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# NEWS RELEASE

## Lolo National Forest

United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Lolo National Forest  
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Missoula, Montana 59804

[www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo)

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**For Immediate Release**

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## Indian Creek Fire Being Managed for Resource Benefits

Missoula, MT. – Fire managers on the Ninemile Ranger District are currently managing the Indian Creek Fire in the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness as a Wildland Fire Use Fire.

The fire is approximately 35 miles west of Missoula in the Middle Fork Indian Creek drainage, burning in sub-alpine fire and lodgepole pine on steep slopes. The fire grew to approximately 50 acres overnight and is expected to continue to grow today with high temperatures and low humidity forecast. Ninemile Ranger District officials have issued a trail advisory to make travelers in the area aware of fire activity.

The fire is lightning caused and firefighters from the Lolo National Forest are in the area to monitor and manage the fire as needed.

Wildland Fire Use (WFU) fires are implemented in specific areas of the Lolo National Forest where a Fire Use fire can provide resource benefits but not threaten life or property. A fire Use Guidebook establishes the process for both implementing and managing a Fire Use fire. Factors that are considered in the Fire Use decision making steps include current and expected weather, fire history and past burns adjacent to the fire, fuel, terrain, and location of communities.

Fire Use provides the following resource benefits:

- Reduces fuel loads and the potential for future high intensity fires
- Regenerates soils and vegetation
- Allows fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem

For current information please contact the Lolo National Forest Public Affairs Office at (406) 329-1024.

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