



Forest Service News Release

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Seasonal Road and Trail Closures Begin December 1st

DURANGO, Colo., November 23, 2021—The San Juan National Forest will begin seasonal closures of Forest System roads to wheeled motorized traffic, as well as motorized and some non-motorized trails, on December 1st and after based on snow conditions. The Columbine, Dolores, and Pagosa Ranger District Recreation Staff will close gates on roads and trails temporarily to prevent damage to road surfaces and/or protect critical wildlife habitat. These roads will open in the spring as conditions allow, generally around May 1st. Travelers should always be prepared for winter conditions and travel with shovels, tire chains and appropriate safety equipment necessary for winter conditions.

Even if snow levels are not deep, wheeled motorized use can damage road surfaces during freezing and thawing periods. Seasonal road and trail closures also protect critical habitat for deer and elk in winter and early spring when temperatures are cold, snow is deep, and food is scarce. During these critical times, human disturbance can threaten the survival of deer and elk, especially pregnant females.

Please visit the [San Juan National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Maps and Road conditions webpage](#) for up-to-date road closures and conditions across all districts. District Motor Vehicle Use Maps also have an allowable access date table for roads.

The Columbine Ranger District will be temporarily closing most Forest systems roads beginning December 1st. FSR 578 (Hermosa Park Road) has already been closed.

The Dolores Ranger District will be temporarily closing several Forest system roads and trails beginning December 1st and thereafter based on snow conditions. Roads closing Dec. 1st include: FSR 504 - Dolores River below McPhee Dam; FSR 528 and 529D - House Creek area; FSR 240 and 241 - Black Snag and Ryman Creek area; FSR 568 - Railroad grade near Mancos Hill, and the McPhee Overlook Trail from the town of Dolores to House Creek Campground.

The Pagosa Ranger District will be temporarily closing most Forest system roads and trails on a staggered schedule beginning December 1st with the majority closing by December 15th and 22nd. Visitors to the National Forest should be prepared to encounter additional closed gates on roads and trails across the San Juan National Forest as winter conditions develop.

For additional information on road closures, please contact the specific Ranger District Office at:

- Columbine Ranger District (970) 884-2512

- Dolores Ranger District (970) 882-7296
- Pagosa Ranger District (970) 264-2268

For information on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874, visit the [forest website](#), or follow us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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