
Bozeman Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
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Unknown Individuals Set Fire to Slash Piles in Brackett Creek Area

Bozeman, MT... Over the weekend Forest Service and Bridger Fire Rural fire fighters responded to smoke reports along Brackett Creek road in the Bridger Mountains. A slash pile from a road building project had been set on fire by unknown individuals and left unattended.

According to District Ranger Jose Castro, "This is the second slash pile in the past two weeks that has been illegally ignited by individuals and left unattended. We are investigating the incident and are greatly concerned, especially since this portion of the forest currently is under stage 1 fire restrictions." Under stage 1 restrictions campfires are only allowed in metal fire rings in a developed recreation site, such as a campground. If convicted, the person or persons violating the fire restrictions special order could face a fine of not more than \$5,000 per individual, or imprisonment of not more than 6 months, or both.

Castro went on to say, "If the responsible individuals set another slash pile on fire and it escapes they could be responsible for the costs associated with suppression activities, which could be hundreds of thousands of dollars."

If anyone has information concerning this incident or wants more information about current fire restrictions please call the Bozeman Ranger District at (406) 522-2520.

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