



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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General Snowmobiling Season Ends on Forest March 31

The general snowmobiling season on approximately 787,000 acres of the Flathead National Forest ends Monday, March 31. Of this area, 52,400 acres are available for extended spring seasons;

- Groomed routes in the Canyon Creek area until April 15,
- 3,100 acres at Sixmile until April 30,
- 17,500 acres at Challenge/Skyland area until May 15, and
- 31,800 acres in the Lost Johnny area until May 31.

Snowmobiles can continue to access the summit of Big Mountain at Whitefish Mountain Resort via the Canyon Creek Groomed Trail through the end of the ski area season. After the resort closes for the winter season, April 6, all snowmobile access to the summit of the mountain will be closed. From April 1 – 15, riders are restricted to the groomed Canyon Creek Trail corridor only.

Forest roads, including the roads that lead to the late season snowmobiling areas, may have soft surfaces and spring driving conditions. Please drive with care and respect any temporary road closures or restrictions that may be in place during spring break up conditions.

Snowmobile maps are available from any Flathead National Forest Office, as well as on the forest website, www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead. The maps are free and provide information about routes, groomed trails and season.

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 all travel management regulations.

Winter avalanche conditions remain in the mountains of Northwest Montana. Over the past month, unseasonable avalanche activity has been happening and all backcountry recreationists are reminded to stay current with local weather conditions and avalanche danger. Visit www.glaiceravalanche.org for more information about hazard evaluations, snowpack conditions and weather forecasts.

For more information about snowmobiling on the Flathead National Forest please call 758-5208.

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