

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: Lubke, Joni M -FS <jmlubke@fs.fed.us>
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Subject: News Release - Fire Danger Moves to Very High on the Bitterroot National Forest
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Fire Danger Moves to Very High on the Bitterroot National Forest

Hamilton, Montana (June 29, 2015) – Fire danger on the Bitterroot National Forest will move to Very High starting June 30th. To date, fire crews have responded to 2 human-caused fires and 2 lightning-caused fires. All fires have been extinguished.

When fire danger is "very high", fires will start easily. The fires will 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 and fire whirls. These fires can be difficult to control and will often become much larger and longer-lasting fires.

“With our high temperatures and weather forecast, the Bitterroot National Forest is anticipating moving to Stage 1 Fire Restrictions on Friday,” said Forest Fire Management Officer Mark Wilson. In Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, campfires are prohibited unless they are in campfire rings that are concrete, metal culvert rings, or iron gate type rings identified in developed campground sites. Also prohibited is smoking, 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.

As the Fourth of July weekend approaches, fire officials would like to reiterate that fireworks are prohibited on all National Forests. For the safety of the public and our Forest, please remember that fireworks can create a potentially dangerous fire situation.

For more information contact the Bitterroot National Forest at (406) 363-7100. Stay in touch with the Bitterroot National Forest through www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot and www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF.