



## Flathead National Forest

## Media Release

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### **Comments Requested for Fuels Reduction Project on Tally Lake District of National Forest**

The Tally Lake District of the Flathead National Forest is asking for public comment on a proposed project, Valley Face Fuels Reduction Project, designed to reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health conditions on approximately 3,900 acres of the forest located west and southwest of Whitefish.

The proposal includes a variety of timber harvest and/or fuel reduction treatments that emphasize the retention of large fire resistant trees, the salvage of timber killed by insects and disease, and the creation of residual stands that are less prone to insects, disease, and high intensity wildfires. About 2,900 acres of these treatments would harvest commercial wood products and about 1,000 acres would treat fuels through mechanical means that would not harvest any commercial timber. A total of about five miles of temporary road would be constructed to access treatment areas.

Tally Lake District Ranger Lisa Krueger invites the public to an open house on Wednesday, July 13, 2005, between 2pm and 6pm to discuss the Valley Face project. The open house will be at the Tally Lake Ranger District Office, 1335 Highway 93 West in Whitefish. The office is located just west of Grouse Mountain Lodge and across the highway from the golf course. No formal presentations will be given and members of the public can arrive at any time.

Comments on Forest Service activities are welcome any time, but would be most useful to the team working on this project if they were received by July 26, 2005. Information about the project proposal is available at the district office in Whitefish or by contacting Project Leader Bryan Donner at (406) 863-5408

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