



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Wildland Fire Update

Baldy Fire

Fire crews and suppression resources from the Flathead National Forest, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Flathead County, including several local and rural fire departments, are responding to a wildland fire about 3-4 miles west of Lakeside near Baldy Mountain. The fire is being managed by the Flathead National Forest, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Flathead County under a unified command organization with an Interagency Type III Overhead Team. Resources assigned to the incident are three helicopters with water drops, two airtankers with retardant drops, firefighters including the Chief Mountain Hot Shots, dozers, engines and other fire equipment. Origin of the fire is under investigation.

The fire is estimated at approximately 200 acres and in close proximity to structures. Priority is structure protection. Evacuation notices have been issued by the Flathead County Sheriff's Office for Bierney Creek Road, including the Lone Wolf and Bierney Trail areas. An evacuation notice is a warning for residents to be prepared to evacuate in the near future if conditions warrant. A shelter is located at the Middle School in Somers, off of School Addition Road. The Flathead Fairgrounds is being utilized for housing livestock and pets.

Ninko Creek Fire-

The Ninko Creek Fire located approximately 40 miles north of Columbia Falls in the Whale Creek Drainage on the Flathead National Forest had increased fire activity on Saturday, September 26. The fire increased to approximately 500 acres and is burning towards the 2003 Wedge Fire. The fire remains to the north of Forest Road #10355. Resources assigned to the incident include the Flathead Hot Shot Crew, several fire engines including two contract engines, and aerial resources. Forest Roads #318, #9805 and #907, Whale Creek, Ninko Creek and Wedge Canyon Roads, are closed at this time. Trail closures in the area are anticipated as well.

Lost Creek Fire-

Smoke will be visible east of the town of Swan Lake from the 1,000-acre prescribed fire project, Lost Creek Fire, of September 16. The interior of the fire continues to burn actively, with an additional 60 acres burning on the divide near Crevice Lake and on the Spotted Bear District due to increased fire activity on Saturday, September 26. Crews are monitoring and patrolling the incident. Trail closures on the Alpine 7 Trail, Forest Trail #7 and in the Crevice Area are anticipated.

Gabe Creek Fire-

This lightning-started fire is being managed for resource benefit use and is located on the Spotted Bear Ranger District in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, approximately 20 miles northeast of Seeley Lake, MT. The fire was detected in late July and continues to burn in the interior of the fire. There has been no substantial growth with the fire and it is estimated at about 1,700 acres. The Gordon Creek Trail, Forest Trail #35, is closed between Shirttail Park and Elk Creek. Please contact the Spotted Bear Ranger District at 758-5376 for specific access information in that area.

Interagency fire crews are responding to smoke reports across Northwest Montana. Any smoke reports should be reported by calling 911 or 758-5260.

Additional information may be obtained by visiting www.inciweb.org.

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