



FOR RELEASE 12-10-12

FARMINGTON CANYON ROAD REPAIRS COMPLETED AND NOW OPEN TO RECREATIONAL USE – CONDITIONS PERMITTING

Farmington, UT (December 10, 2012) — The US Forest Service is pleased to announce that major road repairs have been completed where portions of the Farmington Canyon road failed due to a landslide in the spring of 2011. The road is now open for recreational access by ATV or snowmobile.

Farmington City in cooperation with the Forest Service had kept the canyon gates closed this past year while the landslide area and road were stabilized and repaired. Both City and Forest Service officials urge the public to use care and caution when using the canyon road since it will not be maintained for winter use. The route is steep and narrow with multiple switchbacks and should not be used in adverse weather or traveling conditions.

In past years, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) kept the road snow plowed in winter months to allow personnel access to the radar tower site on top of Francis Peak. The FAA no longer plans to snow plow the road. As such, there will be no snow plowing conducted by Farmington City, the Forest Service or the FAA above the Farmington City gate located near the entrance to Farmington Pond.

Farmington City will keep the City gate closed and locked during winter months when adverse weather creates dangerous road conditions. The Farmington gate has been modified to allow ATV, snowmobile riders, horses and foot traffic to get through even when the gate is closed so the public can enjoy the recreational opportunities of the canyon.

Farmington City has also improved a trailer parking area for public use in the area just above Farmington Pond so that all recreational users can safely unload horses, ATV's or snowmobiles when they desire to enjoy the canyon using the road. Farmington City will only snow plow to the trailer parking lot location for use of the public. The

Farmington gate will be opened for regular vehicle traffic in the late spring as soon as road and snow conditions permit safe passage.

Scott Harbertson, Farmington City Mayor, states, "We want people to use the canyon road but we want them to do so safely. Due to the road not being plowed in winter months, we are not able to easily or safely respond to emergencies which may happen due to careless use of the canyon. We do not want to put our public safety and public works personnel at needless risk if we can avoid it."

Cathy Kahlow, District Ranger for the Forest Service shares those concerns, "We appreciate the cooperation we have had with Farmington City and are glad we can reopen the canyon for recreational users. We urge people to stay on the marked trails and roads and use caution. It is very difficult and expensive to rescue people who put themselves in harms way, and can put rescue personnel at risk."

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