

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: Lubke, Joni M -FS <jmlubke@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2015 3:18 PM
Subject: Fire Fact Sheet - August 6, 2015
Attachments: Wildfire Update - 8-6-15.docx



FACT SHEET

Wildfire Update

August 6, 2015

Contact: Information Officer: Joni Lubke
Phone: 406-363-7182
Cell: 406-370-1567

What: Status of Mountain House and St. Clair fires
Discovered: August 4, 2015 6:38pm
Location: Private land adjacent to the Bitterroot National Forest, east of Hamilton, MT

Summary: Firefighters responded to 2 lightning-caused wildfires that started August 4th from a lightning storm. These fires are located on private land, in the Sapphires east of Hamilton. These fires have been a mutual aid response with the Hamilton Fire Department, Corvallis Fire Department, and the Forest Service.

Estimated size: Mountain House: 31 acres St. Clair: 10 acres

Containment: Mountain House: 100% St. Clair: 100%

Resources on Fires: Mountain House: 1 engine crew

St. Clair: 2 crews plus 8 additional firefighters, for a total of 48 personnel

Planned Actions: Mountain House: mopping up hot spots

St. Clair: This fire was declared contained this morning at 11:30. Due to more accurate mapping with a GPS, the fire size was changed to 10 acres. Today the fire is smoldering in scattered timber, as firefighters work to put out the hot spots. This fire is in grass, brush, and heavy timber and on a 90% slope. A lot of efforts will be put into catching the rollers that could potentially start new fires below.

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. This afternoon, lookouts on the south end of the Forest were reporting high winds.

Fire Restrictions: The Forest is still in Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. 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 through the month 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.

2015 Fire Season: Firefighters have responded to and extinguished 24 wildfires this summer on the Bitterroot National Forest. Due to the quick response of crews, all of the fires have been kept under 2 acres in size.

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