



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Fire Activity Continues on Flathead National Forest

Preliminary Evacuation Notice Implemented for Holland Peak Fire

Road and Trail Access Changes North of Columbia Falls

The Holland Peak Fire, approximately five miles east of Condon, was active late Wednesday due to a thunder cell overhead causing erratic winds. Spotting occurred over the Foothills Trail, Forest Trail #192, that firefighters were using to check the western spread of fire activity. The weather changes moved firefighters from direct attack activities to safety zones. **As a precautionary measure, an evacuation notice is in effect for residents south of Cooney Creek, north of main Barber Creek Road and east of Highway 83.** Because of the changes in complexity, a type II management team is being requested and expected to be available for the Holland Peak Fire on Saturday. For more information, contact 754-3025.

The Flathead National Forest responded to three fire starts in the North Fork Area, north of Columbia Falls late Wednesday, September 6. Crews and aerial resources provided initial attack for the lightning-caused fires. The largest of the three, Werner Peak Fire, is near the Werner Peak Lookout and is approximately 17 acres. The other two fire starts are in the same general area, east of Big Creek and south of Moose Lake on the Flathead National Forest, and are under one-quarter acre.

The Big Creek Road, Forest Road #316 is closed west of the intersection with Moose Lake Road, Forest Road #315.

The Sun Dog Fire is approximately 1,100 acres and is managed by a Flathead National Forest Type III team. It is located approximately 20 miles north of

Columbia Falls in the North Fork Area. All trail closures in the area have been lifted and Moran Creek Road, Forest Road #5241 and Cyclone Creek Road, Forest Road #909, have been opened. **Coal Creek Road, Forest Road #317, remains closed west of the intersection with Cyclone Creek Road.**

The Spotted Bear District continues to manage 13 fire-use fires in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Wildland fire use is the management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific management objectives. The largest of the fires are Tango Point Fire at approximately 480 acres and Jenny Creek Fire at approximately 360 acres. There are some trail closures in the area. For more information contact the district at 758-5376.

REMINDER: Stage I Fire Restrictions are in effect across Northwest Montana. For more information, please visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead or call your local Forest Service office.

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