



NEWS RELEASE

Lolo National Forest

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United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Lolo National Forest
Building 24, Fort Missoula
Missoula, Montana 59804

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Public Reminded of Fireworks Prohibition

Missoula, MT. – With the Fourth of July holiday approaching, Forest Service officials are reminding visitors to the Lolo National Forest that the possession or use of any type of fireworks on National Forest lands is strictly prohibited at all times. Fireworks are also prohibited on BLM and Montana State classified forested lands.

As of Monday, June 30, 2008, the fire danger level on the Lolo National Forest and other parts of western Montana is high. Recent high temperatures have caused drying conditions in the area, increasing the potential for wildfires. According to fire prevention specialists, dry weather, gusty winds and low humidity levels are all that are needed for a spark to ignite dry grass and other fine fuels.

Law enforcement and fire protection officers patrolling the forest during the holiday period will strictly enforce the fireworks prohibition and issue citations to violators. Individuals can also be held responsible for the costs associated with fighting a human caused fire.

Campers should also be careful with campfires, as they are a major cause of wildland fires in Montana. On the Lolo National Forest last year firefighters responded to 200 fires that burned approximately 140,000 acres. Over 35 percent of those fires were human caused.

Campers should completely extinguish their campfire by pouring water on it, stirring it, and continuing to pour water on it until they can no longer feel heat from the fire. According to fire prevention specialists, most people are surprised at how long it takes to extinguish a campfire. A small amount of water poured on an evening campfire is not usually sufficient.

Forest prevention specialists urge the public to: Do your part; don't let wildfires start.

For more information please contact Allison Kolbe at (406) 677-3908.

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