
Livingston Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
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Winds Fan Wicked Creek Fire, Lightning Starts Another

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 between 800 – 1,000 acres. The fire is burning approximately 12 miles up Mill Creek in the Paradise Valley, south of Livingston, Montana.

Approximately 20 summer cabins have been evacuated including the Passage Falls private land in-holding, the Tempel Hills Church Camp, and another private residence beyond the Snowbank Campground. The Forest has implemented an area closure that closed the Mill Creek road at the gate near the Snowbank Campground, then north to Highland trail (#54), and east to the ridge dividing the Livingston Ranger District and the Big Timber Ranger District. The closure follows the ridge dividing the Livingston and Gardiner Ranger Districts on the south side to the Thompson Lake Trail (#282), then circles back on the west side to Snowbank Campground. Snowbank Campground itself, West Fork Mill Creek Road and the Thompson Lake Trail remain open at this time. The Mill Creek drainage from where the pavement stops on the Mill Creek Road to the road closure point near the Snowbank Campground remains on pre-evacuation notice.

The fire is burning in 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 moving to the northeast and to the southwest. 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. The fire remains 0% contained at this time.

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5242 Highway 89 South, Livingston, MT 59047
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

Lightning started another small fire in the upper Sunlight drainage of the Crazy Mountains, about 35 miles northeast of Livingston. The Sunlight Fire was discovered on 8/10/2007, and was lightning caused. Several firefighters and a helicopter dropping water are currently working this fire, which is burning in steep rocky terrain. The fire is approximately 10 acres. A 20 person “hot shot” crew has been ordered to assist with the suppression of this fire.

Fire information is available by calling the Livingston RD at 222-1892, and is also available on the web at: www.inciweb.org The Forest will hold a public meeting tomorrow evening (8/13) at the Emigrant Community Center at 7 p.m. to provide updated information on these fires.

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