



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/news>

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Back-to-School Forest Service special

(Laramie, Wyo.) August 10, 2010 – How about a nice hike and picnic before the kids head back to school? The Forest Service is offering free day-use August 14th and 15th. This applies to picnic grounds, trailheads, parking areas, and other places where a fee is charged for day-use. It does not apply to overnight camping at developed campgrounds where a fee is charged. Please visit the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests website, <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>, for more information about recreational opportunities.

“The Forest Service is working to ensure as many as visitors as possible have the opportunity to experience the great outdoors and take advantage of the many recreation activities national forest have to offer” said Tom Tidwell, Chief of the Forest Service.

Fee waivers will also be offered on National Public Lands Day, Sept. 25 and Veterans; Day, Nov. 11.

The few waiver weekends support the goals of the President Obama’s “America Great Outdoors” initiative and First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” initiative by supporting actions that encourage the use and enjoyment of the outdoors. America’s national forests offer a wide range of benefits including improved physical and mental health, emotional well being, a concern for nature and a conservation ethic.

The Forest Service operated about 17,000 recreation sites, of which about 6,000 require a fee to cover services such as water, trash, toilets and maintenance. Many recreational activities such as camping, hiking and sightseeing can be enjoyed at no cost throughout the year.

The Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public lands and is the largest forestry research organization in the world. The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

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