



News Release

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

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Heavy Run-Off Prompts Words of Caution from U.S. Forest Service

(LARAMIE, Wyo.) June 5, 2014 – As the snowpack rapidly melts and National Forest roads open, the possibility for visitors encountering road damage caused by winter run-off is becoming more likely.

U.S. Forest Service crews are finding damage in a variety of areas and are addressing issues as soon as possible, either fixing the problem or temporarily closing the area until repairs can be made.

Travelers on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland (MBRTB) should use caution as they venture out.

Sustained and flash flooding, as well as washed out roads and plugged culverts are just some of the current issues being experienced as snows recede and watersheds swell.

Ground conditions vary widely across the MBRTB, so visitors should be aware of how snowpack and saturated soils affect travel as they enter areas they haven't seen in months.

As a whole, roads throughout the MBRTB are soft, wet and muddy prompting words of caution for visitors from Forest officials. Many campgrounds and recreation areas are now open, however, access may be difficult and care should be taken.

"Much can change over a long, wet winter and sometimes early-season road conditions are less than ideal," said acting Forest Supervisor Steve Kozel. "Public safety is always our foremost consideration, so we are asking Forest users to be especially aware of where they are, where they are going, and to take their time in getting there."

Visitors should know the weather forecast in advance and check with the local Ranger District for current area status. Respect closures and use caution when approaching water crossings and when driving in low-light conditions.

Current information can be found on the MBRTB web site or by contacting your local Ranger District.

- Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District, 2171 Highway 130, Saratoga, WY, (307) 326-5258
- Douglas Ranger District, 2250 E. Richards Street, Douglas, WY, (307)358-4690
- Laramie Ranger District, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, WY, (307)745-2300
- Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District, 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs, CO, (970)870-2299
- Parks Ranger District, 100 Main Street, Walden, CO, (970)723-2700
- Yampa Ranger District, 300 Roselawn Avenue, Yampa, CO, (970)638-4516

Information may be found on this website, <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>, or you can follow the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter, **@MBRNFsTBNG**.

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