FOREST ORDER

Trail Closure Order- Drumming Fire Area

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551, 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (b) the following acts are prohibited on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest:

PROHIBITION:

1. Being on the trails described below [36 C.F.R. § 261.55 (a)].

PURPOSE:

The trail closures are for public safety due to the Drumming Fire and firefighting efforts on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District of the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest.

TRAIL CLOSURE DESCRIPTION:

The trail closures apply to all National Forest System trails, including those segments of the Continental Divide Trail, as follows and as depicted on the attached map (Attachment A): Trail #103 is closed from Big Lodge Mountain Pass to the intersection of North Badger Creek and Kip Creek Trail #142. Trail #145 is closed from the intersection of Trail #103 at North Badger Creek to the intersection of South Badger Creek and Trail #104. Trail #147 is closed from Muskrat Pass north of Beaver Lake to the intersection of Trail #145. Trail #146 is closed from the intersection of South Badger Creek to Trail #147.

IMPLEMENTATION:

This order will be in effect from August 28, 2020, and shall remain in effect until November 1st, 2020, or until the order is rescinded, whichever occurs first.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 C.F.R. Part 261, Subpart A.
EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

Persons with a special use authorization or other Forest Service authorization specifically exempting them from the effect of this Order. 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e)(1).

Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty. 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e)(4)

VIOLATION:

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 for an individual or $10,000 for an organization, imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16 U.S.C. §551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571 and 3581(b)(7).

INFORMATION:

Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at the Rocky Mountain Ranger District Office located at Choteau, Montana, (406) 466-5341, and at the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor's Office located at 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, Montana, (406) 449-5201.

Executed in Helena, Montana, this 28th day of August, 2020.

/s/ William Avey

WILLIAM AVEY
Forest Supervisor

Attachment A: Area Closure Map
Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan

1. Background:
The Forest Service is conducting firefighting operations due to the Drumming Fire on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District. It is necessary to close these trails in order to protect public safety while firefighting operations are ongoing.

2. **Intent of Subpart B order:**

The intent of the following order is to protect public safety by restricting access on and around National Forest System lands while providing for efficient operations while conducting firefighting operations on the Drumming Fire.

3. **Enforcement:**

Enforcement of the closure forest order will be a combination of signing, public information, personal contacts and law enforcement actions. The following summarizes the enforcement goals with respect to this closure order:

- The goal will be to ensure that people are informed of the closure order. This will initially be promulgated through contacts and information releases before the special order goes into effect.

- LEO’s & FPO’s will endeavor to enforce the order through patrols and contacts when available to do so. Enforcement with a warning or citation will be at the discretion of the Law Enforcement Officer or Forest Protection Officer.

4. **Posting:**

Current posting will be modified to reflect the new prohibition. Posting will be completed by the Forest Staff and will be posted at a minimum on the Helena-Lewis and Clark Alerts & Notices web page, the District office and signage in the immediate area of the closure.