



News Release

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Gearing up for Memorial Day

CLOVIS, Calif., May 20, 2016 – Memorial Day is next week, and due to the unprecedented number of hazard trees present and the associated risk to the public, the Sierra National Forest (SNF) will delay the opening of a number of campgrounds. Keeping things in perspective, forces have been working virtually non-stop since last fall on this problem, and the majority of the campgrounds on the Forest will open on schedule this summer season. Every effort was made to have those campgrounds which typically open on Memorial Day weekend to meet that schedule. Due to the extremely large volume of tree mortality particularly in the 3000-6500 ft. elevation range however, not all have been treated in time for public use this upcoming holiday weekend.

The response has truly been a team effort, with the USFS, state, county, tribal community, homeowners and industry all responding together to address the issue in and around the Sierra National Forest. We will be working continuously on these, adjacent roads, trails and fuel breaks throughout the entire season to reduce the risk to public safety.

The following campgrounds which normally open for Memorial Day, will not be available;

Bass Lake Ranger District

- Whishon Point Campground
- Fish Creek Campground
- Lakeside Picnic/Amphitheater
- Recreation Point Camp/Picnic
- Spring Cove Campground
- Crane Valley Group Campground
- Little Denver Church
- Pine Slope

- Jerseydale Campground
- Rock Creek Campground
- Placer Campground
- Mammoth Pool Campground

High Sierra Ranger District

- Dorabelle Campground
- Gigantea Campground

Ross Cabin is a historical site that is located approximately 300 ft. off of Forest Road 4S81. This site is surrounded with dead trees that are a hazard to the public and is also closed. Other campgrounds are still available and can be reserved at www.recreation.gov. For more information on the current status of the SNF, please contact your local ranger station.

Forest restoration is occurring throughout the forest and on several roads, which are subject to heavy equipment traffic. All of the following roads should be traveled on with caution.

- 07S011X From County Rd 426 To End
- 07S086 From County Rd 222 To County Rd 222 (It's a loop road)
- 07S062Y From County Rd 222 To The End
- 07S023 From County Rd 223 To The End

Due to road segment 07S024 From County Rd 426 to the junction of 07S022IA, being only one lane in a sloped area, also with heavy equipment traffic, its public access will be restricted into July.

Included in this release is a poster for the widest distribution possible. The conditions on the Forest require a keen awareness of your surroundings, and assuming no unnecessary risk. A formal closure order will follow to document content of this release.

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Responding to Tree Mortality on National Forests in California

Watch Out!

Falling trees are a hazard when traveling in the forest.

Following these guidelines will help forest visitors avoid risks

- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dense patches of dead trees. Trees can fall without warning.
- Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow trees down. If you are already in the forest when the winds pick up, head to a clearing out of reach of potential falling trees.
- Pitch tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.
- When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road rather than on a spur or one-way section; if trees fall across the road you could become trapped.
- Bring an ax or a chainsaw to remove fallen trees from roads if you do become trapped.
- Do not rely solely on cell phones for safety as many areas of the National Forest have no cell phone coverage.

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