

**Glenda Wiles**

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**Subject:** News Release: Free avalanche awareness class  
**Attachments:** Avalanche awareness class.docx



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### *Bitterroot National Forest*

[www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot)

United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Bitterroot National Forest  
1801 N First St  
Hamilton, Montana 59840

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Tod McKay (406) 363-7122**

January 17, 2012

### **FREE AVALANCHE AWARENESS CLASS**

Hamilton, MT. – The Bitterroot National Forest is hosting a free avalanche awareness class on Wednesday, January 25 from 7-9pm in Hamilton. The class is for downhill and cross-country skiers, snowboarders, snowmobilers, snowshoe enthusiasts, mountaineers, winter recreationists and anyone else wanting to learn about avalanche awareness and winter safety. The introductory level class will take place at the Bitterroot National Forest Office in Hamilton at 1801 N. First Street.

Bitterroot National Forest Hydrologist Ed Snook said, “The program will include information about avalanche terrain, mountain weather, snowpack, stability evaluation and decision making, proper winter clothing and survival gear, and avalanche rescue.” The class is being taught by Snook and Forest Service Engineer Rich Raines, both trained and certified avalanche specialists. Class size is limited to 30 participants. To register, call 363-7100.

Sections of Western Montana are currently under an avalanche advisory due to dangerous conditions at higher elevations. Anyone venturing out into the backcountry should be prepared and fully alert of the changing weather conditions and avalanche dangers by visiting [www.missoulaavalanche.org](http://www.missoulaavalanche.org)

For more information contact the Bitterroot National Forest or visit [www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot).

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