



FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

NEWS RELEASE

May 23, 2005

Contact: Denise Germann
758-5252
249-1714

Tally Lake District Opens Road to Sylvia Lake and Continues to Manage Noxious Weed Tansy Ragwort

The Tally Lake District of the Flathead National Forest is opening Forest Road #538B, the Sylvia Lake Road, through the end of July to provide better public access to Sylvia Lake. The road has been closed due to an infestation of the noxious weed tansy ragwort. Only on-road travel will be allowed. Firewood cutting and any off-road use will not be allowed along or off of the Sylvia Lake Road, as it will add to the spread of the weed and diminish the progress that has taken place in managing the noxious weed. All travel on other road spurs off of the Sylvia Lake Road is not allowed.

Tally Lake District Ranger Lisa Krueger said, "The Forest Service, in partnership with other cooperators, has been successful in controlling the tansy ragwort in this area and we hope to maintain this control." Krueger continued, "We will continue to monitor and manage the noxious weed situation in this area, and with the public's cooperation, we hope to open the Sylvia Lake Road seasonally for the next few years and perhaps permanently in the future."

When prevalent, tansy ragwort is one of the most common causes of poisoning in cattle and horses. Milk produced by affected cows and goats can contain toxins. Krueger said, "The control of the tansy ragwort is a high priority for us." The weed spreads easily, especially with the transport of the seed via tires and footwear.

For more information about the Sylvia Lake Road and the management of tansy ragwort on the Tally Lake District, please contact the district office at 863-5400.

-END-