

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**USDA Forest Service  
Ashley National Forest  
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**For:** Immediate Release  
**Date:** February 16, 2005  
**Subject:** Forest Travel Plan Changes  
**Location:** Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger Districts

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### **FOREST SUPERVISOR MAKES DECISION ON TRAVEL PLAN CHANGES**

Ashley National Forest Supervisor George Weldon after reviewing the proposed changes to the travel plan and the public comments has made the decision to implement the following changes to the Forest Travel plan:

- The Reservation Ridge road will be opened to all ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles) from the National Forest Boundary near Highway 191 west to the Cat's Peak vicinity, where the road is presently open to ATVs.
- The Lower Timber Canyon road will be opened to all ATVs from the National Forest Boundary to the Water Hollow road junction, where the road is presently open to all ATVs.

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- The Blind Stream Road (Forest Road #135), presently open to street legal ATVs, will be opened to all ATVs from the Forest Boundary north and east to the Rock Creek Trailhead.
- The Pole Creek Road (Forest Road #117), presently open to street legal ATVs, will be opened to all ATVs from the Forest boundary near the Elkhorn Guard Station to the Forest boundary above Uinta Canyon.
- The Hells Canyon Road (Forest Road #227), presently open to street legal ATVs will be opened to all ATVs from the Yellowstone ATV trailhead to the intersection with the ATV trail near Mill Spring. The Dry Gulch road (Forest Road #122), also open to street legal ATVs will be opened to all ATVs, as will several roads in the Dry Gulch vicinity that are inside the Yellowstone ATV loop.

These five actions will be implemented after a risk assessment of the road has been conducted and proper signing and other needed safety mitigation has been accomplished.

The following action changes a road from a closed status to open for a particular vehicle type:

- Open the Dry Ridge Road (Forest Road #225) to four-wheel drive vehicles only. The road will remain closed to all ATVs. This decision is conditional. If monitoring shows that the designated route or the adjacent closed land areas are being used by ATVs, or if four-wheel drive use is occurring on adjacent closed areas or new user created roads appear, the area will again be closed to all motorized vehicles. This decision will take effect for the 2005 summer season.

*more*

The following action changes an area from open to ATVs status to closed to ATVs:

- Close the Lake Fork drainage to all ATV use. Use of ATVs close to these developed facilities is incompatible with the intended purpose of these recreation developments. There are no other designated routes or places to ride ATVs in the Lake Fork drainage other than that previously allowed along the Moon Lake reservoir and sand dunes. Eliminating ATV use along the Moon Lake shoreline and sand dunes effectively closes the Lake Fork drainage to ATV use. This decision will take effect for the 2005 summer season.

All proposals were scoped on April 16, 2004, with a comment period that was extended to May 7, 2004, to give the public a chance to comment. In addition, the proposals were the subject of open houses in Vernal and Duchesne where comments were accepted.

If you would like more information on these changes to the Forest travel plan please contact Clark Tucker, Roosevelt/Duchesne District Ranger at (435) 781-5203.

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