

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

# Forest Service News Release

**Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest**

**Fire & Aviation Management**

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BDNF-FIRE-24-02

## Fall Pile Burning Projects Planned

## on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

**Dillon, Mont., Oct. 30, 2024** — The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest may implement prescribed fire pile burning projects this fall/winter, as weather and fuels conditions allow. Prescribed fire and pile burning activities are highly weather dependent, relying on close coordination with the National Weather Service and air quality specialists to determine the best possible weather conditions to promote smoke dispersal and limit smoke impacts.

The Forest has developed pile burning plans for the following units for the respective Ranger Districts:

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| **Prescribed Fire**  **Pile Burn Units** | **Project Location** |
| Black Mountain piles | Dillon RD: 12 miles south of Jackson on Forest Service Road 919 |
| Harrison Park Trailhead piles | Dillon RD: 10 miles north of Polaris on Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway |
| Middle Fork Little Sheep Creek piles | Dillon RD: 10 miles southwest of Lima |
| Pintler Face piles (Calvert) | Wisdom RD: northwest of Wisdom on the 1223 road in the Calvert Creek |
| Pintler Face piles (Mill) | Wisdom RD: west of Mill Creek Road on Forest Service Road 934 |
| Steele Creek piles | Wisdom RD: east of Wisdom on road 2433 |
| Calvert Hill piles | Wisdom RD: Forest Service Road 70648 on Bryant Creek |
| Pettengill Creek piles | Wisdom RD: south of Wise River, along Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway |
| Basin Creek piles | Butte RD: Basin Creek watershed, south of Butte |
| Red Rocks piles | Butte RD: north of the Bernice exit off I-15, north of Butte |
| Bowles piles | Pintler RD: 22 miles southwest of Philipsburg |
| Upper Willow piles | Pintler RD: 16 miles northwest of Philipsburg |
| EDLV piles | Pintler RD: 10 miles northeast of Opportunity |
| Hand piles | Pintler RD: smaller hand piles located at Georgetown Lake, East Fork Reservoir, Middle Fork of Rock Creek, Stoney Creek, and Henderson Mountain |

**Why burn piles?** Pile burning operations help reduce accumulations of fuels from previous projects or fire incidents, increasing landscape wildfire resilience and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects on the landscape.

**Public notifications**: Prior to initiating the prescribed fire or pile burning operations, fire professionals assess conditions, conduct a test burn, and notify local governments and interested publics via website postings, email, social media, and news releases. Implementation and accomplishment updates will also be posted to the Forest website, the Prescribed Fires Inciweb page, and the Forest’s Wildland Fire Information Facebook page.

**Smoke:** Minimal smoke impacts are expected with pile burning operations. Larger piles will normally consume completely in a few days, with smaller hand piles taking less time. Smoke may be visible from adjacent communities and roadways. Smoke tends to pool in lower elevations and along roadways during the evenings and early morning hours, so motorists should take note during those times.

For more information about the status of prescribed fires and pile burning projects, please visit the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest website or our [Prescribed Fire page on Inciweb](https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/mtbdf-beaverheaddeerlodge-nf-prescribed-fire-operations) and follow us on our Wildland Fire Information [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563603874079) for updates. Contact the B-D Forest Fire PIO, Terina Hill, at (406) 683-3920, or the B-D Fuels Program Manager, Greg Schenk, at (406) 683-3870, for additional information.

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