

### **Standard Operating Guidelines**

This operating plan approves activities conducted on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland and does not authorize the occupancy and use of any other National Forest System lands.

Anyone conducting research approved by this operating plan must carry a copy of the operating plan with them at all times when on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland. A copy of the operating plan must be produced upon demand by any officer or representative of the US Forest Service.

This operating plan allows those conducting approved research to leave personal property outside of Forest Service developed campgrounds. **All Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland special orders apply.** It is the responsibility of the researcher to familiarize themselves with the special orders. Current special orders can be obtained at the Forest Supervisors office, individual district offices or on the web at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/mbr/alerts-notice/?cid=stelprdb5139680&width=full>

**Per 36CFR261.13, all motorized travel is limited to open National Forest System roads and motorized trails.** It is the responsibility of the researcher to contact the Forest Supervisors office or individual district offices for status of roads.

**This operating plan does not constitute authorization to enter any closed area.** Information on area closures can be obtained from the Forest Supervisors office or individual district offices.

For any project installing equipment in the field, identification tags will be affixed to the equipment, with project name and contact information. These should be durable enough to withstand the duration of the project.

Upon request, electronic copies of annual reports will be provided to the permit administrator by January 31 of the following calendar year. Electronic copies of all final reports and publications will be provided as soon as they become available. Data will be provided upon request.

Researchers will notify the permit administrator when research equipment is removed from forest at end of project.

To reduce the risk of transferring noxious weed species to National Forest System (NFS) lands, equipment used for research will be cleaned prior to being brought to NFS lands. All excess grease, soil and plant material shall be removed. Equipment will also be cleaned prior to moving between sites on NFS lands.

Ground disturbance is not authorized within the boundary of an historic property. Ground disturbance is limited to 1 cubic meter, including soil pits. Any ground disturbance should be located on a slope less than 60% and hand dug. Soil pits should be opened for installation and closed within 24 hours and never left open overnight. Soil pits should not be dug in wet conditions or precipitation events where sedimentation could occur from runoff of exposed soil. Soil pits will not be dug within 100 feet of NWI designated wetlands or streams. Upon completion of the project, instruments used in the study will be retrieved from site and reclamation of soil pits and disturbed areas will occur, to include replacing topsoil.

The US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, has developed a strategy for the management and prevention of aquatic nuisance species (ANS), and promotes working relationships with partners, permittees, stakeholders and employees in prevention, detection, and management efforts. ANS can be defined as any species or taxa that are native or non-native, and have significant deleterious effects on native aquatic species and ecosystems, recreation, water development structures and other important resources. The scope of this strategy includes considerations for proactive management of non-native aquatic species that pose threats to water bodies on NFS lands administered by the Rocky Mountain Region.

The species of concern in the area where you will be working are whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*), chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) and other non-native aquatic species. Whirling Disease is a parasite that often results in deformities in the vertebrae of all native salmonids in the United States. Infected fish are unable to survive the rigors of natural environments, and rarely survive past the juvenile stage. Chytrid fungus invades the thin permeable skin of amphibians and causes the often fatal disease, chytridiomycosis, which interrupts the ability of amphibians to regulate the movement of water and oxygen through their skin. In following with the guidance in the strategy, we are requiring you to employ the following aquatic disinfectant guidelines.

The following guidelines will be implemented by all project personnel coming in contact with infected or potentially infected waters. This process must be followed before entering a new water body. This may require the personnel to carry disinfectant with them while conducting fieldwork.

1. Before leaving the water's edge rinse all organic material from boat and other equipment.
2. Move to an area that is at least 100 feet from rivers, lakes or wetlands.
3. Spray all equipment (waders, boots, sampling equipment, etc.) with a 3% Sparquat 256® solution and let soak for a minimum of 15 minutes. 3% Sparquat solution = 4 oz sparquat per 1 gallon of water.
4. Wash disinfectant off of equipment before entering the next water body. Stay at least 100 feet from rivers, lakes or wetlands when washing.

A list of threatened, endangered, proposed and sensitive (TES) plants known or suspected on or near the Medicine Bow – Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland is provided below. It is against forest regulation and may be illegal to willfully collect or destroy flowers, seeds, plants or plant parts of the species listed below. Researchers are responsible for avoiding impacts to all TES plants.

As of April, 2016:

#### **THREATENED, ENDANGERED, OR PROPOSED FOR FEDERAL LISTING**

1. *Gaura neomexicana* ssp. *coloradoensis*, Colorado bee blossom (butterfly plant) (Threatened)
2. *Penstemon haydenii*, blowout penstemon (Endangered)
3. *Spiranthes diluvialis*, Ute ladies' tresses (Threatened)

#### **SENSITIVE**

1. *Aquilegia laramiensis*, Laramie columbine
2. *Armeria maritima* ssp. *sibirica*, Siberian sea thrift
3. *Astragalus barrii*, Barr's milkvetch
4. *Astragalus leptaleus*, park milkvetch
5. *Botrychium ascendens*, triangleglobe moonwort
6. *Botrychium campestre*, Iowa moonwort
7. *Botrychium furcatum*, forkleaved moonwort
8. *Botrychium lineare*, narrowleaf moonwort
9. *Botrychium paradoxum*, peculiar moonwort
10. *Carex alopecoidea*, foxtail sedge
11. *Carex diandra*, lesser panicled sedge
12. *Carex livida*, livid sedge
13. *Cuscuta plattensis*, prairie dodder
14. *Cypripedium parviflorum*, yellow lady's slipper
15. *Draba exunguiculata*, Gray's peak draba
16. *Draba grayana*, Gray's draba
17. *Drosera rotundifolia*, roundleaf sundew
18. *Eleocharis elliptica*, boreal spike rush
19. *Eriogonum exilifolium*, dropleaf buckwheat
20. *Eriogonum visherii*, Visher's buckwheat
21. *Eriophorum altaicum* var. *neogaeum*, altai cottongrass
22. *Eriophorum gracile*, slender cottongrass
23. *Festuca hallii*, plains rough fescue (Hall's fescue)
24. *Ipomopsis aggregata* ssp. *weberi*, scarlet gilia (Rabbit Ear's gilia)
25. *Kobresia simpliciuscula*, simple bog sedge
26. *Parnassia kotzebuei*, Kotzebue's grass of Parnassus
27. *Penstemon harringtonii*, Harrington's beardtongue
28. *Physaria didymocarpa* var. *lanata*, common twinpod
29. *Potentilla rupicola*, rock cinquefoil
30. *Ranunculus karelinii* (= *R. gelidus* ssp. *grayi*), ice cold buttercup
31. *Rubus arcticus* ssp. *acaulis*, dwarf raspberry (nagoonberry)
32. *Salix candida*, sageleaf willow
33. *Salix serissima*, autumn willow
34. *Selaginella selaginoides*, club spikemoss
35. *Sphagnum angustifolium*, sphagnum
36. *Sphagnum balticum*, Baltic sphagnum
37. *Triteleia grandiflora*, largeflower triteleia
38. *Utricularia minor*, lesser bladderwort
39. *Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*, American cranberry bush
40. *Viola selkirkii*, Selkirk's violet