

Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Forest Cabin Rental System Available February 2

A streamlined phone and on-line reservation system for reserving recreation cabins and lookouts on the Flathead National Forest becomes available February 2. The public will have the ability to make reservations for local sites as well as over 1700 sites across the nation by visiting www.ReserveUSA.com or calling 1-877-444-6777. From now until February 1, reservations are not being taken to allow for the transition to the new system.

The Flathead National Forest offers 10 cabins and lookouts, including Schnaus, Ford, Ninko, Ben Rover and Hornet Lookout Cabins in the North Fork area, Zips and Challenge Cabins in the Middle Fork area, Star Meadows Guard Station northwest of Whitefish, Owl Creek Cabin near Holland Lake, and Mission Lookout south of Swan Lake. The Wurtz Homestead Cabin north of Columbia Falls is anticipated to be available for rental this summer.

Overnight fees for the cabins range from \$20- \$50, in addition to a \$9 reservation fee. Refunds will be available on a limited basis, and cancellations or changes can also be made for a change fee. The Flathead National Forest's cabin rental program does not entertain refunds based on weather or road conditions. Users can reserve a recreation cabin or lookout up to six months in advance.

The forest is also adding group-use areas at some campgrounds such as Big Creek, the Pavilion at Tally Lake, Swan Lake and Emery Bay to the national reservation system. The individual campsites at forest campgrounds will remain first-come first-serve.

This national reservation system also includes sites with the Bureau of Land Management, US Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Park Service. Users can go on-line and view availability or make reservations for any cabin, lookout or group-use site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The

reservation system also has seven-day, toll-free phone coverage, with extended hours, allowing users to do trip planning or make reservations after regular business hours.

Please contact the Flathead National Forest with questions about the National Recreation Reservations System or the forest's cabin rental program; Hungry Horse and Glacier View District 387-3800, Tally Lake District 863-5400, and Swan Lake District 837-7500 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead.

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