Current Conditions – Rifle Ranger District

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Current Condition Overview: The Rifle Ranger Station is open Monday through Friday, 9am to 5:30 except for Federal Holidays. Please see Google for days that are closed on Federal Holidays. Some roads have been opened by our recreation team as found in the list. All roads will open on May 21st depending on mud and rain levels.

Campgrounds: Two campgrounds are located on this district. Meadow Lake and Meadow Ridge campgrounds are closed for the winter season and will be reopening on June 4th with camp hosts. Lake may not be refilled due to the lack of snow melting. We do not manually fill this lake.

E-bikes: E bikes are considered motorized vehicles and are only allowed on trails marked as such on the MVUM or on roads when they open to ***off-highway vehicle use.***

Fire Restrictions: The White River National Forest and Rifle Ranger Station are going into Stage 1 Fire Restrictions this Friday, 6/19/26. The restriction special order is attached to the end of this sheet. We are currently in **Very High** fire danger.

Forest Roads: All forest service roads on the Rifle Ranger Station will be closed to all vehicles and snowmachines to allow them to dry and avoid rutting.

OHV use requires current state registration through Colorado Parks and Wildlife– please refer to the Summer Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for where gate closures and where OHV and other off-highway vehicles are allowed. The MVUMs can be found outside of any district front door or can be found on the app Avenza for free.

Hiking Trails: Most trails may have variable conditions including downed trees from snow and wind. Our crews go out each week to different trails to cut and clear trees. Please see trails conditions at the bottom of this report. Please bring plenty of water and safety equipment as these areas don't allow cell phone usage. **Grizzly Creek is currently still closed as construction crews continue working on the trail and connection point to No Name. No Name is open for 3 miles.**

Dirt & 4WD Roads	Current Conditions
Garfield County Forest Roads	
Buford New Castle - FS # 245, 860, 830 822,820, 845, 819.	**Open** to highway legal vehicles only to West Elk Parking lot- NO ATVs, UTVs or any other non-highway vehicle. **This road is open to Buford and Cliff Lakes.** Current Condition: Dry.
Uncle Bob – FS # 801, 804 East Divide- FS# 801 from CR 313	**Open** to all vehicles on the 801. Crews cut out trees on 5/14/2026. We have not yet cut out the 804. East Divide is cut out and open. Current Condition: Dry in lower end near Cayton Ranger Station, small ruts about 3 inches deep, and dry near Mosquito Mountain.
Coulter Lake Guest Ranch – FS # 832, 832.2B, 832.2X, 835, 832.2D, 833, 211, 811, 848, 837, 839	**Open** to all vehicles. Current Conditions: Dry and rutted further up the mesa.
Blair Mountain – FS # 601, 651	**Open** to all vehicles. Current Conditions: Dry
Elk Lakes - FS # 640, 601,651,601.2C, 601.2A, 636	**Open** to all vehicles. Current Conditions: Dry.
Beaver Creek- FS # 824	**Open** to all vehicles. Current conditions: Dry.
Battlement Mesa- FS # 847	**Open** to all vehicles. Current conditions:Dry. Only for ATV and UTV use or high clearance vehicles.
Cline tops- FS # 603, 651, 653. 2A, 603.1R, 603.1A, 603.1E, 603.1P, 603.1M	**Open** to all vehicles. Current Conditions: Dry all the way up. Rutted and rocky at the intersection of 603.1P and 651 going NE.
East Road Gulch- FS# 816	**Open** to all vehicles. Current Conditions: Dry road.
Little Box Canyon- FS # 825	**Open** to all vehicles. Current Conditions: Rocky and narrow road. Dry. Need high clearance vehicles.

Transfer trail – FS # 602, 635, 638, 631, 632.1C, 637, 637.1A, 632, 614, 233.2	**Open** to all vehicles. Current Conditions: Dry and rocky. High clearance vehicles needed. There is a limestone staircase known to break axels if going too fast.
Haystack mountain and Quaker Mesa – FS# 814, 808, 800, 812	**Open** to all vehicles. Past the gate will be open winter recreation. Current conditions: Dry on 814 road with small ruts.
Reservoir Park – FS# 843, 801, 801.2A	**Open** to all vehicles. Crews cleared out trees on 5/14/2026 Current conditions: Muddy with small ruts. Not too difficult roads.
Cayton/ West Divide – FS# 814, 800	**Open** to all vehicles. Current conditions: Please do not stop on the road at the private property. You can walk up to Cayton Ranger Station to see the old building. Muddy with smaller ruts. When it rains, the road is very slick even with AWD.
West Mamm- 818	**Open** to all vehicles and no winter recreation allowed. Current conditions: Muddy.
Meadow lake – FS# 601, 601.4E, 832,821,648,821.1B, 650, 649,647, 601.2F. 601.2E	**Open** to all vehicles to Cliff Lakes area. Still snow in the shadows and slushy. Current Conditions: Slushy in the shadows and dry in the sun.

Trail	Conditions – More information can be found on the app CO TREX
Cherry Creek and Mansfield #2256 and #2291	Difficulty: Difficult Elevation gain: 1,843 feet Current conditions: Crew removed lower trees and cleaned up the trail on 4/22/2026 but there is little snow on upper trail. **Hikers can access these routes from the West Elk Trailhead.**
Three Forks #2150	Difficulty: Moderate/ Difficult Elevation gain: 1,600 feet Current Conditions: Dry trail. The first 1.5 miles is moderate with some sloping that follows the creek with some marshy areas. Trail becomes difficult as it becomes rocky with increased elevation. No work will be done on this trail now.
Cline Tops/ Hadley Gulch #1840	Difficulty: Difficult Elevation gain: 3,246 Current Conditions: Rocky and dry.
Centennial/ East Elk #1841	Difficult: Difficult Elevation gain:4,800 Current conditions: Dry.Trail becomes steep and narrow canyon further up East Elk Creek. **Do not park at the private property, please park at the open lot near the kiosk and the bathroom.**
Patterson/ Crater/ Blair Lake Trail (#2048)	Difficulty: Moderate Current Conditions:Dry. No crew maintenance this year. **No snowmobiles on these trails and restricted area for over the snow motorized recreation.**
Battlement #2160	Difficulty: Difficult Elevation gain: 2,020 feet Current conditions: Trail runs from Battlement Trailhead across the Mamm Peaks all the way to Mud Hill on the east side of the Rifle Ranger Station for a total of 21 miles. High elevations, forest and open areas. Dry with some snow patches in the shade. No work on it this year. **No access to forest as this road and trailhead is closed to motorized winter recreation.**
Cayton Gulch (#2162)/ Lake Park (#2171)	Difficulty: Moderate Current Conditions: Dry trail that gets wet when it rains.

	No over the snow recreation allowed on these trails.
Grizzly Creek #2065	**CLOSED DUE TO TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION.**
No Name/ Jess Weaver trail #1847	Difficulty: Difficult Current Conditions: Trail is open for the first 3 miles then closed at the bridge that connects to Grizzly Creek and beyond due to reconstruction and repair from the Grizzly Creek fire. Quick elevation gain and moderate trail. **Hiking allowed on these trails but no motorized recreation.**
Cliff Lake Trail #1831	Difficulty: Moderate Elevation difference: 2,200 Current Conditions: Dry with some snow sticking in the shade. Take you up to the lake and can see the valley below. Crew will not be going up to maintain trail this year.
Mitchel Creek	