



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Temporary Closures and Limited Access in Timber Salvage Areas

Temporary road, trail and area closures for public safety are in effect for the Hornet and Depuy Timber Salvage Sale areas in the North Fork of the Flathead and in the Beta Salvage Sale area along the west-side of Hungry Horse Reservoir on the Flathead National Forest.

The salvage projects are harvesting timber affected by the 2003 wildland fires. The closures are in place for public safety during helicopter operations. The length of the closures will vary so the public is encouraged to contact the Forest Service for updated information.

The Hornet Salvage Sale is located about 30 miles north of Columbia Falls, in the Hornet Mountain area. The closure includes roads, trails and portions of roads and trails within the sale area, including, but not limited to:

Forest Road #318, Whale Creek Road,
Forest Road #907, Tepee Creek Road
Forest Road #1671, Whale Creek Moose Creek Road
Forest Road #9805, Hornet Creek, and
Forest Road Trail #349, trail to Hornet Lookout.

With the closure hikers and horseback riders will need to access the Whitefish Divide Trail #26, Whale Lake (Trail #11) and Huntsberger Lake (Trail #374) from the west on the Kootenai National Forest and the Stillwater State Forest. Hikers will need to find alternate trails or routes while the Whale Creek Road is closed, limiting access to the Whale Creek Trailhead that serves the Inuya Pass Trail #79, Ninko and Thompson-Seton Trail #28, the Seemo pass Trail #22, the Cleft Rock Trail #13 and the Antley Creek Trail #106.

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The Depuy Salvage Sale is located about 8 miles north of Columbia Falls. The closure includes roads and trails and portions of roads and trails within the sale area, including but not limited to:

- Forest Road #316, Big Creek/Canyon Creek Road
- Forest Road #316B, Kimmerly Creek Road
- Forest Road #316D, South Fork Canyon Creek Road
- Forest Road #5224, Deputy Ridge Road
- Forest Road #5225, Depuy Creek Road
- Forest Service Trail #565, Kimmerly**

With the closure, hikers won't be able to access the Smokey Range Trail #270 and Smokey Range Access Trail #274.

The Beta Salvage Sale is located directly south of Hungry Horse Dam. The closure includes roads, trails and portions of roads and trails within the sale area, including:

- Forest Road #895A, Doris Creek Road
- Forest Road #895H Aurora Basin Road
- Forest Road #1601 Beta Creek Road, and
- Forest Road #9676 Endor Creek Headwaters Road

Timber hauling is also taking place in the post-fire areas. Expect increased truck traffic on the North Fork Road, north of Columbia Falls, and on the Westside Reservoir Road, south of Hungry Horse Dam, along the reservoir, as well as many of the tributary roads.

For the most updated information including maps, please contact the Hungry Horse District Office at 387-3800 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead.

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