



Smoke Outlook

Central Montana Horse Gulch Fire

7/15 - 7/16

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on July 15, 2024 at 06:41 AM MDT

Fire

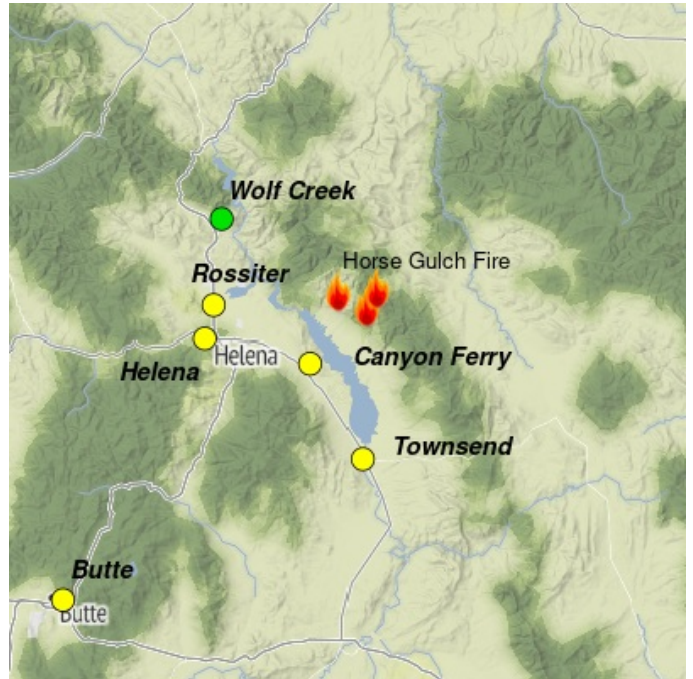
The Horse Gulch fire grew to 12,917 acres with 831 new acres in 24 hours. There will be little change in the high pressure pattern this week, however somewhat lighter winds are forecast early this week. There remains a long duration of daily burning conditions, as much of the fire remains in the prolonged dry environment above night time inversions.

Smoke

Mostly MODERATE AQ is expected west of Canyon Ferry Lake toward Helena. Moderate to periods of USG remains possible more likely east and southeast of Canyon Ferry Lake and into the higher wilderness eastward and immediately downstream of the fire. After dusk, smoke from the Horse Gulch Fire will settle into local drainages including S-284, Canyon Ferry Lake and perhaps Hwy 12 toward East Helena. A large number of monitors over southern Montana are indicating MODERATE AQ due to ongoing regional fires in surrounding states.

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. Visibilities should remain at least one mile or greater however along S-284.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Monday

Station	Yesterday			Sun 7/14	Comment for Today -- Mon, Jul 15	Forecast*	
	hourly					Mon 7/15	Tue 7/16
Helena	6a	noon	6p		Mostly MODERATE AQ with periods of GOOD AQ early week		
Wolf Creek					GOOD AQ with MODERATE in afternoon and early evening		
Butte					Regional Smoke and Haze will reduce Air Quality somewhat		
North Canyon Ferry	No hourly data				Mostly light smoke continuing		
Townsend	No hourly data				Smoke drainage from higher elevations will bring reduced AQ		
Rossiter Pump House					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>
National Fire and Smoke Map (AIRNOW) -- <https://fire.airnow.gov/>

Montana Department of Transportation -- <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/>
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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