



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin
National Grassland**

Over-Snow Vehicle and Winter Backcountry Use

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, roads, and trails in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, described further below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A ("Described Areas, Roads, and Trails"):

1. Using or possessing an over-snow vehicle where snow depths are less than 12 inches in the Medicine-Bow Routt National Forest. 36 C.F.R. §§ 261.53(e), 261.54(a), 261.55(b), 261.56
2. Using or possessing an over-snow vehicle or motorized snow bike in the Winter Non-Motorized Areas. 36 C.F.R. §§ 261.53(e), 261.54(a), 261.55(b), 261.56
3. Using or possessing an over-snow vehicle greater than 50" in width in the Winter Backcountry Permit Area. 36 C.F.R. §§ 261.53(e), 261.54(a), 261.55(b), 261.56
4. Going into or being upon the Winter Backcountry Permit Area unless in physical possession of a valid Forest Service backcountry permit between December 15th and March 31st annually. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e).
5. Using or possessing an over-snow vehicle, except on designated and marked groomed snowmobile trails, in the Combined Commercial Use Area between December 15th and March 31st annually. 36 C.F.R. §§ 261.53(e), 261.56.

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 AREAS, ROADS, AND TRAILS

The Described Areas include the following NFS lands, roads, and trails within the specified boundaries:

1. Non-Motorized Areas (Blue on Exhibit A)

- a. Buffalo Pass Area: All NFS lands, roads, and trails within Township 7N, Range 84W sections 23, 24, 26, and 25, specifically all lands within the boundary starting at Dry Lake Parking Lot, then following Soda Creek Drainage, until Soda Mountain.
- b. Rabbit Ears Pass: All NFS lands, roads, and trails within Township 6N, Range 84W, sections, 14, 13, 23, 24, 26, 25, 35, 36, Township 5N, Range 84W, sections, 2, 1, 11, 12, 14, 13, 24, 25, 26, 25, 35, 36, Township 6N, Range 83W, sections 20, 29, 32, 33, 34, and Township 5N, Range 83W, sections 2-17, 20-29, 32-34 specifically all lands within the boundary starting at Township 5N, Range 84W, sections 35, then following forest boundary north to North Fork of Fish Creek, then follow North Fork of Fish Creek to Township 6N, Range 84W, section 20, then east slope of Hogan Creek drainage, to Forest Service Road 302, then Walton, and back to the beginning.

2. Winter Backcountry Permit Area (Hashmarked on Exhibit A)

All NFS lands, roads, and trails within Township 7N, Range 84W sections 23-27, 35-36, Township 6N, Range 84W sections 1-2, 11, Township 7N, Range 83W sections, 28, 29, 33, 32, and Township 6N, Range 83W sections 4, 5, 6 specifically all lands within the boundary starting Dry Lake Parking Lot, then following forest boundary north to unnamed ridge north of Soda Creek, the following unnamed ridge about 2.4 miles, then following southeast trail 22-A, then follow northeast to Mount Zirkel Wilderness, then follow Mount Zirkel Wilderness boundary for .8 miles, then heads southwest until South Fork of Fish Creek, then follows west along unnamed ridge to trail 21-A, then follows south to trail 1-D, then follows west trail 31-A, then follows Trail 31-B, then follows Trail 31-B, 30-F and 31-A with the boundary being about tenth mile south of trail, then follows ridge from Spring Peak west to boundary, and back to beginning at Dry Lake Parking Lot.

3. Combined Commercial Use Area (Purple on Exhibit A)

All NFS lands, roads, and trails within the following boundaries: starting from the south on the top of the ridge north of the North Fish Creek drainage to meet up with trail 31-B, wrapping around to meet up with trail 30-A, and then 1D. Then east until its junction with trail 21-A and across the upper drainage of South Fork of Soda Creek. From there north until it meets up with trail 20-G, which it follows meeting 20-A heading north. There it junctions with 22-A until it meets the

summit of Soda Mountain, where it follows the Mount Zirkel Wilderness Boundary north for about a quarter mile and heads west to meet up with trail 22-B, following that to its junction with 22-A southwest along the unnamed ridge. The boundary then crosses the middle of the South Fork of Soda Creek drainage heading southwest around the terminus of trail 20-C, then west 0.2 miles before turning south 0.2 miles where it junctions with 1D on the western side of the boundary. It then follows 33-A south into an unnamed drainage of a tributary of Spring Creek, following the waterway until the end of NFS lands in that drainage. The boundary then heads southwest and turns east for 0.1 miles, south again for 0.2 miles, then meets in its southwest corner, ending at the top of the ridge.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to protect public safety and natural resources.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from December 16, 2024 at 5:00 pm through December 16, 2029 at 12:00 am, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Areas, Roads, and Trails 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/alerts/mbr/alerts-notice>.
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. For more information about this Order, please contact: Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District in Steamboat Springs, CO, (970) 870-2299, Parks Ranger District in Walden, CO (970) 723-2700, Yampa Ranger District in Yampa, CO, (970) 638-4516, Laramie Ranger District in Laramie, WY, (307) 745-2300, Douglas Ranger District in Douglas, WY, (307) 358-4690, Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District in Saratoga, WY, (307) 326-5258 and Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland Supervisor's Office in Laramie, WY, (307) 745-2300.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the same Described Areas.

Order Number: # HPBE-2024-351

Signed and issued on December 16, 2024.

Forest Supervisor

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland