
INTERAGENCY NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2009

CRITICAL WINTER RANGE CLOSURES TO BE LIFTED MAY 1

National Elk Refuge Manager Steve Kallin and Bridger-Teton National Forest Supervisor Kniffy Hamilton announce the upcoming spring opening of the Curtis Canyon and Flat Creek Roads and the removal of special Forest winter travel restrictions. Starting Friday, May 1 at 8:00 AM, the Refuge Road will be open to public travel beyond the county maintained line, allowing access to the Curtis Canyon and Flat Creek Roads and the adjoining National Forest. These roads, along with critical winter range areas on the Bridger-Teton Forest, are closed from December 1 through 8:00 AM on May 1 to protect wintering wildlife.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel remind area visitors and residents that access through the National Elk Refuge is restricted to public roads only; all off-road travel is prohibited, including hiking, biking or other recreational activities. Additionally, it is illegal to remove antlers from the National Elk Refuge. Persons accessing the National Forest after the May 1 opening to look for elk antlers are responsible for knowing and respecting the boundaries to avoid violating Federal regulations. Regulations for accessing the Bridger-Teton National Forest through the National Elk Refuge on May 1 can be found at www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge/Documents/05_01_09antlers.pdf

New regulations are in effect for motor vehicle use on the Bridger-Teton National Forest that will affect persons looking for antlers. On the Bridger-Teton National Forest, motor vehicle use must now occur only on designated routes shown on a motor vehicle use map. New seasonal restrictions are also in effect to protect road surfaces and reduce disturbance to wildlife that are calving or migrating to summer ranges. Motor vehicle use maps are available at the following locations:

- Bridger-Teton National Forest web site, www.fs.fed.us/btnf/r4/maps
- Bridger-Teton National Forest Supervisor's office, 340 N. Cache Street, Jackson, Wyoming
- Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center, 532 N. Cache Street, Jackson, Wyoming

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