



## FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

## NEWS RELEASE

September 20, 2004  
7:45pm

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### **Missing Airplane on Flathead National Forest**

**On Monday, September 20, at approximately 3pm, a contract fixed-wing aircraft flying for the Flathead National Forest departed Glacier International Airport and at 3:30pm was overdue for arrival at Schafer Meadows Guard Station, located on the forest. The Cessna 206 G from Edwards Jet Center was flying one Flathead National Forest employee, three US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station employees from Ogden, Utah, and one Edwards Jet pilot.**

**After continued negative radio contact, an air search was immediately initiated with US Forest Service and Edwards Jet Center aircraft. An “all pilots” alert was issued by the Great Falls Flight Service Center. Due to poor weather conditions, the aerial search was suspended and ground searches were initiated by the Forest Service. Montana Aeronautical Board is coordinating the aerial search.**

**The objective of the flight was to transport personnel to the guard station for forest inventory and tele-communications work.**

**Aerial searches will continue Tuesday morning.**

**For more information, please contact Flathead National Forest information officer at 406-249-1714.**

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