

Hungry Horse Ranger District

Trail Conditions Report

Date Last Updated: 9/13/2011

Important Information, warnings, road conditions and general information:

At Present, due to the Puzzle Fire, an area closure and several trail closures are in place, including:

1. Upper Skyland Road #569 at the Junction with Granite Creek Road, including Morrison Trailhead and Trail #154 south to the Spotted Bear District Boundary (Star Creek).
2. ATV trails #569.1 and #569G.
3. Puzzle Ridge Trail #264 from the beginning of Skyland Road #569 to its terminus.
4. East Skyland Trail #251 south of the junction with Elkalf Mountain Trail #382.

Trail No.	Trail Name	Date Cleared	Remarks, Projects, Safety
7	Alpine 7	8/19	Trail cleared from junction w/#7 to ½ way between junction #55 and junction #8
49	Flossy Creek		Inaccessible from Westside Road but doable with a long drive down Eastside Rd and up
51	Columbia Mtn. Loop	8/22	From TH on reservoir side, the first 3 miles are cleared. Next 3 miles have some down trees—hikeable, but not recommended for stock.
52	Doris Ridge		Inaccessible from Westside Road but accessible via trail system
57	Wounded Buck		Inaccessible from Westside Road but doable with a long drive down Eastside Rd. and up
62	Logan-Dirtyface	8/19	Trail cleared 4 miles from TH to saddle between Red Sky and Unawah w/ a few trees near Red Sky, but very brushy & rocky in some areas.
63	Baptiste Lookout	7/12	Trail cleared for 4.63 miles by Backcountry Horseman

65	Spruce Crossing		
117	Tunnel Creek		
146	Stanton Lake	7/7	Trail maintained to the inlet of lake, by BMWF volunteer crew.
149	Dickey Creek		
150	Marion Lake	7/23	Cleared from TH to lake outlet.
151	Essex Creek	8/10	Scouted from TH to about 3 miles-~45 trees over trail. Very tall brush obliterating the trail and large rocks in tread making it difficult to traverse.
152	Sheep Elk Loop	8/10	*Scouted trail from Java Ck to junction w/Logan Dirty Face. 165 trees down, some leaning over trail that may significantly hinder hikers and stock. (Elk side) *Scouted trail from Java Ck to ~ 3 miles on Sheep Ck side with 185 trees down. Trail very brushy.
154	Morrison Creek	7/12	Scouted from TH to first creek crossing. Trail is snow free. Large slump (belly deep mud for stock) in switchbacks above first creek crossing, ~ 5 miles in. No good reroute options. 1st & 2 nd creek crossings very deep for stock and extremely difficult on foot.
155	Big River	7/16	Trail cleared/maintained from Bear Creek TH to 25 Mi Creek. Heavy blow down, trail is very muddy from wet spring. Had help from BMWF crews for National Trails Day. Trail is cleared 3.5 miles from junction of Granite Ck. Trail to 25 Mile Creek. 25 Mile Ck. difficult to ford on foot, but can cross on logs down the creek, though the lower ends of the logs are under water. All other creeks from Bear Creek TH to 25 Mile are easy to cross. Stock crossing would be difficult.
156	Granite Creek	7/26	Cleared to junction of Big River trail—5.37 miles. Wet and muddy areas along the trail.
158	Java Mtn.		
159	25 Mile		3 miles of trail cleared from

	Creek		Junction w/Vinegar Trail 260 to Junction w/Mt. Bradley.
165	Giefer Creek		
166	Long Creek	8/6 8/13	8/6--Cleared 2.5 miles from Big River Trail 155 to Bergsicker Jct. Water level is 2.5-3 ft. at river crossings. 8/13—Cleared entire rest of trail—9.25 miles—with junction of trail 200.
167	Devil Creek	7/21	Trail cleared 6.42 miles from Devil Creek TH to jct w/Vinegar Mtn Trail. 1 st crossing of Devil Ck. still high. 2 nd crossing OK. Steep slope just below saddle on hwy side dangerous— not recommended for stock or inexperienced hikers. Some trail sections are very muddy.
204	Skiumah Creek	8/6	Cleared from TH to lake.
209	Castle Lake		
217	Bergsicker Creek	8/9	Trail cleared 4.2 miles from TH to end of trail
242	Wildcat Mtn.		Inaccessible from Westside Road but accessible via trail system when melted out
251	East Skyland		
254	Java Creek	8/10	Scouted from junction of 152 (Sheep Elk Loop) to about 1 mile. Large trees down on trail that may be difficult to get around. Middle Fork still not fordable.
260	Vinegar Mtn.	7/23	Trail 260 cleared 6.5 miles from junction w/ Bradley Mtn. to junction w/25 Mile Ck. Some snowy, difficult- to- traverse areas still remain, as well as some very wet mucky areas. May be difficult for inexperienced hikers and stock.
264	Puzzle Ridge		
295	Doris Creek		Inaccessible from Westside Road but accessible via trail system when melted out
297	Jimmie Ridge		Inaccessible due to Westside Road but accessible via trail system when melted out

309	Fawn Creek		Inaccessible from Westside Road but accessible via trail system when melted out
319	Grizzly Creek		
323	Bradley Mtn.	7/24	5.32 miles of trail cleared from junction w/25 mile Trail. Steep area w/compacted snow that is very difficult to traverse between Bradley Mt. and lower unnamed mountain to east
326	Rescue Creek		
328	Great Bear Creek		
330	Charlie Creek		
331	Ousel Peak-East Hwy 2	7/9	Cleared start to finish 3.55 miles. Steep snowfield crossing remains on approach to summit.
332	Cy Creek	8/26	With MCC help, trail was cleared from TH for 3.5 miles. Beyond that, trail was scouted to end, but was very difficult to navigate due to downed trees, lost trail, and multiple creek crossings.
334	Moccasin Creek		
339	Grant Ridge	7/27	Trail cleared from TH 9.19 miles for entire loop. Stanton Creek. crossing extremely high and fast.
382	Elk calf Mtn.		
388	Ousel Peak West	7/4	Cleared 3 miles to snowline—1/2 mile past Oliver Creek
410	Forest Creek		Inaccessible from Westside Road but doable with a long drive down Eastside Rd and up
489	Edna Creek	6/4, 8/17	Trail cleared and brushed 1 mi up by BMWF crews for National Trails Day. Scouted rest of trail--45 trees on trail, but trail in decent shape
498	Cascadilla Creek		
602	Elk Lake	7/20	Trail cleared 1.02 miles from jct w/trail 167 to Elk Lake. Snowy patches near Devil Ck jct and 3-4 ft of

			snow as it climbs into lake basin. Lake surrounded by snow, but a few melted out areas for tents.
611	Lion Lake	6/20	Trail cleared.
660	Snake Loop		
677	Spruce Lookout		
740	Mule Ridge		
	Jewel Basin		
1	Graves Creek		Inaccessible from Westside Road but accessible via trail system when melted out
717	Mt. Aeneas	8/6	Cleared 3 miles from TH to summit of Mt. Aeneas w/help of MCC crew
718	Jewel Lakes		
719	Blackfoot Lake		
721	Twin Lakes		
722	Alpine Big Hawk		
723	Wildcat Lake		
717,7	Birch Lake	7/30 8/19	7/30 -Cleared 3 miles from TH to Birch Lake w/ trail on precarious scree slope .75 miles from lake. Beyond Birch outlet, trail is under 2-4 feet of snow w/sunny patches melted out. 8/19 -Trail scouted and lightly maintained 3.25 miles from outlet of Birch Lake to southern part of Crater Lake
55	Tongue Mtn.	8/6 8/20	8/6 -Junction of 7/55 snowy, but trail cleared from junction to a bit beyond junction 55/49 8/20 -Scouted, w/trail passable from junction w/#7 to junction w/#71. Snowy patches between junction of #49 and Clayton Lake.
58	Black Lake		
64	Wheeler		Inaccessible from Westside Road

	Creek		but accessible via trail system when melted out
392	Picnic Lakes		
417	Squaw Lake		
420	Clayton Creek	8/20	Inaccessible from Westside Road but accessible via trail system when melted out 8/20-Scouted –trail is passable
71	Pioneer Ridge	8/20	Inaccessible from Westside Road but accessible via trail system when melted out 8/20-Scouted trail--passable
8	Noisy Notch	8/6 8/19	8/6--Cleared from TH to 7/8 junction. Snowy beyond junction. 8/19- Cleared 1.9 miles from Camp Misery TH to junction w/ #7.
68	Camp Misery Cutoff	8/13	Trail cleared from trail 8 to trail 7

Puzzle Fire Complex

Flathead National Forest
Hungry Horse/Glacier View
Ranger District



- Puzzle Fire Complex consists of 1) Puzzle Fire, and 2) Square Fire, both caused by lightning on Sept. 9, 2011.
- **Puzzle Fire** is burning south of Bullshoe Mtn, into Crescent Creek, and it has crossed the Continental Divide and is now in the head of Pool and Kip Creeks. The fire is located at Lat/Long: 48° 12.33, -113° 14.14.
- **Square Fire** is located near Square Mtn, at Lat/Long: 48° 13.27, -113° 18.30. This fire is 1 acre in size.
- Yesterday, the fires burned through heavy timber with dead and down snags, and are spreading in all directions. The fire was not highly active due to the cooler weather.
- Firefighters are protecting values at risk in this area, including in the Badger Two Medicine, & implementing a long term response plan consistent with a confine and contain strategy. Structure protection for cabins and bridges is occurring. Firefighter and public safety is of the highest priority.
- The fire area in Puzzle/Skyland is closed to public use, including the Morrison Cr Trail; Granite Cr Trail remains open. Hunters in Unit #151 will be affected by this closure. There are several trail closures for the Badger Two Medicine area (see map) including a segment of the CD Trail, an alternate route is identified, please contact the respective ranger district offices for more information.

Contact: Colter Pence, Fire Information Officer, 387-3849
www.inciweb.org/incident/2651/
www.fs.usda.gov/flathead www.fs.usda.gov/lcnf



Head of Kip Creek, east of Continental Divide



Puzzle Creek, west of Continental Divide

Size	Aircraft	Personnel
1579 acres total	1 Type 3 Helicopter	2 fire crew modules (one at Puzzle Creek and the other at Badger Creek) and 7 overhead personnel

• The fire is being managed by the Flathead National Forest, in cooperation with the Lewis & Clark National Forest. The Blackfeet Tribe is providing input on effects to cultural resources in the area.