

**ORDER**  
**OCCUPANCY AND USE REGULATIONS**  
**PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS**

Order No 99-06

Pursuant to Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 261.50(b), the following act(s) are prohibited in the Pike National Forest in the area described below, and as shown on the attached map, until further notice for the protection and rehabilitation of natural resources, including threatened species.

**THIS ORDER PROHIBITS:**

- (1) All forms of human occupancy including, but not limited to: hiking, mountain biking, wading or horseback riding on Forest Service Trail #661 and in an area 100 feet on both sides of the trail, and a 100 foot corridor on both sides and including Severy Creek. 36 CFR 261.53(a).

**AREA AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER:**

- (1) A trail, known as the Severy Creek Trail (Trail #661), as shown on the attached map and further identified as being a spur trail between Forest Service Trail #652 (Elk Park Trail) and the City of Manitou Springs water works access road (a restricted road). This trail is located in T.14S., R.69W., (Section 1) and T.13S., R.68W., (Sections 36, 31, 32, 29 and 28). This trail and an area 100 feet on either side of the trail and Severy Creek, and an area 100 feet on either side of the creek, are closed to entry of any kind.

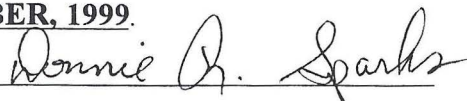
**EXEMPTIONS:**

Pursuant to 36 CFR, Section 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order.

- (1) Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- (2) Any Federal, State or local officer, or a member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- (3) Owners or lessees of the land in the area.

This order is in effect until rescinded.

Done at Pueblo, Colorado, this 4th day of NOVEMBER, 1999.



DONNIE R SPARKS  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
Pike/San Isabel National Forests  
Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

Violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. Title 16 USC, Sec. 551.

### *Justification for Closure Order*

During the past year the Colorado Department of Wildlife has confirmed an historic population of the Federally Threatened greenback cutthroat trout in Severy Creek on the Pikes Peak Ranger District. This is only the third historic population discovered in the Arkansas River drainage, and the only new population found in 15 years, and as such is of great significance to the recovery program.

Because of its importance as a stable, reproducing population with unique genetic diversity, we believe that the Severy Creek population warrants special protection. This is particularly important when considering its proximity to a large metropolitan area and the Pikes Peak attractions.

The purpose of the area closure is to limit the risk of human introduction of whirling disease, which is found immediately downstream in the Fountain Creek drainage. Although birds and animals can transport whirling disease, a more likely vector is the introduction of spores via hiking boots, fishing waders or gear, mountain bike tire treads, or even pet dogs that may have been exposed at numerous waters in the Fountain Creek watershed.

We are fortunate to have a controlled situation on Severy Creek as the vast majority of people who hike this trail, can be informed of the closure at the toll gate before they enter the Pikes Peak Tollway. A flyer will be inserted into the toll gate brochure that is handed to every entrant. In addition, major hiking constituencies will be contacted and informed of this management action. While this trail experiences light to moderate use, we feel most hikers and bikers will be easily contacted with the actions listed above.

The Colorado Wildlife Commission has already approved an emergency permanent closure of the creek to fishing. This may prevent some, but not all, of the threats identified. To provide the protections that are necessary for the Federally Threatened species, we feel an area closure is needed, and is an opportunity to educate the public on the mode of transmission and the devastating consequences of whirling disease on our native fauna.

 10/27/99

WILLIAM R. NELSON

Pikes Peak District Ranger



# Severy Creek Trail #661 Closure Pikes Peak Ranger District Pike National Forest - Colorado

