



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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Happy Jack Recreation Site Reopens, Informed Usage Urged

(LARAMIE, Wyo.) February 11, 2016 – U.S. Forest Service (USFS) staff successfully completed snow removal earlier this week at the Happy Jack Recreation Site parking lot, as well as on Forest Road 719, which accesses the day-use fee site.

The site has been reopened by the Laramie Ranger District (LRD), who temporarily closed the site last week after extreme snow accumulation and winter weather delayed plowing operations.

Happy Jack Recreation Site is a day-use fee area on the Pole Mountain unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest. It is well-used by winter recreationists and provides access to trails, as well as unmaintained downhill slopes. The site is accessed off of Wyoming Highway 210.

In anticipation of heavy public usage during the upcoming President's Day holiday weekend, the LRD would like to remind users of the following safety messages, specifically regarding sledding and tubing:

- The old Happy Jack ski hill is unmanaged and any recreation usage is done at the user's risk. Signage at the fee area reflects this situation.
- All recreation activities have some element of risk and could be potentially hazardous. Please take a moment before recreating to consider the risks and possible consequences. Read signage that is posted at the trailhead and parking area.
- All groups are urged to use common courtesy while recreating. Multiple uses occur on National Forest System lands and you will likely encounter that variety while recreating.
- All winter recreationists need to be aware of Forest conditions and changing weather. Be aware and prepared when going into the Forest.
- Many larger trees in the area have been killed by the bark beetle epidemic. These trees are susceptible to falling when soils are saturated or during high winds. Please avoid recreating in areas with dead trees during high wind events.

For more information contact the LRD at (307) 745-2300. You can also visit our website at <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>, or follow the Medicine Bow National Forest on Twitter, **@FS_MBRTB**.

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