



Smoke Outlook

Central Montana Horse Gulch and Blacktail Canyon Fires

7/20 - 7/21

Issued by Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program on July 20, 2024 at 06:37 AM MDT

Special Statement

Isolated Storms possible this afternoon with a few lightning strikes

Fire

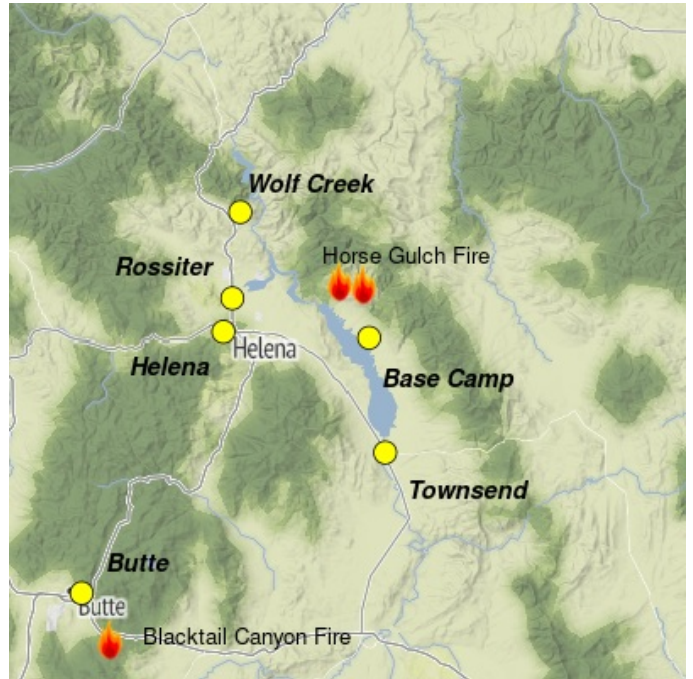
Successful management of The Horse Gulch Fire continues. Some limited burning continues in high wilderness areas mainly on the north side. Isolated burns and smoldering within the interior will produce some additional smoke. Containment was up to 52 percent late Friday.

Smoke

Smoke levels around the area are becoming less associated with the Horse Gulch Fire. Regional fire activity in Montana and bordering states will keep MODERATE AQ conditions in place, however some improvements in AQ are possible by early next week depending on fire activity. Blacktail Canyon smoke will become a bigger player depending on management success in the near term.

Roadway Visibility

Roadway visibility of one mile or greater is expected today and tonight in communities around the Horse Gulch Fire. The growing Blacktail Canyon Fire south of Butte will locally reduce visibility in smoke near and south of Butte overnight.



Daily AQI Forecast* for Saturday

Station	Yesterday			Fri 7/19	Forecast*	Comment for Today -- Sat, Jul 20	Sat 7/20	Sun 7/21
	6a	noon	6p					
Townsend	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Light Smoke and Haze this weekend	Yellow	Yellow	
Base Camp	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	MODERATE AQ expected this weekend	Yellow	Yellow	
Helena	Grey	Green	Green	Green	MODERATE AQ with some improvements early in week	Yellow	Yellow	
Wolf Creek	Grey	Green	Green	Yellow	MODERATE AQ with improvements late Sunday into Monday	Yellow	Yellow	
Butte	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Watching Blacktail Canyon Fire for local smoke effects this weekend	Yellow	Yellow	
Rossiter Pump House	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	MODERATE smoke impacts due mostly to regional fires	Yellow	Yellow	

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Air Quality Index (AQI)	Actions to Protect Yourself
Green Good	None
Yellow Moderate	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion.
Orange USG	People within Sensitive Groups* should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.
Red Unhealthy	People within Sensitive Groups* should avoid all physical outdoor activity.
Purple Very Unhealthy	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
Dark Purple 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