

	<b>Flathead National Forest</b>	<b>Media Release</b>
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## **Motorized Trail Loop System Proposed on Swan Lake District** **Public Comments Encouraged**

The Swan Lake Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest is seeking public comment on a proposal to expand motorized trail opportunities on the Island Unit area of the district. A series of motorized trail loops in three different areas surrounding Blacktail Mountain has been proposed in an effort to accommodate the growing demand for recreational motorized trails on the forest.

The proposed trails would be open to a variety of motor vehicle types, including vehicles 50" or less in width, jeeps and other full-sized motor vehicles. The initial proposal is for a system of ATV trails in the Patrick Creek area, and jeep trails in the Mount Creek, Wild Bill and Stoner Creek areas. Approximately 30 miles of motorized trails would be created with this proposal.

"The Island Unit has an extensive system of roads that are currently closed that we could open and link with short pieces of new trail construction to create a really great trail system," said Andrew Johnson, project leader for the Swan Lake Ranger District. Johnson said a map of what such a system could look like has been created to initiate discussion.

"Right now we are really looking to spark public input to help us design what such a system could look like, including everything from which routes and how many miles, to level of challenge and season of use," said Johnson.

After this initial phase of public involvement and development of the proposed system, the Swan Lake District will conduct an environmental analysis before any route designation or construction could occur.

Public comments on this proposal should be provided to the Swan Lake District by November 30. Comments may be mailed to; Swan Lake District, 200 Ranger Station Road, Bigfork, Montana, 59911, Attention Andrew Johnson. For more information about the project please call the district at 837-7500.

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