



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tally Lake
Ranger District

650 Wolfpack Way
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-5204
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File Code: 1950

Date: December 4, 2015

Greetings,

The Tally Lake Ranger District employees are proposing a project to address management concerns on National Forest System (NFS) lands west of Kalispell, MT. We are calling this effort the **Lost Beetle Project**. This project was developed through a collaborative process with interested members of the public to address insect and disease concerns within the project area. We included you on our mailing list for this project because you have expressed interest in this or other projects in the past or you own property adjacent to NFS lands in the vicinity of the project area. Please pass this information along to your neighbors or other interested parties who may not have received this notice in the mail.

The enclosed document and map describe the need for management actions in the area and the proposed action in greater detail. The Flathead National Forest internet site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/projects> may also be accessed for information on this project.

My preliminary assessment indicates that this proposal may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as it fits within a category listed in Section 603 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 6591b), which permits projects designed to reduce the risk or extent of, or increase the resilience to, insect or disease infestation in areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture under Section 602. The Lost Beetle Project is located within an area designated under Section 602. Public comments and the environmental review completed by our resource specialists will be used to make the final determination on whether this project may be categorically excluded.

Comments should include: 1) name, address, phone number, and organization represented, if any; 2) title of project on which the comments are being submitted; 3) specific facts and supporting information that you believe should be considered.

Please address your comments to Project Leader Deb Bond at the above address or fax number. To submit comments electronically, please send to: comments-northern-flathead-tally-lake@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf), or Word Perfect format. The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments. You should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from us as confirmation of receipt. If you do not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is your responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. Hand-delivered comments should be taken to the ranger station



office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Please see address on letterhead. Oral comments must be provided during normal business hours to Deb via telephone at (406) 758-5318 or in person.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments will be accepted through January 4th, 2016. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record, and will be available for public inspection.

This comment period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official.

Because of the enormous amount of research regarding forestry practices and methods, if you cite literature in your comments please provide us with a complete bibliography or a copy of the referenced materials if they are not commonly available.

I appreciate your interest in the Lost Beetle Project, and I thank you for your help with developing our project. To obtain additional information about this project, please contact me (406) 758-5333, or Deb Bond at (406) 758-5318.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Jenkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Jenkins
Acting District Ranger

Enclosures;
Scoping Document
Proposed Action Map