



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service  
BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE National Forest  
Wisdom Ranger District  
BITTERROOT National Forest  
Darby-Sula Ranger District**

**TRAIL RIDGE FIRE-TRAIL CLOSURE**

**PROHIBITIONS**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (b), the following is prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) trails in the Wisdom and Darby-Sula Ranger Districts, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Bitterroot National Forest, respectively, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the "Described Trails"):

Being on the trails. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55 (1).

**EXEMPTIONS**

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty.
2. Persons with a Forest Service special use authorization or other authorization specifically exempting them from the effect of this Order.

## DESCRIBED TRAILS

The Described Trail Closure Area is all NFS trails within the boundary.

- *For the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest jurisdiction (7 miles of trail):* starting in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 14 in T1S R19W at the junction of FS Road 106 and FS Trail 9-CDNST (Gibbons Pass Trailhead); then continuing along the Trail 9-CDNST to the junction of FS Trail 3105 and the Trail 9-CDNST in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 16 in T1S R18W;
- *For the Bitterroot National Forest jurisdiction (4.5 miles of trail):* starting in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 32 in T1N R18W at the junction of Trail 78 and Trail 175; then continuing south along Trail 78 to the junction of FS Trail 9-CDNST; then continuing in southwest direction to the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 14 in T1S R19W at the junction of FS Road 106 and FS Trail 9-CDNST (Gibbons Pass Trailhead).

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to ensure public health and safety during fire suppression efforts of the Trail Ridge Fire.

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from **September 2, 2022** at 0600 until rescinded or until October 31, 2022 at 0001, whichever occurs first.

A map identifying the Described Trails is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/bdnf/alerts-notice>.

Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.

A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Contact the Wisdom Ranger District in Wisdom, MT, (406) 689-3243, and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor's Office in Dillon, MT, (406) 683-3995, for more information about this Order.

This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in/on the same Described Area/Roads/Trails.

Signed and issued on \_\_\_\_\_

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Lisa A. Timchak, Forest Supervisor  
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

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Matthew Anderson, Forest Supervisor  
Bitterroot National Forest

**Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest**

*Wisdom Ranger District*

**Bitterroot National Forest**

*Darby-Sula Ranger District*

**Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan**

**Trail Ridge Fire-Trail Closure Order**

**Introduction**

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Bitterroot National Forests, Forest Supervisors have made a decision relative to a trail closure, due to the Trail Ridge Fire, on the Wisdom Ranger District, pursuant to 36 CFR § 261.53(e). It is necessary to close these trails in order to protect public and firefighter safety while fire suppression activities are ongoing in the area.

The order applies to all National Forest System (NFS) lands including trails depicted on the attached map, Exhibit A.

The order will provide exemptions that are articulated on the Forest Supervisor's Order #02-03-22-15.

**Enforcement**

Enforcement of the closure 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.

**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 Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Alerts & Notices web page, the Wisdom District office, and signage in the immediate area of the closure.

## **Civil Rights Impact Statement**

The restriction of entry to the areas described in the order will have no adverse impacts on civil rights because the closure will apply to all individuals equally unless listed on the Forest Supervisor's Order #02-03-22-15 as exempted individuals. No one group will be affected more than another group.

Implementation of the proposed Supervisor's Order will not adversely or disproportionately impact minorities, women, low-income populations, or people with disabilities (Americans with Disabilities Act)

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**LISA A. TIMCHAK**  
**Forest Supervisor**  
**Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest**

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**Date**

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**MATTHEW ANDERSON**  
**Forest Supervisor**  
**Bitterroot National Forest**

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**Date**

**Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest**

*Wisdom Ranger District*

**Bitterroot National Forest**

*Darby-Sula Ranger District*

**NEPA Review & Assessment**

**Trail Ridge Fire-Trail Closure Order**

I have concluded that my decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act because it fits within the category identified in 36 C.F.R. § 220.6(d)(1) - prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety - and no extraordinary circumstances exist. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

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**LISA A. TIMCHAK**  
**Forest Supervisor**  
**Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest**

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**Date**

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**MATTHEW ANDERSON**  
**Forest Supervisor**  
**Bitterroot National Forest**

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**Date**