



Flathead National Forest

650 Wolfpack Way

Kalispell, MT 59901

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News Release

Media Contact: Janette Turk

(406) 758-5252

jturk@fs.fed.us



Decision Memo Signed for the Lost Beetle Healthy Forest Restoration Project

KALISPELL, MT –June 29 –Tally Lake District Ranger Lisa Timchak signed a Decision Memo to approve the Lost Beetle Healthy Forest Restoration Project on June 27, 2016.

The Lost Beetle Healthy Forest Restoration Project was developed through a collaborative process, and is located on the Tally Lake Ranger District, approximately ten miles west of Kalispell. The southern boundary of the project area is just north of Ashley Lake. Much of the project area is surrounded by private and state owned lands in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The project will modify forest stand conditions to increase resilience to insect infestation and reduce future tree mortality from root disease. This project will also increase wildland fire resiliency and reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 431 acres. The Lost Beetle Project is expected to be implemented the summer of 2016.

The Lost Beetle Project area is within lands designated by Governor Bullock under the 2014 Farm Bill amendment to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6592 et. seq.). Section 602 allows this area to be designated as part of an insect and disease treatment program since this area meets the criteria of experiencing forest health decline.

Additionally, funding from Governor Bullock's Forest in Focus Initiative contributed to accelerate the pace and outcome of the Lost Beetle Project. Lisa Timchak, Tally Lake District Ranger said, "The Montana State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation partnered with the Flathead National Forest to increase the efficiency of project planning and implementation on federal lands in Montana, which has contributed to the success of this project."

The Decision Memo is available on-line at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/flathead/landmanagement/projects>. These documents are also available for review at the Tally Lake Ranger Station, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, MT.

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