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# Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release  
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Contacts: Marna Daley, 406-587-6703  
Marianne Baumberger, 406-522-2549

## **National Forest Lands In the Boulder River, Deer Creeks and Bridger-Derby Areas CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE**

Beginning Friday, September 1st at 12:01 a.m. the Gallatin National Forest will implement Stage 3 Fire Restrictions, officially **closing** all National Forest System lands, in the Main, West and East Boulder River drainages, and all other Gallatin National Forest lands located east of the Boulder drainages, including the Deer Creeks, Bridger and Derby Mountain areas.

Under the Stage 3 restrictions, all persons are prohibited from going into, or being on, National Forest System lands within the designated closure area, as shown on the attached map. Only persons with a permit from a Forest Service officer, or persons performing fire fighting or other official duties are exempt from the closure.

Becki Heath, Gallatin National Forest Supervisor stated, "We are experiencing very hot and dry weather conditions, resulting in several large and dangerous wildfires. It's important to take additional measures to help reduce the risk of more wildfires. We seek the public's cooperation in adhering to the Stage 3 closure in the designated areas of the Forest."

In addition, certain lands managed by the Custer National Forest, Red Lodge District, in the Deer Creeks, Meyers Creek, Picket Pin area were closed to public use on August 30, 2006.

The new Stage 3 restrictions replace and supercede the Stage 2 restrictions that were previously in effect for the Main Boulder River drainage, and they expand the area of National Forest land in the Deer Creeks area that was recently closed due to the Derby Fire.



**Page 2 - Gallatin Forest Implements Stage 3 Restrictions for Boulder River drainages and Deer Creeks**

The majority of the Gallatin National Forest, as well as Yellowstone National Park, including the Crazy, Bridger, Gallatin and Madison Mountain Ranges, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness east of Gardiner, and Cooke City area, remain under Stage 1 Restrictions. Those restrictions limit use of campfires and charcoal fires to developed recreation sites. Fires within rock fire-rings outside developed sites are prohibited. Restrictions do not apply to charcoal fires in metal BBQs and backpacking stoves that use liquid fuel. Smoking is also restricted to inside buildings, vehicles, and developed recreation sites.

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