



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Snowmobilers to be Cited on Flathead National Forest

An avalanche occurred in the Jewel Basin Hiking Area of the Flathead National Forest, late afternoon, Thursday, March 1. The area is located approximately 15 miles east of Kalispell.

Three individuals riding snowmobiles were in the Jewel Basin at the time of the avalanche.

Jewel Basin is a non-motorized area, and has been for approximately 25 years. All motorized use, including snowmobiling is prohibited in this area, as well as designated wilderness such as the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Mission Mountain Wildernesses.

Citations and fines up to \$5000 will be issued if a snowmobiler is found in these closed areas. The three individuals snowmobiling in Jewel Basin will be cited.

The Flathead National Forest has approximately 787,000 acres available for snowmobile use. It is the rider's responsibility to know where open snowmobile terrain is. Riders are reminded to be prepared for winter backcountry recreation, including awareness

about avalanche and snow conditions, avalanche and rescue gear, and open accessible terrain.

Please visit www.glacieravalanche.org or call 406-257-8402 for avalanche information in Northwest Montana. For more information about snowmobiling on the Flathead National Forest, contact one of the local Forest Service Offices in Kalispell, Hungry Horse, Bigfork or Whitefish.

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