

File Code: 1950/2720
Date: November 14, 2022

Dear Interested Party,

The Flathead National Forest is requesting public input on the issuance of temporary special use permits authorizing outfitting and guiding activities across the forest from December 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023. The new and updated outfitting and guiding permit requests include **The Mountain Guides Montana Avalanche & Winter Travel Education Classes, Rooted Heart Guided Snowshoe Trips, and Northwest Montana Adventures Guided Snowmobile Tours.**

Based on resource information to date, I believe these projects fall within the Forest Service category of actions under 36 CFR 220.6. Scoping comments along with a resource analysis will determine whether these projects will fit within category 36 CFR 220.6(d)(8): Approval, modification, or continuation of minor, short-term (1 year or less) special uses of National Forest System lands.

The following provides information on each of the above projects:

Proposals led by Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District

- **The Mountain Guides Montana** is requesting 200 user days for the purpose of offering avalanche education and winter travel skills courses on terrain adjacent to the Whitefish Mountain Resort on the Tally Lake and Glacier View Ranger Districts. The proposed season is December 15, 2022, through March 31, 2023. They anticipate offering a maximum of 10 American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) Avalanche Level 1 courses, one AIARE Avalanche Level 2 course, and 10 winter travel/backcountry skills courses with a class size of 2 to 18 participants. Access to terrain would occur through Whitefish Mountain Resort.

Proposals led by Tally Lake Ranger District

- **Rooted Heart LLC** is requesting 50 user days to provided guided snowshoe trips with the purpose of forest therapy/bathing and interpretation within 1 mile of the Round Meadows Trailhead on the Tally Lake Ranger District. They anticipate offering 5 trips with up to 10 people per trip from December 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023.
- **Northwest Montana Adventures** is requesting 200 user days to provide guided day-use snowmobile tours on groomed routes from December 1 through March 31. Maximum group size would be 12. Tours would begin in Olney and be restricted to groomed routes in the Taylor Creek and Werner Peak areas, the groomed loop to the east on Road 316 to the warming hut, and the groomed route on Road 115 to Red Meadow Lake from the west side of the Whitefish Range on the Glacier View Ranger District. This is similar to



a proposal submitted and approved in 2021 with an addition of adding limited trips to Red Meadow Lake.

Please email Anthony Butterfield at anthony.butterfield@usda.gov for inquiries or to provide comments.

Maps of the project areas can be found on the Flathead National Forest website under the [Managing the Land/Projects page](#). Please review the proposal and provide us with your comments. To ensure full consideration of your comments in the NEPA analysis, we request that they be submitted by November 29, 2022. Input 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.

Sincerely,

TAMARA MACKENZIE
Deputy Forest Supervisor