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News Release

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Released by _____ Jane Weber, Public Affairs Officer

FIRE RESTRICTIONS SET FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT

Great Falls, MT - Stage I fire restrictions will be implemented this Friday, on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. "The extreme fire conditions on the Ranger District and the rapid rates of spread exhibited on the Ahorn Fire northwest of Augusta is dictating the need for fire restrictions to help reduce new fire starts." stated Jane Weber, spokesperson for the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Restrictions on smoking and campfires will take effect Friday, July 20 at 0001. Restrictions will be enforced on lands administered by the Rocky Mountain Ranger District.

Under the Stage I restrictions, campfires may be built only in developed recreation sites such as campgrounds and picnic areas within established metal fire rings. Campfires in rock rings and the use of wood stoves in canvas tents outside of campgrounds and other developed sites are strictly prohibited.

On the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, campfires are allowed within the metal fire rings only at the following recreation sites: Summit Campground, West Fork of Teton Campground, Elko Campground, Mill Falls Campground, Cave Mountain Campground, Home Gulch Campground, Mortimer Campground, South Fork Campground, Benchmark Campground, Wood Lake Campground, and Wood Lake Picnic Area, as well as all administered recreation rental cabins on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District.

Smoking is prohibited outside of buildings, vehicles and developed recreation sites, unless the smoker is standing in an area three feet in diameter cleared of burnable vegetation, or inside developed recreation sites.

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Stage I restrictions do not apply to backpack or cooking stoves using liquid petroleum or LFG fuels. They also do not apply within city limits or to activities that land-managing agencies have specifically given permits for.

Weber reminds campers that anyone causing a wildfire can be held financially responsible for damages and suppression costs. It is anticipated that Stage II fire restrictions may be implemented in the near future if weather conditions continue.

These restrictions are in place until further notice. For more information about fire restrictions and closures in Montana call the Rocky Mountain Ranger District in Choteau at (406) 466-5341 or the Lewis and Clark National Forest Office at (406)791-7700.

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