



## Flathead National Forest

## Media Release

November 16, 2009

Contact: Denise Germann  
(406) 758-5252  
(406) 249-1714 cell

### Public Comments Encouraged for Proposed Spotted Bear River Project

The Spotted Bear Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest is requesting public input on a proposed project, Spotted Bear River Project, located on approximately 50,000 acres of the district. In general, the area is located west of the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wildernesses, east of the Hungry Horse Reservoir, and south of the South Fork Dry Park Creek and north of Spotted Bear Mountain.

Spotted Bear District Ranger Deb Mucklow said, "The proposed project will be designed to address multiple resource objectives based on a watershed-level assessment we completed in 2000, and forest plan direction."

The project proposes to:

- restore the forest to a more natural and historical condition that would be more resilient and resistant to potential future disturbances such as wildfire, insect and disease infestations, and climate change,
- maintain or improve timber productivity on suitable lands and provide a variety of wood products to the local economy,
- maintain and improve recreational values and the safety of visitors at developed recreation sites and other areas within the wild and scenic river corridor,
- extend season of motorized access to Middle Big Bill and Silvertip Trailheads, and
- reduce vehicle/trailer conflicts and safety impacts at the Silvertip Trailhead.

Mucklow encourages public comment to help determine issues of concern, level of analysis needed, and possibly develop alternatives to the proposed action. Comments should be forwarded to the Spotted Bear Ranger District by December 4.

For more information, please contact Mucklow at 387-3851 or Project Leader Michele Draggoo at 387-3827, or visit [www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead), click on projects and plans, projects.

--END--