

San Luis Valley Public Land Center



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NEWS RELEASE

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

Illegal Outfitting Carries Serious Consequences

(Del Norte, CO) -- Last Tuesday Kirk Ellison learned the hard way that the government is serious about people who guide and outfit without a permit. Ellison, operator of Lazy FF Outfitters near Creede, was charged in November, 2002, with operating without a permit on the Rio Grande National Forest. In January, 2003, he was convicted of the charge, which carried a \$5,000 fine, 60 days monitored home confinement, and two years supervised probation. In Federal Magistrate Court in Durango on September 14, Ellison was ordered to serve 90 days in jail for violating terms of the probation.

"Illegal guide and outfitting is a big problem on the National Forest," said Tom Malecek, Divide District Ranger. "Those who choose to operate outside the law face serious consequences."

There are currently 73 legal guide and outfitting operations permitted on the Rio Grande National Forest.

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