



NEWS RELEASE

Lolo National Forest

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United States
Department of Agriculture

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

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Spring Road Closure Order in Effect to Prevent Road Damage

Missoula, MT. – The Lolo National Forest has a Special Order in effect that prohibits the use of motorized vehicles on roads across the forest as spring conditions begin to thaw and soften road beds, allowing the potential for road damage, rutting, and sediment runoff. The Closure Order is intended to prevent resource damage and will remain in effect until July 15, 2008. Road surfaces should be improved at that time, with the gradual warming and drying of the road surfaces.

The roads included in the closure order are across the forest, on all five Ranger Districts. Ranger Districts may move the closure point higher along some roads before the July 15 order is rescinded, as conditions allow. For a list of the road numbers and locations, please see the Lolo National Forest website, under Current Conditions <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/>.

Forest officials stressed the importance of abiding by road closures, especially as mushroom harvest season arrives in western Montana.

“It’s important for people to respect the Closure Order and not travel behind closed gates or where signs are posted,” said Gary Garthwait, Lolo National Forest Program Officer for Infrastructure and Operations. “We know we are going to have a lot of mushroom harvesters on the forest during this critical period of spring breakup and so it is important for all forest visitors to understand the potential resource damage and the importance of not traveling on a closed road. The best thing for people to do is to contact an individual Ranger District or see the website to find out exactly what roads are affected – and to pay attention to closed road signs when they come across them.”

For more information, contact the Lolo National Forest Public Affairs Office at (406) 320-1024.

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