



## Flathead National Forest

## Media Release

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### **Snowmobiling on Flathead National Forest**

General snowmobiling season on approximately 800,000 acres of the Flathead National Forest opened Thursday, December 1. This includes groomed and ungroomed trail opportunities.

Some areas are closed to snowmobiles, including designated wilderness, such as the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Mission Mountains Wildernesses, and the Jewel Basin Hiking Area. It is the individual operator's responsibility to know where they are and to abide by the latest motorized/non-motorized designations, regardless of the presence or absence of signs.

Snowmobile access information, including the free over-snow vehicle use maps, are available from any Flathead National Forest Office. The maps outline forest routes and groomed trails. Open and closed areas are clearly marked, in addition to information about snowmobile seasons. Maps are also available from the forest's website at [www.fs.usda.gov/flathead](http://www.fs.usda.gov/flathead).

All snowmobiles ridden on public lands must be properly registered and include appropriate safety equipment. State law requires that over-the-snow machines are prohibited on roads being used by other motor vehicles. Roads plowed for motor vehicle use are not open to snowmobile travel. Out of state snowmachine users must obtain a state permit. Permits are available from various vendors in the area.

Snowmobilers, as well as any winter recreationist, should always stay current with the local weather conditions and avalanche danger. Avalanche advisories and other information including upcoming avalanche safety sessions are available at [www.fs.usda.gov/flathead](http://www.fs.usda.gov/flathead), OR [www.glacieravalanche.org](http://www.glacieravalanche.org) and by contacting the Forest Service at 406/758-5204. Avalanche advisories can also be accessed through the Avalanche Advisory Hotline, 406/257-8702.

Through the winter, Flathead National Forest snowmobile rangers, stationed across the forest, will provide trail and safety information and monitor winter recreation use.

Enjoy the Flathead National Forest for your winter recreation adventures. Please remember to respect the rights of all users and share the trails and the forest.

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