
Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release

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BOZEMAN, MT—

Due to continued “very high” to “extreme” fire conditions and fire activity, officials on the Gallatin National Forest want to remind all Forest users that:

- Several large areas of the Gallatin and Custer National Forests remain **closed** to all public use, including those lands located south of Bozeman in Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek, in portions of Hyalite Creek and Bear Canyon, and certain lands located south of Livingston and Big Timber.
- **Stage 2 Fire Restrictions** remain in effect for all Gallatin National Forest lands that are not closed to public use due to wildfires. Under Stage 2 restrictions, no open flames or campfires are allowed and smoking and vehicle use is restricted.
- All BLM lands within Gallatin, Park and Sweet Grass Counties, and all Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) lands remain in Stage 2 Restrictions.

Becki Heath, Gallatin Forest Supervisor, said: “Although cooler weather and moisture is forecasted by this weekend, fire danger remains extreme. For that reason, all current fire restrictions and closures will remain in effect at least until Monday September 18th. We will continue to closely monitor fire activity and weather conditions, in consultation with State, County and City officials. When conditions significantly improve, we will begin to lift the restrictions and closures. We truly appreciate everyone’s understanding and cooperation.”



10 East Babcock Ave., PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

September 15th marks the start of several big game hunting seasons, including moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and the early elk hunt in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Archery and upland bird hunting seasons are also open. With many people going into the backcountry, forest officials remind everyone to be aware of the closure areas, and again caution all users that **all open flame fires are prohibited**. Campfires, including those within metal or rock rings, charcoal fires or shepherd-type wood stoves are prohibited. Wood stoves with screens or spark arrestors situated within a structure (a cabin, not canvas wall tents) are allowed. Enclosed gas, propane or butane-type camping stoves are allowed.

Smoking is only allowed in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed designated recreation site or campground, or when stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is cleared of flammable material (such as a road). Operating **motorized vehicles** off designated roads and trails is prohibited. Use of chainsaws, backhoes and other large motorized equipment is not allowed from 1:00 PM to 1:00 AM, daily.

Outdoor enthusiasts are encouraged to contact your local ranger district office for additional information:

Big Timber Ranger District—(406) 932-5155

Livingston Ranger District—(406) 222-1892

Gardiner Ranger District—(406) 848-7375

Hebgen Lake Ranger District—(406) 823-6961

Bozeman Ranger District—(406) 522-2520

The Gallatin National Forest website: www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin also contains information and maps describing current fire restrictions and closures.

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