

NEWS Advisory

USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



July 21, 2005

News Contact: Ed Nesselroad: 406-329-3089 (Paula Nelson, your normal contact, is away from the office until August 2. After that time she will be available at: 406-329-3472)

Fire Season

Fire season is off to a rapid start and we want to make sure you have handy information gathering tools available to get the latest news.

Fire Information: For the most current fire information from across the Northern Rockies, check out the “morning report” at the Northern Rockies Coordination Center site at:

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/information/information.htm>

National Fire Information can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/fire/mreport.shtml>

Or the National Interagency Fire Center at: <http://www.nifc.gov/fireinfo/nfn.html>

Fire Contracting: Once fires start, we often are overwhelmed with people wanting to sign up heavy equipment to fight fire under an agreement or contract. The system is cumbersome due to the complexity of contracting and the seriousness of the work. Therefore, our dispatch offices and agency contracting officers conduct pre-season sign-ups before the threat of fires creates an emergency. We have a new and informative website for prospective contractors (and the media) at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/agree-contract/steps.html>

Coordinated Fire Operations: The Northern Region covers 25 million acres of national forests and grasslands in northern Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and northwestern South Dakota. For emergency responses, we work in partnership with other wildland fire fighting and emergency response agencies across the geographic area under the multi-agency Northern Rockies Coordination Group. Information on the NRCG can be found at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/about_index.htm

Fire Prevention: Simple fire prevention tips are available at: http://www.firewise.org/fw_index.htm

And a few other helpful sites -

The current fire season severity prediction is available at:

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/outlooks/outlooks.htm>

Drought information is available at: <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

Fire hiring information is at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/people/employment/index.html>

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