



Northern Rockies
Coordination Group

Montana DNRC
Northwestern Land
Office Plains Unit

Montana DNRC
Southwestern Land
Office All Units

U.S. Forest Service
Lolo National Forest

U.S. Forest Service
Bitterroot National
Forest

Confederated Salish
and Kootenai Tribes
and Flathead Agency

Bureau of Land
Management

U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Service
Refuges and National
Bison Range

Counties of:
Missoula
Mineral
Ravalli
Sanders
Lake
Portions of Powell
Portions of Granite

Northern Rockies Coordination Group Missoula Area

For Immediate Release:
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Fire Managers Urge Caution This Weekend Fire Danger: **EXTREME**, Stage II Restrictions Remain in Effect

Missoula – Localized precipitation and widespread cooler temperatures have lessened fire danger in the short term providing an opportunity for firefighters across western Montana to gain ground on large fires. Favorable weather afforded Missoula area firefighters the upper hand to contain 14 human-caused and a dozen lightning-caused fires last week. More precipitation and cooler temperatures are forecasted for the start of next week.

Fine fuels, i.e. cured grasses, are the primary carriers of wildfire and react quickly to the effects of moisture and solar radiation. A few hours of sunlight and wind will dry grasses to the point they are available as fuel for wildfires. Conversely, it takes much longer (days and weeks) for large logs and duff layers to acquire enough moisture content to the point they won't burn with intensity. With those two factors in mind, fire managers across western Montana will continue with restrictions, and will reevaluate on Monday, August 27th.

The public is reminded that Stage II restrictions persist across most of western Montana. Campfires are prohibited. LPG gas stoves and generators are allowed in areas cleared of flammable material. Smoking is only allowed in an enclosed vehicle or building, or while stopped in an area cleared of flammable materials. Off-road and off-trail motor vehicle use is prohibited. Operating internal combustion engines (even mowing) off roads is prohibited between 1:00 pm and 1:00 am. There are other prohibitions and exemptions to Stage II.

Land within a city boundary is typically exempt from the order, but some municipalities have adopted Stage II restrictions as well.

Know Before You Go

For up-to-date restrictions as conditions change, visit
<http://firerestrictions.us/mt>

- State land and private land classified forested in Granite and Powell counties remain in Stage I restrictions. Property owners can check their tax records to see if their property is classified forested
- Granite County private property is not in restrictions
- Powell County private property is under Stage I