



Smoke Outlook

Central Montana Horse Gulch Fire

7/17 - 7/18

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on July 17, 2024 at 06:07 AM MDT

Fire

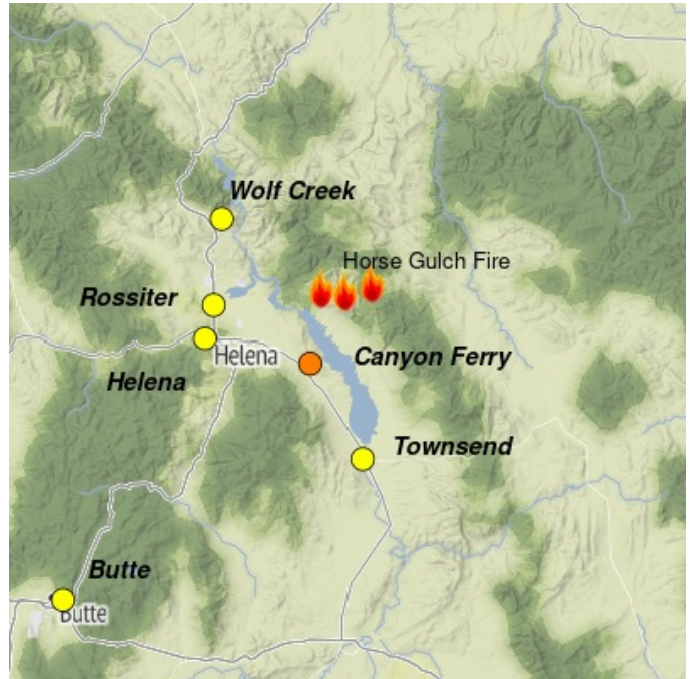
The Horse Gulch fire showed some growth on the northeast side Tuesday afternoon due to a combination of natural and selected tactical firing. Scattered burning and smoldering within the interior has produced additional smoke as well.

Smoke

With light winds and a developed inversion, Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) with periods of UNHEALTHY is forecast along the north side of Canyon Ferry Lake through at least midday. Elsewhere MODERATE to USG air quality is forecast from around Helena to East Helena and the southern portion of Canyon Ferry Lake into mid-afternoon. After dusk, smoke will settle into local drainages once again. MODERATE AQ continues across south Montana due to ongoing regional fires.

Roadway Visibility

Increased smoke will bring reduced visibility along S-284 to the Canyon Ferry Lake south of the fire overnight and in the early morning. Visibilities of one half to one mile are possible along S-284 and Canyon Ferry Road north portion of the Canyon Ferry Lake up to York through late morning.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Wednesday

Station	Yesterday hourly			Tue 7/16	Comment for Today -- Wed, Jul 17	Forecast*	
	6a	noon	6p			Wed 7/17	Thu 7/18
Helena	[Bar chart]	[Bar chart]	[Bar chart]	●	Some smoke to remain in forecast due to local and regional fires	●	●
Wolf Creek	[Bar chart]	[Bar chart]	[Bar chart]	●	MODERATE AQ by midday through early evening	●	●
Butte	[Bar chart]	[Bar chart]	[Bar chart]	●	Regional Smoke and Haze will reduce Air Quality somewhat	●	●
North Canyon Ferry	No hourly data				Weather conditions keep higher smoke levels in the north lake area today	●	●
Townsend	No hourly data				Smoke drainage from higher elevations will continue reduced AQ	●	●
Rossiter Pump House	[Bar chart]	[Bar chart]	[Bar chart]	●	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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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

