



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Flathead National Forest
Spotted Bear Ranger District**

Area Closure

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) and (b) the following is prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands, roads, and trails on the Spotted Bear and Ranger District, Flathead National Forest described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A.

1. It is prohibited to go into the area or be upon any road or trail closed for the protection of: Public health or safety. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e).
2. It is prohibited to be on the trails listed in the order. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(a).

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty.

DESCRIBED AREA and TRAILS

Area The closed area encompasses Gorge Creek drainage within the Bob Marshall Wilderness area, including Feather, Inspiration, Gorge, Canyon Trickle, and Stadium Creeks.

The northern boundary of the closure area starts at Inspiration Point in section 4 T23N R16W and continues east along the wilderness boundary to National Forest System (NFS) Trail #107. The eastern boundary starts at NFS Trail #107 and parallels this trail south, inclusive of Picture Lake to NFS Trail #105. The southern boundary follows the crest of the Gorge Creek drainage from the western terminus of NFS Trail #105 west to the Swan Lake Ranger District boundary, north of Lion Creek Pass in section 1 T23N

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R16W. The western boundary continues from this point north along the Swan Lake District Boundary to Inspiration Point.

Roads and Trails All roads and trails within the closure are closed to the public. There are 2 additional trails outside the closure area that will be closed:

- NFS Trail #105
- NFS Trail # 107
- NFS Trail #218

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to provide for public and firefighter safety due to fire activities on the ***Stadium Fire other fires nearby on the Spotted Bear District.***

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from August 2, 2023 at 1700 through December 31, 2023 at 1700, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area and Trails is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/flathead/alerts-notice> .
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.
4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Contact the Spotted Bear Ranger District (406) 758-5376 or the Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office in Kalispell, MT, at (406) 758-5208 for more information about this Order.

Signed and issued on August 3, 2023

Carol Hatfield
Forest Supervisor
Flathead National Forest