

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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Subject: Bitterroot NF Fire Fact Sheet - July 4, 2015
Attachments: Wildfire Update - 7-4-15.docx



FACT SHEET

Wildfire Update

July 4, 2015

Contact: Executive Assistant: Joni Lubke
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What: 1 new wildfire
Discovered: July 3, 2014
Location: Bitterroot National Forest

Summary: Firefighters responded to a new lightning-caused wildfire discovered yesterday by air patrol. This fire is approximately 20 miles southwest of Hamilton on the Bitterroot National Forest.

The Canyon Creek Fire is located on the West Fork Ranger District in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.

Current size: 1 ½ acres

Resources on Fires: 4 Heli-Rappellers (aerially delivered firefighters) from Salmon, ID are fighting the fire.

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 moved to Stage 1 Fire Restrictions on Friday, July 3rd. 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. To learn more about restrictions, visit <http://firerestrictions.us/>.

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST APPROVED RECREATION SITES

Anaconda-Pintler, Frank Church River of No Return, and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Areas are exempt from these restrictions.

<u>Stevensville RD</u>	<u>Darby RD</u>	<u>Sula RD</u>	<u>West Fork RD</u>
Blodgett CG	Black Bear CG	Martin Creek CG	<u>Montana</u>
Gold Creek CG	Shumaker CG	Jennings Camp	Rombo CG
Bass Creek Recreational Area (Charles Water Campground)	Lake Como Recreation Area (Three Frogs Campground)	Indian Trees CG	Slate Creek CG
(Larry Creek Group Site)	(Como Picnic Sites)	Spring Gulch CG	Alta CG
(Bass Creek Picnic Area)	(Lower Como CG)	Warm Springs CG	Sam Billings Memorial CG
	(Rock Creek CG)	Crazy Creek Horse Camp	Fales Flat CG
	(Three Sisters Group Site)	Crazy Creek CG	<u>Idaho</u>
		East Fork Guard Station	Paradise CG

Special Concerns: Safety of firefighters and the public is always a primary concern. Extremely hot and dry temperatures, wind, and low humidity are predicted for the 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 13 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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