



Flathead National Forest

www.fs.usda.gov/flathead

Media Release

October 5, 2011

Contact: Melissa Wilson
(406) 758-5252

Several Trails Re-Open within Fire Areas in the Bob Marshall Wilderness

Update on other Flathead National Forest Fire Closures

Due to the recent moisture and continued work by fire crews to clear standing dead trees near trails, many trail closures associated with the wilderness fires on the Spotted Ranger District have been lifted. Open trails include the *Stadler Creek Trail #271* – this trail joins with the Hoadley Creek Trail #226 on the Lewis and Clark National Forest that provides access to the Benchmark Trailhead. All trails on the Lewis and Clark National Forest’s Rocky Mountain Ranger District associated with the Stadler and Upper Ayres Fires and the recent South Fork of the Sun River Prescribed Fire, are now open (*East Fork Ahorn Trail #225 - South Fork of the Sun Trail #202 and the Hoadley Creek Trail #226*).

In the Hammer Creek Fire area the *East Side Trail #80*, *Lime Creek Trail #193* and the *Sandstone Creek Trail #743* are open. The Tillson/Shale Peak Trail #127 remains CLOSED because of hazard trees.

In the Big Salmon Lake Fire area the entire length of the *Big Salmon Creek Trail #110* is open. The Garnet Peak Trail #111 and the Brownie Point Trail #451 remain CLOSED.

Spotted Bear District Ranger Deb Mucklow said, “Fire crews are working hard to make closed trails safe for public travel. I anticipate the remaining closed trails will be ready for use within the next two weeks.” She added, “We appreciate everyone’s cooperation as we work to open the remaining wilderness trails.”

Visitors are reminded to use caution when traveling in any burned area. Some of the potential hazards include falling trees and snags, rolling rocks and logs on hillsides and ash covered holes and slumps in the ground. These hazards can exist for several months after a fire.

For current wilderness trail updates, visitors can contact the Spotted Bear Ranger District at 406-758-5376; the Hungry Horse Ranger District at 406-387-3800 (weekdays); the Lewis and Clark National Forest’s Rocky Mountain Ranger District at 406-466-5341 (weekdays); or the Lewis and Clark’s Augusta Information Station at 406-562-3247. Information is also available online at <http://inciweb.org/>.

--MORE--

In other fire areas on the Flathead National Forest,

- The area closure in place for last weekend's Paint Emery Prescribed Burn on the Hungry Horse Ranger District has been lifted.
- In the Puzzle Fire area on the Hungry Horse Ranger District, the Skyland Road #569 past the Morrison Creek Trailhead and Trail #154 remains closed to ATV use because of the high potential for falling dead trees.
- Road #680 (between Road #5206 and Termini) and Trail #86 remains closed within the South Fork Lost Creek Fire on the Swan Lake Ranger District due to the potential for rolling debris on the above hillside.

For current trail and road information contact the local ranger district, the Hungry Horse District, at 406/387-3800 and the Swan Lake District at 406/837-7500.

-END-