



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Flathead National Forest Prevails in Court

A recent court order from the US District Court of Missoula upheld the Flathead National Forest in litigation regarding the Meadow Smith Project. The order states that all aspects of the plaintiff's (Friends of the Wild Swan) motion are denied.

“We are pleased with the court order and believe this validates the good work the Flathead National Forest is doing,” said Swan Lake District Ranger Steve Brady. “The folks on the forest work hard to manage healthy forest resources within the sideboards of numerous laws and regulations.”

The Swan Lake District of the forest completed a record of decision for the Meadow Smith Project in 2003. The Meadow Smith Project area is located approximately 10 miles north of Condon, Montana and includes 1,300 acres of national forest system lands in Lake and Missoula Counties.

Project actions include thinning and prescribed fire to; 1) maintain the presence of and protect the unique characteristics of open-grown, large-tree ponderosa pine and western larch forests, 2) return fire through prescribed fire as a process of succession, and 3) lower the risks of loss of mature large-tree forests from insects, disease and lethal fire. An estimated 5 million board feet of timber will be offered with this project.

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