
Gallatin National Forest And City of Bozeman



Joint News Release

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Date: September 7, 2006

AREA CLOSURE – UPPER HYALITE AND BOZEMAN CREEK DRAINAGES

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED IN BOZEMAN FRIDAY, SEPT. 8th, at 6:30 PM – HOLIDAY INN

BOZEMAN, MT—

Due to continuing spot fire activity from the Big Creek fire into upper East Fork Hyalite Creek south of Bozeman, Gallatin National Forest officials have closed to public use those National Forest lands located in the upper Hyalite Creek drainage above Hyalite Reservoir and upper Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek drainage above Mystic Lake, effective at 12:00 noon on Thursday, September 7th, 2006.

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

Maps of the 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 will hold a public meeting to discuss the fire situation on the Gallatin National Forest, including local area closures, on Friday, September 8th, at 6:30 pm at the Holiday Inn (MSU Room) on North 7th Avenue in Bozeman. Representatives for the City and Gallatin County will also participate.



Under the new area closure, public access will still be available to most of Hyalite Canyon, including Hyalite Reservoir, Langohr and Hood Creek Campgrounds and the Blackmore recreation area.

Debbie Arkell, City of Bozeman Public Works Director, and Jose Castro, Bozeman District Ranger, want to clarify that public recreational access into lower Bozeman Creek is still available on a limited basis, as follows.

- 1. The Bozeman Creek Trailhead (parking area) is OPEN to public use.**
- 2. People can continue to use the National Forest TRAILS into Bozeman Creek, up to the Forest Service Closure Area.** (The Forest Service Closure area is approximately seven (7) miles from the parking area, and it is signed.)
- 3. All City of Bozeman lands are closed. People must stay on the National Forest Trails where the trails cross City lands in Bozeman Creek.**

All lands on the Gallatin National Forest that remain open to public use 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 closures in the upper Hyalite and the Bozeman Creek drainages, please contact the Bozeman Ranger District at (406) 522-2520, or City of Bozeman Public Works office at (406) 582-2315.

