



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Flathead National Forest Supports A.L.E.R.T

The Flathead National Forest is providing a \$20,000 community assistance grant to A.L.E.R.T. through the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Program.

A.L.E.R.T. is Northwest Montana's helicopter ambulance service that responds to medical emergencies, and assists with search and rescue operations. Kalispell Regional Medical Center (KRMC) and Northwest Healthcare manage the helicopter and related services.

The Flathead National Forest covers more than 2.3 million acres in Northwest Montana, including approximately 1 million acres of designated wilderness. Much of the forest is steep and rugged country.

A.L.E.R.T. has responded to numerous incidents on the forest during the air ambulance's history. Incidents have included traumatic medical situations with forest employees, partners and visitors in remote backcountry locations. Several of these incidents have been life or death situations.

Flathead National Forest Supervisor Cathy Barbouletos said, "The value of A.L.E.R.T. to our forest, and our community, is immeasurable. We are fortunate to have this resource, and this group of dedicated and talented emergency personnel." She continued, "We are thrilled to be able to provide this grant and work in partnership with A.L.E.R.T."

The USDA Forest Service's State and Private Program assists rural communities dependent on forest resources. For more information on this and other related programs visit www.fs.fed.us.

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Flathead National Forest Supervisor Cathy Barbouletos
Hungry Horse – Glacier View District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera
Spotted Bear District Ranger Deb Mucklow
Swan Lake District Ranger Steve Brady
Tally Lake District Ranger Lisa Krueger