

Swan View's News

Summer 2017



Swan View Coalition
3165 Foothill Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

"Nature and human nature on the same path."

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Revised Flathead Forest Plan Delayed Again!

The Flathead National Forest first announced its newly revised Forest Plan would be out in April, followed by the required 60 day public review during which formal Objections to the new Plan can be filed. Then the Flathead moved the date back to June, and again back to late-August.

The Flathead says the delay is due to extensive public comments, public Freedom of Information Act requests and coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Will the delay result in a better Forest Plan?

We are wary. In March we discovered the Flathead and FWS were trying to change the long-standing requirement that road culverts in bull trout habitat be inspected every year to prevent blowouts - to once every six years! Neither agency has yet provided any documents in response to our FOIA requests that support the notion that culverts won't plug and blow out during the five years they are not monitored.

Our 2016 [Roads to Ruin report](#), based on earlier FOIA requests, revealed the Flathead is failing across-the-board to meet

mandatory conditions agreed to with FWS to adequately monitor its roads and culverts! Both agencies are now trying to nix those agreements, which are also promises made to the public and its fish and wildlife to minimize environmental damage!

We mustn't forget that both agencies are also trying to remove Endangered Species

Act protection from threatened grizzly bears in both Yellowstone and the Northern Continental Divide ecosystems. So a lot of the delay is to form a paper trail making it look like Forest Plans will take care of the bears when they actually allow increased human pressures and development.

The good news is Cinnabar Foundation issued us another Challenge Grant to continue our fight to protect grizzly bears and bull trout! The first \$4,000 in our members' contributions will be matched by Cinnabar, doubling your donation (page 3)!

Happy Summer and Happy Trails!

Keith



Swan Rangers toasted their 601st outing June 10th!

Timber Sales Delayed But More in the Making!

The Flathead National Forest will soon release a Supplemental Environmental Assessment for its Glacier Loon timber sale in the Swan Valley. This is in response to a lawsuit we won several years ago with several other groups, which stopped the sale.

The Flathead also withdrew its decision on the nearby Cold Jim timber sale and said it would prepare a Supplemental EA. After the Flathead ignored public comments and formal Objections, Fish and Wildlife Service agreed with Objectors' finding that the project may adversely affect bull trout.

We'd like to think the Supplemental EAs will result in significant positive changes to the timber sale designs, but most often the Forest Service simply tries to make things look better on paper rather than make improvements on the ground! Unfortunately, this pattern of faulty timber sales is consistent with [reports](#) that public land managers intentionally break the law so they can blame the problem on environmentalists that then file lawsuits to enforce America's environmental laws.

We're also either being double-teamed by the Forest Service or one hand doesn't know what the other is doing. We settled our Objection with the Swan Lake District Ranger to his Chilly James Restoration Project when he promised to abide by FWS's requirement that culverts left in closed roads

in bull trout habitat must be inspected each year to keep them from blowing out and smothering bull trout eggs. Meanwhile, the Forest Supervisor is attempting to get FWS to change culvert inspections to an every-sixth-year requirement (see page 1)!

We're not the only ones disgusted with the Forest Service. The Swan Lake Ranger District held a meeting June 21 to ask the public what it thought about doing some logging to "restore" the area around Weed

Lake. The District got an earful from residents of Swan Lake now faced with weed infestations caused by the District's recent logging of the Swan Lake Fuel Reduction Project.

When we brought up the issue of rampant and unlawful ATV use being the most likely risk for wildfire, residents took notice when the District admitted knowing about both the weed and ATV problems but had done little about them. The District also noted that all eight of the latest fires in the area were human-caused, yet they

want to blame fire on the trees, bugs and disease that naturally regulate a healthy ecosystem!

We sent the District photos showing how root rot naturally thins Douglas fir that crowd in on sun-loving Ponderosa pine - with no need for logging or the roads that result in more weeds and more ATV problems. We don't intend to let up!

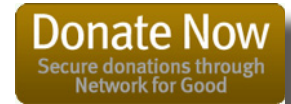


Illegal motorcycle damage to the wheelchair accessible Krause Basin Nature Trail!

Your Donations Again Doubled by Cinnabar Foundation!

Cinnabar Foundation has increased its Challenge Grant to us this year to \$4,000 - **so be among the first to donate to get your money doubled by Cinnabar!**

We rely in large part on member donations to fund our work protecting habitat for fish, wildlife and people. You can help us broaden our membership base by giving Gift Memberships at \$25 each, either on-line or using the donation form below! **It's easy to join others in supporting our work:**



1. Send a check to Swan View Coalition at 3165 Foothill Road, Kalispell, MT 59901 - or -
2. Use your credit card securely on-line at www.swanview.org or www.swanrange.org, by clicking on the **Donate Now button** found there (or above)!

Network for Good handles your transaction securely for us and informs us immediately via email of your donation by credit card. You can also choose to give monthly, quarterly or yearly there to make it easier or more affordable (or change your mind anytime)! If you have other info you want to get to us, such as Gift Membership info, simply email it to keith@swanview.org or mail them to the address in #1, above.



If there is pink on your mailing label, it means you haven't donated in nearly a year or more. Please make a donation so we can keep sending you our newsletter and continue our work!

- Here's \$25 to cover my minimum dues, newsletters, alerts, and Swan Ranger Reports.
- Here's \$50 to help restore a bit of peace and quiet to America's public lands.
- Here's \$100 to help keep forest roads from ending up in America's bull trout streams.
- Here's \$500 to help secure grizzly, lynx and wolverine habitat for future generations.
- Here's \$_____ to help save the world, one mountain range and one river at a time!
- Here's \$_____ for _____ Gift Memberships at a minimum of \$25 each. I've included each recipient's name, mailing address, email address, and my greeting on separate paper.
- As a gift of appreciation for my donation, please send me the Swan/Flathead history booklet "The Lineage of Chief Aeneas: A History of People and Place" and/or a Swan Ranger patch (circle "hang-loop" or "sew-on").
- Save paper! Email my newsletters to _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

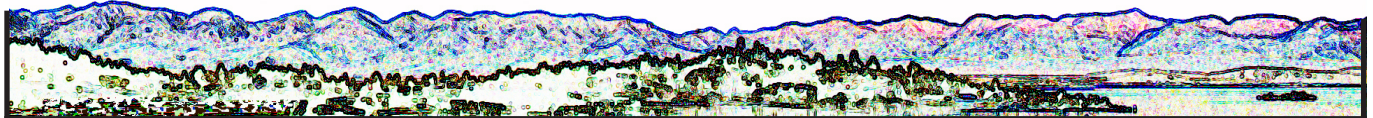
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Delay on the Flathead National Forest: For Better or Worse?

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