



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Wayne National Forest

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News Release

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Flags lowered to half-mast at the Wayne National Forest

Nelsonville, OH – Flags have been lowered to half-mast at the Wayne National Forest by direction of the United States Department of Agriculture and will remain so until sunset on Saturday, September 25, 2004, in honor of those Forest Service employees who lost their lives in an airplane crash near Billings, MT.

Jodee Hogg, 23, and Matthew Ramige, 29, both miraculously survived the crash and, according to the Flathead National Forest, were seen on a road near the crash site on Wednesday afternoon. Hogg has been hospitalized and treated for severe burns, a sprained back, and a sprained ankle. She is expected to be released in three to four days.

The plane reportedly went down during a vegetative inventory check and the wreckage was spotted on Tuesday, just outside of Glacier National Park. Authorities at the time believed that there were no survivors but were pleased to find Hogg and Ramige in steady condition.

Three people were killed in the accident including pilot Jim Long, 60; Davita Bryant, 32; and Flathead National Forest employee Ken Good, 58. The plane was on route to a landing strip at the Shafer Meadows Guard Station, in the Great Bear-Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

Kevan Moore, Wayne National Forest Aviation Officer, notes that “a lot of what the Forest Service does is dangerous and sometimes accidents happen despite precautionary measures. We would just like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Flathead National Forest and all of the families and friends of those involved in the crash.”

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