

## Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmckay@fs.fed.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:03 PM  
**Subject:** Bitterroot NF Fire Update -- Aug. 12  
**Attachments:** Wildfire Update - 8-12-15.docx



# FACT SHEET

## Wildfire Update

**August 12, 2015 2:30 P.M.**

**Contact:** Tod McKay  
**Phone:** 406-363-7122

**What:** General Fire Update  
**Location:** Bitterroot National Forest

**Summary:** Of the 18 new wildfires started by lightning this week on the Bitterroot National Forest, all but four fires are currently contained. Firefighters have been very successful in initial attack efforts and have kept all of the new fires under ½ acre in size. The four fires which have yet to be contained, are all small (1/4 acre or less) and are currently staffed with firefighters. Officials anticipate they will all be contained soon.

**Resources on Fires:** The fires are staffed with approximately 30 firefighters. Several crews are completing mop up operations today on fires that are controlled.

**Lightning:** There have been more than 400 confirmed lightning strikes on the forest in the last 48-hours. Crews will be on the lookout for more fires today and over the next several days.

**Weather Concerns:** Critical fire weather is forecast all week including high temperatures, low relative humidity, gusty/erratic winds and the potential of severe thunderstorms with frequent lightning.

**Idaho Fires:** Lightning has sparked more than 150 new fires this week in Idaho on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. The largest is the 2000 acre Lawyer Complex which consists of 21 fires and is actively burning near Kamiah, Idaho. Smoke from these fires will likely be visible in the Bitterroot Valley this week. For more information visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4477/>

**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.

**2015 Fire Season:** Firefighters have responded to and extinguished 31 wildfires so far this summer on the Bitterroot National Forest.

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