
Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release

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Forest Service Receives Grant from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The Gallatin National Forest recently was awarded \$5,000 from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) to help restore and maintain big game winter range habitat in parts of the Paradise Valley south of Livingston, Montana. The Livingston Ranger District will use the grant to help finance a portion of the Paradise Valley Fuels Management and Prescribed Burning Project located on the face of Emigrant Peak. Along with restoring big game winter range habitat, the project is designed to reduce the overall risk of high-intensity fire and create “defensible” space to reduce risks on adjacent wilderness, watershed, and private land values.

According to Ron Archuleta, Livingston District Ranger, “Obtaining funding from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation grant program serves to augment our annual budget. Thanks to the Foundation’s support, this project will go forward without delay.”

By reintroducing fire into this area the vegetation will be enhanced by reducing encroaching conifers and releasing nutrients on a portion of Hunting District 317 elk winter range. This project would meet Montana's Elk Management Plan habitat strategy to improve vegetative diversity and increase carrying capacity of elk winter ranges.

This is the third time the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has awarded grant funding for this project. With the generous donation of \$7,000 from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in 2004 and \$5,000 in 2006, a total of 740 acres of treatment has been accomplished to date. These additional funds will allow for continuation of habitat enhancement and fuel reduction within the Emigrant Peak area.

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