

NEWS RELEASE

Ashley National Forest

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For Immediate Release

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Snow Closes Roads on the Ashley National Forest

Vernal, Utah í Snow across the Ashley National Forest signals the beginning of over-the-snow recreation and the closure of roads.

Roads on the Flaming Gorge and Vernal Ranger Districts have closed to wheeled vehicle traffic but are open to over-the-snow travel with the exception of the Red Cloud Loop road between Iron Springs and Kaler Hollow, which is closed to all motorized travel.

The bridge over Brush Creek has been removed and will be replaced in the spring with a wider bridge to ease travel along Red Cloud Loop. The old bridge was 18 feet wide while the new bridge will be 30 feet wide easing travel for longer vehicles and vehicles towing trailers.

The bridge was at the end of its lifespan and was removed to ensure public safety. Approximately a 2 mile section of Forest System Road (FSR) #018 (Red Cloud Loop) is closed starting at the junction of FSR #018 and FSR #251 at the locked gate continuing to the junction of FSR #044 (Taylor Mountain Road) and FSR #018. During this closure no motorized vehicles are authorized in the closure area. (See attached map)

Where the old bridge structure existed there is a hole with 15 to 25 foot vertical banks where new bridge abutments will be placed in the spring of 2011.

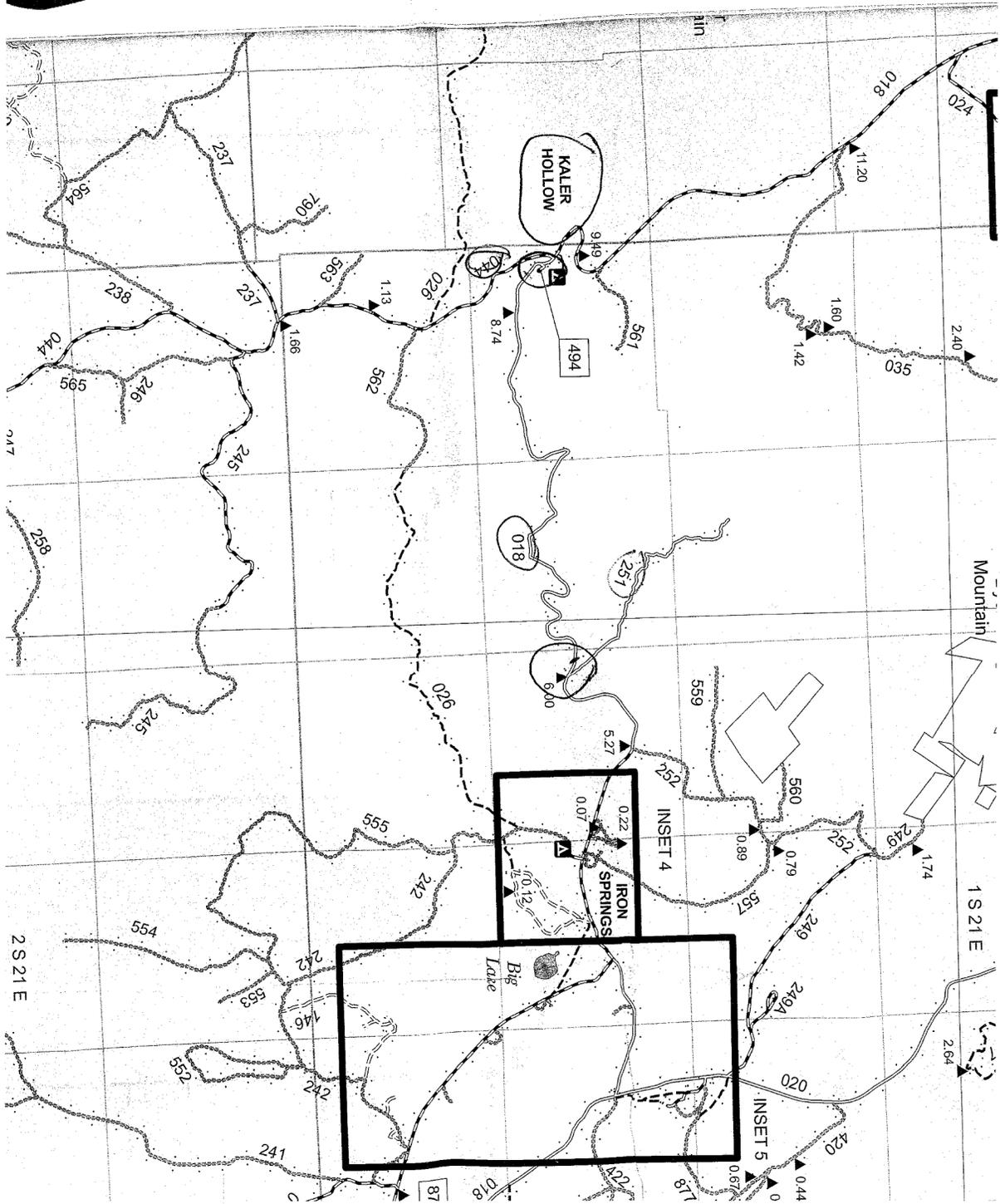
Gates across the Vernal Ranger District have been closed for wheeled vehicle traffic.

The western end of the Flaming Gorge Ranger District is now closed to wheeled traffic due to snow conditions. Gates are closed at Birch Creek and Sheep Creek Park on FR 221. This area is open to over-the-snow access.

The Deep Creek area is also closed to wheeled traffic due to snow conditions. Gates are closed on FSR #539 at Highway 44 and at FSR #221 (Hickerson Park Road). This area is also open to over-the-snow access.

All other designated roads on the Flaming Gorge Ranger District are still open but are generally snow packed with some areas of drifting snow.

Please use caution as you recreate on the Ashley National Forest this winter. Weather conditions can change rapidly. Always be prepared for inclement weather.



Mountain

1 S 21 E

2 S 21 E

INSET 4
IRON SPRINGS

INSET 5
Big Lake

KALER HOLLOW