

U.S. Forest Service – News Release

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06/16/2010 Contact: Terry Baker, District Ranger (308) 533-2257

Two Forest Service Campgrounds Open Near Halsey

(Halsey – June 15) Two campgrounds are now open to the public on the Bessey Ranger District near Halsey. The main campground in the Bessey Complex is open, as well as Natick, approximately 3 miles west of the complex. Together these account for approximately 30 campsites. The Nebraska State 4-H camp also remains open. Travel, however is not recommended for most of the roads damaged by excessive rains.

“I really appreciate our staff and fire fighters for coming in and working hard to quickly open these campgrounds,” said Terry Baker, Bessey District Ranger. “However, due to public safety concerns, people must limit travels to only these areas, as other roads and trails sustained extensive damages during last week’s rains,” he said.

Annual rainfall on the Bessey Ranger District is typically 21 inches, and 22.6 inches has been received just half-way through the year. Baker said as of Monday roads were covered by water holes spanning 1-2 acres and measured 5-6 feet deep. Though standing water is receding slightly, the Middle Loop River is running high and muddy, with some areas of bank erosion threatening roads.

Photos below show the washed – out road that leads to Scenic, a dispersed campground favored by visitors. Baker is standing in the shoulder-height wash-out, while the second photo shows the flooded road that runs past Scenic into the forest. “It’s been a favorite camping site for visitors, but now a river runs through it,” said Baker.

