



# NEWS RELEASE

## Lolo National Forest

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United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
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## Second Break-in Reported at Pattee Canyon Trailhead

Missoula, MT. – Law enforcement officers with the Lolo National Forest are urging the public to take precautions at local trailheads after two recent break-ins at the main Pattee Canyon parking area. Both break-ins resulted in the loss of valuables after vehicle windows were broken and items inside the vehicle passenger compartments were taken. The first incident was March 11 and another was reported yesterday (March 26).

The two incidents are a concern to law enforcement officers because both took place in the fairly busy Pattee Canyon main trailhead and there appeared to be no attempt to check for an unlocked door.

“The long and short of it is that these individuals are being more brazen, they are breaking the windows to gain entry – they’re being quick and dirty,” said Lolo National Forest law enforcement officer Becky Agner.

Agner said people can take simple precautions to avoid being a victim of a break-in. She recommended the following:

- Leave valuables at home
- Avoid leaving personal belongings such as backpacks in your vehicle
- If you must leave belongings in your vehicle make sure they are not visible
- Always lock your doors and trunk

Agner said the public can also play an important role in preventing this type of crime by reporting suspicious activity at trailheads to Missoula/Mineral County Crimestoppers (721-4444), their local sheriff’s office or Lolo National Forest law enforcement officers. Agner’s phone number is (406) 329-1025. If people see a crime in progress they should call 911.

In 2008 on the Lolo National Forest most reported break-ins were on the Missoula Ranger District. Agner said those incidents were spread fairly evenly across the Rattlesnake Wilderness and National Recreation Area parking trailhead, Blue Mountain trailhead, and Pattee Canyon. She said there is typically an increase in vehicle break-ins in the spring. This year there has been only one incident prior to the two recent break-ins at Pattee Canyon.

For additional information please contact the Lolo National Forest Public Affairs Office at (406) 329-1024.

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