

4/3/09

C.O.C.E.E.C.

Flathead National Forest – Program Highlights  
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*The Flathead National Forest Conservation Education Program provides opportunities for our visitors, employees and local communities to explore, discover and learn about:*

- the cultural and natural resources found in forest and aquatic ecosystems;
- the inter-relationships in natural systems and between people and the land.

*Through our educational, interpretive and information programs:*

- we encourage people to connect with their environment and work together to help sustain our nation's cultural and natural resources;
- we strive for increasing cooperative partnerships, improved customer service and emphasizing the unique and special resources found on the Flathead National Forest.

### **Summit Nature Center**

March wrapped up the winter season at the center, a cooperative project with the Whitefish Mountain Resort – (located at over 6,000 feet, the center enjoys a view of the Crown of the Continent!) Over 600 students in grades K through 8 from 37 classes participated in the Winter Discovery Programs (Winter Safety/Snow Science & Animals in Winter). On weekends and over the holidays, over 1,000 winter visitors enjoyed center displays. June 27 opens the summer season for the center.

### **Family Forestry Expo – Continuing the Tradition of Get Kids and Families Outdoors!**

May 4-10 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Forestry Expo--a two-day weekend event for families and five-day event for 5th graders that gives hands-on exposure to the role forests play in our everyday lives.

- Over 2000 students and individuals participate within a four county area.
- The outdoor event takes place at the Trumbull Creek Educational Forest on Stoltze Lumber Co. land, north of Kalispell, Montana. Over 20 organizations and individuals contribute to this annual event.
- During the week, students visit stations along a forested trail and visit a mill. On the weekend, families enjoy a free 'loggers lunch', demonstrations, education stations, exhibits and mill tour.
- An updated student workbook helps to celebrate 20 years!

### **Other On-going programs....**

- March wrapped up the winter safety/avalanche awareness educational and training programs done in cooperation with Glacier Country Avalanche Center.
- Three Montana artists (photographer, painter and multi-media) selected for the 2009 Artist\*Wilderness\*Connection, artist-in-residence program. The program focus is on Flathead National Forest wildlands. The program is supported by the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, Swan Ecosystem Center, Hockaday Museum of Art and the Forest.
- Annual "Herp Days", June 24 – day long event for youth and adult volunteers to survey "herps" in selected areas on the forest.
- On-going spring classroom presentations, participation in outdoor education camps, Earth Day and Arbor Day events.