

NEWS RELEASE

Ashley National Forest

Forest Supervisor's Office

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For Immediate Release

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Portion of Flume Trail to Close Until New Route Constructed

Vernal, Utah ... A portion of the Flume Trail has been closed to public use due to concerns with encroachment on private property. The closed section of the trail is adjacent to the new Flume Trailhead, located at the junction of the Massey Meadows road (Forest Service Road 031) and the Red Cloud Loop road (Forest Service Road 018). The closure extends west approximately 1.12 miles to the intersection of the Flume Trail and the South Fork Dry Fork Trail (Forest Service Trail 128).

All other portions of the trail remain open. Access to the lower portion of the trail is available at existing trailheads along the Red Cloud Loop road. Access to the trail above the closure area is available at Massey Meadows or by traveling along the Massey Meadows road.

The closure is necessary due to landowner concerns regarding trail encroachment onto private land. In order to address this, the Forest Service recently approved a potential reroute that will be entirely upon National Forest lands. According to Vernal District ranger, Nick Schmelter, "The Flume Trail is a highly popular trail and is used by many local residents and Forest visitors. The Forest recognizes the importance of this trail and the valued experience it provides. Our goal is to implement a workable solution as quickly as possible that is suitable for trail users and meets landowner needs."

The closure will remain in effect until construction of the trail reroute is complete or other agreements are made with affected landowners. Construction of the reroute is anticipated to begin on June 16, 2014.

On a related note, spring opening of Forest roads for vehicle access is occurring as road conditions allow. Access to the Flume Trail along the Red Cloud Loop road to the junction of Massey Meadows road and continuing to Massey Meadows is anticipated to open May 1. Other Forest roads will open as snow melts and roads dry.

For specific inquiries about the trail closure, or for information concerning status of Forest roads for travel, please contact the Ashley National Forest at (435) 789-1181.

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