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NOVEMBER 28, 2016

# NEWS RELEASE

## Seasonal Trail Closures for Wildlife

**Durango, CO:** The City of Durango annual seasonal trail closures will go into effect December 1 and will remain in effect through April 15 for the upper trails in Twin Buttes which include the following trails: Upper Twin Buttes, Upper Ed & Flo, Upper BC&F and Cliffrock Loop.

The City of Durango, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) utilize the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) information regarding deer and elk movement throughout the year. This data shows closures in lower elevations are necessary to protect critical foraging habitat for game species. Closing areas to human activity is important to allow deer and elk to conserve energy and survive the winter. When animals flee due to disturbances caused by people, calories are used that are needed to survive through the rest of the winter. Pregnant deer and elk are particularly sensitive to disturbances and stand a better chance of survival when the habitat is free of interactions with humans and pets. The closure areas prohibit all public access until conditions allow for wildlife to move back to higher elevations.

The following areas remain open for hiking, biking, snowshoeing and skiing:

- Horse Gulch area including the Meadow, Stacy's, Mikes, Telegraph, Crites and Sugar trails (accessed from the east end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)

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- Lower Twin Buttes trails (accessed off of Highway 160 West)
- The Skyline trail including all of the Raider Ridge Trail to Medicine, Down and Out and Snake Charmer trails (accessed at Jenkins Ranch Road Trailhead - northeast of Ft. Lewis College)
- All of Dalla Mountain Park (accessed at Junction Creek Road)
- Overend Mountain Park (accessed at Leyden Street and Hidden Valley Circle)
- Trails accessed near Fort Lewis College include Lions Den, Chapman Flow and Jump Line
- The Rim, Squawker, Talker, Skyline and Shocker trails (access from the Powerline trail)
- The Colorado trail (accessed at Junction Creek)
- The Carbon Junction trail is open from Highway 3 to Crites Connection
- Crites Connection is open to Telegraph trail
- A 1.5-mile trail loop on the lower portion of the Animas City Mountain (accessed from the Birkett and 32nd Street trailheads or Dalla Mountain Park)

For additional information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department, Park Maintenance Division at 375-7380.

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