



## Flathead National Forest

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## Media Release

June 25, 2013

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### **Tally Lake District Opens Area for Firewood**

#### *Personal-Use Gathering in Headwaters of Sheppard Creek Drainage*

KALISPELL, MONT – The Tally Lake Ranger District will open approximately ten miles of road for personal-use firewood gathering in the headwaters of the Sheppard Creek drainage. This will allow temporary access for woodcutting on some roads that are normally closed to motorized traffic yearlong. The area is expected to be open from daybreak Monday, July 1, until midnight Saturday, August 31, 2013.

The National Forest Service Roads (NFSR) to be opened are 2885, 2927, 2975, and 2976. Behind the gate on NFSR 2885 there is one gated road (NFSR 2974) and several bermed roads that are NOT open for public motorized use at any time.

A Forest Service personal-use permit is available for a minimum of four cords of firewood for 20 dollars. Woodcutters must have their permit with them while collecting wood. Please read and follow all of terms written on your permit. These include:

- ✓ Standing or downed trees with paint or signs are not to be cut. Some trees behind these gates have been marked with paint and wildlife signs. These trees provide important habitat for many kinds of wildlife.
- ✓ Clear the road surface and ditches of tree tops and limbs when you are done cutting firewood and scatter or pile the material off of the roadway.
- ✓ All vehicles must remain on the road surface.

The area will be monitored, as in previous years. Resource damage, such as creating “stump roads” or the loss of marked wildlife trees, could result in discontinuing the program. Public cooperation has been excellent in past years, and we ask firewood cutters using the area to help continue to make this program a success.

To be sure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable woodcutting outing, people visiting the area are asked to spread out, keep a lookout for other people and vehicles, and as much as possible keep the road open and passable for others. Some of the roads have limited space where they end, so it is a good idea to turn your vehicle around before filling it with wood.

Maps of the woodcutting areas, as well as wood permits, are available at the Tally Lake Ranger District/Flathead National Forest Supervisor’s Office in Kalispell. Permits are also available from several commercial vendors throughout the area. For more information on special permits please visit:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/flathead/passes-permits/>.

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