Act fast to ensure having camping spot for Labor Day weekend

By Barbara Barte Osborn, Sacramento Bee

Tahoe National Forest officials are advising visitors to act quickly if they want to secure a campsite for the Labor Day holiday.

“This is one of the big weekends of the summer, and campgrounds, picnic sites and trail systems are expected to be busy,” forest spokeswoman Ann Westling said Monday.

Westling advised making reservations for the most popular campgrounds. Many have some first-come, first-served sites, but it would be best to arrive Thursday or Friday if one is hoping to secure one of those, she said.

Most campsites can be reserved by calling 877.444.6777.

All recreation sites in the forest will be open for the holiday, but the forest is very dry this summer and visitors are urged to be especially careful with fires, Westling said.

Fire restrictions are in effect, limiting campfires to developed campgrounds. In the backcountry, portable propane stoves can be used with a free campfire permit that’s available at all Forest Service offices.

New this year at many campgrounds are bear-resistant food lockers, which have been “very successful – virtually eliminating bear problems,” Forest Supervisor Tom Quinn said in a news release.

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