

San Miguel County – Uncompahgre National Forest

Alpine Ranger Report for Summer 2007

- High mountain pass traffic was about the same as last year. There were more large user groups this year (ex. FJ Cruisers/Jeep Jamboree/CO 500). These groups caused no problems.
- * A new motorcycle group (Colorado 1000?) was observed at traveling at high rates of speed on the Campbird Road in July.
- * Travel management signs are working with no new resource damage noted this year. We could use a few more "no motor vehicles" recla metal signs installed at key locations.
- * No fatalities on the west side of Hwy 550 during summer 2007. Several medical extractions for injured ATV drivers/passengers occurred on Imogene Road.
- * ATV accidents are still a concern, with most accidents resulting from operator error. Several accidents went unreported with injured driver taken to medical facility by private vehicle.
- * OHV registration compliance continues to get better each year.
- * Hopefully a statewide Colorado exhaust noise decibel limit will be in place by next summer. If so, new signage will be needed to educate public of new law.
- * Violations of the "one way" section of Black Bear are still a concern with several citations issued this summer.
- * Very few unlicensed drivers observed on west side of Hwy 550.
- * Desperately need toilet facility at Tom Boy Townsite (or on the Pass or somewhere in between). Telluride Jeep tour companies would probably help subsidize and also help with ongoing maintenance expenses.
- * Kiosks were installed on Black Bear and Ophir Roads (near Hwy 550) by the Forest Service and volunteers on September 8, 2007. These should be a great source of information. We need to post exhaust and sound limit law information on these kiosks.
- * The Lunar Cup event that occurs annually at Imogene Pass should be under a permit. Event needs sanitary facilities, security and medical personnel on site. Limit parking at the switchback just west of the pass. Need no parking signs at switchback. (safety issue). Several drunk spectators observed during this summer's event.
- * Most violators where enforcement action was taken were cooperative and polite with a few exceptions. The exceptions tended to be Colorado residents.
- * The fee for Colorado State OHV registrations may be increased to \$25.25 in 2008. Also there is some discussion that Colorado may require registrations regardless of out of state regulations.

/s/

Warren Barker

Alpine Ranger

10/5/07