



Flathead National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead

Media Release

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General Snowmobiling Season Ended on Forest March 31

The general snowmobiling season on approximately 800,000 acres of the Flathead National Forest ended Thursday, March 31. Several areas remain open for late season snowmobiling as conditions permit;

- Groomed routes in the Canyon Creek area through April 14,
- Sixmile Area through April 30,
- Challenge/Skyland area through May 14, and
- Lost Johnny area through May 31.

Other late season opportunities include areas on the Tally Lake Ranger District and Forest Service lands west of Lakeside on the Swan Lake Ranger District. These areas are identified on over-snow vehicle use maps available at any Flathead National Forest Service Office.

Over-snow access is also available, as conditions permit, on open designated roads unless the road is plowed or driveable by conventional motorized vehicles. Spring breakup conditions may exist and roads may be closed to motorized use to protect the roadbed surface. These spring closures may limit late season snowmobile access. For updated conditions, contact the local ranger district offices.

Snowmobiles can continue to access the summit of Big Mountain at Whitefish Mountain Resort via the Canyon Creek Groomed Trail through the end of the ski area season. After the resort closes for the winter season, April 10, all snowmobile access to the summit of the mountain will be closed at the ski area boundary. From April 1 – 14, riders are restricted to the groomed Canyon Creek Trail corridor only.

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Free over-snow vehicle use maps are available from any Flathead National Forest Office, or additional information about winter motorized travel at www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead.

The maps provide information about routes and groomed trails. The open and closed areas are clearly marked, in addition to information about snowmobile seasons. It is the rider's responsibility to know where open snowmobile terrain is on the ground.

Thanks to the many snowmobile riders this winter that respected the designated wilderness and Jewel Basin Hiking Area snowmobile closures. Designated wilderness, such as the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Mission Mountains Wildernesses, and the Jewel Basin Hiking Area are not open to snowmobiling. It is the individual operator's responsibility to know where they are on the forest and to abide by all travel management regulations.

Through the extended season, the Forest will continue with snowmobile-use monitoring efforts and communication about responsible riding on the forest. Responsible riders are encouraged to communicate any illegal activity to their local Forest Service office.

All backcountry recreationists are reminded to stay current with local weather conditions and avalanche danger. Visit <http://www.glacieravalanche.org/> or call 257-8402 for the current avalanche advisory and conditions.

For more information about snowmobiling on the Flathead National Forest, please contact your local Forest Service office.

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