



April 17, 2020

The Flathead National Forest is requesting public input on the issuance of temporary permits authorizing recreation events and temporary outfitting and guiding activities across the forest from June 1 through October 31, 2020. All proposed events and activities will adhere to State and local public health authorities related to the Covid 19 pandemic. The recreation events include **Whitefish Trails Ultra-Marathon, Powdered Soul Fun Bike Ride, Kiwanis ATV & Motorbike Fun Run, and Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon**. The temporary outfitting and guiding permit requests include **Whitefish Shuttle Livery and Guided Services, Whitefish Bike Retreat Livery, Journey to Wellness Program, Northwest Adventure Sports Guided ATV Tours, and Spotted Dog, Adventure Cycling and Cycle House Bike Tours**. All proposed activities will take place on Forest System roads and trails. Both marathons would take place in management area 7, which is identified in the forest plan as a focused recreation area.

Based on resource information to date, I believe these projects fall within the Forest Service category of actions under 36 CFR 220.8 that may be excluded in either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) and that no extraordinary circumstances exist which would preclude use of this category. Scoping comments along with a specialist review will determine whether these projects can be categorically excluded. These projects are specifically consistent with category 36 CFR 220.6(d)(8): *Approval, modification, or continuation of minor, short-term (1 year or less) special uses of National Forest System lands.*

The following provides information on each of the above projects:

Whitefish Trails Ultra-Marathon (Foot Race)

The Whitefish Legacy Partners have requested a special use permit to conduct an ultra-marathon foot race partially on the Flathead National Forest. On the forest, this race would be run on approximately 14 miles of existing National Forest System (NFS) roads and trails within the Whitefish Mountain Resort permit boundary. Part of the run is also occurring off NFS land. The permit will allow for up to 400 participants. The race would take place entirely in one day in October. This race is similar to the one which occurred last year. The routes proposed on National Forest Systems (NFS) lands are:

- Up Route: Runners will enter FNF on National Forest System Trail (NFST) 810 Summit Trail and utilize a combination of the Summit Trail and NFST 818 Kashmir Trail. Final route to be determined.
- Down Route: Runners will then utilize the NFST 370 Danny On Trail, connecting to the NFST 370E East Rim trail to NFST 370L Flower Point and will descend the Danny On Trail back to the village

One aid station will also be set up near the summit house to provide food, water and first aid to participants. All individuals involved with this event will comply with the Flathead National Forest's food storage order.

Powdered Soul Fun Bike Ride Event

Powdered Soul requested a permit to hold a fun bike ride event on the Tally Lake Ranger District. The route will consist of various system roads and trails in the Reid Divide area. The proposed route includes National Forest System Roads (NFSR) 313, 2843, 2912, 2912B, 9617 and NFST 294 & 800. The event will



be held in a single day in August and include up to 200 participants. The staging area will be located at the gravel pit on NFSR 2912. All individuals involved with this event will comply with the Flathead National Forest's food storage order.

Whitefish Shuttle Livery and Guided Tours

Whitefish Shuttle is requesting a permit to provide guided day-use van tours, biking, and hiking on USFS system open roads and trails in the North Fork area of the Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District and west of Hwy 93 on the Tally Lake Ranger District. The permit would allow for shuttle services and guided van tours, biking, and hiking and between June 1 and October 31 on various system roads and trails including NFSR 115, 376, 909, 317, 316, 315, 5207 and NFST 40 and 266.

Whitefish Bike Retreat Livery

Whitefish Bike Retreat is requesting a permit to provide shuttle services for biking. The permits would allow for shuttle services between June 1 and October 31. Forest system roads and trails currently requested are NFST 800, 801, 294, 310 and NFSR 2942, 913, 313, 542.

Journey to Wellness Program

Summit Health Club is requesting a permit to provide guided day hikes under the Journey to Wellness program. Various trails would be approved on various open Forest system trails on the Tally Lake and Swan Lake Ranger District. Trails currently requested are NFST 811 Lagoni Lake, 804 Tally Lake Overlook, 45 Round Meadow trail system, and Blacktail cross country trail system. The permit would allow for guided hikes from June 1 until October 31.

Northwest Adventure Sports Guided ATV Tours

Northwest Adventure Sports is requesting a permit to provide guided ATV tours on various open motorized system roads on the Tally Lake and Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger Districts. Roads currently requested include NFSR 9790, 1658, 316, 115. The permit would allow for guided trips from June 1 until October 31.

Action Rentals ATV Tours

Action Rentals is requesting a permit to provide guided ATV tours on the Martin Creek Road NFSR 910 and Martin Falls on the Tally Lake Ranger District. The permit would allow for guided trips from June 1 until October 31.

Kiwanis ATV & Motorbike Fun Run

The Kiwanis Club is requesting a permit for an ATV and motorbike fun run on system roads and trails on the Tally Lake Ranger District. The event would be held in one day in July and involve up to 40 participants. The trails include NFST 210, 310, 9784, 538, 171, 172, 113, 538, 9784, 800, 310, 210. The roads include NFSR 538, 9784, 313, 2908, 60-A, 60, 2883, 2890, 113, 538B, 538. The event would begin and end off National Forest. No aid stations will be set up on the Flathead National Forest.

Please contact Julie Gerrior for questions about the **Whitefish Trails Ultra-Marathon, Powdered Soul Fun Bike Ride, Whitefish Shuttle Livery and Guiding, Whitefish Bike Retreat Livery, Journey to Wellness Program, Northwest Adventure Sports Guided ATV Tours, Action Rentals ATV Tours, and Kiwanis ATV & Motorbike Fun Run** at 758-3542 or julie.gerrior@usda.gov. Comments on the project will be accepted through May 1, 2020. Comments can be sent to [comments-northern-flathead-tally-](#)

lake@usda.gov. The Responsible Official for the above projects on the Tally Lake District is District Ranger Bill Mulholland. The Responsible Official for the above projects on the Swan Lake Ranger District is District Ranger Chris Dowling. The Responsible Official for the above projects on the Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District is District Ranger Rob Davies.

Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon

The Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon would allow for approximately 13 miles of a marathon to be run on existing roads, and trails within and surrounding the Blacktail Mountain Resort area. The permit would allow for up to 100 participants. The race would take place in one day. The proposed route on NFS lands is:

- The race will begin at the Lakeside to Blacktail Trailhead and proceed up NFST 104 to NFST 185. From there head South on NFST 185 into the Blacktail Mountain Ski Area permit boundary ski runs/roads and trails. The run will loop back into NFST 185 and proceed north to the Forest boundary.

Two aid stations would be set up on NFS lands to provide food, water and first aid to participants. All individuals involved with this event will comply with the Flathead National Forest's food storage order.

Please contact Beth Pargman for questions at 837-7515 or beth.pargman@usda.gov. Comments on the project will be accepted through May 1, 2020. Comments can be sent to comments-northern-flathead-swan-lake@usda.gov. The Responsible Official for this project is Swan Lake District Ranger Chris Dowling.

Guided Bike Tours

Adventure Cycling Association, Spotted Dog Tours, and Cycle House have requested permits to provide guided bike tours on various Forest System roads on the Tally Lake, Glacier View-Hungry Horse and Swan Lake Ranger Districts. The permits would allow guided bike tours from June 1 until August 31. Forest system roads proposed to be utilized include NFSR 114, 115, 376, 9714, 9715, 1018, 10381, 888, and 903.

Please contact Sean Cranmer for questions at 758-5227 or sean.m.cranmer@usda.gov. Comments on the project will be accepted through May 1, 2020. Comments can be sent to comments-northern-flathead-hungry-horse-glacier-view@usda.gov. The Responsible Official for this project on the Hungry Horse-Glacier View District is District Ranger Robert Davies. The Responsible Official for this project on the Tally Lake District is District Ranger Bill Mulholland. The Responsible Official for this project on the Swan Lake District is District Ranger Chris Dowling

