

County seeking applicants for \$100,000 cost-share dust-abatement program

Posted March 4, 2009—Time is running out for North Forkers desiring to participate in Flathead County’s dust-abatement cost-share program, reports Lynnette Hintze in the **March 4 Kalispell Daily Inter Lake**.

“The deadline to sign up for the first-time program is March 27,” write Hintze, “and to date the county has had little response from rural residents, Public Works Director Dave Prunty said [March 2].”

The \$100,000 program involves the county matching contributions from groups of residents (not individuals) on gravel roads on a 50-50 cost-share basis to apply magnesium chloride (at \$4,000 per mile, Hintze reports) or black oil (at about \$8,000 per mile) to mitigate road dust. Minimum required treatment length is one-half mile; a magnesium chloride treatment lasts eight-12 weeks.

“With matching funds from rural residents, the county would be able to treat 50 miles of gravel roads,” reports Hintze. Flathead County has 700 miles of unpaved roads; about 38 miles of the North Fork Road is unpaved.

“Residents interested in participating in the program should choose a spokesperson to call the county road department at 758-5790 for an application form,” writes Hintze.

Follow-up—According to an **April 7 Daily Inter Lake story** by Hintze, “More than 24 miles of Flathead County roads will get dust abatement this summer through a new cost-sharing program.”

According to the story, none of the 24 miles of road to be treated is on the North Fork.