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Public Comments Wanted for Sheppard Creek Post-Fire Project

The Tally Lake Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest has completed a draft environmental impact statement for the Sheppard Creek Post-Fire Project and is requesting public comment. The project is in response to the 2007 Brush Creek Wildland Fire located approximately 20 miles west of Whitefish.

The purpose of the project is to harvest fire-affected trees and recover merchantable wood fiber while it is still economically feasible to do so. Three action alternatives and a no-action alternative were analyzed. The proposed activities include salvage of between approximately 3,900 and 7,400 acres for about 17-32 million board feet, planting on approximately 2,800-5,100 acres, construction of about 3-10 miles of temporary roads that would be obliterated after the project, and opening 7-17 miles of historic road templates that would be reclaimed.

The draft environmental impact statement is available by visiting <u>www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead</u>. Public comments regarding the draft environmental impact statement should be received by the Tally Lake Ranger District by July 1, 2008.

The Forest Service will host a public field trip to the project area on Friday, June 13. For more information about the project or the field trip contact Project Leader Bryan Donner at 758-3508.