



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

March 30, 2009

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General Snowmobiling Season Ends on Forest March 31

The general snowmobiling season on approximately 800,000 acres of the Flathead National Forest ends Tuesday, March 31. Several areas remain open for late season snowmobiling as conditions permit;

- Groomed routes in the Canyon Creek area through April 14,
- Sixmile Area through April 30,
- Challenge/Skyland area through May 14, and
- Lost Johnny area through May 31.

Over-snow access is also available, as conditions permit, on open designated roads unless the road is plowed or driveable by conventional motorized vehicles.

The 'slump' on Forest Road #316B, Kimmerly Creek, located on the Canyon Creek Trail System, is starting to melt out. The Glacier View and Hungry Horse Ranger District does not recommend riding on this portion of the trail.

Snowmobiles can continue to access the summit of Big Mountain at Whitefish Mountain Resort via the Canyon Creek Groomed Trail through the end of the ski area season. After the resort closes for the winter season, April 5, all snowmobile access to the summit of the mountain will be closed at the ski area boundary. From April 1 – 14, riders are restricted to the groomed Canyon Creek Trail corridor only.

Free over-snow vehicle use maps are available from any Flathead National Forest Office, or at www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead. The maps provide information about routes and groomed trails. The open and closed areas are clearly marked, in addition to information about snowmobile seasons. It is the rider's responsibility to know where open snowmobile terrain is on the ground.

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Designated wilderness, such as the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Mission Mountains Wildernesses, and the Jewel Basin Hiking Area are not open to snowmobiling. It is the individual operator's responsibility to know where they are on the forest and to abide by all travel management regulations.

Through the extended season, the Forest will continue with snowmobile-use monitoring efforts through aerial flights and the work of Forest snow rangers and law enforcement officers. Snow rangers work with snowmobilers, including local and regional clubs, to communicate responsible riding on the forest. Forest personnel have handed out hundreds of over-snow vehicle use maps, staffed access points and trailhead parking areas and have posted access points with information for all winter recreationists. Responsible riders are encouraged to communicate any illegal activity to their local Forest Service office.

All backcountry recreationists are reminded to stay current with local weather conditions and avalanche danger. Visit <http://www.glacieravalanche.org/> or call 257-8402 for the current avalanche advisory and conditions.

For more information about snowmobiling on the Flathead National Forest, please contact your local Forest Service office.

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