

Marshall Creek Wildlife Management Area¹: Interim Use Regulations and Map of Roads Open to Motorized Use

I. PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE

1. Marshall Creek WMA will be open to public use year-round for motorized travel on open roads, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, mountain bicycling, and general enjoyment.
2. Wheeled motorized vehicles will be restricted to the designated open road system (no wheeled motorized vehicles allowed off roads or on closed roads) year-round. Currently, approximately 37 miles of the 290 miles of road on the proposed WMA are open to wheeled motorized use (Figure 2); the open road system will initially be similar to that existing at time of purchase. FWP is conducting a detailed assessment of road condition, sediment delivery and drainage, and administrative need; results of this assessment will guide future decisions about road access, removal, and/or upgrading. FWP will continue to maintain open road density below 1mi./1mi.² to protect grizzly bear security cover.
3. Snowmobiling will be allowed throughout the WMA but will be restricted to designated open roads 4/1 – 11/30. FWP will continue to cooperate with the Seeley Lake Driftriders, the USFS, and PCTC to maintain and enhance the groomed snowmobile trail system.
4. Camping will be allowed year-round but limited to a 14-day maximum stay (motorized vehicles restricted to the road shoulder or pullouts). Fire restrictions may be implemented, as wildfire-risk dictates.
5. Consistent with past and current use-patterns, use of non-motorized watercraft will be emphasized on Lake Marshall.
6. Firewood cutting will be restricted to downed trees that lie outside riparian areas and will only be allowed by FWP-issued permit.
7. Permits will be required for use by groups of more than 15 people.
8. Hunting opportunity will be managed consistent with that in the surrounding hunting districts (i.e. deer/elk Hunting District 285); no Marshall Creek WMA-specific hunting regulations are anticipated. Fishing and trapping opportunities will be managed consistent with current Montana regulations.

¹ Information from “Attachment A: Draft Management Plan” in “Draft Environmental Assessment [EA], Marshall Creek Wildlife Management Area Acquisition” August 2010. Documents available online at http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmentalAssessments/acquisitionsTradesAndLeases/pn_0088.html . Decision Notice for this Draft EA available at http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/decisionNotices/pn_0472.html