

NEWS RELEASE



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Area Closure for High Lakes Stabilization Project around Moon Lake

Duchesne, Utah ... As part of the High Lakes Stabilization Project taking place in Brown Duck Basin in the High Uintas Wilderness Area an area closure affecting the roads and trails in the vicinity of Moon Lake has been ordered while heavy equipment is transported out of the wilderness by helicopter from August 18th to September 6th.

The high lakes stabilization project will stabilize 13 high lakes throughout the High Uintas Wilderness Area by breaching the dams associated with each lake and return the lakes to their natural levels. Water that was once stored in these high mountain lakes will now be stored in another reservoir outside of the wilderness.

District Ranger John R. Kirkaldie stated, "The closure is to ensure public safety. The helicopter will be transporting heavy equipment from Brown Duck and Island lakes back to the drop off point at Moon Lake. In case of an accident we do not want any members of the public under the flight route of the helicopter."

Actions that are prohibited by this order include going into or being upon the area described in the closure order, and being on the trails described in the closure order. Exemptions to this order include persons located at and using Moon Lake Campground, Moon Lake Lodge, Moon Lake Beach Access Road to the shore of Moon Lake and southeast 100' along the shoreline to launch or pick up boats, or persons using watercraft in the water at Moon Lake north of the boat launching area.

This closure includes all trails and roads within the area, starting at the junction of the Moon Lake Road (FSR #131) and the Paint Mine Road (FSR #236), south on the Moon Lake Road approximately .5 mile to the boundary of private land and the National Forest, then northeast to and including Raspberry Draw for approximately 2.25 miles, then north to and including Center Park Trailhead to include FS Trail #059 north to the junction of the Swasey's Hole Trail, then southwest, drawing an imaginary line to the junction of the Lake Fork Trail (FS Trail #061) and Clements Creek, including Clements Creek traveling west to Clements Lake Dam, including Clements Dam, then along the south shore of Clements Lake to the southern most tip of Clements Lake, then southwest to and including Kidney Lake Dam, then due south to the wilderness boundary, then east southeast to the Paint Mine, including the Paint Mine, then including and traveling east along the Paint Mine Road, and east southeast to the junction of the Moon Lake Road.

Violation of these prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000.00 for individual, or \$10,000.00 for organization, and/or imprisonment for not more than 6 months [16 USC 551, 18 USC 3571(b)(6), 18 USC 3581(b)(7)].

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Any person wishing to use a forest development road or trail or a portion of the National Forest System, should contact the Forest Supervisor, or District Ranger to ascertain the special restrictions which may be applicable thereto [36 CFR 261.50(f)].

Page 3

