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## MISSOULA PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release through April 15, 2019

### **Mount Jumbo's South Zone opens April 15**

Mount Jumbo's [South Zone](#) opens Monday, April 15. The "L" Trail and US West Road are currently open, and visitors are required to stay on trail and leash pets to protect wildlife

In consultation with wildlife biologists at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Parks and Recreation extended the winter wildlife closure on Mount Jumbo's South Zone due to greater than normal snowpack on the mountain. The closure protects the 75 to 90 elk and other animals, which are now inhabiting Jumbo's lower elevations to feed and regain their strength after a long winter. The South Zone includes all points south of Jumbo's Saddle Road.

Jumbo's [North Zone](#) will remain closed until May 1 or later, depending on weather conditions.

According to FWP Wildlife Biologist Liz Bradley, early spring is a critical time for elk because they're coming out of the winter in the poorest physical condition they'll be in all year. "Right now, the Jumbo herd is feeding on emerging vegetation on Mount Jumbo's lower slopes. This nutritious food is critical to replenish the physical reserves they lost over the winter. As the green-up progresses to higher elevations, the elk will begin to move off the mountain and toward their summer range in the Rattlesnake Wilderness," Bradley says.

Please call 911 to report users who are violating the winter closure. Those violating the closure may be cited for trespassing.

For more information, call 721-PARK (7275) or visit [www.missoulaparks.org](http://www.missoulaparks.org).

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