



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Little River Canyon
National Preserve

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Little River Canyon National Preserve News Release

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Little River Canyon National Preserve Backcountry Road Closure

Little River Canyon National Preserve Backcountry Road 05 is officially closed between Hartline Ford and Road 08. The park has blocked access using barricades and signs. A deep sinkhole has collapsed in the middle of the road and the hole is still growing. It is unsafe to drive over or around this sinkhole; the extra weight could collapse more of the road. Water is flowing from a spring under the road creating this problem.

To access the Hartline area use Roads 09 and 05 north. Use Roads 08 and 07 to access the management area south of Hartline, or come in from the south on Road 05. We regret any inconveniences this may cause.

Due to the heavy rains the waters in the river and creeks are moving rapidly. Attempting to cross the river or creeks at this time may result in injuries, loss to life, damage to vehicles, and criminal charges or financial restitution. Attempts to cross the river and some creeks during high water have resulted in rescues, property damage and nearly cost several people their lives over the years. Several vehicles were totaled by attempts to cross the river.

With this year's cold weather, snow and rain the back country roads are soft and unstable. Deliberately spinning tires and "mudding" damages the road beds making access to the backcountry difficult for other visitors. It increases response times for emergency responders to reach injured or lost visitors. While driving in the backcountry, avoid rapid accelerations, and drive on the harder surfaces in the road.

Acting Park Superintendent Paul Carson and the maintenance staff thanks you for your cooperation and assistance. For more information or to register call (256)845-9605 or e mail larry_beane@nps.gov. You can follow our updates and find park pictures on Facebook at "lirinps".

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