



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

April 27, 2010

Contact: Denise Germann
(406) 758-5252
(406) 249-1714 cell

Glacier Rim Gravel Pit Closed to Shooting

The Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest is closing the Glacier Rim Gravel Pit to shooting, due to safety and health issues. The pit is located approximately nine miles north of Columbia Falls on National Forest System Lands.

Hungry Horse District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera said, “It is very unfortunate that irresponsible and disrespectful actions of some users have created an unsafe situation leading to this closure.”

According to DeHerrera, the site has historically been open to shooting. Despite efforts by the Forest Service over the past few years of working with users, and repeatedly communicating forest target shooting rules and encouraging safe use, activities continue to be unsafe and unacceptable. DeHerrera said, “I welcome any ideas from responsible users on how to reach the disrespectful and irresponsible users, and make a positive change.”

Specific actions that prompted the closure include:

- Dumping debris at the site, including items that were brought in as a shooting target such as kitchen appliances,
- Disposing of wildlife and pet carcasses,
- Using a closed area as a shooting lane,
- Shooting toward the North Fork Road,
- Vandalism of signs and bulletin boards, and
- Shooting when the area has been occupied by others.

Target shooting rules on the Flathead National Forest include:

- No shooting within 150 yards of buildings, campgrounds, and occupied areas (where people are),

- No shooting across or toward roads or trails,
- Clean up and remove shells and targets, and
- Don't bring household or items to use as targets.

Shooting on National Forest System Lands is an appropriate use when performed in a safe and responsible manner. For more information about shooting on the Flathead National Forest, please contact the Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District at 387-3800.

--END--