



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

Contact: Aaron Voos, (307) 745-2323

Pole Mountain Recreation Sites Open

(LARAMIE, Wyo.) May 18, 2012 – The camping season on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland typically begins around Memorial Day, however, this year low snowpack in the mountains and overall dry weather conditions has pushed the opening of some U.S. Forest Service recreation sites up by at least a week or two.

The Laramie Ranger District has opened several recreation sites this past week on the Pole Mountain Unit, including the Vedauwoo Day-Use Site, Vedauwoo Campground, Blair Picnic Site and Yellow Pine Campground.

The day-use fee is \$5.00 and the daily campground fee is \$10.00. Water at these sites will not be available for the time being. Campground reservations may be made at some sites through ReserveUSA by phone at 877-444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. Where available, reservations are recommended for holiday weekends.

Preparations have been in full swing to ready these sites for an early opening, including recent volunteer cleanup efforts. The goal is to welcome visitors back to sites that have seen significant work or have even been closed as a result of hazard trees from the beetle epidemic that swept across Western forests over the last decade.

One such site that has been closed for a period of time is the Yellow Pine Campground. In late April, students from WyoTech volunteered their time over a two-day weekend to help the USFS cleanup. The campground has been closed since 2010 due to hazard trees. After extensive tree removal by USFS crews, the recreation site still needed extensive slash and debris cleanup. The volunteer efforts of the 80 WyoTech students, in the campground and along the road leading to the site, have allowed the District to open the area to the public weeks earlier than expected.

Throughout the summer and fall, visitors are encouraged to check the status of all Laramie Ranger District recreation areas by calling 307-745-2300 or by stopping by the District Office at 2468 Jackson St. in Laramie.

Summer hours begin on Monday, May 21, with the office open between 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, closed weekends and holidays.

Recreation site information may also be found on this website, <http://fs.usda.gov/mbf>, or you can follow the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter, **@MBRNFsTBNG**.

###