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NEWS RELEASE

Bitterroot National Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 6, 2013

MAGRUDER ROAD CORRIDOR NOW OPEN

Hamilton, MT. – The Gold Pan Complex fires burning on the West Fork Ranger District in the Frank Church Wilderness received more than a half inch of rain on Thursday. This greatly limited fire activity and movement on all 4 fires in the complex. Cooler temperatures and higher humidity, along with the potential for additional moisture is in the forecast this weekend.

Due to low fire activity and yesterday's precipitation, the Forest has announced that the Magruder Road Corridor between Fales Flat Campground and Observation Point is now re-open to the public. The road was opened this week, but only to limited travel between 10am-2pm. Even though the road is open, motorists should use caution while driving the corridor as fire hazards still pose a risk, including falling snags or trees, rolling rocks and debris, burned out stumps, limited visibility from smoke, and flash flooding and mud flows especially in areas without vegetation.

Areas to the north and south of Magruder Road including Fales Flat Campground and the historic Magruder Ranger Station remain closed. Anyone planning a trip into the wilderness or along the corridor should read the "travel advisory" information and be aware of safety issues before entering the fire area. The flyer is posted online at the link below. Copies are also available at any Bitterroot National Forest office.

Selway Road to Paradise Campground remains closed at the intersection with Magruder Road until September 13th for repairs. Crews are working to stabilize several sections of the road that have deteriorated due to erosion and are in danger of washing out during high runoff or thunderstorms.

Officials also announced today a revised area closure for the Gold Pan Complex. To see the latest map and closure information visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3538/>.

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