

Lunada Port: Singular example of isolation by road in the XXI century in Spain

J. Apodaka

ABSTRACT

The Port or "Portillo de" Lunada is a mountain pass located in the easternmost part of the Cantabrian Mountains and connects the Espinosa de los Monteros town in Burgos, Las Merindades región, with San Roque de Riomiera town, one of the Three Villas "pasiegas" of Cantabria.

BU572 - CA643 is the name of that road and crosses Castro Valnera Massif, in the south leaving the summit of Castro Valnera (1718 m) and in the north Picon del Fraile (1625 m).

For a few days of autumn and spring and especially during the winter , this road is often closed due to the abundance of precipitation as snow and avalanche danger.

This is the third mountain pass over height of Cantabria , behind the ports of San Glorio (1609 m) and Piedraluengas (1354 m) that connect the provinces of León and Palencia with Liébana in the Cantabrian region , through the Picos de Europa Massif.

During the winter of 2012-2013 the Lunada Port closed more than 40 days and the Unit Army of the Air, Air Surveillance Squadron 12th number , with air base at 1600 m elevation in Picón del Fraile was more than 40 days isolated by road.

On February 5 was the last day that could be accessible by land after performing cleaning the road with trucks snow plows and milling . Previously , in 2005 were isolated 28 days.

In the environs , is the Lunada winter resort , the lower sky station at a lower height above sea level in Spain , managed by Detulsa company , due to the accumulation of snow was not able to open access to over many winter days.

In this paper we analyze and study this unique case of heavy snow on relatively low sea level and the influence and snow conditions on the roads and infrastructure in the region.