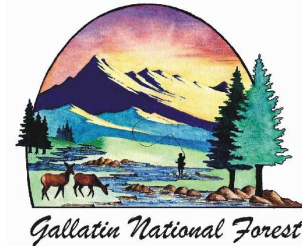

Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release
Date: May 2, 2008

Contact: Jane Ruchman
Recreation Specialist, (406) 587-6966

Federal Land Managers Approve Endurance Race

Bozeman, MT...Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managers have released the decision to authorize a one-time, navigation, adventure and endurance race event on the Gallatin National Forest, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, and public lands managed by BLM's Dillon Field Office. Potential filming and photography of the event would also be authorized under the decision.

During the past several months, the Forest Service, BLM and other cooperating agencies considered public comment on the proposal and conducted an environmental analysis. Several alternate routes were evaluated. Potential routes within Wilderness Study Areas or other specially designated areas were not approved.

According to Mary Erickson, Gallatin National Forest Supervisor, "I'm confident that the final design and management of the race will provide a safe and memorable experience for the participants and ensure that public resources are protected. While not everyone is interested in participating in endurance activities such as this, we hope it will inspire others to enjoy National Forest System Lands for other physical and recreational activities."

The multi-day, multi-sport, non-motorized event, named "**Primal Quest Montana**", will take place from June 23rd to July 2nd, 2008, and run day and night. The event could involve up to 90 teams of 4 competitors that will traverse an approximate 500-mile course on foot, and mountain bike, by boat and rock climbing. The designated route includes race legs in the Tobacco Root, Madison, Gallatin, Bridger, Bangtail and Crazy Mountains, and the Gallatin and Yellowstone Rivers. The race will start and finish at Big Sky Resort, and cross federal, state and private lands in Gallatin, Madison, Sweetgrass and Park counties. Top teams from around the world are expected to finish the race in five days, while some are not expected to finish at all. All participants must complete the course in 10 days.

Additional information, including a copy of the decision document approved by Gallatin Forest Supervisor Mary Erickson and BLM Field Manager Tim Bozorth, can be obtained by contacting the Gallatin



10 East Babcock Ave., PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

National Forest, phone (406) 587-6701; 10 East Babcock, Bozeman, MT. The decision is also available on-line at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin> (click on the 'Projects and Plans' link).

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