

# South Big Belts Travel Map

## Helena National Forest - Townsend Ranger District

September 2010

### PURPOSE AND CONTENTS OF THIS MAP

This map dated September 2010 shows the National Forest System roads and trails on National Forest System lands in the Big Belt Mountains, Helena National Forest, that are designated for motor vehicle use pursuant to 36 CFR 212.51. The map also identifies designated roads and trails, the types of vehicles that are allowed, and any seasonal restrictions that apply on those routes.

Designation of a road or trail, for motor vehicle use by a particular class of vehicle under 36 CFR 212.51 should not be interpreted as encouraging or inviting use, or to imply that the road or trail is always passable, actively maintained, or safe for travel. Motor vehicle designations include parking along designated routes and at facilities associated with designated routes when it is safe to do so and when not causing damage to National Forest System resources. Seasonal weather conditions and natural events may render designated routes and trails impassable for extended periods. Many designated roads and trails may be passable only by high-clearance vehicles or four-wheel drive vehicles. Maintenance of designated roads and trails will depend on available resources.

This travel map identifies those roads, trails, and areas designated for motor vehicle use under 36 CFR 212.51 for the purpose of enforcing the prohibition at 36 CFR 261.13. This is a limited purpose map. The other public roads are shown for information and navigation purposes only and are not subject to designation under the Forest Service travel management regulation.

**These designations apply only to National Forest System roads, National Forest System trails, and areas on National Forest System lands.**

### PROHIBITIONS

**It is prohibited to possess or operate a motor vehicle on National Forest System lands on the Helena & Townsend Ranger District other than in accordance with these designations (CFR 261.13)**

Violations of 36 CFR 261.13 are subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months or both (U.S.C. 3571(e)). This prohibition applies regardless of the presence or absence of signs.

Cross-country travel by motorized, wheeled vehicles is prohibited yearlong on all lands administered by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Additionally, some existing roads and trails have been closed through travel management. The purpose of these restrictions is to protect riparian areas, wetlands, crucial wildlife habitat, threatened or endangered species, soils and vegetation, aquatic resources, and reduce user conflicts.

Designated roads, trails and areas may also be subject to temporary, emergency closures, and visitors must comply with signs notifying them of such restrictions. A national forest may issue an order to close a road, trail or area on a temporary basis to protect the life, health, or safety of forest visitors or the natural or cultural resources in these areas. Such a temporary and/or emergency closures are consistent with the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212.52(b); 36 CFR 261 subpart B).

The designation "road or trail open to all motor vehicles" does not supersede vehicle size or weight limits imposed through State traffic law.

### OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Operating a motor vehicle on National Forest System roads, National Forest System trails, and in areas on National Forest System lands carries a greater responsibility than operating that vehicle in a city or other developed setting. Not only must the motor vehicle operators know and follow all applicable traffic laws, but they need to show concern for the environment as well as other forest users. The misuse of motor vehicles can lead to the temporary or permanent closure of any designated road, trail, or area. Operators of motor vehicles are subject to State traffic law, including State requirements for licensing, registration, and operation of the vehicle in question.

Motor vehicle use, especially off-highway vehicle use, involves inherent risks that may cause property damage, serious injury, and possibly death to participants. Riders should drive cautiously and anticipate rough surfaces and features, such as snow, mud, vegetation, and water crossings common to remote driving conditions. Participants voluntarily assume full responsibility for these damages, risks, and dangers. Motor vehicle operators should take care at all times to protect themselves and those under their responsibility.

Much of the Helena National Forest is remote, and medical assistance may not be readily available. Cellular telephones do not work in many areas of the Helena National Forest. Operators should take adequate food, water, first aid supplies, and other equipment appropriate for the conditions and expected weather.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER TO RESPECT PRIVATE LAND! PROTECT YOUR PRIVILEGE. STAY ON DESIGNATED ROADS, TRAILS AND IN DESIGNATED AREAS.**

You should read and understand this map in its entirety. If you have questions, please contact the Helena National Forest or Townsend Ranger District for clarification.

Road, trail, and area users must comply with this map, as well as all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Compliance with these rules is the responsibility of the user.

**Emergency Contacts:**  
 Helena Forest Supervisor's Office: (406) 449-5201  
 Townsend Ranger District: (406) 266-3425  
 Helena Ranger District: (406) 449-5490  
 Lewis & Clark County Sheriff: (406) 447-8235 or 442-7883  
 Broadwater County Sheriff: (406) 266-3441  
 Meagher County Sheriff: (406) 547-3397  
 To Report Violations: TIP-MONT 1-800-847-6668

Disclaimer:  
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 Helena National Forest  
 2880 Skyway Drive  
 Helena, Montana 59602  
 806-449-5201

### SOUTH BELTS ROUTE RESTRICTIONS

**Designated Route Seasonal Restrictions**  
 Routes open to motorized use are open yearlong unless a seasonal use restriction is indicated on the route. These routes are closed to motorized use during the periods shown, except for snowmobile use in designated open snowmobile areas from 12/2-5/15. Snowmobile use is restricted on all routes and open snowmobile areas from 5/16-12/1

- 2** Closed to motorized use 10/15-12/1
- 3** Closed to motorized use 12/2-5/15
- 5** Closed to motorized use 10/15-5/15

**OHV Off Route Restrictions**  
 Wheeled motorized vehicle travel for parking or camping is allowed within 300 feet of designated system routes, including roads and trails (unless signed otherwise as long as

1. No new permanent routes are created by this activity
2. No damage to existing vegetation, soil or water resources
3. Travel off-route does not cross streams, and
4. Travel off route does not traverse riparian or wet areas

### South Big Belt Mtns Travel Map Legend

- South Belts Travel Plan Area
  - State, County or Other Public Roads
  - Road - open to licensed vehicles
  - Trail - open to vehicles less than 50 inches wide and non-motorized use
  - Trail - open to motorcycles and non-motorized use
  - Trail - open to snowmobiles 12/2-5/15 and non-motorized use
  - Trail - non-motorized use
  - Designated route with seasonal motorized use restrictions
  - Helena National Forest lands open for snowmobiling 12/2-5/15
  - Helena National Forest lands closed to snowmobiling, except on open or designated routes
- Some Routes shown, which cross private property, may not have public right of way



asullivan 8/2010

