



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Flathead National Forest to Conduct Prescribed Burns

The Flathead National Forest plans to initiate some prescribed burns across the forest this fall, including several to be completed this week, if suitable weather conditions exist. Prescribed fire is used throughout the forest to meet various management objectives, including returning fire to the ecosystem, maintaining or restoring plant communities, reducing or removing exotic plants, maintaining or improving wildlife habitat, reducing hazardous fuel accumulations and reducing fire suppression costs.

The Hungry Horse and Glacier View District plans to manage approximately 3,600 acres on the east side of Hungry Horse Reservoir, adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness with fire. Objectives of the burn are to rejuvenate stagnant whitebark pine stands and improve spring and fall elk and deer range. The burn project will also reduce downed fuel accumulations. **Smoke will be visible and may continue for several weeks, depending on weather conditions.**

A burn conducted by the Swan Lake District is planned for the Sixmile area east of Swan Lake. Up to 200 acres will be managed to re-introduce fire to an area which historically experienced moderately frequent mid-to-high elevation fires. Smoke may be visible from the town of Swan Lake and across various locations in the Flathead Valley.

The Spotted Bear District will be conducting some burns off the Meadow Creek Road, in the Spotted Beetle Timber Sale area. These broadcast burns are identified to help manage wildlife habitat and removal ground fuels.

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Next month the Tally Lake District is planning a broadcast burn in the Upper Good Creek area, about ten miles west of Stillwater Lake. This 48-acre burn will assist in slash removal and fuel reduction, as well as site preparation for regeneration activities.

During October, the forest will be burning various slash piles as weather conditions allow. The piles are a result of timber harvest and fuels reduction activities and hazard tree removal projects.

For more information about fire activities across the Flathead National Forest, please contact 758-5252.

**NOTE: **Hunters, please be aware of anticipated burns across the forest.
Contact a local office of the Flathead National Forest for information.****

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