



# Flathead National Forest

[www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead)

Media Release

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## **Cardinal Creek Wildland Fire in Bob Marshall Wilderness And Additional Fire Start**

The Cardinal Creek Wildland Fire in the Bob Marshall Wilderness of the Flathead National Forest has had limited activity the past few days. The fire is estimated to be less than 2,000 acres. It is burning on the west and north sides of Kid Mountain above Gordon Creek and in the drainage divide between Gordon Creek and Youngs Creeks on the Spotted Bear Ranger District. It is located approximately 18 miles southeast of Condon, Montana.

The Gordon Creek Trail, Forest Trail #35, is now open and all parties will be required to check in with Forest Service personnel prior to traveling through the fire area. There are personnel at Shaw Cabin and at the junction of Gordon Creek and the Westside trail to work with wilderness parties. Several other trails in the fire area continue to be closed:

- Cardinal Creek Trail #506,
- Cardinal Peak Trail #136,
- Kid Mountain Trail #628,
- Pilot Peak (Fossil Mountain) Trail #128, and
- Cabin Creek Trail #205.

The Flathead National Forest is managing the fire for multiple objectives, including public and firefighter safety, allowing the natural role of fire in wilderness and protecting values at risk.

The fire was reported the afternoon of July 25. The fire is burning in heavy timber, with a large component of down and dead fuels. Lightning in the area has been determined to be the cause of the fire.

Lighting is believed to have started another fire, **Christopher Lake Wildland Fire**, in the Bungalow Mountain Area of the Bob Marshall Wilderness on the Flathead National Forest. This is located approximately 20 miles southeast of the Spotted Bear Ranger Station. The fire was reported on Saturday, July 31. It is estimated to be less than ¼ of an acre. This fire will be managed similar to the Cardinal Creek Fire: to maintain public and firefighter safety, allow the natural role of fire in the wilderness and protect values at risk.

Please visit [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org) for more information about the Cardinal Creek Wildland Fire. For information about trail access in the fire areas, please contact the Spotted Bear Ranger District at 758-5376.

### **Please Note:**

Key reminders while camping, fishing, picnicking, and participating in other outdoor activities:

- Build safe campfires, by keeping them small and contained. Never leave your fire unattended, and make sure it is DEAD OUT before you leave it. State law requires that anyone lighting a campfire must have a bucket and shovel handy.

- Use equipment that has a properly functioning spark arrester. All types of equipment and vehicles are required to have spark arresters, including chain saws, portable generators, cross-country vehicles, motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, and farm equipment.

-When smoking is permitted, safe practices include a 3-foot clearing around the smoker, a fully extinguished cigarette or cigar prior to disposal, and use of an appropriate container for disposal.

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