



# News Release

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Forest Service  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## VANDALS RETURN TO LITTLE BELT MOUNTAINS

Vandals struck a Dry Fork Belt Creek recreation site in the Little Belt Mountains over the weekend. This is the second round of major vandalism at this site in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Miscreants ripped the door off the outhouse and blasted fixtures and walls of the building, making it unusable and unsafe. The facility will be removed immediately and will not be replaced for some time.

"I wonder if the folks doing this know that it will be their tax dollars being used to replace this structure?" questioned forest facility engineer Mike Diemert. According to Diemert, to replace the outhouse to modern standards and codes will cost about \$12,000.

Belt Creek recreation staff officer, John Metrione, reported additional vandalism and thefts have occurred in the same area throughout the summer. Removal of **several "Pack It In Pack It Out"** signs and theft of an entire entrance bulletin board and treated posts, as well as, shooting numerous trailhead and travel management signs round out the illegal activity damaging the recreational site.

Forest Service officials are offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) who vandalized the structures or stole signage from the area.

Earlier damage to the same recreational site had been repaired by volunteer groups. To report information on this vandalism, call John Metrione, (406) 236-5511.

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