

White River National Forest



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Current Conditions Aspen-Sopris Ranger District

Need Info?

Carbondale Office: 970-963-2266
Aspen Office: 970-925-3445

LAST UPDATED: August 28, 2018

Seasonal Advisory: The summer travel season begins on May 21. Motor vehicle use maps (MVUMs) are available online <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/whiteriver/alerts-notice/?cid=stelprdb5328680> or at district offices. MVUMs show forest routes that are designated as open or restricted to different types of motor vehicles. MVUMs list road opening and closing dates. Several roads remain closed until June so be informed! Expect high-elevation trails and roads to be slick and muddy in spring and early summer. If you encounter a muddy road or trail please turn around and wait until the route dries. Riding on muddy routes can cause permanent road and trail damage.

Temporary Wildlife Closures in Place: The following trails are under seasonal wildlife closures.

- Government Trail, from Buttermilk ski area to Snowmass ski area, closed to the public May 15 to June 20

Changes at Ruedi Reservoir: Ruedi Reservoir opens May 1. To prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species such as zebra and quagga mussels, state-certified boat inspections are required. Find out more about mandatory boat inspections by clicking [here](#).

Maroon Bells Scenic Area: Maroon Creek Road opens May 15. The best way to experience the Maroon Bells is by shuttle! Starting June 9 through October 8 the shuttle operates for all visitors accessing the Maroon Bells from 8 am to 5 pm daily, every 20 minutes. Shuttle prices are \$8 for adults; \$6 under 16 or over 65; free for children under 6. Tickets can be purchased at Four Mountain Sports located at the base of Aspen Highlands Ski Area. Parking is available at Aspen Highlands or in Aspen. Parking Prices for Aspen Highlands:

Highlands Parking	Mon-Fri	Sat-Sun
0-3 hours	\$5	\$10
3-8 hours	\$10	\$15
Full Day (8 hrs+)	\$20	\$25

For an updated conditions report specific to Maroon Bells, call (970) 945-3319.

Conundrum Hot Springs Permit Requirement: Beginning April 18, overnight permits are required for camping in the Conundrum Hot Springs permit zone. Permits can only be reserved through [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) and are not available at district offices.

Food Storage & Camping: Visitors camping in developed sites or dispersed sites on the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District must store food in a bear-resistant container or inside vehicles in sealed containers. Approved bear-resistant containers for backpacking can be found by clicking [here](#).

This report is a general description of the broader area; all conditions are subject to change. Remember to always bring a map, compass, and be prepared for any conditions on the roads and trails, remember to "Know Before You Go".

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Roads	Conditions
Aspen/Snowmass Area	
Maroon Creek Road (CR 13)	Maroon Lake Scenic Area, campgrounds, facilities fully operational. RFTA buses running
Highway 82 to Independence Pass	Open
Special Alerts and Notices:	
Basalt/Ruedi Area	
Eagle-Thomasville Road	Open
Special Alerts and Notices:	
Carbondale Area	
Red Table Road (FSR 514)	Open
Basalt Mountain Road (FSR 524)	Open
Special Alerts and Notices	
Redstone/Marble Area	
Schofield Pass	Open

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Lead King Loop (FSRs 314 & 315)	315 OHV or 4WD only
Special Alerts and Notices:	
Trails	Conditions
Isolated snow patches above 12,500 ft. (July 10 2018)	
American Lake Trail, #1985	Clear to the lake according to a report on Roaring Fork Trail Conditions facebook page. (6/5/18 JU) Between ½ mi to 2 ½ mile from TH five trees down but passable (6/23/18 MJ) Clear, wildflowers blooming (7/2/18 MJ) No map @ TH sign, many trees on trail, deeply rutted trail @ 1.3 miles, aspen tree uprooted and hanging over trail (7/14/18 MJ)
Anthracite Pass Trail, #1968	Not recommended for stock due to steep slope and tread. (May 2018, KN) Trail clear of trees (7/27/18 TL)
Arkansas Mountain Trail, #1965	Mostly clear; creek crossing, according to a report on Roaring Fork Trail Conditions (KL 6/16/18) Clear (6/23/18 MJ)
Arbaney-Kittle Trail	Clear up to 4 miles from trailhead, (SGB 6/3/18) Clear 4 miles from TH (mj 6/6)
Aspen-Crested Butte	West Maroon Pass passable (6/12/18 KH)
Aspen-Norrie Trail, #1927	
Avalanche Lake Trail, #1959	10 trees down on trail (12"-20" in diameter) starting @ .75 miles to meadow. Otherwise trail in good condition. (mj, 5/28) Clear (6/25/18 MJ) Trail in excellent condition, Creek crossing easily navigated with a Prius (7/4/18 MJ)
Braderich Trail, # 1952	
Buckskin Pass	*UPDATE* Customer trip report, totally passable with almost no snow (DS 6/12/18) Clear to pass. Remnant cornice easily passed climber's left/descender's right (7/9/18 BR)
Capitol Creek Trail, #1961	Tree down near bridge crossing (6/18/18 MJ); Landslide reported by hiker between Trailrider Pass and Capitol Lake (7/14/18 MJ) Lareg spruce and

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	other trees down – 5 miles from Capitol Creek TH (via ditch trail)/ 10,850' blocking trail and forcing sketchy re-route on steep slope. A few other down trees in forested sections forcing nuisance reroutes (7/30/18 AEW)
Capitol Creek Ditch Trail	Clear to stream crossing; road to trailhead still has snow patches (May SGB 2018) Road clear; Medium size tree across trail near TH and 3 trees ranging from small to large across trail within fires mile; trail in good condition (mj 5/28) Avalanche after 2nd creek crossing & T section many trees down; last pitch to Lake 100% snow covered. (mj 6/13); one mile on trail 18" tree across trail.
Carbonate Creek Trail, #1971	All clear (7/21/18 JO)
Cathedral Lake Trail, #1984	One tree across trail 11,200 feet (6/24/28 BR) Clear (6/27/18 MJ)
Cathedral Lake Trail to Electric Pass #1984.1A	
Chapman Gulch Trail, #1920	Cleared until where trail fades away about ¾ of the way up the valley (7/29/18 JO)
Chapman Lake Trail, #1923	All clear to lake (7/29/18 JO)
Conundrum Creek Trail, #1981	<i>Visitors must have a <u>printed</u> Overnight Camping Permit and <u>ID</u> if camping <u>overnight</u> in the Conundrum Hot Springs Permit Zone (from Silver Dollar Pond to Triangle Pass).</i> Trail clear of snow and logs, some sites still have snow. Visitor must camp in the site that they reserved with their permit – even if there is snow! The first two river crossings have a bridge – the third does not. The crossing can be dangerous after a rainstorm (TL 6/23/18) Clear (6/27/18 MJ) Wildflowers blooming (7/4/18 MJ)
Crater Lake Trail	Clear (6/23/18 MJ)
Dexter Park Trail, #1953	

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Difficult Creek Trail, #2196	350 ft. from TH two large trees blocking trail new trail formed around trees (6/25/18 MJ) Trees on trail, some wildflowers not abundant (7/10/18 MJ)
Discovery/Braille Trail	Patches of deep snow on 1/3 of trail making it impassable for wheelchairs (mj 5/28) Clear (6/23/18 MJ)
Eagle Lake	Trail clear (7/6/18)
East Creek Trail, #1963	9 trees down up to pass (7/23/18 JO) Cleared up to pass (7/30/18 WZ)
East Maroon Creek Trail, #1983	Sign #1983 @ right fork missing, found 30' or more down from trail junction. Clear (mj 6/6) Junction sign missing (6/23/18) Trail junction sign needed where trail intersects with Maroon Lake trail, wildflowers blooming (7/14/18 MJ)
East Maroon Pass	
East Snowmass Creek Trail, #1977	ESM ditch trail is clear, dry; moderate creek flow (mj, 5/18/18) Clear (6/25/18 MJ) Easy creek crossing (7/12/18 MJ) Clear from TH until adjacent to Baldy Mtn (7/24/18 WZ)
Four Pass Loop	All 4 passes are clear, there is a snow patch about a mile from Snowmass Lake between the lake and Trail Rider Pass, but it has been bootpacked and is passable without traction. There are 6 down trees between Buckskin and Snowmass lake with slight re-routes; there are 2 down trees on the Aspen side of the West Maroon Trail that have slight

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	re-routes (wilderness crew will clear when able). (7/5/18 Lauren) Landslide reported by backpacker between Trailrider Pass and Capitol Lake (7/14/18 MJ)
Fravert Basin, #1974	Lead King road passable to Silver Creek (mj 6/6/18) Mostly clear of snow (6/12/18 KH) Clear based on reports from back packers on 6/23/18 (mj) Four Pass Loop section is clear (7/5/18 Lauren)
Frying Pan Lakes, #1921	All clear to upper lakes
Geneva Lake Trail, #1973	All clear from TH to junction with 4 Pass loop south of Trail Rider Pass (JO 6/25/18)
Gift Creek	16 trees down along upper gift creek. Lower creek cleared (7/22/18 JO)
Government Trail, #1980	Clear (6/25/18 MJ)
Granite Lakes Trail, #1922	Cleared up to large meadow just before the Lakes (Wiley 8/16)
Grizzly Lake Trail, #1990	Clear, water crossing manageable (6/29/18 MJ) Clear, wildflowers blooming (7/4/18 MJ)

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Grottos Trail, #2180	Sign designating left to Grottos is missing, trail clear (mj, 5/31/18) trail dry and clear (mj 6/13)
Hannon Creek Trail, #1998	
Hay Park Trail, #1957	Past meadow-muddy spots and downed trees according to a report on Roaring Fork Trail Conditions Facebook page (KL 6/9/18)
Hell Roaring Trail, #1960	Clear from Avalanche Creek trail, but if hiking from Capital Lake/Snowmass there are several trees down approximately 1.5-2 miles, trail junction sign needed for Williams Lake (7/4/18 MJ) Down trees on Capitol side are impassable to stock (7/16/18 TL) Downed trees at 0.5 mi and @ 1.5-1.75 (11,250 ft). Some very recent. Detours tough/impossible for stock. Wilderness sign missing. Trail junction signs missing. (7/31/18 AEW) Downed trees at 0.5 mi cleared, 1 large one with easy reroute still needs to be moved (Wiley 8/24)
Henderson Park Trail #1972	Cleared of blowdown up to Josephine Lakes and 1.5 miles from Henderson Park towards Carter Lakes (7/16/18 WZ)
Hunter Creek Trail, #2184	One large number tree down between Woody Creek junction and Hunter Creek (7/2/18 JO)
Hunter Valley Trail, #1992	Clear (mj 5/24/18)

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Josephine Lake Trail, #1916	Clear (7/24/18 WZ)
Linkins Lake Trail, #1979	Clear (6/17/18 MJ)
Lostman Loop Trail, #1996	2 ½ miles from TH beware of hazard trees (6/21/18 MJ) Start of trail very wet with water running down middle of trail; no bridge @ water crossings but manageable (6/27/18 MJ) Clear (7/14/18 MJ)
Lyle/Mormon Lakes Trail, #1919	Snow begins ¼ mile from TH; manageable until Lyle Lake where impassable (mj 6/6) Snow on trail between Lyle and Mormon Lake, passable (6/24/18 AG) Clear (6/27/18 MJ)
Maroon Creek Trail, #1982	Clear (6/22/18 MJ) junction sign needed for spur to E Maroon Creek trail (6/29/18)
Maroon Lake Scenic Area	RFTA buses to begin running from Aspen Highlands on June 9. Buses operate 8-5 daily until October 8. (May 2018, KN) Moose sightings this week (mj 5/24/18); trail sign needed before bridge to scenic loop on left hand side (mj 5/28); Bull and cow moose in Lake (MJ 5/31/18) Trail reconstruction along Maroon Lake started (6/21/18 MJ) Biting flies are in full force (7/14/18 MJ)
Maroon-Snowmass Trail, #1975	CLEAR except Buckskin Pass to Snowmass Creek, see other comments (7/5/18 SW)
Middle Thompson Trail, #1950	

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Midway Creek Trail, #1993	All clear from Lower Lost Man TH to Hunter Creek (7/2/18 JO) Popular trail, wildflowers abundant (7/11/18 MJ)
Mount Sopris Trail, #1958	Patches of snow on switchbacks beyond Thomas Lake – relatively clear along ridgeline to summit, large cornice between summits (KH 6/12/18)
New York Creek Trail, #2182	CLEAR for first two miles, unknown second two miles (7/23/18 SW) Clear and dry to ridge (8/13/18 AEW)
North Lost Creek Trail, #1967	All clear (7/21/18 JO)
Perham Creek Trail, #1949	8" tree down on trail before meadow (mj 5/18/18) dry and clear, numerous wildflowers in bloom (mj, 5/24/18) Dry (6/25/18 MJ)
Petroleum/Anderson Lakes Trail, #1991	Clear (7/14/18 MJ)
Placita Trail, #1966	Cleared of blowdown up to Lily Lake trail junction (7/24/18 WZ)
Raspberry Creek Loop, #1968	

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Red Table Trail, #1909	
Rio Grande Trail	Clear
Rocky Fork Trail	Within 1 mile of TH, 3 trees down: 1 st down tree passable; 2 nd & 3 rd trees block trail d(6/21/18 MJ) Cleared (8/02/18 DM)
Ruedi Overlook Trail, #1912	CLEAR (8/2/18 WZ)
Savage Lakes Trail, #1918	Clear (MJ 6/24/18)
Sawyer Lake Trail, #1926	Cleared to within ½ mile of lake. At least one tree remaining near lake. Water bars are cleaned and working excellently (7/29/18 JO)
Silver Creek Pass Trail, #1956	No fire restriction signage at trailhead (7/14/18 MJ) ALL CLEAR (7/21/18 JO)
Snowmass Lake	Trail in good shape through private property; within first 2 miles of WRNF trail 16 large trees (greater than 8" diameter) & 20-25 smaller trees on trail but passable. Trees on trail but manageable (mj 6/13) 5 miles from TH 36" trees across trail; trail has formed around downed tree (6/23/18 MJ) Clear, wildflowers blooming (7/2/18 BR) WAG bag canister stuffed with trash and NO WAG BAGS, heavily used trail and campers @ lake with both 4 Pass Loopers, Lake overnights, and day users, trail in good condition (7/14/18 MJ) Report of 1 very large (3 ft.) blowdown within a mile of Snowmass Lake, trail clear otherwise according to outfitter (7/24/18 WZ)

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South Fork Pass Trail, #1940	1 tree down (7/10/18 JO)
Spruce Creek Trail, #1927	All clear from FS Rd 504 to junction with Woody Creek Trail (7/2/18 JO) Good condition (7/3/18 MJ)
Sunnyside/Shadyside Trails, #1987	Sunnyside clear until junction with 4 corners trail where snowdrifts block trail; 20 trees across trail starting @ communication tower (mj 5/24/18) Clear (6/25/18) Trailhead sign does not have information about fire restrictions or leashing dogs; trail in good condition (7/14/18 MJ)
Tabor Creek Trail, #2185	4 trees on trail in first mile but passable, wildflowers abundant, stream crossing is easy but may require water shoes (7/13/18 MJ) Clear (7/23/18 SW) Clear, and cleaned water bars (8/1/18 AT)
Thomas Lakes Trail, #1958	Clear and excellent condition (6/25/18 MJ) Trail clear; be prepared for biting flies (7/12/18 MJ)
Trail Rider Pass	One snowfield remains on ascent/descent from/to Snowmass Lake, has been bootpacked and is passable without traction. Top of Trail Rider Pass is clear (7/5/18 Lauren)
Upper Capitol Creek Trail, #1963	

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<p>Weller Lake Trail, #1989</p>	<p>Trail sign needed. The Weller Lake trail sign is missing from post that has "closed for revegetation" (mj 5/28)</p> 
<p>West Maroon Trail, #1970</p>	<p>Clear based on report from Crested Butte hikers (6/23/18 MJ) Two trees down between 10,300 and 10,700 ft. on Aspen side. Largest forcing easy detour. Trail unseasonably dry below 2nd major creek crossing; some wet sections. Stream crossings fairly low (about shin level) and can be rock/log-hopped if wanted. (7/5/18 Lauren) Sign at junction w Trail Ride trail missing (7/16/18 AEW)</p>
<p>West Snowmass Trail, #2187</p>	<p>Clear to Nickelson Creek junction per local outfitter (7/24/18) Mature spruce trees down over trail @ 9650' (1) and 10600' (3) forcing reroutes. Passable to stock except uppermost, which is blocking switchback < jct w Nicholson Creek trail. Several smaller trees as well. Trail direction signs missing at ford and meadow @ 9850' (8/8/18 AEW)</p>
<p>Williams Lake</p>	
<p>Willow Lake</p>	<p>Clear (6/23/18 MJ)</p>

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Woody Creek Trail, #1994	Tree on trail approximately 1 mi from TH; clear to bridge; Creek rushing (mj 6/6) Creek crossing manageable but some hikers commented that the single log creek crossing difficult, trail clear from Spruce Creek Junction to Hunter Creek Junction (7/2/18 JO)
Yule Creek Trail, #2083	Mostly clear to creek crossing; small snow patches along the trail but all are passable. The creek is moving fast- be prepared for the crossing. Yule Pass looks very snow-packed at this point. Approximately 8 trees are down between trailhead and creek crossing. (SGB 6/3) Clear of snow (6/25/18 MJ) Triangles of downed trees causing reroutes in 1 st mile+. Easy crossing at Yule Creek and side creeks; cascades running; lots of wildflowers (7/5/18 BR) Trail cleared to creek (7/24/18 WZ)
Special Alerts and Notices: Expect high water crossings	