



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Comments Requested for Sixmile Fuels Reduction Project

The Swan Lake District Ranger Steve Brady is asking for public comment on the proposed Sixmile Fuels Reduction Project. The project is designed to reduce fuel buildup next to private lands, reduce intensity of potential wildfires and increase the probability of stopping wildfires on public lands before they burn on to private property. The project involves treatment of 980 acres.

The project includes fuel reduction treatments that generally leave the larger trees. Treatments involve hand tools, chain saws, and mechanized machinery to move, pile, yard, chip, shred, and/or burn trees and vegetation. Mechanized treatments include the removal of about 4 million board feet of merchantable forest products. The project will improve the remaining tree health and growth across the area. About 8 miles of temporary road will be needed on National Forest System lands to provide administrative access to thinning areas. The roads will be reclaimed after the project has been completed.

The Forest Service worked with neighboring land owners during the initial development of the proposed project and is seeking further input. Comments on Forest Service activities are welcome any time, but would be most useful to the team working on the project if received before the end of the comment period, April 10, 2006. Information about the project proposal is available at the Swan Lake Ranger District office or Project Leader Keith Soderstrom at (406) 837-7510.

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