

Contact: Morgan Valliant
Missoula Parks and Recreation
Phone 406-552-6263

600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59801
Phone 406-721-7275

**Missoula Parks
and Recreation**

Public Service Announcement

For distribution March 1, 2010 through May 1, 2010

For more information about these programs, call 721-PARK or visit us on-line at

www.missoulaparks.org

Mount Jumbo South Zone re-opens March 5

Warm temperatures and lack of snowfall have prompted wildlife managers to recommend an early opening date this year for Mount Jumbo's south zone. The area south of the Saddle Trail re-opens to public use on Friday, March 5. To protect wintering elk and mule deer, much of Mount Jumbo is closed to recreational use beginning December 1, with the South Zone traditionally re-opening March 15 and the North Zone re-opening May 1. The Mount Jumbo Management Plan allows City and FWP managers to adjust opening dates depending on weather and the movement of the Jumbo elk herd. In recent weeks, wintering elk have been spotted in higher elevations in Mount Jumbo's North Zone.

The South Zone is located south of the Saddle Road Trail, which begins at the north end of Lincoln Hills Drive and includes the Backbone Trail and trails surrounding the "L." Dogs must be under strict voice and sight control on Mount Jumbo, except where otherwise posted. Pet owners are asked to respect conservation lands, other park visitors and wildlife by controlling their dogs at all times and removing their pet's waste. Free Mutt Mitts are provided at trailheads.

North Mount Jumbo (areas north of the Saddle Trail) remains closed until May 1. In these areas, cow elk are seeking undisturbed refuge during the last few weeks before calving.

Three areas of Mount Jumbo are open all year: the U.S. West road above I-90, the trail to the "L," and the road linking Upper Lincoln Hills Drive with Tamarack, including about 40 acres below. Dogs must be leashed on the "L" trail and U.S. West easement during the winter closure. Violations of the Mount Jumbo winter closure are punishable by fine. Please call 911 to report closure violations.

For more information, call 721-PARK or visit the Parks and Recreation website at www.missoulaparks.org.

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Media Please Note: Closure Map attached. For more information,

contact Morgan Valliant, Parks and Recreation Conservation Lands Manager 552-6263.

For Release March 1, 2010

A Friendly Reminder...

South Mount Jumbo Is Open

North of the Saddle Trail Road is Closed until May 1.

The elk have moved off South Mount Jumbo and it's now open to people and their dogs. Dogs must be under voice and sight control.

However, north of the saddle, cow elk are seeking undisturbed refuge during the last few weeks before calving.

A message from the Mount Jumbo Elk Herd and Missoula Parks and Recreation:

Please don't violate the closure.

Doing so can cost you up to \$500, per Missoula Municipal Code 12.40.060.

Please report violations to 911.

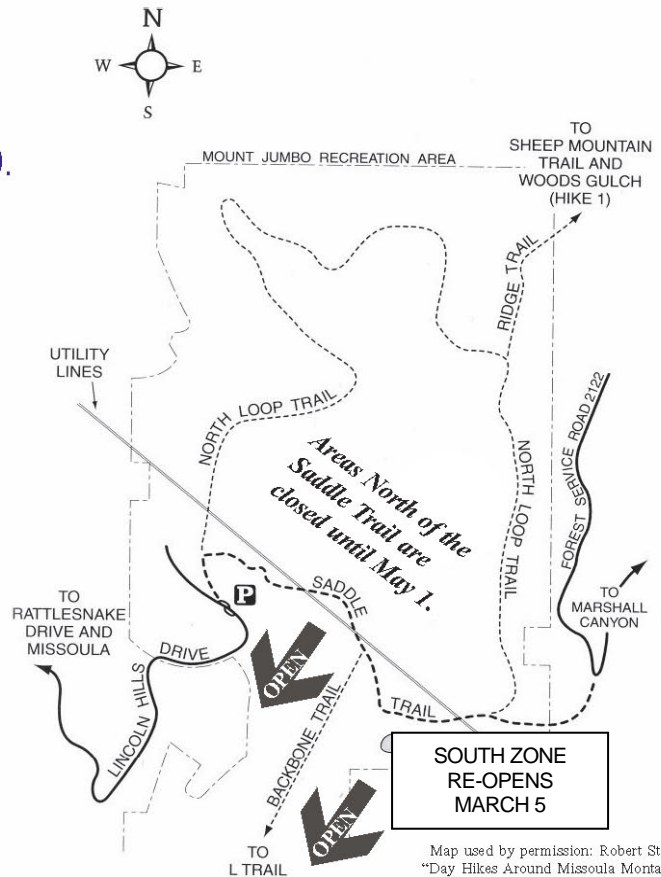
Thank you for your cooperation!

Dogs On Mt. Jumbo Must Be Under Voice & Sight Control

A dog's owner or custodian must be within 75 feet of the dog and be able to effectively control and recall the dog at all times.

If your dog runs up to people or other dogs, chases wildlife, or will not consistently come to you immediately upon command, the dog must be leashed. If you are unsure, be safe and keep your dog leashed. Report uncontrolled dogs to City/County Animal Control: 541-7387.

You are required by law to remove and dispose of your dog's excrement. Mutt Mitts for poop pickup are provided free at trail heads.



Map used by permission: Robert Stone, "Day Hikes Around Missoula Montana."