



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Winter Salvage Operations and Temporary Travel Restrictions Begin

Winter operations on the Beta and McGinnis Salvage Timber Sales on the Hungry Horse Glacier View Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest are beginning and some restrictions for motor vehicle travel will be implemented in these areas. The Westside Reservoir Road, Forest Road #895, will be closed to all wheeled motorized traffic, but open to snowmobiles on weekends, beginning Monday, December 4. The first three miles of Forest Road #803, McGinnis Creek Road, and the sale area boundary will be closed to all motorized traffic, including snowmobiles beginning December 11. These restrictions are temporary, through the completion of salvage operations

Pyramid Lumber, the contractor for the Beta Sale, will plow the Westside Reservoir Road, Forest Road #895, to Doris Road, Forest Road #895A. Snowmobilers will be able to ride on Road #895 from midnight Fridays to midnight Sundays, and must park at the Hungry Horse Dam parking lot. Riders will share the road with contractor's vehicles; however, hauling will not occur on weekends.

Snowmobilers should ride with caution, minimize the number of vehicles and trips, ride at a prudent speed so they can react to other users on the road, stay to the right side of the road, ride single file and be alert for administrative traffic.

The sale areas and access roads the contractor will be working in will be closed to snowmobiling and signed appropriately. Hungry Horse Glacier View District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera said, "We appreciate Pyramid working with us so we can continue to provide for winter recreation. It is very important that snowmobilers ride with caution and control their speed on the plowed section of Road #895."

The contractor for the McGinnis Salvage Sale will plow Forest Road #803, McGinnis Creek Road, located off the North Fork Road, north of Columbia Falls. The road will be closed to all motorized traffic, including snowmobiles, beginning December 11. Although, snowmobilers will have access to the upper portion of Forest Road #803 from the Big Creek Road south to Forest Road #5271 where it connects to the groomed Canyon Creek system.

For more information about snowmobiling and salvage sale operations, contact the Hungry Horse Glacier View Ranger District at 387-3800.

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