

Letter to our community,

December 1, 2020

On Giving Tuesday, the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council is asking all our readers to spread the word, stay off these trails and give back to our wild places and recreate where wildlife do not need to roam

With Climate Change, the lack of snow has given humans unlimited access into closed winter wildlife areas. Organizations like Protect Our Winters (POW) have brought our mountain realities to light.

The RFVHC salutes our local land managers, CPW, Pitkin County BOCC and BLM for gated closures of the Crown's Prince Creek Road and Sutey Ranch December 1st through April 15th. What an achievement for the benefit of our wildlife. Thank You!

RFVHC Board of Directors
Karin Reid Offield, President

CLOSED

The BLM's 557-acre **Sutey Ranch** in Garfield County is closed to all human entry and uses between Dec. 1 and April 15.

BRUSH CREEK TRAIL – Paved trail between Highway 82 and Snowmass Village. Closed to all use from Dec. 1 to March 31. Closed to dogs from Oct. 15 to May 15; dogs must be leashed at all other times.

The **Rio Grande Trail** closed at 5 p.m. Monday between Rock Bottom Ranch and Catherine Bridge. The roughly 2-mile stretch of the paved trail closes annual until April 30 at 5 p.m.

Pitkin County Open Space and Trails' **Sky Mountain Park** in the upper valley, Glassier Open Space and the **Wheatley Open Space** in the midvalley, Red Wind Point and the Perham Creek Trail in the **Crystal River Valley**.

The closure of **Sky Mountain Park** means the Airline, Cozyline, Skyline, Deadline and Viewline trails are closed until May 16.

In addition, the closure affects the **Seven Star Trail and Rim Trail** North until May 16 and the **Brush Creek Trail** until April 1st.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) holdings on the **Crown** in the midvalley are closed Dec. 1 through April 15. That includes the closure of trails such as Vasten, Buckhorn Traverse and Buckhorn and trails on the Prince Creek side above South Porcupine Ditch.

On **Red Hill**, the Elk Traverse and north side trails are closed Dec. 1 through April 15.

The BLM lands on **Light Hill** south of Basalt, **Williams Hill** southeast of Basalt, **Thompson Creek/Holgate Mesa** southwest of Carbondale and the south side of **Basalt Mountain South** will be closed Dec. 1 to April 15.

ARBANEY GULCH – Access through **Deer Creek Ranch Open Space** is closed pending adoption of a management plan.

ASPEN VALLEY RANCH – Trail access closed Dec. 1 through April 30 (reopens May 1). No bicycles. Dogs must be leashed.

BIONEZ GULCH – Access from Lazy Glen Open Space/Rio Grande Trail closed Dec. 1 through April 30 (opens May 1). No dogs or bikes allowed in Gulch.

BURNT MOUNTAIN TRAILS-SNOWMASS (Anaerobic Nightmare, Sequel Trail, Tom Blake Trail) – Closed April 25-June 20 (reopen June 21).

CONGO TRAIL (Loge Spring Road trailhead parking lot closure only) – Closed Oct. 16-Memorial Day weekend.

GLASSIER OPEN SPACE TRAILS – Closed Dec. 1 through May 15 (reopening May 16). No dogs or vehicles permitted.

GOVERNMENT TRAIL – Closed May 15-June 27 (reopens June 28). Dogs required to be leashed when trail open to use.

FILOHA MEADOWS NATURE PRESERVE – Closed Oct. 1 through June 30 (reopens July 1). Public access limited to north-south wagon road through property via Dorais Way gate.

JANEWAY – Forest Service property north of FS Road 310 (Janeway) and access through Tarr property (an Open Space and Trails access) closed Dec. 1 to May 1. FS Road 310 (Avalanche Creek Road) closed to dogs Nov. 23 to May 1.

NORTH STAR NATURE PRESERVE – Preserve west of river closed year-round. All North Star land closed to dogs year-round. Access to river limited to river takeout at pedestrian bridge on north end of property, Beach Gate and South Gate, plus loop trail on south end of Preserve (James H. Smith Open Space). Winter access limited to

groomed Nordic trail loop east of river.

PERHAM CREEK TRAIL – Closed Dec. 1-March 31 (reopens April 1).

RED WIND POINT OPEN SPACE – Closed Dec. 1 through April 30 (reopens May 1).

RIM TRAIL NORTH (northeast of Sinclair Road, Snowmass Village) – Closed Dec. 1-May 15 (reopens May 16).

SEVEN STAR TRAIL – Closed Dec. 1-May 15 (reopens May 16). Closed to dogs. Closed to horses.

SKY MOUNTAIN PARK TRAILS (Viewline, Cozyline, Cozy Pony, Airline, Deadline, Skyline Ridge, Ditchline) – Closed Dec. 1-May 15 (reopens May 16). All of the above Sky Mountain Park trails are closed to dogs. Deadline, Cozyline and Airline trails are closed to horses.

SKY MOUNTAIN PARK HUNTING CLOSURE – A limited, fourth-season elk hunt at Sky Mountain Park necessitates a temporary closure of the Cozyline, Airline, Skyline Ridge and Ditchline trails.

WHEATLEY GULCH – Access via Wheatley Open Space closed Dec. 1 through April 30 (reopens May 1). No dogs permitted in Gulch.

Send the RFVHC an email to rfvhc.colorado@gmail.com to leave comments about other trails that are closed or could be closed for wildlife, we are available to help.

Thank you to the Aspen Times for their story today at https://www.aspentimes.com/news/several-valley-trails-closing-for-the-winter/?utm_source=second-street&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sunrise-rundown

Thanks to PCOST for this compilation of trail closures, leash laws and more....

<https://pitkincounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/2281/Trail-Regulations?bidId=>

Thank you also Aspen Colorado for this incredible photograph of a wild one named Fulrak. Photography credit to Greg Poschman in the outback of the White River National Forest.