

## **Politics and Government**

Sept 29, 2018 – U.S. House debate “live” from Helena

Sept 25, 2018 – Crime victims advocates honored for their work on Montana’s Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian reservations; one of the FBI agents is an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and how that has helped gain the trust of crime victims.

Sept 13, 2018 – ground breaking for the remodel/renovation of a science building at MSU Billings

Sept 11, 2018 – political poll is being mailed to 10,000 registered voters in Montana, making it one of the largest polls to ever be conducted in the state.

Sept 10, 2018 – campaign activity controlled at MetraPark in advance of President Donald Trump’s campaign rally. Protesters and 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidate moved to the sidewalk far away from the venue.

Sept 20, 2018 – Libertarian Elinor Swanson says she’s the only true fiscal conservative running for Montana’s lone U.S. House seat.

Sept 7, 2018 – Montana’s first psychiatry residency program to launch next year. Medical officials hope the program will help close the provider gap and address Montana’s high rate of suicides.

Sept 7, 2018 – President Donald Trump makes a second visit to Montana to promote Republican U.S. Senate candidate Matt Rosendale who he says “Always will be voting for us.”

Sept 6, 2018 – Montana farmers hope to hear good news on trade and tariffs from President Trump’s visit.

Sept 1, 2018 – Border patrol agents endorse Sen. Jon Tester citing his strong stance on border security.

Aug 13, 2018 – On the campaign trail with Democratic U.S. House candidate Kathleen Williams

Aug 6, 2018 –A documentary that points a lens on how “dark money” is influencing political campaigns holds screenings across Montana.

July 26, 2018 – Vice President Mike Pence makes a campaign stop on behalf of GOP Senate candidate Matt Rosendale.

July 24, 2018 – rural communities struggle to pay for fixes for their crumbling roads, bridges and water systems as Congress prepares to debate the issue.

July 19, 2018 – a campaign finance reform group calls out GOP Senate candidate Matt Rosendale to return old campaign donations they say were misused for his current campaign.

July 19, 2018 – VP Mike Pence reschedules his visit to Billings

July 6, 2018 – Supporters and opponents greet President Donald Trump as he visits Great Falls.

July 6, 2018 – President Donald Trump works to rally supporters behind GOP Senate candidate Matt Rosendale and bashes incumbent Democratic Senator Jon Tester during campaign stop in Great Falls.

July 3, 2018 – how well do the members of Montana's congressional delegation get along and work for the state while campaigning against each other.

September 18<sup>th</sup>: Broadcast of "Home Ground" with Brian Kahn in the Political Coverage category. He interviewed supporters and opponents of the Montana I-186 ballot measure that would require mining companies to put up a bond funding in "escrow" to cover pollution clean-up efforts if they indeed pollute.

## **Wildlife and Conservation**

Grizzly Hunt Cut n' Copy # 3 Shadley

Time: 1:25 ENCO:

The Grizzly Bear hunt starts in Wyoming this weekend. Up to 22 bears can be killed in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in Wyoming through November. Environmental groups and Native Americans are protesting the hunts in Wyoming and Idaho this fall. Montana wildlife officials did not approve a hunt this year.

Andrea Samarsiere (Sam-uh-sear-aye) is an attorney with the “Center for Biological Diversity” ...one of the groups that has filed a lawsuit asking a federal judge in Missoula to relist the Yellowstone Grizzlies as endangered species. She’s especially concerned about an aging female Grizzly that lives in Grand Tetons National Park...called “399.” That bear is a favorite among tourists and locals...

*Tape: 399 Cut Time: 22 seconds “She’s out in the open...people see her...very regularly...photographers seek her out to capture her because she’s fairly easy to find...because she’s really on the brink of Grand Teton National Park’s boundary. And, then you have some trophy hunters out there that say they can’t wait to shoot her...they want to shoot a famous bear...”*

Judge Dana Christensen will hear a lawsuit filed by the environmental groups in Missoula today/Thursday. They are urging the judge to halt the hunts in the Yellowstone area. Meanwhile, hunting advocates say the Grizzly Bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem have recovered...with a population estimated at 700 animals currently. The hunters say they should be allowed to kill a few bears to ensure the bears have plenty of habitat to roam in the future.

## **Grizzly Hearing #2 SHADLEY WRAP**

**Time on Tape: 1:20 ENCO: 00144**

**A federal judge in Missoula is scheduled to hear a lawsuit tomorrow/Thursday...that asks the U-S Fish and Wildlife Service to relist Grizzly Bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as endangered species.**

**Yellowstone Public Radio’s Steve Shadley reports the hearing happens on the eve of scheduled Grizzly hunts in Wyoming and Idaho...**

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Environmental groups and Native Americans have filed the combined lawsuit in hopes of delaying or halting the Grizzly hunts ...that start as early as this weekend in Wyoming where up to 22 bears can be harvested through the fall. The Yellowstone area Grizzly Bear was taken off the endangered species list last year...allowing states to manage the population in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

Montana is not holding a hunt this year. Andrea Samarsiere (Sam-uh-sear-aye) is a senior attorney with the “Center for Biological Diversity” one of the groups that filed the suit. She says the U-S Fish and Wildlife Service didn’t consider the Yellowstone Grizzly was suffering from a shortage of food like Yellowstone Trout and White Bark Pine seeds...which has led to a recent decline in the Grizzly Bear population...

***Samarsiere CUT Time: 15 seconds “The mortality rate for Yellowstone Grizzly Bears has spiked to record highs in the past few years and we feel that is something the Fish and Wildlife Service should have but did not consider when removing federal protections...”***

Wildlife officials estimate there are about 700 Grizzly Bears living in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem...and one researcher says their population is robust. Advocates for hunters say there are enough bears and they should be allowed to kill a limited number to provide plenty of habitat for the territorial animals. Steve Shadley, YPR news.

### **Grizzly Hunt Hearing #1 SHADLEY Cut n’ Copy**

**Time: 1:15 ENCO: 00132**

A federal court in Missoula will hear combined lawsuits today/Thursday challenging the U-S Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision last year to de-list the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear as an endangered species.

That population of Grizzlies lives in parts of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Wyoming and Idaho wildlife officials have approved a fall hunt to allow hunters to kill a limited number of Grizzlies in those states but Montana wildlife managers voted not to hold a hunt this year.

Andrea Samarsiere (sam-uh-sear-aye) is a senior attorney with the “Center for Biological Diversity” one of the groups that filed the six lawsuits. She says the

Yellowstone area Grizzlies should be returned to the endangered species list because the U-S Fish and Wildlife Service dramatically modified a conservation plan after public comment was accepted in advance of the bear hunts...

*Grizzly Cut 2 Time: 17 seconds "These were changes that were proposed mostly by the states and some of the federal agencies because those changes were so substantial we thought the conservation strategies should go back through another public comment period and the Fish and Wildlife Service refused to do that..."*

It's not certain whether Judge Dana Christensen will make a decision on the lawsuits before the hunt is scheduled to start in Wyoming this weekend. If the judge rules in favor of the environmental groups the Grizzly hunts in Wyoming and Idaho could be put on hold or halted all together.

Hunting advocates say the hunts are needed to thin out the Grizzly population in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem which has bounced back to an estimated 750 animals since the bears suffered low population levels in the area during the 1970's and 80's.

**Grizzly Hunt Shadley Wrap**

**Time on Tape: 54 seconds Enco: 00140**

**It's official. Montana will not hold a grizzly bear hunt in the Greater Yellowstone area this year now that the state's wildlife commissioners voted against the proposal.**

**Yellowstone Public Radio's Steve Shadley reports...**

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Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commissioners voted unanimously yesterday/Thursday to adopt a recommendation not to hold a hunt this year.

The vote was held in Helena with some commissioners saying they want to avoid lawsuits over the issue. But that doesn't mean a grizzly hunt won't happen in Montana in the future.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokesman Greg Lemon...

**Tape: Lemon Time: 09 seconds "Our focus has never been on how to have a hunt. It's always been on first how to recover the Grizzly Bears...and now our focus is on Grizzly Bears now that they are delisted..."**

Last year, federal officials removed the Grizzly Bear from the Endangered Species List...and that allowed Montana, Idaho and Wyoming to consider hunts. There are an estimated 700 Grizzly Bears in and around Yellowstone National Park. Grizzly hunts could be held in Wyoming this fall. Idaho has not yet made a decision. Steve Shadley, Yellowstone Public Radio.

**Grizzly Billboards Shadley WRAP for ATC Wednesday 8/8/18**

**Time on Tape: 1:05 ENCO: 00144**

**Environmentalists are putting up roadside billboards in a few western states encouraging people to contact the Trump Administration in opposition to Grizzly Bear hunts this fall in Idaho and Wyoming. Yellowstone Public Radio's Steve Shadley reports...**

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Grizzly hunts have been approved for a limited number of animals in the Yellowstone area of Wyoming and Idaho...but the Center for Biological Diversity...wants members of the public to speak out in opposition. The center has launched an education campaign that includes putting up a total of five billboards in Cody, Wyoming, Fort Collins, Colorado and Boise, Idaho...that read "I am not a trophy" featuring a photo of a grizzly raising its paw. Andrea Santarsiere (santa-sear-A) is a senior attorney with the center in Victor, Idaho...

**Tape: Grizzly Cut 1 Time: 14 seconds "its pretty clear to us a majority of the public overall doesn't want these grizzly bears hunted...and I think that at the**

**very least the Trump Administration and the states here...the leaders in the states here...need to hear that..."**

The billboards direct people to a website where they can sign petitions that will be sent to U-S Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke...urging him to put an end to the hunts. Wyoming wildlife managers have approved the harvesting of up to 22 Grizzly Bears...while Idaho has approved the killing of one bear this fall. Steve Shadley, YPR news.

**Grizzly Bears Shadley Wrap**

**Time on Tape: 54 seconds Enco# 00129**

**Montana wildlife officials say they will not hold a grizzly bear hunt this year outside of Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone Public Radio's Steve Shadley reports...**  
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The announcement comes from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Spokesman Greg Lemon says now that the bears were removed from the Endangered Species List last year...the state wants to demonstrate its commitment to the grizzly' long-term recovery....

***Lemon: :19 seconds "there hasn't been a rush to try to institute a Grizzly Bear hunt. Rather our focus, now that they are delisted, is taking over management of Grizzly Bears and continuing to respond to conflicts and different education opportunities..."***

Lemon says the recommendation will be presented before the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission at its meeting next week. An estimated 700 grizzly bears roam in and around the Yellowstone region of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. Wyoming and Idaho are also developing their own management plans for Grizzly Bears. Steve Shadley, YPR news.

28 September 2018 – The State of Montana seeks public comment on its possible management plan of grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide. The plan would go into effect if grizzly bears in the area are delisted from the Endangered Species Act. Managers emphasize the need to maintain the grizzly

population in that section of land at a minimum of 800 head. Public comment on the administrative rule continues into late October.

## **Wildfires and Environment**

**Roosevelt Fire Update 9-24 Shadley Cut n' Copy**

**Time: 1:10**

**ENCO: 00133**

The "Roosevelt" wildfire is growing rapidly again at the Bridger-Teton National Forest in northwest Wyoming and more homes have been destroyed.

Sublette County Sheriff's spokesman Travis Bingham estimates an additional 70 homes were evacuated late yesterday/Sunday...bringing the total to almost 300 homes under evacuation orders in the fire area.

Authorities went door-to-door yesterday/Sunday urging people in the town of Bondurant to evacuate. The other subdivisions previously evacuated are the Upper Hoback...Rolling Thunder...Jim Bridger Estates and Hoback Ranches.

Bingham says gusty winds allowed the fire to grow rapidly over the weekend...

***Tape: Bingham Cut 1 Time: 15 seconds "Yesterday we had some containment and it was looking good and then the wind really kicked up in the afternoon...and it drove the fire northeast...right back towards the Rim and Hoback Ranches again. The latest fire map shows we are at about 48-thousand acres now."***

Bingham says at least three homes were damaged by the fire last week and more homes burned over the weekend...but he did not have updated numbers of home losses as of this morning/Monday.

Two bow hunters who were surrounded by the fire last week are receiving treatment at a burn center in Salt Lake City.

The Wyoming Highway Patrol closed a portion of 189-191 in the fire area yesterday/Sunday...but it is open again today for public traffic.

The fire is about 25-percent contained. The cause of the blaze that started on September 15<sup>th</sup> is still under investigation.



**Roosevelt Fire WRAP SHADLEY**

**Time: 40 seconds ENCO: 00125**

**Fire crews are making some progress in their battle against the “Roosevelt” wildfire burning 30 miles south of Jackson, Wyoming.**

**But, as Yellowstone Public Radio’s Steve Shadley reports...the fire remains at zero-percent containment...**

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Sublette County Sheriff’s spokesman Travis Bingham says cooler weather and calmer winds are allowing firefighters to clear more brush and trees from around four neighborhoods in the fire’s path...

*Tape: Roosevelt Fire Cut-1 Time: 11 seconds “I gotta say we got pretty lucky yesterday/Thursday when the winds picked up it didn’t look good but we didn’t have a lot of fire growth. As of this morning...it only went up a couple of thousand acres...and in the grand scheme that’s not bad we are up to 34-thousand 100 acres...”*

So far, about 230 homes in the fire area at the Bridger-Teton National Forest have been evacuated.

Bingham says more than 400 firefighters are currently working the blaze.

One home has burned near the Hoback River...but there were no injuries.

Steve Shadley, YPR news.

**Roosevelt Fire Update Shadley Cut n’ Copy**

**Time: 1:05 ENCO: 00131**

A wildfire near Jackson, Wyoming has forced the evacuation of some 230 rural homes but so far no homes have been burned.

The "Roosevelt" fire burning in the Bridger-Teton National Forest and has moved across almost 40 square miles of rugged terrain and higher elevation timber.

Sublette County Sheriff's spokesman Travis Bingham says residents in four nearby subdivisions have been told to evacuate the area...

*Tape: Travis Cut 3 Time: 13 seconds "We can't make anybody leave. We have had a handful of residents who've refused to leave...and they've been warned about the consequences of doing that. We can't get to them. We've advised everyone to get out but there's only been about 2 or 3 people who've decided to stick it out..."*

The Red Cross has set up a shelter for evacuees at the Mormon Church in Pinedale.

About 255 firefighters are battling the fire with support from air tankers and helicopters.

The cause of the fire hasn't been determined.

The blaze is among about a half dozen burning in the Bridger-Teton forest reported within the past few days.

**WIGWAM FIRE SHADLEY WRAP**

**TIME ON TAPE: 1:07 ENCO: 00144**

**The National Weather Service has issued a red flag warning through Saturday evening for parts of southwestern Montana where a series of lightning-caused wildfires are slowly growing. Yellowstone Public Radio's Steve Shadley reports...**

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Gusty winds with a chance of thunderstorms packed with lightning will be a challenge for fire crews working three larger fires and a group of smaller blazes around Madison County and in parts of Montana and Wyoming near Yellowstone National Park. The “Monument” fire has spread to about 57-hundred acres near Ennis and it was listed as five-percent contained this morning. The nearby “Wigwam” fire has moved across four-thousand acres and is zero-percent contained. John Miller with the U-S Forest Service says evacuation orders remain in effect for the Haypress Lakes neighborhood...

***Miller/Wigwam Time: 19 seconds “In addition to keeping the fires...especially the Wigwam fire...from spreading down toward the community. It’s not only protecting the natural resources but also the grazing areas which are also a very important economic driver here in the local community...”***

Meanwhile, the “Bacon Rind” wildfire 20 miles south of Big Sky has moved across almost 19-hundred acres between the Lee Metcalf Wilderness area and Yellowstone National Park. That blaze was reported on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Steve Shadley, YPR news.

## **Website Wildfires #2 Shadley Cut n’ Copy**

**Time: 1:05 ENCO: 00142**

There’s a new online website where you can check air quality during the ongoing wildfires. It was launched by the “Clean Air Montana Coalition” and “Climate Smart Missoula.”

Climate Smart Executive Director Amy Cilimburg (Sill-um-berg) says it provides maps of Montana that show more comprehensive air quality conditions than can be found currently in some communities...

***Tape: Website Wildfires Cut #2 Time: “Not every place in Montana has a air monitoring station...at their location and things vary so for instance in Livingston they might look over at***

***Bozeman which is their nearest station but that's on the other side of the Bridger Mountains and that could provide very different conditions..."***

The new website also provides information on health risks from wildfire smoke, ways to clean the air in your home and office, and ways to stay healthy while enjoying Montana's outdoors. The website is found at "Montana Wildfire Smoke.com"

**Kootenai Fires WRAP Shadley**

**Time on Tape: 1:02 ENCO: 00143**

**Fire crews are making some progress in their battle against a series of wildfires in western Montana. Yellowstone Public Radio's Steve Shadley reports...**

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Lightning storms ignited about 20 wild land fires in and around the Kootenai National Forest in northwest Montana last weekend. Only four of those blazes are still active today. Shawn Ray-Delmus is a fire spokeswoman with the Kootenai National Forest...

***DELMUS Time: 12 seconds "We have the Porcupine fire...we have the Feeder fire...and the Ten-Mile fire...so we have four active fires on the Kootenai National Forest at this time...of which we have multiple resources on scene..."***

The largest of the four fires in the area is called the "Davis" located in the upper Yaak region. It had moved across 213 acres as of Friday morning. The "Porcupine Fire" has covered 12 acres...also in the Yaak area...and its' 20-percent contained. A third fire in Kootenai called the "Ten Mile" has covered 100 acres. Another fire in southwest Montana...the "Bacon Rind" has charred 488 acres in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness area and parts of Yellowstone National Park. It's uncertain how much of that blaze is contained. Steve Shadley, YPR news.

**Bacon Rind Fire Update Shadley Cut n' Copy**

**Time: 1:05**

**ENCO: 00132**

A wild land fire located in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness area continues to challenge firefighters in that part of Montana.

The blaze has been dubbed the "Bacon Rind" fire...and officials say its perimeter has reached 200 acres...with some 20 acres now burning across the Yellowstone National Park boundary. 40 firefighters are working the fire.

Marianne Baumburger is the public information officer for the Bacon Rind fire at the Custer Gallatin National Forest. She says conifer trees and dead dry wood and brush are fueling the fire...but there are areas that are resisting the flames...

***Tape: Bacon Rind CUT Time: 22 seconds "There are some meadows and whatnot that interesting enough...the meadows are green and that's been holding the fire to a certain degree...but anytime there's that standing dead snags...there's always concerns about the firefighters and the terrain is very steep. But, at this time there's nothing...no structures are threatened..."***

The fire is moving about two-miles west of Highway 191...between the Bacon Rind and Snow Slide Creeks...but the road is open to public traffic.

Officials believe it was sparked by a lightning storm days before it was actually reported last Friday.

Baumburger says its not yet clear when the fire will be contained.

Authorities say a wildfire southeast of Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park has now burned at least 20 homes.

The Sublette County Sheriff's Office says the homes that were destroyed were in the Hoback Ranches subdivision near the community of Bondurant, and the fire is still active in the area.

Recent satellite images show some homes that escaped the fire as small islands surrounded by blackened land.

Fire officials say a portion of U-S Highway 189 southeast of Grand Teton National Park will be closed for an undetermined amount of time to conduct burnout operations as crews work to keep the blaze south of the roadway.

Firefighters are hoping more favorable weather conditions allow them to make gains on the fire that has burned an estimated 77 square miles.

The fire has been burning since September 15th and is 25 percent contained.

### **Roosevelt Fire Update ME 9-20 Shadley Cut n' Copy**

**Time: 1:05 ENCO: 00133**

The Roosevelt wildfire in northwest Wyoming has grown to more than 25-thousand acres. The blaze is located about 20 miles south of Jackson and is within the boundaries of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

It was reported earlier this week and the cause has not yet been determined. It's forced the evacuation of some 230 rural homes but so far no homes have been burned.

Fire incident spokeswoman Larisa Bogardus says the fire is being aggressively handled by fire crews...but there is very little containment this morning...

***Bogardus #2 Time: 15 seconds "We have about 255 firefighters at the incident now. We are using ground crews and aerial attacks. We have structural crews in place for the residences that may be at risk...as well as hand crews and engine crews...."***

Sublette County Sheriff's officials say residents at 230 homes have been asked to evacuate four subdivisions in the area.

The Red Cross has set up a shelter for evacuees at the Mormon Church in Pinedale.

The blaze is among about a half dozen burning in the Bridger-Teton forest reported within the past few days.

**Davis Fire Shadley WRAP**

**Time on Tape: 1:05 ENCO: 00144**

**After a cool weekend...firefighters are facing hot and breezy conditions today/Monday as they work the state's largest wildfire in northwest Montana. Yellowstone Public Radio's Steve Shadley reports...**

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The "Davis" fire has consumed more than 375 acres of dense pine, fir and shrubs in the Kootenai National Forest near the Idaho-Montana border. It's about ten-percent contained. The fire was sparked by lightning late last month and full containment is expected by August 18<sup>th</sup>. Jill Cobb is a public information officer working the Davis blaze. She says the fire is most active on its western side. She says getting equipment to the fire site has been challenging because of all of the fires burning in the western United States right now...

***Cobb Cut: 16 seconds "Resources across the nation are so slim...that we have been borrowing some equipment from adjacent fires...and they are loaning them to us when we need them. So, everybody has to share all of the resources we have across the region and the nation."***

Cobb says her fire team expects a helicopter to arrive tomorrow...on loan from fire crews in Alaska. She says the another fire near the Kootenai National Forest called the "Porcupine" has been limited to 17-acres and is currently about 75-percent contained. Steve Shadley, YPR news.

**Glacier Fire Rescue Shadley WRAP**

**Time on Tape: 1:15 ENCO: 00144**

**A father and son who drove through a wildfire at Glacier National Park and narrowly escaped deadly conditions...are capturing national media attention. Yellowstone Public Radio's Steve Shadley reports...**

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70-year-old Charles Bilton and his son Justin of Rowley, Massachusetts were on a camping trip at Glacier National Park when they were forced to flee the flames last week. They saw the fire on a nearby mountainside faraway...and thought they'd be fine...but eventually they decided to flee. A viral video they shot during the race to safety shows them driving fast down a dirt road while flames licked at the sides of their vehicle...and they finally came upon a downed tree blocking the road. In an interview on CNN this morning...Justin explains they were about to get out to try to move the tree...but they decided to drive in reverse back to the area where they came from...

*Tape: Justin Bilton CUT Time: 19 seconds "When we first started the ride I was pretty confident the fire was still up on the mountain. But as we continued to drive further it became apparent that it was very close. At some point we felt like the car was ablaze and we could certainly feel the heat. And, once we saw that downed tree I didn't think we'd get out alive..."*

In the video you can hear Charles Bilton preying they'd get out alive...he says "Jesus, God...help us" They abandoned the car and were lucky because just then two park employees were spotted in a boat navigating nearby in Lake McDonald...and the Biltons were rescued. Steve Shadley, YPR news.

**Roosevelt Fire SHADLEY Cut n' Copy**  
**Time: 1:05 ENCO: 00144**

A wildfire south of Jackson, Wyoming is spreading rapidly and has forced the evacuation of almost 230 homes in the area.

It's burning in the Bridger-Teton National Forest south of U-S Highway 189-191. But, the highway, which connects to Jackson Hole, remains open.



Larisa Bogardus is a fire information officer working the so-called "Roosevelt" fire 20 miles south of Jackson. She says it has become an "aggressive blaze" moving quickly across rugged terrain and higher elevation timber...

***Tape: Roosevelt Fire CUT Time: 09 seconds "The fire has grown from an estimate of five-thousand acres yesterday to 25-thousand 100 and change today..."***

Bogardus says the rural area has scattered, small subdivisions with mostly year-round residents.

There have been no reports of any homes being burned.

About 255 firefighters are on the scene. They're being supported by air tankers and helicopters. The cause of the fire hasn't been determined.

The fire is among about a half dozen blazes currently burning in the Bridger-Teton forest.

### **Roosevelt Fire Update ME 9-20 Shadley Cut n' Copy**

**Time: 1:05 ENCO: 00133**

The Roosevelt wildfire in northwest Wyoming has grown to more than 25-thousand acres. The blaze is located about 20 miles south of Jackson and is within the boundaries of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

It was reported earlier this week and the cause has not yet been determined. It's forced the evacuation of some 230 rural homes but so far no homes have been burned.

Fire incident spokeswoman Larisa Bogardus says the fire is being aggressively handled by fire crews...but there is very little containment this morning...

***Bogardus #2 Time: 15 seconds "We have about 255 firefighters at the incident now. We are using ground crews and aerial attacks. We have structural crews in place for the residences that may be at risk...as well as hand crews and engine crews...."***

Sublette County Sheriff's officials say residents at 230 homes have been asked to evacuate four subdivisions in the area.

The Red Cross has set up a shelter for evacuees at the Mormon Church in Pinedale.

The blaze is among about a half dozen burning in the Bridger-Teton forest reported within the past few days.

#### **Roosevelt Fire UPDATE SHADLEY Cut n' Copy**

**Time: 1:20 ENCO: 00126**

Growth has slowed considerably on the "Roosevelt" wildfire south of Jackson, Wyoming...but the blaze continues to spread near four neighborhoods at the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Those subdivisions have been evacuated around the banks of the Upper Hoback River. At least one home has burned but there were no injuries.

The fire now stands at more than 34-thousand acres.

Sublette County Sheriff's spokesman Travis Bingham says about 400 firefighters are currently working the blaze...

***ENCO: 00126 Bingham CUT Time: 15 seconds "Our Sublette County Fire Firefighters have been on it all week. They are all volunteer...so a lot of people have taken time off their jobs to be there. Some of the 400 who've come in have been brought in from New Mexico...Idaho and other areas of the country that are available so people are coming in from all over..."***

The fire remained at zero-percent containment as of this morning. Bingham says fire crews are instead working to create fire lines to keep the flames from spreading into the four neighborhoods that have been evacuated so far.

A Red Cross shelter has been set up in Pinedale, Wyoming.

The cause of the fire that started over the weekend has not yet been determined.

It's among six fires that started in the area this past week.

One of those blazes called the "Martin" fire has spread to six-thousand acres and homes in the "Rim Ranches" neighborhood are on stand-by to be evacuated if it continues to creep closer to that subdivision.

**Bacon Rind Fire Cut n' Copy SHADLEY**

**Time: 1:10 ENCO: 00143**

A slow-moving wildfire in southwestern Montana has grown to more than 410 acres.

The so-called "Bacon Rind" fire is located about 20 miles south of Big Sky outside of West Yellowstone, Montana.

Firefighters are not on the ground battling the flames because there's a lot of dead standing trees that could be a safety hazard.

Marianne Baumburger is with the Custer Gallatin National Forest. She says the fire is being monitored by aircraft and crews are standing by...they've not been deployed to work wildfires in California or other western states...

***Tape: Bacon Rind CUT Time: "we're doing well. Right now we have access to two helicopters and we do have two 20 person crews that are doing some other work. We have eyes on it from a flight...or we have eyes distantly on it...so we have look outs looking into it and at this time we have not had any problem getting resources..."***

Baumburger says smoke may be visible from Highway 191 but the road remains open to public traffic.

The lightning caused fire was first reported on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Bacon Rind trail in Yellowstone National Park and the Lee Metcalf Wilderness of the Custer Gallatin National Forest is closed because of fire at this time. There's no word yet on when the fire will be contained.

### **Monument Fire SHADLEY Cut n' Copy**

**Time: 1:05 ENCO: 00131**

Firefighters are preparing for a busy weekend as they battle a group of lightning-caused blazes in southwestern Montana. The "Monument" fire near Ennis has grown to 57-hundred acres after it was first reported about a week ago. Another wildfire nearby called the "Wigwam" has spread across four-thousand acres. It's zero-percent contained...and was threatening a few dozen rural homes in Madison County where evacuation orders are still in effect. No buildings have burned.

John Miller is a spokesman with the U-S Forest Service. He says conditions are challenging crews working fires in Western Montana this afternoon (Friday)...

***Tape: Monument Fire CUT Time: 15 seconds "because the National Weather Service has forecasted thunderstorms today through Saturday. You know, thunderstorms do have the ability to bring not only lightning activity for additional storms but also strong and erratic winds..."***

Meanwhile, the "Bacon Rind" Fire located in Yellowstone National Park and the Monument area of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness has spread to nearly 19-hundred acres about 20 miles south of Big Sky. It was reported on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

That fire is located near the west side of Highway 191 but the road remains open with the aid of pilot assistance cars...that will lead traffic through the fire area. Expect delays on that stretch of the highway through the weekend.

**Gravelly Fires WRAP Shadley**

**Time on Tape: 57 seconds ENCO: 00143**

**More than a dozen wildfires are currently burning across western Montana.**

**Two of the larger blazes are located in the Gravelly Mountain Range outside of the town of Ennis. Yellowstone Public Radio's Steve Shadley reports...**

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The "Monument" fire started Saturday evening by a lightning strike and it has raced across nearly 43-hundred acres of timber and brush in steep terrain. The other fire also ignited by lightning over the weekend is called the "Wigwam" and its located in the Wigwam Creek Drainage. It has moved across about two-thousand acres. The flames are creeping closer to some homes in remote neighborhoods in the area...but no buildings have been damaged. Butte Ranger District spokesman David Sabo (Say-Bow) says cooler weather with increased humidity are giving firefighters a break...

*Sabo Cut 2 Time: 13 seconds "We still expect some growth on the fire. There's a lot of unburned material out there...but we really aren't expecting a big push toward those subdivisions in the foothills that are north of the fire. We don't expect that today..."*

Sabo says a shelter has been set up at Ennis High School for people evacuated at 54 homes in the "Haypress Lakes" subdivision in the paths of the fires. Steve Shadley, YPR news.

**Bacon Rind Fire Wrap Shadley**

**Time on Tape: 54 seconds ENCO: 00140**

**About 40 firefighters continue to battle a wildfire located above Gallatin Canyon some 20 miles south of Big Sky, Montana. As Yellowstone Public Radio's Steve Shadley reports the blaze has covered a perimeter of about 200 acres since it was reported last Friday...**

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The so-called "Bacon Rind Fire" started during a thunderstorm that moved through the area on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Officials say it probably smoldered for days before smoke got somebody's attention. Marianne Baumburger is the public information for the Bacon Rind fire. She says the flames are charring trees, grass and shrubs in the area...

*Tape: Baumburger Time: 12 seconds "The conifers that are growing up there...there's a pretty good dead component and there's a lot of dead heavy downed material. So, that alone is treacherous to firefighters as well as some steep terrain..."*

Baumburger says firefighters have access to two helicopters to manage the blaze from above if needed. It's burning in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness area about two miles west Highway 191, between Bacon Rind and Snowslide Creeks. Highway 191 is still open to public traffic. No word on when they expect the fire to be fully contained. Steve Shadley, YPR news.

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#### **Davis Fire Update Shadley Cut n’ Copy**

**Time: 1:05 ENCO: 00144**

Montana’s largest wild land fire so far this summer has spread to nearly 400 acres in the Kootenai National Forest near the Idaho-Montana border. It’s about ten-percent contained. The fire was sparked by lightning late last month and full containment is expected by August 18<sup>th</sup>. Jill Cobb is a public information officer working the so-called “Davis” wildfire. She says this week’s hot weather is a challenge...

***Tape: Davis Cut Time: 21 seconds “Well, it’s a challenge and an opportunity because when it heats up...when the sun beats down and warms up those fuels...and we have blue skies what happens is that the fires that are kind of skunking around and smoldering in the vegetation...the firefighters can see them more readily and they can jump on them and line them and defeat them. It really gives us an opportunity not to allow the fire to get any bigger...”***

Cobb says her fire team is trying to save the white bark pine trees in the fire's path...because they are a resilient species that is resistant to disease and because Grizzly Bears like to feast on their pinecone seeds.

She says the another fire near the Kootenai National Forest called the "Porcupine" has been limited to 17-acres and is currently about 75-percent contained.

### **Fire Update Shadley Wrap**

**Time on Tape: 58 seconds ENCO: 00133**

**The Fourth of July brings a lot of people outdoors for celebrations...camping and barbeques. And, local officials are urging everyone to be extra careful with fireworks and flammables to avoid wildfires. Yellowstone Public Radio's Steve Shadley reports...**

.....

Fire Safety. It seems obvious thing to think about while enjoying the holiday out in the fresh air...but sometimes people may forget how their summer activities could contribute to fire danger.

Chris Barth is a fire mitigation specialist with the Bureau of Land Management in Montana and the Dakotas. He says people who think they are taking proper precautions with campfires should double and even triple check to ensure ashes are completely out and cold...before leaving a camp site...

***Barth Time: 15 seconds "Making sure they mix in water and soil to really kind of drown it and get that fire so that its cold to the touch because we don't want any heat left in that and the wind might kick up and take some embers into nearby vegetation and start a wildfire. So, we want people to be cautious..."***



Fireworks are prohibited in National parks, national forests, state parks and fishing and wildlife access areas. Even in communities that permit fireworks...there could be restrictions on the hours people are allowed to use them. Steve Shadley, YPR news.

## **Education**

This is Morning Edition on Yellowstone Public Radio...Good Morning, I'm Steve Shadley...

It's wild land fire season...and everyone is keeping their fingers crossed that it won't be devastating...like the blazes that raced across parts of Montana last summer.

Local officials spent some time recently training members of the media about how to cover fires from the scene. Safety is a top priority...as wildfires are unpredictable and potentially deadly. News reporters and photographers who gathered at a U-S Bureau of Land Management office in Billings last week were encouraged to try out a fire shelter. That's a portable sleeping bag blanket covered in a shiny layer of aluminum like fabric...it's a place where individuals can hide to escape the intense heat from a fire that sneaks upon you...and its too late to run away...

***Tape: AL NASH #1 Time: 06 seconds "Safety zones are established out on the fire line and everybody is supposed to know where they are..."***

Al Nash is Chief of Communications with the BLM in Montana and the Dakotas. He's showing reporters how to use the fire shelters...but instead of being on the edge of the flames out in the wilderness...we're gathered in an air conditioned office building with fluorescent lights and carpeting. It's a mock exercise. Nash explains to the reporters that the fire shelters are ready to use at a moment's notice...

***Tape: AL NASH #2 Time: 14 seconds "If you are out on a fire and you find yourself having to go to a safety zone to deploy a shelter...this is the kind of a tool that will help you sustain and survive against the radiant heat..."***

Nash says anyone who uses one of these personal fire shelters must remember to lay flat on the ground...face down...with the shelter covering all parts of your body. You'll have your arms and legs stretched out to hold down the corners of the shelter...

***Tape: Al Nash #3 Time: 18 seconds "Face down. Because that's where the bit of cooler air is going to be. And, firefighters who've gone through deployments talk about cupping their hands over their mouth or digging a little space in the dirt to get their nose in..."***

Because when the flames arrive...getting a breath of fresh air probably isn't going to be easy.

Nash says you're just trying to withstand the heat underneath the shelter...the radiant heat that will surround you and your colleagues if you are caught in a circle of flames.

Tape: Nat sound of people shaking out their shelters up and under script

The reporters attending this training session each shake out the shelter from their carry cases...they pull the shelters over their bodies...and soon...there's a group of people lying face down on the floor covered up...

(Natural Sound up and under script)

Remaining calm could be the difference between life and death while a person is seeking safety under one of these fire shelters. It's not a certainty. Five years ago, 19 Granite Mountain Hot Shot firefighters were killed when they were battling a wildfire near Yarnell, Arizona northwest of Phoenix. Apparently, they had deployed their shelters...but were not able to survive the firestorm. Some of the bodies were found outside of the shelters. It was the greatest loss of firefighters in the United States since the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks. Chris Barth is Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist with the BLM Montana/Dakotas....

***Tape: Barth Cut 1 Time: 14 seconds "fire shelter is a tool...it's a last resort. It's not something anybody wants to use but they have been used a number of times and unfortunately there have been some cases where there's still been some firefighters that have perished..."***

According to research...there have been an estimated 12-hundred deployments of the tent style wild land fire shelters since firefighters started using them in the 1960s. The report says about two dozen people have died since in the shelters since then...

**Tape: (More sound of people folding up the fire shelters)**

After our training exercise...it's time to put the shelters back into their carry cases. It's not an easy thing to do...almost like folding up one of those stubborn paper road maps...and sometimes it takes a few tries before you get it just right...

**Tape: (natural sound of fire shelters up and under script)**

I'm Steve Shadley...YPR news...