



News Release

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

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Please respect Wilderness boundaries

(Steamboat Springs, CO) Jan. 28, 2011 – The US Forest Service would like to remind folks that snowmobiles, like all motorized equipment, are illegal in wilderness areas, including the Mount Zirkel Wilderness just northeast of Steamboat Springs.

The 1964 Wilderness Act set aside wildernesses as places to enjoy primitive adventure and solitude, as refuges from the sights and sounds of the mechanized world.

“Again this winter, snowmobilers are entering the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, especially just north of Buffalo Pass,” said Kent Foster, recreation manager for the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District. There have been incidents in the Sarvis Creek and Flat Top Wildernesses as well. Boundary signs are posted in heavy use areas and maps at winter trailheads show areas where people can go on snowmobiles. Maps are also available on the Forest’s website at <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>. “This information is to inform riders but ultimately, it is their responsibility to know where they are and to avoid taking their machines into the wilderness, or other areas where snowmobiling is prohibited” Foster said.

A related issue is the intrusion of snowmobiles into the non-motorized areas around Steamboat Springs. The west side of Rabbit Ears Pass and an area adjacent to the Dry Lake winter trailhead on the Buffalo Pass road are managed for non-motorized recreation. There is plenty of terrain for all uses, and respecting other users will allow for everyone enjoyment of their National Forest. Park only in designated areas on Rabbit Ears Pass and Buffalo Pass at Dry Lake. Parking is limited in certain areas. If the area is full go to another parking lot; do not park along roads and create a safety hazard.

Violations are punishable by fines of up to \$5,000, six months in jail and the forfeiture of snowmobiles and other items involved.

For information or maps about winter recreation opportunities, please contact the Forest Service offices in Steamboat Springs at (970) 870-2299, Yampa at (970) 638-4516, or Walden at (970) 723-2703.