

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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Subject: Fire Fact Sheet - August 10, 2015
Attachments: Wildfire Update - 8-10-15.docx



FACT SHEET

Wildfire Update

August 10, 2015

Contact: Information Officer: Joni Lubke
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What: New fires from lightning storm
Discovered: August 10th
Location: Bitterroot National Forest

Summary: Firefighters are responding to reports of new fires caused by the lightning storm that went through the Bitterroot Valley late this afternoon. At this time, 10 fires have been reported, 5 of those have been located with firefighters on scene.

On the Stevensville Ranger District, four fires have been reported near Burnt Fork Lake, one is staffed with firefighters (1/10 acre), and firefighters will be enroute to the other three fires in that area. The fifth one on the Stevensville Ranger District is located near Fool Hen Lake, firefighters are also enroute. A Forest Service helicopter has been putting bucket drops on these fires.

There are also 2 fires with firefighters on scene on the Darby/Sula Ranger District. One is 9 miles up Lost Horse (1/10 acre) and one is in the Lost Trail ski area (1/10 acre). The 3 other fires reported on this district have firefighters enroute; these fires are in the Benson Creek area (off Rye Creek), Martin Creek (up the East Fork), and Whisky Gulch (off Robbins Gulch).

Estimated size: At this time, all new fires have been reported at 1/0 acre or less.

Containment: No containment at this time.

Resources on Fires: 5 fires are staffed with crews, additional resources will be ordered if needed. A Forest Service helicopter has been assisting these fires.

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 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. For more information, go to <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 25 wildfires this summer on the Bitterroot National Forest.

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