



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

August 19, 2008

Contact: Denise Germann
(406) 758-5252
(406) 249-1714 cell

Flathead National Forest Managing 5 Wildland Fire-Use Fires

The Flathead National Forest is managing five wildland fire-use fires that were ignited by lightning approximately 10 days ago.

Wildland fire-use fire is the management of naturally ignited wildland fire to meet specific resource objectives. Forest fire managers will use a full range of mitigation actions to check, direct or delay the spread of each fire. Resource benefits from managing fire on the landscape include decreased fuel accumulation and potential for future high intensity fires, safer environment for firefighters and the public, improved wildlife and plant habitats and the allowance of fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem.

The wildland fire-use fires on the Flathead National Forest include;

Wildrose Wildland Fire-Use Fire located approximately two miles southwest of the Three Forks area in the Great Bear Wilderness and approximately 10 acres,

Shale Mountain Wildland Fire-Use Fire located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness approximately five miles northeast of Big Prairie and estimated to be less than one acre,

Cardinal Peak Wildland Fire-Use Fire located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, approximately 13 miles east of Summit Lake Overlook along Montana Highway 83, estimated at 100 acres and smoke is visible from the Seely Lake area,

Jumbo Point Wildland Fire-Use Fire located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, approximately 25 miles east of Summit Lake Overlook along Montana Highway 83, is less than one acre, and

Triangle Wildland Fire-Use Fire located in the Great Bear Wilderness about two miles south of Montana Highway 2 or about ten airmiles northeast of Hungry Horse, Montana and estimated to be 200 acres. Smoke is visible and anticipated to continue. The fire is burning at a

high elevation and natural barriers such as rock chutes are being used. Tuesday's management of the Triangle Wildland Fire-Use Fire will include use of helicopters to drop water on the east side of the fire. Trail access in this area may be affected; more information to be provided later today.

The smoke in the Flathead Valley is coming from wildland fires across the region and in Canada.

--END--