
Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release
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Continued Fire Danger in South Central Montana

Bozeman, MT... Expected hot dry weather for the Labor Day weekend has prompted Gallatin National Forest, BLM, and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Officials to continue fire restrictions across south central Montana. With hunting season beginning soon, and a three day weekend coming up, it's important to remember that the Gallatin National Forest remains in Stage 2 restrictions outside of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

Forest officials ask that people take extra precautions and be aware that potential for a large fire still exists. Although the area has experienced some moisture and cooler temperatures in the last few weeks, the continued hot and dry weather continues to increase fire danger. Gallatin National Forest Fire Management Officer, Mike Gagen asks, "As you prepare for camping and other outdoor activities this weekend, remember, even the smallest spark could lead to a significant wildfire. Please help reduce the risk of a wildland fire by not lighting a campfire or cutting firewood past 1:00 p.m."

STAGE II RESTRICTIONS: Under Stage II, open burning -- including campfires -- is prohibited. Smoking is allowed only in areas cleared of all flammable materials. Motorized vehicles must stay on designated roads and trails. Operating an internal combustion engine, welding, or using explosives is prohibited between 1 p.m. and 1 a.m. On private forested lands an exemption for agriculture harvesting and residential and commercial construction on cleared ground is in effect, but those taking advantage of this exemption are urged to have equipment such as fire extinguishers and spark arrestors, in good working order.

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness remains in Stage 1 restrictions, which still does not allow campfires. However, in the portion of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness that is managed by the Gallatin National Forest, forest officials will allow the use of wood stoves with spark arresters inside tents, beginning Thursday, August 30 at noon.

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