



## FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Recreation Sites and Trail Conditions Update

For visitors planning a trip to the Forest over the holiday weekend, campgrounds are open and most trails clear of snow, though visitors may encounter downed trees, some snow patches and wet conditions, especially in higher elevations. The boat ramps around Hungry Horse Reservoir are accessible. Forest visitors are reminded to leave their fireworks at home. Fireworks are illegal to possess on National Forest lands.

Campers may expect full service at all fee campgrounds, Swan Lake and Holland Lake in the Swan Valley; Tally Lake near Whitefish; Big Creek in the North Fork; Devil Creek near Essex; Lost Johnny Camp and Point, Lid Creek, Murray and Emery Bay Campgrounds along Hungry Horse Reservoir; and the Spotted Bear Campground. Campsites have vault toilets, picnic tables and fire grates. Drinking water is available at all sites except Lid Creek and Murray Bay. Come prepared to pack out your garbage, only a few sites offer garbage service.

The Lindbergh Lake Campground, about 56 miles south of Bigfork in the Swan Valley, is open after being closed this spring for reconstruction work. Toilets, picnic tables, fire grates and bear resistant food storage boxes available at site. Bring along your own drinking water and be prepared to pack out your garbage.

The road into the Jewel Basin Hiking Area is open, though the road is very rough. Hikers can access areas within the Jewel including Birch and Clayton Lakes, though there's snow in many places east of the Swan Mountain Range and along the crest.

Along Hungry Horse Reservoir within the Ball Fire Area, there are some road, motorized trail and area closures because of the on-going mushroom harvest. The Hemlock Trails in the Mission Mountains within the Crazy Horse Fire Area are closed while crews work to repair the two trails.

Use caution when traveling through any of the burned areas. Burned standing trees can fall down unexpectedly. Watch for loose rock and slippery footing on the ash covered soils. Avoid camping in burned areas because of the potential hazard from falling trees.

Lower elevation trails are clear of snow, but trail crews still working to clear trails. On the Hungry Horse Ranger District, the Big River Trail, #155, Granite Creek Trail, #156 and the Morrison Creek Trail, #154 are open into the Great Bear Wilderness. The trail into Stanton Lake is open.

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On the Tally Lake Ranger District, the Danny On trail on Big Mountain is open and mostly cleared of snow except around Flower Point, just east of the summit. Visit the Forest Service and Big Mountain Education Center located at the summit of Big Mountain. The center is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through September 30. The center features displays, hands-on activities, wildflower walks and daily slide programs.

On the Spotted Bear Ranger District, the Gorge Creek Trail, #218 is open into Sunburst Lake from the east. A 3-mile stretch of the Holbrook Creek Trail, #131, in the South Fork of the Flathead, east of Holbrook Cabin, is not recommended for travel because of slumping along the trail in the burned area. Visitors may encounter significant downed trees, snowy areas in many places and slumping along hillside trails within the burned areas.

On the Swan Lake Ranger District, the Gordon Pass Trail, #35 is open to upper Holland Lake, the Holland Falls Trail #416 is open and the Holland Lake Connector, Trail #415 is open; trail is very steep and narrow, so travel with care.

Don't let an unexpected visit from a bear spoil your weekend. Campers are reminded to keep all food including pet and livestock feed away from bears. Store your food and garbage in your vehicle trunk or cab. If in the backcountry, store items in a bear resistant container or hang at least 10 feet up and 4 feet out from a support, like a tree.

For specific information about road, trail and camping conditions, call the individual Ranger District offices, Hungry Horse/Glacier View, 387-3800; Swan Lake, 837-7500; Tally Lake, 863-5400; Spotted Bear, 758-5376; or the Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office at 758-5208.

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