



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin
National Grassland
Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District**

California Park Area and Road Seasonal Closure

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands and roads in the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (“Described Area” and “Described Roads”):

1. Going into or being upon the Described Area from May 15th to June 30th, annually. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e)
2. Being on the Described Roads from May 15th to June 30th, annually. 36 C.F.R. § 261.54(e)

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

DESCRIBED AREA AND ROADS

The Described Area, known as “California Park Special Interest Area,” consists of 27,956 acres and encompasses California and Slater Parks in Routt County, Colorado. It is in Sections 5-8, 16-21, 29, Township 9 North, Range 86 West, 6th P.M.; Sections 1-4, 9-17, 19-30, 33, 36, Township 9 North, Range 87 West, 6th P.M.; Sections 18-20, 30, 31, Township 10 North, Range 86 West, 6th P.M.; Sections 3-5, 8-14, 16, 21, 23, 24-28, 33-36, Township 10 North, Range 87 West, 6th P.M. This area is bordered to the west by Saddle and Sugarloaf Mountains, to the south by Quaker Mountain, and to the west

by Meaden Peak, Sand Mountain, and Diamond Peak. The northern boundary is primarily private ranches and BLM lands.

The Described Roads are all NFS Roads (NFSR) or portions thereof within the Described Area. This includes the portion of NFSR 42 beginning at its junction with Routt County Road 80 and ending at the eastern boundary of California Park, and the entirety of NFSR 48, 49, 49.1A, 49.1B, 115, 115.1A, 150.21, 151, 153, 154, and 156.

Routt County Road 80 is open to all traffic during the closure.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to protect elk, deer, pronghorn, greater sage-grouse, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sandhill crane, and other wildlife species during their breeding, nesting, calving, and/or early rearing period.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from May 15, 2025, at 12:00 am through June 30, 2029, at 11:59 pm, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area and Roads is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/mbr/alerts-notice/?cid=stelprdb5139680>.
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.
4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Contact the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District in Steamboat Springs, CO, (970) 870-2299, and Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland Supervisor's Office in Laramie, WY (307) 745-2300, for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in or on the same Described Area and Roads.

Order #: MBRTB-2024-247

Signed and issued on September 3, 2024.

Russell M. Bacon

Forest Supervisor

Medicine Bow – Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland