



U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Yellowstone National Park

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Gallatin National Forest

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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release - September 18, 2007

Yellowstone National Park and Gallatin National Forest Lift Emergency Closures

Effective at midnight tonight Yellowstone National Park and the Gallatin National Forest will lift emergency area closures temporarily put in place north of Gardiner in the Reese Creek area in Yellowstone National Park and Beattie Gulch area on the Gallatin National Forest. The emergency closures were put into effect Friday, September 14 to address human safety concerns after a bear mauling occurred.

Park and Forest officials believe the mauling was an isolated incident. The bear was not injured which would cause additional human safety concerns. To help reduce human and bear encounters, hikers and hunters are encouraged to travel and hunt in pairs, carry bear spray, and adhere to food storage orders. Hunters should keep in mind that elk calls can also attract bears. It is also important to remember that bears are attracted to gut piles and food sources, including carcasses, particularly during this time of the year right before bears enter hibernation.

The Little Trail Creek Trail area closure will remain in effect as there may still be an injured bear in this area. The Park and the Forest encourage visitors, backcountry users, and hunters to check with the Albright Visitor Center or the Backcountry Office in Mammoth Hot Springs or the Gardiner Ranger District Office in Gardiner for the most up to date closure information. Remember, hunting is not permitted within Yellowstone National Park.