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News Release * News Release * News Release

Release: Immediate

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ASPEN RANGER DISTRICT
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Camp Hale closures set for summer

MINTURN, Colo. (May 30, 2003) – A new project to remove unexploded munitions from the East Fork valley area of Camp Hale has prompted Forest Service officials to issue a closure order for the area.

BLANCO RANGER DISTRICT
317 East Market Street
Meeker, CO 81641
970-878-4039
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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, will begin work in the East Fork valley area of Camp Hale during the first week of June to clear the valley floor of potentially hazardous military munitions. The project is scheduled to continue into September. The Corps is conducting this work to remove any potential and immediate threats to public health and safety due to munitions left over from historic military training in the area. Joining the Forest Service and Corps on this project are the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

DILLON RANGER DISTRICT
680 Blue River Parkway
PO Box 620
Silverthorne, CO 80498-0620
970-468-5400
Fax: 970-468-7735

The Forest Service first closed the valley to public use in fall 2000 following the discovery of five unexploded rifle grenades in the Eagle Park area. A surface clearance was conducted on portions of the Colorado Trail/Continental Divide National Scenic Trail that cross the valley in summer 2001, allowing the trail to be open to users since then.

EAGLE RANGER DISTRICT
125 West Fifth Street
PO Box 720
Eagle, CO 81631-0720
970-328-6388
Fax: 970-328-6448

By issuing a Closure Order, the Forest Service is prohibiting any public use of the area, which would interfere with the cleanup and pose hazards to anyone in the area not familiar with the dangers presented by these munitions.

HOLY CROSS RANGER DISTRICT
24747 US Highway 24
PO Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645-0190
970-827-5715

The area closed to the public extends eastward from approximately the Camp Hale Memorial Campground to the end of the valley floor – about 2.5 miles from the campground. Trail users should expect delays near Camp Hale due to work activities.

RIFLE RANGER DISTRICT
0094 County Road 244
Rifle, CO 81650
970-625-2371
Fax: 970-625-2532

It is important that visitors to the Camp Hale area never touch, move or remove any suspicious items they encounter on or in the ground. Mark the area if possible and contact the Forest Service at 970-827-5715 or the Eagle County Sheriff's Department at 970-328-8500.

SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT
620 Main Street
PO Box 309
Carbondale, CO 81623-0309
970-963-2266
Fax: 970-963-1012

For more information, contact Vinnie Picard at (970) 945-3206.

