

Report from Sprucedale

We are just writing to let you know that we had a great visit during the week of June 26. The air was super clean, no smoke whatsoever, and we saw more wildlife than we ever have in our collective 50+ years of visiting Sprucedale (elk, deer, antelope, big horn sheep, wild horses, wild turkey, and black bear). It gave us a reference point of where Sprucedale is now compared to where it will be in a year or two. The Forest Service says the forest and pastures, while temporarily blackened in spots, will come back stronger than ever. The fire worked like a mosaic, some pockets are black while others are untouched. The interesting thing is the natural thinning that occurred revealed other amazing views and topography that has been hidden or unnoticed for years. The rim rock formations are astounding. We were somewhat apprehensive about the possible changes to the area, but we are actually glad to have seen and experienced the remarkable differences and learn about the wonders of nature, there is nothing to fear.

There is no better time to take advantage of the opportunities at Sprucedale. Although the public message may be that the White Mountains are closed, Sprucedale guests can gain access through Alpine. Once you've traversed that simple and direct route, kids can put down the phones and game boys and have fun playing outdoors, creating forts, practicing roping or their rodeo skills. Adults can still relax on the porches and enjoy wonderful views, read a good book, play games in the main house, or marvel at the vast night sky and thousands of stars. The horses are in good shape and ready to ride and of course there are puppies and kitties to play with. Sprucedale is still a place to come for a total change of pace and for enjoyable scenery.

We were delighted to see the continuation of the Sprucedale tradition in other ways too. Whitney and Janae, even with all of the challenging circumstances that have faced them in this first year, are doing a tremendous job reinstating the family connection, legacy and respect for the ranch that it deserves. Their vision is solid and their future is promising.

We know vacation time is valuable and resources are precious. We wanted you to know that our visit to Sprucedale was a worthwhile endeavor, that we still did the things we expected to, and had lots of first hand news about the fire and area to share with friends. Sprucedale is still a wonderful haven and by vacationing there you will help turn an unfortunate beginning into a positive ending. Go and enjoy, we sure did!

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