



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
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Severe Storm Causes Flood Damage on the Medicine Bow National Forest

(LARAMIE, WY - July 20, 2011) – A severe storm brought heavy rains and flash floods to several drainages on the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District on the Medicine Bow National Forest late Monday, July 18.

While forest personnel continue to assess conditions on the forest from the storm, damage reported at this time includes:

- Forest roads 227, 234, 255 and 256, which are not passable and are currently closed.
- A washed out bridge at the intersection of roads 200 and 234, as well as the footbridge east of the South Brush Creek Campground.
- Flash flooding occurred in the north and south forks of Brush Creek during the recent storm. Near-record flows were experienced in both drainages and nearly an inch of rain fell in less than one hour.

It is important that visitors check weather and road conditions before venturing out. Conditions in the forest have been extremely wet this spring and summer. Record snowpack and later-than-normal snow melt has combined to saturate soils. As a result, conditions can change in moments, and storms, such as the one Monday night, can quickly cause damage to roads and bridges.

Although three campgrounds in the area, Lincoln Park, Ryan Park and the South Brush Creek, were not severely damaged, many campers left the area during the storm to seek higher ground. Campground hosts, volunteer firefighters from Ryan Park and members of the Sheriff's Department all helped notify visitors about developing severe weather conditions. Campers at dispersed sites were also contacted and warned.

State Highway 130, in the Ryan Park area, also sustained damage during the recent storm. According to Carbon County Sheriff's office, two vehicles drove into a washed out section of State Highway 130 and into South Brush Creek. Four fatalities were confirmed at the scene and two victims were transported to Memorial Hospital of Carbon County.

"We are cooperating with multiple agencies regarding recent flooding events," said Rick Cooksey, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow National Forest. Agencies involved with recent events include the Carbon County Sheriff's Department, the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) and the Wyoming State Highway Patrol (WHP). For more information contact:

- WYDOT at 307-777-4375 about the status of State Highway 130.
- Sgt. Steve Townsend with WHP at 307-777-4306 with questions surrounding the investigation of the vehicle accidents on State Highway 130.
- Undersheriff Mike Morris, 307-324-2776, is the point of contact for Carbon County.

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