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Attachments: Fire Fact Sheet - 8-25-17.docx



FACT SHEET

Wildfire Update

August 25, 2017

Contact: Public Affairs Officer - Tod McKay
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What: 5 new wildfires
Location: Bitterroot National Forest

Summary: Firefighters are currently working on 5 new lightning-caused wildfires on the Bitterroot National Forest. Thanks to quick initial attack by fire crews, all of the fires are small (.10 acre or less). All are burning in remote locations and there are no structures threatened and no closures at this time. Four fires are located on the southern end of the forest on the West Fork Ranger District and one is in the Sapphire Mountains on the Stevensville Ranger District. See below for additional fire and resource information.

Containment: All of the fires are currently staffed and containment is expected on all fires later today.

Resources on Fires: There are currently 15 firefighters and two helicopters assigned to the blazes which are being actively suppressed, under a full suppression strategy. The helicopters are assisting with bucket work to help control and suppress the fires.

Lightning and Rainfall Totals: Lightning from last night's storm was heaviest on the southern end of the forest and in the Stevensville area. Fire crews will be on the lookout for more fires today and this weekend due to the amount of strikes and hot and dry conditions. Rain totals varied across the forest with Spot Mountain on the West Fork District receiving the most rain, ½ inch. Lookout Mountain near Painted Rocks Lake received .29 inches and Bear Cone Lookout received only a trace.

Weather: The National Weather Service is calling for a strong ridge of high pressure building over the Northern Rockies this weekend bringing hot and dry weather to the region. Temperatures in the upper 80s and low 90s are expected into next week increasing

smoke in the valley from area fires likely reducing visibility. For the latest air quality information visit <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/>.

Inciweb: For more information about fires burning in Montana and across the country visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>.

2017 Fire Season: Firefighters have responded to and extinguished 55 wildfires on the Bitterroot National Forest this summer. Due to the quick response of crews, most fires were kept small -- under 1 acre in size.

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