



Forest Service

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News Release



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Public Encouraged to Comment on the Proposed Blacktail Road Project *Community Invited to Open House*

Kalispell, MT., February 1, 2016 – The Swan Lake Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest invites public input on the proposed Blacktail Road Project. The proposed project is available for review and public comment through February 24, 2016. The ranger district is hosting an open house on Tuesday, February 9 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Town Center, 306 Stoner Loop in Lakeside, MT to present project details and answer questions. During the open house resource specialists will present a short overview of the project at 4, 5 and 6 p.m.

The Blacktail Road, Road #917 is located on the Island Unit of the Swan Lake Ranger District and Flathead County, and serves as the primary access to National Forest System lands in the Blacktail Mountain area from the community of Lakeside and U.S. Highway 93. The road provides access to the Blacktail Mountain Ski Area, motorized and non-motorized trail systems, the Blacktail Mountain Nordic Cross-Country Ski Trail System, and other recreation such as huckleberry picking, hiking, and pleasure driving. Blacktail Road is also a primary route for Forest Service management activities in the area, provides access to the communication facilities on top of Blacktail Mountain, and access to adjacent private lands.

The project aims to stabilize and restore about 10 miles of road starting where the Flathead County jurisdiction ends, about milepost 3.5, to the top of Blacktail Mountain. Proposed activities for the project include transferring jurisdiction of about 2 miles of road from the U.S. Air Force to the U.S. Forest Service; reconstructing the road to accommodate a two lane road with an asphalt surface; minor road alignments for safety and resource protection; stabilizing the fill slopes on a lower road segment above Stoner Creek; improving road drainage; replacing stream culverts as needed; and using the existing Blacktail gravel pit at milepost 13 to generate material for road reconstruction.

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Comments on the project are requested by February 24, 2016, so that input may be included in the analysis. Written, hand-delivered, and oral comments can be delivered to District Ranger, Rich Kehr at 200 Ranger Station Road, Bigfork, MT 59911; by fax (406)837-7503; or by phone at (406)837-7500. Please submit electronic comments to comments-northern-flathead-swan-lake@fs.fed.us with the project name in the subject line.

For more information on the Blacktail Road Project, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/projects> or contact Rich Kehr, District Ranger, 406/837-7503.

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