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|  | <b>Flathead National Forest</b> | <b>Media Release</b> |
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## **Flathead National Forest Offers Much Water-Based Recreation**

The Flathead National Forest offers numerous recreation opportunities on the many rivers and lakes including, boating, fishing, floating, swimming, and water skiing. Several forest campgrounds are adjacent to or nearby a lake or river.

The Hungry Horse Reservoir, approximately 20 miles northeast of Kalispell, is a popular recreation destination located on the Hungry Horse District of the Flathead National Forest. The reservoir is about 34 miles long and approximately 24,000 acres. The reservoir was created in 1953 after the construction of the Hungry Horse Dam.

National Forest System lands surround the reservoir and host several developed and dispersed camping and boat launch locations. Many of the fee campgrounds are managed by Big Sky Recreation, the forest concessionaire, and can be reserved through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 1-877-444-6777. Fee vary from \$11-13 per night and include a variety of services including fire grates, drinking water, toilet facilities, boat ramp and campground host. The concessionaire also manages two day-use areas along the reservoir, Lost Johnny Point and Emery Bay. These areas include a boat ramp and parking area. Daily use fee for these areas is \$4, and a season pass can be purchased for \$30 from Big Sky Recreation. The season pass is also valid at the Swan Lake, Tally Lake and Big Creek day-use areas. Due to fluctuating levels of the Hungry Horse Reservoir, some boat ramps and launches may not be serviceable at low water levels.

A unique camping or picnicking experience is visiting Elk and Fire Islands on the reservoir. Both islands have campsites and toilets, and are only accessible by boat. Canoeing, kayaking and fishing are popular activities in several of the bay areas along the reservoir.

Please remember to store food, beverages, and trash in a manner that bears cannot access, even as a boat camper. This can be challenging so please plan ahead. For campers using the traditional campgrounds, use your vehicle or camper to ensure bears do not have access to your food, beverages, and trash.

The Tally Lake District hosts Tally, Sylvia, Stillwater and Ashley Lakes, and related recreational opportunities. Campgrounds are located at each lake with a variety of available services. Recent improvements include a new boat launch and dock at the Tally Lake

Campground. Tally Lake is the deepest lake in Montana and is located approximately 12 miles west of Whitefish.

Swan, Holland and Lindbergh Lakes are located on the Swan Lake District, south of Bigfork. Each lake offers fishing access, boat launch facilities and campgrounds are located next to or near each lake. The Swan Lake and Holland Lake campgrounds are managed by the forest concessionaire and cost \$15 per night. The Holland Falls Recreational Trail follows the north shore of Holland Lake for 1.3 miles and accesses the falls and provides a spectacular view of the Missions Mountains. The Flathead Lake Trail from the Beardance Picnic Area south of Woods Bay on Montana Highway 35 provides access to the shore of Flathead Lake.

Floating and fishing the North Fork of the Flathead River are popular activities. Big Creek Campground has sites along the river, and the day-use area is a popular river launch site. The campground fee is \$13 and day-use fee is \$4. Other recreation locations on the Glacier View District north of Columbia Falls include Moose Lake and Red Meadow Lake Campgrounds.

Several river access sites are located on the Spotted Bear District that have excellent fishing, floating and camping adventures.

Group sites may be reserved at Big Creek, Emery Bay, Holland Lake, Swan Lake, Tally Lake and Lid Creek for larger outings through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

For more information about water recreation activities on the forest, visit the forest's website at [www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead) or contact a local Forest Service Office.

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