



Southwest Incident Management Team

Fact Sheet #27a

August 8, 2007 8:30 AM

Holter Lake to Open Thursday, August 9

The Holter Lake Recreation Site administered by the Bureau of Land Management will re-open to the public on Thursday morning at 8 am, August 9. This includes the campground and public boat launch on Holter Lake. **Be advised that fire operations continue in the area including air operations, movement of heavy equipment, and fire personnel.** Stage II restrictions will remain in effect. Campfires are not allowed! Smoking is allowed in vehicles only or in areas that are free of vegetation and burnable material three feet around you. This site had been closed since July 31 due to the Meriwether Fire.

The BLM sites at Log Gulch and Departure Point will remain closed at this time due to continuing fire traffic and operations. Boaters planning to use the Holter Lake Recreation Site to launch are also reminded that while the river is open, the Forest Service has closed agency lands on the east bank of the Missouri River from the vicinity of American Bar north to Rescue Gulch. This area is closed due to the potential for mudslides and/or extreme erosion that could occur if the burned area receives a sudden, intense rain event.

People with respiratory problems need to consider that smoky conditions will continue to persist in the area. In addition, local residents are reminded to be careful while driving in the fire area. Headlights are recommended.

For additional information on the Holter Lake re-opening, please contact the BLM in Butte at 406-533-7600.

The following restrictions remain in effect:

Restrictions and Closures: The Montana National Guard is staffing checkpoints.

- Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area as well as adjacent National Forest lands along the east side of the Missouri River.
- Beaver Creek Road is closed at Nelson.
- Beaver Creek Trail #254 is closed below Hauser Dam to Beaver Creek fishing access.
- The Beartooth Wildlife Management Area is closed.
- **Stage II** fire restrictions are in effect.
- The river corridor restriction has been lifted from American Bar to Beartooth Landing including Upper Holter Lake. This access applies to the water only.
- The BLM recreation sites at Log Gulch and Departure Point remain closed.
- The Helena National Forest has issued an order prohibiting people from being on National Forest lands on the east shore of the lake from the American Bar vicinity north to Rescue Gulch.

For additional Meriwether Fire information contact:
406-235-3478 or go to the inciweb site(<http://inciweb.org>)

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