



## Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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### **Flathead National Forest Seeks Recreation Trails Grant for Snowranger Program**

The Flathead National Forest is applying for a 2006 Recreation Trails Program Grant through Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to continue the successful snowranger program on the forest. The program provides education and safety information to winter recreationists across the forest.

From December to April, snowrangers provide information at winter recreation trailheads and parking lots, posting maps and avalanche safety information on bulletin boards and making personal contacts with forest visitors. Snowrangers patrol the winter trail system and “play areas” talking with visitors about safety, trail conditions and proper trail and area use.

According to District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera, snowrangers contacted over 250 winter recreationists last winter. “It’s important for the Forest Service to be out on the trails and at trailheads to offer winter safety and use information. The Recreation Trails Program grant helps to make that possible,” said DeHerrera.

For more information or to comment on the snowranger program, contact Paula Peterson at the Hungry Horse Ranger District, 406-387-3818.

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