News Release



For Immediate Release Contact: Marna Daley, (406) 570-5526

Date: January 3, 2008

Hyalite Road Is Open

Bozeman, MT... The Gallatin National Forest has opened Hyalite Road #62 beyond Blackmore Parking Area. This portion of the road (Blackmore to Grotto Falls Trailhead) was temporarily closed after being inadvertently plowed on December 27th to allow the Forest some time to assess safety issues resulting from the plowing.

"The road beyond the Blackmore Parking Area is a single lane route. Plowing this portion of the road concentrated snowmobiles, vehicles, and non-motorized users in a small area," said Jose Castro, Bozeman District Ranger. "The Forest was very concerned about potential safety issues and needed some time to assess the situation. We chose to close the gate above the dam for a couple days while we talked to users and reviewed the situation. We concluded that opening the gate to allow continued vehicle use will be safe if recreationists drive cautiously and courteously."

The Hyalite road may not be plowed again this winter unless safety road design and access issues can be resolved. The road will remain open to all users until weather conditions result in safety issues and concerns that cannot be mitigated. For additional information please contact the Bozeman Ranger District at (406) 522-2520.

-FS-

