

NEWS RELEASE

**SAWTOOTH NRA
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KETCHUM, IDAHO 83340**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sawtooth NRA Cleans Up After Severe Wind Event

Stanley, Idaho....The Sawtooth National Recreation Area is in clean up mode after a severe thunderstorm packing storm force winds wreaked havoc on Redfish Lake campgrounds. Winds, blowing in excess of 60 miles per hour, blew down thousands of live green trees which damaged property and injured three campers. Some campgrounds are still closed and the entire Redfish Lake area has been affected by the storm.

Sawtooth NRA Area Ranger Sara Baldwin expressed relief that there was not more damage from the storm. "It was a very intense experience for campers at Redfish Lake, one few people who were there will ever forget. I am extremely grateful for the efforts of our crews who worked through the night on Thursday and long hours under very difficult conditions over the weekend to get us where we are," Baldwin said. "And I especially want to thank the people who were camped at Redfish for their understanding and cooperation; responding to this event could have been a lot more difficult without their help," Baldwin went on.

Sawtooth NRA crews are still working to reopen recreation facilities in the area. The current status of campgrounds and picnic areas is as follows:

- Point Beach and Campground is closed for the immediate future.
- Glacier View Campground Loop B (campsites 28-44) is closed for the immediate future.
- Most of North Shore Picnic Area and the adjacent beach are closed for the immediate future. Users must obey signing and caution flagging.

- The Dog Beach near North Shore picnic area is partially closed.
- Redfish Lake Lodge is open.
- Redfish Visitor Center is open for its usual Thursday evening through Sunday schedule.
- Glacier View Campground Loops A (campsites 1-27) and C (campsites 45-65) are open.
- Redfish Inlet Campground is open but crews will be working there to finalize cleanup.
- All other Redfish Lake recreation facilities are open.

Some of the beach between North Shore Picnic Area and Redfish Lodge is open but areas will be marked as necessary to allow crews to do cleanup work. According to Area Ranger Baldwin, “visitors must obey signing and caution flagging to allow our crews to work freely so we can get our facilities open as soon as possible. We will have chain saw crews dropping hazardous trees and cutting out downed trees as well as heavy equipment removing the debris. All that activity can pose a threat to public safety if the public does not cooperate. Our crews need room to work.”

Anyone planning to visit Redfish Lake is urged to call the Stanley Ranger Station at 208-774-3000 in advance to get up to date information on what facilities are available.

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