

August 23, 2006

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Holland Peak Fire – Public Meeting and Trail Closure

The Holland Peak Fire, south of Rumble Creek Lake, approximately eight miles east of Condon on the Swan Lake District of the Flathead National Forest is estimated at 100+ acres. It is burning in steep and rugged terrain. Today's fire activity has been low to moderate, with some individual tree torching. The fire is being monitored with aerial resources. Safety zones for firefighters have not been established due to terrain and fire activity.

The Foothills Trail, Forest Service Trail #192, is closed from the trailhead to Cooney Lookout.

A public meeting will be hosted by the Flathead National Forest on Thursday, August 24, 6pm, at the Condon Community Center. The meeting will include a presentation about the management strategy for the fire and provide an update on fire activity across the forest.

The fire was detected late Monday, and is believed to be a hold-over fire from recent lightning activity. For more information about the Holland Peak Fire or the public meeting contact the Swan Lake District at 837-7500.

<u>Stage I Fire Restrictions continue for Northwest Montana</u>, including all lands within Flathead and Lincoln Counties, plus that portion of Lake County outside the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Lands, plus all lands administered by the Kootenai National Forest, Flathead National Forest and Glacier National Park. These administrative boundaries include portions of Sanders County, west of Whitepine, Glacier, Missoula and Powell Counties.

Campfires are restricted to developed or improved sites. Smoking is only allowed in a vehicle, building or in an area cleared of flammable materials in a three-foot diameter around the smoker. Fireworks are prohibited.

For more information about fire restrictions, visit <u>http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/</u> or contact a local Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation or National Park Service Office or your local fire department Stage I Fire Restrictions are in effect across Northwest Montana.