



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Temporary Closures Lifted in Timber Sale Areas **Spring Conditions Restrict Vehicle Traffic on Forest Roads**

The road, trail and area closures in place for public safety during timber harvest activities within the Beta, Hornet and McGinnis Salvage Timber Sales on the Flathead National Forest will be lifted April 1. With soft roads and spring breakup conditions present on most forest roads, visitors may encounter road restrictions put in place to prevent road damage.

For wildlife security and to protect soft roadbeds from damage, timber harvest activities within the 2003 fire areas along the Westside Reservoir Road near Hungry Horse and in the North Fork of the Flathead are shut down through May 31. Road, trail and area closures may occur after May 31 when harvest operations start again in June.

Visitors are advised to avoid the stacked logs within the timber harvest areas. The stacks can shift and move, especially as the ground freezes and thaws. Firewood cutting is not allowed in the 2003 fire areas and includes the Robert and Wedge Canyon Fires in the North Fork of the Flathead and fire areas along the west side of Hungry Horse Reservoir. Firewood can be gathered with a valid firewood permit in the Moose Fire area that burned in 2001. During this time when roads are susceptible to damage from heavy vehicle loads, wood hauling is discouraged until roads firm up.

With the spring conditions several forest roads are currently closed to vehicle traffic until conditions change and roads firm up. The Beta Road #895H and the Doris Creek Road #895A along the west side of Hungry Horse Reservoir are closed to vehicle traffic. The McGinnis Creek Road #803 is closed to vehicle traffic at the main North Fork Road and the Whale Creek Road #318 in the upper North Fork is closed.

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Restrictions will be posted and could change daily on any forest road depending on weather conditions. Visitors are advised to call the Hungry Horse and Glacier View Ranger District Offices for the most current road conditions and restrictions.

As a reminder, snowmobiles aren't allowed on any road that is passable by motor vehicles; this includes plowed and unplowed roads if vehicles can still use the road. This does include the plowed section of the Westside Reservoir Road #895 from Hungry Horse Dam to the Doris Creek Road #895A. The road was plowed during the timber sale activities and there's no room at the end of this plowed section for turning trailers or parking.

For more information contact the Hungry Horse and Glacier View Ranger District Offices at, 406/387-3800.

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