

---

---

# Gallatin National Forest News Release



---

For Immediate Release  
Date: February 5, 2007

Contact: Marna Daley, 406-587-6703

## **Low Snow Pack in the Front Country Results in Wilderness Trespass**

Low snow levels in and around the Gallatin National Forest are resulting in snowmobilers seeking fresh, untracked snow in areas they normally would not ride. However, some of these areas lie within federally protected wilderness areas where all motorized and mechanized use is prohibited.

Use of motorized or mechanized equipment in any Congressionally-designated Wilderness, such as the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses, is prohibited by law. Recently, snow rangers cited three local snowmobilers for riding in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness in the Upper Tepee Basin portion of the Hebgen Ranger District.

“Snow rangers maintain trails, post signs, monitor use, and provide information for increasing numbers of winter users,” said Bill Queen, Hebgen Lake District Ranger. “Another important thing they do is address issues surrounding trespasses into closed areas and Wilderness. The wilderness boundaries are marked with orange signs, although the best thing to do is “know before you go” and carry a map and know your location at all times.”

Notices of Violation issued for Wilderness incursions typically carry a fine of \$500 per ticket.

-FS-



10 East Babcock Ave., PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>