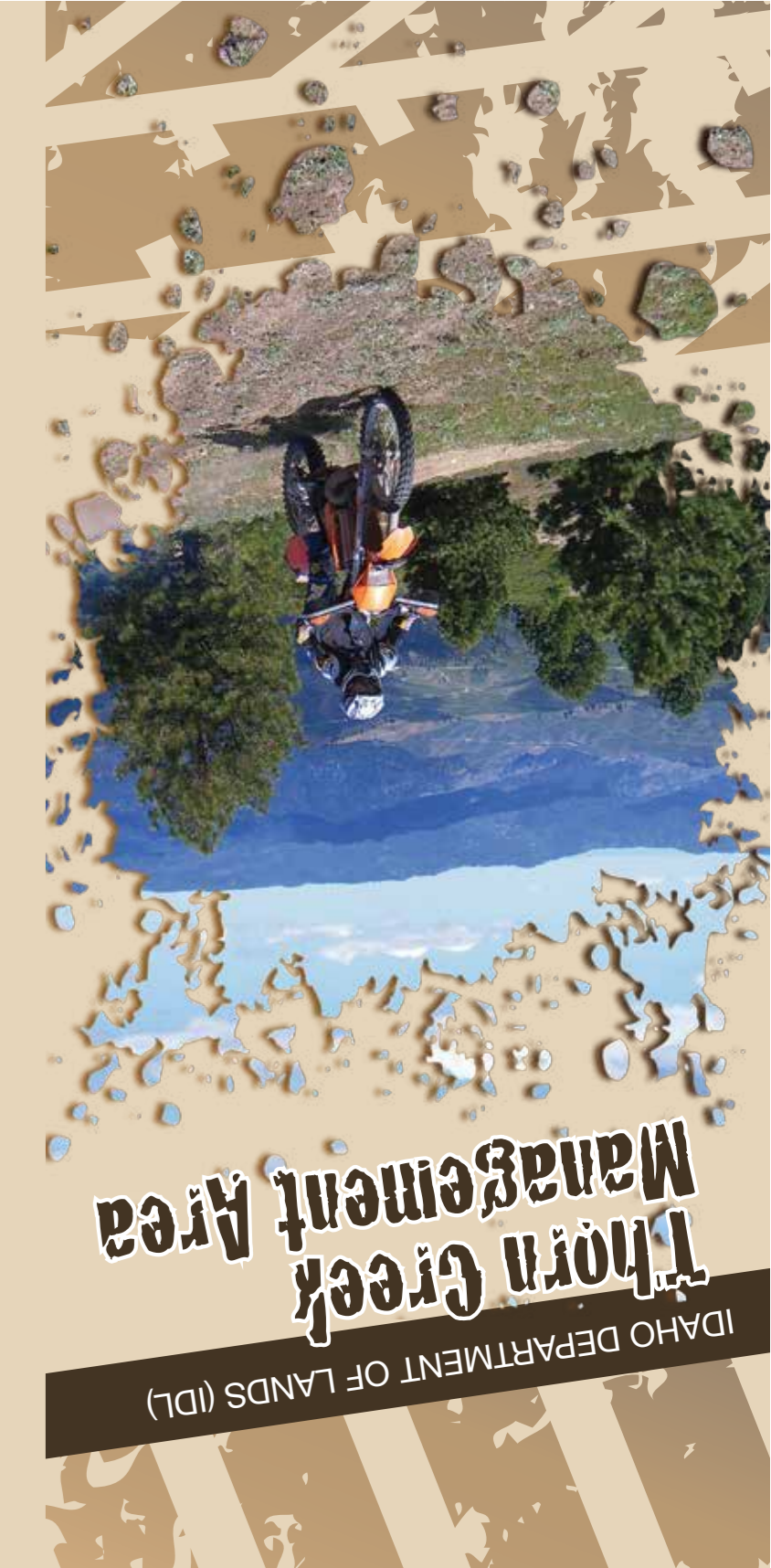
Recreating on Endowment Trust Lands

Unlike public lands that are managed by the federal government for multiple uses, endowment trust lands are managed by the State of Idaho under a Constitutional mandate to generate maximum long-term income for public schools and other State institutions in Idaho.

Dispersed recreation generally is allowed on endowment trust lands as long as the recreation activity does not conflict with the revenue generating capacity of the land.

Some logging, grazing, and mining uses are ongoing in the Thorn Creek Management Area, so IDL land managers may temporarily close some areas to recreationists as needed to enable the effective operation of these activities and to protect the public.

State endowment trust lands were granted to Idaho at statehood and the active management of the lands results in dozens of uses that generate millions of dollars annually for the State of Idaho. The lands are managed by the IDL under the direction of the Land Board, comprised of Idaho's governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state controller, and superintendent of public instruction.



Cooperative Agencies and Partner Organizations

The following agencies and organizations are key partners and cooperators in planning, managing or maintaining trails in the Thorn Creek Management Area.

Idaho Department of Lands
Southwest Idaho Area Office
8355 State St., Boise, ID 83714
(208) 334-3488

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
5657 Warm Springs Avenue, Boise, ID 83720
(208) 465-8465

Boise Ridge Riders
PO Box 9185, Boise, ID 83707
(208) 384-5141

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency Services.....	911
Boise County Sheriff.....	(208) 392-4411
Idaho State Police District 3 Patrol.....	(208) 334-3731
Report a Wildfire (Boise Dispatch).....	(208) 384-3400
Report a Fish and Game Violation.....	(800) 632-5999
Report a OHV Violation.....	(208) 587-7961
Outside normal business hours....	(208) 587-7858