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Contact: Denise Germann  
406-758-5252  
406-249-1714 cell

## Smithsonian Exhibit “Inspirations From the Forest” in Kalispell

The Flathead National Forest and Museum at Central School are hosting a traveling Smithsonian exhibit, “Inspirations from the Forest” at the Museum February 7-17. The exhibit highlights artists, writers and musicians that draw their inspiration from nature, specifically the timberlands, mountains, grasslands and waterways of national forests across the country.

Kalispell is one of 33 host locations, most of them in rural communities, across the nation. Gil Jordan, Executive Director of the Museum at Central School, said, “The opportunity to experience this outstanding exhibit will last only a brief time, eleven days. Don’t miss out on this rare treat.”

Sixteen panels showcase a variety of work from artists including Montana cowboy poet Wally McRae. Other artists include Keith Bear, flute maker and storyteller from North Dakota, landscape painter Jim Denney from Oregon, quilter Teresa Trulock from Wyoming, Alaskan logger poet Hank Nelson and many others. Several of the artists are National Heritage Fellowship recipients.

Whitefish artist and Flathead National Forest Artist in Residence participant Myni Ferguson will showcase her glass sculpture featuring the Spotted Bear pack mules during the exhibit.

The exhibit also includes learning resources for teachers and educators. Flathead National Forest Education Coordinator Teresa Wenum said, “Teachers and educators, as well as 4-H members and scouts are encouraged to participate in free field trips and learning resources related to the exhibit and the arts.” Information about the educational resources is available by visiting [www.folklife.si.edu/explore/inspirations.html](http://www.folklife.si.edu/explore/inspirations.html).

The exhibit is produced by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and in partnership with the US Forest Service.

The Museum at Central School is open Tuesday through Saturday 10am – 5pm. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors. Children, students and members are free. For more information about the “Inspirations from the Forest” Exhibit or to schedule a free student tour, call the Museum at 756-8381.

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