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**Lewis and Clark National Forest**  
1101 15<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Great Falls, MT 59401 or  
PO Box 869  
Great Falls, MT 59403  
Voice (406) 791-7754/Fax (406) 731-5302  
[www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark)

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## News Release

- Please Release On \_\_\_\_\_ July 19, 2007  
 For Immediate Release  
Released by \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Weber, Acting Public Affairs

### Stage One Restrictions Start Friday

GREAT FALLS – Due to extreme fire conditions, the Rocky Mountain Ranger District has entered Stage I fire restrictions effective early Friday morning. According to Jane Weber, spokesperson for the Lewis and Clark National Forest, “the long term forecast for continued high temperatures and lack of moisture are dictating the need for additional protections.” Weber advised that the Jefferson Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest may also be implementing Stage I Fire Restrictions starting next Friday.

Under Stage I fire restrictions; campfires may only be built in developed recreation sites where established metal fire rings are present. On the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, those campgrounds and picnic areas include: Summit Campground, West Fork of Teton Campground, Elko Campground, Mill Falls Campground, Cave Mountain Campground, Home Gulch Campground, and Mortimer Campground. Campgrounds in the Benchmark area are closed due to the area restrictions imposed due to the Ahorn and Fool Creek fires burning in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Also included in the Stage I fire restrictions are rules for smoking. Smoking is only permissible within an enclosed vehicle or building or while stopped in an area where at least a three foot diameter is barren and cleared of all flammable material. All smoking materials must be fully extinguished and properly packed out.

Backpack and cooking stoves using liquid petroleum or LFG fuels are allowed; however users are reminded to ignite them in areas clear of vegetation.

For more information contact the Lewis and Clark National Forest at 791-7754.

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