

## MONTEZUMA COUNTY BOCC & SPECIAL NOTE

Just a few notes on Today's County Commission meeting and an extra note on a legal issue on the public lands we became aware of.

WEATHER report by Jim Andrus indicates that the next 30 to 90 days will be warmer than normal and the precip normal to below normal. Which of course means we will wait to see what it turns out to be. Currently the snow pack in our area of the 4 corners is only 28% of normal and indicating we are moving into moderate drought conditions.

ROADS reported that the weather has changed their plans, so are continuing to do blading and prep work for some gravel work on parts of Road Z. Summit Cemetery representative asked for securing some gravel to improve the access within the grounds. It was approved as long as they handled their own hauling and spreading.

PHIL'S WORLD expansion of trails seems to be maybe moving ahead as the concerns over archaeological issues may be reaching approvals. That has been a very expensive and time wasting endeavor.

HEALTH DEPT. met with the "Board of Health", which IS the BOCC. Discussion was on proposed changes in the Septic System Regulations. Also the New fee schedule for the coming year was approved, which was very little change. However the regulation changes will need to be worked on after some concerns were expressed on what it may cost the tax payer needing the permits. A public hearing will be held in February on proposed changes.

BUDGET HEARING was opened. Interesting to note that there are 16 different funds covering 72 pages. Bottom line was that by using carry

overs and some shifting, the County Departments will be budgeted at about the same current level with no big cuts, even though the overall revenue will be anticipated to be short over a million. This resulted in reviewing numerous recurring expenditures to non-profit and non-County groups and functions. There were 16 such past expenditures, with 8 being eliminated this year and two being reduced. Those eliminated were MCEDA, Fire Wise, Region 9, High Desert Conservation Dist. , libraries( Dolores, Mancos have own dist. funds and Cortez City now has increased tax receipts), SWTPR, 4 corners Ag Expo. The hearing needed to be extended into the afternoon, which we were unable to attend. As a reminder you can watch live the proceeding of the BOCC on computer at the county website at [www.montezumacounty.org](http://www.montezumacounty.org) Also, you can view edited version on Mesa TV, Saturday morning 9 a.m. antennae channel 30.6

### Public Land Travel Alert

With all the talk over Travel Management Plans on the Forest Service and now BLM lands, we need to be aware of how the public may be adversely affected. The last Travel Management Plan on here was the “Boggy/Glade” which closed many miles of roads to vehicle access of any kind. What many may not be aware of is that many of those roads are not physically closed or even posted as closed. HOWEVER you may/will be cited into court if found to be on one of the roads that is supposed to be closed but is visibly not. It seems that it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to know that the road is “NOT OPEN” to your use. A regular Forest Service Map is not correct, so you must secure a special map showing designated roads and trails that are open for what kind of

travel, otherwise you may be cited and fined. Just recently a local resident on the last elk hunt was cited into court by a State DPW officer for being on a road in the Glade that was “not designated as open” by the Forest Service. The hunter was told that the federal Forest Service had a “Zero Tolerance” on violating their road closure rule, so issued the citation. The road in question was old historical access for management in the area, was on the regular Forest Service map, was not indicated closed, although nearby other roads were marked closed, was in good condition and obviously being used and travelled on. Enforcement of such a rule/law under such conditions should be considered as arbitrary and capricious, but you will still have to appear in court. So BE aware that “your” public lands are NOT “yours”. Here is a picture of the “not open” road that got a local sent into court.

