



## Flathead National Forest

## Media Release

November 16, 2005

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### Illegal Motorized Use Violates Area Closure for Wildlife Protection and Damages Trail

Two individuals were recently caught for illegal motorized use in the Krause Basin area on the Swan Lake Ranger District of Flathead National Forest. Jason Townley of Kalispell was fined \$200 for operating an All Terrain Vehicle within the Krause Basin closure area. The Krause Basin motorized vehicle closure, in place since 1988, is designed to provide wildlife security during hunting season from September 1 through November 30. Motorized use is also restricted in the area from April 1 to July 1 during the time grizzly bears emerge from their dens.

A juvenile driving a motorcycle, damaged the newly constructed Krause Basin Interpretive Trail, located off the Strawberry Lake road. Motorized use is not allowed on the trail so the smooth surface design can accommodate wheelchairs in addition to regular foot traffic. The juvenile motorcycle operator was issued a warning and repaired the damage done to the trail. "It is very disappointing that this new trail, built with hundreds of volunteer hours from local citizens, was damaged in the first season it was open because someone didn't follow the rules," said District Ranger Steve Brady.

The Forest Service plans to continue patrol of these areas and encourages forest visitors to report violations of road, trail or area closures. According to Brady, "There continues to an element of motorized users that do not pay attention to restrictions and these incidents create consequences both to the violators and to the natural resources we all care about." Forest visitors are asked to check on road and trail restrictions before they head out to ride. Maps and closure information are available at Forest Service offices.

For more information about the Krause Basin closure and to report any violations contact the Swan Lake Ranger District, 406/837-7500.

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