



FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

NEWS RELEASE

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Public Comment Requested for Round Meadows Road Management

The Tally Lake District of the Flathead National Forest is proposing to close the Round Meadows Road, Forest Service Road #2916, to motorized use year round due to an increase in safety concerns of the various users. Currently, the Round Meadows Road is open to motorized use only in July and August, with the entire year open to non-motorized uses such as hiking, bicycling, equestrian, cross-country skiing and snow shoeing.

The non-motorized use of the Round Meadows Trail System has increased, as well as the safety issues. Tally Lake District Ranger Lisa Krueger said, "The area is a very popular non-motorized use area and we are looking at ways to manage the area in light of the increased use and increased safety issues." Some of the existing trails were upgraded and new trails were added for mountain bike and cross-country ski use this summer.

Firewood gathering along the road may be available when conditions warrant if the management proposal of year-round motorized closure is implemented.

Public comments regarding the management of the Round Meadows Road should be submitted by September 17, 2004, and addressed to Becky Smith-Powell, Tally Lake District Office, 1335 Highway 93 West, Whitefish, MT 59937.

The Round Meadows Trail System is popular area where dogs are allowed on the trail. However, some tips to keep dogs welcome on the Round Meadow Trail System are:

- Control your dog- dogs must be on leash, or very friendly and obey voice commands, and
- Remove all dog droppings from the trails and roadways.

All recreation enthusiasts are reminded to please respect other users and share the trails. For more information about recreation use on the Tally Lake District, please contact the district at 863-5400.

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