

Northern Rockies Coordination Group Kalispell / Northwest Montana Area



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Stage 2 Fire Restrictions Going into Effect Across NW Montana

Kalispell, Mont — Interagency fire managers unanimously agreed to implement Stage 2 Fire Restrictions that will go into effect at 12:01am Thursday, August 16 across Northwest Montana.

Glacier National Park is in Stage 2 Restrictions effective immediately.

Federal, State, and Private jurisdictions implementing restrictions include:

- **Flathead National Forest**, excluding the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness
- **Kootenai National Forest**
- **US Fish and Wildland Service**
- **Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation**, Northwest Land Office. State Land & Private Classified Forested Land within Lake, Lincoln, Sanders, and Flathead Counties.
- **Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks**, Regions 1 & 2 within Kalispell Restrictions Area
- **Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, and Sanders Counties**
- Private Timber Company Lands of **Stoltze** and **Weyerhaeuser**
 - Stoltze Land & Lumber is imposing additional restrictions including: NO camping and NO use of motorized vehicles on or off road (unless on an open PUBLIC road).
- Private land within city limits is exempt, except for the cities of **Whitefish** and **Columbia Falls**.

Please visit: <https://firerestrictions.us/mt/> for additional information regarding Stage II fire restrictions.

Stage II Fire Restrictions effectively reduce the number of human-caused fires during periods of very high fire to extreme fire danger by decreasing potential sources of ignition. Each year, 70 to 80% of wildfires are human-caused.

Northwest Montana is currently experiencing critical fire conditions including extremely dry forest fuels, low humidity, wind, and minimal precipitation. Several large fires are actively burning across the area and firefighting resources are limited. Local agencies and partners are working in coordination to suppress all fires, but critical fire conditions often mean that fires have high potential to grow quickly and escape initial attack. Any new ignition puts firefighters and local communities at risk.

Stage 2 Fire Restrictions prohibit:

- 1) Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire.

EXCEPTION: Persons using a fire solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off. Such devices can only be used in an area that is barren or cleared of all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three-feet of the device.

- 2) Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

- 3) The following acts are prohibited between 1:00pm and 1:00am, and a one-hour foot patrol in the work area is required following the cessation of all activities as identified in #3 below:

- a) Operating any internal combustibile engine.

EXCEPTION: Operating generators with an approved spark arresting device within an enclosed vehicle or building or in an area that is barren or cleared al all overhead and surrounding flammable materials within three-feet of the generator.

- b) Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
- c) Using an explosive.

- 4) Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.

Fireworks are never allowed on public lands and they are NEVER a good idea during fire season!

Visitation to northwest Montana continues to set records, and that means more campers, boats, and trailers. Please adjust trailer chains so they are not dragging, as dragging chains throw sparks and can start fast-moving road-side grass fires. Broken axles, flat tires, and catalytic converters have all started roadside wildfires. Have a fire extinguisher or five-gallons of water handy and be ready for the unexpected.

Thank you for your cooperation. With vigilance of the public, we can continue to prevent human-caused wildfires!

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Flathead National Forest ● Kootenai National Forest ● Glacier National Park ● US Fish & Wildlife Service
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks ● Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation Northwest Land Office
Flathead County ● Lake County ● Lincoln County ● Sanders County