

NEWS RELEASE

Ashley National Forest

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For Immediate Release

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Be Prepared for Changing Weather Conditions

Vernal, Utah ... The departure of fall color in the form of leaves decorating street corners and playgrounds, is a signal to be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions.

With elevation changes ranging from 1,000 to 6,000 feet from the valley floor to the benches of the Forest the weather can not only be deceiving but treacherous for travel to and from the Forest.

Early snow storms in October often catch many forest visitors off guard and unprepared on the Ashley National Forest. The Ashley National Forest does not plow or maintain roads for winter travel making it very important to be prepared for inclement weather before heading out to the forest this fall and winter.

As an example, last year on the opening weekend of the rifle elk hunt on the first Saturday in October the Forest received 12 to 24 inches of snow based on elevation. This surprised many hunters from out of the area who were not familiar with local conditions and some local hunters as well.

It is possible that recovery of stuck vehicles that have been snowed in may not happen until after the snow recedes in the spring.

As you recreate on the Ashley National Forest this fall, please ensure someone knows where you are going and when you are expected to return. Spending two nights in your truck stuck in a winter storm tends to make most families and employers wonder where you are. Be prepared with appropriate clothing and supplies for any unexpected incidents. Blue jeans and tennis shoes without a jacket is not the best clothing for walking three to four miles to get assistance when you become stuck in two feet of snow.

Should the need for Search and Rescue be required, search efforts will be focused along roads open for public travel on the Ashley National Forest Motorized Vehicle Use Maps, which are offered free of charge at all Forest Service offices. Please stay on designated roads and trails as you recreate on the Ashley National Forest.

Many Forest roads close for the winter allowing only over-the-snow travel with snowmobiles and other over-the-snow vehicles and of course cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and dog sledding. Generally this occurs when snow makes the roads impassable to motorized vehicles and grooming for over the snow travel begins.

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