



NEWS RELEASE

Lolo National Forest

United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Lolo National Forest
Building 24, Fort Missoula
Missoula, Montana 59804

www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo

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Area Closure Signed for Sawmill Gulch Work Area

Missoula, MT. – An Area Closure for a portion of the work area of the Sawmill II Fuels Reduction project on the Missoula Ranger District was signed today by the Forest Supervisor of the Lolo National Forest. The order will remain in effect through September 30 this year.

The order will close trail 24.5, which is northwest of the Sawmill trailhead, Monday-Friday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. All other trails in the Sawmill Gulch area will remain open. Closure area maps will be posted today at the Sawmill Gulch trailhead and a map will also soon be posted on the forest website, under Current Conditions.

The Sawmill II project is a collaborative effort supported by the local chapter of the Sierra Club, Society of American Foresters, and local residents in the Rattlesnake area. The project objective is fuel reduction to reduce the potential for high intensity crown fire.

Missoula Ranger District officials cited potential safety concerns associated with heavy equipment operation and recreation traffic as the reason for the closure. For more information please contact the Lolo National Forest Public Affairs Office at (406) 329-1024.

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