



Missoula Area

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stage II Fire Restrictions to be Rescinded for Missoula Area

August 25, 2021 – Missoula, MT—Stage II fire restrictions will be rescinded at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021 throughout most of the Missoula Area, including the Flathead Reservation; the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana; the Lolo National Forest; BLM lands, U.S. Fish & Wildlife lands; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks lands; and Montana State trust lands and private property outside of city limits classified as “forested.” Upon rescission, all fire restrictions will be removed including the prohibition on campfires, smoking, operating vehicles off designated roads and trails, and use of equipment powered by internal combustion engines. Granite County will rescind fire restrictions on August 31, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

Area-wide precipitation and sustained cooler temperatures have combined to drive up moisture of fuels on the floors of our forests. This has lowered fire risk indices and reduced fire danger across western Montana. Our public has responded with great care this season; we’re seeing reduced numbers of human-caused wildfires (50% of wildfires in 2021 have been human-caused, down from a seasonal average of 75% for our area). Finally, as schools return to session, public lands will see reduced visitor-use.

According to Anna Henderson, Fire Prevention & Education for the Lolo National Forest and Missoula Area Restrictions & Closures Zone Coordinator, “Restrictions are intended to reduce wildland fire ignitions from human caused sources, and fire managers recognize that our public has done an excellent job at being aware and complying with restrictions, as evidenced by the lower numbers of human-caused fires in the Missoula area.” As the season progresses and restrictions are lifted, fire managers also hope that our residents and visitors alike continue to use caution and common sense while outdoors, recognizing that fire season is not over. Warmer, drier weather is on the horizon and we all still need to do our part to prevent human-caused wildfire starts!

If you’re planning fall recreation on our public lands, we encourage you to “Know Before You Go.” Visit www.MTFireInfo.org to see if fire restrictions remain in places you plan to go. Once on the site, you’ll see links to existing restrictions orders, or, in the case of the Missoula Area, orders of rescission.

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