

NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest
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Kettle Crest Area Closure Reduced

Colville, WA- (October 8, 2015) –Colville National Forest Officials are reducing the size of the temporary emergency wildfire closures in the Kettle Crest Complex effective Friday, October 9, 2015.

Cooler temperatures and recent precipitation have reduced fire activity across the forest and have allowed fire managers to reduce the size of fire closure for the Stickpin, Renner and Graves Mountain Fires included in the Kettle Complex Fires. In many cases, the closures are reduced to the footprint of the burned areas as much as possible (see attached maps).

Fire managers have mitigated roadside hazards enough to allow Highway 20 in the south to be connected to Boulder Creek Road (County Road 602) in the north. Forest Roads now open are:

- Bulldog Cabin Road (Forest Road 6113)
- Upper portion of South Fork Boulder Creek Road (Forest Road 6110) – The eastern, or lower portion remains closed due to a large washout.
- Albion Hill Road (Forest Road 2030)

It is important to note that while these roads are now open, there are burned areas on either side of these roads that remain closed to public access.

The area surrounding Graves Mountain from Highway 20 north to the Deadman Creek Road and Lane Creek to the east remains closed to public access. However, Deadman Creek Road is open and connects to Albion Hill Road. Popular areas such as Jungle Hill; Wapaloosie; Davis Lake; Hoodoo Canyon Trailhead; Trout Lake; Alligator Ridge and Copper Butte Trailhead are open to public access.

Burned areas remain extremely hazardous and all trails and roads leading into the interior of burned areas will remain closed to public access through the winter to allow time for winter snow to fully extinguish the fires and bring down any additional loose trees damaged by wildfire. Falling burnt trees, debris flows, rolling rocks, mud and landslides as well as road failures are all potential risks associated with post-fire burned areas. Burned area closures will be enforced, and violations are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16 U.S.C. 551 and 18 U.S.C. 3559, 3571, and 3581)



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Continued

Prior to venturing into the woods for hunting or other recreational activities this fall, forest visitors are strongly encouraged to view maps of existing area closures and the roads and trails that lead into them to ensure they are not unknowingly venturing into a closed area. Maps and specific descriptions of the closed areas can be viewed by visiting your local Forest Service office, and online at the Colville National Forest website.

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The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.



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