

2022 Hunting on the Pagosa Ranger District



Where may I hunt? Hunting is permitted on public lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service. State of Colorado hunting regulations must be followed on National Forest System (NFS) lands. For a map of NFS lands in the Pagosa Springs area, stop by the Pagosa Ranger District. Pay close attention to land boundaries, especially private and tribal land boundaries. It is your responsibility to know where you are hunting.



Where may I camp? Camping is permitted in most areas of the National Forest. The Cimarrona campground and Palisade Horse campground (located north of Pagosa Springs) will remain open through the third rifle season. Both campgrounds offer limited amenities, with no trash services or water available. All other campgrounds are closed for the season. Motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping is allowed up to 300 feet from open, designated roads as long as no damage occurs to the resource (soil and vegetation). Use of existing dispersed sites is highly encouraged. Camping on the San Juan National Forest is limited to no more than 28 days within any continuous 60 day period. After 14 consecutive days in one location, you must move beyond a 3-mile radius. You are not allowed to block a gated closed road or an open numbered road.

Are there other regulations I should know related to camping? Green trees are not allowed to be cut or damaged. Only standing dead and downed trees may be used as firewood. Firewood must be used in camp and not transported off the National Forest. No standing dead Ponderosa Pine greater than 15-inches in diameter may be cut. All campfires must be fully extinguished before leaving camp. Human waste must be disposed at least 100 feet from water, must be buried in "cat holes" or in group latrines and covered with a minimum 6-8 inches of soil. It is prohibited to leave any waste or refuse in an unsanitary condition. All trash must be packed out and removed from the National Forest.



Is target shooting allowed on National Forest? Target shooting is allowed on the National Forest. Make sure you have a safe backdrop. You must provide your own targets and remove all debris prior to leaving the site. Do not place targets on or against live or dead trees. No shooting is allowed within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, across or on a Forest Development Road or a body of water adjacent to, into or within a cave, or in any manner or place whereby a person or property is exposed to injury or damage.

Are there any areas on the Pagosa Ranger District closed to hunting? There are no areas across the Pagosa Ranger District closed to hunting. There are areas where shooting is not allowed as described above.



Where may I drive my truck, off-highway vehicle (OHV) or e-bike? Motorized travel is allowed on NFS lands, in accordance with travel management regulations identified in the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The MVUM identifies motorized routes, dates when motorized travel is allowed (pending specific closures due to weather, construction projects, etc.) and mode of travel. The MVUM can be obtained from the Forest Service Office free of charge as well as the Forest Service website under the Maps & Publications link. All OHV's must have a current Colorado off-highway vehicle registration. Registrations can be obtained through Colorado big game license distribution agents. The use of motorized vehicles is prohibited in the Weminuche and South San Juan Wilderness areas, and the Piedra Area. You are not allowed to travel off open designated roads to retrieve game. E-bike's are only allowed on motorized routes.



I'll be using livestock, what do I need to know? Hunters must contact a veterinarian to get a certificate of health inspection within 30 days before bringing horses to Colorado. Horses need a Coggins blood test for equine infectious anemia within a year before coming to Colorado. Hay, straw, and bagged horse feeds brought onto the National Forest must be certified as weed free. Feed must be clearly marked as being certified weed free. Manage stock appropriately to prevent damage to trees and natural features including stream banks and meadows. Always confine stock at least 100 feet from water and trails.

May I use a game cart to retrieve game? Game carts are allowed to retrieve game except in the following locations: Weminuche and South San Juan Wilderness areas, and the Piedra Area. Within Chimney Rock National Monument, game carts may be used on designated roads; however, cross-country travel with game carts is prohibited.



How do I find an outfitter/guide, or someone to pack out my game? A list of permitted outfitters and guides can be obtained by contacting the Pagosa Ranger District or by visiting: www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan. Only permitted outfitters/guides are allowed to collect money for outfitter/guiding services on the National Forest. Permitted outfitters and guides offer a variety of services such as drop camps, guided hunts, game packing, etc.

Are tree stands & game cameras allowed? The use of tree stands & game cameras are allowed on the Pagosa Ranger District in accordance with the following:

- The owner of the equipment must have a valid hunting license for the season used,
- Equipment should be identified with the owners name and phone number,
- Equipment may be placed up to 3 days prior to the start of the hunting season, and removed 2 days after the hunting season in which they'll be used,
- Transporting of equipment to their location must be in accordance with current travel management regulations,
- Equipment must not be placed within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area,
- Live trees must not be damaged, and
- Equipment should not be placed in designated Wilderness or the Piedra Area.



Where can I get more information about the National Forest, and big game hunting in the Pagosa Springs area? National Forest information can be obtained by contacting the Pagosa Ranger District at 970-264-2268 or by visiting: www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan. Information on big game hunting can be obtained by contacting the Durango Office of Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 970-247-0855 or by visiting: <http://cpw.state.co.us>



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