



Northern Rockies Coordination Group Northwest Montana Zone

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For More Information Contact:

Denise Germann, Flathead National Forest 758-5252, cell- 249-1714

Marcy Goheen, Kootenai National Forest 882-4451

Michelle Smith, Montana DNRC 751-2271

Northern Rockies
Coordination Group

NW Montana Zone
Member Agencies

Montana DNRC
Northwestern Land
Office

U.S. Forest Service
Flathead National
Forest

U.S. Forest Service
Kootenai National
Forest

National Park Service
Glacier National Park

U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Service
Flathead/Swan Area
Refuges

Flathead County

Lake County

Lincoln County

Sanders County

Successful Initial Attack in Northwest Montana

Fire management agencies in Northwest Montana have successfully responded to more than 90 fire starts since Tuesday evening. **Several agencies have indicated that they have responded to more fires in the past week than they did all of last year.**

Most of the fire starts in the last week were readily managed with initial attack strategies by federal and state agencies in cooperation with rural fire departments.

“Excellent cooperative working relationships, available resources, and aggressive initial attack have contributed to the success of managing this tremendous amount of fire starts in Northwest Montana,” said Allen Chrisman, Fire Management Office for the Flathead National Forest.

Resources such as aircraft, engines, firefighters and other equipment have been dispatched to Northwest Montana from across the region and nation, as well as from local contractors.

Kootenai National Forest Fire Management Officer Charlie Webster said, “Hard working and dedicated firefighters, as well as many private citizens and local contractors, are assisting with fire management activities. Their work is valuable and appreciated!”

Webster continued, “Fire severity funds have been instrumental in obtaining needed resources. Without these funds we would not have the opportunity to prepare for and respond as needed in light of the fuel and fire behavior conditions we’re encountering.” Fire severity funds are provided to wildland fire agencies to staff additional resources during periods of high fire danger.

Dan Cassidy, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, said, “As a cooperative Northwest Montana zone, we have prioritized and shared resources. We have pulled together quickly and efficiently. As a priority, we have all made our resources available for initial attack and been successful.”

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