



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tally Lake
Ranger District

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Kalispell, MT 59901
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File Code: 1950-1

Date: December 14, 2007

Dear Citizen,

Tally Lake Ranger District employees are proposing a project to salvage harvest trees that were affected last summer by the Brush Creek Wildland Fire located approximately 20 miles west of Whitefish, Montana. Replanting of burned areas that are salvaged and transportation access changes are also a component of the project.

We invite your comments about our proposed action, which is called the **Sheppard Creek Post-Fire Project**. The enclosed document and map describe the proposed action in detail. If you would like the opportunity to discuss this project with Forest Service resource specialists, we invite you to an informational open house on **January 9, 2008 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the new Tally Lake Ranger District offices in Kalispell** located just south of the round-about at the intersection of North Reserve Street and Stillwater Drive in Kalispell near the new Glacier High School. Larger scale maps and other information will be on display. The Flathead National Forest internet site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead/nepa/nepa.htm> may also be accessed for project information.

Your comments about the proposed action are very important in the analysis process. They will help the Planning Team develop a list of issues of concern, which will in turn lead to development of alternatives to the proposed action. The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for this project will analyze the biological and social effects of implementing each of the alternatives, including a no-action alternative. The DEIS will identify a preferred alternative, which may or may not be the proposed action. We expect to publish the DEIS for the Sheppard Creek Post-Fire Project in spring 2008. Comments on the DEIS will then be considered and incorporated into a final environmental impact statement, which we anticipate will be completed in fall 2008.

So that your input may be included in our analysis, please provide comments addressing the proposed action by January 15, 2008. 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. Comments received will be available for public inspection and will be considered part of the public record.

Please address your comments to me 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) 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 via telephone (406) 758-3508 or in person. A public field trip to the project area with the interdisciplinary team will be conducted later in the spring after your comments have been analyzed.

I appreciate your interest in the Sheppard Creek Post-Fire Project, and I thank you for your help with developing our project. To obtain additional information about this project, please contact me or Project Leader Bryan Donner at (406) 758-3508.



LISA A. TIMCHAK
District Ranger

Encl.