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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Agencies Remind Hunters and Recreators To Be Fire Conscious

Helena, Mont. — The chill in the air indicates that hunting season in Montana is here! This year's hunting season, however, brings with it an added responsibility for hunters and recreators. Over the past few weeks, several human caused fires have been started around the state. As the dry conditions continue, hunters are urged to take special care when hunting and camping. "We're seeing fire conditions typical of late summer in some areas of the state," explained DNRC Public Information Officer, Dan Bushnell.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Montana Fire Wardens, the Northern Regional Office of the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are asking Montanans to enjoy Montana's fall season but to be especially careful when enjoying the out of doors.

"We're urging folks to be extra cautious when enjoying the out of doors," explained Bushnell. "If folks are conscientious; making sure they have a shovel, axe and bucket in their possession, attending to their campfires, ensuring that spark arrestors are in place on internal combustion engines and parking in areas that are free of heavy grass and debris, it will make a difference."

In addition to the dry conditions, Stage II fire restrictions are still in place for the southeastern portion of Montana (On private, state and most federal lands in Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure and Yellowstone counties).

For more information about fire conditions in your hunting or recreating area, or the use of campfires on Montana's forested lands, please contact your local DNRC, Forest Service or BLM office for more information. To report resource violations on public lands, please call the statewide reporting system at 1-800-TIP-MONT.

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**Remember, only you can prevent forest fires!
Keep Montana Green!**