



## Flathead National Forest

## Media Release

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### Valley Face Fuels Reduction Project Planned on Tally Lake Ranger District

The Flathead National Forest plans to reduce fuel loads and improve forest health conditions on approximately 3,200 acres with the Valley Face Fuels Reduction Project on the Tally Lake District. The project is located on the east-facing slopes of the Salish Mountains that form the western boundary in north Flathead Valley. It is anticipated that initial activity will begin in 2007, with the majority of the large-scale work implemented in 2008.

The decision for this project, signed by Flathead National Forest Supervisor Cathy Barbouletos, is under the authority of Congress's Healthy Forests Restoration Act. The decision incorporates the preferred alternative and responds to significant issues identified through the objection period, including concerns with the effects on wildlife habitat

Mechanized treatment, including regeneration harvest and commercial thinning, will be applied to approximately 2,100 acres resulting in about 11 million board feet of timber. Non-commercial fuel reduction activities will be applied to approximately 1,100 acres. Approximately 3.1 miles of temporary roads will be constructed and reclaimed after the project. Road improvements will be applied to 39 miles of existing road. No new permanent roads will be built and no existing open roads will be closed with this decision.

The project is designed to provide a safe environment for firefighters and the public by reducing the potential for a severe crown fire to occur and improve forest health conditions. The community-developed Flathead County Community Wildfire Fuels Reduction/Mitigation Plan was instrumental in preparation of the Valley Face Fuels Reduction Project.

For more information about the project please contact project leader Bryan Donner at 863-5400.

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