

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 2:22 PM
Subject: Bitterroot NF Fire Update -- Aug. 13
Attachments: Wildfire Update - 8-13-15.docx

	FACT SHEET
	Wildfire Update

August 13, 2015 2:00 P.M.

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

What: General Fire Update Location: Bitterroot National Forest

Summary: Firefighters are currently responding to 9 new lightning-caused wildfires on the Bitterroot National Forest. Thanks to quick initial attack by fire crews, all of the fires are small (1.5 acres or less). Several are burning in remote locations where firefighters had to be flown in by helicopter or hike in several miles. See below for specific fire information.

Weather: The National Weather Service has issued a fire weather watch for the Bitterroot Valley through Friday evening. Tomorrow is expected to be a critical fire day with the potential of severe thunderstorm development. Impacts could include frequent lightning, large hail in excess of 1" in diameter, strong winds in excess of 60+mph causing downed power lines and trees, heavy rain which could cause flash flooding and rock or mud slides, additional wind impacts from cold frontal passage.

Smoke/Air Quality: Smoke from large fires in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon is leading to widespread hazy skies and smoke impacts today. We will likely see some improvement by the weekend as cooler weather moves in. For the latest air quality information visit <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/smokereport/mostRecentUpdate.aspx>

Safety Concerns: Safety of the public and firefighters is always a primary concern. Also, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or "Drones" are not permitted to fly in areas that have Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) in place, including near wildfires.

2015 Fire Season: Firefighters have responded to and extinguished 37 wildfires so far this summer on the Bitterroot National Forest.

Fire	Location	Size	Response	Latitude/Longitude
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Ward Mountain	Darby Ranger District (RD)	.10 acre	4 firefighters are in route (4+ mile hike). Fire is burning in steep and rugged terrain.	46° 9.6 x 114° 16.1
Dam Creek	Darby RD – near Dam Lake	½ acre	7 firefighters on scene	46° 16.7 x 113° 47.6
Frog Pond	Sula RD – East Fork near Chain of Lakes	1.5 acres	8 firefighters and engine on scene	46° 2.3 x 113° 42.3
Tin Cup	Darby RD – near Tin Cup Trail and Goat Lake	.10 acre	Helicopter is making water drops to cool the fire and keep it from advancing. Extremely steep and rugged terrain.	45° 59.5 x 114° 19.1
Lost Horse	Darby RD – near Twelvemile Lake	.10 acre	Helicopter is making water drops to cool the fire and keep it from advancing. Extremely steep and rugged terrain.	
Two Bear	Darby RD – near Sleeping Child and Two Bear Creek	.10 acre	5 firefighters and engine on scene.	
East Fork	Sula RD – near East Fork Trailhead	.10 acre	5 firefighters and engine on scene.	
Buck Horn	Darby RD – near Buck Horn Saddle and Gird Point	1.5 acres	This fire was just reported. 10 firefighters and two engines are in route. Helicopter is making water drops to cool the fire and keep it from advancing. Air tanker and retardant have been ordered.	
Canyon Creek	Darby RD – Top of Blodgett near Canyon Peak and Canyon Lake.	.10 acre	This fire was just reported and is visible from Hamilton. Helicopter is making water drops to cool the fire and keep it from advancing. 8 Heli-Rappellers, firefighters delivered by a helicopter, have been ordered and are in route. Fire is in very	

		steep and rugged terrain.	
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