
**Gallatin National Forest
And City of Bozeman**



Joint News Release

For Immediate Release

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EXPANDED AREA CLOSURE

**ENTIRE BOZEMAN CREEK DRAINAGE,
THAT PORTION OF HYALITE DRAINAGE EAST OF HYALITE ROAD
AND PORTIONS OF BEAR CANYON
WILL CLOSE TO PUBLIC USE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2006**

BOZEMAN, MT—

Gallatin National Forest officials, in cooperation with the City of Bozeman and Gallatin County, have decided to close to public use the following National Forest lands located south of Bozeman, effective on Saturday, September 9th, 2006 at 12:01 A.M:

- All lands in the Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek drainage
- All lands in the Hyalite Creek drainage located east of Hyalite Road #62
- Bear Loop Trail #440 and all lands in Bear Canyon located west of Trail #440.

Also, today, Gallatin County closed the upper portion of Bear Canyon Road, near the New World Gulch trailhead.

Jose Castro, Bozeman District Ranger, said: "This expanded closure is in response to the extreme fire danger in the municipal watersheds." Debbie Arkell, City Director of Public Services, added: "The City of Bozeman is very concerned about the



fire danger. We appreciate the continued assistance and cooperation from the Forest Service and Gallatin County in protecting our watershed.”

The City of Bozeman previously closed all City-owned lands in the Bozeman Creek watershed and also in the Lyman Creek drainage, east of Story Mill Road.

Under this expanded closure, public access will not be available in an area that generally extends from Hyalite Road east to Bear Canyon, and includes Bozeman Creek, Leverich Canyon, Hodgeman Canyon, land east of Hyalite Road and land west of Bear Loop Trail #440.

However, Hyalite Road will remain open and public access will still be available to Hyalite Reservoir, Langohr and Hood Creek Campgrounds, Blackmore recreation area, and land located west of Hyalite Road.

Maps of the expanded Forest Service closure area and City of Bozeman lands are available at the Bozeman Ranger District office, on the Forest website www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin, and the City of Bozeman website at www.bozeman.net.

Forest Service officials also remind people that all Gallatin National Forest lands that remain open are under Stage 2 fire restrictions. No open flames are allowed and use of chainsaws or internal combustion engines are prohibited between 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. Smoking is only allowed in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or campground, or in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is cleared of flammable material.

For further information about the area closures in the Hyalite and Bozeman Creek drainages, please contact the Bozeman Ranger District at (406) 522-2520, or City of Bozeman Public Works office at (406) 582-2315. Information about the Gallatin County road closures is available at (406) 582-2124.

Information about other area closures on the Gallatin National Forest is available on the Forest website www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin, and also from the Livingston Ranger District at (406) 222-1892 and Big Timber Ranger District at (406) 932-5155.

