



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Comments Wanted for Hallowat Creek Restoration Project

The Flathead National Forest in cooperation with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is proposing to place trees within a mile-long section of Hallowat Creek. Hallowat Creek is in the North Fork Flathead River drainage and was impacted during the Moose Fire suppression in 2001 when it was used as a fireline. Large trees within the stream channel were cut to prevent the spread of fire, however this action has resulted in a loss of wood and associated trapped spawning gravels for bull trout over the last three spring run-offs. Large wood is important for trapping and storing spawning gravels and for providing cover for trout, much of which was washed downstream from succeeding flow events and is now unavailable to spawning bull trout in Hallowat Creek. Bull trout redd counts and available spawning gravels have declined over the last three years since the fire suppression efforts in Hallowat Creek.

This project would use a tracked excavator to place large trees in Hallowat Creek to build large woody complexes to restore spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout. Down trees and some standing trees along Hallowat Creek would be used to replace those trees cut and bucked during fire suppression efforts and subsequently washed downstream. This project would occur in August during low flow periods to minimize impacts upon bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.

For more information about this project contact Pat Van Eimeren, fisheries biologist, at the Glacier View District Office at 387-3800.

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