



News Release

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

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Seasonal Shooting and Travel Restrictions Begin on Pole Mountain

(Laramie, WY. - March 26, 2013) – The Laramie Ranger District would like to remind the public that by special order, the Forest Service prohibits the discharge of firearms within the Pole Mountain unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest from March 31 through Sept. 10.

Discharging a firearm is prohibited to protect natural resources and provide for public safety. This is an annual renewal of a special order which has been in effect since the late 1990's.

The Pole Mountain unit is one of the most highly used recreation areas on the National Forest. Visitor safety is of the utmost concern, and stray bullets pose an unnecessary hazard.

There will be an increase in Forest Service Law Enforcement presence as the prohibition takes effect. For more information on the shooting prohibition, please see the attached map of the restricted area.

The Forest Service would also like to stress that illegal motor vehicle travel is causing serious damage in the Pole Mountain area. Motor vehicle users should resist the temptation to travel outside of roads or trails and through muddy, rutted areas. Skirting an obstacle leads to widening the route, which can cause resource damage, including harm to streams, lakes and wetlands. Increased erosion and sedimentation can negatively impact wildlife and fish habitat, as well as water quality.

Some roads on Pole Mountain are posted as seasonally closed and those traveling through the National Forest should pay attention to the signs and use alternate routes if necessary. In addition to resource damage concerns, the seasonal road closures are in place to protect elk calving areas.

Most seasonal road closures run March through May and users should refer to the Pole Mountain Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for details. MVUMs are free and can be obtained at the Laramie District Office, 2468 Jackson St.

Visitors should take care of their public lands and stay on roads and trails that are designated open for motorized travel.

For additional information on recreational use of the Pole Mountain area, please contact the Laramie Ranger District office at 307-745-2300, visit <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr> or follow the MBRTB on Twitter, @MBRNFsTBNG.

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