



Press Release

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**Many Campgrounds are now Open Due to the Hard Work of Crews.
Only Fourteen Sites Remain Closed because of the Bark Beetle Epidemic.**

Denver Colo. September 2, 2008— Forest Service officials concerned about visitor safety have identified fourteen campgrounds and picnic areas that will remain closed due to hazards caused by bark beetle- killed trees. Another six sites have partial closures. The bark beetles (also known as mountain pine beetles) are still at epidemic proportions, but the Forest Service and their partners are busy mitigating the effects. There are 209 recreation sites in Northern Colorado and Southeastern Wyoming open for Labor Day weekend. The Fourteen closures are on the Arapaho and Roosevelt, Medicine Bow and Routt, and White River National Forests.

“Thanks to the hard work of our crews and partners, we have made great progress this summer. Many of the sites that were delayed earlier this year and a couple that we thought would be closed all year are now open,” said USFS Bark Beetle Incident Commander Clint Kyhl. “Bark beetle-killed trees are hazards because they can fall anytime. Public safety is our number one priority. Some sites have so many beetle-killed trees, that it may take awhile to remove them. Visitors need to be aware of their surroundings and wind conditions in areas where trees have been killed by the bark beetle,” he added.

Colorado Corrections Industry Crews, USFS hotshot firefighting crews, Wyoming Conservation Corps and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps have been cutting and removing the hazard trees in many campgrounds to open them. Recreation sites that opened earlier than expected include Seedhouse Trailhead near Steamboat Springs, Green Ridge Campground near Granby, and East Fork at Camp Hale near Minturn. Big Creek Lake Campground near Walden is now only partially closed. In spite of the closures and delays, there are still many great places to camp and explore on the National Forests. To check the status of any campground, visit www.fs.fed.us/r2/recreation/camping/campgroundlist or call the local Forest Service office for more information. Reservations for most campgrounds can be made on www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. For general information about the bark beetle epidemic go to www.fs.fed.us/r2/bark-beetle. Land management agencies have developed a site devoted to the bark beetle happenings on the Front Range; www.frontrangepinebeetle.org.

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Note to Editors: Please see that attached list of campground closures.

Campground Closures and Delays as of August 29, 2008

National Forest	Ranger District	NAME	Size (# of Units)	Type of Closure	Remarks
Arapaho/Roosevelt	Sulphur (near Granby Colorado): 970 887-4100	Bull Mountain	15	Partial	East side is open. West side is closed due to timber operations.
Medicine Bow-Routt	Brush Crk/Hayden (around Saratoga Wyoming) 307 326-5258	RYAN PARK CG and Group Site	48	Partial	Group site closed.
		SILVER LAKE CG	17	Closed	CG has been closed for 4 years because of hazard trees.
		HOG PARK CG (FORMERLY LAKE VIEW)	50	Partial	One loop closed
	Hahns Peak/Bears Ears (near Steamboat Colorado) 970 870-2299 . .	HAHN'S PEAK LAKE CG	10	Closed	Closed for construction and tree removal.
		SEEDHOUSE CG	22	Partial	One loop open
		SEEDHOUSE GROUP CG	25	Open w/ restrictions	Call District for availability.
		GRANITE CG	12	Closed	Closed for entire season as hazard trees are removed
		GRANITE PG	7	Closed	Closed for entire season as hazard trees are removed
		FERNDALE PG	15	Closed	Closed for entire season as hazard trees are removed
	Parks (near Walden and Kremmling Colorado) 970 723-8204.	BIG CREEK LAKES CG	65	Partial	East side is closed
		TEAL LAKE CG	41	Closed	Closed for the season
		TEAL LAKE PICNIC Ground	0	Closed	Closed for entire season as hazard trees are removed

National Forest	Ranger District	NAME	Size (# of Units)	Type of Closure	Remarks
		PINES CG	11	Closed	Closed for entire season as hazard trees are removed.
	Laramie District Near Laramie, WY. 307 745 2300	*Bozwell Creek		Closed	No opening date
	Yampa District 970-638-4516	Gore Pass CG	12	Closed	Opening date unknown
White River	Dillon (near Dillon, Colorado) 970 468-5400	Peak One	79	Closed	
		Lowry	24	Closed	
		Prospector	107	Closed	
		Blue River	24	Closed	

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