



# Press Release

## USDA FOREST SERVICE

### Rocky Mountain Region

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### Campers Know Before You Go!

#### Dangers from Beetle-Killed Trees Cause Campground Closures

**Denver Colo. July 9, 2009**— Forest Service officials concerned about visitor and employee safety have identified campgrounds and picnic areas that will be closed for the season or experience delayed openings due to hazards caused by bark-beetle killed trees. Also, heavy snows from last winter are keeping some sites inaccessible. Thirteen out of 223 recreation sites, mainly campgrounds and picnic areas across three National Forests in northern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming will be closed, and five will experience delayed openings this summer due to the bark beetle epidemic (see the attached list for details). The epidemic will likely require further treatments at additional recreation sites. Some roads have also been closed due to washouts after heavy snowmelt and some high elevation campgrounds are still covered with snow. The closures and delays will occur on the Arapaho and Roosevelt, Medicine Bow and Routt and the White River, National Forests. Campers should check the status of their desired campground before leaving home.

“Public safety is our number one priority. Beetle-killed trees can fall anytime. Visitors need to be aware of their surroundings and weather conditions in areas where trees have been killed by the mountain pine beetle,” said Cal Wettstein, commander of the Rocky Mountain Region Bark Beetle Incident Management Team.

Some other reminders for campers concern fire safety and illegal fireworks. Fire danger on the National Forests is starting to pick up with warmer weather and so everyone needs make sure campfires are out before leaving. All fireworks are illegal on the National Forests.

A number of forest campgrounds have already had beetle-killed hazard trees removed, which has opened up great views, but made them very sunny. Campers may want to create some shade by bringing a canopy, umbrella or other shelter. 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/bark-beetle).

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

**Campground Closures and Delays as of July 1, 2009**

National Forest	Ranger District	NAME	Size (# of Units)	Type of Closure	Remarks
Arapaho/Roosevelt	Sulphur (near Granby Colo.) 970 887-4100	Denver Creek Campground (CG)	22	Partial	East Loop Closed 12 sites closed
Medicine Bow-Routt	Brush Crk/Hayden (around Saratoga Wyo.) 307 326-5258	Silver Lake CG	17	Closed	CG has been closed for 4 years because of hazard trees.
		Hog Park CG (Formerly Lake View)	50	Closed	
		Deep Creek CG		Delayed	Inaccessible because of snow. Opening date unknown
	Hahn's PK/Bears Ears (near Steamboat Colo.) 970 870-2299	Seedhouse CG	22	Partial	
		Seedhouse Group CG	25	Closed	
		Seedhouse Trailhead	26	Closed	Closed for entire season as trees are removed
		Granite CG	12	Closed	Closed for entire season as trees are removed
		Granite Picnic Ground (PG)	7	Closed	Closed for entire season as trees are removed
		Summit Lake CG		Delayed	Closed due to snow. Opening 7/15/09
		Hahns Peak Lake CG	10	Closed	Closed for construction and tree removal.
	Parks (near Walden and Kremmling Colo.) 970 723-8204.	Teal Lake CG	41	Closed	Closed for the season
		Teal Lake PG	0	Closed	Closed for entire season as trees are removed
		Pines CG	11	Closed	Closed for entire season
Big Creek Lakes CG		65	Partial	East side is closed. No drinking water at the entire campground.	
Aspen CG		7	Closed		

National Forest	Ranger District	NAME	Size (# of Units)	Type of Closure	Remarks
	Laramie Peaks District (near Laramie, Wyo.) 307 745 2300	Brooklyn CG		Delayed	Inaccessible because of snow. . Opening date unknown.
		Sugarloaf CG		Delayed	Inaccessible because of snow. . Opening unknown
White River	Dillon District (near Dillon, Colo.) 970 468-5400	Blue River CG	24	Closed	.
		Prospector CG	107	Closed	

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