
NEWS RELEASE

Lolo National Forest
Missoula County Sheriff's Office
Montana Highway Patrol

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Law Enforcement Agencies Urge Caution in Seeley Lake Area

Seeley Lake, MT – Law enforcement officers with the Lolo National Forest, the Montana Highway Patrol, and the Missoula County Sheriff's Department are urging motorists and recreational users to use caution in the Seeley Lake area due to the presence of both recreational and highway traffic.

Weekend and holiday traffic can take many forms in the Seeley Lake area, from vehicles towing campers and boats to pedestrians walking along local streets. Additional traffic can come in the form of ATV's crossing Highway 83, where traffic travels up to 70 mph. Wildlife also frequently cross the highway, creating the potential for an additional hazard for both drivers and animals.

The multiple jurisdiction and safety responsibility for the area rests with officers of the Forest Service, Montana Highway Patrol, and Missoula County Sheriff's Department.

“Our law enforcement agencies and officers must work closely to ensure a safe environment for the motorized and non-motorized traveling public,” said Seeley Lake District Ranger Tim Love. “But it's also important for the public to be aware of Forest Service law and rules in and around trails and campgrounds – as well as the local and state traffic laws.”

Law enforcement officers are reminding the public of the following requirements and safety tips:

- Watch for stopped vehicles waiting to turn into campgrounds or other recreation areas
- Ensure that trailer lights and turn signals are hooked up and working properly
- When operating ATV's, motorcycles or OHV's on public roads (including roads within Forest Service campgrounds and recreation areas) a vehicle must be street legal by having a license plate, headlight with high and low beam, taillight and reflector, brake light, at least one operable brake (hand or foot), horn, rear-view mirror, muffler with no modifications and a spark arrester. People operating ATV's and OHV's must also have a valid driver's license, and people operating motorcycles must have a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement
- Under state law, helmets are required for passengers or operators of OHV's or motorcycles who are under 18
- Be alert for animals crossing the road, especially in the early morning and evening hours
- Be aware that the asphalt trails built through Seeley Lake along Highway 83 and along Boy Scout Road are for non-motorized use only (except for snowmobiles).

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