



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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

Flathead National Forest Responds to Three Wilderness Fires

The Flathead National Forest is responding to two fires in the Bob Marshall Wilderness on the Spotted Bear Ranger District. The Kelly Point Fire is located about 20 miles south of Spotted Bear and a mile north of Black Bear Cabin, and the Limestone Peak Fire is located about 20 miles east of Spotted Bear. A 10-person interagency fire team will assist the forest in managing the fires.

The estimated 500-acre Kelly Point Fire was discovered Saturday and crews worked to protect the administrative Black Bear cabin. The fire is suspected to be human caused and is under investigation.. For public safety some trail closures are in effect:

- The East Side South Fork Trail (Forest Trail #80) from Meadow Creek to Salmon Forks, south of Mud Lake.
- The West Side South Fork Trail (Forest Trail #263) from Black Bear Creek to the junction of Forest Trail #29, Little Salmon Creek Trail.

The estimated 100-acre lightning-caused Limestone Peak Fire, also discovered Saturday afternoon, continues to burn in a remote area in the wilderness. For public safety, the Silvertip Creek Trail #89 is closed.

To make best use of fire fighting resources, fire managers will concentrate on using natural barriers, like rocky outcrops and areas that have previously burned, to confine and contain the two fires.

Another fire was also discovered late Saturday evening. The Holbrook Fire is located about 9 miles south of Black Bear cabin along the South Fork of the Flathead River in the wilderness. This fire is also suspected to be human caused and estimated at less than an acre in size. Flathead National Forest employees are taking actions to suppress this fire.

Smoke is visible in the Flathead Valley from wildland fires burning in the wilderness, and adjacent National Forests to the north, south and west.

For information related to trail closures on the Spotted Bear District call 758-5376. For more information related to fire activity on the Flathead National Forest contact 758-5208 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead.