

Conservation Group Urges Forest Service to Move 100-Mile Run To Less Sensitive Habitats

For Immediate Release
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Kalispell – A local conservation group is urging the Forest Service and organizers of the proposed Swan Crest 100-Mile Run to move the proposed 50-person run out of sensitive roadless areas, proposed wilderness areas, and threatened grizzly bear habitat. (See attached May 10, 2010 letter). Swan View Coalition Chair Keith Hammer says “Moving the run outside these extra-sensitive and pristine habitats would lessen impacts of the run and likely reduce the level of environmental review needed before the run could be approved.”

“There are areas like the Foys to Blacktail Trail that could benefit from the money and publicity raised by this run,” Hammer continued. “We’re hopeful good intentions can be redirected to an already impacted area in need of restoration.”

In case the run is not relocated, however, the group yesterday filed a notice of intent to file a lawsuit against the Forest Service under the Endangered Species Act. The ESA requires such a notice be submitted 60-days in advance of the potential lawsuit. (See attached ESA notice letter).

“We are required by law to file this notice now,” Hammer said, “in case we need to file a lawsuit prior to the run scheduled for July 29-31. It is our intent and hope, however, to instead see this run moved to less sensitive habitats. We will work through the Forest Service’s public involvement process to this end.”

The Forest Service received an application for a special use permit for the Swan Crest 100-Mile Run in mid-May, is currently reviewing the application, and has promised public review of the proposal. The Forest Service has not indicated whether it will prepare an environmental assessment for the proposal, as requested by Swan View Coalition and others.

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