

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: Lubke, Joni M -FS <jmlubke@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2015 11:33 AM
Subject: Fire Fact Sheet - July 2, 2015
Attachments: Wildfire Update - 7-2-15.docx



FACT SHEET

Wildfire Update

July 2, 2015

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

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions effective 12:01 AM, Friday July 3rd - Campfires will only be allowed within a designated campground or recreation site which contains a Forest-provided fire ring. Approved recreation sites are listed below. Additionally, smoking is prohibited outside of buildings, vehicles and developed recreation sites, unless you are in a 3-foot diameter area cleared of all burnable vegetation. Go to www.firerestrictions.us for up-to-date information. Know before you go.

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) (Larry Creek Group Site) (Bass Creek Picnic Area)	Lake Como Recreation Area (Three Frogs Campground) (Como Picnic Sites) (Lower Como CG) (Rock Creek CG) (Three Sisters Group Site)	Indian Trees CG Spring Gulch CG Warm Springs CG Crazy Creek Horse Camp Crazy Creek CG East Fork Guard Station	Slate Creek CG Alta CG Sam Billings Memorial CG Fales Flat CG
			<u>Idaho</u> Paradise CG

Summary: To date, firefighters have responded to 9 wildfires caused by the lightning storm on June 29th. All fires are out.

Lightning: There were 175 confirmed lightning strikes on the Forest from thunderstorms on June 29th. Fire crews will be on the lookout for more fires 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.

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 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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