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# **SOUTH PINE FIRE**

## **Livingston Ranger District**

### **News Release**

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For Immediate Release  
Date: Monday, August 13, 2006

## **Pine Creek Trail Open to Waterfall**

The rain that fell on the fire Saturday afternoon and night helped cool the remaining hot spots in the South Pine fire.

The 788 acre fire burned a mosaic of subalpine fir forest on both sides of the South Pine Creek drainage and ultimately will create openings that will fill in with grass and wildflowers and berry bushes. The blackened trees will attract insects that in turn provide food for a variety of birds, most notably the fire-dependent black-backed woodpecker.

The Pine Creek Campground and Pine Creek Road are open to public use, and as of today, campers and others will be able to hike the approximately 1.5 miles to the Pine Creek Waterfall. Due to continued safety concerns, the area affected by the fire will be closed including the remainder of the trail to Pine Creek Lake and the George Lake trail. Fire managers do not want to take the risk of having hikers in more remote areas where there is no chance of notifying people in the event of sudden fire activity. Stage I fire restrictions are now in effect for the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and no campfires are allowed.

As of Tuesday, the management of the Big Creek and South Pine fires will be combined under one team. A few firefighters will remain in the South Pine area to monitor the fire and ensure that any fire activity stays in the wilderness.

Both fires are likely to be somewhat active until there is a season ending moisture event. A season or fire ending event is defined as the receipt of ½ inch of rain over a period of three days. Smoke and creeping and smoldering fire will occur as some unburned fuels within the fire perimeter are consumed.



5242 Highway 89 South, Livingston, MT 59047  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

**Fire Facts**

**Date of Detection:** July 17, 2006

**Cause:** Lightning

**Current Size:** 788 acre perimeter

**Containment:** 40%

**Location:** On the Livingston Ranger District of the Gallatin National Forest, south of Pine Creek in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area near Livingston, MT.

**Closures:** An emergency closure order remains in effect for Pine Creek Trail #47 and George Lake Trail #184.

**Resources:** One Type III fire management team will be assigned to manage both the South Pine and Big Creek Fires as of August 14.

For information about the South Pine Fire, please call 406 823-6061 or visit the Gallatin National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin> or visit <http://www.inciweb.org>.

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