



Flathead National Forest

www.fs.usda.gov/flathead

Media Release

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Rapid Creek Fire Now Part of Elbow Pass Complex

KALISPELL, MT – The Rapid Creek Fire in the Bob Marshall Wilderness grew rapidly from the initial size-up of approximately 1/4 acre to currently more than 3,000 acres. The fire started in the upper Rapid Creek drainage and is burning in heavy timber that includes areas that were killed by mountain pine beetle. The fire has burned into the Lewis and Clark National Forest. As of noon Monday, July 30, 2012, the fire had joined the Elbow Pass Fire. A third fire (Triple Divide Fire) is burning in the same area, and all three are now known as the Elbow Pass Complex.

A management team will take over command of the Elbow Pass Complex Tuesday, July 31. The complex is being managed for suppression, but rough terrain and unfavorable weather conditions are limiting the amount of resources that can be deployed safely. Fire managers are using water bucket drops.

There are trail closures in place for public and fire fighter safety. Please see the attached map for details.

Lightning strikes from the past week have ignited several fires on the Flathead National. As of 3:30 p.m. July 30, 2012, the following fires are being managed for suppression on the Flathead National Forest:

Coal Creek Fire 3 acres S.W. of Cyclone Lake - Hungry Horse Ranger District
Contained - 16 firefighters doing mop-up work

Union Peak Fire .5 acre Union Peak on the Swan Lake Ranger District
Not safe to staff – monitoring and doing water bucket drops

Pentagon Fire 3 acres Near Pentagon Creek in the Bob Marshall Wilderness
13 firefighters doing initial attack with helicopter support

For additional fire information and the most current updates please visit: <http://www.inciweb.org/>.

For photographs of the Rapid Creek Fire please visit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/fsnorthernregion/>.

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