



Flathead National Forest

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Media Release

September 11, 2013

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Tally Lake Ranger District Fall Prescribed Fire Projects

All Projects Subject to Favorable Weather, Fuel, and Air Quality Conditions

KALISPELL, MONT. – The Tally Lake Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest is planning to conduct multiple fall prescribed fire projects when weather, fuel conditions, and air quality become favorable. Burning is expected to start as early as next week and will continue thru the close of open burning season on November 30, 2013. The prescribed fire projects will be spread over the Tally Lake district. Smoke will be visible from various places in the Flathead Valley depending on the location of the burn units and weather conditions.

Each project will follow a Prescribed Fire Burn Plan. The prescribed fire projects are designed to reduce the potential for adverse effects, and minimize the potential for an escape as a wildland fire. These projects will be in compliance with Montana air quality standards and coordinated with Montana State Department of Environmental Quality to reduce the impacts of smoke to our neighbors, cooperators, and surrounding communities. The project areas include:

Good Creek – This ecosystem burn project targets 142 acres of mid to upper elevation shrub and conifer near Grouse Creek. Fire suppression has caused a change in species composition resulting in an encroachment of conifers into an open shrub field. Prescribed fire will reintroduce fire to overall improve wildlife habitat and reduce the conifer encroachment.

Lost Mountain Timber Sale Area – These prescribed burns are to reduce fire hazard by reducing the fuel loading created by harvest activities and fuels reduction projects. Burning also provides the site preparation necessary to promote regeneration of seedlings.

District Wide Pile Burning – Hand or Machine piles are located in several locations within the Tally Lake District. Smoke will be visible in the Griffin Creek, Logan Creek, Lost Creek, Bootjack Lake and Tally Lake areas. These piles are a result of harvesting and hazardous fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface. These piles are burned to reduce the fuel loading in these areas. These piles are strategically burned based on their location, access, and weather conditions.

For additional information about these projects contact the Tally Lake Ranger District in Kalispell at 406-758-5204.

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