



News Release

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

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Recreation Site Analysis Launched by MBRTB

(LARAMIE, Wyo.) March 18, 2016 – U.S. Forest Service staff with the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland (MBRTB) are undertaking a unit-wide analysis of their developed recreation sites. The internal analysis and subsequent recommendations will result in management direction, changes, and priorities in coming years.

The Forest Service hopes to address the following topics with the analysis:

- Address changing recreation demands
- Meet current and future public recreation site needs
- Consider the effect of recreation sites on local economic, environmental, and social situations
- Manage to agency health, safety, and environmental standards
- Reduce deferred recreation site maintenance burden
- Focus limited MBRTB recreation program resources on our highest priority sites and facilities in a cost-effective manner

There are currently 221 developed recreation sites on the MBRTB. Those sites include boat docks, campgrounds, interpretive sites, picnic areas, trailheads, and visitor centers. No reduction of access to National Forest System lands will occur as a result of this analysis, rather there will be changes in how sites are managed.

“Ultimately we want to maintain an effective, sustainable recreation program,” said MBRTB Forest Supervisor Dennis Jaeger. “Our recreation sites need to meet public demand, as well as our own health and safety standards. The sites should provide a positive environment for public use and enjoyment.”

The agency is asking for public input regarding MBRTB recreation sites. Useful information could include the following:

- What services are important to you at developed recreation sites (signage, parking, water, trash, restrooms, picnic tables, USFS staff presence)?
- Would you be willing to pay more for services at developed recreation sites?
- What specific sites are important to you and why?
- Do you prefer a primitive or maintained recreation experience?
- How do you feel about management of USFS sites by private, for-profit entities?

The RSA process will continue throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2016. Site-specific recommendations will be developed and sites will be physically examined before a final analysis document is completed this fall.

A web page has been developed for public information and feedback on the MBRTB Recreation Site Analysis (RSA). Visit www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mbrtb/rsa to submit comments. Comments would be most useful if received by April 29, 2016, however, they will be accepted throughout the process.

For site-specific information you can also contact your local Forest Service office. Office locations, phone numbers, and areas of recreation site management are listed below.

Colorado

Hahns Peak-Bears Ears District Office

Steamboat Springs, Colo., (970-870-2299)

- *Manages sites in the California Park, Mount Zirkel, North Routt, & Steamboat Springs areas*

Parks District Office

Walden, Colo., (970-723-8204)

- *Manages sites in the Mount Zirkel, Snowy Range, & Troublesome areas*

Yampa District Office

Yampa, Colo. (970-638-4516)

- *Manages sites in the Flat Tops & Gore areas*

Wyoming

Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District Office

Saratoga, Wyo., (307-326-5258)

- *Manages sites in the Sierra Madre & Snowy Range areas*

Douglas Ranger District Office

Douglas, Wyo., (307-358-4690)

- *Manages sites in the Laramie Peak area & Thunder Basin National Grassland*

Laramie Ranger District Office

Laramie, Wyo., (307-745-2300)

- *Manages sites in the Pole Mountain & Snowy Range areas*

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