



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Flathead National Forest
Hungry Horse Ranger District**

Area Closure

PROHIBITIONS

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

1. It is prohibited go into the area, including to be upon any road or trail in the area, closed for the protection of: Public health or safety. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e).

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

Area The western and northern boundary of the closure area starts at the junction of National Forest System (NFS) Road 497 and NFS Road 38 in section 3 T31N R19W and runs north along the western and northern Coram Experimental Forest boundaries to Desert Mountain in section PB40 T31N R19W. The northern boundary continues from Desert Mountain due east to the Great Bear Wilderness boundary.

The eastern boundary then runs southeast along the Great Bear Wilderness boundary to Tiger Creek in section 12 T30N R18W and then along Tiger Creek south to NFS Road 38. The southern boundary is up to FSR 38 between Tiger Creek and NFS Road 497.

The closure area does not include FSR 38.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to provide for public and firefighter safety due to fire activities on the ***Ridge Fire***.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from August 3, 2023 at 1700 through December 31, 2023 at 1700, unless rescinded.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 Hungry Horse Ranger District (406) 387-3800 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