
Livingston Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
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Wicked Creek Fire Grows

Livingston, MT... The Wicked Creek fire discovered late Thursday evening continues burning up the Mill Creek drainage on the Livingston Ranger District and is estimated at 500 acres. The fire is burning close to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness border, approximately 12 miles up Mill Creek in the Paradise Valley, south of Livingston, Montana.

Approximately 20 structures have been evacuated including the Passage Falls private land inholding, the Templed Hills Church Camp, and another private residence beyond the Snowbank Campground. The Forest is implementing an area closure that will close the Mill Creek road at the gate just above Snowbank Campground, run north to Highland trail (#54), and east to the ridge dividing the Livingston Ranger District and the Big Timber Ranger District. The closure will follow the ridge dividing the Livingston and Gardiner Ranger Districts on the south side to the Thompson Lake Trail (#282) on the west side back to Snowbank Campground. Snowbank Campground itself, West Fork Mill Creek Road and the Thompson Lake Trail are open. The Mill Creek drainage from where the pavement stops on the Mill Creek Road to the road closure point above Snowbank Campground remains on pre-evacuation notice.

The fire is burning the vicinity of the 1991 Thompson Falls Fire (to the west), the 2006 Passage Falls fire (to the northeast) and the 1988 Hell Roaring fire (to the south and east). The fire continues burning in grass and timber and is being pushed north/northeast. Resources on scene include two Park County structure protection engines, a 7 person hand-crew, a Forest Service engine, an air attack airplane and a helicopter. Suppression tactics will concentrate on using the helicopter to cool down the wets side of the fire this afternoon. Hand crews and engines will continue working on securing structures.

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