

## Ravalli County Commissioners Office

---

**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2015 11:10 AM  
**Subject:** Fire Update - June 30, 2015  
**Attachments:** Wildfire Update - 6-30-15.docx



# FACT SHEET

## Wildfire Update

**June 30, 2015**

**Contact:** Public Affairs Officer: Tod McKay  
**Phone:** 406-363-7122  
**Cell:** 406-531-1130

**What:** 7 new wildfires  
**Discovered:** June 29-30th  
**Location:** Bitterroot National Forest

**Summary:** Firefighters are responding to 7 new lightning-caused wildfires discovered last night and this morning on the Bitterroot National Forest. Thanks to quick initial response by fire crews, all of the fires are small – less than .10 acre in size.

The fires are burning on the West Fork and Sula Ranger Districts. Several fires are located in extremely remote locations where firefighters had to be flown in by helicopter. Several crews also hiked to fire locations.

**Current size:** All of the fires are less than .10 acre in size

**Containment:** Four fires are currently contained. Containment is expected on the other three later today.

**Resources on Fires:** There are currently 20 firefighters, two engines, and one helicopter 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 last night's thunderstorms. Fire crews will be on the lookout for more fires today and over the next few days due to the amount of strikes.

**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.

**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 4 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.

###



Tod McKay  
Public Affairs Officer

Forest Service  
Bitterroot National Forest

p: 406-363-7122

c: 406-531-1130

[tgmckay@fs.fed.us](mailto:tgmckay@fs.fed.us)

1801 N. First

Hamilton, MT 59840

[www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot)



Caring for the land and serving people