

Routt National Forest Plan Amendment 3 Winter Recreation Management Plan and Routt Forest Plan Amendment

This amendment applies to the approximately 111,000-acre analysis area of the Rabbit Ears and Buffalo Pass Winter Recreation Project. (See Map).

Definitions:

Summer: Season lasting approximately six months (mid May to mid November), characterized by lack of snow or non-contiguous patches of receding snow. Summer varies from less than six months at higher elevations, to more than six months at lower elevations. In addition to varying by elevation, summer varies according to local weather.

Winter: Season lasting approximately six months (mid November to mid May) and characterized by contiguous snow cover or accumulating snow cover. Winter may vary from more than six months at higher elevations, to less than six months at lower elevations. In addition to varying by elevation, winter varies according to local weather.

Recreation – Dispersed

The following standard and guidelines apply to areas designated for areas where winter motorized use is permitted.

Standard

1. Prohibit winter motorized recreation on any open surface water in the analysis area.

Guidelines

1. Allow winter motorized recreation when unpacked snow depths equal or exceed 12 inches; exceptions are allowed during the spring and fall season on classified roads across transition zones so long as it does not cause visible damage to the road surface.
2. Allow heavy over-snow tracked vehicles (i.e. snowcat, groomers) to operate on snow depths that equal or exceed 18". Special use permits will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
3. Close designated groomed over-the-snow routes (roads or trails) to wheeled vehicles unless the use is permitted.

See attached map (Rabbit Ears and Buffalo Pass Winter Recreation Management Location Map) for area subject to this amendment.