



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

August 23, 2005

Contact: Denise Germann
406-758-5252
406-249-1714 cell

Flathead National Forest Conducts Project Under Healthy Forest Restoration Act Objection Process Opens

The Swan Lake District of the Flathead National Forest has completed an environmental analysis for the Holland Pierce Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project under the authority of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. With the release of the analysis, public objections can be filed with the project's reviewing officer, Northern Regional Forester Gail Kimbell. The objection period is open through September 21 and is available to anyone who has previously submitted written comments specific to this project.

The project proposes to reduce hazardous fuel loading and improve forest health on approximately 1,800 acres of National Forest System lands in the Upper Swan Valley; specifically within the wildland-urban interface areas. The project is consistent with and contributes towards the community developed Seeley Swan Fire Plan.

Public input helped the district design the project. The design is to provide a safer environment for firefighters and the public by creating defensible space for initial attack fire suppression activities and restore and maintain the health of the forest vegetative communities within the project area. The project is located approximately 6 miles southeast of Condon, Montana. The project area is approximately 34,500 acres of mixed ownership lands, including 25,160 acres of National Forest System lands.

Specific actions with the proposal include mechanized vegetation treatment of about 1,700 acres and non-mechanized vegetation treatment of about 100 acres. Approximately 3.5 million board feet (MMBF) of forest products will be removed. Less than 4 miles of temporary road would be constructed and then reclaimed.

For more information about the Holland Pierce project, contact Project Team Leader Keith Soderstrom at 406-837-7510.