

FOREST ORDER

USDA FOREST SERVICE

MEDICINE BOW-ROUTT NATIONAL FORESTS, BRUSH CREEK/HAYDEN RANGER DISTRICT NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROAD and AREA RESTRICTION

Occupancy and Use Closure: North Snowy Range Crucial Deer and Elk Winter Range

Pursuant to 16 (United States Code (U.S.C.) § 551 and 36 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on those National Forest Service lands described as the Southeast Snowy Range Crucial Deer and Elk Winter Range Closure (the "Restricted Area"), as well as all roads within the restricted area ("Restricted Roads") and additional sections of further described restricted roads within the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District of the Medicine Bow National Forest in Carbon County, State of Wyoming.

The **restricted roads** are defined as **National Forest System Roads (NFSRs) 111.1B, 111.1H, 129** (north of section 3, T18N R79 W), **129.1F, 129.1K, 130** (east from the junction with 111 for approximately one half mile), and **130.3b**.

The restricted area is defined as National Forest System (NFS) lands within the area from the northern boundary of the Medicine Bow National forest at NFSR 111 (T19N R79W Sec. 33), east along the forest boundary until NFSR 129, then south along the east side of NFSR 129 to section 3 (T18N R79W), then approximately one sixteenth mile farther south, then west within section 3 and the northern half of section 4 (T18N R79W). The westernmost portions of this closure are located in the northwest quarter of section 5 (T18N R79W) and portions of section 32 (T19N R79W). The Restricted Roads and Restricted Areas are shown on the attached map hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A.

The purpose of this order is to protect crucial deer and elk winter range in the far northern portion of the Snowy Range. This area has been identified by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as crucial winter range and is identified as crucial winter range in the Forest Plan (management area 3.58). The order is necessary to protect wintering deer and elk from stress caused by motorized vehicles.

This prohibition applies to all wheeled motor vehicles as well as other forms of motorized travel, including travel by motorized over snow vehicles.

PROHIBITIONS:

- 1) Using a Motor Vehicle (including over-snow motor vehicle) on the Restricted Roads between November 16 and May 15 of each year. 36 C.F.R. § 261.54 (a)
- 2) Operating or possessing a Motor Vehicle (including over-snow motor vehicles) off National Forest System Roads in the Restricted Area between November 16 and May 15. 36 C.F.R. § 261.56

EXEMPTIONS:

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

- (1) Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission;
- (2) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

This Order will be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until March 31, 2023, whichever event occurs first. Done at Laramie, Wyoming, this 23rd day of March, 2018.



Russell M. Bacon

Forest Supervisor

**MEDICINE BOW-ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST
AND THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLAND**

Violation of this prohibition are punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559 and 3571).