Commissioner Nikki Fried, Florida Forest Service Announce First Phase Re-Opening of State Forest Campgrounds, Campsites

May 8, 2020

Tallahassee, Fla. — Today, **Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried** and the **Florida Forest Service** announced Phase One of re-opening Florida State Forest campgrounds, campsites, and recreation areas.

“The public health of Floridians and our Florida Forest Service personnel is of utmost importance during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said **Commissioner Nikki Fried**. “Our Florida State Forest recreation areas are some of Florida’s greatest natural treasures, but in an abundance of caution, we are taking a cautious, measured approach to re-opening these areas while continuing to follow CDC guidelines.”

Florida State Forests as a whole remain open, including roads that are accessible for the public to drive on. ***The full list of re-opening Florida State Forest facilities may be found here.***

(https://www.dropbox.com/s/zwaypomva3bvvej/FloridaStateForests_PhaseOne_05082020.pdf?dl=0)

Effective May 8, 2020:

- Most campgrounds, primitive campsites and trailheads located on state forests will re-open with limited capacity.
- Campsite reservations must be online at **FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com** (https://floridastateforests.reserveamerica.com/) or by calling (877) 879-3859.
- Day-use passes are not required at this time.

Areas that remain closed:

- Restrooms remain closed except at open campgrounds.
- Some recreation and day-use areas.

As Florida State Forest recreation areas re-open, officials urge the public to continue following CDC guidelines. This will allow our Florida Forest Service first responders to remain focused on protecting life, property and natural resources during the peak of Florida's year-round wildfire season. For a complete list of open and closed areas, visit **FDACS.gov/FLStateForests** (https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Our-Forests/State-Forests) .

The **Florida Forest Service**, a division of the **Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**, manages more than 1 million acres of state forests and provides forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests. The Florida Forest Service is also responsible for protecting homes, forestland and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire on more than 26 million acres.

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Press Releases

2022 Press Releases (https://www.fdacs.gov/News-Events/Press-Releases/2022-Press-Releases)

2022 Press Releases (Spanish) (https://www.fdacs.gov/News-Events/Press-Releases/2022-Press-Releases-Spanish)

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