

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release through May 10, 2014

Mount Jumbo North Zone winter closure extended to May 9

Fast Facts:

- All areas north of the Mount Jumbo Saddle Road will re-open to the public on Friday, May 9.
- Dogs must be under strict voice and sight control and may not chase or harass wildlife and livestock.
- Jumbo's North Zone is accessible via the trailhead at Upper Lincoln Hills Drive.

Parks and Recreation, in consultation with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, has extended Mount Jumbo's North Zone winter closure to Friday, May 9. The North Zone includes all areas north of Jumbo's Saddle Road. The traditional opening date for the North Zone, weather permitting, is May 1.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologists conducted an aerial survey of the North Zone on April 29 and counted about 25 elk in open areas, and they suspected there were at least another 25 head hidden in the timber. Heavy late season snowfall has prevented the herd from moving further north to their traditional summer range, according to City Conservation Lands Manager Morgan Valliant. The winter closure protects the elk from human and canine disturbance, allowing them to stay close to their food supply and conserve their energy during the calving season. The winter closure also helps prevent the elk from becoming habituated to people and altering their natural behaviors.

Mount Jumbo's South Zone, including the Backbone Trail and trails near the "L", re-opened on April 14. For a complete map of Mount Jumbo and all City open space, purchase the Parks, Trails and Open Space map at Currents Aquatics Center for \$4.

Dogs must be under strict voice and sight control on Mount Jumbo, and leashed where posted. Pet owners are asked to respect conservation lands, adjacent private property, other park visitors and wildlife by controlling their dogs at all times and removing their pet's waste. Pet owners may not allow their dogs to chase, attack or harass wildlife or livestock on City open space. Free Mutt Mitts and loaner leashes are provided at trailheads.

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

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