



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** Thursday, March 4, 2010

***Blackmere Drive Trail Closure***

The City of Steamboat Springs will be closing the Blackmere Drive Trail to all public access for hazard tree removal and fire break operations as of Wednesday, March 3rd. This trail accesses the Quarry and Emerald Mountain and will be closed with barriers and signage at the trailhead in Fairview on Routt Street until the work is complete. Please respect this closure as heavy equipment use and tree removal operations will be ongoing during this time frame.

Rogue Resources will be cutting and removing trees under a contract with the City of Steamboat Springs. This work is funded by a High Priority Forest Fuels Mitigation grant that was awarded by the Colorado State Forest Service and is directed at restoring forest health by removing dead and diseased trees.

**Due to the generous support of private citizens, Paul and Bridget Ferguson and Lyman Orton, an alternative temporary trail access has been identified for use from this trailhead parking area. Signage is in place to direct trail users to a packed trail that crosses private and City property, leading to what has been previously referred to as "Orton Meadows". The City would like to express their gratitude and thanks to these citizens for allowing temporary access for recreation. This trail does not access the Blackmere Trail, the Quarry or the top of Emerald Mountain. Please respect this private property by staying in the established corridor, leashing dogs and picking up and disposing of animal waste in the trash receptacle that has been provided.**

**Other popular areas to recreate include: the Yampa River Core Trail, Buffalo Pass/Dry Lake Parking Lot, Fish Creek Falls Recreation Area, Rita Valentine Park, Butcherknife Trail, Sky Line Trail (off of Clear Water Trail), and Rabbit Ears Pass.**

**The groomed Nordic trails at the Howelsen Hill Nordic Center are available for cross country skiing and snowshoeing only. Tickets or passes are required on these groomed trails and dogs are not allowed.**

**For more information about the trail closure, please call Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services at 879-4300.**

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