

NEWS

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BOISE NATIONAL FOREST



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROGRESS ON TRINITY RIDGE FIRE BRINGS REDUCTION IN AREA CLOSURE; BEGINNING OF FALL BRINGS START OF CAMPGROUND CLOSURES

Boise, ID – Effective Thursday, September 6, some campgrounds that had been closed as part of the Trinity Ridge Fire area closure will now be open, as the area closure will be adjusted to allow access to areas where it is now safe to do so. The previously-closed campgrounds that will now be open include:

Willow Creek – Idaho City Ranger District
Elk Flat – Mountain Home Ranger District
Curlew Creek – Mountain Home Ranger District

Baumgartner Campground – Fairfield Ranger District, Sawtooth NF

The revised closure order (Revision #6), which goes into effect on September 6 at 7:00 am, reduces the closure area from approximately 800,000 acres to about 475,000 acres. Under the revised area closure, newly-open areas include the Graham area and the Sawtooth Wilderness. However, hikers need to be aware that the Queens River trailhead, and Middle Fork Boise trailhead at Powerplant campground, which provide access to the Sawtooth Wilderness, cannot be accessed by vehicle, as public road access to Atlanta remains closed. The order also opens the Pine-Featherville road (Forest Highway 61) so residents and visitors can access these communities, and most of the area adjacent to Anderson Ranch Reservoir. The revised area closure 0402-00-0024 (Revision #6) dated September 5, 2012 and signed by the Boise Forest Supervisor, and associated map is posted on Inciweb at <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3088/> and it will be posted on the Boise NF website at www.fs.usda.gov/boise.

In addition, with fall approaching and public use declining, the Boise National Forest has begun its annual seasonal closures of some campgrounds.

Campground closures, or adjustments in services, vary widely across the Forest, with a few facilities already closed. Others will close over the coming week or so. However, most campgrounds on the Boise National Forest will remain open until mid-October, although some may operate with few or no services.

“As public use drops, and as the weather gets colder, we try to balance providing access to developed sites, especially popular sites, with the cost of continuing service,” said Danelle Highfill, Forest Recreation Officer. On the Emmett Ranger District, the following campgrounds are closed as of September 4:

North Fork Payette River Area
Big Eddy
Cold Springs
Canyon
Swinging Bridge

Middle Fork Payette River Area
Hardscrabble
Rattlesnake
Peace Valley

Sagehen Complex
Hollywood
Eastside

(more)

Other facilities on the Emmett Ranger District will remain open until later in the fall, including other campgrounds along the Middle Fork Payette River and in the Sagehen Reservoir area.

For up-to-date information on open and closed campgrounds as conditions change, recreationists are encouraged to call their local Ranger District. The Ranger Districts and their phone numbers are posted on the Forest's website at www.fs.usda.gov/boise.

Recreationists are reminded that Stage 1 fire restrictions remain in effect across southwest Idaho, including on lands managed by the Boise, Payette and Sawtooth National Forests, Bureau of Land Management and State of Idaho. Under Stage 1 restrictions, Under the Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, the following acts are prohibited on the restricted state and federally managed lands, roads and trails:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, stove fire except within a designated recreation site, or on their own land, and only within an owner-provided structure.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, building or designated recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

A "designated recreation site" is a recreation site that: 1) is included on the National Forest's list of areas where campfires are permitted; and 2) which contains a Forest-provided fire ring. Campfires are not permitted at sites on the list that do not have a Forest-provided fire ring. The closure order, which includes the list of approved sites, is available at Ranger District offices and posted on the Boise NF website at www.fs.usda/boise.

Following are exemptions to the Stage 1 fire restrictions:

- Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
- Persons using fire solely by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels. Such devices, including propane campfires, may be used in an area cleared of flammable material.
- Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
- Any federal, state or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- All land within a city boundary.
- Other exemptions unique to each agency.

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