



News Release

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

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National Forest Visitors Asked to be Mindful of Safety and Resources

(Laramie, WY. - March 16, 2012) – As spring weather draws outdoor enthusiasts to low elevation areas that are starting to become snow-free, visitors to the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland are reminded of a few items for their safety and protection of resources.

Visitors should know that falling trees are always a hazard and should follow these guidelines:

- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid dense patches of dead trees. They can fall without warning.
- Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already in the forest when winds pick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.
- Place tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if a tree falls.
- When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road, rather than a spur or one-way section. If trees fall across the road you may be trapped.
- Bring an ax or chainsaw to remove fallen trees from roads in case you become trapped.
- Do not rely on cell phones for safety as there is no coverage in many areas.

Motor vehicle users should be aware of the following:

- Motor vehicles of all types must remain on designated roads and trails. Refer to Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Maps for roads and trails that are designated open to motor vehicle travel. Violations start at \$75 and can increase significantly if resource damage occurs as a result of an infraction.
- Some roads may still be impassable due to snow drifts, waterlogged roadbeds, down trees, or other debris. Motor vehicle users should resist the temptation to travel off roads and trails or through wet areas. This causes rutting and other damage to these routes and ultimately harms natural resources, including water quality as well as fish and wildlife habitat.
- Some roads are specifically closed in the spring to minimize disturbance to known elk calving areas.
- If visitors encounter water flowing across a road or a washed out section, they should note the location, turn around and report it to the local Forest Service office as soon as possible.

For more information, contact your local Forest Service office or visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/mbr/>

Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District Office

2171 State Highway 130
Saratoga, Wyo., (307-326-5258)

Douglas Ranger District Office

2250 E. Richards St.
Douglas, Wyo., (307-358-4690)

Hahns Peak-Bears Ears District Office

925 Weiss Drive
Steamboat Springs, Colo., (970-870-2299)

Laramie Ranger District Office

2468 Jackson Street
Laramie, Wyo., (307-745-2300)

Parks District Office

100 Main Street
Walden, Colo., (970-723-8204)

Yampa District Office

300 Roselawn Street
Yampa, Colo. (970-638-4516)

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