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MEDIA RELEASE

MISSOULA MUSEUM VISITORS TO FIGHT WILDLAND FIRES AND HARVEST TIMBER WITH WII TECHNOLOGY

Raffle Celebrates Planned National Museum of Forest Service History Exhibits

Missoula, Montana, September 7, 2009 – Today the National Museum of Forest Service History launched a raffle drive to celebrate the public unveiling of its architectural and exhibit concept plans for its permanent home in Missoula. Five prizes will be awarded in a drawing to be held on September 26, National Public Lands Day.

“The Museum is committed to engaging the public in our mission to collect, preserve and interpret the history of the US Forest Service,” said Dave Stack, vice president, National Museum of Forest Service History. “Each of the five prizes signals important aspects of the Museum’s planned exhibits and educates the public in the spirit of fun.”

The Museum’s 2009 *Legacy Raffle* is open to the public. The top prize is a Wii game consol -- Wii interactive technology will allow Museum visitors to try their hand at wildland firefighting and timber harvesting. Other prizes include a Canon digital camera, which relates to the Museum’s exhibits on our wildlife and recreation heritage, a Garmin GPS, which represents exhibits on US Forest Service research innovations, Vortex Binoculars, which honor wildfire history, and an Omaha Steaks gift certificate, which spotlights exhibits on the Forest Service’s grassland and multiple use heritage.

From September 7 to September 10, individuals may purchase tickets at the Museum Store booth in the vendor court at the 2009 Forest Service Reunion, which is taking place this week at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center. Each set of five tickets is \$20.00.

Raffle tickets will also be sold through September 25 at the Boone and Crockett Club. America’s sportsmen community has played a leading role in conserving and stewarding our national forests and grasslands, and the Boone and Crockett Club was among the first to step forward to support the National Museum of Forest Service

History. Tickets are also available through September 25 at The Trailhead and the Museum offices.

Winners will be contacted directly and publicly announced at www.nmfs-history.net on September 26th, as the Museum celebrates National Public Lands Day with the launch of its new website. Call (406) 541-6374 for more information.

The Museum's Board, volunteers, staff and partners have just completed 3-years of site preparation, building design and exhibit planning for the planned \$12 million, 30,000 square-foot national museum, repository and conservation education center to be located in Missoula. The plans will be publicly unveiled at the Museum's Annual Meeting on September 8.

About the National Museum of Forest Service History

The National Museum of Forest Service History, a national nonprofit organization founded in 1988, is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting the entire national history of the USDA Forest Service for the education and enjoyment of the general public, scholars, and historical researchers. For more information, visit www.nmfs-history.net
