



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

August 19, 2008
4:30pm

Contact: Denise German
(406) 758-5252
(406) 249-1714 cell

Area Closure Around Triangle Wildland Fire-Use Fire on Flathead National Forest

There is an area closure surrounding the Triangle Wildland Fire-Use Fire on the Hungry Horse District of the Flathead National Forest. This includes a closure of the Great Bear Creek Trail, Forest Trail #328. The closures will remain in effect until further notice.

The Triangle Fire-Use Fire is located in the Great Bear Wilderness about two miles south of Montana Highway 2 or about ten airmiles northeast of Hungry Horse, Montana. It was reported on August 10 and was ignited by lightning a couple days prior. It is estimated at approximately 270 acres.

The fire is being managed to provide resource benefits to the area, including decreased fuel accumulation and potential for future high intensity fires as well as improve wildlife and plant habitat. Hungry Horse District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera said, "Fire-use fires are an opportunity for fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem. We will continue to manage this fire as a fire-use fire to obtain resource benefits that only evolve from fire on the landscape." DeHerrera continued, "Any values at risk will be determined, and if the fire poses undue risk then additional management activities will be implemented."

The use of helicopters dropping water on the east side of the fire to help manage the fire spread on the east side will continue. Natural barriers such as rock chutes will also continue to be used to manage the fire.

The fire did receive wetting rain mid afternoon Tuesday. It is anticipated that the Triangle Wildland Fire-Use Fire will continue to burn and smoke may be visible until a season ending event occurs.

For more information about the area and trail closure in the Triangle Wildland Fire-Use Fire area, contact the Hungry Horse District at 387-3800.

In addition to the Triangle Wildland Fire-Use Fire, the Flathead National Forest is managing four other wildland fire-use fires that were ignited by lightning;

Wildrose Wildland Fire-Use Fire located approximately two miles southwest of the Three Forks area in the Great Bear Wilderness and approximately 19 acres,

Shale Mountain Wildland Fire-Use Fire located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness approximately five miles northeast of Big Prairie and estimated to be less than one acre,

Cardinal Peak Wildland Fire-Use Fire located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, approximately 13 miles east of Summit Lake Overlook along Montana Highway 83, estimated at 230 acres and smoke is visible from the Seeley Lake area, and,

Jumbo Point Wildland Fire-Use Fire located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, approximately 25 miles east of Summit Lake Overlook along Montana Highway 83, is less than one acre.

The smoke in the Flathead Valley is coming from wildland fires across the region and in Canada.

--END--