



Flathead National Forest

www.fs.usda.gov/flathead

Media Release

June 29, 2012

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July 4th Holiday on the Flathead National Forest

KALISPELL, MT - Recreationists planning to enjoy the holiday weekend on the Flathead National Forest are encouraged to plan ahead. Access to some sites may be limited due to work activities or snow at higher elevations. Fireworks are *not* allowed on National Forest System Lands, or any national park or state land, and a campfire should always be attended to and be “dead out” before leaving the area.

Campgrounds across the Flathead National Forest are available and open for the Fourth of July Holiday Weekend. There are several concession-operated campgrounds in which reservations are required for some sites, and other sites are first-come first-serve. Campers are reminded that at a fee campsite the site must be occupied on a daily basis. Saving campsites is not permitted at a fee campground. Campground information, including a list of developed campgrounds on the Flathead National Forest, is available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/flathead>.

Expect road work on the Westside Hungry Horse Reservoir Road (FSR #38.) Work will be occurring between Forest Creek on the south and Knieff Creek on the north. Construction signs should be in place near the moving work sites. One grader, supported by two rollers and a water truck will be working in close proximity, while a second grader and water truck could be some distance ahead. Be alert for this construction activity, reduce speed, and be safe.

All three forks of the Flathead River are running high and fast, and debris is moving in the river. River enthusiasts are reminded to be prepared, wear required life jackets, know your abilities, have the proper safety gear on board and know how to use the gear, and treat the river with respect. Those planning to float the three forks of the Flathead River are encouraged to obtain an updated Forest Service publication, **Three Forks of the Flathead Float Guide**, for information on river regulations, accurate river locations and river flow information, and historical interpretive information of the area. The waterproof guide is an excellent resource for anyone recreating on the Flathead River and is available for sale through the Glacier Association and is available at any Flathead National Forest Office

To minimize human-grizzly bear encounters, forest users are reminded to store all food and beverages so they are unavailable to bears. It's the law. Food and beverages must be stored in a bear resistant container, or a hard-sided camper, vehicle trunk or cab, or hung at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet away from any vertical support, like a tree. Campers may comply with this by storing coolers and other food and drink in a vehicle when the campsite is unoccupied. The food storage order on the Flathead National Forest is intended for visitor safety, and safety and recovery of the grizzly bear.

Please visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/flathead> or contact a local Flathead National Forest Office for updated information:

Hungry Horse Ranger District	387-3800
Swan Lake Ranger District	837-7500
Tally Lake Ranger District	758-5204
Spotted Bear Ranger District	758-5376

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