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Subject: News Release: Logging traffic on West Fork Highway
Attachments: Lower West Fork - logging traffic.docx



NEWS RELEASE

Bitterroot National Forest

www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tod McKay (406) 363-7122

June 19, 2012

LOGGING TRAFFIC ON WEST FORK HIGHWAY

Hamilton, MT. – The Bitterroot National Forest is advising travelers that there will be logging traffic on the West Fork Highway beginning this week and lasting for several months. Travelers are advised to drive with extra caution as there will be machinery and log trucks travelling the roads during the weekdays.

The log hauling is associated with the Lower West Fork timber sale which was purchased earlier this year by Pyramid Mountain Lumber. It will provide nearly 4.5 million board feet of timber (1,079 truckloads) to Montana sawmills. Along with the timber harvest, the project will also reduce hazardous fuels in the WUI and will thin approximately 1,200 acres of mostly Ponderosa Pine, some of it already killed by mountain pine beetle.

To provide for visitor safety, Baker Lake Road #5634 is currently closed. It will remain closed until approximately July 1, during the active logging operations. Hikers can still access Trapper Peak from the Trapper Peak Trailhead #133. Forest officials advise recreationists that the Baker Lake basin remains snow covered in many areas. For more information contact the West Fork Ranger District at (406) 821-3269.

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