



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Snowmobiling on Flathead National Forest

The Flathead National Forest offers almost 800,000 acres open to snowmobiling during the winter months in Northwest Montana. This includes groomed and ungroomed trail opportunities.

Snowmobile access information, including maps, are available from any forest service office. The free maps outline forest routes and also include information about groomed trails accessing state lands in the Flathead area. Maps are also available from the forest's website at www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead.

All snowmobiles ridden on public lands must be properly registered and include appropriate safety equipment. State law requires that over-the-snow machines are prohibited on roads being used by other motor vehicles. Roads plowed for motor vehicle use are not open to snowmobile travel. Out of state snowmachine users must obtain a state permit. Permits are available from various vendors in the area.

Designated wilderness, such as the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Mission Mountains Wildernesses, and the Jewel Basin Hiking Area are not open to snowmobiling. It is the individual operator's responsibility to know where they are on the forest and to abide by the latest motorized/non-motorized designations on the forest, regardless of the presence or absence of signs.

Snowmobilers, as well as any winter recreationist, should always stay current with the local weather conditions and avalanche danger. Various avalanche awareness classes will be held throughout the winter, including a basic avalanche awareness class on December 11, 8-9pm in Kalispell. Updated avalanche danger and information, as well as class information, are available at www.glacieravalanche.org or by contacting the Forest Service at 758-5204.

In partnership with the Forest, the Flathead Snowmobile Association and the Cutbank Snowgoers groom several trail systems in the area. A recent Flathead Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant allowed for grooming equipment to be purchased and used by the Flathead Snowmobile Association.

Flathead National Forest snow rangers, stationed across the forest, will provide information, including posting maps at various snowmobile parking areas, this snow season. The snow rangers are also monitoring winter recreation use. Aerial and ground patrols will be conducted throughout the winter on the forest.

Enjoy the Flathead National Forest for your winter recreation adventures! Please remember to respect the rights of all users, and share the trails and the forest.

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