

Roaring Lion Fire Update

Tuesday, August 22, 2016, 7:00 a.m.

Fire Information: (406) 241-4338

Phone hours: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Bitterroot National Forest, Darby Ranger District, 5 miles southwest of Hamilton, MT.

The Moose Fire along with the Cedar fire have been very active the last couple of days and are responsible for much of the smoke that came over the Bitterroot Mountains and into the valley. Both of these fires were lightning caused and are burning approximately 10 miles west of the Bitterroot National Forest border on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest.

Yesterday: Early morning west winds were minimal in the fire area but by noontime they had significantly increased. The increase in these westerly winds continued to cause the fire to become more active which in turn produced more smoke. The majority of the activity was from the interior, where pockets of green, unburned fuel are drying out and becoming more receptive to heat. This activity remains expected and continues to pose no significant threat to containment lines. Aerial resources were used in the Ward Bowl area, dropping buckets of water and retardant to cool fuels down when needed. Helicopters dropping water buckets were also used in the Sawtooth Canyon area. Engine patrols in and around the fire's east and southeast perimeter remain with fire managers intending to continue the patrols until they are confident that no re-ignitions near firelines or homes will occur.

Today: The crew in the Ward Mountain area with the assistance of firefighters and Lookouts posted near Camas Creek will direct aerial resources and monitor fire activity to prevent the fire from progressing outside the perimeter. Both fixed wing (single engine air tankers or SEATs) and rotor wing (helicopters) aircraft will be seen over the area dropping buckets of water and using retardant when needed as activity picks up throughout the day. Engine patrols in and around the fire's east and southeast perimeter will continue to patrol around homes. Fire personnel intend to continue patrolling until they are confident that no re-ignitions near firelines or homes will occur.

Weather: A relatively cool day is in-store for the area with lighter winds and higher humidity. Throughout the day the winds will mainly be out of the northwest at 5 - 10 mph but this evening we'll see the wind gradually weaken and become more northerly. Wednesday is looking to be another cool day with winds becoming more northeasterly. An isolated shower or thunderstorm will be possible in the afternoon.

Smoke will continue to be visible from the interior of the burn area for the foreseeable future and is most likely until a season ending event such as substantial rain or winter weather affects the fire area.

Air Operations: Incident aircraft are providing tactical and logistical support as well as medevac capabilities should the need arise. Aerial resources, both rotor and fixed wing, continue to be available for use both on this incident and for initial attack. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in effect over this fire. *It has been reduced in size to match the perimeter of the fire.* Please check with the FAA or your local flight service station prior to flying in the area of the fire.

STATISTICS

Detected:	July 31, 2016
Cause:	Under Investigation
Current Size:	8,520 As of 6:00 AM August 22, 2016
Containment:	70%
Structures Lost:	16 residences and 49 outbuildings
Estimated Costs:	\$9,852,000.00
Resources:	
Camp Crews:	1
Engines:	7
Water Tenders:	2
Helicopters:	3
Overhead:	30
Total Personnel:	88

(over)

Evacuations: *The evacuation area south of the North Gold Creek Loop Road remains in Stage One Warning and Alert. On roads limited to residents only, permits will be available at roadblocks at the Ravalli Sheriff's office.* Information regarding evacuation areas can be found on the Ravalli County Sheriff's app for mobile phones, their Facebook page and by calling the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office at 406-375-4060 or at the fire information phone numbers listed above.

Closures: Area closures remain in effect. Camas Creek, Coyote Coulee, Roaring Lion, Sawtooth and Ward Mountain Trailheads are all closed and will remain closed until the risk to the public has been mitigated. The closure also includes the Coyote Coulee trail system and trail #59 up the North Fork of Lost Horse Creek. Observation Point road is also closed. Contact the Bitterroot National Forest or the Fire Information Office for details.

Residents returning to their homes should be cautious and watch out for fire weakened trees. These trees may appear to be completely healthy, but can fall with little or no warning even without wind influence. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/gut7awn> for additional information.

Cooperating Agencies: Ravalli County Sheriff, Ravalli County Volunteer Fire Departments, Montana DNRC, Red Cross, Montana DOT, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks and Northwestern Energy.

Additional Fire Information Contacts:

Inciweb http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/	Bitterroot NF Facebook www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF
Bitterroot NF Twitter www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF	Bitterroot NF http://bit.ly/29nsEak
Fire Restrictions http://firerestrictions.us/	Fire Information E-mail roaringlionfireinfo@gmail.com
Mobile app for Android http://bit.ly/29yFV1F	Mobile app for Apple http://apple.co/29xbl3H
Facebook www.facebook.com/Ravalli-County-Sheriffs-Office-261112620728766/?fref=nf	