



## News Release

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

**Contact:** Larry Sandoval, (307) 745-2420

### **Routt National Forest has Abundant Recreation Opportunities for Memorial Day**

**(STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo.) May 23, 2012** – People visiting the Routt National Forest this Memorial Day weekend will find abundant opportunities to explore and camp, as many roads and campgrounds are open earlier than normal following low winter snowpack.

Hahns Peak-Bears Ranger District - Open developed campgrounds include Dry Lake, Hinman, Seedhouse and Freeman Reservoir; however, campers are advised to bring drinking water as the availability of potable water will not be known until Friday. Camping and Day Use facilities at Hahns Peak Lake will not be open until about mid June, due to ongoing tree removal activities resulting from the recent bark beetle epidemic. Campground fees range between \$10 and \$12 per night. Forest Roads 400, 433, 440, 468, 500 and 550 are notable major roads that are currently open. Forest Road 60 (Buffalo Pass) is currently closed at Dry Lake, due to a washed out culvert that is expected to be repaired by early July. For the most current information, please call the District Office at (970) 870-2299.

Parks Ranger District – Except for the East Loop at Big Creek Lakes, all campgrounds are open for the holiday weekend. However, no water or trash services are currently available and, while they will not be charged for their stay this weekend, campers will be required to bring their own drinking water and pack out their trash. Many day use areas and trailheads are also open at this time. With the exception of the Buffalo Pass Road, all other major roads are open for visitor travel. Please contact the District Office at (970) 723-2700 for the most up to date information.

Yampa Ranger District – All campgrounds are currently open with trash and restroom services available. Unfortunately, the water systems are not yet open and campers should bring their own water for drinking and cleaning. Campground fees are \$10 per night for most sites. Similar to the other units, most day use sites, trailheads and major roads are currently open for visitors to enjoy. For the latest information, contact the District Office at (970) 638-4516.

Campground reservations may be made for some sites through ReserveUSA by phone at 877-444-6777 or online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Where available, reservations are recommended for holiday weekends such as Memorial Day.

Recreation site information may also be found on this website, <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>, or you can follow the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter, **@MBRNFsTBNG**.

Please respect closures that are in place for ongoing work to remove beetle-killed hazard trees. These closures are in place for public safety and visitors should not go past barriers or gates.

Remember that weakened or dead trees can fall without warning, endangering people and blocking roads. Recreationists need to watch out for falling or high-risk trees, especially in high winds.

Overall fuel conditions this year are as dry as they've been in several years for Memorial Day weekend. Unseasonably dry weather, combined with an abundance of tall, dead vegetation from last

year has created conditions that will readily burn and carry fire. The U.S. Forest Service wants outdoor adventures to be enjoyed, but reminds visitors to be especially careful with fire use.

Although no fire restrictions are currently in place on the Medicine Bow National Forest, campers and other public land users need to follow basic fire safety rules.

- Scrape back dead grass and forest materials from your campfire site.
  - Keep your campfire small and under control; make it only as big as you need it.
  - Keep a shovel and a water container nearby to douse escaped embers.
  - Put your campfire dead out before leaving your campsite or going to sleep.
  - Do not park vehicles in tall dry grass, since hot tailpipes can cause fine fuels to catch on fire.
  - Remember that any ignition – cigarettes, campfires, gunfire, vehicles – could be the cause of a wildland fire, as grass and other vegetation is dry and extremely flammable.
  - Always follow current fire restrictions.
- Fireworks are not allowed on federal lands.

###