



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service  
White River National Forest  
Rifle Ranger District**

**Grizzly Creek Canyon Area and Trail Closure**

**PROHIBITIONS**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following is prohibited on all National Forest System (NFS) lands and trails in the Rifle Ranger District, White River National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the “Described Area” and “Described Trails”):

1. Going into or being upon the Described Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e)
2. Being on the Described Trails. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(a)

**EXEMPTIONS**

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

1. Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
2. 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).
3. Contractor and subcontractor personnel performing fire restoration and trail repair and construction in the Described Area and on the Described Trails on behalf of the Forest Service.

**DESCRIBED AREA AND TRAILS**

The Described Area is in Garfield County, Colorado, and Township 5 South, Range 88 West, and Township 6 South, Range 88 West, 6th P.M. The Described Area is further described as the portion of Grizzly Creek Canyon beginning at mile post 1.9 on the Grizzly Creek Trail, NFS Trail (NFST) #2065, and ending at the intersection of the Cutover Trail, NFST #2064.1, with the Jess Weaver Trail, NFST #1847.

The Described Trails are the NFSTs within the Described Area: the portion of the Grizzly Creek Trail, NFST #2065, beginning at mile post 1.9 and ending at its junction with the

Cutover Trail, NFST #2064.1; and the entirety of the Cutover Trail, NFST #2064.1.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Order is to protect public safety due to trail and resource damage in the area affected by the Grizzly Fire.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

1. This Order shall be in effect from January 01, 2024 at 12:01am through December 31, 2024 at 11:59pm, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area and Trails is attached and made part of the Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of the Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/whiteriver/notices/?cid=STELPRDB5176138>.
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 Rifle Ranger District in Rifle, CO (970) 625-2371 and the White River National Forest Supervisor's Office in Glenwood Springs, CO (970) 945-2521 for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the same Described Area or on the same Described Trails.

Signed and issued on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

**SCOTT  
FITZWILLIAMS**

Digitally signed by SCOTT  
FITZWILLIAMS  
Date: 2024.01.03 12:21:26  
-07'00'

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Forest Supervisor  
White River National Forest

**ASSESSMENT OF NEED**  
**Order # WRNF-2024-09**

**Purpose of Order**

This Order is needed to maintain the closure of the Grizzly Creek Trail and Cutover Trail and surrounding area. This closure is necessary due to significant trail and resource damage in the Grizzly Fire burn scar area past mile post 1.9 on the Grizzly Creek Trail. The Grizzly Creek fire, flooding, and continued erosion has caused significant damage to the trail. There are numerous hazards, including standing dead trees, missing trail segments, unstable soil, and extensive erosion gullies.

A previous order, #2023-03, prohibiting entry into the Described Area expired on December 31, 2023. This Order includes a change from the previous order to provide an exemption for contractors performing restoration work on behalf of the Forest Service. In 2024, contractors will be doing trail repair and construction on Grizzly Creek Trail and Cutover Trail. Contractors who are engaged in activities related to trail construction, maintenance, engineering, analysis, and public safety are authorized to enter the Described Area and be on the Described Trails.

**Scope of Order**

The geographic scope of the Order covers the NFS lands and trails affected by the Grizzly Fire. The temporal scope of the Order is the time needed to perform the restoration work in the Described Area and on the Described Trails.

**NEPA Compliance**

This Order is covered by the categorical exclusion in 36 C.F.R. § 220.6(d)(1): *Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR Part 261 – Prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety*. The Forest's resource specialists have determined no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude the application of this categorical exclusion.



# White River National Forest Rifle & Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger Districts

Grizzly Creek Trail Closure  
Order # 2024-9

 Closure Area

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

