

# News Release



USDA Forest Service  
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### FINES INCREASES ON NATIONAL FOREST

**Delta, CO., (February 28, 2008)** – The USDA Forest Service released information regarding the increase in fines for the violation of National Forest Laws and Regulations. U.S. District Court Judge Edward Nottingham recently approved the Colorado Collateral Forfeiture Schedule, which increases fines for infractions for a variety of offenses. Previously, fines ranged from approximately \$25 to \$100 for infractions. Under the new Schedule, fines generally range from \$100 to \$500 for infractions.

“Most forest users are law abiding citizens; however, there are a few who are not. Our goal is to encourage *all* forest users to obey the regulations and protect forest resources and the rights of other forest visitors” stated GMUG Forest Supervisor Charlie Richmond. “The previous Forest Service fine schedule has been in place for over ten years and we found that the penalties were so low that they weren’t much of a deterrent to violators. We hope these new fine amounts will help bring about compliance and/or change in inappropriate behaviors on national forest lands.”

Some examples of the changes are:

- Possessing or operating a motor vehicle on National Forest System lands except on designated roads, trails or areas (36 CFR 261.14) is \$250.
- Damaging and leaving in a damaged condition any road, trail or segment thereof (36 CFR 261.12(c)) changed from \$75 to \$300.
- Discharging or igniting a firecracker, rocket, or other firework or explosive (36 CFR 261.16(d)) changed from \$75 to \$200.
- Failure to remove all camping equipment or personal property when vacating the area or site (36 CFR 261.16(f)) changed from \$25 to \$50.

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