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(S.D.)-Many Black Hills Forest Facilities Still Open After Labor Day



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/05/2013 12:46 PM

Photo: Pactola Reservoir

(RAPID CITY, S.D.)-Now that Labor Day is gone for another year, the Black Hills National Forest is again offering forest visitors, who still want to get outdoors to boat, fish, swim and camp, reduced services in campgrounds and free day-use parking.

Amy Ballard, recreation forester for the Mystic Ranger District, says the day-use parking fee at boat ramps, beaches and picnic grounds at the big reservoirs such as Pactola, Sheridan and Deerfield will be free of charge starting this week. "A lot of visitors think that these large developed areas charge a fee year round, and that simply is not true," says Ballard. "A day-use pass is only needed at National Forest sites for approximately four months during the high-use summer season."

One change this year is that Pactola Campground will be closed until next May to allow logging traffic to safely pass through the area. However, Sheridan Lake Campground will keep 30 sites open during the week with the option of more on weekends for a reduced fee of \$10 per night. "This is 60% lower than the normal summer season camping rate," said Ballard. Toilets and garbage service will be offered for this fee.

The Black Hills National Forest manages 30 campgrounds, 30 picnic areas, 7 boat launches and 4 swim beaches throughout the Black Hills. For a complete list of winter hours and a site closing schedule, call 605-673-9200 or visit www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills. Click here for [2013-2014 Shoulder/Winter Campground Information](#).

For more information on the Black Hills National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills.

--U.S.Forest Service