

	Flathead National Forest	Media Release
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Shared Use on West-Side Reservoir Road

Forest Road #895 along the west side of Hungry Horse Reservoir will be shared by snowmobiles and administrative use by the logging contractors accessing the Beta Timber Sale from midnight Fridays to midnight Sundays starting February 11th. Snowmobilers will share the road template with administrative wheeled traffic for approximately 3.5 miles along the Westside Reservoir Road to the Beta Road intersection. There will be no log hauling on the weekends.

Forest Road #895 remains closed 7 days a week to general public wheeled motorized travel. The Beta Road #895H will be closed to snowmobile travel 7 days a week since the contractor will be helicopter logging.

New signs will be posted at the Hungry Horse Dam parking lot and along Forest Road #895 to warn users of the coincident use. 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 keep an eye out for the administrative traffic. It is also important when snowmobilers park their vehicles in the Hungry Horse Dam parking lot they do not block the roadway or the access to the West Side Reservoir Road. Pyramid Lumber, the logging contractor, will work with their employees to be aware of the snowmobiling traffic, drive with caution, and stay to the right as well.

Hungry Horse and Glacier View District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera said, "The Forest Service worked with Pyramid Lumber so snowmobile recreation could continue on this portion of Road #895. We absolutely need the snowmobilers to ride with caution, control their speed, and be aware of the vehicle traffic."

DeHerrera continued, "We normally do not allow for coincident use, however, the circumstances for this specific situation enabled us to entertain both uses. We want to provide for recreation and we expect the riders to snowmobile in a responsible and prudent manner. If they don't, we'll be forced to close the area until salvage operations are complete."

As the purchaser/contractor moves between units on the Beta Sale, the situation may change, so snowmobilers should stay informed. For more information about this coincident route contact the Hungry Horse and Glacier View District at 387-3800.

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