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News Release

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

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Big Meadows Campground to be Closed

SOUTH FORK – Big Meadows Campground and picnic area on the Divide Ranger District will be closed for major improvement work starting September 8th. The campground closure is expected to continue through next summer.

Big Meadows Reservoir, the boat ramp, and the trailhead will remain open.

Work to be conducted on the campground includes removal of hazard trees, drilling a new well and constructing a new water system, replacing toilets, and improving campsites on the lower loop to make them more accessible.

Big Meadows Campground is located about 12 miles southwest of South Fork. It is the largest most popular campground on the Rio Grande National Forest. Visitors enjoy camping on forested sites next to Big Meadows Reservoir and walking the trail that circles the reservoir.

In recent years the water system has not passed water quality tests and had to be turned off. The bathrooms are old and do not meet accessibility standards. Additionally, the forest in and around the campground has been infested with both the spruce budworm and the spruce bark beetle killing many trees in the area.

The Divide Ranger District regrets the extended closure, but the improvements will greatly enhance visitors' camping experience in the future.

For more information about the closure or for suggestions on other campgrounds to visit, contact the Divide Ranger District at 719-657-3321.

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