

**Lolo National Forest
Fire Prevention & Education
Operating Plan
2020-2022**



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Contents

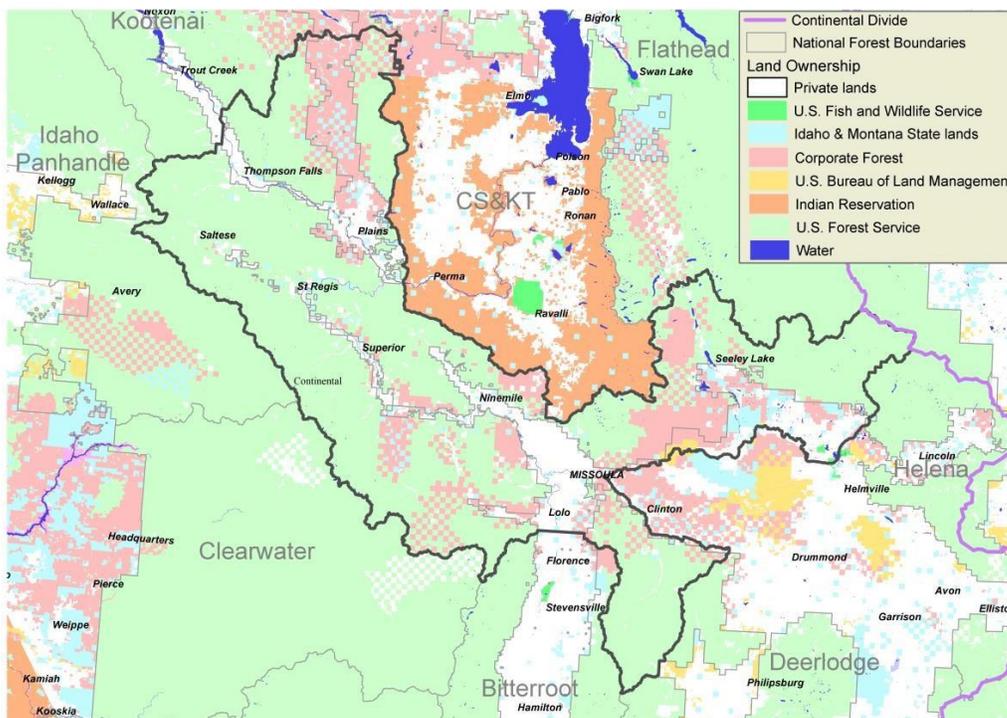
Operating Procedures	4
Overview	4
Mission Statement	5
Objective	5
Fire Prevention & Education Working Team Members	5
Meetings	6
Cooperators	6
Human-Caused Ignitions	9
Natural vs. Human Ignitions	9
FIGURE 1: Percentage of fires by Cause Class 2014-2018.....	10
FIGURE 2: Wildfires Caused by Escaped Campfires and Debris Burning (2014-2018).....	10
Fires in the Wildland Urban Interface.....	11
FIGURE 3: Wildland Urban Interface on the Lolo NF.....	11
FIGURE 4: Locations of Fire by Type on the Lolo NF 1980-2008	12
Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies (WPSAPS).....	12
Prevention & Education Activities	13
Preparedness Levels and Fire Danger by ERC.....	13
FIGURE 5: Preparedness Levels and Fire Danger Rating (NFDRS, 2020).....	13
Fire Education Topics.....	17
Fire Education Products and Services	18
Outdoor Debris Burn Permits	19
Seasonal / Special Events.....	20
Operating Costs	21
Funding	21
Salaries FY20	21
Activities and Related Expenses by District	21
Appendix A: District Prevention/Education Plan Descriptions	22

Operating Procedures

Overview

The Lolo National Forest of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service is located in southwest Montana and includes area in Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Mineral and Sanders Counties. The Lolo National Forest is adjacent to the Montana-Idaho border to the west, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Helena National Forests to the east, the Flathead Indian Reservation to the north, the Bitterroot National Forest to the south and the Kootenai and Flathead National Forests to the northwest. The Lolo is comprised of approximately 2,000,000 acres within an area of 3,200,000 acres varying from moist habitat of Western Red Cedar and White Pine on its west side to dry Pinion-Juniper sites on its east side. The Scapegoat Wilderness, Welcome Creek Wilderness, and Rattlesnake Wilderness are within the boundaries of the Lolo Forest. Interspersed land ownership includes other federal lands, Montana state lands, county lands, commercial timber company lands and private lands.

The Lolo National Forest surrounds many small towns and one large city, Missoula, population approximately 70,000. Missoula is home to the University of Montana with a student body of 16,400 as of June 2017. The Lolo National Forest hosts over a million visitors each year. Additionally, the Lolo serves as a travel gateway for many of the over 2 million visitors annually to Glacier National Park.



The Lolo National Forest is divided into five Ranger Districts: Missoula, Ninemile, Plains/Thompson Falls, Seeley Lake and Superior Ranger Districts. Each District has a Fire Prevention & Education Technician position to administer their Fire Prevention, Mitigation and Education program at the district level. They are supervised by their District Fire Management Officer but regularly report to and coordinate with the Forest Fire Prevention and Education Officer and Forest Fire Management Officer located at the Lolo Forest Supervisor’s Office in Missoula. These individuals make up the Lolo National Forest Fire Prevention & Education Working Team. In 2020, the Lolo NF is committed to implement Wildfire Prevention Spatial Analysis Program System (WPSAPS) as a planning, budget, communication, and reporting tool.

Mission Statement

To provide consistent wildfire prevention messages and educational opportunities to all age groups of the public across the Forest and encourage input, assessment and planning processes by Forest personnel and our Interagency Cooperators.

Objective

The objective of the Lolo National Forest’s Fire Prevention & Education program is the reduction of public exposure, fire fighter risk, fire suppression expenditures and damages from human-caused fires.

The Lolo National Forest Fire Prevention & Education Working Team is established to foster leadership and integrate fire prevention activities and education through public outreach programs that coordinate fire prevention and education activities across the Forest.

Fire Prevention & Education Working Team Members

Name	Role	Office	Mobile
Colt Mortenson	Forest FMO	329-1089	970-367-6233
Chris Johnson	Forest Prev/Ed Coordinator	329-3862	529-7751
Andi Colson	Missoula RD Prev/Ed Technician	329-1056	546-2018
Anna Henderson	Ninemile RD Prev/Ed Technician	626-5406	239-4904
Joel Thomas	Plains/T Falls RD Prev/Ed Technician	826-4345	210-1614
Heather Martens	Seeley Lake RD Prev/Ed Technician	677-3912	715-891-4850
Dan Campbell	Superior RD Prev/Ed Technician	822-3933	529-8019

Ad Hoc members may be from, but not limited to, the following groups:

- Fire Prevention Teams Leaders and Members
- Conservation, Environmental Education Specialists
- Public Affairs Officers/Incident Information Officers
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Fire Management Officers
- Educators
- Communications Specialists
- Geographic Information Specialists

Member's Responsibilities

a) Members will:

1. Attend meetings and functions or arrange for an alternate.
2. Utilize WPSAPS as a tool to plan, budget, implement, communicate, and report accomplishments.
3. Align operations with the National Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy.
4. Participate in committee functions and working groups as necessary.
5. Serve as a point of contact and liaison for the member's District.
6. Coordinate the dissemination of information regarding the activities and operations of the Prevention & Education Working Team with supervisor.
7. Identify agency fire prevention & education issues and concerns on their District and Forest making recommendations concerning these to either their Supervisor or Working Team co-member.

b) Working Team Ad Hoc Members will:

1. Serve on working group as needed.

Meetings

The Working Team shall meet face to face twice a year. These meetings will be in spring and fall. Conference calls and other meetings will be organized as-needed.

Cooperators

The Lolo National Forest encompasses approximately two million acres of which there are private, State and other Federal Agency land holdings both adjacent and as in-holdings to its boundaries. The State and Federal land managers all have comparable Fire Prevention and Education programs within their Agencies. Representatives from each of the Agencies agree to participate cooperatively with in the Northern Rockies Southwest Zone.

The Southwest Montana Zone extends from the Montana - Idaho border to the west, Flathead Lake to the North, Butte and the continental divide to the East, the Bitterroot valley to the south; this area includes nearly 9 million acres.



The Southwest Montana Zone surrounds many small towns and two large cities; Missoula & Butte providing recreational opportunities to more than 100,000 residents. People living on the private in-holdings within and adjacent to the public lands are often outdoor enthusiasts and recreationalists. In fact public lands in the area are considered a destination spot for hikers, campers and hunters alike.

Wildfire prevention and education representatives from each of the following agencies participate cooperatively. A prevention/education team is typically hosted in the zone each year. Working Team members are encouraged to open FPET PTBs and get experience. Cooperators:

- Lolo National Forest, Bitterroot National Forest
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Bureau of Land Management: Missoula Field Office
- Montana Department Natural Resources
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Missoula County Fire Protection Association
- Blackfoot Fire Protection Association
- Mineral County Fire Council
- Missoula County Office of Emergency Management

The Lolo National Forest has an agreement with Missoula County Fire Protection Association, an association of all the local, municipal, state, tribal, and federal agencies with wildfire suppression responsibilities in Missoula County; the agreement allows the Lolo to reimburse costs for prevention campaigns incurred by MCFPA. As such, the agreement provides an effective framework with which to foster fire-adaptive communities- one of the goals of the National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy.

Representatives from these agencies meet regularly to report and coordinate with each other. The purpose of working with the varied partners is to create a consistent message for the public and thus increase fire prevention awareness and fire education throughout the communities within the Southwest Montana Zone. Coordinated efforts also allow for sharing resources in terms of personnel and money to complete larger projects one single agency could not otherwise complete.

The Chair of the Southwest Montana Fire Prevention & Education Committee reports to the Southwest Zone Board of Directors on activities and accomplishments.

Chair of the Southwest Zone is:
Karl Nikoleyczik, DNRC

Each Zone in the Northern Rockies Geographic Area has a representative on the Northern Rockies Coordination Group (NRCG) Fire Prevention & Education Board of Directors.

The Southwest Zone's representative is:
Chris Johnson, Lolo NF

Cooperation between each of the agencies Fire Prevention and Education programs across the Zone and the Geographic Area enables better communications and partnership activities to achieve fire prevention and education goals. The benefits of cooperation and coordination are as follows:

- Helps solve problems that no one agency or organization can solve alone
- Promotes shared ownership of problems and solutions
- Enables action across land ownership and jurisdictional boundaries
- Builds mutual understanding and productive working relationships
- Generates better informed and more broadly-supported decisions
- Encourages sharing of information and resources
- Avoids wasteful duplication of efforts

Depending upon the circumstances for a given fire season, cooperators may extend beyond Agency representatives to include:

- Representatives for County Sheriff, Health Departments, Schools (elementary, high school and University of Montana), County Commissioners
- Offices of Emergency Management
- Media outlets
- Museums
- Community Fairs
- Homeowner groups and planning boards
- Non-profits such as the National Fire Protection Association's Firewise program
- Forest Fire Lookout Association

Human-Caused Ignitions

Natural vs. Human Ignitions

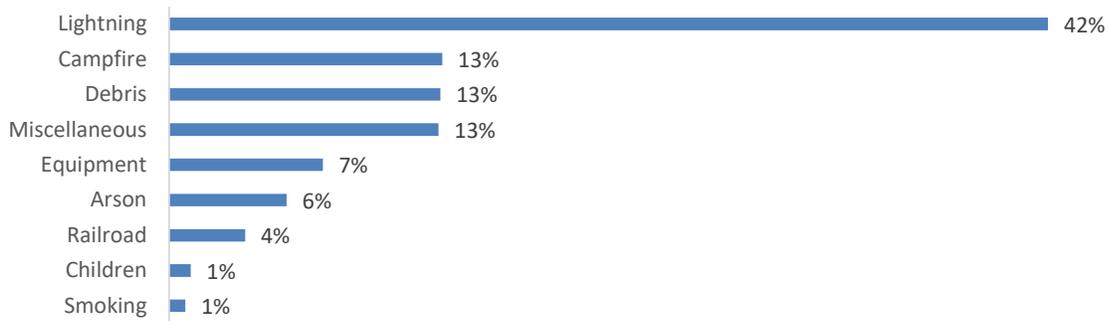
Lightning or Natural fire ignition is the dominant cause of wildfire in western Montana; however human-caused wildfires remain the focus of the Lolo National Forest Fire Prevention & Education Working Team. Anticipating increased use of our National Forests over time, along with the fact that more and more people are building homes near the Forest boundary, the risk for human-caused wildfires is expected to rise. All graphs in the report represent data of wildfires that originate within the boundaries of the Lolo National Forest's area of wildfire protection responsibility.

Missoula, Mineral, and Sanders Counties are high priorities nationally for community planning and coordination per the National Strategy. It is the goal of the Lolo's relationship with county resources to make meaningful progress toward building fire adapted communities. Knowing the most common causes of wildland fire on the Lolo is key to shaping a prevention plan.

Fire statistics gathered between 2014 and 2018 indicate that lightning typically starts about 40% of all wildfires in the SW MT Zone. 60% of ignitions are caused by humans. The most common causes of human-caused fires are, in order of frequency:

1. Abandoned Campfires
2. Escaped Private Property Debris Burns
3. Equipment Operations
4. Arson
5. Railroad Operations
6. Children
7. Smoking

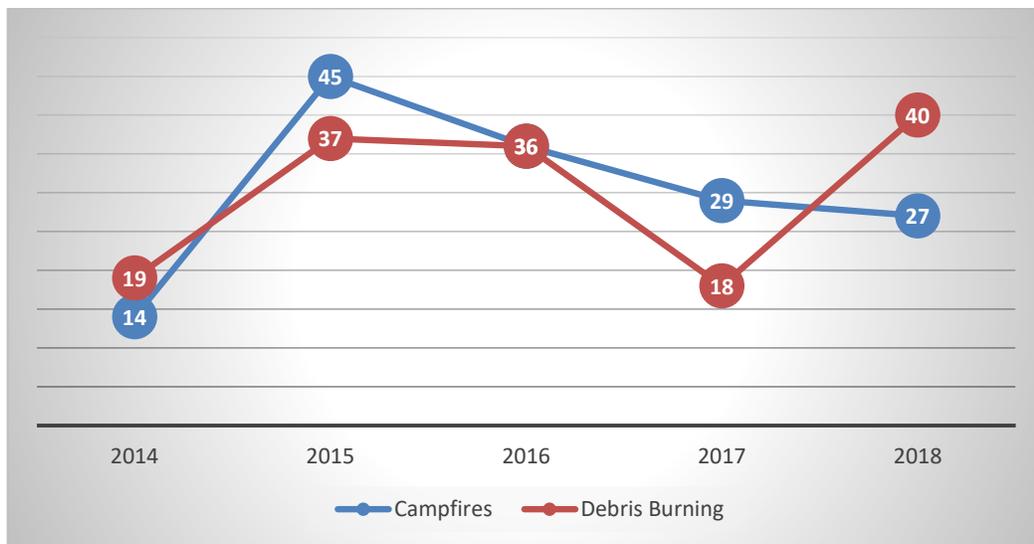
FIGURE 1: Percentage of fires by Cause Class 2014-2018



The “Miscellaneous” category describes human-caused fire on the Lolo NF where the specific cause of the fire is undetermined. From 2014-2018, campfires and debris burning caused 25% of all human-caused wildfires. Stage I and Stage II restrictions, definitions of which can be found at <https://firerestrictions.us>, attempt to limit the number of escaped campfires. Burn permit programs and local burn bans attempt to limit the number of escaped debris burns.

Figure 2 represents the number of wildfires that were caused by campfires and debris burning over the time period of 2014-2018.

FIGURE 2: Wildfires Caused by Escaped Campfires and Debris Burning (2014-2018)



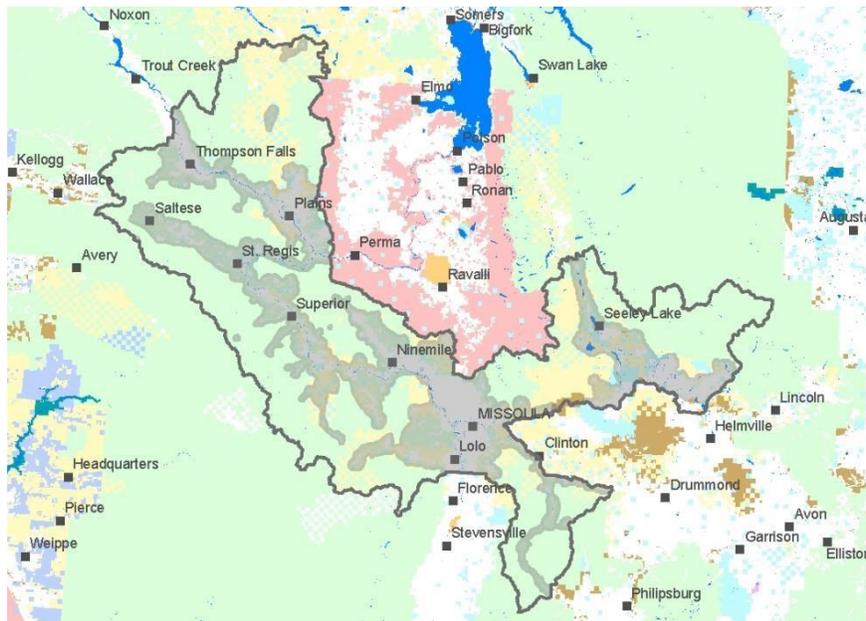
In 2011, Missoula County instituted an online burn permit system. The system asks debris burners to apply for a burn permit online or at one of the county or municipal fire departments. Once permitted, the prospective burner needs to call in to the county information line to activate the burn permit each day he intends to burn. If conditions are not conducive to outdoor burning, the permit cannot be activated on that day. Two main factors are used to determine whether or not permits will be activated: air quality and fire danger rating.

Fires in the Wildland Urban Interface

It is important to review where fire occurs and how it starts, i.e. evaluate the relationship between risk and hazard. Understanding this relationship will assist in the important decision of where and how much prevention/education resources should be utilized.

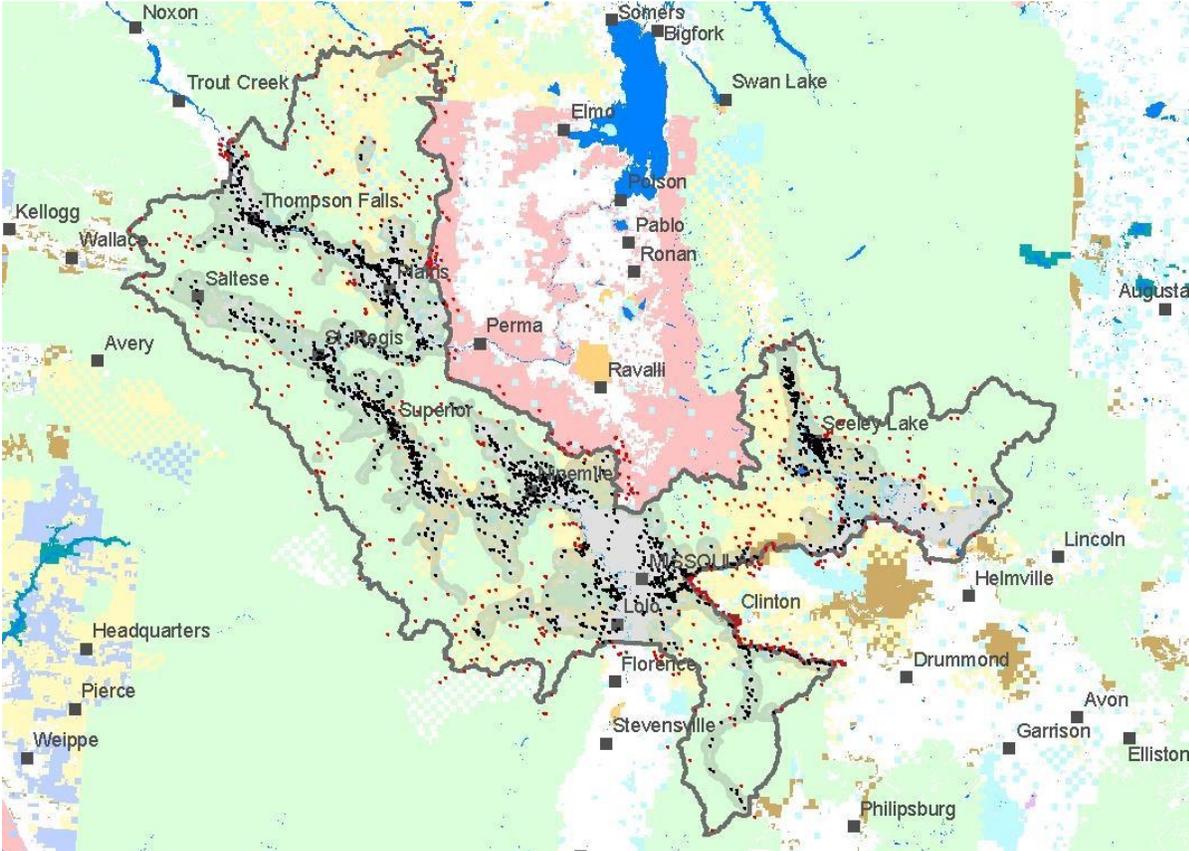
Figure 3 shows the Wildland Urban Interface defined in grey. Of the 3,258,318 acres illustrated in the Forest Boundary, 35% (or 1,135,706 acres) is WUI.

FIGURE 3: Wildland Urban Interface on the Lolo NF



The data clearly indicate that the greatest amount of human caused fire occurrence happens in the WUI. Between 1980 and 2008, 7,555 fires occurred; 2,751 were human caused (36%). Of those 2,751 human starts 73% were in the WUI as illustrated below. In Figure 4, black dots indicate human caused fires that occurred in the WUI and the red dots indicate human caused fires that were outside the WUI.

FIGURE 4: Locations of Fire by Type on the Lolo NF 1980-2008



Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies (WPSAPS)

District Prevention/Education Technicians will utilize Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies (WPSAPS) to create Wildfire Prevention Plans (WFPPs) spatially across their districts. WPSAPS is a spatial tool that facilitates planning, budget allocation, implementation, community engagement, and reporting. The Lolo is the first forest in the nation to commit to WPSAPS. Prev/Ed Techs can collaborate with each other and with the Forest Fire Prev/Ed Coordinator.

WPSAPS allows the user to investigate trends by cause class by communities within the district. Future analysis will inform prevention/education planning on the Lolo. Wildfire Prevention Plans will be available on the Enterprise Geospatial Portal (EGP) under the Plans tab.

Prevention & Education Activities

Preparedness Levels and Fire Danger by ERC

The need for Fire & Education program activities is relational to the Forest wide Preparedness Levels. The preparedness level helps to determine the fire danger and what prevention and education requirements are needed. Forest Preparedness Levels are determined by the Energy Release Component (ERC), described in Figure 5.

Fire Danger is a term used to communicate to the Public the potential hazard that exists for a wildfire to inadvertently start. The Fire Danger is referenced in terms of one of five categories and is displayed as such on signs across the Forest.

FIGURE 5: Preparedness Levels and Fire Danger Rating (NFDRS, 2020)

Decision Threshold Ranges	Lolo DNRC East	Lolo DNRC West	CSKT East	CSKT West
Low-PL 1 0% - <40%	0-21.9	0-23.9	0-20.9	0-31.9
Moderate-PL 2 >40% - <60%	22-29.9	24-30.9	21-26.9	32-38.9
High-PL 3 >60% - <90%	30-45.9	31-47.9	27-37.9	39-56.9
Very High-PL 4 >90% - <97%	46-51.9	48-54.9	38-43.9	57-64.9
Extreme-PL 5 >97%	52+	55+	44+	65+

The following table is a guide for Forest Prevention & Education Specialist to initiate prevention and education activities. All activities are in coordination with local District staff groups and Supervisor while keeping in communication with others in the Fire Prevention & Education Working Team.

ALL PREPAREDNESS LEVELS (Before Start of Season)

Description: The following activities apply regardless of the level of fire activity.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
Support Functions	
A. Training (Include WPSAPS)	Dist. Prevention Education Technicians
B. Workshop (Include WPSAPS)	Dist. Prevention Education Technicians
C. Restriction and Closure Review	Forest Fire Management Officer
D. Establish Base Stocking Level of Supplies	Dist. Prevention Education Technicians
E. Contacts – Establish Network	Dist. Prevention Education Technicians
F. Ensure Compliance of Readiness Review	Forest Fire Management Officer
G. Establish/Update/Review Local Prevention Plan	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator
H. Use Wildfire Prevention Spatial Analysis Planning- WPSAPS	Dist. Prevention Education Technicians
H. Community Education, School Programs, County Fairs, etc.	Dist. Prevention Education Technicians
I. Establish Prevention Staffing	District Fire Management Officer
F. Analyze Ignition Causes – Statistics	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator

FIRE DANGER LOW PREPAREDNESS LEVEL I

Description: No large wildfires in progress. Most units have low to moderate fire severity. Number and size of fires are within normal range for that time of year (occasional fire or fires not exceeding 99 acres in size). There is little or no commitment of other than local resources.

Energy Release Component (ERC) (East 0-23; West 0-21)

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
A. All Preseason Steps Completed /Considered	All Prevention Education Technicians
B. Establish Media Contacts	All Prevention Education Technicians
C. Signs & Sign Boards inspected and clean for the season	Dist. Prevention Education Technicians
D. Field Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities: Administrative Sites, Campgrounds, Dispersed Recreation Sites • Defensible Space Projects • Industrial (Logging, Railroad, Powerline, etc.) 	Dist. Prevention Education Technicians
E. Patrol/Public Awareness	Dist. Prevention Education Technicians

FIRE DANGER MODERATE PREPAREDNESS LEVEL II

Description: Several units are having ¼ to 99 acre fires. Potential exists for initial attack fires to escape and become large, project fires. Resources within the area appear adequate to deal with the situation.

Energy Release Component (ERC) (West 24-30) (East 22-29)

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
A. Monitor Fire Causes and Locations	All Prevention Education Technicians
B. Target Specific Areas/Causes/Seasons	All Prevention Education Technicians
C. Consider Special Prevention or Education Activities	All Prevention Education Technicians
D. Coordinate Patrol Efforts with Enforcement and/or Suppression Crews	All Prevention Education Technicians
E. Establish Communication with Agency Neighbors	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator
F. Continue Prevention Planning Actions	All Prevention Education Technicians
G. Disseminate area closure information	All Prevention Education Technicians
H. Discuss with Fire Management re: Closing Burning by Permit	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator

FIRE DANGER HIGH PREPAREDNESS LEVEL III

Description: Numerous Districts are having ¼ to 99 acre wildfire or prescribed fire activities ongoing. Several wildfires are escaping initial attack and are reaching 100 to 300 acres or larger in size. Holding actions are taking increasing numbers of resources. A Type I, II or III Incident Management Team is on order or committed or 50 percent of area crews or initial attack resources committed, or a 30 percent combination of both.

Energy Release Component (ERC) (West 31-47) (East 30-45)

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
A. Coordinate Press Releases with Forest PAO and Media presence (Radio, Print, TV ads)	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator
B. Increase Communications with Cooperators	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator
C. Elevate: Sign Program, Patrols, Awareness & Public Presence, and Enforcement.	All Prevention Education Technicians
D. Evaluate Availability of Prevention Specialists to shift and assist neighboring Districts.	All Prevention Education Technicians
E. Contact Restrictions/Closure Zone Coordinator to Initiate Conference calls weekly.	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator
F. Monitor the level of Fire Restrictions: Inform Public	All Prevention Education Technicians
G. Evaluate need for Local or National Prevention Team.	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator
H. Continue Prevention Planning Actions in Levels I and II.	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator

FIRE DANGER VERY HIGH PREPAREDNESS LEVEL IV

Description: Numerous wildfires escaped initial attack, and several are reaching 100-1000 acres in size. No break in the predicted weather for at least 48 hours. Two or more units experiencing incidents requiring Type I, II or III Incident Management team is on order or committed 80 percent of all crews or initial attack resources committed on wildfires. Competition exists for resources between units. Resources are being mobilized from outside the Northern Rockies.

Energy Release Component (ERC) (West 48-54) (East 46-51)

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
A. Establish a Trap Line in Town and City Centers	All Prevention Education Technicians
B. Increase Media Effort – Information Center	All Prevention Education Technicians
C. Increase Local Staffing	All Prevention Education Technicians
D. Evaluate need or Continue use of Local/National Prevention Team (if ordered)	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator
E. Participate in Local/National Prevention Education Team	All Prevention Education Technicians
F. Consider extending Work Hours	All Prevention Education Technicians
G. Include Prevention/Education when requesting Fire Severity Funding	Lolo Fire Management Officer
H. Continue Prevention Preparedness Actions in Levels I-III.	All Prevention Education Technicians

FIRE DANGER EXTREME PREPAREDNESS LEVEL V

Description: Several units are experiencing major incidents which have the potential to exhaust all resources, while numerous new fires continue to occur. Most, if not all, the resources within the Area are committed; as resources become available, they are immediately reassigned to other incidents. The majority of support is coming from outside the Area. No break in the weather is predicted for at least 48 hours.

Energy Release Component (ERC) (West 55+) (East 52+)

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
A. Provide Restrictions & Closures information to the public, as ordered.	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator
B. Prevention Teams – Continued	Lolo Fire Prevention Coordinator
C. Continue Prevention Preparedness Actions in Levels I-IV.	All Prevention Education Technicians

Fire Education Topics

Education programs and events are scheduled annually. Activities range from annually recurring activities while others are initiated as requested by community members and still others are new developments in efforts to keep the message fresh and new. The designing and planning stage is an ongoing process.

Complicating the issue further as populations increase is the now recognized fact that fire seasons generally appear to be becoming longer in duration, possibly due to climate change and other factors, one of which has been effective suppression of wildland fire over the past several decades. A study published by Montana Department of Natural Resource Conservation in 2013 indicated that fire season has increased 70 days in the last 30 years. Over that time wildland firefighters have suppressed 97% of wildfires during initial attack. An abundance of flammable plants and trees have become vulnerable to surface fires over this time-frame, and more homes and other buildings continue to be constructed in fire-prone areas. Although it is not the responsibility of fire managers to make people's private property defensible, it is our responsibility to educate the public as well as we can, and to reiterate the prevention message at every possible opportunity as described elsewhere in this document.

Identifying message topics with age appropriate content is necessary for efficient and consistent outreach of the fire prevention/education message. The public needs to be aware of contemporary issues associated with fire safety and why it affects their lives. To implement an effective education program a predefined list of issue points must be defined. The following subjects have been identified as message topics necessary for information education of all ages of the public.

- Fire ecology
- Fire behavior
- Fire management
- Fire suppression
- Use of prescribed fire
- Fire effects
- Fire prevention
- Role of fire in ecosystem
- Fire safety
- Forest health
- National Cohesive Strategy for Wildfire Management
- Natural resource sustainability
- WUI protection
- Defensible space/FireWise principles
- Home Ignition Zone site visits
- Local fuels projects
- Community planning
- Homeowner responsibility
- Fire-Adaptive Communities

Fire Education Products and Services

The implementation of a successful fire prevention/education program requires repetition of fire safety messages in various ways; some ways are old-tried-and-true while other are new. Communicating pre-defined issue messages are part of an effective education process. Having promotional products and services continually available to the public has proven to be an effective method for communicating. The following activities are typically developed by an interagency prevention/education team, and are used throughout the Zone in various ways to meet this goal.

- Banners
- Signs/flyers
- Promotional items
- Billboards
- Brochures
- Print Media campaigns
- Interviews
- Workshops
- Traveling fire education trailer
- Interactions with Schools
- Public Service Announcements
- Scholarships
- Gas Station Video Kiosks
- Presentations/programs
- Social Media

Outdoor Debris Burn Permits

We educate our key people in contact with the public, receptionists, fire, trail and recreation crews, timber personnel, volunteers, and seasonal employees to consistently distribute the fire prevention/education message when administrating permits and contracts. Seeley Lake and Missoula RDs do not issue burn permits because the county employs an online permitting system. Superior RD issues burn permits for burners within Mineral County. Plains/Thompson Falls RD issues burn permits for residents of Sanders County.

Missoula County

General Outdoor Burning Season:	March 1- August 31
Essential Agriculture Burning Season:	March 1- November 30
Wildland Burning Season:	March 1- November 30

After obtaining burning permit online @ <https://app.mt.gov/burnpermit/> or in person at one of the fire departments or rural fire districts at a cost of \$7, burners must check for restrictions due to fire danger and/or air quality concerns and activate their permit online each day they intend to burn or by calling 888-583-6497 after 9 am the morning of your planned burn. The outdoor burning hotline (406) 258-4900 will provide information regarding “go/no-go” conditions for the day. All fires must be out by 4 pm each day.

Sanders County

Overall Description: The Plains/Thompson Falls RDs share burn permit jurisdiction between the USFS and the local DNRC office. Generally speaking, the DNRC administers the area surrounding Plains and north up the corridor of privately owned ground (mostly State and commercial timberlands) while the FS has everything else, excluding the communities of Thompson Falls and Plains, which are both administered by the cities. Permits can be acquired in either location by visiting in person or calling in. As permitters, both organizations maintain the right to conduct on-site inspections if warranted.

The FS and the DNRC permit systems operate per the following guidelines:

- March 1 thru April 20 – Open burning, no permit required
- May 1 thru Sept. 30 – burning by permit only
- Oct. 1 thru Nov. 30 – Open burning, no permit required
- Dec. 1 thru Feb. 28 – No burning allowed, State of Montana regulation.

Inside the city limits of Thompson Falls or Plains requires permits from city. People are required to call the State Air Quality Hotline (1-800-225-6779) or online @ mi.airshedgroup.org before burning.

There is no charge for the permit and it may be mailed at the individual request.

Mineral County

Burn permit rules for Superior RD are as follows (almost the entire district is within Mineral County and the small portion that is not is not populated):

Dec - Feb: No open burning as per State law.
March - April: Open burning, no permit required, per County regulations.
May - Sept: Burning allowed with permit only, and permits are issued for May 1-May 30. Burning is allowed into June on a weekly basis, and then again in late Sept. when weather conditions permit. The decision whether to issue permits or not is made by our office, as we function as fire wardens for the State because they have no office here.

Seasonal / Special Events

Keeping the message of the pre-defined educational topics fresh and new and in the forefront for the public is a continual challenge. Being opportunistic with advertising and promotional campaigns is a necessary part of an effective fire prevention/education program. Meeting with the public in large forum context is effective but require extra planning and effort. To be effective with professional presence yields respect and community support for the prevention program at large. The activities that Zone wide fire prevention/education presence has been effective at include:

- Athletic programs
- Youth summer camps
- Scout groups
- Missoula Paddleheads baseball
- FireWise workshops
- Fairs
- UM Grizzlies athletics
- Parades: St. Patrick's Day, 4th of July, Homecoming
- Wildfire Awareness Week
- Lewis & Clark Bicentennial
- School Programs

Operating Costs

Funding

a) Traditional

Funding of prevention is allocated on a case-by-case basis. Prevention technicians propose projects and submit budget needs for approval by DAFMO.

b) Severity

Severity funds are not readily available each year but are dependent upon the seasonal risk as indicated through Preparedness levels and ERCs. This is not a source of funding that is not reliable either in amount of dollars or if it will be available at all.

Salaries FY20

Prevention/Ninemile	7	PFT	360		Fully funded in PR
Prevention/Plains/T-Falls	7	13/13	180		Fully funded in PR
Prevention Superior	7	18/8	240		Fully funded in PR
Prevention Seeley	7	PFT	360		50/50 PR & NFTM
Prevention Missoula	7	18/8	240		Fully funded in PR
Lookouts D3, D4, D5, D6, D7	4	1039	360	6 Staffed Lookouts @ 60days	Blue Mtn., Stark, Camels Hump, Morrell, Eddy Mtn., Pats Knob

Activities and Related Expenses by District

Overview: Almost all of the Forests activities do not involve special costs. Each district is allotted a yearly budget for prevention-related expenditure, to include signs and prevention-related handouts. Some Districts bear all the expense of an event since there are no other agencies to share the cost. Other Districts have good working relationships including cost sharing with their partners. The three districts within Missoula County join with Missoula County Fire Protection Association in an interagency cost-sharing agreement. Plains/Thompson Falls RD interfaces with Sanders County DES. Superior RD interfaces with Mineral County Fire Safe Council. All districts can request funding from the FFMO for special projects.

WPSAPS: District Prevention/Education Technicians will use WPSAPS to allocate program funds to plan and implement tailored programs in each community on their districts.

Appendix A: District Prevention/Education Plan Descriptions

Seeley Lake Ranger District

March – May: Begin posting prevention signs and performing sign maintenance. Make contacts with local schools, community and homeowner groups coordinating fire prevention and education information, programs and events. Public and landowner outreach regarding spring Prescribe Fire activity and information. Update fire prevention plans. Assist with Prescribe Fire Implementation as needed.

June – September: Conduct Fire Prevention Patrols. Participate in events such as local 4th of July parades and other community and events to promote fire prevention and education. Distribute fire prevention and educational materials to forest visitors, landowners and general public. Keep prevention signs current and post fire restriction information as needed at pre-identified locations if restriction go into effect. Assist in fire suppression as needed and qualified for.

October-November: Remove fire prevention signage. Participate in fire prevention and educational events and programs. Inventory and order fire prevention and educational materials. Update prevention plans and inventories and start planning for next fiscal year activities.

Ongoing efforts (Costs):

- Signing April through November
- Provide Seeley Lake District front desk with Smokey giveaway items (\$500)
- Patrol protection area especially during high, very high and extreme fire danger
- Visit with homeowner's associations and attend their annual meetings

Missoula District Prevention Outline:

Developed Camp Grounds:

- Rock Creek Campgrounds (See attached detailed map of Rock Cr)
 - Norton, Grizzly, Harry's Flat, Dalles, Bitterroot, Siria and Bighorn
- Pattee Creek (Large day use area only)
- Lolo Campground (Hwy 12)
- Lee Creek Campground (Hwy 12)

Primary Developed Trail Heads:

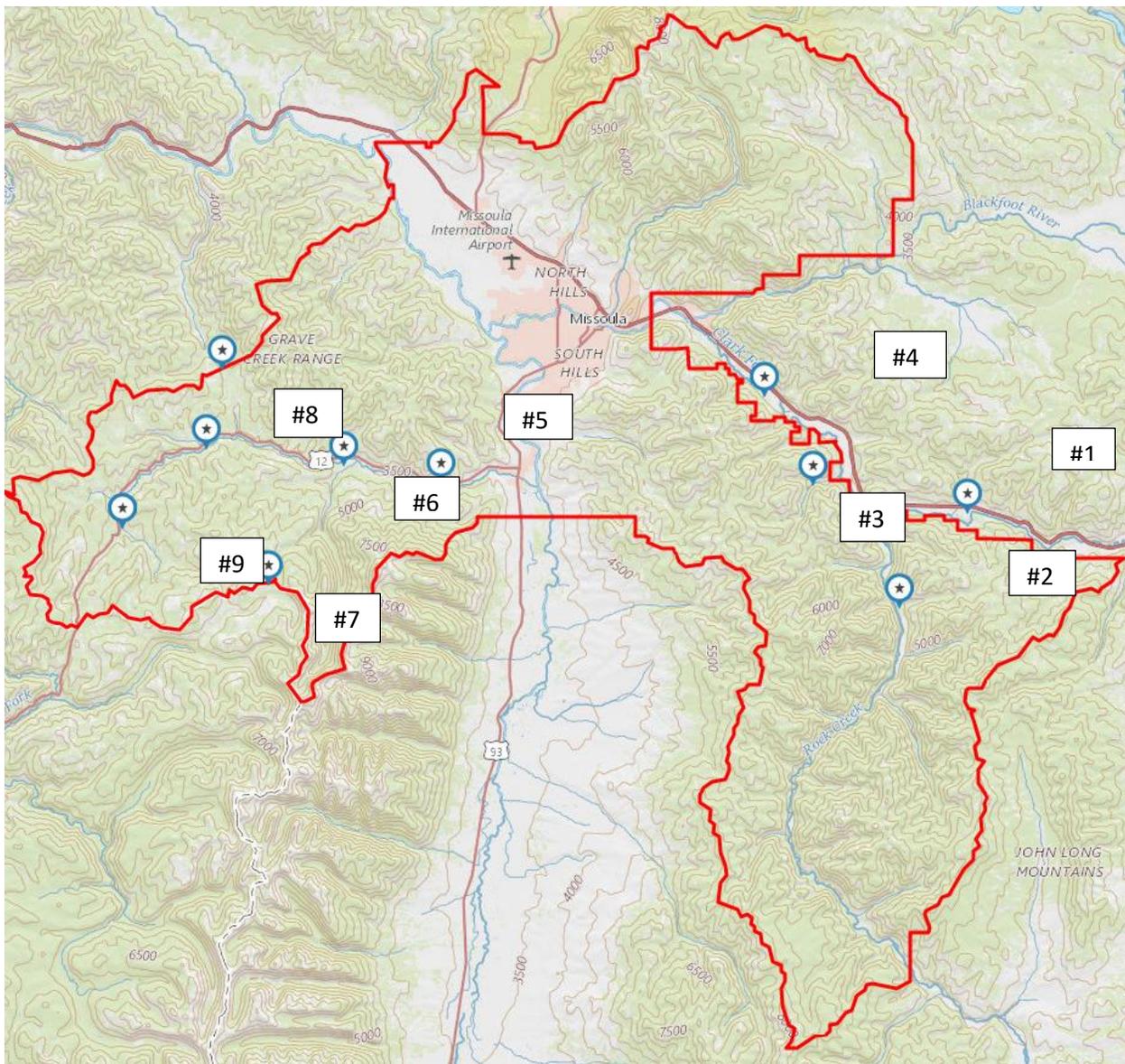
- Welcome Creek (Rock Creek drainage)
- Rattlesnake primary trailhead + Sawmill gulch trailhead (up Rattlesnake)
- Pattee Canyon primary trailhead + Crazy Canyon (up Pattee)
- Blue Mountain (just south of MSLA)
- McClay Flats (between Blue Mtn Rd and the river, south of MSLA)

Patrol Routes:

- **Blue Mountain:** Fort MSLA South to Blue Mtn Road, O'Brien Creek side tour, Blue Mtn Road to Kona Ranch Rd, west on Mullan Rd to Frenchtown to I-90, Cross to North side of I-90 to the frontage road headed East to Wye Exit, I-90 to Reserve and Reserve to Fort MSLA.
- **Rattlesnake:** Fort MSLA to VanBuren exit, drive up Eastern side of Rattlesnake on VanBuren St to road end at private residence, return back down VanBuren St to Lolo Street and drive West to Greenough Dr, drive up drainage to road end and then return to Fort MSLA.
- **Pattee Canyon:** Fort MSLA to Pattee Canyon Rd/ Rd 533, follow 533 up and over into Deer Creek/East MSLA and return to Fort MSLA.

- **Rock Creek:** Take I-90 East to the Rock Cr Exit, drive up drainage stopping at the various campgrounds along the way, up to the Lolo Forest/Deerlodge Forest divide and then return to Fort MSLA.
- **Hwy 12:** Take Hwy 93 South to Lolo and turn right up Hwy 12, drive up to MT/ID state line with side tours of Graves Creek, Elk Meadows Rd and the campgrounds before returning to Fort MSLA.

Portal Signs:

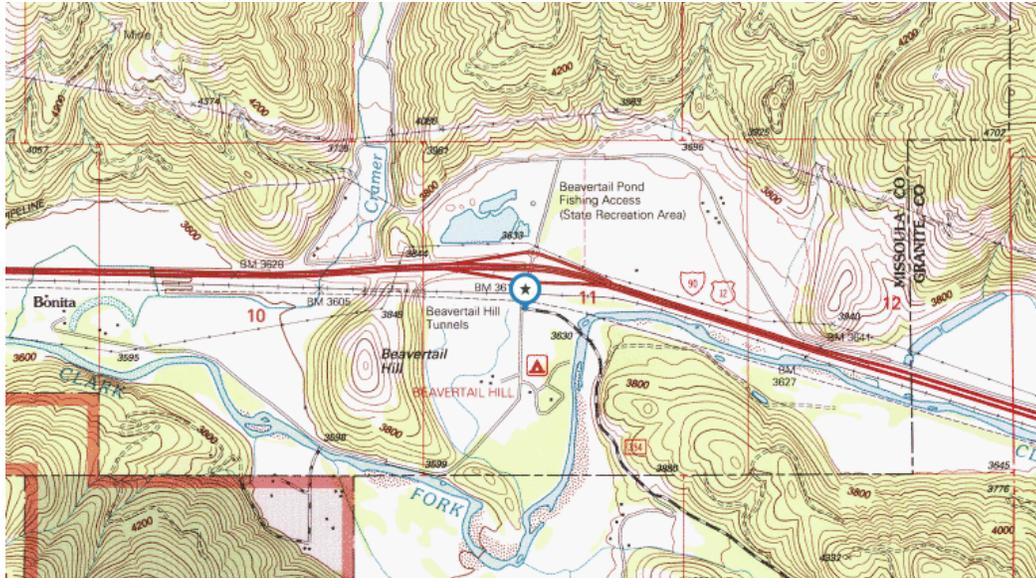


There are four additional signs (See, Smell, Call and Tell) that are waiting on engineering to gain clearance with the hwy dept's right of way before sinking the posts on Hwy 12. The detachable "swing" picture portion of the signs will be completed and ready for hanging spring of 2020.

#1: Beavertail



44"wide X 16" tall (1 side)



46° 43.4251
113° 34.5078

#2: Rock Creek (-Mile marker 6 up drainage on right hand side.)



44" wide X 36" tall with room for
44" wide X 16" tall beneath (2 sided)

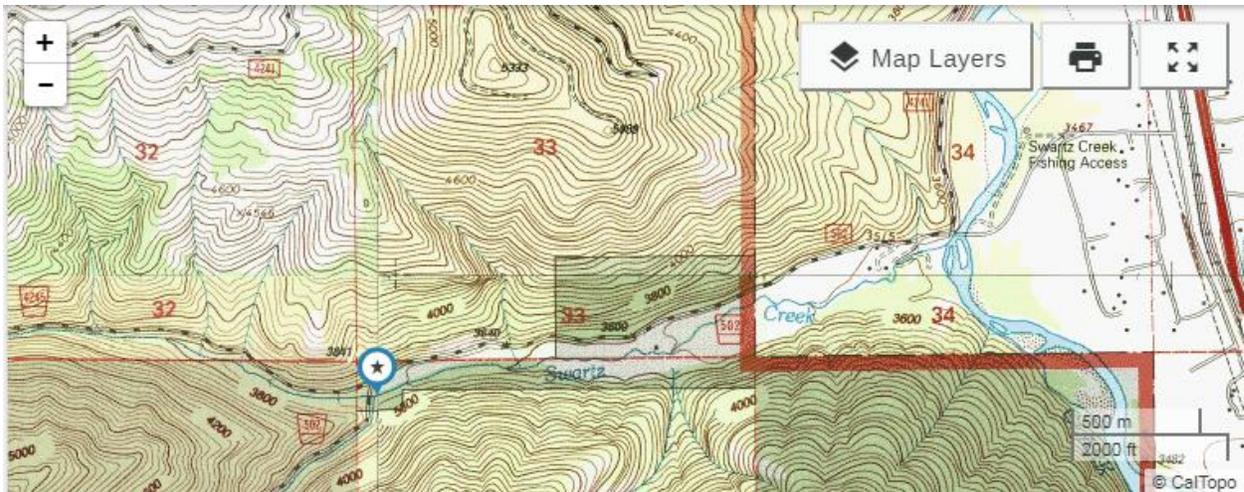


46° 38.978 113° 39.240

#3: Swartz Creek



44"wide X 16" tall (1 side)



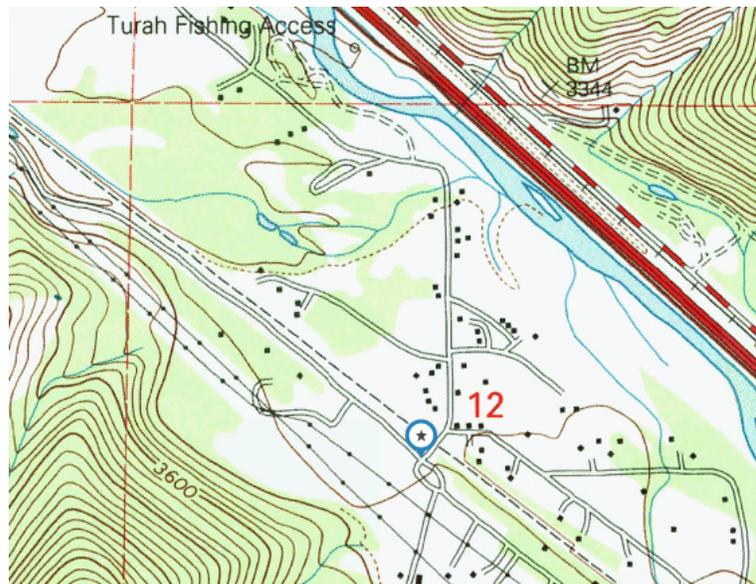
46° 44.7519
113° 45.0017

#4: Crystal Creek



44" wide
(1 side)

X 16" tall



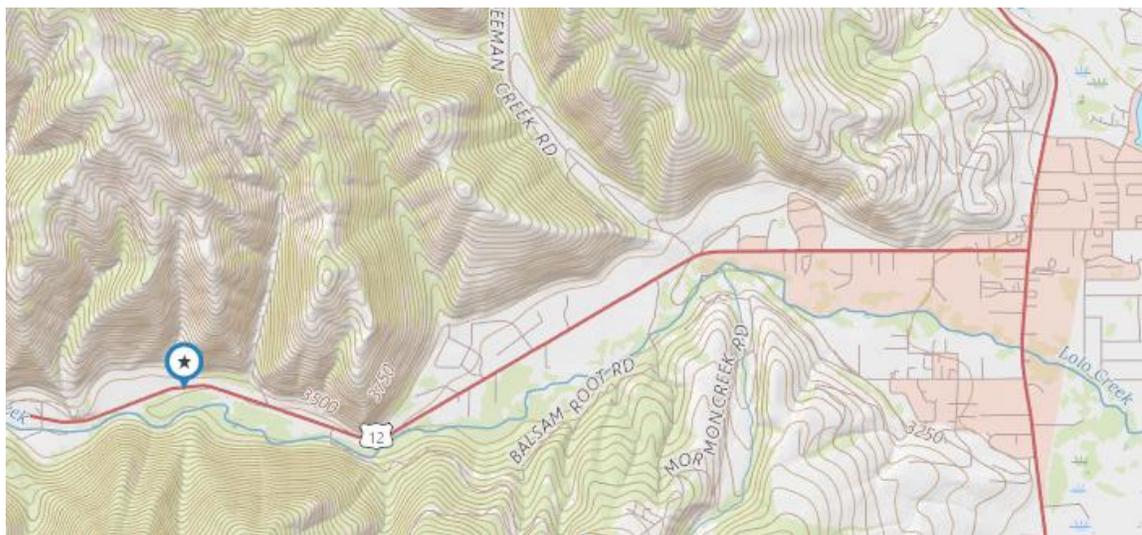
46° 48.8626
113° 48.3056

#5: Fort Fizzle *Semi demolished this sign
Feb 2019.

Replacement waiting for engineering to sink the posts after clearance from Hwy Dept.*



44"wide X 36" tall with room for 44"wide X 16" tall beneath (2 sided)



46° 44.8291
114° 10.2421

#6: Lower Elk Meadows Rd.



44" wide X 16" tall (2 sided)



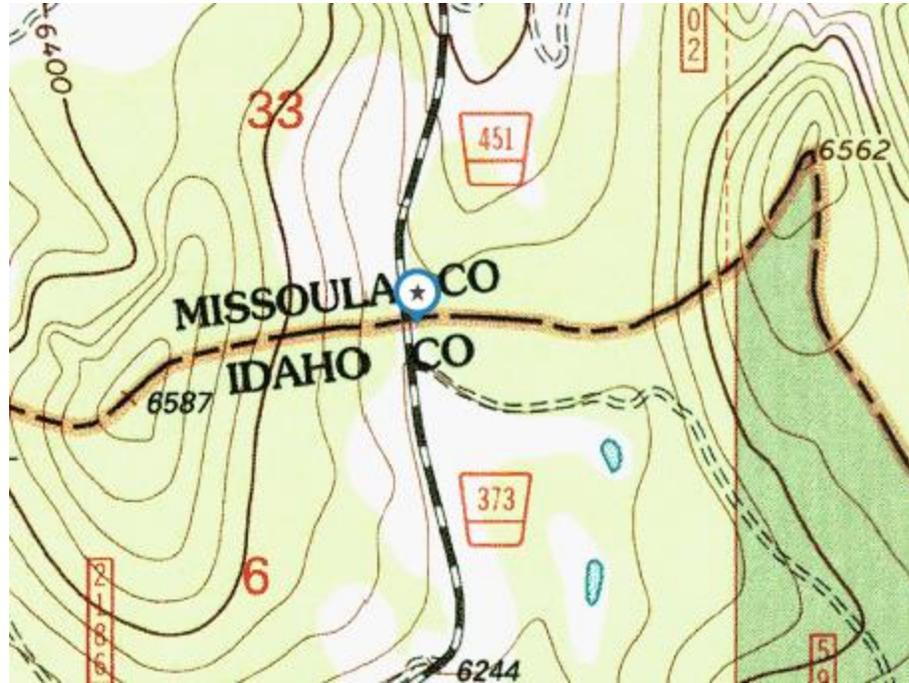
46° 45.6362
114° 16.8236

#7: Upper Elk Meadows *Upstanding citizens commandeered the display portion of this sign as their own during the winter of 2019. Replacement is ready to hang in spring 2020.*



44"wide X 16" tall

(2 sided)

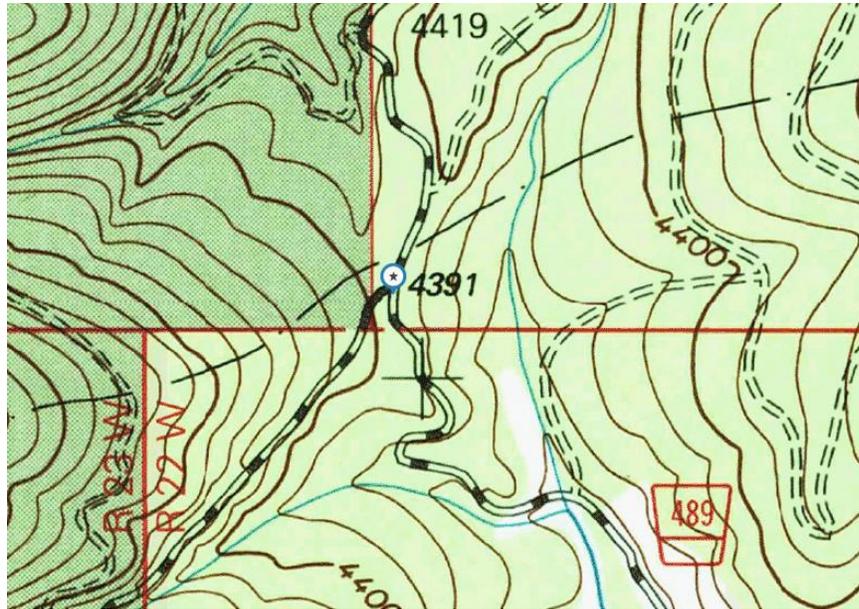


46° 40.1213
114° 21.9377

#8: Graves Creek



44"wide X 16" tall (2 sided)



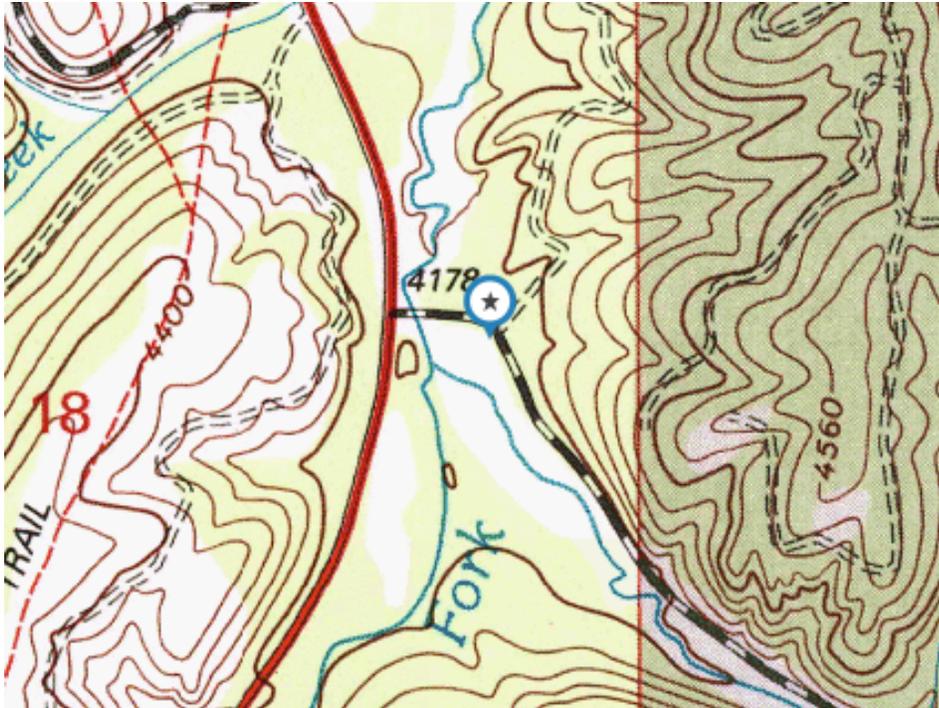
46° 50.0700
114° 25.0329

#9: East Fork Lolo Cr.



44"wide X 16"

tall (1 side)



46° 42.7551
 114° 31.8122

Additional Severity Sign Locations and Dispersed Sites (Rec. Assistance):

Location	Comments:
Pattee Canyon Recreation Area Main TH info. board	Posted year long due to no campfire special order
PCRA Crazy Canyon TH info. board	Posted year long due to no campfire special order
PCRA Larch Camp Road info. board	Posted year long due to no campfire special order
Pattee Canyon Picnic Area Fire Prevention board	
Pattee Canyon Picnic Area Group Site A	
Pattee Canyon Picnic Area Group Site B	
Pattee Canyon Picnic Area Group Site C	
Blue Mountain Main TH info board	Posted year long due to no campfire special order
Blue Mountain 365 secondary info. board	Posted year long due to no campfire special order
Blue Mountain 356 jct. sign	
Maclay Flat Recreation Area	Posted year long due to no campfire special order

Rattlesnake NRA portal sign	
Rattlesnake NRA main TH portal sign	
Rattlesnake NRA main TH info board	
Rattlesnake NRA Sawmill Gulch info board	Posted year long due to no campfire special order
Rattlesnake NRA Woods Gulch TH	
Rattlesnake NRA Equestrian TH	
Rattlesnake main corridor wilderness boundary	
Rock Creek Recreation Area Designated Dispersed Sites 1-15	
RCRA Norton Campground	
RCRA Grizzly Campground	
RCRA Dalles Campground	
RCRA Harry's Flat Campground	
RCRA Bitterroot Flat Campground	
RCRA Siria Campground	
RCRA Bighorn Campground	
RCRA Spring Gulch and Solomon THs	
RCRA Sawmill Fishing Access	
RCRA Grizzly Picnic Area	
RCRA Welcome Creek Main TH	
RCRA Hogback Homestead rental	
RCRA Morgan Case Homestead rental	
Lolo Creek Fort Fizzle	
Lolo Creek – Lolo Creek Campground and Picnic Area	
Lolo Creek – Lolo Trail at Howard Creek Rec. Site	
Lolo Creek – Lee Creek Campground	
Lolo Creek West Fork Bute Lookout rental	

Yearly Public Education & Event Schedule:

*****Number of Students/Public Reached at Events noted in RED*****

- **April: 2-3 days a wk, with 4-6 presentations a day-- MCFPA Match Safety**
 - First grade 30min ppt presentations with video clips and Smokey appearance at the end. Contact Jamie Porter: 406) 370-4526. **Total students/teachers: 1,248.**

- **Second weekend in April: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Kid’s “Fire” Event**
 - At the MSLA RMEF for kids to see how fire interacts with the landscape and is an integral part of our ecosystems and wildlife in Western MT. Contact: Kristin Peterson, Visitor Center Assistant (406) 523-4545. **Total interactions: 200 people.**

- **Saturday before Easter: Loyola’s Egg Extravaganza**
 - At the Loyola HS football field with all Missoula area mascots. Contact: Loyola HS: (406) 549-6101. **Total interactions: 250 people.**

- **Third Saturday in April: Annual Blackfoot Co-op Membership Meeting**
 - At the Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula. Represent the USFS as Blackfoot’s Partner Spotlight with Smokey and an info table for homeowners. Contact: Debbie Dantic, Communications Relations Rep for Blackfoot (406) 541-5181 / (406) 880-5181. **Total conversation interactions: 30.**

- **Last Saturday in April: Cabela’s Fly Fishing Fair in Missoula**
 - Exposure to 4,000-5,000 customers. Represent the USFS with Smokey and an info table for homeowners. Contact: Colt Colson, Assist. GM (406) 203-5400. **Total conversation interactions: 98.**

- **Last weekend in April: Missoula Family Unplugged Outdoor Event**
 - Vendors and activity booths for families. Represent the USFS with Smokey through the event grounds, interacting with families and the different vendors and activity booths. Contact: Bailey Meredith (208) 870-4169. **Total public interactions and photo ops: 250.**

- **Last weekend in April: Type 1 Diabetes Walk at the Osprey Baseball Field in Missoula.**
 - Represent the USFS with Smokey participating in about half the walk and being available for pictures with families and kids before the event. Contact: Osprey Allegiance Field (406) 543-3300. **Total public interactions and photo ops: 500.**

- **First week in May: Special Olympics for Western MT**
 - Support Special Olympics athletes and their families during the events. Contact: Mary (406) 531-9588. **Total public interactions and photo ops: 400.**

- **Second Week in May Wed/Thurs/Fri: Discovery Days in Pattee Creek Recreation Area**
 - For 5th graders. Four different education stations are set up for the groups to rotate through. Presentations (20 min) are given 12 times each of the three days. USFS is represented by organizing a station and helping coordinate the event with the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce. Contact: Krista, Chamber Event Coordinator (406) 531-9964. **Total students/teachers: 528.**

- **Fourth Week in May (M &W): Nature Walk *PROBABLY DISCONTINUED***
 - For 3rd graders at the Rattlesnake Trailhead and MaClay Flats Trailhead. Four education stations are set up for the groups to rotate through. Presentations (25 min) are given 8 times each of the two days. USFS is represented by organizing a station and coordinating the group transitions. Contact: Israel Tockman, Lolo Forest Front Desk Manager (406) 329-3894. **Total students/teachers at both trailheads: 800 (200 per trailhead per day).**

- **Last Week in May: End of year field trip for the Hawthorne kindergarteners**
 - The USFS represented by bringing Smokey for the kids and interacting with the activities, games etc. Contact: Kalee Ly-Thao, Budget & Finance Officer for R1 (406) 210-7235. **Total students/teachers: 80.**

- **Mid June: Neptune Plane Pull**
 - Joining Special Olympics Montana and the Law Enforcement Torch Run. The USFS represented by setting up an info table for home owners in Neptune's hangar and bringing Smokey to the event.

Contact: MT Special Olympics 1-800-242-6876. **Total conversation interactions and photo ops: 120.**

- **4th July At The Fort**

- Independence Day festivities at Fort Missoula for families. Contact: Syd Bacon (406) 728-5388. **Total interactions and photo ops: 150 people.**

- **Early July: Bobble Head Night**

- At the Paddlehead Stadium for a baseball game. Helping distribute bobbleheads with MCFPA, showing kids the fire engines and Smokey interactions. Contact: Jordan Koppen DNRC (406) 210-1160. **Total interactions: 700 people.**

- **Mid July: Lolo Days at the Lolo Community Center**

- From 1200-1800. The USFS represented by setting up an info table for home owners and bringing Smokey to the event for the kids and families. Contact: Lolo Community Center (406) 273-2271. **Total conversation interactions, photo ops and Smokey Swag handouts: 300.**

- **Mid July (Fri/Sat): ReCon MT *COMPLETE waste of time and effort in 2019. Don't bother in the future!***

- Outdoor vendors set up booths in the Regional Park parking lot of Fort Missoula. Contact: JW (310) 562-1422 **Total contacts for both days: 15 people.**

- **First full week of August : Western Montana Fair + Smokey Hot Air Balloon in 2019**

- Set up, booth info presenting/Smokey appearances and take down of booth and tables. Contact: Pirrie Harris, Fair Coordinator (406)

258-3238. **Total conversation interactions, photo ops and Smokey Swag handouts: 1,400 (200-300 per day).**

- *Hot Air Balloon on Friday of the fair in the early morning. Fun, but a bit of a logistical pain when the Regional Office is bored.*

- **Second weekend in September: RMEF Annual Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience**

- At the MSLA RMEF. Kids and their families explore the wildlife in western MT and the habitats (including fire adapted) that are needed for the different species. Contact: Kristin Peterson, Visitor Center Assistant (406) 523-4545. **Total interactions: 325 people.**

- **Third or Fourth Sunday in September: Safe Kids Fair at Community Medical Center**

- Free, fun-filled community event for children, families and caregivers to build childhood injury prevention awareness through action-based education and take-action information. Contact: Kira Huck, Safe Kids Coalition Co-Coordinator (406) 926-2522. **Total interactions and Smokey Swag handouts: 300.**

- **First Saturday in October: UM Home Coming Parade**

Smokey Bear and helpers walk/ride the parade route handing out swag. Partnership with the DNRC/MT State and MSLA Co. Rural Departments. **Total interactions and Smokey Swag handouts: 1200.**

- **Saturday, October 27: **Only did this in 2018, too expensive.****

- UM Griz Football game- booth, big inflatable Smokey and Smokey mascot on the field with Monte delivering swag. Cost is 1,500/game with this level of exposure/publicity. Contact: Jared Schmit, U MT Athletic Event PR Coordinator (406) 243-2652-O (406) 580-1095-C / jschmit@grizzllysportsproperties.com **Total interactions and Smokey Swag handouts: 800.**

- **October 3 days a wk, with 4-6 presentations a day--MCFPA Puppet Show Smoke and Fire Safety**
 - Kindergarten presentations with scripted songs and some puppet improvisation interactions between songs. Contact: Charles Talbott at MSLA City Fire (406) 239-3754 or Jamie Porter: 406) 370-4526.
Total students/teachers: 1,315.

- **Other Events/Interactions with Public:**
 - -Prescribed burns: **Average of 15 conversations per day while handing out info fliers or while smoke is in the air.**

Primary Agency / Public / Cooperator Contacts:

- **Nine Mile Ranger District Prevention**
 - Anna Henderson: (406) 239-4904 / (406) 626-5406

- **Superior Ranger District Prevention**
 - Dan Campbell: (406) 207-3616

- **Seeley Lake Ranger District Prevention**
 - Heather Martens: (406) 677-3912

- **Stevensville Ranger District (Bitterroot NF) Prevention**
 - Alex Hartless: (406) 531-5547 or Rachel Barry (Apprentice): (618) 203-0567

- **State, MT DNRC, Fire Prevention**
 - Jordan Koppen: (406) 210-1160
- **Lolo Forest / MCFPA (Missoula County Fire Prevention Association) Prevention Coordinator**
 - Chris Johnson (CJ): (406) 529-7751
- **Missoula Fire Lab Teaching Coordinator (great lesson plans/materials)**
 - Ilana Abrahamson: (406)214-7601
- **Missoula BLM Field Office**
 - Front Desk: (406) 329-3914
- **Frenchtown Rural Fire Department**
 - Chief Joe Calnan: (406) 626-5791
- **Missoula Fire Department**
 - Front Desk: (406) 552-6210
- **Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Fire Management**
 - Ask for CT Campbell: (406) 676-2550
- **Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce**
 - Krista: (406) 531-9964

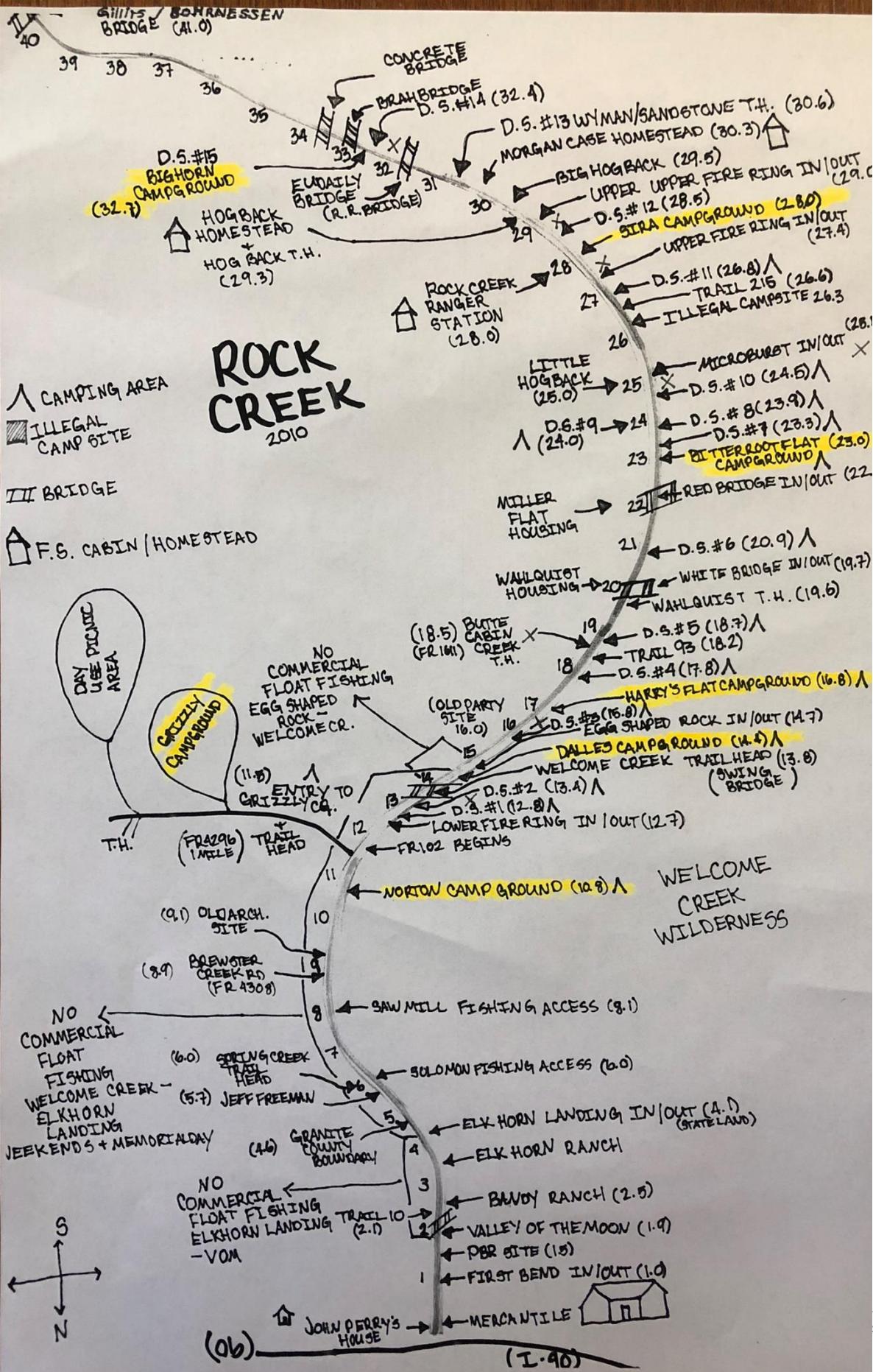
Smokey Swag

Created: Sept. 2018	Vendor:	Price	# Per Package	Packages Per Year	Yearly Budget
Cozies	4 Imprint				
Balloons	Smokey Signals	\$45	500	2	\$45
Chip Clips	National Symbols Cache	\$14.50	50	3	\$43.50
Air Fresheners	Smokey Signals	\$140	250	2	\$284
Plastic Ranger Hats	Smokey Signals	\$210	200	1.5	\$315
Luggage Tags	national Symbols Cache	\$28	25	0.5	\$14

Pop Sockets	Pro-motivators (Cara Breslin)			Any extra	
Fidget Spinners	Pro-motivators (Cara Breslin)	\$2.50	1	Any extra	
Collapsible Buckets	Smokey Signals	\$168	50	1.5	\$84
Baseballs	National Symbols Cache	\$20	12	10	\$200
Glow in Dark Bracelets	Smokey Signals	\$145	300	1.5	\$217.50
Water Bottles	Smokey Signals	\$145	100	1.5	\$217.50
Snap Bracelets	Smokey Signals	\$140	250	1	\$140
Sunglasses				Any extra	
Frizbee Rings	National Symbols Cache			When available	
Smokey Bandana Cowboy	Smokey Signals	\$130	100	3	\$390
Jar Grips/Openers	Smokey Signals	\$140	250	1.5	\$210
Smokey Stickers	Smokey Signals	\$70	1000	1	\$70
Smokey Tattoos	National Symbols Cache	\$8.50	200	2.5	\$21.25
Smokey Sheriff Badge	Smokey Signals	\$140	250	1	\$140
Smokey Yo-Yo	Smokey Signals	\$160	250	2	\$320
Smokey Carabiners	National Symbols Cache	\$8	30	14	\$112
Standard Frizbees	Smokey Signals	\$145	150	3	\$436

Total:	\$3,259.75
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*DNRC gives us about \$1200.00 of swag for the fair and for elementary edu. This drops our swag budget needs down to about \$2000.00 per year.



ROCK CREEK 2010

- CAMPING AREA
- ILLEGAL CAMP SITE
- BRIDGE
- F.S. CABIN/HOMESTEAD

DAY PICNIC USE AREA

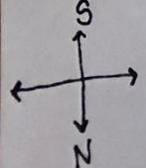
GRIZZLY CAMPGROUND

NO COMMERCIAL FLOAT FISHING
EGG SHAPED ROCK - WELCOME CR.

NO COMMERCIAL FLOAT FISHING
WELCOME CREEK - ELKHORN LANDING
JEEKENDS + MEMORIAL DAY

NO COMMERCIAL FLOAT FISHING
ELKHORN LANDING - VOM

WELCOME CREEK WILDERNESS



Ninemile Ranger District

Ninemile Ranger District has one permanent full time Fire Prevention & Education Technician who oversees their own Fire Prevention, Mitigation and Education Program at the district level. They are supervised by their District Fire Management Officer and regularly reports to and coordinates with the Forest Fire Prevention and Education Officer and Forest Fire Management Officer located at the Lolo Forest Supervisor's Office in Missoula. This individual is also in charge of the Conservation and Education Program at Ninemile Ranger District, where they provide multiple educational experiences, in the classroom and in the field trip settings, to students k-12.

-Anna Henderson: Fire Prevention Technician ([406.239.4904](tel:406.239.4904)/annamhenderson@fs.fed.us)

-Dewey Arnold: DFMO, May 2010-Present ([406.626.5422](tel:406.626.5422)/dlarnold@fs.fed.us)

January and February:

- Conservation Education school scheduling for in classroom presentations (March/April) and outdoor field trips (May/June), outreaching and finding volunteers to assist in field trip stations
- Conservation Education maintain, clean, organize and create new educational boxes by building new curriculum and improve existing curriculum
- Create prescribed fire (Rx fire) maps and network with homeowners to improve relations for anticipated spring burns.
- Write grants to fund the Conservation Education Program
- Assist in the Fire and Ice Hockey Event.
- Assist with district Fire Refresher
- National cadre member of WPSAPS, attend training and webinars
- Attend trainings to further knowledge, skills, and qualifications
- Attend HOAs to inform homeowners of RX opportunities and maintain homeowner contact list
- SWMT Prevention Team organization
 - Research and organize new outlets to peruse for the upcoming fire season
 - Recruit team members, ad hoc members, recruit trainees
 - Organize to fit a remotely organized team. Work from duty station, online platform

March and April:

- Implement Ninemile Conservation Education - Classroom program with grade school through high school students
 - Schools visited: Frenchtown Elementary, Frenchtown High, Hellgate Elementary, Bonner Elementary, Desmet Elementary
- Partner with MCFPA to deliver Match Safety to ALL Missoula County 1st graders
- Recruit volunteers for the Conservation Education Program

- Attend training to further knowledge, skills and qualifications
- Take covers off Fire Danger Rating Signs
- Place Open Burning Permit Signs and information on portals
- Check on districts portals and fire danger signs after winter months prioritize maintenance and replacements
- Attend HOAs to inform homeowners of RX opportunities and maintain homeowner contact list

May and June:

- Assist with prescribed fire planning/operations and outreach to homeowners
 - Contact homeowners, Facebook Posts to the Lolo NF Page, man an information station near RX , set out information boards prior to RX, disperse flyers in communities prior to RX
- Continue Conservation Education Program, transition to students visiting Ninemile RD and Grand Menard Picnic and Day Use Area
- Provide Smokey giveaways for the Conservation Education Program and the Visitor Center
- Initiate patrolling program for fire prevention and dispersed/developed recreation.
- Coordinate patrols with Law Enforcement Officer(s)
- District representative at MCFPA Monday morning meetings
- Attend Fire Investigation Refresher

July and August:

- Attend daily operational briefings
- District representative at MCFPA Monday morning meetings
- Coordinate FS presence in Alberton Railroad Days.
- Provide district volunteers with daily fire and weather information so they can inform the public
- Continue to coordinate district patrols
- Assist with initial and extended attack operations (WFDSS)
- Coordinate Fire Restrictions activities (If warranted)
- Manage district portal signs with fire prevention messages/fire restrictions messages
 - Work with local businesses in Frenchtown and Alberton to post fire information/restrictions
 - Provide fire information on the Lolo NF Facebook Page
- If needed participate on the SWMT Zone Fire Prevention Team
 - Team Lead the last couple of seasons (would like to have a trainee for upcoming fire season)

September and October:

District representative at MCFPA Monday morning meetings

- Assist with prescribed fire operations and notifications to homeowners
- Partner with MCFPA to deliver fire prevention puppet shows to ALL Missoula County Kindergarten classes
- Continue to coordinate district patrols
- Assist with initial and extended attack operations (WFDSS)
- Coordinate Fire Restrictions activities (If warranted)
- Manage district portal signs with fire prevention messages/fire restrictions messages
 - Work with local businesses in Frenchtown and Alberton to post fire information/restrictions
 - Provide fire information on the Lolo NF Facebook Page
- If needed participate on the SWMT Zone Fire Prevention Team
 - Team Lead the last couple of seasons (would like to have a trainee for upcoming fire season)
- Attend MCFPA end of season meeting

November and December:

- Cover Fire Danger Rating Signs and take down any signs on portals
- Patrols as needed
- Assist with prescribed fire operations and notifications to homeowners
- Prepare with National Cadre for WPSAPS and training opportunities
- Write grants to fund the Conservation Education Program

Ninemile Education/Prevention Costs:

We distribute Smokey Bear giveaways at many of our conservation education and prevention events. Our lookout, visitor center, and patrolling FPOs also distribute Smokey items when interacting with the public. These help build relationships and serve as a reminder to be safe with fire. Due to the amount of contact we have, we could effectively spend \$3000 per year on these handouts.

Ninemile District Burn Permit Plan:

The Ranger District consists of both Missoula and Mineral counties. For residents in Missoula County we direct them to the Missoula County website <https://app.mt.gov/burnpermit/> or direct them to Frenchtown Rural Fire Department to obtain a permit. It is then the responsibility of the individual to call 888-583-6497 or go to back to the website to activate the permit the day they intend to burn after 9am. The individual must also call the outdoor burning hotline (406) 258-4900 to find out if conditions allow for burning on that particular day. All fires must be out and cold to the touch by 4pm that day.

For burning restrictions for Mineral County residents we defer to Superior district. We offer Mineral County [paper] burn permits at Ninemile's front desk. Mineral County permits issued at Ninemile are then faxed to Superior for record keeping.

Superior Ranger District

Calendar for Outdoor Burning

- Dec-Feb: No Burning
March-April: Open burning, No permit required
May: Open burning, Permit Required
June: Closed for burning unless otherwise stated open on a week by week basis.
July-Sept: Outdoor burning Closed
October: Open Burning
November: Open, weather dependent for air quality.

- Burn permits can be obtained by visiting the front desk or by calling 822-4233 or 822-3933. The permits are free.
- Permittees are to call the Airshed Hotline at 1-800-225-6779 or visit mi.airshedgroup.org before ignition.
- Airsheds for Mineral county are as follows:
 - 3A- South and east of Superior.
 - 2- North of Superior.

Prevention/Education Programs

April

- Change burn permit hotline from closed burning to open burning with no permit required message.
- Coordinate with St. Regis Radio and Mineral Independent for outdoor burning messaging.
- Participate in district prescribed fire.
- Set up hot spot information boards in communities across the district that reflect spring prescribe fire and wildfire locations.
- Contact teachers at St. Regis and Superior to set up Fire Education classes
- Participate in school sanctioned “fun runs”.
- At the end of the Month put up Fire Danger Signs and set to LOW.
- Conduct home assessments and enter data into Interra.

May

- Hang swinging portal signs and sign appropriately.
- Change burn permit hotline from “Open burning with no permit required” to “Open burning with written permit required”.
- Coordinate with Recreation shop for shared patrolling workload.
- Prepare for Mineral County Fair.
- Superior outdoor school for 6th graders.
- Coordinate with front desk with issuing burn permits.
- Participate in Aerial Observer Training.
- Initial attack on escaped debris burns.
- Conduct home assessments and enter data into Interra.

June

- Coordinate with Montana Rail Link for railway fire guard compliance.
- Patrol after outdoor burning concludes to ensure compliance.
- Set up See, Smell, Call, Tell signs on Highway 135.
- Coordinate with FMO about switching to seven-day coverage.
- Conduct home assessments and enter data into Interra.
- 4th of July parade in St. Regis.

July

- Patrol around the 4th of July for visitors lighting of fireworks.
- Have a 70/30 ratio of patrolling/project work with fire crew.
- Coordinate with appropriate resources regarding fireworks information for campground users and hosts.
- Will be used as a firefighter/IC.
- Abandoned campfires will start to be a problem. Patrol high-use areas.
- Call Kory Cromwell again to set up a ride if needed to inspect the fire guards.
- Conduct home assessments and enter data into Interra.

August

- Firefighting will become districts #1 priority.
- Available to conduct aerial detection on a regular basis.
- If fire restrictions go in effect, ensure to reflect conditions with appropriate signage
- Post restrictions at pre identified locations.
- Mineral County Fair and parade. Coordinate fire crew help with parade.
- Conduct home assessments and enter data into Interra.

September

- Firefighting is still districts priority
- Still patrolling and doing project work when possible
- Depending on weather, fall burning might start.
- Conduct home assessments and enter data into Interra.

October

- Open burning starts, change burn hotline message.
- Continue to change portal signs that reflect current conditions.
- Start making contacts with teachers about Fire Education Programs such as the puppet show and other educational classes.
- Conduct home assessments and enter data into Interra.

November

- Take down portal signs.
- Take down fire danger signs.
- Replace, repair portal signs as needed.

- Write up yearly review on wildfire statistics that occurred on the district and send to local newspaper.
- Conduct home assessments and enter data into Interra.

Annual Operating Costs

- Maintenance on Portal signs, yearly to every other year: \$500-700
- Parade candy for two Parades and Mineral County Fair cost: \$150
- Smokey Bear giveaways: \$1,000

Educational Programs

The following educational programs are conducted on an annual basis, although circumstances sometimes force alterations or cancellations of this schedule

- Camp Bend Outdoor School – Plains sixth graders have an annual campout for one week, usually in early May. During two days of that week, several USFS employees, including the prevention tech, teach a portion of the nature studies program, usually the curriculums dealing with fire ecology and the timber section. The Bend Outdoor School requires about 20 hours of time but no Smokey items are being handed out at this event at this time.
- Thompson Falls Elementary – Grades 1 through 6 visit our Thompson Falls fire station for about an hour each, and are given a brief rundown of what wildland firefighters do. This includes sections on personal equipment (including clothing, safety equipment, tools), fire engines, map reading, radio use, etc. and, of course a visit from Smokey himself. The prevention tech generally enlists 4-5 firefighters to help with this. This requires about 20 hours of the prevention tech's time each year, including correspondence with the school and setting up of the activities. Estimate about \$100 of Smokey items are handed out.
- Plains First Grade – the Plains first grade classes visit the Plains RD office for a similar fire station tour as listed above for Thompson Falls, again with help from other fire personnel. The prep and conducting of this requires about 10 hours of prevention tech time, and about \$50 of Smokey items are dispersed.
- Project Learning Tree – the prevention tech has participated in this program in the past, although it has not been done during the last several years for a variety of reasons. The prevention tech helps conduct this program, helping mostly with the fire ecology and plant identification process. When this program is up and running, it takes up to about 20 hours of prevention tech time.
- Other duties – the prevention tech is occasionally asked to participate in other educational activities, and attempts to accommodate those requests as much as possible. In this area that has included scout troops and women's clubs in the past. About 10 hours of time required.
- Members of the local community sometimes request personal on-site visits to assess fire safety. When possible the prevention tech, or someone else from the fire organization, will visit those properties and advise the landowner on how to make their homes more fire-safe. This type of work probably takes 10 to 20 hours each year.

The educational programs described above, in total generally require about 90 to 100 hours, and \$150 of Smokey items each year.

Annual Activities

- Plains Day – usually on the first Saturday of May each season. The USFS and the Montana DNRC confer with each other to make sure there is a live Smokey for the Plains Day Parade and each organization provides a fire engine for the drive through on Main Street. When the USFS provides the Smokey, the person(s) that accompanies him generally give out Smokey Bear trinkets during the parade. This usually involves about 8 hours of prevention tech time and about \$50 worth of Smokey handouts.
- Thompson Falls July 4th Parade – the USFS provides Smokey Bear for this parade, either a walking model, or one safely situated in the back of a pickup truck. Again, with assistance from other fire personnel, about 8 hours total of time and about \$50 worth of Smokey items.
- Sanders County Fair – Our fair is held annually on Labor Day weekend and runs Thursday through Sunday. The prevention tech is largely committed to the fair while it is going, and is also responsible for put-up and tear-down of the tent, which is shared with the Montana DNRC and the Cabinet RD of the adjoining Kootenai National Forest, a portion of which is located in Sanders County. As such, the DNRC and the Cabinet RD also provide Smokey items for the fair, lessening the burden for that on the Plains/Thompson Falls RD. District personnel volunteer to help staff the tent although some fire personnel are sometimes assigned to that task. This is the Plains/Thompson Falls RD's prevention tech's biggest event of any year, requiring 40 or more hours of time and \$200 or more worth of Smokey items.
- Thompson Falls Christmas Parade – We provide Smokey Bear, usually sitting on a snowmobile on a trailer towed behind a pickup (this has been our LEO's vehicle for the past several years). The District Ranger and 3-4 other folks generally help, walking Main Street alongside the Smokey trailer and handing out prevention items. This activity requires about 5 hours of prevention tech time and another \$50 worth of Smokey items.
- Other duties as requested per the Lolo Prevention Team guidelines. This could include helping to staff the booth at the Western Montana Fair or at the Mineral County Fair. For the past few years, we have also helped support the University of Montana's Homecoming Day Parade. If requested, the prevention tech should also help out with any other prevention-type activities, such as Fire Safe, Fire Wise or Fire Adapted Community programs. Estimate that this type of work could involve 40 or more hours total each year.

The annual activities listed above typically involve 90 to 100 hours of prevention tech time, and approximately \$350 worth of Smokey items.

Media/Press Releases

Press releases are routed locally through the FMO, AFMOs and District Ranger, and when appropriate through the Forest Public Affairs Officer.

- A release about the Plains/Thompson Falls RD's prescribed burning program for the upcoming season.
- A safe burning reminder, and how and where to secure your permits after open burning ends.
- A fire season begins release, no more burning permits to be issued until fall.
- This office will occasionally produce a press release about the educational activities listed above.
- Fire information press releases are usually prepared on an as needed basis. Of course, more are prepared during active fire seasons.
- Another safe burning reminder and burning guidelines press release when fall burning season begins.

Prevention Sign Program

The Plains/Thompson Falls RD prevention tech is responsible for three large fire danger signs (located in Plains, in Thompson Falls and just east of the junction between Highways 200 and 135) and for the installation, maintenance and placement of fire prevention signs. There are currently 28 portal signs placed at strategic locations (which are on file) across the district. The sign program probably takes up to 25% of the prevention tech's time, and the cash value of the UNICOR signs used up each year is probably in the \$250 range.

Prescribed Burning

The prevention tech fully participates in the prescribed burning program, either as an information function and/or as an Rx burn crew member. The prevention tech is often assigned the task of contacting landowners or staffing key points of contact during operations in order to convey the intent and extent of the burning being done.

On the Plains/Thompson Falls RD, the prevention tech also currently does walk-through exams of proposed prescribed fire areas and consults with the district silvicultrist in helping prepare the prescriptions for that burning.

Prevention Supplies used annually on the Plains/Thompson Falls RD

The following is an estimate for prevention supplies used each year:

Educational Activities (see above)	\$150
Annual Activities (see above)	\$350
Other Smokey items dispensers	\$150

Prevention signs (see above)	\$250
<u>Prevention sign paint and hardware (bolts, hooks, etc.)</u>	<u>\$100</u>
Total Annual Prevention Expenditure	\$1,000