



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tally Lake
Ranger District

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Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-3504
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File Code:1950

Date:February 26, 2009

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Tally Lake Ranger District employees are proposing a project to address a number of management concerns on National Forest System (NFS) lands in an area surrounding Ashley Lake near the community of Marion, Montana. We are calling this effort the **Ashley-Herrig Resource Management Project**. We included you on our mailing list for this project because you have expressed interest in one or more of our projects in the past or you own property adjacent to NFS land in the vicinity of the project area. Please pass this information along to your neighbors or other interested parties who may not have received this notice in the mail.

In 2007 you may have received information about a similar project in this area also named Ashley-Herrig Resource Management Project. That project was cancelled in August 2007 due to Tally Lake Ranger District employees' commitments to the suppression of the Brush Creek Fire and to planning the post-fire salvage efforts with the Sheppard Creek Post-Fire Project. We are now initiating a new project of the same name and in the same area. Comments submitted on the previous project, before it was cancelled, will not be used in the development of alternatives since the new project's proposed action has changed to reflect current knowledge of the project area and an amended Forest Plan.

We invite your comments about our proposed action for this new project. The enclosed document and maps describe the need for management actions in the area and the proposed action in greater detail. The Flathead National Forest internet site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead/nepa/nepa.htm> may also be accessed for this project information.

Your comments about the proposed action are very important. They will help the planning team develop a list of issues, which will in turn lead to development of alternatives to the proposed action. The environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) for this project will analyze the ecological and social effects of implementing each of the alternatives, including a no-action alternative. The EA or EIS will identify a preferred alternative, which may or may not be the proposed action. We expect to publish the EA or Draft EIS for this project in the summer of 2009.

So that your input may be included in our analysis, please provide comments addressing the proposed action by March 30, 2009. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record, and will be available for public inspection. If you would like to receive future mailings



about this project, please either send us your comments on the proposed action or contact us to let us know that you would like to remain on our mailing list.

Because of the enormous amount of research regarding forestry practices and methods, if you cite literature in your comments please provide us with a complete bibliography or a copy of the referenced materials if they are not commonly available.

Please address your comments to Project Leader Bryan Donner at the above address or fax number. To submit comments electronically, please send to: comments-northern-flathead-tally-lake@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf), or Word Perfect format. The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments. You should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from us as confirmation of receipt. If you do not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is your responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. Hand-delivered comments should be taken to the ranger station office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Oral comments must be provided during normal business hours to Bryan via telephone at (406) 758-3508 or in person.

A public field trip to provide further information about this project will occur on Tuesday, March 24 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the north shore of Ashley Lake. Several sites of proposed activities will be visited. Please meet at the junction of Forest Roads 679 and 912, located approximately one mile east of Ashley Lake. Ranger District employees will be available to answer questions. Please contact Bryan by close of business March 23 to sign up.

I appreciate your interest in the Ashley-Herrig Resource Management Project, and I thank you for your help with developing our project. To obtain additional information about this project, please contact me or Bryan at (406) 758-5204.

Sincerely,



LISA TIMCHAK
District Ranger

Enclosures