

Northern Rockies Coordination Group Northwest Montana Zone

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

No Fire Restrictions in Northwest Montana at this Time

There are no current fire restrictions in Northwest Montana, although conditions are getting drier and everyone should be cautious when working or recreating outdoors.

Recent fire activity in the Flathead Valley has included 16 fires on US Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and Glacier National Park lands. The largest fire, the Hoffman Draw Fire, near Kila, was 18 acres. The other fires ranged in size from small spots to three acres in size. Many of the fires were human caused.

Northwest Montana Zone Spokesperson Denise Germann said, "The area is drying significantly with the warm weather and we encourage everyone to be cautious and responsible when working and recreating outdoors."

Campers are reminded:

-Never leave a campfire unattended.-When leaving, drown it with water until it is cold to the touch.-Always keep a bucket of water and shovel handy.

Personnel and equipment from the various agencies, as well as local contract equipment have been dispatched to incidents across the state and region.

Germann said, "We have several agency engines, aerial observer planes, helicopters, and firefighter personnel to respond to a local incident, as well as the many local fire department resources."

Reminder, open burning season in Flathead County ended June 30. For more information visit <u>www.firesafekalispell.com</u> or contact your local fire department.

For information about fire restrictions in other areas, please contact the respective land management agency or local fire department in that area, or visit <u>www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg</u>.