



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Brush Creek Mushroom Project on Tally Lake District

The Tally Lake District of the Flathead National Forest is proposing to allow commercial morel mushroom harvest on 24,700 acres that were burned by the Brush Creek Wildland Fire this past summer, approximately 20 miles west of Whitefish. Public comments on this proposal should be provided to the Forest Service by Friday, March 7.

Tally Lake District Ranger Lisa Timchak said, “Experience has shown us that people will arrive in mass after a fire to harvest mushrooms. We have a responsibility to manage this situation by providing reasonable harvest opportunities while minimizing the impacts to the resources, including the social impacts.”

The Brush Creek Mushroom Project proposal includes a permit system for harvesting mushrooms on the Flathead National Forest. A fee would be charged for commercial harvest. No fees would be charged for personal use harvesters, with a maximum five gallons of mushrooms per day. Commercial harvesters would be required to camp in designated areas with a proper camping permit. These designated commercial harvester camp areas would include one main camp and several overflow camps. If needed, two sites have been identified for buyer sites that would be available with a permit.

Timchak said, “The forest dealt with a large mushroom program after the 2003 wildland fires and we learned a great deal about mushroom harvesting and how to manage this forest product program.” Timchak anticipates the harvest program to begin in April and last until July.

For more information visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead for the proposal, including a map of the proposed camp locations, or contact Project Leader Mike Lick at 758-3536. Public comments should be provided to the district by March 7.

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