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# Gardiner Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release  
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## **Forest Opens Soda Butte and Chief Joseph Campgrounds to Hard-sided Vehicles**

Cooke City, MT... The Gallatin National Forest has lifted the emergency area closure of the Soda Butte and Chief Joseph campgrounds, located east of Cooke City along Highway 212. The closure was implemented on July 17, 2008 to address human and wildlife safety issues resulting from a bear mauling. To address continued safety concerns, the Forest is allowing hard-sided only vehicles to use these campgrounds.

"We do not know if the captured bear was the same bear that attacked the camper. As a result, we have decided to keep the campgrounds closed to tent and tent trailer camping for a while longer," said Ken Britton, Gardiner District Ranger.

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks personnel trapped a young adult female grizzly, known as bear number 495 at the site of the incident on July 22. Since this capture there has been no reported bear nuisance activity in the Cooke City area. Forest managers remind visitors that a food storage order requiring appropriate storage of all wildlife attractants is in effect for the entire Gallatin Forest. Taking these precautions will help visitors avoid creating human conditioned bears and reduce the risk of having adverse interactions with wildlife in general.

For additional information please contact the Gardiner Ranger District at (406) 848-7375 or visit the Forest's website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/> .

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