

	<b>Flathead National Forest</b>	<b>Media Release</b>
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February 5, 2007

Contact: Denise Germann  
406-758-5252  
406-249-1714 cell

## Robert Fire Area Closure Rescinded, Firewood Gathering Allowed

Salvage logging activities related to the 2003 Robert Fire on the Flathead National Forest, north of Columbia Falls, have been completed. The temporary road closure on the McGinnis Creek Road, Forest Road #803, has been rescinded. During salvage operations the first three miles of the road were plowed. The road will not be plowed and it is anticipated that the road will snow shut until late spring.

The Robert Fire area is available for firewood gathering, including several slash piles, with a valid Forest Service firewood permit. To avoid cutting in the wild and scenic river corridor, please stay to the west of the North Fork Road in the fire area, and comply with the requirements of the permit. Firewood permits are available at any Forest Service office, as well as several vendors throughout the Flathead Valley.

Wheeled motorized vehicles should use caution and be aware of winter driving conditions. Roads that are passable by wheeled vehicles should not be used by snowmobiles. Wheeled vehicles should not attempt to use snowmobile trails.

For more information about winter travel or firewood gathering on the Hungry Horse-Glacier View Districts, contact the district at 387-3800.

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