



File Code: 2300**Date:** April 1, 2020**Route To:****Subject:** Appropriate Recreational Use on Forest Service Managed Lands**To:** Wild Horse Ranch Homeowners Association

It has been communicated to the Forest Service that there are some questions regarding whether certain activities are allowed on National Forest System Lands bordering and within Wild Horse Ranch. Specific questions relate to what is known as the Sheep Mountain and Table Mountain Units.

To clarify some key points:

- 1) Non-motorized uses on Forest Service lands on Sheep and Table Mountain and other Forest Service inholdings within the Wild Horse Ranch are permitted. These include activities such as hiking, horseback riding, cycling, etc. Additionally, camping and hunting are allowed. Any campfires used must be fully extinguished (meaning they are cold to the touch) before departing the site. Hunters must abide by all applicable state laws.
- 2) Target shooting is permitted, in compliance with other federal, state, and local laws. Explosive targets and tracer rounds are prohibited. This includes Tannerite® and other brands of explosive/exploding targets. Additionally, targets must not be affixed to trees, and upon conclusion of shooting, debris and shells or casings must be picked up. Cardboard targets are recommended; please avoid glass or other targets that will be difficult to fully remove from the forest and can cause a hazard. Target shooting must not take place within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation area, or occupied area, across any road, or in a manner where any person or property is exposed to injury or damage.
- 3) Motorized travel is not allowed on any Forest Service Lands on Sheep Mountain, Table Mountain, or any other Forest Service inholdings within Wild Horse Ranch. Operating a motor vehicle off a designated route on Forest Service lands without authorization is a Class B Misdemeanor. There are no designated public routes anywhere on Sheep Mountain, Table Mountain, or any other Forest Service inholding within Wild Horse Ranch. Therefore, no motorized travel is permitted in these locations. This applies to both highway vehicles and off highway vehicles including ATVs, UTVs, dirt bikes, etc. This regulation is 36 CFR 261.13.
- 4) Leaving fences or gates open for any period of time, where there is a nexus to National Forest Service Land, is prohibited and doing so is a Class B Misdemeanor. Additionally, if this causes or allows livestock, including horses, to enter National Forest System Lands, this is a separate Class B Misdemeanor. These regulations are 36 CFR 261.7(c) and (a).
- 5) Other prohibited activities include constructing roads or trails without authorization, damaging signs or other property of the US Government, removal of any historical artifact or item,



dumping refuse from private property or leaving trash, and conducting commercial activities without a special use-permit.

Questions about any of these regulations or other matters on National Forest Service lands on the Laramie Ranger District can be directed to the Laramie Ranger District at 307-745-2300 and your question will be directed to the appropriate staff as soon as possible.



SHAWN GRAEF
Patrol Captain

cc: Wild Horse Preservation Society