

	Flathead National Forest	Media Release
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Prescribed Fire Projects Planned for Swan Lake District

The Swan Lake District of the Flathead National Forest is planning several prescribed fire projects to be implemented within the next week if weather conditions are favorable. The project areas are located on the east shore of Flathead Lake and along the Swan Range south of Bigfork. Smoke will be visible from various places in the valley.

These wildlife and ecosystem burns will burn upper-elevation conifer stands and shrub fields. Introduction of fire will improve forest health and reduce the likelihood of intense wildfire, as well as increase forage for wildlife. The projects include:

- **Parker Burn – 320 acres and Glen Burn– 86 acres**, located 2 miles north east of Yellow Bay
- **Orvis Evans Burn -650 acres and Sixmile Burn -200 acres**, located 6 miles north of the town of Swan Lake.
- **Bond Burn– 450 acres**, located 5 miles north of the town of Swan Lake

These areas have historically experienced infrequent moderate-intensity natural fires. Fire suppression and other factors have prevented or minimized fires within these landscapes. These areas have experienced a change in species composition, increased stress and disease levels, accumulations of woody material, and an increased risk of stand-replacing fires.

These burns were located and designed for their potential to be controlled and not escape as wildfires. These projects are in compliance with Montana Air Quality Standards and coordinated with Montana State Department of Environmental Quality.

For additional information contact the Swan Lake Ranger District in Bigfork at 837-7500.

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