



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service**  
**Flathead National Forest**  
**Hungry Horse Ranger District**

**Area Closure**

**PROHIBITIONS**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) the following is prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands, roads, and trails on the Hungry Horse Ranger District, Flathead National Forest described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A.

1. It is prohibited go into the areas, including to be upon any road or trail in the area, closed for the protection of: Public health or safety. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e).

**EXEMPTIONS**

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

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty.

**DESCRIBED AREAS**

**Ridge Fire Area:** The northern boundary of the Ridge Fire closure area starts at the junction of NFS Road 38 and NFS Road 497 in section 3, township 31 north, range 19 west. The northern boundary follows NFS Road 497 to the east along Emery Ridge to the junction with NFS Road 497A. From this junction, the boundary continues to run east along NFS Road 497A until it meets NFS Road 546 at Emery Creek. The boundary then runs south on NFS Road 546 to the Ousel Peak Trail #388 trailhead in section 33, township 31 north, range 18 west. The boundary follows Trail #388 to the east where it meets Strife Creek and runs eastward up the drainage to the Great Bear Wilderness boundary. The eastern boundary then runs southeast along the Great Bear Wilderness boundary to Margaret Creek in section 12, township 30 north, range 18 west, and then along Margaret Creek south to NFS Road 38. The southern boundary extends to the west, along the eastern edge of NFS Road 38 to the intersection with NFS Road 497, the starting point.

The closure area does not include NFS Road 38.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Order is to provide for public and firefighter safety due to fire activities on the ***Ridge Fire***.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

1. This Order shall be in effect from September 1, 2023 at 1000 through October 20, 2023 at 0500, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area 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/flathead/alerts-notices> .
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Contact the Hungry Horse Ranger District (406) 387-3800 or the Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office in Kalispell, MT, at (406) 758-5208 for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the same Described Area, including the Hungry Horse Reservoir closure issued August 8, 2023.

Signed and issued on August 31, 2023.

---

Carol Hatfield  
Forest Supervisor  
Flathead National Forest