
Bozeman Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
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Hyalite Drainage Opens – Cleanup Efforts Underway

Bozeman, MT... Hyalite drainage will open Friday, May 12, in time for the Mother's Day weekend. The road will be opened to the Blackmore recreation site on the west side of Hyalite Reservoir but closed beyond the dam crossing due to soft road beds and snowy road conditions making Hood and Chisholm campgrounds, and Palisade and Grotto Falls trailheads inaccessible by vehicle.

Before the road can be opened, rocks and debris had to be cleared away. In addition, truck loads of trash needed to be cleaned up and removed. This past Tuesday and Wednesday a backhoe worked in the drainage to remove rocks and trees off the main road and to clean out ditches and debris. The road crew is also repairing and replacing damaged road signs that have been vandalized.

Forest Service workers were joined by members of the SouthWest Climbers Coalition Tuesday to help clean up carcasses, garbage, shot gun shells, clay pigeons, and various types of burned up furniture. The amount of trash and apparent disrespect for the environment was an eye opener to all of those involved in this effort.

"Hyalite is a popular place for climbers. We are concerned about the impacts users have on the area and like to do our part to help ensure the drainage is taken care of," said Tom Kalakay, SouthWest Climbers Coalition Executive Director. "The littering and abuse seems to be increasing. Every pullout or wide spot in the road was impacted by trash and litter or had been vandalized in some way. Hyalite is a prime resource for people in the Gallatin Valley, there has to be some way we can all participate in preserving this area. It is up to each of our user groups to ensure we're promoting responsible stewardship if not for ourselves then for the user groups we represent."

"We really appreciate the assistance we received in this clean-up effort. Hyalite Canyon is being loved to death. The high number of users, coupled with the abuse the drainage receives from some individuals made it necessary to close and clean-up the area," said Jose Castro, Bozeman District Ranger. "We received many calls from concerned individuals after closing the drainage and understand the public's interest and concern for this close to town resource."

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About 1/4 of the reservoir is open water. The remaining ice is thin and dangerous. No side roads are open yet due to spring conditions including soft roadbeds and snow. Langohr Campground will remain closed for the summer for maintenance and renovation.

For additional information please contact the Bozeman Ranger District, 406-522-2520.

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