



Smoke Outlook

Central Montana Horse Gulch Fire

7/16 - 7/17

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on July 16, 2024 at 06:22 AM MDT

Fire

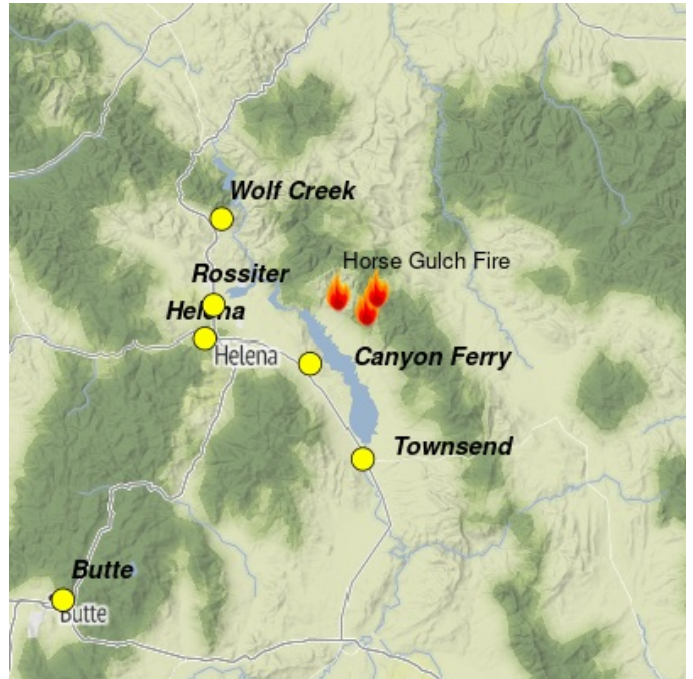
The Horse Gulch fire showed little expansion in size Monday, with some growth mainly on the northeast side. Locations along the existing perimeter, as well as scattered burning and smoldering within the interior will produce additional smoke. Lighter and more variable winds will have the ability to send smoke to all areas in the general vicinity of the fire.

Smoke

Mostly MODERATE AQ is expected in the general region. Some periods of Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) remains possible mainly from York to Canyon Ferry Lake and into the higher wilderness east of the fire. After dusk, smoke 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

Existing 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 north to York.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Tuesday

Station	Yesterday	Mon	Forecast*	Tue	Wed
	hourly	7/15		7/16	7/17
Helena			Periods of Smoke mainly in afternoons		
Wolf Creek			MODERATE AQ by midday through early evening		
Butte			Regional Smoke and Haze will reduce Air Quality		
North Canyon Ferry	No hourly data		Lighter winds will keep smoke in area through midweek		
Townsend	No hourly data		Smoke drainage from higher elevations will continue 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) -- <https://deq.mt.gov/air/index>
[Montana Department of Transportation](https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/) -- <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/>
[National Fire and Smoke Map \(AIRNOW\)](https://fire.airnow.gov/) -- <https://fire.airnow.gov/>

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

