

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Closures Lifted, Area Restrictions in Effect

Southwest and Northwest Zone Closures Lifted to Level 3; Central Zone Closure Lifted to Level 4; Eastern Zone Remains at Level 4

Missoula, Montana – Northern Regional Forester Dale Bosworth today approved removing closures for National Forests in the central, northwest and southwest areas of Montana. This decision effectively re-opens 16-million acres of National Forest System lands in Montana. **Lower level restrictions will remain in effect in all areas.** The restrictions will go into effect at 12:00 noon, Tuesday, September 5.

Northwest and Southwest Zones in Montana will move into Level-3 Restrictions. This level of restriction allows campfires and charcoal fires in developed/designated recreation sites and campgrounds only. Hoot Owl Logging is allowed from 1am till 1pm. Level-3 restricts smoking and off-road vehicles can travel on Forest Development Roads (FDRs), but there is no travel allowed off roads.

Montana's Central Zone will move into Level-4 Restrictions. At this level of restriction: 1.) All fires (campfires, charcoal fires and stove fires) are prohibited. 2.) Smoking is restricted. 3.) Woods operations are not allowed. 4.) Off-road vehicles can be used only on Forest Development Roads

The Eastern Zone in Montana will remain in Level-4 Restrictions.

Coordinated restrictions are in place on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and State of Montana as well as private lands.

Specific areas within National Forests may be closed due to firefighter and public safety concerns presented by current active fires.

Specific questions about local exceptions should be directed to the appropriate Forest Service office.

For additional closure information, visit the website:

www.fs.fed.us/r1/pgr/fireinfo/news/html

For additional information by phone:

Montana Closure Information Numbers

Central Zone:

Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF: (406) 683-3892
Custer NF (Red Lodge Dist.) (406) 446-2103
Gallatin National Forest: (406) 522-2520
Helena National Forest: (406) 449-5201
Lewis & Clark NF: (406) 791-7726

NW Montana Zone:

Flathead National Forest: (406) 758-5200
Kootenai National Forest: (406) 293-6211

SW Montana Zone:

Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF: (406) 683-3892
Bitterroot NF: (406) 375-8807
Lolo National Forest: (877) 563-2876

