

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Forest Service News Release

Media Contact: Morgan De meyer, 458-218-2328 morgan.demeyer@usda.gov

Forest Service to Conduct Prescribed Burns in Hyalite Canyon as soon as Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Bozeman, MT (Oct 11, 2024) – Custer Gallatin National Forest fire staff is planning to conduct a prescribed burn as soon as Tuesday, October 15th in Hyalite Canyon, approximately one mile west of Langohr campground. This 116 acre prescribed burn aims to reduce fuel loads and lower the risk of high severity wildland fires in the Bozeman Municipal Watershed. Expect closures on the Langohr Road (#6230), in dispersed camping sites in this area, and on nearby trails. There are great options for camping in nearby locations including Greek Creek, Moose Creek, Battleridge and Fairly Lake Campgrounds.

"We postponed last week's prescribed burn in Hyalite Canyon due to unfavorable weather conditions," said Corey Lewellen, Bozeman District Ranger. "The current forecast shows an increasing chance of moisture next week. While we will continue to monitor and patrol the area after the burn, the added moisture will reduce the need for staffing, allowing resources to be allocated to other incidents across the country."

The prescribed burn is anticipated to last between one and three days. During operations, smoke and flames may be visible and smoke is expected to settle in low-lying areas near the burn overnight. Air quality is a key factor considered by land and fire managers during every phase of the prescribed fire and burning is only permitted when weather conditions are suitable for safe operations. Fire officials collaborate with the National Weather Service to ensure that the weather is favorable before, during, and after burning, as well as with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to ensure smoke dispersal opportunities.

Hyalite Canyon traffic has only one way in and one way out. To ensure safety during operations, delays may occur as crews utilize Hyalite Canyon Road. Please exercise caution if traveling in the area as roadways may be impacted by smoke and fire traffic.

For additional information on these prescribed burns or how current closures could impact your visit to the forest, please visit us online at <u>www.bznwatershed.com</u>, on Facebook at <u>Custer Gallatin National Forest</u>, on Inciweb at <u>2024 Custer Gallatin National Forest Prescribed Fire Program</u> or by calling the Bozeman Ranger District office at 406-522-2520. For additional information on the Forest Service Wildfire Crisis Strategy, please see <u>Confronting the Wildfire Crisis | US Forest Service (usda.gov)</u>.

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