
Gardiner Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
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Forest Implements Emergency Closure of The Soda Butte and Chief Joseph Campgrounds

Gardiner, MT... Effective today, the Gallatin National Forest has implemented an emergency area closure of the Soda Butte and Chief Joseph campground to address a public safety hazard. These campgrounds are located east of Cooke City along Highway 212.

Early this morning, a bear entered the tent of a camper at Soda Butte campground near Cooke City. The camper resisted and received bites to his hand and arm. He was provided medical assistance from local EMS, Forest Service and Yellowstone National Park staff and was transported to Cody, WY to receive care for his wounds.

There is evidence the bear visited the campground at least once more after this event.

"Following the mauling, the campground was evacuated and it is now closed," said Ken Britton Gardiner District Ranger. "For precautionary measures we also closed Chief Joseph Campground located approximately 1.5 miles east of Soda Butte campground." Both campgrounds will remain closed until the bear is located or the immediate concern subsides.

Wildlife personnel with the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks are currently assessing the appropriate management actions regarding the bear.

To avoid creating human conditioned bears please follow the Gallatin National Forests food storage order and store attractants appropriately.

For emergency closure information please contact the Gardiner Ranger District at (406) 848-7375.

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<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>