

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
JACKSON AND BLACKROCK RANGER DISTRICTS**

Winter Travel Restrictions

PROHIBITIONS:

Pursuant to Title 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b) the following acts are prohibited within the area described in this Order, all within the Jackson and Blackrock Ranger Districts, Bridger-Teton National Forest as shown on the Map attached hereto as Exhibit A.

1. Possessing or using an over-snow vehicle on a National Forest System Trail in violation of restrictions specified on the Map attached hereto as Exhibit A.
36 CFR 261.55 (b)
2. Possessing or using an over-snow vehicle on a National Forest System Road in violation of restrictions specified on the Map attached hereto as Exhibit A.
36 CFR 261.54 (a)
3. Possessing or using an over-snow vehicle off National Forest System Roads or Trails in violation of restrictions specified on the Map attached hereto as Exhibit A.
36 CFR 261.56
4. Going into or being upon the area depicted on the Map attached hereto as Exhibit A that is closed for the protection of wintering wildlife.
36 CFR 261.53 (b)
5. Using or possessing an over-snow vehicle in the area or on the roads or trails described in this Order and depicted on the Map attached hereto as Exhibit A that weighs in excess of 1,000 pounds, or that is not steered by a ski or skis in contact with the ground. **36 CFR 261.55(b), 261.56**

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e) the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically exempting them from the effect of this Order.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

AREA DESCRIBED:

All area within the administrative boundaries of the Jackson and Blackrock Ranger Districts, Bridger Teton National Forest, Teton, Park, Fremont, Lincoln, and Sublette Counties, Wyoming.

The area subject to this Order is depicted on the Map attached hereto as Exhibit A, which is incorporated herein by reference.

PURPOSE:

These restrictions are necessary to protect wintering wildlife habitat from the disturbance caused by over-snow vehicles and human uses, to protect natural resources (physical and biological) and separate motorized and non-motorized recreation uses to reduce potential for user conflicts.

DEFINITIONS:

Over-snow vehicle – A motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow and that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow. 36 CFR 212.1

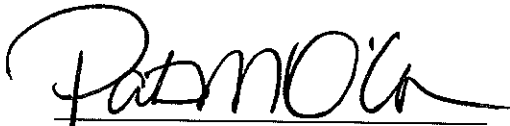
Motor vehicle – Any vehicle which is self-propelled, other than:

- (1) A vehicle operated on rails, and
- (2) Any wheelchair or mobility device, including one that is battery-powered, that is designed solely for use by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion, and that is suitable for use in and indoor pedestrian area.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. This Order will be in effect April 28, 2022 and shall remain in effect until June 1, 2024, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.
2. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 for individuals, and \$10,000.00 for organizations and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3571(b)(6), Title 18 USC 3581 (b)(7)].
3. Order supersedes any previous orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this Order.

Done at Jackson, Wyoming this ____28th____ day of April, 2022.



PATRICIA M. O'CONNOR
Forest Supervisor
Bridger-Teton National Forest

Order Number: 04-03-333

Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan

Teton Division Winter Travel Plan

Order Number 04-03-333

Bridger-Teton National Forest

1. Background The Teton Division Winter Travel Map governs over-snow vehicle travel and displays areas where human presence is prohibited in order to protect winter wildlife habitat. The Map is enforced via Forest Special Order #04-03-516. Over-snow vehicle restrictions and closures to protect winter wildlife begin December 1st south of the Gros Ventre corridor. However, north of the Gros Ventre, over-snow vehicle restrictions and closures begin December 15th. The 15-day inconsistency has caused public confusion, made enforcement ineffective, and compromised wildlife habitat security in this northern area. Additionally, the gap between National Forest winter restrictions ending at midnight on April 30th and access roads on the Refuge and state lands not opening until early on May 1st has resulted in serious public safety concerns, law enforcement challenges, and considerable public confusion. This order will eliminate these date disparities and make one consistent timeframe that restrictions shown on the map are enforceable.

2. Intent of Order:

1. Create consistency in regulation dates between Teton Division Winter Travel Map (regulates use from December 1- May 1- 6am) and summer wheeled motor vehicle travel (MVUM) which generally allows for use May 1- November 30th. Having appropriate regulations that align well temporally will aid in public messaging and reduce confusion.
2. Align the timing for lifting winter wildlife closures in the spring (May 1 at 6am) to match adjacent public land regulations with the National Elk Refuge and State Lands in Wyoming to aid in public messaging, reduce confusion, and improve public safety.
3. Reduce disturbance within crucial winter wildlife habitat to improve consistency with the Forest Plan habitat effectiveness standard, while also preserving access needed for bison retrieval in the Spread Creek area.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as 36 CFR 220.6(d)(2). This category of action(s) is applicable because this project is related to establishing rules and regulations. There are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS (see attached Decision Memo). We took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species. The limited scope of this proposal will have no effect or a slightly beneficial effect on TES species. No habitat modifications for any TES species are taking place other than a reduction in human disturbance in the selected areas. No Canada Lynx habitat will be altered nor negatively affected by this winter travel timing adjustment, and a reduction in human traffic in these limited areas provides increased security for grizzly bears by reducing the probability of negative human-bear conflicts.
- Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds will not be affected since this project is focused

on the winter season when wetlands are typically snow-covered or frozen.

- Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas will not be affected since this project proposes no change in regulations that currently govern over-snow vehicle travel for Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. No National Recreation Areas are present.
- Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas will not be affected since the project involves no road maintenance or construction, no tree cutting, and no activities that would affect the potential of areas to be considered for future designation as wilderness. The additional two-week restriction on over-snow vehicle travel and human presence in crucial wildlife winter range will slightly benefit those inventoried roadless areas located north of the Gros Ventre Wilderness but the effect is very minor due to limited scope of this project.
- Research natural areas will not be affected since no change in winter regulations are proposed as part of this project for the area within the Horse Creek Research Natural Area.
- American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites will not be affected since this project is focused on the winter seasons when cultural sites are typically snow-covered.
- Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas will not be affected since this project is focused on the winter season when archeological sites are typically snow-covered.

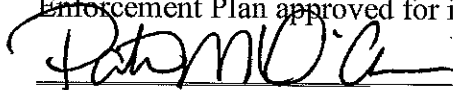
This proposal was discussed prior to public scoping with a number of interested organizations, including staff with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the executive director of Advocates for Multi-Use of Public Lands, and members of Winter Wildlands Alliance, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance. A public scoping document was released for a 30-day comment period on January 25th, 2022 with distribution to over 600 individuals via GovDelivery. The Jackson Hole News and Guide covered the project with a front-page story on February 11th, 2022. A total of 12 comments were received with some comment letters representing multiple organizations. A detailed response to comments document has been prepared as part of this project and is part of the project record.

3. Enforcement Plan: A cooperative effort will be accomplished by personnel from Forest Service LEI, Forest Protection Officers, and District Recreation Specialists through signing and in person contacts to bring the closure to the attention of the public. Individuals of the public who violate the prohibitions will be issued a violation notice by Law Enforcement.

The following activities need to occur to implement this special order in a manner that results in public acceptance and safety:

Action	Responsible Official	Date
Prepare proposed order	District Recreation Program Manager	April 2022
Review proposed order	LEO Rayce Angell	April 2022
Approve proposed order	Forest Supervisor Mel Bolling	April 2022
Post order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51	District Staff	April 2022
Prepare educational information for forest website	Forest & PAO	April 2022

Enforcement Plan approved for implementation:



FOREST SUPERVISOR
PATRICIA O'CONNOR