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Roads in the Black Mesa Area

This past season I hunted in September for elk in the Groundhog/Black Mesa area. In the past, I have driven southwest on the Black Mesa road designated as 611A and parked on that road to hunt the unmarked logging roads that run southwest off of 611A on the north and west side of Black Mesa. However, in the past, these roads were not drivable and I seem to remember signs that designated these logging roads as off limits to all motorized traffic. But this year, there were no signs and the roads had been cleared of down trees and it was obvious that people were driving with 4 wheelers to the very ends of these roads overlooking little fish creek. In fact, you could have driven a full sized 4x4 truck on most of them. Because of this there was no fresh elk sign. This generally has been one of the relatively undisturbed areas for elk, but now that we have vehicle traffic, they are going elsewhere.

Talking with some forest service personnel, they stated that these roads continue to be off limits for any motorized traffic. I want to put in my vote that they be keep as no motorized traffic and marked as such because without signs, people will continue to drive the roads. These roads are level and easily walkable on foot, and riding motorized vehicles on them only hurts the hunting and the wildlife.

Thank you,

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