

**WHY ARE CLOSURES NEEDED?**



Local Natural Resource Managers and Wildlife Managers believe threats to big game winter range and calving areas may be negatively impacting the herds in northwestern Colorado.



Recreational disturbance in big game winter range may result in elk and deer herds being pushed out of these areas and into areas of potential conflict, including residential developments, hay fields and highways.



Specific areas of the Routt National Forest are important winter range and spring calving areas for resident elk herds.



On the Routt National Forest, big game winter range is found on lower elevational, south-facing slopes with shallow snow depths, high solar exposure and is primarily covered in mountain shrub vegetation.



As big game winter range on private land become developed, public lands become more important for wintering elk herds and spring calving.



These closure areas provide pockets of habitat where elk find security and food during the winter months or during spring calving without being disturbed by human activities.

*Remember:* The Forest Service is enforcing a **MANDATORY WINTER recreation closure** from **December 1 - April 15** at trailheads listed on this brochure. A **MANDATORY SPRING closure** from **May 15 - June 15** is in place for trails on Buffalo Pass to protect important elk calving areas. Also, please respect **VOLUNTARY WINTER** closures on the Forest during December 1 - April 15.

Please help give the big game herds a break during these critical time periods.

**Thank-you!**



**For further information, contact:**

Melissa Dressen  
Wildlife Biologist  
Hahn's Peak-Bears Ears  
Ranger District  
925 Weiss Drive  
Steamboat Springs, CO  
Phone: (970) 870-2299  
Fax: (970) 870-2284



*Violations of this prohibition are punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C §§ 3559 and 3571.*



**ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST**

**RECREATION AND CRITICAL ELK HABITAT**



This brochure contains a map of trails and areas CLOSED for elk winter range and elk spring calving near Steamboat Springs. Annual **winter closures** are in place from **DECEMBER 1 to APRIL 15** and annual **spring closures** from **MAY 15 to JUNE 15** at trails where conflicts between wildlife and people have historically occurred. Voluntary closures are currently being monitored for potential closures. Suggestions for alternate recreation areas have been provided below.

<b>MANDATORY CLOSURES (Dec. 1-Apr. 15) Areas, Trails &amp; Roads</b>	
Spring Creek Tr. 1160 above hiking gate	Mad Creek Trail 1100, Mad Creek Rd 128
Hot Springs Trail 1169	Red Dirt Trail 1171
Area south of Steamboat Ski Area to Hwy 40	
<b>VOLUNTARY CLOSURES (Dec. 1-Apr. 15) Area, Trails, &amp; Roads</b>	
Coulton Creek Trail 1188 & Road 429	
Greenville Mine- Roads 440 & 471	
Silver Creek Trail 1105 & Sarvis Creek Trail 1106	
Lower Bear Trail and Rocky Peak Area	
<b>MANDATORY SPRING CLOSURE (May 15- June 15)</b>	
Flash of Gold & BTR Trails on Buffalo Pass	

<b>RECOMENDED WINTER Recreation Areas, Trails, &amp; Roads</b>
Rabbit Ears Pass, Buffalo Pass, Bear River Corridor to Flat Tops, Dunkley Pass, Seedhouse Road east of Hinman Park, Gore Pass
Hahn's Peak Lake- Road 486 & 488
Road 430 & Tr. 1177 north of Seedhouse Rd
Road 440 & Tr. 1100.3A south of Seedhouse Rd

# Closure Areas for Winter and Spring to Protect Critical Elk Habitat

