

**Ravalli County Commissioners Office**

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**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2014 8:55 AM  
**Subject:** Fire Update - July 14  
**Attachments:** Wapiti & Fire Danger High -7-14-2014.docx



# FACT SHEET

## Fire Update

**July 14, 2014**

**Contact:** Public Affairs Officer: Tod McKay  
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**What:** Fire Danger Level Raised to High & Wapiti Fire  
**Location:** Bitterroot National Forest

**Narrative:** Due to our extremely hot and dry weather, fire danger on the Bitterroot National Forest has been moved from Moderate to High. The weather forecast is also calling for thunderstorms with frequent lightning today and Tuesday. Above normal temperatures back into the 90's is expected beginning Wednesday through next weekend.

High fire danger means all fine dead fuels ignite readily and fires start easily from just causes. Unattended brush and campfires are likely to escape. Fires spread rapidly and short-distance spotting is common. High intensity burning may develop on slopes, or in concentrations of fine fuel. Fires may become serious and their control difficult, unless they are hit hard and fast while small.

**Prevention Message:** Forest officials are asking the public to be extremely careful when camping and to remember that it's your job and responsibility to properly maintain and extinguish all campfires.

### Wapiti Fire

**Summary:** The lightning-caused Wapiti Fire is burning in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, 4 miles northeast of Paradise Campground. It was discovered Friday afternoon.

**Current Size:** 21 acres

**Containment:** 50%

**Resources on Fire:** 30 wildland firefighters and one Type 2 helicopter which has been using buckets to drop water on hot spots.

**Terrain:** Heavy fuel; continuous brush and timber. Remote, steep terrain in the wilderness.

**Injury:** One firefighter was transported to the hospital on Sunday and treated for heat-related injuries (dehydration). He is expected to be released today.

**Today's Plan:** Continue line construction around the fire and improve fireline as needed.

**Closures:** No closures in place.

**Special Concerns: Safety** of firefighters and the public is always a primary concern. We will be on the lookout for more fires today and over the next few days due to the amount of lightning predicted with the storms.

**2014 Fire Season:** So far this summer, Bitterroot National Forest fire crews have responded to and extinguished 10 wildfires on the forest and in our protection area. Due to quick response of crews, most of the fires were kept under ½ acre in size.

Stay in touch with the Bitterroot National Forest through [www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot](http://www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot) and [www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF](http://www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF).

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