

**Ravalli County Commissioners Office**

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**From:** Lubke, Joni M -FS <jmlubke@fs.fed.us>  
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**Subject:** Fire Fact Sheet - July 1, 2015  
**Attachments:** Wildfire Update - 7-1-15.docx



# FACT SHEET

## Wildfire Update

**July 1, 2015**

**Contact:** Executive Assistant: Joni Lubke  
**Phone:** 406-363-7182  
**Cell:** 406-370-1567

**What:** 2 new wildfires  
**Discovered:** June 30th  
**Location:** Bitterroot National Forest

**Summary:** Firefighters responded to 2 new lightning-caused wildfires discovered yesterday on the Bitterroot National Forest. These fires were from the lightning storm on June 29<sup>th</sup>, where initially 7 fires were discovered and put out, for a total of 9 fires.

The Woods Fire is located on the West Fork Ranger District. The Doran Point Fire is located on the Sula Ranger District.

**Current size:** The 2 new fires are less than .25 acre in size

**Containment:** Two fires are currently contained. Containment signifies that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread.

**Resources on Fires:** There are currently 8 firefighters and 1 engine assigned to the blazes which are being actively suppressed, under a full suppression strategy.

**Lightning:** There were 175 confirmed lightning strikes on the Forest from thunderstorms on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Fire crews will be on the lookout for more fires today and over the next few days due to the amount of strikes and the hot weather.

**Fire Danger:** Fire Danger is currently "very high" on the Bitterroot National Forest. Under these conditions fires will start easily and spread rapidly and have a quick increase in intensity, right after ignition. Small fires can quickly become large fires and exhibit extreme fire intensity such as long-distance spotting. These fires can be very difficult to control.

**Fire Restrictions:** The Forest will move to Stage 1 Fire Restrictions this Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Campfires will only be allowed within a designated campground or recreation site which contains a Forest-provided fire ring. Smoking is also prohibited except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials. Starting on Friday, you will be able to see the restrictions listed on <http://firerestrictions.us/>.

**Special Concerns:** Safety of firefighters and the public is always a primary concern. Extremely hot and dry temperatures are predicted for the upcoming holiday weekend and firefighters are asking for the public's help in preventing human-caused wildfires. Never leave a campfire unattended and make sure your coals are cool to the touch before you leave. Also, fireworks are not permitted on National Forests. Please leave them at home!

**2015 Fire Season:** Firefighters have responded to and extinguished 11 wildfires this summer on the Bitterroot National Forest. Due to the quick response of crews, all of the fires were kept under 2 acres in size. We continue to have record high indices for this time of year. On an average year, we would not see these dry conditions until early August.

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