



## News Release

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

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### **Road Status Remains Mixed for Hunter Access in Snowy Range**

**(LARAMIE, Wyo.) October 7, 2011** – With some big-game hunting areas in the Snowy Range already open and others soon to follow suit, the Forest Service would like to update visitors to the Medicine Bow National Forest on the status of two major road projects.

The replacement and installation of two culverts along the Pelton Creek Road (Forest Road 898) is finished slightly ahead of schedule and the road is open for use. That road can be used to access Pelton Creek Campground, the Platte River Wilderness, Douglas Creek, the Douglas Creek Trail and the Platte Ridge Trail.

However, another larger project on the Cedar Pass Road (Forest Road 261), repair of a major landslide, is still in progress and the bulk of the road remains closed. Currently, dump trucks are moving back and forth from the work area, to and from pits on each end of the road. The contractor is using a pilot car to warn traffic when the trucks enter open sections of road.

The project has been ongoing since late August. Acquisition of funds, unusually high snowpack this past winter and subsequent late access to forest lands all contributed to the delayed start of this project.

Segments of the 261 road were opened in September, between County Road 101 and Forest Road 115 (Moerke Lake) on the east end, and the stretch between Forest Road 100 and Forest Road 216 on the southwest side. The remainder of the repair work is anticipated to last until at least the end of October.

The 261 road is used to access portions of the northwest corner of the Snowy Range in the Medicine Bow National Forest (MBNF).

In regards to hunting access, the Forest Service realizes that the timing of this project is difficult, however, repairing damaged roads to keep them safe is an emphasis for the MBNF. Road projects are a short-term inconvenience for long-term public safety and continued access.

While visitors may not be able to drive the full length of Forest Road 261, they should know that this part of the National Forest will continue to be accessible by foot and horse (including crossing the road) and that many areas around Forest Road 261 remain accessible by motor vehicles through alternate routes. Many access roads south of Forest Road 261 remain open and can be accessed via Forest Road 100.

For further information, call 307-326-5258 or stop by the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District office at 2171 South Highway 130 in Saratoga between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Road closures and project activities may also be found at <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>.

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