



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tally Lake  
Ranger District  
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1335 Highway 93 West  
Whitefish, MT 59937

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File Code: 1950

Date: June 24, 2005

Dear Citizen:

Tally Lake Ranger District employees are proposing a project to reduce hazardous fuels and manage areas affected by insects and disease in an area just west of Farm to Market Road between Whitefish and Kalispell. 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 in the vicinity of the project area.

We invite your comments about our proposed action, which is called the **Valley Face Fuels Reduction Project**. The enclosed document and map describe the proposed action in detail. If you would like the opportunity to discuss this project with me and Forest Service resource specialists, we invite you to an informational open house on **July 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Tally Lake Ranger District Office** located at the above address, which is one-quarter mile west of Grouse Mountain Lodge on the south side of Highway 93 in Whitefish, Montana. 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. 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 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 early spring of 2006. This project will be conducted under the authorities of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) and coordinated with the Flathead County Community Wildfire Fuels Reduction / Mitigation Plan.

So that your input may be included in our analysis, please provide specific written comments addressing the proposed action by July 26, 2005. Specific written comments are defined as those within the scope of the proposed action, are explicit to the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons that the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision. The HFRA requires a special Predecisional Administrative Review Process (referred to as the 'objection process') pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subpart A that takes place after the preparation of an EA or Final EIS but before the issuance of a final decision. It is not subject to notice, comment, and appeal provisions pursuant to 36 CFR 215 (see 36 CFR 218.3). To be eligible to participate in the predecisional administrative review process, a person must submit specific written comments that relate to the proposed action.



## Valley Face Fuels Reduction Project

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 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](mailto:comments-northern-flathead-tally-lake@fs.fed.us). Hand-delivered comments should be taken to the ranger station office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. To obtain additional information about this project, please contact me or Bryan at (406) 863-5400. A public field trip to the project area with the interdisciplinary team will be conducted later in the summer after your comments have been analyzed.

I appreciate your interest in the Valley Face project. 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. Thank you for your help with developing our project.



LISA A. KRUEGER  
District Ranger

Enclosures