



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Contact:

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

Family Forestry Expo- 18th Year

Family Forestry Expo, a tradition of the Flathead Valley for the past 18 years, will be Saturday and Sunday, May 12-13 at the Trumbull Creek Educational Forest, between Columbia Falls and Whitefish. (approximately two miles north of the Blue Moon Grille- follow the signs)

The family-oriented event features a .7 mile forest walk that offers educational stations and demonstrations along the way. Each station provides information and hands-on activities that allow participants to learn about the many uses of our forests, private and public. A new station will be focused on the use of global positioning systems (GPS). The public is encouraged to bring their personal GPS unit to learn more and improve skills.

A grand stand show featuring logging equipment demonstrations, US Forest Service Spotted Bear Ranger District mule pack string, and a Flathead Valley Community College Logging Sports Team competition will be presented at 10:30am and 1pm on Saturday, and 1pm on Sunday.

Mills tours of the Plum Creek Plywood Plant will be conducted on Saturday only, 9:15am – 2pm. Anyone wishing to join the tour is asked to meet at the EXPO site and a free shuttle bus will be provided. Participants must be at least 10 years old.

The FIREWISE Trailer will be available with information about fire ecology, responsible living in a fire-dependent ecosystem, defensible space and hazardous fuels reduction. Local community foresters will be staffing the trailer to answer questions.

On Saturday, a natural resource career day will be hosted. Several professionals from a variety of natural resource careers, including logging, fire,

forestry, and backcountry trail management will be available to share information and provide career development ideas.

Various exhibits featuring local organizations, businesses and agencies that deal with natural resources will be on display. The exhibits will include a new display about white bark pine, a high elevation tree species, and the value of this species to Northwest Montana.

A free logging camp lunch will be provided, compliments of Family Forestry Expo. The lunch will be served 11:30am to 1pm both days.

Prior to the public weekend event, more than 1,200 local fifth grade students visit Expo and learn about natural resource topics. The students visit stations that provide educational presentations about fisheries, aquatic/riparian systems, archaeology, wildlife, fire, backcountry ethics, plant identification, forest management and more. The program is curriculum based and the field stations compliment classroom study. In addition, the students also tour a local sawmill at Plum Creek or Stoltze Lumber.

Family Forestry Expo is held every spring. A group of dedicated individuals, organizations, agencies and businesses work together to provide an enjoyable and educational event that provides unbiased information about forests and the multiple opportunities it provides in our everyday lives.

For more information please contact 758-5252 or visit www.familyforestryexpo.org.

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