



**Flathead National Forest
Rocky Mountain Research Station**

NEWS RELEASE

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2:30pm

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Kalispell, Mont. – Names of four passengers and the pilot of a missing aircraft were released today by USDA Forest Service officials.

The flight carried forest inventory and communications personnel to the Schafer Meadows Guard Station for field work in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Expected to reach the guard station at 3:30 pm yesterday, last radio contact with aircraft occurred at 3:15 pm. Search and rescue activities began yesterday and resumed today.

“We have not confirmed the location or condition of the aircraft,” according to Cathy Barbouletos, Forest Supervisor of the Flathead National Forest, headquartered in Kalispell. “We have talked with families and will stay close to them.” The Flathead National Forest employs one passenger, electronics technician Ken Good, age 58 of Whitefish, Montana.

“It’s difficult to wait for the search and rescue results,” said Marcia Patton-Mallory, Director of the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Station in Fort Collins, Colorado. “The entire Forest Service family is hoping and praying.” Three station employees on the plane, all involved in forest inventory work, are the following:

Jodee Hogg of Billings, MT, age 23,
Davita Bryant of Whitefish, MT, age 32, and,
Matthew Ramige of Jackson Hole, Wy, age 29.

The pilot, Jim Long of Kalispell, MT, age 60, flew a Cessna 206 G for Edwards Jet Center in Kalispell.

Patton-Mallory said the Rocky Mountain Research Station’s Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program is headquartered in Ogden, Utah, but the missing employees all live in Western Montana, close to where they are working. Field crews conduct annual inventories in eight western states, visiting plots established on a nation-wide plot network. Because of the field plot framework, crews often work in remote, challenging physical and environmental conditions.

Search and rescue operations continue. The Montana Aeronautical Board coordinating aerial search activities and the Flathead County Sheriff’s Office coordinating land activities.

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