

	<b>Flathead National Forest</b>	<b>Media Release</b>
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## **Public Comments Encouraged for Red Whale Environmental Assessment**

The Glacier View Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest is requesting public comment on a recently completed environmental assessment (EA) for the Red Whale Project located in the North Fork Flathead River drainage, approximately 30 miles north of Columbia Falls. The project proposes to reduce fuel levels near private property, enhance habitat diversity and security for wildlife species, and provide access across National Forest System lands to a State of Montana section of land.

The environmental assessment identifies four alternatives. Each alternative varies in the number of acres that are managed with mechanical fuels reduction treatments (927- 3,583 acres), prescribed burning (94- 1,509 acres) and road and trail access closures, seasonal and yearlong (4-25 miles).

The environmental assessment is available at [www.fs.fed.us/r1.flathead](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1.flathead). A printed copy or CD of the assessment is available at Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office, (1935 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave East, Kalispell) and Hungry Horse Ranger Station (8975 Hwy 2 East, Hungry Horse).

Comments regarding the Red Whale Project are encouraged and should be submitted to the Glacier View Ranger District by **Tuesday, June 5**. A decision on this project is anticipated by July. For more information about the project visit [www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead) or contact the Forest Service at 387-3800.

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