



News Release

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

Contact: Douglas Ranger District, (307) 358-4690

Weather to Dictate Some Laramie Peak Area Seasonal Road Closures

(DOUGLAS, Wyo.) Nov. 26, 2013 – Beginning this winter, the Douglas Ranger District (DRD) will be utilizing a Forest Special Order to close LaBonte Canyon Road (Forest Road 658) and Harris Park Road (Forest Road 633) during wet weather and/or thaw periods. In contrast to prior seasonal closures with set dates, the gates on these roads will now only be swung shut when conditions are such that damage to the road and resource is likely.

“We listened to public input regarding the last several years of using seasonal closures and we heard that a change could be in order,” said Tom Whitford, Douglas District Ranger. “Our specialists have agreed with that input, so this new special order is an attempt at finding the balance between public needs, concerns and protecting the resource.”

Both of the affected routes are in the Laramie Peak unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest (MBNF), on the DRD.

The LaBonte Canyon Road, off Fort Fetterman Road, and Harris Park Road, in the Esterbrook area, were seasonally closed November 15 to April 30 for the last several years. These closures were established during the 2007 Travel Management Decision for the Laramie Peak Unit of the MBNF. Part of that decision included the re-examination of the seasonal closures after a five-year period.

In addition to the new Special Order specific to the two roads, Forest users of these roads should note that the recently-signed Winter Travel Special Order for the MBNF (No. 2013-32) is applicable to the use of these roads while the gates are open. Basically, the Winter Travel order addresses when over-the-snow vehicles can be used off established roads and when they must remain on those routes. The complete order and press release with details can be found at the following website, <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>.

Motorized access to the Big Bear Canyon Trail System and LaBonte Trail will remain seasonally closed for wildlife concerns as outlined in the 2007 Travel Management Decision.

For more information please contact the DRD (307-358-4690) or stop by the office at 2250 E. Richards St. Information can also be found at the website listed above or you can follow the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter, [@MBRNFsTBNG](https://twitter.com/MBRNFsTBNG).

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