

# Current Conditions – Rifle Ranger District

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## LAST UPDATED: May 21st, 2026

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 have no fire restrictions as of this date. Campfires are allowed and please follow campfire safety to ensure no wildfires pop up this fall. **We are currently in moderate 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.**

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Dirt & 4WD Roads	Current Conditions
<b>Garfield County Forest Roads</b>	
Buford New Castle - FS # 245, 860, 830 822,820, 845, 819.	<p><b>Open</b> to highway legal vehicles only to West Elk Parking lot- NO ATVs, UTVs or any other non-highway vehicle.</p> <p><b>This road is open to Buford and Cliff Lakes.</b></p> <p>Current Condition: Drifts of snow at Meadow Lake and above.</p>
Uncle Bob – FS # 801, 804  East Divide- FS# 801 from CR 313	<p><b>Open</b> 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.</p> <p>Current Condition: Dry in lower end near Cayton Ranger Station, small ruts about 3 inches deep, muddy near Mosquito Mountain.</p>
Coulter Lake Guest Ranch – FS # 832, 832.2B, 832.2X, 835, 832.2D, 833, 211, 811, 848, 837, 839	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles.</p> <p>Current Conditions: Dry and rutted further up the mesa.</p>
Blair Mountain – FS # 601, 651	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles.</p> <p>Current Conditions: 1 inch of snow and muddy in open areas.</p>
Elk Lakes - FS # 640, 601,651,601.2C, 601.2A, 636	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles.</p> <p>Current Conditions: Dry on the switch backs and snow still at the top at around 2-3 inches.</p>

Beaver Creek- FS # 824	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles.</p> <p>Current conditions: Muddy, 1 inch of snow.</p>
Battlement Mesa- FS # 847	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles.</p> <p>Current conditions: Wet and muddy and rocky. Only for ATV and UTV use or high clearance vehicles.</p>
Cline tops- FS # 603, 651, 653. 2A, 603.1R, 603.1A, 603.1E, 603.1P, 603.1M	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles.</p> <p>Current Conditions: Dry all the way up. Rutted and rocky at the intersection of 603.1P and 651 going NE.</p>
East Road Gulch- FS# 816	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles.</p> <p>Current Conditions: Dry road.</p>

<p>Little Box Canyon- FS # 825</p>	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles.</p> <p>Current Conditions: Rocky and narrow road. Dry. Need high clearance vehicles.</p>
<p>Transfer trail – FS # 602, 635, 638, 631, 632.1C, 637, 637.1A, 632, 614, 233.2</p>	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles.</p> <p>Current Conditions: Dry and rocky. High clearance vehicles needed. There is a limestone staircase known to break axels if going too fast.</p>
<p>Haystack mountain and Quaker Mesa – FS# 814, 808, 800, 812</p>	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles. Past the gate will be open winter recreation.</p> <p>Current conditions: Dry on 814 road with small ruts.</p>
<p>Reservoir Park – FS# 843, 801, 801.2A</p>	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles. Crews cleared out trees on 5/14/2026</p> <p>Current conditions: Muddy with small ruts. Not too difficult roads.</p>
<p>Cayton/ West Divide – FS# 814, 800</p>	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Muddy with smaller ruts. When it rains, the road is very slick even with AWD.</p>
<p>West Mamm- 818</p>	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles and no winter recreation allowed.</p> <p>Current conditions: Muddy.</p>
<p>Meadow lake – FS# 601, 601.4E, 832,821,648,821.1B, 650, 649,647, 601.2F. 601.2E</p>	<p><b>Open</b> to all vehicles to Cliff Lakes area. Still snow in the shadows and slushy.</p> <p>Current Conditions: Slushy in the shadows and dry in the sun.</p>

<b>Trail</b>	<b>Conditions – More information can be found on the app CO TREX</b>
Cherry Creek and Mansfield #2256 and #2291	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Hikers can access these routes from the West Elk Trailhead.</b></p>
Three Forks #2150	<p>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.</p>
Cline Tops/ Hadley Gulch #1840	<p>Difficulty: Difficult  Elevation gain: 3,246  Current Conditions: Rocky. Snow at the top of the Mesa with no snow on south facing slope.</p>
Centennial/ East Elk #1841	<p>Difficulty: Difficult  Elevation gain: 4,800  Current conditions: Dry in open areas, still wet in shaded areas with some snow. Trail becomes steep and narrow canyon further up East Elk Creek.</p> <p><b>Do not park at the private property, please park at the open lot near the kiosk and the bathroom.</b></p>
Patterson/ Crater/ Blair Lake Trail (#2048)	<p>Difficulty: Moderate</p> <p>Current Conditions: Little snow. No crew maintenance this year.</p> <p><b>No snowmobiles on these trails and restricted area for over the snow motorized recreation.</b></p>
Battlement #2160	<p>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.</p> <p><b>No access to forest as this road and trailhead is closed to motorized winter recreation.</b></p>

Cayton Gulch (#2162)/ Lake Park (#2171)	<p>Difficulty: Moderate  Current Conditions: Dry trail that gets wet when it rains.</p> <p><b>No over the snow recreation allowed on these trails.</b></p>
Grizzly Creek #2065	<p><b>CLOSED DUE TO TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION.</b></p>
No Name/ Jess Weaver trail #1847	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Hiking allowed on these trails but no motorized recreation.</b></p>
Cliff Lake Trail #1831	<p>Difficulty: Moderate  Elevation difference: 2,200</p> <p>Current Conditions: Dry with some snow sticking in the shade. Takes you up to the lake and can see the valley below. Crew will not be going up to maintain trail this year.</p>
Mitchel Creek	

