



## Flathead National Forest

## Media Release

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### Wildland Fire for Resource Benefit Planned on Flathead National Forest

The Hungry Horse District of the Flathead National Forest is hosting a public open house on Tuesday, July 14, 4-7pm, at the in the Signal Room at Izaak Walton Inn in Essex to share information about and discuss wildland fire for resource benefit on the forest. Wildland fire for resource benefit is the management of naturally ignited wildland fires to meet specific resource objectives.

The Flathead National Forest has been successful using wildland fire for resource benefit as a tool to help restore forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness Areas for the past two decades. The forest plans to expand the wildland fire for resource benefit program to suitable areas outside the wilderness.

This season, the Forest plans to selectively use naturally ignited fire in suitable areas in the Middle Fork, mostly the higher elevations adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness, on the south side of Montana Highway 2.

Hungry Horse-Glacier View District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera said, “Not all fires started by lightning will be managed as wildland fire for resource benefit.” DeHerrera continued, “A decision to use naturally ignited fire as a tool for resource management objectives will be made carefully and only under certain conditions.”

The public open house will be an opportunity to discuss wildland fire for resource benefit with DeHerrera and other Flathead National Forest fire management specialists. For more information or to view a map identifying areas planned for wildland fire use management this season, please contact the Hungry Horse District at 387-3800.

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