



## Flathead National Forest

## Media Release

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Contact: Denise Germann  
(406) 758-5252  
(406) 249-1714 cell

### Firewood Cutting Not Allowed on Westside Reservoir Road

The Westside Reservoir Road, Flathead National Forest Service Road #895, is closed to firewood cutting, and all associated activities, including cabling and felling of trees, effective Friday, September 14.

This closure only applies to the paved portion of the road, approximately the first 11 miles past the Hungry Horse Dam.

Hungry Horse – Glacier View District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera said, “This closure is in response to some unsafe and irresponsible firewood cutting activities and resource damage occurring in the area.” This section of the Westside Hungry Horse Reservoir Road receives heavy traffic. Steep slopes and cliffs are common above the road where firewood cutters are dropping trees that are falling to the pavement. DeHerrera said, “Dropping trees on the road is unsafe and road damage is occurring.”

Firewood cutters and gatherers on the Flathead National Forest must have a US Forest Service firewood permit and adhere to the conditions of the permit.

DeHerrera said, “We remind all firewood permit holders to comply with the permit, specifically regarding cable yarding distances, leaving marked wildlife trees, staying out of riparian areas, and scattering slash appropriately.” Firewood cutters and

gathers are also reminded that roads should not be blocked by vehicles or firewood cutting equipment and materials.

Firewood permits for the Flathead National Forest can be purchased at any Forest Service Office, as well as several vendors in the area. An initial permit is \$20 and is good for four cords of wood. An individual may purchase a maximum of 12 cords per year. The permit is valid through March 31, 2008. Firewood obtained under these permits may not be used for commercial resale.

For more information about fire wood permits on the Flathead National Forest contact the Hungry Horse – Glacier View Ranger District Office at 387-3800.

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