The Little Hogback, Sliderock and Goat Creek fires are located approximately 25 miles south-souttheast of Missoula. Incident Commander Irv Leach’s Type 2 Incident Management team will continue working with Forest Service, Montana DNRC, and Granite County Sheriff’s Office in suppressing all three fires with a comprehensive fire management strategy.

The Lolo National Forest has issued an enlarged forest and road closures (Order No. F17-053-LOLO-03). The closure is intended to ensure firefighter and public safety, and includes all or parts of Rock Creek Road, Brewster Creek Rd., Upper Brewster Creek Rd., Sliderock Mountain Rd., Upper Willow Creek Rd., and Rd. #8419. All or parts of the following trails are closed: Grizzly Creek, John Long, Butte Cabin Creek, Butte Cabin Ridge, Hogback Ridge, and Ranch Creek. Visit the official Little Hogback/Sliderock Fire incident information page at inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5364/ for details and map of the closures.

Fire Update:

**Goat Creek: (approx. 1,319 ac.):** Helicopters actively worked the fire Sunday and into the evening movement is towards East Hill. Ground resources will staff the fire again tonight to patrol around structures. Indirect line construction continues that began at Rock Creek road and now has been completed between Babcock Mountain and Burnt Mountain. This line is designed to give firefighters an anchor point and be able to engage the fire in the safest possible way. Hot afternoon temperatures and breezy conditions influenced fire growth. These conditions are conducive to increased fire activity and growth for all the fires in the area.

**Little Hogback: (approx. 2,095 ac.)** A team of heavy equipment worked today to open safe access points, this equipment included a skidgen, feller buncher, dozer and skidder. The fire moved little early in the day as vegetation was sparse in rock scree slopes, but afternoon weather influenced its spread to the east. Strategic planning continues to find places to engage the fire with safety for firefighters being of the upmost importance. Vegetation is very dry in the heavy fuels.

**Sliderock: (approx. 385 ac.)** A hotshot crew worked around the electronic site today to protect communications equipment. This fire continued to move east again and was also influenced by afternoon weather conditions. Air resources keeping a watchful eye on the fire did located a new start that was reported north of Cinnabar Point and resources are respond, at the time of the report the fire was at less than one acre.

**Weather:** Monday will bring hot and dry conditions again with shifting winds in the afternoon. Tomorrow’s winds are predicted to be between 10-20 mph and much more shift in direction than previous days these conditions are all conducive to fire growth. A low pressure trough will develop off the west coast with high pressure remaining in the Great Basin, increasing the amount of thunderstorms in the area later in the week mainly on Wednesday.
Special Concerns: Dead trees are of extreme concern to fire fighter safety. There is an abundance of dead lodgepole pine, especially in Little Hogback. These snags are an extreme hazard to firefighters as they attempt to suppress these fires and caution is being used to minimize risk while still achieving suppression objectives. In addition, steep slopes, limited access, and challenging communication abilities have challenged firefighters in the suppression of both fires.

More Information: Fire behavior can change rapidly and visitors are encouraged to contact Fire Information at 406-540-3589 or email sliderockfire@gmail.com for current fire information. Current Fire and closure information is posted on InciWeb at: https://inciweb.nwrc.gov/incident/5364/ and on the Lolo National Forest Facebook site at https://www.facebook.com/lolonationalforest/