



Northern Rockies Coordination Group Northwest Montana Zone

June 26, 2008

For More Information Contact:

Denise Germann, Flathead National Forest 406-758-5252, cell- 406-249-1714

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northern Rockies
Coordination Group

NW Montana Zone
Member Agencies

Montana DNRC
Northwestern Land
Office

U.S. Forest Service
Flathead National
Forest

U.S. Forest Service
Kootenai National
Forest

National Park Service
Glacier National Park

U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Service
Flathead/Swan Area
Refuges

Flathead County

Lake County

Lincoln County

Sanders County

Be Fire-Safe over July 4 Holiday

The Northwest Montana Zone of the Northern Rockies Coordination Group reminds everyone to be careful with fire, specifically during the upcoming Independence Day Holiday.

The Zone, which includes the US Forest Service, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and your local fire departments, is established to provide an interagency approach to wildland fire management in Flathead, Lake, Lincoln and Sanders Counties.

As Fourth of July approaches, it is important to be aware of the warmer temperatures causing drying conditions in the area, increasing the potential for wildland fires. In past years, careless campers and other recreationists have caused wildfires on private and public lands. "During this time of year, fireworks and unattended or abandoned campfires contribute to wildfires," said Denise Germann, Northwest Montana Zone spokesperson.

Wildfires can be prevented by using some common sense while camping, fishing, picnicking, and participating in other outdoor activities.

Couple key reminders:

- 1) Never leave a campfire unattended, and be sure it is "dead out" before leaving the area.
- 2) Use caution with fireworks. Never use them around dry vegetation.
- 3) Fireworks are prohibited in all national forests, national parks and state lands.

Remember, anyone causing a wildfire can be held financially responsible for damages and the cost of putting out that fire.

Germann said, "Fourth of July is a great time to enjoy public lands with family and friends. Please do so in a responsible and safe manner."

For more information contact a local Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation or National Park Service Office or your local fire department.