
Lewis and Clark National Forest-
1101 15th Street N.
Great Falls, MT 59401
Phone: 406-791-7700 or -406-791-7754
www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark



News Release

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Released by _____ Christine Romero,
Acting Public Affairs Officer,
Lewis and Clark National
Forest, 406-791-7754

Fire Activity Threatens Seasonal Homes; Forces Trail and Road Closures

GREAT FALLS, Mt., – Fire activity on the Lewis and Clark National Forest’s Jefferson Division has prompted temporary trail and road closures on two ranger districts.

The Rugby Creek Fire is about 100 acres and burning in Deer Creek near Divide Road. Forest officials say about 20 seasonal residences are threatened, but they say all the residences are vacant. No structures have been lost.

Tina Lanier, District Ranger on the Belt Creek District, says the fire is actively burning in the afternoon in very heavy fuels.

“Our number one priority is firefighter and public safety,” said Lanier. “This fire has the potential to burn extremely hot and active and that’s why we’ve made the decision at this time to not put any firefighters on the ground, but we have made several retardant drops to help slow the fire down.”

The following roads on the White Sulphur Springs and Belt Creek Ranger Districts are closed to the public due to fire behavior from the Rugby Creek Fire:

- #839 – Divide Road – from the junction of the Belt Park Connector Road to the junction of the Deep Creek Trailhead
- #253 – Dry Park Road
- #3384 – Big Timber Gulch Road
- #6435 – Dry Gulch Road located ¼ mile south of the Logging Creek Campground

The following trails on the White Sulphur Springs and Belt Creek Ranger Districts are closed to the public because of active fire behavior from the Rugby Creek Fire:

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- #304 – Pilgrim Creek Trail
- #305 - Deer Creek Trail
- #313 – Timber Gulch Trail
- #315 - Tobins Gulch Trail
- #336 – Big Horn Trail
- #343 – Balsinger Creek Trail
- #344 – Taylor Hills Trail
- # 351 – Taylor to Placer Trail

Violations of these restrictions are punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment of not more than six months, or both.

Other Fire Information:

- Sheep Creek Fire – 100 % contained. Located on the White Sulphur Springs Ranger District.
Crews continue to do mop-up work.

If you have any questions or want more information please contact the Lewis and Clark National Forest at (406) 791-7700 or (406) 791-7754.

You can also visit the forest's website at www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/.

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