

Order Number: # 01-15-11-24-26



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest
Helena and Townsend Ranger Districts**

Area/Road/Trail Closure – Horse Gulch Fire

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a), (b), the following are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands, roads, and trails in the Helena and Townsend Ranger Districts, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the “Described Area/Roads/Trails”):

1. To go into or be upon any area which is closed for the protection of public health and safety 36 C.F.R. § 261.53 (e).
2. Being on the trail. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(a).
3. Being on the road. 36 C.F.R. § 261.54(e).

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Owners or lessees of land in the area.
2. Residents in the area.
3. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).
4. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty.

DESCRIBED AREA/ROADS/TRAILS

This closure applies to the following NFS lands, roads, and trails approximately 17 miles northeast of Helena, MT:

1. Trail Closures. All miles of Forest Service System trails:
 - Townsend Ranger District: 240 (Little Hellgate), 241 (Never Sweat), 242 (Frontage), 243 (Cave Ridge)
 - Helena Ranger District: 241 (Never Sweat), 243 (Cave Ridge), 245 (Holiday)
2. Road Closures. Forest Service System roads:
 - Townsend Ranger District: 425B1 (Bar Gulch)
 - Helena Ranger District: 4156 (Cave Gulch)
3. Area Closure. The area immediately surrounding and including the Bar Gulch cabin in T11N, R01E section 20.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to protect public health and safety due to the likelihood of flooding and debris flows as a result of the Horse Gulch wildfire and associated fire suppression activities.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from 12:01 a.m. on August 30, 2024 through May 15, 2025, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area/Roads/Trails is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/hlcnf/alerts-notice>.
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.
4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and

3581.

5. Contact the Helena Ranger District in Helena, MT, (406) 449-5201, Townsend Ranger District in Townsend, MT, (406) 266-3425, and Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor's Office in Helena, MT, (406) 449-5201, for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the same Described Area/Roads/Trails.

Signed and issued on August 26, 2024.

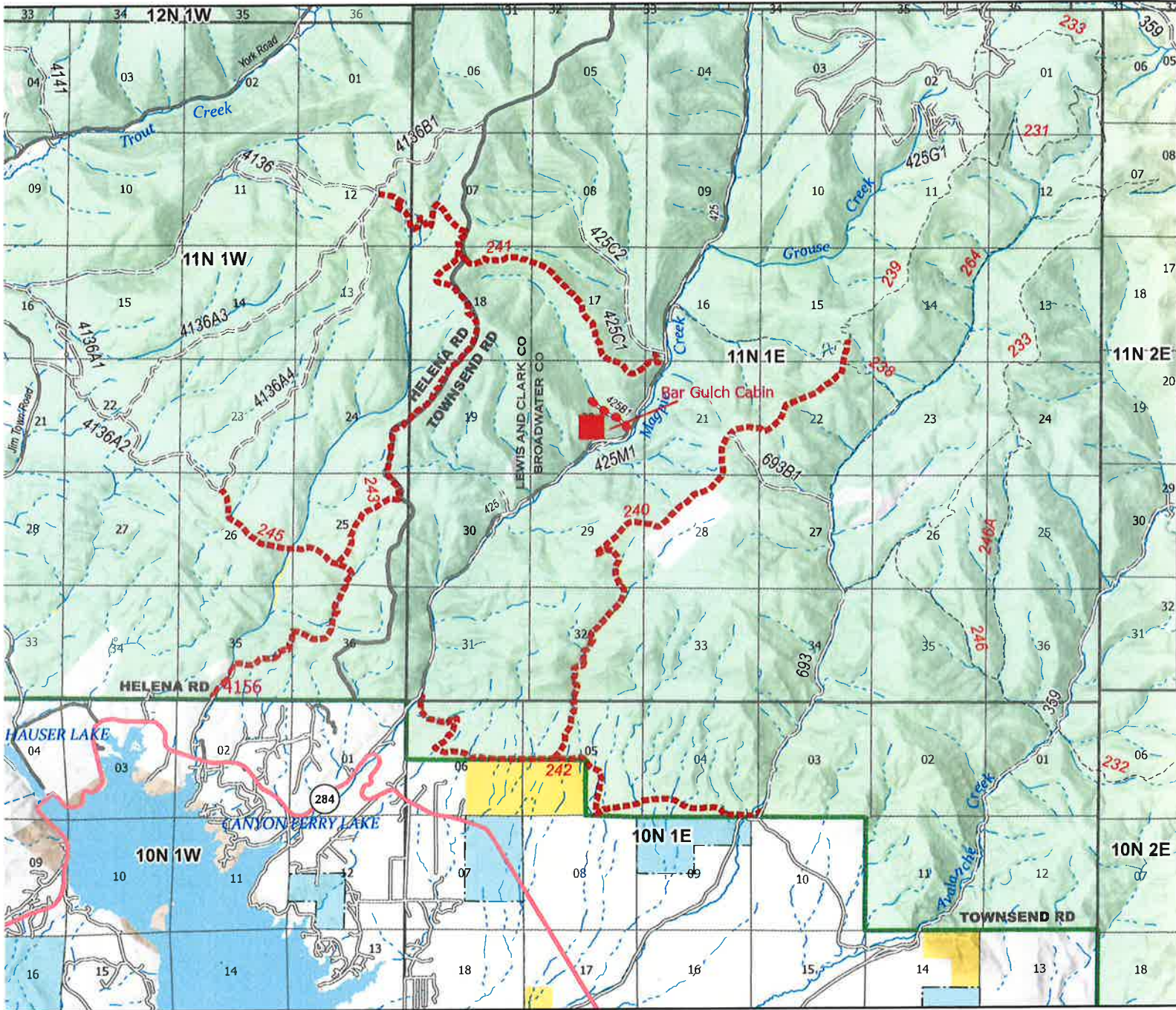
E. Platt

Forest Supervisor
Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest

Horse Gulch Fire Closures

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Attachment A



- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Dirt (Not Paved)
- Road, Not Maintained for Passenger Car
- Nonearthen Shore
- Stream/River; Artificial Path
- Pipeline Underground
- Stream/River Intermittent

- Trail/Road Closure
- Area/Bar Gulch Cabin Closure



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