

September 22, 2008

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<u>Seasonal Changes at Forest Service Campgrounds</u> <u>Some Campgrounds Remain Open</u>

The Flathead National Forest, in cooperation with the forest campground concessionaire Charlie Jantzen, plans to keep several campgrounds open with services through October 13.

Holland Lake, Swan Lake, Tally Lake, Lost Johnny Point, Lost Johnny Camp and Lid Creek Campgrounds will continue with existing services, including a host, through October 13 or until freezing temperatures affect water systems. Fees at each campground vary from \$10 - \$14 per night. For more information contact Jantzen at 837-3577.

Several other developed campgrounds on the forest will remain open, but services will be discontinued or minimal. Water and restroom facilities may be unavailable and users should plan accordingly. Users should always practice Leave-No-Trace outdoor skills and ethics, including picking up and packing out all litter. Some campgrounds, such as Devil Creek, Emery and Big Creek Campgrounds will be gated closed within the next few weeks.

Spotted Bear Campground, located next to the historic Spotted Bear Ranger Station, approximately 55 miles from Hungry Horse, will remain open, but water will not be available. The Spotted Bear Ranger Station is open 8am to 4:30pm seven days a week through October. Spotted Bear District Ranger Deb Mucklow encourages hunters and fall backcountry users to contact or stop by the district office for updated access and trail information.

All forest users are reminded to use proper food storage techniques to minimize grizzly bear and human conflicts. All food and beverages, grease, garbage, livestock and pet food (except hay and water) and scented toiletries must be made unavailable to bears when your camp or picnic site is unattended. For more information about food storage requirements on the Flathead National Forest visit <u>www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead</u> and click on grizzly bear information, or contact a local Forest Service Office.

Fall hunting season is underway and forest users should expect hunting activity across the forest. It is encouraged to wear hunter orange or other brightly colored clothing when recreating on the forest this fall.

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