



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Citations Issued for Krause Basin Area on National Forest

The Swan Lake District of the Flathead National Forest recently cited three individuals, Issac Johnston of Kalispell, Devin Schmit of Columbia Falls and Aaron Devries of Columbia Falls, for separate incidents of illegal use of a motorized vehicle in a closed area. All incidents happened in the Krause Basin Area Closure that is seasonally closed to motorized use for grizzly bear security.

One citation resulted when private citizens notified the Forest Service about illegal use they witnessed and provided valuable information, including license plate numbers. The other individuals were in violation as Forest Service personnel conducted routine patrols of the area. The fine for each violation is \$200.

Swan Lake District Ranger Steve Brady said, “People need to be aware that violations of motorized use restrictions can be harmful to wildlife and bring negative publicity to legitimate motorized uses.” Brady continued, “Repeated offenses may lead to more restrictive actions and increased penalties.”

The Krause Basin area is closed April 1 to July 1 each year to all motorized use. This closure helps provide secure areas for grizzly bears after emergence from the den. Motorized use is also restricted in Krause Basin from September 1 to November 30 to provide wildlife security during the fall hunting season.

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