



## Flathead National Forest

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## Media Release

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Contact: Denise Germann  
(406) 758-5252  
(406) 249-1714 cell

### **Public Comments Encouraged for Proposed Wild Cramer Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project on Swan Lake District**

Public Field Trip Planned November 4

The Swan Lake Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest is requesting public comment on a proposed project, Wild Cramer Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project. The proposed project is located on National Forest System Lands approximately 10 miles south of Kalispell and two miles west of Flathead Lake.

The purposes of the proposed project are to improve forest health, reduce hazardous fuels and provide wood products for local communities, including:

- Improve and/or maintain the general health, resiliency, and sustainability of forested stands,
- Reduce the risk of insect epidemics and severe disease infestations within the project area,
- Reduce forest fuels build-up adjacent to public and private lands,
- Provide a safer environment for the public and firefighters should a wildfire occur within the area,
- Increase the probability of stopping wildfires on National Forest System lands before they burn onto private lands, and
- Provide forest products to the local timber industry, contributing to short-term timber supply and providing for long-term sustainability of timber on National Forest System lands.

A secondary purpose of the project would benefit public recreation by addressing forest health issues within the Blacktail Mountain Ski Area permit boundary.

A public field trip to the project area will be held Thursday, November 4 to discuss the proposed action. Anyone interested in the field trip should contact the Forest Service at 387-3810 or 387-3827 by Monday, November 1.

Public comments on the proposed Wild Cramer Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project should be forwarded to the Swan Lake Ranger District by December 1. Comments will help determine issues of concern, determine the level of analysis needed, and possibly develop alternatives to the proposed action. A draft environmental impact statement for this project is anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2011.

A copy of the proposal is available at [www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead). For more information, please contact Project Leader Michele Draggoo at 387-3827.

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