

News Release



USDA Forest Service
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
Grand Valley Ranger District
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Grand Junction, CO 81506

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Forest Road Update

Grand Junction, CO., June 13, 2008 – Due to significant snowfall later in the spring and recent cool temperatures, there is still a lot of snow in the high country. This has delayed the opening of several seasonal closure gates on the flanks of the Grand Mesa. The closures remain in effect to protect the roadbed and adjacent lands which are most fragile during this time when ground surfaces are saturated. The gates remain closed on the following Forest roads but will be opened as conditions warrant:

Surface Creek Road #125

Lands End Road #100 from the Wild Rose parking area to State Highway 65

Trickel Park Road #121

Old Grand Mesa Road #123

However, there are a few places located at lower elevations where snow melt has occurred just a little sooner and are ready for your spring enjoyment. All access roads on the Uncompahgre Plateau are open and travelable. Buzzard/Muddy Divide #265 on the east side of the Grand Mesa is clear of snow. Leroux Creek road #128 was just recently opened on June 13.

Spring is a great time to enjoy the outdoors. However, Forest visitors are reminded that water levels within drainages tend to fluctuate significantly in the course of a day during times of rapid snowmelt and rainfall. Backcountry roads and trails will very likely have residual snowdrifts, so plan on trips that may be shorter in distance than anticipated and going back out the same way. Furthermore, driving off a road or trail to negotiate a snowdrift is a ticketable offence.

In addition, all campgrounds on the Grand Mesa National Forest are closed because of snow. Divide Forks campground on the Uncompahgre Plateau is open. For campground updates visit our website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug/>

For further information regarding Forest road, trail and campground information, contact the Grand Valley Ranger District in Grand Junction at (970) 242-8211 or the Grand Mesa Visitor Center at (970) 856-4153.

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