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Tally Lake District Successful in Managing Noxious Weed

The Tally Lake District of the Flathead National Forest is opening Forest Road #538B, the Sylvia Lake Road, on a permanent basis. For the past twelve years the road has been closed due to an infestation of the noxious weed tansy ragwort following the Little Wolf Fire in 1994. Since 2005, this road has been open only during June and July to provide better public access to Sylvia Lake.

Ingalls Mountain Road, Forest Road #2925, connecting Sylvia Lake Road with Griffin Creek Road, Forest Road #538, is also open on a permanent basis. Wheeled travel is restricted to the roads, although foot and horse travel is allowed off road. Firewood cutting is not allowed in these areas.

Tally Lake District Ranger Lisa Krueger said, "We are pleased to have successfully managed the tansy ragwort in the Little Wolf Fire area and we are even more pleased to open these roads to the public on a permanent basis." Krueger continued, "We appreciate the public's cooperation in staying on designated roads and trails to help manage this noxious weed."

In the late 1990s, tansy ragwort covered over 1,000 acres of the Tally Lake District. Control efforts have reduced the infestation to small patches across the district. The Forest Service plans to continue monitoring the area for noxious weed management.

When prevalent, tansy ragwort is one of the most common causes of poisoning in cattle and horses. Milk produced by affected cows and goats can contain toxins.

For more information about the Sylvia Lake and Ingalls Mountain Roads, please contact the Tally Lake District Office at 863-5400.

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