
Livingston Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Karen Tuscano: (406) 223-2028

Paradise Valley Prescribed Burns

Livingston, MT – As fall approaches, fire and fuels managers of the Gallatin National Forest are preparing to implement two prescribed burns in the Paradise Valley. Both burns are part of the Paradise Valley Fuels management and Prescribed Burning Project. Forest managers anticipate favorable burning conditions in mid-September, depending on weather.

The Old Chico Prescribed Burn is located on the southwest side of Emigrant Peak, and the Lower Big Creek Prescribed Burn is located on the west side of Paradise Valley in the lower portion of the Big Creek drainage. The burns, each approximately 300 acres in size, are designed to meet a multitude of ecological resource benefits including: reducing encroachment on aspen stands, grassland, and sagebrush meadows; maintaining areas with prescribed fire within their normal fire return interval; thus improving both public and firefighter safety in the event of an unwanted fire ignition.

“The wet winter and spring weather helped us implement these fall prescribed burns. We will closely monitor the weather and wait for ideal conditions before deciding to move forward with implementation,” said Ron Archuleta, Livingston District Ranger. “The cooler temperatures, associated with the fall season, offer the best opportunity to achieve our project's objectives. These temperatures typically allow for greater relative humidity recoveries throughout the night, which play a vital role in maintaining control of the prescribed burn.”

Area and road closures will be placed in effect starting the day before ignition is planned. The Big Creek Road (FS Rd #2500), the Big Creek Trail (#180) and the Lewis Creek Trail (#181) will be closed while the burn is implemented. Information specialists will be available to answer questions regarding the burns. A public meeting is scheduled for August 29th at the Emigrant Community Center at 4:30 p.m. Forest managers will be available to provide information and answer any questions about the burns.

For further information, please contact the Livingston Ranger District at (406) 222-1892.

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