



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Temporary Closure in Cedar Flats Area

The Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest is temporarily closing the Cedar Flats area north of Columbia Falls to motorized vehicles **off of system roads** due to wet and muddy conditions. This temporary closure will be in effect until the area dries and the potential for resource damage is reduced. Forest Roads #10815 (Cedar Flats Road), #10816, and #5285 remain open to motorized travel.

Hungry Horse – Glacier View District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera said, “The area is just too wet for motorized travel, and resource damage is occurring due to the off-road motorized activities in the area. Full-size vehicles have been driving these routes and causing many of the issues by leaving deep ruts in the muddy conditions.”

The District plans to release a draft environmental assessment that proposes designating motorized trails in this Cedar Flats area in near future. The draft assessment will detail seasons of activity for this trail system to avoid similar issues in the future. DeHerrera cautions motorized users to respect the closure and not to jeopardize the long-term designation of trails in the area.

Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers will be increasing their presence in this area and fines will be issued for those violating the temporary closure. To report motorized use in the closure area or for more information, contact the Hungry Horse–Glacier View Ranger District at 387-3800.

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