

Expansion plans for the Big Mountain

by Michelle Dragoo
Forester Trainee

The Big Mountain ski area plans to expand their operations this summer with several new projects to accommodate the growing amount of visitors to the area.

The new projects will include replacing Chair 1 with a higher speed, detachable four-person lift, new snow making equipment, tennis courts, an enclosed swimming pool and new administrative buildings.

The new chair lift will replace Chair 1 which begins at the base area village and ends just short of the mountain

top. The new chair will begin in the present lower parking lot and off-load skiers directly at the Summit House. The new lift will have a capacity of almost six times more than Chair 1 and cut the ride time to the top in half. It will also be possible during the summer to place gondola cars on the new lift.

Construction of the new lift will begin in June and should be finished in time for the skiing season. Chair 1 will still be in operation to the summit for most of the summer until it is time to tear down the lift.



Photo by Steve Wirt

Far right—Information Assistant Dellora Gauger greets a hiker on the Danny On Memorial Trail.

The Tally Lake Ranger District is offering interpretive services at the summit this summer, as well as nature walks along the Danny On Memorial Trail.

The Danny On Trail provides visitors with an opportunity to observe the plants and animals of the high country. Several big game species reside on the Big Mountain — mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, black bear, and a rare

visitor, the grizzly bear.

Approximate elevations are 7,000 feet at the top and 5,000 feet at the bottom. For those who wish to use the chair lift, it operates from mid-June through Labor Day weekend.

Please contact the Tally Lake Ranger District, or the Supervisor's Office, for schedules and topics of the interpretive programs.



United States Forest Service Photo

Hikers enjoy the glacial beauty of the Mission Mountain Wilderness.

Try the "undiscovered" Flathead!

In northwest Montana, the Flathead's spectacular, rugged terrain lies adjacent to Glacier National Park and west of the backbone of the Continental Divide.

The Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Mission Mountains Wildernesses offer Forest users primitive recreational opportunities. The Three Forks of the Flathead Wild and Scenic River System, a favorite for fishing and white-water rafting, dissects the incomparable beauty of the Mission, Swan and Flathead mountain ranges. Neighboring Flathead Lake, the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi, is popular with fishermen, boaters, or those who want to relax in the sun.

A forest for all seasons, the Flathead's glaciated peaks, alpine lakes and timbered slopes invite hikers, campers and fishermen. There is something for everyone, from back country stock users to those who want to enjoy the scenic beauty from their vehicles.

Summer on the Flathead is culminated with colorful autumn foliage, the fiery bronze of the western larch and the bugling challenge of a bull elk — signalling the advent of hunting season.

Winter's crisp invigorating air and fresh powder challenge the alpine enthusiast on the slopes of the Big Mountain ski area, while nordic skiers and snowmobilers are drawn to the solitude of the backcountry. For a change of pace discover the Flathead — a forest for all seasons!

The Editor

Tally Lake joins "DREAM"

By Michelle Dragoo
Forester Trainee

Share Program which provides Federal funds that are matched by private donations from individual members of the public, companies, community groups and other organizations to accomplish recreation attractions on our National Forests. Contributions can include labor, time, funds, ideas, products or services.

Phase 1 of the Tally Lake project consists of building an open air group pavilion to be completed this year. The pavilion project will cost an estimated \$25,000. The Forest Service has allocated \$10,000 for the project; however,

if all of the required donations are not collected, the \$10,000 will go back into the general fund and the project will not be completed this year.

For more information on this project, contact the Tally Lake Ranger District in Whitefish, or the Supervisor's Office in Kalispell.

If you would like to join "DREAM" in providing a very worthwhile project for the Flathead Valley, send your donations to:

DREAM, Inc.
P.O. Box 1058
Kalispell, MT 59903-1058

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The Tally Lake Ranger District and the Disabled Recreation and Environmental Access Movement, Inc. (DREAM) have joined together to develop an "accessible" recreation trail for the handicapped, a fishing pier, an interpretive scenic overlook trail and a covered group pavilion at the Tally Lake Campground.

This project is part of the Forest Service's National Recreation Strategy of finding creative ways to provide outdoor recreation opportunities. Part of the strategy is the Challenge Cost