

NEWS RELEASE

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

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For Immediate Release

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UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST REMINDER TO HUNTERS AND OTHER FOREST USERS

SALT LAKE CITY, September 23, 2008 - With the start of the big game hunting season, Brian Ferebee, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Supervisor, would like to remind all hunters and other forest users that current weather conditions are causing roads and trails to be extremely wet and muddy. Users will need to be extra cautious while traveling. Driving on wet or muddy roads causes erosion, reduces water quality and makes roads hazardous for the next user. Check with local Ranger District offices to obtain the most current and accurate information about road and trail conditions.

Brian Ferebee, Forest Supervisor would like to remind hunters who use off-highway vehicles, to “Tread Lightly”: **Travel only where motorized vehicles are permitted, stay on designated routes, and avoid streams, lakeshores, meadows, muddy roads, trails and steep hillsides.** “It is the responsibility of all hunters and other forest users to obtain travel maps, which show roads and trails that are designated open to off highway vehicles,” said Ferebee. Ferebee also stated, “That under no circumstances are motorized vehicles ever allowed off-designated roads and trails not even to retrieve game.”

Hunters and forest users who are heading to the woods should always keep safety in mind and be adequately prepared for weather conditions to change. You should always carry waterproof matches, extra food, water, first-aid-kit, flashlight, map, compass, whistle, extra clothing, (rain gear-cold weather gear) and a cell phone if available. Leave a trip itinerary with family or friends and remember to wear orange. **Learn to recognize potentially dangerous situations and know when to turn around.** Always carry in your vehicle; a tow strap; proper tire chains and a shovel. Remember, you may be held responsible for any resource damage that occurs while removing a stuck vehicle. At all times respect private lands and gates. Getting into the mountains is only half the battle; you also need to get home safely.

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