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|  | Flathead National Forest | Media Release |
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Tally Lake Ranger District Hosts Open House for Ashley-Herrig Project to Receive Public Comment

The Tally Lake Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest is hosting an open house on Tuesday, February 27, 3:30-6:00 pm, at the Smith Valley Elementary School west of Kalispell to provide information about the proposed Ashley-Herrig Resource Management Project.

The Ashley-Herrig Resource Management Project is proposed to address several management concerns on National Forest System lands in an area surrounding Ashley Lake near the community of Marion, approximately 15 miles west of Kalispell.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve forest structure and species composition, reduce hazardous fuels, maintain and improve wildlife habitat, improve recreation opportunities, water quality and aquatic habitat, and acquire permanent road access to National Forest System lands.

The project proposes to actively manage about 2,750 acres of the forest. This would include a variety of timber harvest and/or fuel reduction treatments that emphasize the retention of fire-resistant trees, salvage of timber killed by insects and disease, and creation of residual stands that are less prone to insect attacks and high intensity wildfires. About 1,900 acres of these treatments would harvest commercial wood products and about 850 acres would manage timber stands through mechanical means that would not harvest any timber. A total of about six miles of temporary road and two miles of permanent road would be constructed to access treatment areas.

The project also proposes to improve and restore recreation facilities and a section of shoreline at Ashley Lake, upgrade three road culverts, decommission about two miles of road, plant shrubs for wildlife habitat, improve about 25 miles of roads to meet best management practices, acquire road use easements on about six sections of private road, and construct about three miles of ATV trail.

Maps, resource specialists and other information will be available at the open house on February 27. Public comment on this proposed Ashley-Herrig Resource Management Project should be provided by March 12, 2007. Comments may be emailed to comments-northern-flathead-tally-lake@fs.fed.us with a subject line of Ashley-Herrig, or may be sent directly to the Tally Lake District Office at 1335 Highway 93 West, Whitefish, Montana, 59937. For more information, please contact Project Leader Bryan Donner or Tally Lake District Ranger Lisa Krueger at 863-5400.

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