

## Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmckay@fs.fed.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2015 4:11 PM  
**Subject:** New Wildfire - Bitterroot NF  
**Attachments:** Wildfire Update - 9-25-15.docx



# FACT SHEET

## Wildfire Update

**September 25, 2015**

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

**What:** New Fire – Likely Human Caused  
**Discovered:** September 24  
**Location:** Stevensville Ranger District – Bitterroot National Forest

**Summary:** Firefighters are working to contain a new fire this afternoon on the Bitterroot National Forest west of Florence near Sweeney Ridge. The One Horse fire was discovered yesterday afternoon and quickly grew to a ¼ acre. The fire was likely human caused.

It is burning in timber and grass. A helicopter assisted with bucket work for several hours yesterday to help control the spread. Three firefighters hiked in to the remote and steep location last night and are currently working to build fire line around the blaze. They are hoping to have it contained later this evening.

**Prevention Message:** Even though it is fall and fire restrictions have been lifted, it's hotter and drier than you realize. Forest officials are asking the public and especially hunters this time of year to be extremely careful with campfires and remember that it's your job to properly maintain and extinguish all fires. Keep your fire to a manageable size and never leave a campfire unattended. Always add water, stir it, and make sure all embers are out. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!

Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it on Forest Service lands is prohibited and violators can face substantial fines including paying fire suppression costs.

**Fire Danger:** Fire Danger is currently "moderate" on the Bitterroot National Forest. Under these conditions if a fire does start in open, dry grassland, it will burn and spread quickly.

**2015 Fire Season:** Firefighters have responded to and extinguished 76 wildfires this year on the Bitterroot National Forest.

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**Tod McKay**  
**Public Affairs Officer**

**Forest Service**  
**Bitterroot National Forest**

p: 406-363-7122

c: 406-531-1130

[tgmckay@fs.fed.us](mailto:tgmckay@fs.fed.us)

1801 N. First

Hamilton, MT 59840

[www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot)



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