
Gardiner Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
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Soda Butte and Chief Joseph Campgrounds Open to All Recreationists

Cooke City, MT... The Gallatin National Forest has opened Soda Butte and Chief Joseph Campgrounds, located east of Cooke City along Highway 212, to all recreational vehicles including tents and tent trailers. The closure to tent and tent trailer camping was implemented on July 29, 2008 to address human and wildlife safety issues resulting from a bear mauling that occurred July 17, 2008.

“While we cannot guarantee that bears will stay out of area campgrounds, if campers properly store their food, have no food in tents and camp away from cooking areas and food storage areas the chances of a bear encounter are greatly reduced,” said Ken Britton, Gardiner District Ranger. “There have been no bears or bear sign seen in Soda Butte and Chief Joseph Campgrounds since July 24.”

Forest managers remind visitors that a food storage order requiring appropriate storage of all wildlife attractants is in effect for the entire Gallatin Forest.

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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