

Order Number: # 01-15-12-24-16



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest
Helena and Townsend Ranger Districts**

Area/Road/Trail Closure – Horse Gulch Fire

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a), (b), the following are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) area, roads, and trails in the Helena and Townsend Ranger Districts, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the “Described Area/Roads/Trails”):

1. To go into or be upon any area which is closed for the protection of public health and safety 36 C.F.R. § 261.53 (e).
2. Being on the trail. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(a).
3. Being on the road. 36 C.F.R. § 261.54(e).

EXEMPTIONS

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

1. Owners or lessees of land in the area.
2. Residents in the area.
3. 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).
4. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty.

DESCRIBED AREA/ROADS/TRAILS

This closure applies to the following NFS lands, roads, and trails approximately 17 miles

northeast of Helena, MT. In general, the closure is the fire perimeter bounded on the west side by County Road 231 (road NOT closed), turning north at the intersection of County Road 231 and Forest Service system road 4136-A3, to include 4136-A3 to its intersection with Forest Service system road 4136-B1, to include the 4136-B1 road to Hedges Mountain, then going southeast along the ridgeline to include Forest Service system road 425-C2 and 425-C1 to the intersection of the Magpie Road/Forest Service system road 245, then continuing east below trail 239 (trail NOT closed) to the intersection with trail 240, going south and including trail 240 to the intersection of the top of road 693-B1 (road NOT closed), then due south down the ridge to the Hellgate trailhead/Forest boundary, then bounded on the south by the National Forest System lands boundary.

1. Trail Closures. All miles of Forest Service System trails:

- Townsend Ranger District: 240, 241, 242, 243
- Helena Ranger District: 241, 243, 245

2. Road Closures. Forest Service System roads:

- Townsend Ranger District: 425, 425A1, 425C1, 425C2, 425M1, 242
- Helena Ranger District: 4136A2, 4136A3, 4136A4, 4136B1

3. Area Closure. All of the National Forest System lands within the Horse Gulch fire perimeter:

- T11N, R01W sections 12-14, 21-28, 33-36; T11N, R01E sections 7-8, 17-22, 28-33; T10N, R01E sections 4-6.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is for public safety due to wildfire and active fire suppression activities.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from 12:01 a.m. on July 27, 2024 through December 31, 2024, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area/Roads/Trails is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/hlcnf/alerts-notice>.
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.

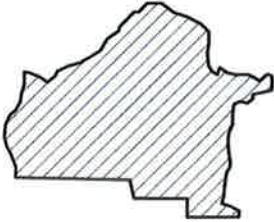
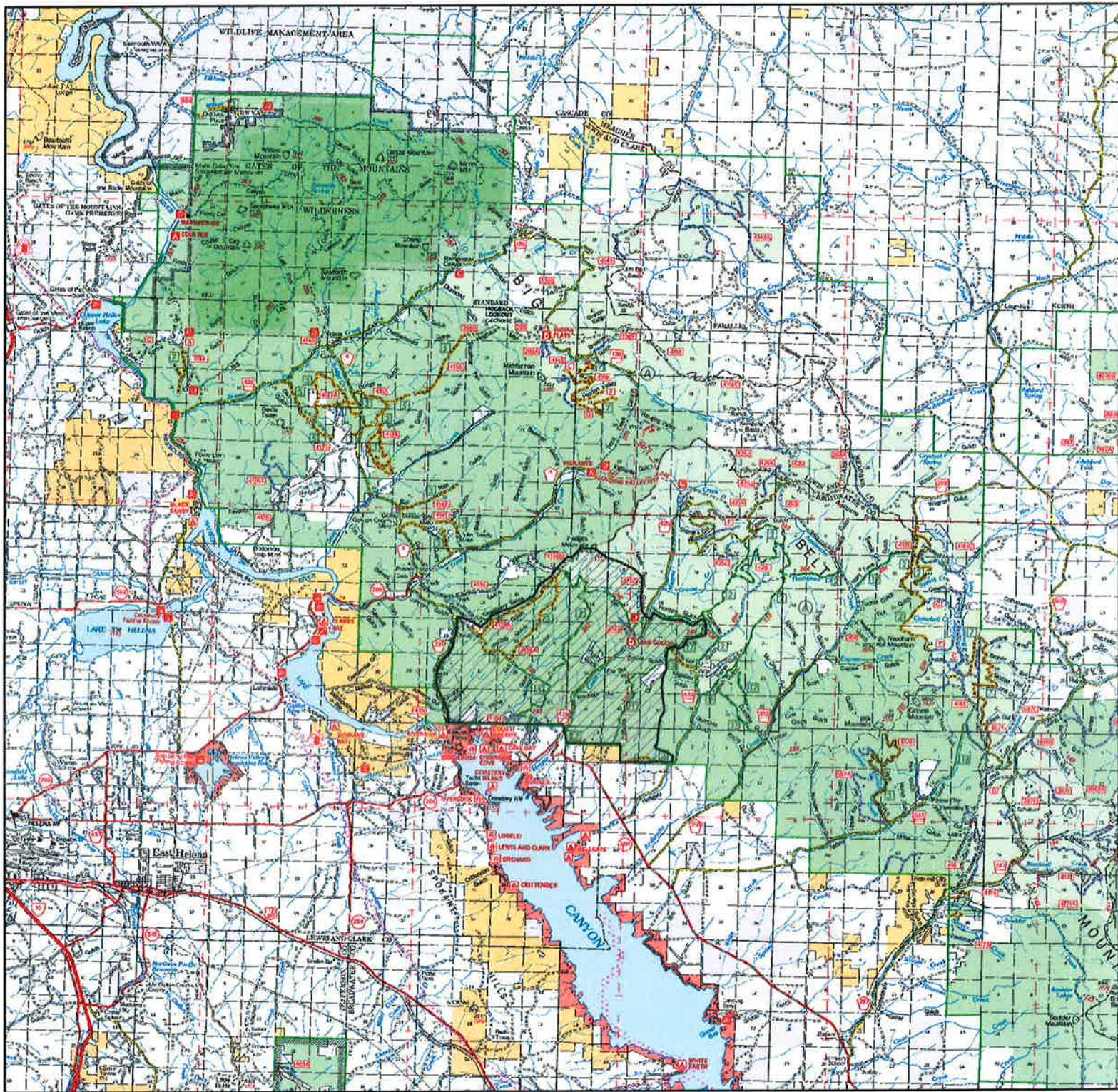
4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Contact the Helena Ranger District in Helena, MT, (406) 449-5201, Townsend Ranger District in Townsend, MT, (406) 266-3425, and Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor's Office in Helena, MT, (406) 449-5201, for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the same Described Area/Roads/Trails.

Signed and issued on July 26, 2024.




Forest Supervisor
Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest

Order 01-15-12-24-16 Exhibit A the Described Area and Routes



Horse Gulch Fire Closure



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The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be: developed from sources of differing accuracy, accurate only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, incomplete while being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those, for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace, GIS products without notification. Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602, Phone (406) 449-5201