



Smoke Outlook

Central Montana Horse Gulch Fire

7/14 - 7/15

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on July 14, 2024 at 06:33 AM MDT

Special Statement

...Incident Red Flag Warning for winds and very low humidity today from Noon until Midnight...

Fire

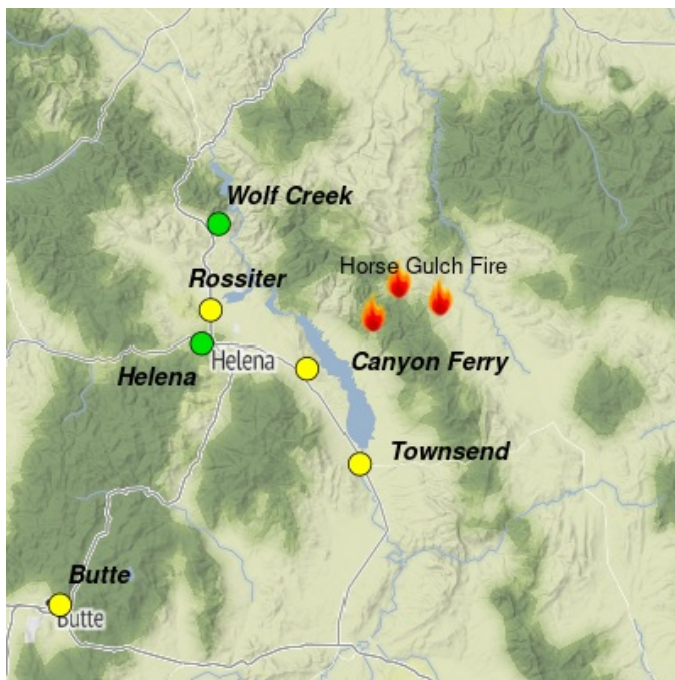
The Horse Gulch fire grew to 12,086 acres by late Saturday with no containment. Continued hot and dry conditions will favor growth of the fire within the forest. Somewhat lighter winds are forecast by early this week. There remains a long duration of daily burning conditions, as much of the fire remains in the prolonged dry environment above night time inversions.

Smoke

Generally west winds developing during the day will push the majority of smoke east into over the high wilderness areas of the Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. Moderate to periods of Good AQ is expected west of Canyon Ferry Lake toward Helena. Moderate to periods of USG remains possible east of Canyon Ferry Lake and into the higher wilderness eastward and immediately downstream of the fire. After dusk, smoke will settle into local drainages including S-284, Canyon Ferry Lake and perhaps Hwy 12 toward east Helena.

Roadway Visibility

Localized smoke conditions can bring reduced visibility along S-284 to the Canyon Ferry Lake south of the fire overnight and in the early morning.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Sunday

| Station | Yesterday | | | Sat 7/13 | Comment for Today -- Sun, Jul 14 | Forecast* | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------|----|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| | hourly | | | | | Sun 7/14 | Mon 7/15 |
| Helena | 6a | noon | 6p | ● | Favorable winds will allow for GOOD to periods of MODERATE AQ early week | ● | ● |
| Wolf Creek | [Bar chart showing AQI levels] | | | ● | GOOD AQ with MODERATE in afternoon and early evening | ● | ● |
| Butte | [Bar chart showing AQI levels] | | | ● | Regional Smoke and Haze will reduce Air Quality somewhat | ● | ● |
| Canyon Ferry | No hourly data | | | | Mostly Light smoke continuing in the lake area | ● | ● |
| Townsend | No hourly data | | | | Reduced AQ due to wildfire smoke this week | ● | ● |
| Rossiter Pump House | [Bar chart showing AQI levels] | | | ● | Some smoke impacts along with regional haze continuing | ● | ● |

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| Air Quality Index (AQI) | Actions to Protect Yourself |
|-------------------------|---|
| ● Good | None |
| ● Moderate | Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion. |
| ● USG | People within Sensitive Groups* should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. |
| ● Unhealthy | People within Sensitive Groups* should avoid all physical outdoor activity. |
| ● Very Unhealthy | Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. |
| ● Hazardous | Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity. |

*Disclaimer: This forecast is based on fine particulates only; ozone is not included. Forecasts may be wrong; use at own risk. Use caution as conditions can change quickly. See your health professional as needed. Smoke sensitive groups should take appropriate precautions.

Additional Links

Montana Department of Environmental Quality -- <https://deq.mt.gov/air/index> Montana Department of Transportation -- <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/>
National Fire and Smoke Map (AIRNOW) -- <https://fire.airnow.gov/> --



Issued by Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program -- www.wildlandfiresmoke.net
Central Montana Updates -- <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/a680e2fc>
*Smoke and Health Info -- www.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-health